



Senior High | Program of Studies

Benilde-St. Margaret's

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Cover Design: Senior Audrey Weber is one of BSM's EPIC marketing/communications interns. She finds graphic design to be a very fun, creative outlet and she was honored to be a part of this printed piece. As an intern, she has learned the importance of consistent branding, particularly regarding logos, fonts, and colors. She felt that the different shapes and their overlapping in her design helped create a simplistic, yet modern design while staying true to the BSM brand. At this point she is not considering a career in graphic design, but she hopes to include some classes in that field during her college years.

Planning Guide

The Program of Studies is a valuable resource in helping students, with input from their parents, select courses that are engaging, challenging and prepare the student for the next level of study. Course selections are based on current teacher and/or academic counselor recommendation, admissions test score, the student's interest, and the student's desire to complete a rigorous college preparatory curriculum. The course selection process includes consultation with teachers, BSM college and career counselors and parents. The selection process culminates with course selections being made in early Spring of each year.

Four-Year Plan

Freshman - Minimum Credit Requirement = 14

Typical Credits = 16

| First Semester | Credits | Second Semester | Credits |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| English | 1 | English | 1 |
| Mathematics | 1 | Mathematics | 1 |
| Physical Education OR Health | 1 | Physical Education OR Health | 1 |
| Science-Biology | 1 | Science-Biology | 1 |
| Theology | 1 | Theology | 1 |
| World Language | 1 | World Language | 1 |
| Elective | 1 | Elective | 1 |
| BSM Hour | 0 | BSM Hour | 0 |
| Total credits per semester | 7 or 8 | Total credits per semester | 7 or 8 |

Sophomore - Minimum Credit Requirement = 12

Typical Credits = 16

| First Semester | Credits | Second Semester | Credits |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| English | 1 | English | 1 |
| Mathematics | 1 | Mathematics | 1 |
| Social Studies | 1 | Social Studies | 1 |
| Theology | 1 | Theology | 1 |
| World Language | 1 | World Language | 1 |
| Science | 1 | Science | 1 |
| Elective | 1 | Elective | 1 |
| BSM Hour | 0 | BSM Hour | 0 |
| Total credits per semester | 7 to 8 | Total credits per semester | 7 to 8 |

Junior - Minimum Credit Requirement = 13

Typical Credits = 15

| Guidance: College Planning Portfolio | | | .5 |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| First Semester | Credits | Second Semester | Credits |
| English | 1 | English | 1 |
| Mathematics | 1 | Mathematics | 1 |
| Science | 1 | Science | 1 |
| Social Studies | 1 | Social Studies | 1 |
| Theology | 1 | Theology | 1 |
| Guidance: ACT Prep | .5 | Elective | 1 |
| Elective | 1 | Elective | 1 |
| BSM Hour | 0 | BSM Hour | 0 |
| Total credits per semester | 6.50 to 7.50 | Total credits per semester | 7.50 to 8.50 |

Senior - Minimum Credit Requirement = 14

Typical Credits = 16

| First Semester | Credits | Second Semester | Credits |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| English | 1 | English | 1 |
| Theology | 1 | Theology | 1 |
| Science | 1 | Science | 1 |
| Social Studies | 1 | Social Studies | 1 |
| Elective | 1 | Elective | 1 |
| Elective | 1 | Elective | 1 |
| Elective | 1 | Elective | 1 |
| BSM Hour | 0 | BSM Hour | 0 |
| Total credits per semester | 7 to 8 | Total credits per semester | 7 to 8 |

Planning Guide

The courses listed in this Program of Studies may not be the same as the final courses offered during the school year. The number of students registered for a course, scheduling priorities and personnel will determine final course offerings. The most current version of the Program of Studies is available on the BSM website.

This Program of Studies has been designed to provide information for students and parents as they make informed decisions regarding course selection during their years at Benilde-St. Margaret's. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss their course selections with their counselors, teachers, and parents. The high school experience is intended to be a four-year process in which students complete an extensive curriculum in preparation for post-secondary studies. Benilde-St. Margaret's offers a variety of elective courses that enhance a college preparatory curriculum. With this philosophy in mind, we will not allow students to complete their studies after the first semester of senior year.

The following is a summary of the courses that are required for graduation. One credit equals one semester of satisfactory completion of coursework, except for Learning Lab, ACT Prep and College and Career Planning.

BENILDE-ST. MARGARET'S SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| English: | 8 credits | Theology | 8 credits |
| Fine Arts: | 2 credits | Science | 6 credits |
| Guidance | 1 credit | Social Studies | 6 credits |
| Health | 1 credit | Phy Ed | 1 credit |
| Mathematics: | 6 credits | World Language | 4 credits |
| Electives | 8 credits | Total credits | 51 |

Planning Guide

GRADING and HONOR ROLLS

| | Standard and Honors | Advanced Placement |
|-------------|---------------------|--|
| A | 4.000 | 4.500 |
| A- | 3.700 | 4.160 |
| B+ | 3.300 | 3.710 |
| B | 3.000 | 3.380 |
| B- | 2.700 | 3.040 |
| C+ | 2.300 | 2.590 |
| C | 2.000 | 2.250 |
| C- | 1.670 | 1.910 |
| D+ | 1.300 | 1.460 |
| D | 1.000 | 1.130 |
| D- | .700 | .790 |
| F | .000 | .000 |
| Honors | 3.3-3.69 | Honor rolls are determined at the end of each semester |
| High Honors | 3.7-4.5 | |

AP COURSES

Effective with the start of the 2022-2023 school year, Advanced Placement (AP) courses and courses taken under the PACC option will carry a weighted grade of 12.5%. AP courses are standardized throughout the nation allowing for weighted grades. Honors Courses are not standardized nationwide and will NOT receive a weighted grade. Colleges will take rigor of curriculum into account during the admission process.

COLLEGE CREDIT OPTIONS

Refer to page 50 of this book for information regarding courses available to students for college credit. Courses taken at Benilde-St. Margaret's under Advanced Placement or PACC will carry a weighted grade and are included in the student's gpa calculation. Courses taken under the CIS or PSEO option ARE NOT factored into the student's gpa. These grades will be recorded on the student's transcript under the specific college name, with a grade and credit(s) institution. Student's will be responsible for obtaining copies of these transcripts as needed.

HONORS COURSES

Honors courses are designed to challenge capable and motivated students by providing them with clearly stated expectations specifying the rigorous nature of the curriculum.

Expectations of honors courses at BSM may include the following criteria:

1. Clearly defined, measurable prerequisites for placement in honors level courses.
2. Material is covered more extensively or at an accelerated pace.
3. Course activities and assessments require students to demonstrate advanced skills in critical thinking, analysis, interpretation, and synthesis.
4. Course requirements may include completion of a significant project, presentation, or research paper.

Planning Guide

Students register for courses in the spring of each year, and it is important for students to select courses carefully. The BSM Program of Studies contains a listing of all courses offered, and prerequisite information is noted if appropriate. Course requests are carefully reviewed by each academic department after semester two grades have been posted. Students who do not meet the necessary course prerequisite will be placed in the appropriate level or may be asked to make an alternate course choice. Administration will place a student in a course necessary to fulfill graduation requirements if an alternate selection is not chosen. BSM administration may change the semester from which a course is originally offered or cancel any course due to insufficient numbers or personnel changes.

AUDITING A CLASS

Sometimes a student may need to take a course for review or to strengthen his/her skills to progress through the sequence in an academic area. This can be done through auditing a class.

Although a student receives a grade that is reflected on their permanent record, no credit is issued when auditing a class. The grade is not computed into a student's cumulative grade point average. The student may plan to audit a class by contacting their counselor.

COURSE CHANGE

Changes prior to the start of school:

In late May students will review their course selections and may make changes. Final schedules will be available prior to the start of the school year.

After the start of school:

Based on the recommendation of your guidance counselor and appropriate department chair, a course change may be approved after the start of the school year, considering the following

- Changes must be made by the date set by administration (end of the first week of school.)
- Teacher and hour preference are not considered valid reasons for a schedule change.
- All changes are subject to available class space.
- All change requests must be made with the student's assigned guidance counselor.

Level Changes

- Students are placed in the course level most appropriate to their academic ability. Each department allows a four-week period at the beginning of first semester to confirm that a student is in the most appropriate course level. In some cases, a level change adjustment may become necessary to ensure the best possible academic experience for a student.
- Level changes may be initiated by the student or teacher. Students are encouraged to speak with the instructor of the course if they feel they need a level change. The teacher will speak with the student's academic counselor, their department chair, and a parent. If a change is warranted, the department chair will confirm the change with the academic counselor. Every effort is made not to disrupt the entire student schedule; however, it may be necessary to adjust one or more additional courses to accommodate a level change.

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SHORTAGE OF CREDITS

Students are required to be making satisfactory progress toward graduation to be allowed to continue enrollment at Benilde-St. Margaret's School. If a student fails a course and is subsequently short the required number of credits toward graduation, it is the responsibility of the student and his/her parents to arrange to make up the failed course and the loss of credit. Credit may be recovered by enrolling in an approved course offered at BSM, or by completing an approved, online course. The course must be approved by the appropriate BSM department head prior to enrollment.

WITHDRAWALS FROM A COURSE

Once a course has begun, withdrawing from a course is strongly discouraged. After conversation with, and with the consent of, student's parent/guardian, academic counselor, and teacher, is deemed to be in the best interest of the student, a student may withdraw from a course. The student will receive a grade of a "W" (withdraw) on their permanent record if consent to withdraw is during the first six weeks of the semester. After the first six weeks of the semester, no withdrawals will be permitted except for serious and prolonged illness or other unavoidable emergencies. Students who withdraw from a class after the first six weeks of the semester will receive a "WF" on their permanent record.

Withdrawal from a Yearlong Course

When enrolling in a yearlong course, students should expect to remain in the course for both semesters. When applying to colleges, students are required to list their course of studies. Colleges look for successful completion of yearlong courses. A grade issued for only one semester of a yearlong course may be a red flag to a college admissions office. Any student wishing to withdraw from a yearlong course must receive permission from the instructor of the course. Seniors should also consult with their counselor and college admission offices before making course changes

AP CAPSTONE DIPLOMA™

AP Capstone is an innovative diploma program providing students with an opportunity to engage in rigorous scholarly practice of the core academic skills necessary for successful college completion. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar: Biomedical Science and AP Research: Biomedical Science AND on 4 additional AP Exams of the student's choosing to receive the AP Capstone Diploma™. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research but, not on the four additional AP Exams, receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™. The AP Capstone Program cultivates curious, independent, and collaborative scholars and prepares them to make logical, evidence-based decisions.

Planning Guide

MN Platinum/Gold Bilingual Seal or World Language Certificate

Students in grades 10, 11, 12 who demonstrate required levels of proficiency in a world language may be eligible to receive a MN Bilingual/Multilingual seal or certificate (depending on their proficiency) on their diploma. These awards verify professional-level bilingualism in both English and another World Language. There are two tests available to students for demonstrating proficiency, the STAMP test (\$36 and hosted at BSM in May) or the AP language exams. The award is granted in a student's senior year and added to their BSM diploma. It is a rare accomplishment and one that students should consider highlighting on future applications including those for college, graduate school, and on job applications. Also, MN State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) award college credit based on the student's level of proficiency, i.e. their test results. The student is responsible for seeking MnSCU credit by contacting their college advisor upon enrollment in a MnSCU institution.

NCAA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Students wishing to participate in inter-collegiate athletics on a Division I or Division II level must abide by NCAA guidelines. Students must register and be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center. The NCAA selects courses from English, Math, Social Studies, Science and World Language to use in their core course guideline. Students should be aware some courses offered at Benilde-St. Margaret's School do not meet NCAA core course guidelines.

Following is a list of core curriculum courses offered at BSM that are **not approved** by the NCAA:

| MATHEMATICS | ENGLISH | WORLD LANGUAGE |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Intermediate Algebra | Film Studies | SLIP |

For additional information about DI or DII course, grade and test score requirements go to the NCAA website:

www.eligibilitycenter.org

Select: "enter here">"resources">"US Students">"Eligibility Quick Reference Sheet"

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

Benilde-St. Margaret's School graduation requirements will not be waived for any student choosing to study abroad for one or more semesters.

- The student must meet with their academic counselor concerning transfer of grades, and to ensure credits earned through studying abroad meet the criteria to remain on track to graduate from BSM.
- The student must meet with the principal to receive written consent to study abroad.

Business

Accounting I (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Alumni consistently report this to be the most valuable college preparatory class offered in the business department. This course provides a simple approach to learning fundamental accounting principles. Accounting concepts covered include business transactions, financial statements, accounting systems and procedures. The course provides an accounting framework that will be valuable to any student who plans on taking college level business courses or plans to work in any type of business environment.

Accounting II (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Prerequisite: Accounting I

Accounting II builds on concepts from Accounting I to provide a more complex understanding of financial accounting with sections on inventory, specialized journals, and corporate accounting. The class also introduces students to managerial accounting concepts including margin analysis, capital budgeting, forecasting, and product costing.

Business Management (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors, and seniors.

Have you ever wondered what it takes to operate and manage your own business? This course gives students the knowledge to create a business while exploring various business concepts. The class includes units on entrepreneurship, product development, finance, marketing, ethics, and strategic and operations management. The course utilizes realistic business simulations to allow students to make managerial decisions for their own business.

Business and Personal Law (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Are you curious about the law and how it affects you? This course gives students a solid foundation in business and personal law topics that affect both individuals and organizations. The course provides a thorough analysis of the interplay between rights and duties and the regulatory structure that oversees it. Students will be challenged to think analytically as they study legal cases and view the business environment through a legal framework. The course includes sections on ethics, sources of law, the court system, criminal, tort, contract, consumer, and employment law.

Introduction to Business (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to freshmen and sophomores.

The class is designed to give students an introductory understanding of business topics including accounting, marketing, business law, international business, economics, and career exploration. Students will have the opportunity to explore areas of business they are interested in and can then further explore those concepts by taking more advanced and detailed business courses throughout their high school experience.

Investing & Portfolio Management (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

This course covers the basic principles of investing from the perspective of a professional portfolio manager. Students in the class actively manage a live six-figure stock portfolio that is part of the BSM endowment fund. Students model the portfolio in Microsoft Excel and use it to create various analytical tools to help make sound investment decisions. Course content includes valuation models, risk assessment, analysis of financial securities, portfolio theory, investment banking, time value of money, and financial derivatives.

Business

Personal Financial Management (S1) or (S2) One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors.

Do you plan to live on your own someday? Apply for a credit card or a car loan? Set up banking accounts? Financial literacy among teens has been recognized as a necessity to assure financial success. Personal Financial Management helps students become financially literate by gaining knowledge about banking services, savings, wise credit use, and investment planning, buying, or leasing a car, and developing techniques for personal money management.

Sports and Entertainment Marketing (S1) or (S2) One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors.

The Gophers, the Vikings, Disney World, movies, stadiums, salary caps, the Emmy's, NCAA, and endorsements. If these topics appeal to you, then you will like Sports and Entertainment Marketing. Fans and companies spend billions of dollars each year in sports. The entertainment industry is one of the largest exports of the United States. This class highlights marketing concepts through the lens of these industries. Areas of discussion include pricing, public relations, promotions, legal issues, and marketing strategy. Students will produce an entertainment or sporting related project incorporating the knowledge and skills gained in the course and use marketing simulations to gain real world knowledge. Example simulations include ticket pricing, stadium staffing, sponsorships, and promotions.

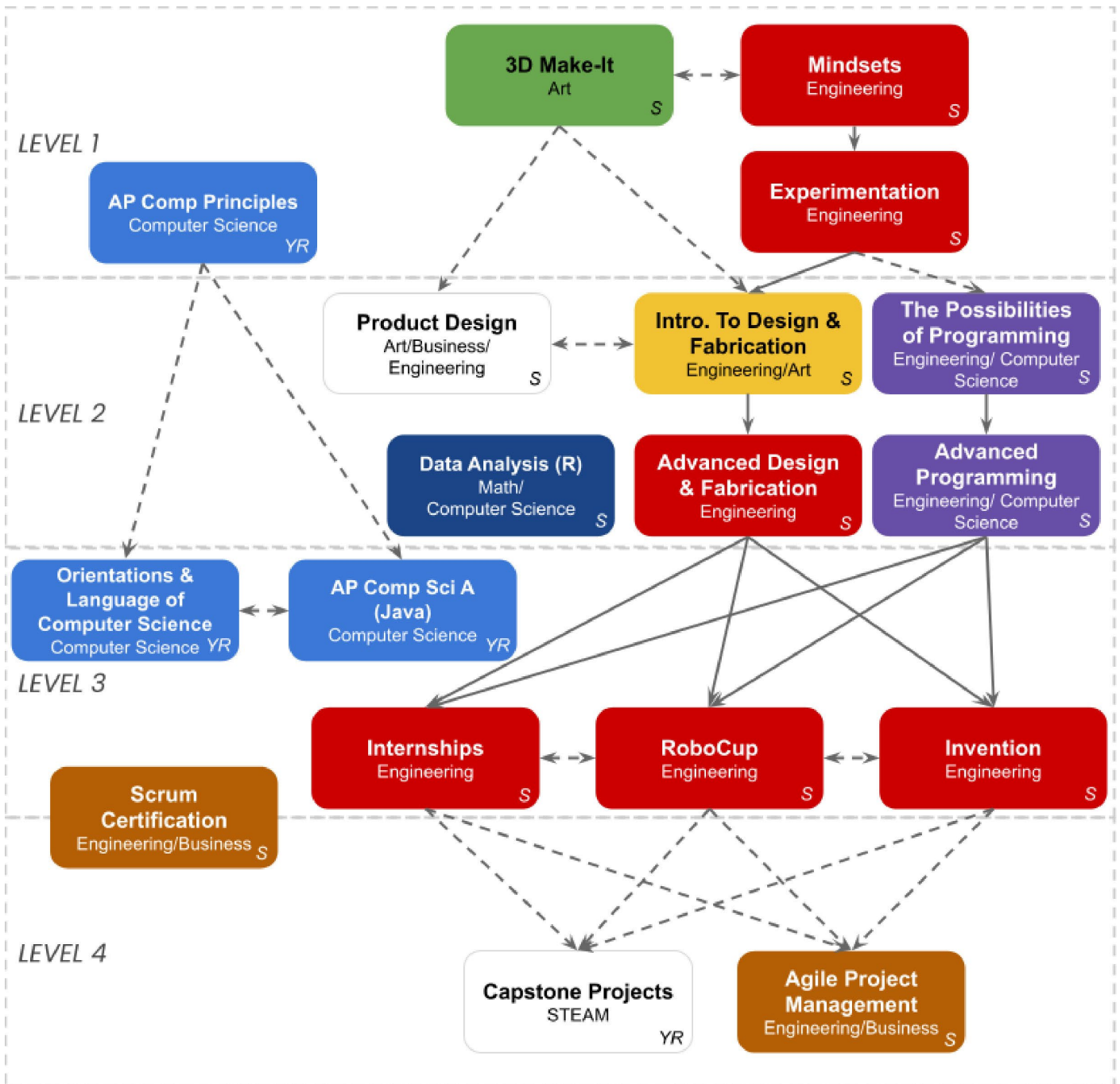
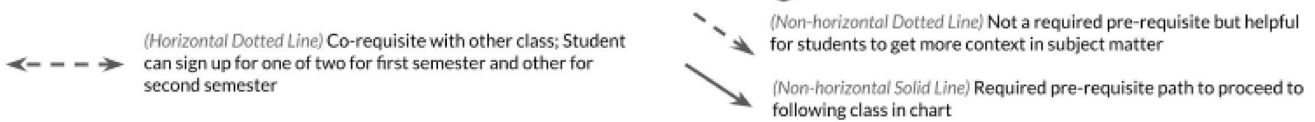
Engineering and Computer Science

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Department Color Meanings



Line Meanings



Engineering and Computer Science

Anyone is able to register for...

ENGINEERING 1: MINDSETS



Mindsets



Experimentation

Can register for the following with teacher approval

ENGINEERING 2: SKILLS



The Possibilities of Programming



Intro to Design & Fabrication



Advanced Programming



Advanced Design & Fabrication

Can register for the following with teacher approval

ENGINEERING 3: PROJECTS



Internship
I-IV



RoboCup
I-IV



Invention
I-IV



Agile
Management



Capstone
Project



Scrum
Certification

Can register for the following with teacher approval

ENGINEERING 4: LEADERSHIP

Engineering and Computer Science

Engineering provides a unique learning environment where students build creative confidence to inspire others, take risks, and persevere through iteration and failure. Students engage in real-world engineering processes, use of real engineering tools, and strive to solve real problems.

Engineering expands student development toward invention and entrepreneurship by exploring mechanical and electrical systems through fabrication and assemblies. Students utilize 3D modeling tools, learn relevant programming languages, and work through projects using Agile and Design Thinking.

Engineering I: Mindsets (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to all grade levels.

Engineers today are creating the lifesaving, world-altering marvels that will make for a safer, more connected, equitable, and even more awe-inspiring tomorrow. This is the introductory course in the BSM Engineering Program. Students develop an engineer's perspective of effective problem solving and engineering design while exploring fundamental mechanical engineering concepts. Through iterative processes, students learn about experimentation, optimization, and performance.

Engineering I: Experimentation (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to all grade levels.

Prerequisite: Engineering Mindsets

Engineering Experimentation expands student development toward invention and entrepreneurship by exploring mechanical and electrical systems through invention, reverse engineering, and optimization. Students engage in real-world engineering processes, use real engineering tools, and strive to solve real problems.

Engineering II: Introduction to Design and Fabrication (S1 or S2)

Prerequisite: Engineering Experimentation

One semester, one credit, open to all grade levels.

This course can be taken sequentially with a semester of Fine Arts: Product Design

Almost every professional product offered in the market today began with prototypes, basic Designs, and fabrication before they were the well-tuned products we trust and use with our everyday lives. This class will help students develop skills in the entire iterate design process from brainstorming, prototyping, CAD design, to product development. Unique challenges and projects will allow students to develop these skills while also working to compete with their classmates to accomplish these challenges and goals.

Engineering II: Advanced Design and Fabrication (S1) or (S2)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Design and Fabrication

One semester, one credit, open to all grade levels.

Taking the skills they've learned from the Introduction class; students will expand on what they've learned to create more complex mechanical systems as well as develop more professional models and products.

Engineering and Computer Science

Engineering III - RoboCup (S1) or (S2) levels.

One or two semester, one credit, open to all grade

Prerequisite: The Possibilities of Programming/Engineering-Advanced Design and Fabrications.

Once you've mastered some practical engineering skills, you can join our RoboCup Team. The RoboCupRescue League is an international league of teams with one objective: Develop and demonstrate advanced robotic capabilities for emergency responders using annual competitions to evaluate, and teaching camps to disseminate, best-in-class robotic solutions.

Engineering III - Invention (S1) or (S2)

One or two semester, one credit, open to all grade levels.

Prerequisite: The Possibilities of Programming /Engineering-Advanced Design and Fabrications.

Our Invention Team works to create technological solutions to real-world problems of their own choosing. Students rely on inquiry and hands-on problem solving as they integrate lessons from science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) to develop invention prototypes. Interactive, self-directed learning coupled with STEM curricula are essential for experiencing invention. Students learn to work in teams, while collaborating with intended users of their inventions. They partner with organizations in their communities to enrich their experiences. Most of all, students learn to move forward through challenges and celebrate "Eureka!" moments.

Engineering IV: Scrum Certification (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to all grade levels.

Agile practices are being rapidly adopted in project and product management across many industries, and the Scrum master is an important leadership role in agile development. The Certified ScrumMaster (CSM) certification is a professional level certification aimed at providing professionals with an awareness of the methodologies and values of Scrum, including team performance, accountability, and iterative progress. This certification is beneficial for people in product delivery who use the Scrum framework or those responsible for optimizing Scrum, including Scrum masters and their teams.

Engineering IV: Agile Project Management (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to all grade levels.

If you're experienced using Agile approaches, have good collaboration skills, eagerly embrace complexity, and thrive on rapid response times, then your talents are in demand. In this class, students act as SCRUM masters popularly known as the "servant leaders". They are coaches, motivators and leaders of an Agile team. A good Scrum Master helps to establish a high-performing team dynamic, a continuous flow, and an exponential improvement in processes. They are required to play a pivotal role and are responsible for the progressive development of a Scrum team.

Engineering IV: Internships (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to all grade levels.

Teacher approval required.

Various opportunities to intern in the engineering field. Must have updated portfolio and teacher approval.

Engineering and Computer Science

Computer Science

Computer Science Projects focus on coding and technology projects, such as computer simulation, programming languages, microcontrollers (e.g., Raspberry Pi, Arduino), scientific applications, and web development. Additionally, students may create interactive art, virtual reality or video games, and computer graphics.

Orientations and Language of Computer Principles (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

Orientations and Languages explores different programming orientations - object oriented, functional, and list structured - by tackling scripting challenges in different programming languages. Students will gain an understanding of the strengths and limitations of different kinds of languages, and in what kinds of real-world circumstances each orientation will be useful. This course covers the same material as AP Computer Science; HOWEVER, students are not required to sit for the advanced placement exam in May.

Engineering II: The Possibilities of Programming (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit open to all grade levels.

What can you do with code? The Possibilities of Programming will introduce many applications of programming, showing students what can be accomplished with code and teaching the basics of programming along the way. We will cover simple game design, websites, robotics, networking, and data analysis.

Engineering II: Advanced Programming (S1) or (S2)

Prerequisite: The Possibilities of Programming

One semester, one credit open to all grade levels.

Want to shape the future and build the 21st century skills sought by companies like Apple, Google, Facebook, NASA, and Tesla? Advanced programming gives students an introduction to an area in which professionals use code to create meaningful, valuable products. Several areas will be introduced -- video game design, numerical simulation, web application development, robotics and automation, and artificial intelligence -- and students will choose an area on which to focus. Students will become better programmers, will learn more about professional tools, and will gain authentic experience completing and releasing a product.

AP Computer Science

AP Computer Principles (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

Students learn to design and evaluate solutions and to apply computer science to solve problems through the development of algorithms and programs. They incorporate abstraction into programs and use data to discover new knowledge. Students also explain how computing innovations and computing systems, including the internet, explore their potential impacts, and contribute to a computing culture that is collaborative and ethical. This is an introductory college-level computing course that introduces students to the breadth of the field of computer science.

AP Computer Science A (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

Orientations and Languages explores different programming orientations -- object oriented, functional, and list structured -- by tackling scripting challenges in different programming languages. Students will gain an understanding of the strengths and limitations of different kinds of languages, and in what kinds of real-world circumstances each orientation will be useful.

English

Freshman

Enrollment in a yearlong English course is required. Placement is based on test scores and teacher recommendation.

English 9 (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to freshmen.

The goals of English 9 are to help students grow in appreciation of literature, develop critical thinking skills, express themselves in an articulate manner both orally and in writing, and to effect a better command of the English language. Writing skills, with a review of the fundamentals of grammar, are stressed with emphasis on paragraph structure and the five-paragraph essay format. Plays, essays, and novels are read, studied, and analyzed. A vocabulary program is also part of the curriculum. Students must complete a required summer reading assignment.

Honors English 9 (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to freshmen.

Because this is a reading and writing intensive course, it is recommended that students have earned an "A" in their previous English classes and possess strong literacy skills.

This course is for students who possess superior language arts skills and have the desire to learn at an intense and accelerated pace. Students will examine the principal literary genres in a varied selection of approximately 15 texts, ranging from Greek drama to contemporary novels. The focus of the class will be critical analysis of the literature through discussion and writing. A vocabulary program is also included in the curriculum. Students must complete a required summer reading assignment.

Sophomore

Enrollment in a yearlong English 10 course is required. In addition, these elective options (listed under "Senior") are available to sophomores:

Creative Writing

Mythology

Debate

Shakespeare

Journalistic Writing

English 10 (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores.

The English 10 reading program explores a variety of literary genres, the study of which will develop and advance those critical and interpretive reading skills introduced in English 9. The first semester focuses on literature covering novels and plays. The composition portion of this course reviews paragraph development and multi-paragraph essays, including an emphasis on research skills. Included in the second semester is a research unit, students will also gain experience in organizing and delivering formal and informal speeches. A vocabulary program is also part of the curriculum. Students must complete a required summer reading assignment.

Honors English 10 (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores.

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of English 9 with an "A" both semesters or Honors English 9.

This course is intended for students who demonstrate superior language arts skills and have the desire to learn at an accelerated pace. Students read approximately 10 classic and contemporary novels and plays from Greek, European, and American literature, and selected works of poetry. Writing instruction focuses on composing multi-paragraph essays, incorporating multiple sources, and employing revision practices throughout the writing process. The course also includes a research project during which students write an analytical essay as well as deliver formal and informal oral presentations. A vocabulary program is also integrated into the curriculum. Students must complete a required summer reading assignment.

English

Junior

Juniors are required to take one of the following options:

***Option 1: American Literature and Advanced Composition-
one each semester***

Option 2: Advanced Composition (S1) and American Studies (S2)

Option 3: AP Language and Composition- for the full year

With the two exceptions of AP English Literature and Composition, and Non-Fiction Writing, juniors may choose to enroll in any English electives listed under “Senior.”

Advanced Composition (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors.

This course prepares students for college writing assignments developing fundamental writing skills. Students will develop their own voices as writers and learn to make the structure and form of their writing match its content through the process of revision. Students will master the basics of grammar, mechanics, and usage as well as elements of logic and rhetoric. Major assignments include a descriptive essay, a narrative essay, a persuasive essay, a college application essay, and a cumulative multimedia portfolio. Students must complete a required summer reading assignment.

American Literature (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors.

This course focuses on developing a foundation in American Literature while examining American culture as seen through novels, poetry, history, and art. Students must complete a required summer reading assignment.

American Studies/English (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors.

*Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of English 10 OR Honors English 10 IN ADDITION TO:
Satisfactory completion of World History OR AP Human Geography.*

IN ADDITION, students must enroll in first semester Advanced Composition. Second semester students must enroll in American Studies English and American Studies Social Studies. This course fulfills the second semester English requirement.

This course blends US historical events and themes in American literature to provide students with a comprehensive social, political, economic, and literary history. Five time periods each reflecting different epochs will be team-taught: Great Depression, World War II, Civil Rights, Cold War Conflict, and Challenges of Modern American Society. Having both literary and historical figures illuminating the human experience, American Studies fosters a deeper understanding of the principles, problems, and issues basic to the establishment of our country. This understanding is essential for students to fully appreciate the complexities of history as it unfolds in modern times. Students enrolled in this course will meet two consecutive class periods.

Senior

English

Enrollment in one English elective is required per semester. Electives may not be repeated.

Creative Writing (S1) or (S2) One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

The class will expose students to a variety of forms of the written word in order to cultivate creativity and enhance students' forms of expression. Short essays, stories, and poetry will be used as both examples and tools in this class. Students will have the opportunity to broaden their creative horizons, develop their voices, refine their individual techniques, and share their writing in the classroom and beyond.

Debate (S1) or (S2) One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Students in this course will learn effective argumentation and the principles of debate. They will study valid persuasion techniques as a defense against irrational argument and use these techniques to influence others. Students will be involved in researching topics, learning debate techniques and terms, and improving speaking skills. Many types of debate will be covered in the class. No previous experience in debate is necessary, and students may enroll in the course without being on the school's debate team.

Film Studies (S1) or (S2) One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors.

This course is for students who are genuinely interested in film as a contemporary means of communication and art. The course will cover the history of film along with various genres from classic to contemporary. Students will be expected to write often, putting into practice critical thinking skills as they respond to various films. Students will have the opportunity to make their own digital short films. Because of the high level of writing and discussing, the course is much more than just watching movies.

This course does not meet the core course requirements of the NCAA.

Great American Novels (S1) or (S2)) One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors.

This discussion-based course is for students who want to have a grasp of American classics as they prepare for college. It picks up where American Literature leaves off, focusing on great novels from the Twentieth Century. Students will explore how American novels reflect the diversity of the American experience and consider what makes a novel "great."

Mythology (S1) or (S2) One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

This course covers a wide range of myths from various societies and time periods. While reading these stories of myth, students will examine universal archetypes, elements of culture, and human nature. Ultimately students will have the opportunity to critically examine contemporary culture and how their own story is part of it. The primary texts will be Edith Hamilton's *Mythology* and Joseph Campbell's *The Power of Myth*, but the course will also pursue many other avenues for studying myth in the modern world.

English

Non-Fiction Writing (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

This course focuses on non-fiction essay writing and is geared toward students who have completed either Advanced Composition or AP Language and Composition. With an emphasis on the writing process, this class is taught as a writing workshop with students actively working in small and large groups. Students will cultivate their writing in a variety of genres, culminating in a final portfolio of revised and original content.

Science Fiction Literature (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors.

This course is for students who want to examine the genre of science fiction as important and deserving of intelligent consideration and commentary. Using short stories, this course examines the development of science fiction over time. Novels will be read to examine what this genre – which is filled with what seem to be non-realities and impossibilities – has to offer to our present-day world and issues.

Shakespeare (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Several of the major plays of Shakespeare will be read and discussed in this course, with special emphasis on Shakespeare's understanding of human nature as shown by his character portrayals. Shakespeare will be considered from the point of view of his timelessness, his showmanship, and his relevance for modern teenagers. This course is intended for the student seriously interested in interpreting, analyzing, and enjoying Shakespeare's work.

Social Justice and the Written Word (S1)

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

This course focuses on the writing that has inspired and accompanied social change. We will analyze historical and contemporary works and their place in the continuous dialogue for rights in our country's history. Students will study the relationship of medium and message through a wide variety of sources and voices in both primary documents and secondary texts, including pamphlets, letters, speeches, sermons, legal documents, poems, short stories, and beyond. Finally, students will practice the power of writing in a real-world context, empowering them to use their skills to make a difference in the world.

English

Journalism

Editorial Leadership: *Knight Errant* (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors and seniors.

Prerequisite: one semester of another journalism class.

NOTE: Seniors who choose to enroll in this course as their sole English course must be aware that colleges and universities may not accept this as a core curriculum English course

Juniors enrolled in Editorial Leadership must enroll in required English courses.

Students who take this hands-on course will oversee production of the print and online editions of the *Knight Errant*. They will be responsible for all aspects of the publication. As the editorial board of the *Knight Errant*, students in this class will coordinate the work of the students in Journalistic Writing, Videography and Digital Storytelling, Photojournalism, and Graphic Design classes, in addition to creating their own content for publication. Each student in the class will be assigned a specific leadership role. *This course does not meet the core course requirements of the NCAA.*

Journalistic Writing (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

This course may be repeated.

Sophomores and juniors enrolled in Journalistic Writing must enroll in required grade-level English courses.

Students who take this hands-on course will produce content for the print and online editions of the *Knight Errant*. They will work in conjunction with students in the Editorial Leadership class who will guide them through the composition process, from the conception of ideas to the final published product. Students in this class will explore the different styles of reporting encompassed in the *Knight Errant*, including interview-based stories for the news, sports, and feature sections as well as opinions and reviews. With an emphasis on clear, concise, and engaging storytelling, this class will help students develop and hone their reporting skills and provide them with an authentic audience for their content. Students enrolled in Journalistic Writing as seniors will be responsible for writing and taking photographs for their assigned stories. Students enrolled in Journalistic Writing as sophomores or juniors or seniors who are taking an additional English elective will be able to choose how they present their stories. Photographers and videographers' welcome!

Yearbook Staff - *Sangraal* (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Prerequisite: Instructor approval. Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors.

This course will allow students to learn about graphic design principles, photography, and journalism through a hands-on manner while producing the Senior High yearbook. Staff members will be actively engaged in the production process throughout the school year. Staff responsibilities will range from conducting interviews, taking photographs, writing copy, plan and designing page layouts. Enrollment does not qualify as an English credit.

Yearbook: Editorial Leadership: *Sangraal* (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Prerequisite: Sangraal Staff and instructor approval.

Open to juniors and seniors.

Editorial Leadership: *Sangraal* is open to students who have been assigned editorial positions on the upcoming *Sangraal* publication. The production process will be further explored through performing editorial duties, such as supervising staff members, editing proofs, and communicating with the production plant. Enrollment does not qualify as an English credit.

English

Advanced Placement

Junior

AP Language and Composition (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors.

Recommended: Satisfactory completion of English 10 OR Honors English 10.

This accelerated writing course is taken in lieu of Advanced Composition and American Literature and is designed for those students who possess advanced writing skills. It is designed to further challenge those students as writers and to prepare them for more complex writing situations. Students will be required to complete a major writing project along with a variety of formal, informal, and in-class essays. In addition, students will be required to read several texts over the course of the year, focusing on American culture and rhetoric in fiction and nonfiction pieces. This is a reading and writing intensive course. Students must complete a required summer reading assignment. Because this is a reading and writing intensive course, it is recommended that students have earned As or Bs in their previous English classes.

Senior

AP English Literature and Composition (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors.

Recommended: Satisfactory completion of both Advanced Composition and American Literature OR AP Language and Composition.

This is an intense, college-level course in the reading and critical analysis of literature with a heavy emphasis on formal expository composition. A range of literature representative of different genres and historical periods will be studied, including approximately eight novels, a dozen short stories, six plays, and a wide selection of poetry. This yearlong course is a preparation for the AP Literature exam that is given in mid-May. Thus, it is expected that students taking this course will also take the AP Literature exam. Students must complete a required summer reading assignment. Because this is a reading and writing intensive course, it is recommended that students have earned As or Bs in their previous English classes.

College in Schools

Introduction to Literature: Poetry, Drama, Narrative (LITR, WI)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors.
Four college credits from the University of Minnesota.

For a full course description and requirements refer to page 54 of the program of studies.

Fine Art

All students are required to complete two semesters of a fine arts course, either art or music, before graduation. The art program at BSM provides students with the opportunity for developing creativity, imagination, and effective visual expression, with a link to cultural history. Working in a collaborative peer-learning environment, students develop creative problem-solving skills, self-expression, and visual literacy.

Art

Art & Design (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to all grade levels.

Art & Design is a survey course designed for the student who is interested in art but may be new to many types of artmaking. This course introduces students to a variety of materials, both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional, such as drawing, painting, ceramics, and digital media. The course focuses on developing students' understanding through reflecting on and evaluating the artistic process both individually and collaboratively.

3D Foundations (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to all grade levels.

3D Foundations is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals and technical principles of working three-dimensionally. It will cover three-dimensional design projects in which students will explore the principles of design and the meaning of form, space, function, mass, and structure. Traditional and non-traditional building materials will be used to explore how three-dimensional sculptures activate space and how consideration must be given to the many viewpoints and perspectives of a form existing in three dimensions.

3D Make it: Design and Build (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to all grade levels.

Makers are creative, resourceful, and curious people. This course will encourage students to problem solve, take risks, and develop projects that demonstrate how they can interact with the world around them. Students will work both individually and collaboratively on short- and long-term design challenges. Interest in material exploration and creative risk taking is a must. Sample past projects have included challenges exploring technologies including the Glowforge, TinkerCAD, 3D printing and Makey Makey as well as building with found materials designing water powered hydraulics, marble runs and large-scale inflatable sculptures.

Ceramics (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Second semester freshmen may enroll in this course.

This course introduces students to both hand building and wheel throwing techniques. Students will learn to design and build forms using various methods and learn to throw functional objects using the potter's wheel. Students will learn to work with the properties of clay and glaze through progressively more challenging projects. All materials, tools, and equipment will be provided.

Drawing & Painting (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to all grade levels.

This introductory course is designed for students who like to draw and paint. Working in a variety of drawing materials including charcoal, chalk pastel, oil pastel and paint mediums such as watercolor, watercolor pencil and acrylic, students learn how to see and represent what they see. Class work develops drawing skill, introduces foundation technique across mediums and hones observation. Through sketchbooks, students elevate their ability in and out of class.

Fine Art

Graphic Design (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to all grade levels.

This introductory course instructs students in design skills using core graphic programs including Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign. The focus will be on developing student understanding of the fundamental principles of design while finding creative visual solutions to projects. Projects may include digital illustrations, logos, magazine covers and spreads, working with typography as well as skill building exercises. This is a technology heavy course as projects are primarily completed using student laptops.

Photography (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

In this introductory course students will learn to use manual settings on a 35mm film camera, compose strong photographs, develop film, print negatives, and basic digital editing skills using Photoshop Lightroom. Assignments will include composition techniques, portraits, landscape, and environment. All students are expected to provide their own 35mm film camera (automatic cameras are acceptable) and have access to a digital camera as well. 35mm film, darkroom chemicals and paper are provided.

Product Design (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one ART elective credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Can be taken sequentially with a semester of Engineering: Introduction to Design and Fabrication.

Bring your ideas to life! Designers use creative problem solving and ideation skills to produce meaningful products and services. Students will utilize design thinking guided by empathy to solve self-directed design challenges. After identifying a need, asking questions, and developing goals toward designing a solution, students will pitch their new ideas to receive community feedback and possible next steps. Visual appeal, marketing strategies and target market considerations are all part of analyzing potential product impact. In this course, students will use sketching, 3D modeling, and rapid prototyping techniques to kickstart the next billion-dollar idea!

Silkscreen (S1)

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Create graphic t-shirt designs, concert posters, street art that conveys a message, and more. Screen printing is a technique that employs stencils burned into a mesh screen. Ink is pushed through the open areas of the stencil using a squeegee. This technique has been used commercially and as a fine arts medium for many centuries. This course is an exploration of screen-printing techniques with an emphasis on stenciling, photo emulsion, and graphic art. Assignments will include building and taping of screens, clothing design, power design and artmaking through collage. Students will supply their own clothing to print on.

Web Design (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Build beautiful, responsive websites that look great on all devices. No experience required although having taken Graphic Design would be a plus. You'll learn how to navigate around a Wordpress dashboard, know what everything does and how to use it. If you want to start a personal blog, create an eCommerce site, or an online business this course will help you get your platform off the ground.

Fine Art

Studio Art

Studio level courses may be repeated. Students must have successfully completed the first level of one medium to be eligible for enrollment.

Ceramics Studio (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit.

Prerequisites: Ceramics

Open to students who have completed the first level of this medium.

This advanced course is designed for students who want to further investigate hand-built, sculptural and wheel thrown forms. Students will continue to develop problem solving skills, persistence, and creativity, along with skills in wheel throwing, surface decoration and sculpture. Students will choose their projects or work with the teacher in determining projects and their objectives. The focus will be on improving skills students have begun to develop and on exploring the relationship between form, surface design, and original content. It is highly recommended to take this course for at least two (2) semesters prior to AP Ceramics.

Drawing & Painting Studio (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit.

Prerequisites: Drawing & Painting

Open to students who have completed the first level of this medium.

This advanced course is designed for students who have a desire to further develop technique and expression in drawing and painting. Students will focus on enhancing skills while exploring both realistic and abstract subject matter. They will often have free choice in the use of materials and self-expression. Students will develop a series of artworks throughout the semester based on designated themes but emphasizing student choice.

Graphic Design Studio (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit.

Prerequisite: Graphic Design

Open to students who have completed the first level of this medium.

This advanced course will focus on expanding and improving design skills with the Adobe Creative Suite, including Illustrator, Photoshop, and InDesign. Students will design projects for print and digital display with a variety of content, tools, techniques, and strategies. Students will work with the *Knight Errant* staff to produce the *KEQ* quarterly magazine and will also be given the opportunity to shoot photos for the *KEQ*.

Photography Studio (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Prerequisite: Photography

Open to students who have completed the first level of this medium.

This advanced course is designed for students who have a desire to further investigate photographic techniques and camera controls in both film and digital photography. Adobe Photoshop and Photoshop Lightroom skill sets will be expanded as well as additional darkroom skills. The focus of the course is on developing a personal photographic style while building a digital skill set. Students and teacher will collaborate on the designing of projects that will improve photographic skills and aid in the creation of a student portfolio.

Fine Art - Music

Advanced Placement Art and Design

The AP Art courses are designed to align with college or university foundations classes and allow students the opportunity to earn college credit. In place of a traditional written exam, students submit a portfolio of their work for review. Practice, experimentation, and revision using materials, processes, and ideas are ongoing activities in AP Art classes. Feedback accompanies these activities, informing students of their progress. The AP Art courses are largely student-directed and self-motivation is necessary for success. The art department highly encourages students to complete all levels in their given medium to ensure a strong base of quality work to consider and build upon.

AP 2-D Art and Design: Photography/2-D Design (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors.

Recommend: Photography Studio OR Graphic Design Studio. It is highly recommended that students who intend to submit an AP portfolio enroll in two semesters of this course.

This college level course develops students' independent voice, skills, and visual vocabulary. Students create a sustained investigation in an area of personal interest. Students send a portfolio of 15 connected pieces and 5 selected works to the AP committee for review. To guide the committee students will include a personal statement explaining the evolution of their process and describing how making work developed further questions for deeper exploration. Students in AP art apply critical thinking to their own work. Students demonstrate a high degree of independence and time management.

AP Drawing: Drawing & Painting (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors.

Recommend: Drawing & Painting Studio. It is highly recommended that students who intend to submit an AP portfolio enroll in two semesters of this course.

This college level course develops students' independent voice, skills, and visual vocabulary. Students create a sustained investigation in an area of personal interest. Students send a portfolio of 15 connected pieces and 5 selected works to the AP committee for review. To guide the committee students will include a personal statement explaining the evolution of their process and describing how making work developed further questions for deeper exploration. Students in AP art apply critical thinking to their own work. Students demonstrate a high degree of independence and time management.

AP 3-D Art and Design: Ceramics/3-D Design (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors.

Recommend: Two semesters of Ceramics Studio. It is highly recommended that students who intend to submit an AP portfolio enroll in two semesters of this course.

This college level course develops students' independent voice, skills, and visual vocabulary. A base of 5 quality artworks is recommended before registering for this course. A full year of both Studio and AP Ceramics is necessary to produce the quality and quantity of work required by the college Board. Students create a sustained investigation in an area of personal interest. To guide the committee students will include a personal statement explaining the evolution of their process and describing how making work developed further questions for deeper exploration. Students in AP art apply crucial thinking to their own work. Students demonstrate a high degree of independence and time management.

College in School

Creative Problem Solving (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors.

Three college credits from the University of Minnesota.

The pilot phase has allowed 11th and 12th grade students who have either a 3.0 or better GPA or instructor approval to register for the course. Full course description and requirements will be found on 54 of the program of studies.

Fine Art - Music

Music

The music department recognizes the importance of music in developing a student's self-esteem and the value of nurturing an appreciation for music. Outside of the formal course offerings, students may take part in the following extracurricular groups: Red Knotes, Bella Voce, Acabellas (non-audition women's group), Jazz Band. These groups generally meet before or after school and do not satisfy a Fine Art requirement. The students can also be involved in the Metro West Conference Band, Choir and String Orchestra Festivals, Honor Band, Honor Choir and Honor String Orchestra, Small Group Contest, and spring tour.

Choir (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

This course is designed for students who like to sing. A wide selection of music is rehearsed and performed throughout the school year. Music includes sacred, classical, and contemporary tunes. Students will have an opportunity to work on solos and ensembles for a contest/festival. Attendance is required at all performances, including school liturgies, concerts and other performances scheduled by the director. It is recommended, but not necessary, to enroll in both semesters of choir. Based on enrollment and at the discretion of the instructors, students may be placed in one of the following choirs:

Concert Choir – open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Chamber Choir – open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Concert Band (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Prerequisite: A minimum of two years of band experience.

Students will perform a wide variety of music: overtures, marches, lighter classics, and pop tunes. Students will work on improving their rhythm, technique, and style. Public performances will include concerts, athletic events, and a contest/festival with an opportunity for solo and ensemble playing. Attendance is required at major performances, athletic events and other events scheduled by the director. It is recommended, but not necessary, to enroll in both semesters of this course.

String Orchestra (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Weekly private lessons outside of school are strongly encouraged. String Orchestra participates in school liturgies.

This course builds upon the skills developed in junior high, continuing to increase musical awareness, refinement of technique, and performance skills, including various styles and periods of music. The repertoire studied covers a large spectrum from classics to pop to contemporary and liturgical music. Performances in a variety of venues including school mass, community and school events, and seasonal concerts with band and choir will require some after-school and before-school participation. Practice retreats are scheduled in the fall and spring. Extended weekend tours out of state are planned every other year.

.5 Band, Choir or String Orchestra as an 8th class (S1) and/or (S2)

Band, Choir or Orchestra: One semester, .5 credit Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Students in grades 10, 11 and 12 who have completed one full year of regular Band, Choir or Orchestra are eligible to enroll concurrently in .5 Band, Choir or Orchestra. Band, Choir or Orchestra meets Tuesday-Friday, with Monday scheduled as your BSM Hour. Attendance is required as needed for concert preparation or sectional work. First semester juniors will be excused from Band, Choir or Orchestra to attend the required ACT prep course. This option is designed for students who love music and desire to continue their participation as they maintain a full academic load.

Guidance and Learning Support

The Benilde-St. Margaret's guidance department provides many services to students and parents. For more detailed information regarding all services provided, students and parents are encouraged to visit the BSM website (www.BSMschool.org) click on "Academics" then, select "Guidance".

Academic Support (S1) and/or (S2)

Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.
One or two semesters, no credit.

This course provides students the opportunity to receive academic and organizational support in a supervised study hall format. This class supports students with a documented diagnosis that affects their ability to perform in a school setting.

College/Career Planning (S1 and S2)

Two semester course, .5 credits each semester, required of juniors.

The purpose of the College/Career Planning requirement is to provide students with the best possible support in choosing, applying for, and committing to a college or university and potentially a career path. Following is an outline of the support BSM offers juniors by semester:

Semester One: Colleges may use the ACT score for both admissions decisions and scholarship awards. For this reason, BSM has partnered with Naviance Test Prep to provide current juniors, and eligible sophomores, with a 13-week ACT and PSAT test preparation course during the school day. The course starts the week after Labor Day and runs for thirteen weeks. It meets once per week during the student's BSM hour block day. The goal of this first semester course is to help students do their very best on the ACT and PSAT tests. Providing the test preparation course during the school day makes it easier for all students to engage in a proven method of preparation. Students will receive a P (pass) / NP (no pass) grade, based on attendance and homework completion, on their academic transcript.

This first semester course is open to eligible sophomores in the spring of sophomore year. These students will be invited to participate based on current math course enrollment and success.

Semester Two: This semester course includes an all-day event on college and career planning, completion of a portfolio of work, and attendance at the BSM College Fair. During the all-day event students will attend sessions on a variety of helpful topics to aid them in the college planning and application process. Each student is required to complete a portfolio of work building on the information they receive at the event. Students will be required to use online resources to complete their portfolio. Students are required and parents are encouraged to attend an individual meeting with their guidance and college counselor. This meeting will be scheduled by the guidance office during the spring of junior year. Students will receive a P (pass) /NP (no pass) grade, based on their portfolio, on their academic transcript.

Learning Lab (S1) and/or (S2)

One or two semesters, .5 credits per semester, open to freshmen.

Students will receive academic and organizational support in this class supervised by the learning specialist. Students will receive a P (pass) /NP (no pass) notation on their academic transcript. This class supports students with a documented diagnosis that affects their ability to perform in a school setting.

Quiet Study (S1) and/or (S2)

Open to all grade levels. One or both semesters. No credit.

Students are assigned to this supervised study hall by counselors and learning specialists for support with work completion.

Guidance and Learning Support

Teacher Assistant (S1) and/or (S2) One semester, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.
.5 credit. Students must carry the minimum course load for their grade level.

Students can use their expertise in a subject area by serving as an assistant to a teacher. Students should contact the instructor they are interested in assisting. Students are placed in TA positions two weeks after the start of the semester. Students will receive a P (pass) /NP (no pass) notation on their transcript.

College in School

Exploring the Teaching Profession I (CI 3901) One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors.
Two college credits from the University of Minnesota.

For a full course description and requirements refer to page 54 of the program of studies.

Health and Physical Education

To balance semester sections and to provide the best possible learning experience for students, enrollment in one or more of these courses may differ from original semester choice. Health and physical education are required of all freshmen and must be taken opposite semesters.

Health (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, required of all freshmen.

One semester of health is required of all freshmen. The health curriculum will provide students with knowledge of various health topics to help them make responsible decisions. The students will self-evaluate and develop goals for improvement. Topics covered include mental health, stress management, nutrition, fitness, substance abuse, social health, and CPR/AED.

Physical Education 9 (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit required of all freshmen.

This is an activity-based course that involves instruction and participation in individual as well as team sports. The different team sports may include speedball, flag football, volleyball, cricket, and floor hockey. Individual activities include weight training and conditioning, and physical fitness testing. Students are required to purchase and wear the physical education uniform approved by BSM.

Electives

BSM offers the following elective health and physical activities to interested students as means to round out their academic choices.

Health

Think, Learn, Communicate (TLC) (S1) or (S2)

one semester, one credit, open to freshmen

This is a real world applied psychology course where students learn more about themselves and how to relate to others in a more effective way. In this course, students will strive to improve self-confidence, focus on personal development and how to improve relationships with families and friends with the goal of reaching their full potential in high school and beyond. Specifically, the course includes three essential strategies for self-discovery:

Physical Education Electives

Intramural Sports (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Students will participate in a competitive intramural sports class. Students will understand the advanced rules and skills of a variety of both indoor and outdoor team sports. Students will understand the principles of training necessary to improve fitness. Each student will measure and evaluate personal fitness, endurance, and strength

Outdoor Adventure (S1)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors or seniors.

This first semester course offering will include canoeing, camping skills, outdoor cooking, fishing activities, team building activities, backpacking, conditioning, survival skills, archery, and hands-on activities.

Racquet Sports (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Students will understand and apply the advanced rules and skills of badminton, pickleball, table tennis and racquetball. They will also know principles of training necessary to improve fitness.

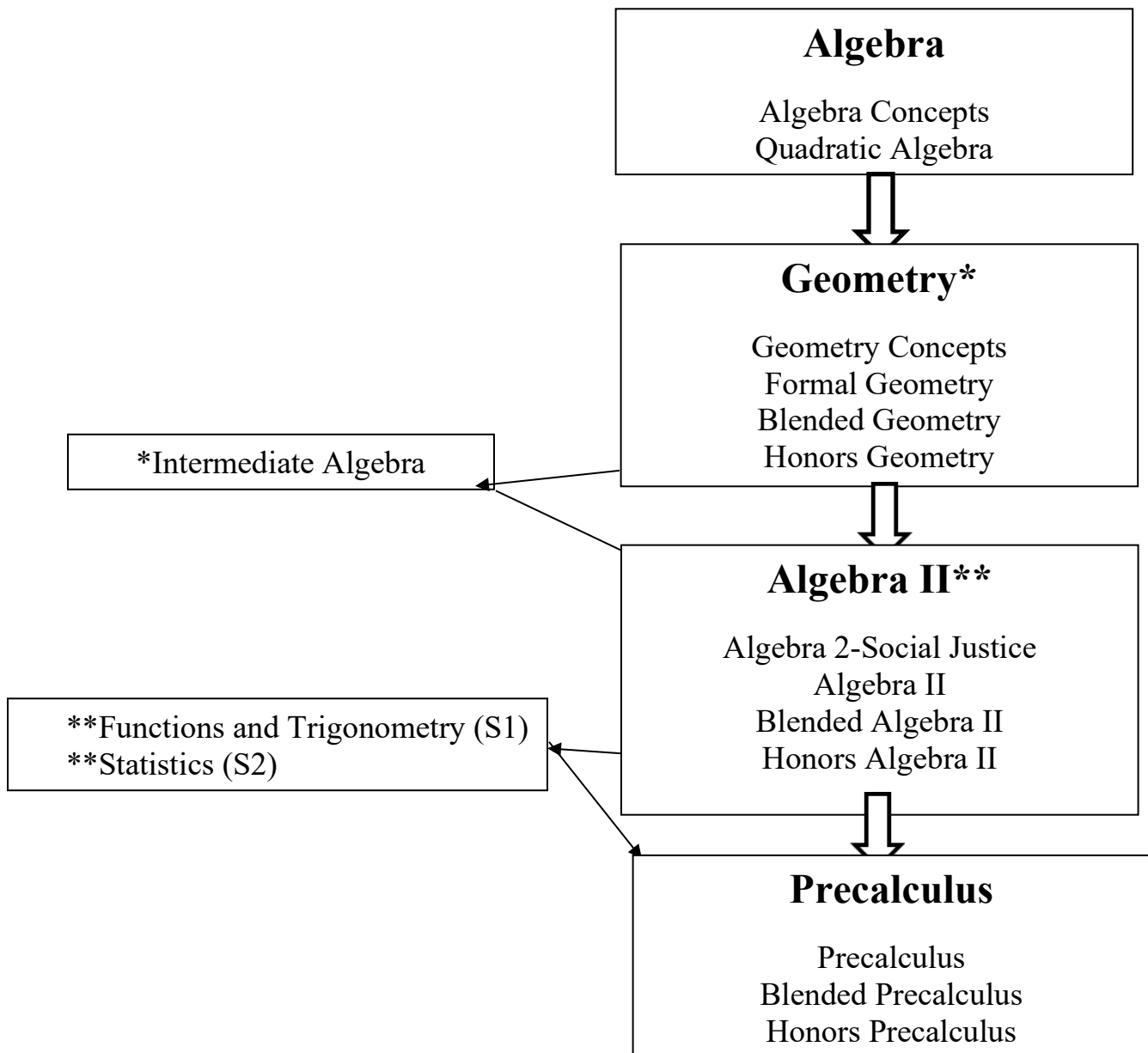
Intro to Strength Training and Conditioning (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Class size is limited to 20 students.

Students will participate in advanced cardio, core, upper and lower body strength activities throughout the term. The emphasis is on improving each student's overall fitness and strength level. Each student will know how to develop a personal fitness plan and will measure and evaluate person fitness

Mathematics

In grades 9-12, each student is required to complete three years of mathematics courses. The beginning course is determined by placement test scores, teacher recommendation, and previous courses completed. Placement may be reevaluated based on academic progress. Students are encouraged to take four years of mathematics courses. Below is a general guide to the course of study. Students are not obligated to follow the path shown here.



Mathematics electives include Calculus, Data Analysis, and AP offerings. Refer to specific page for more information:

Calculus: page 33

Data Analysis: page 31

AP: page 35

Mathematics

Algebra Concepts (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Prerequisite: Middle school teacher recommendation, student's PreACT 8/9 test score.

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to take more time with algebraic concepts that may be difficult and to give students more individualized attention. A scientific calculator is required, TI-30 recommended.

Geometry Concepts (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Prerequisite: Algebra Concepts.

This course is designed to provide students more time with difficult geometric concepts and to give students more individualized attention. While the deductive character of Geometry is preserved, emphasis is shifted from formal proofs to practical application and strengthening algebraic skills. A scientific calculator is required, TI-30 recommended.

Intermediate Algebra (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Prerequisite: Geometry Concepts, Formal Geometry or Formal Geometry Blended Online.

This course offers an in-depth review of algebra with an introduction to many Algebra II topics including matrices, polynomials, logarithms, and exponential functions. The course is designed primarily to meet the needs of those students who need to strengthen their algebra skills before taking the Algebra II course. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required. *This course does not meet the core course requirements of the NCAA.*

Quadratic Algebra (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

*Prerequisite: 8th grade Algebra that **DOES NOT** cover quadratics, polynomials, and rational functions*

This course is designed for those students who completed an Algebra course including linear and exponential functions. This course will complete the Algebra curriculum by covering quadratic, polynomial, rational, and radical functions. Additional topics may include probability, piecewise linear functions, absolute value functions, transformations of all functions, and basic trigonometry. A scientific calculator is required, TI-30 recommended.

Formal Geometry (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Prerequisite: 8th grade Algebra that covers quadratics, polynomials, and rational functions, Quadratic Algebra, or successful completion of the summer supplemental Algebra course.

This course is designed to develop logic and reasoning skills as the student studies Euclidian Geometry, covering topics including congruence and similarity, properties of 2 and 3 dimensional figures, perimeter, area, and volume. Concentrated work with proof-writing follows a carefully sequenced development of the logic of geometry. A scientific calculator is required, TI-30 recommended.

Mathematics

Formal Geometry Blended Online (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Prerequisite: 8th grade Algebra that covers quadratics, polynomials, and rational functions, Quadratic Algebra, or successful completion of the summer supplemental Algebra course.

This course follows the same curriculum as formal geometry but allows the student the opportunity to learn through a blended instructional experience. The class combines online resources with a classroom supported environment using a flexible assessment schedule. A scientific calculator is required, TI-30 recommended.

Algebra II (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Prerequisite: Formal Geometry, Formal Geometry Blended Online or Intermediate Algebra with a grade of “C-“ or higher for both semesters.

This course is designed to continue to strengthen algebra skills while introducing more advanced topics. This course emphasizes facility with algebraic expressions and forms, especially linear and quadratic forms, powers and roots, and functions based on these concepts. Students study absolute value, rational, logarithmic, trigonometric, polynomial, and other special functions both for their abstract properties and as tools for modeling real-world situations. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

Algebra II Blended Online (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Prerequisite: Formal Geometry or Formal Geometry Blended Online with a grade of “B” or higher in both semesters.

This course follows the same curriculum as Algebra II but allows the student the opportunity to learn through a blended instructional experience. The class combines online resources with a classroom supported environment. This course is for students who are self-motivated and self-directed. The expectation is students will meet set test and quiz date deadlines. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

Algebra II – Social Justice (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Prerequisite: Formal Geometry, Formal Geometry Blended Online or Intermediate Algebra with a grade of “C” or higher for both semesters

This course covers traditional Algebra II material with a unique perspective using capstone assessment of each chapter is an examination of topics or events from the world. Students will work mathematically to examine issues like minimum wage, the effects of COVID on the global population, the relationship between income and life expectancy, how design and forced perspective can be used to change the appearance of buildings and objects among other topics. Students will be expected to write responses and discuss questions applying their learnings to large questions using data and verifying its validity. They will leave each chapter of this course with a first-hand example to answer the question: “Where are we gonna use this?”.

Data Analysis (S1) or (S2)

Two semesters, two credits. Open to sophomores, juniors. and seniors.

An introduction to statistical concepts and R programming skills necessary for analyzing data in the life sciences. Learn job-ready skills that are in demand, like how to analyze and process data to gain key business insights.

Mathematics

Functions & Trigonometry (S1)

One semester, one credit.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of the full year of Algebra II or Algebra II Blended Online

This one-semester course offers a less rigorous alternative to precalculus and integrates graphic and algebraic concepts to study functions and real-world applications of functions. The course previews precalculus work in functions, logarithms, finance, and trigonometry. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

Statistics (S2)

One semester, one credit.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of the full year of Algebra II or Algebra II Blended Online.

This one-semester course offers an in-depth introduction to the field of statistics. Students will learn how to organize, interpret, and display numerical data. Data will be analyzed using statistical tools such as the normal distribution, the binomial distribution, and measures of center and spread. Students will also be introduced to probability theory as it relates to statistics. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

Precalculus (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Prerequisite: Algebra II, Algebra II Blended Online, Algebra 2 – Social Justice or both Functions and Trigonometry and Statistics (FST) with a grade of “B” or higher.

This course is intended for students with a strong background in Algebra II, trigonometry, and geometry. Attention is focused on expanding the depth and breadth of concepts, both old and new, as well as on the refinement of manipulative skills. The course provides work in varied mathematical areas such as functions, logarithms, trigonometry, sequences, combinations, probability, and conics. An emphasis is placed on integration and application of concepts. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

Precalculus Blended Online (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Prerequisite: Algebra II or Algebra II Blended Online with a grade of “B” or higher in both semesters.

This course follows the same curriculum as Precalculus but allows the student the opportunity to learn through a blended instructional experience. The class combines online resources with a classroom supported environment. This course is for students who are self-motivated and self-directed. The expectation is students will meet set test and quiz date deadlines. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

Calculus (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Prerequisite: Precalculus or Blended Precalculus with a grade of “C+” or higher in both semesters or Honors Precalculus with a grade of “C” or higher in both semesters.

This course is intended to give students a thorough study of differentiation and integration among other topics covered in a first semester college calculus course. The course is designed to allow more time to explore difficult concepts and to give students, who will need to take calculus in college, a head start. It is not intended to prepare students for the AP Calculus test nor are students expected to take the AP Calculus test. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

Mathematics

Honors

Honors Geometry (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Prerequisite: Quadratic Algebra or 8th grade algebra covering quadratics, polynomials, and rational functions with a grade of "A" in both semesters.

Honors Geometry provides an in-depth and very challenging study of geometry at an accelerated pace including rigorous proof and logic-based problems. Strong algebra skills are essential. This course is designed to develop logic and reasoning skills as the student studies topics such as congruence and similarity, properties of 2 and 3 dimensional figures, perimeter, area, and volume. Concentrated work with proof-writing follows a carefully sequenced development of the logic of geometry. A scientific calculator is required, TI-30 recommended.

Honors Algebra II (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Prerequisite: Formal Geometry, Blended Geometry with a grade of "A" in both semesters or Honors Geometry with a grade of "B-" or higher in both semesters.

This course provides an in-depth and very challenging study of advanced algebra at an accelerated pace. Strong algebra skills are essential. This course is designed to continue to strengthen algebra skills while introducing more advanced topics. This course emphasizes facility with algebraic expressions and forms, especially linear and quadratic forms, powers and roots, and functions based on these concepts. Students study absolute value, rational, logarithmic, trigonometric, polynomial, and other special functions both for their abstract properties and as tools for modeling real-world situations. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

Honors Precalculus (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Prerequisite: Algebra II with a grade of "A" in both semesters or Honors Algebra II with a grade of "B-" or higher in both semesters.

This course provides an in-depth and very challenging study of Precalculus at an accelerated pace. Strong algebra skills are essential. This course is intended for students with a strong background in advanced algebra, trigonometry, and geometry. Attention is focused on expanding the depth and breadth of concepts, both old and new, as well as on the refinement of manipulative skills. The course provides work in varied mathematical areas such as functions, logarithms, trigonometry, sequences, combinations, probability, and conics. An emphasis is placed on integration and application of concepts. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

Mathematics

Advanced Placement

AP Calculus AB (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Recommend: Precalculus or Precalculus Blended Online with a grade of "A" in both semesters or Honors Precalculus with a grade of "B" or higher in both semesters

This is a rigorous course designed to reinforce and utilize the content of previous courses while acquiring the skills of differentiation and integration and an in-depth application of these concepts. This is material that would be included in a first semester calculus sequence at the college level. The course includes, but is not limited to, all topics in the current Advanced Placement Calculus AB curriculum. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

AP Calculus BC (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Recommend: AP Calculus AB with a grade of "B" or higher in completed AP Calculus AB.

This rigorous course covers the same differential and integral calculus topics that are included in the AP Calculus AB curriculum, plus many additional topics including polynomial approximations and series. This is material that would be included in a second semester calculus sequence at the college level. The course includes, but is not limited to, all topics in the current AP Calculus BC curriculum. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

AP Statistics (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Recommend: Completion of two semesters of one of the following courses with the required grade indicated

Algebra II with a grade of "A" in both semesters.

FST with a grade of "A-" or higher.

Precalculus with a grade of "C+" or higher.

This is a rigorous course designed to teach students how to organize, display, and interpret data. An emphasis will be placed on the four major themes of the AP Statistics curriculum: exploring data, sampling, and experimental design, anticipating patterns with probability and simulation, and statistical inference. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

RED

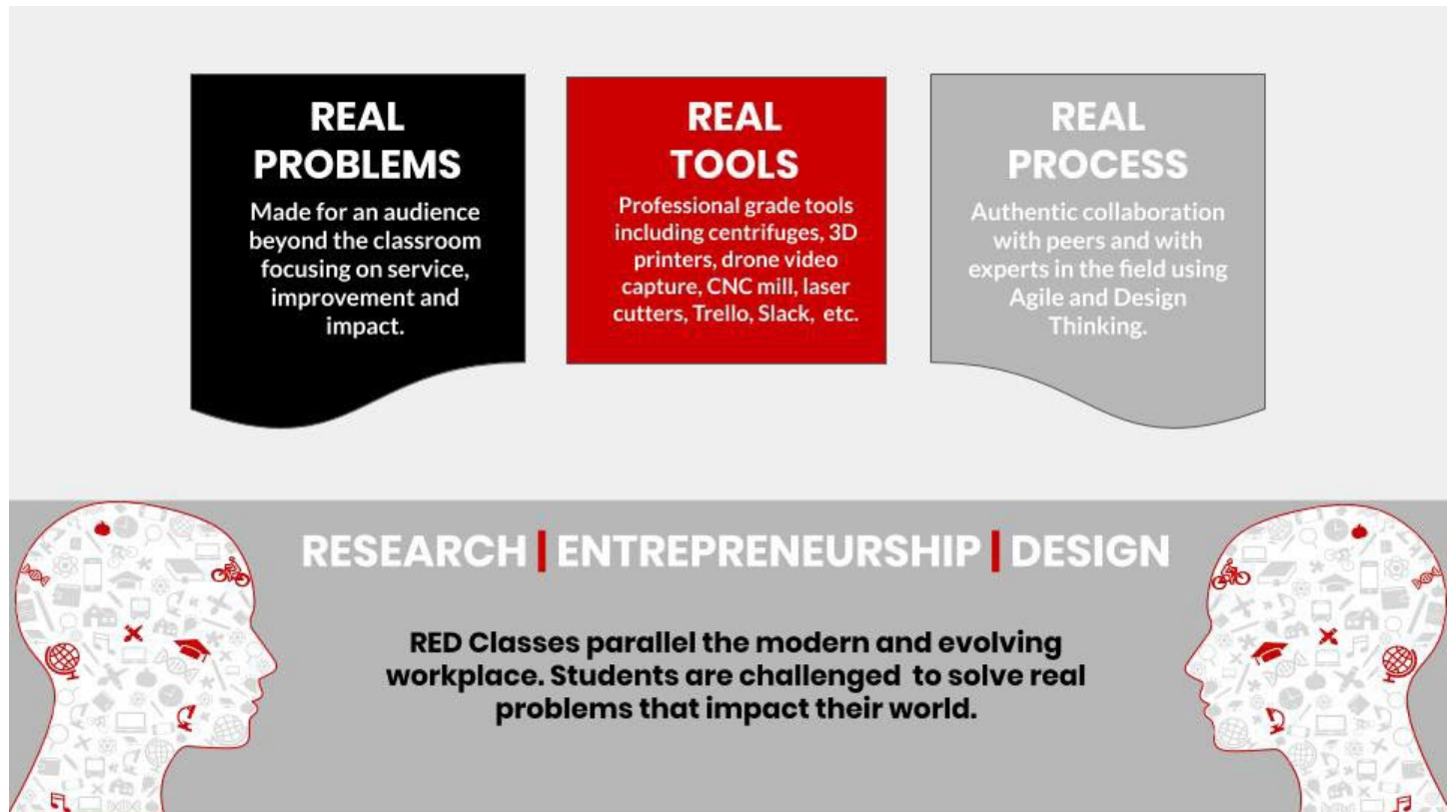
Research | Entrepreneurship | Design

RED is set of courses offering students an experience that parallels the modern workplace.

RED challenges students to solve problems that impact their world.

RED challenges students to develop skills that endure over time.

RED students receive specific department credit for these classes.



RED Capstone Independent Study (S1 and S2)

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors.

Prerequisite: Teacher approval required. Students submit proposals in March of the previous semester.

In this ambitious and personalized class, students will use design thinking and the Agile management process to bring a project to life. Publish a book? Patent an invention? Develop a new app? Found a non-profit? You furnish the dream, and we'll help partner you with industry mentors and a BSM leadership coach. This year long class embraces the mission and vision of the entire RED Department, focusing on offering authentic and collegiate experiences using real world, professional skills to bring your dream to life. Class is scheduled as an independent study with biweekly mentor and coach check-ins.

Science

Beginning with the 2022-23 school year the Science graduation requirements will change for students. Course placement is determined by admissions test scores, teacher recommendation, and previous courses completed. Placement maybe reevaluated based on academic progress.

CLASS OF 2023: The graduation requirement is three years of science, including one year of Biology and one year of Chemistry.

CLASS of 2024 and beyond: All students must take one year of Biology, one year of Chemistry and one year of Physics.

Biology (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, required of freshmen.

This course examines the biological world with an emphasis on real-world applications. Topics covered will include cell biology, molecular basis of inheritance, and interdependence of organisms, living systems, and the behavior of organisms. Students will use technology in the classroom and be involved in many laboratory activities such as DNA gel electrophoresis, and fetal pig dissection.

General Chemistry (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors.

This laboratory-based course focuses on the key concepts of chemistry. Students will develop their problem-solving and critical thinking skills by collaborating on research projects and laboratory experiments. This course will focus on the following topics: measurement and the metric system, states of matter, atomic structure, kinetic molecular theory, mixtures and compounds, solutions, the periodic table, chemical formulas, chemical reactions, bonding, gas laws, and stoichiometry.

Chemistry (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors.

Prerequisite: Completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, Algebra II or Honors Algebra II.

This course is intended for those students who seek a solid chemistry background in preparation for college or desire a complete understanding of chemistry principles. Students will study the structure, properties, and changes in matter as well as the laws, principles, and theories describing matter. Classroom activities will include lectures, demonstrations, problem solving, and experiments.

General Physics (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors.

This project-based course gives students an introduction to physics and engineering. Students will learn fundamental science skills through which teamwork and cooperative learning will be emphasized. Topics covered will include measurement, the metric system, motion, forces, energy, and electricity. Activities will include projects, laboratory work, formal assignments, inquiry-based activities, lectures, and demonstrations.

Physics (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors and seniors.

Prerequisite: Completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, Algebra II or Honors Algebra II.

This course is designed for students who have a natural curiosity about how the world works. Have you ever wondered why you get pushed to the outside of a car when going around a curve? Why do spaceships “slingshot” themselves past other planets? Why does your hair get more “static-y” during the winter? We’ll focus on topics like kinematics and motion, forces, energy, momentum, electricity, magnetism, waves, light, and sound. Through labs and engineering challenges, students will gain a better understanding of how the rules of nature can explain our everyday experiences. Students will complete lab assignments and 1-2 major projects. This course is designed for anyone who has an interest in science.

Science

Honors

Honors Biology (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Open to eligible freshmen who score in the 85th percentile, or higher, on the PreACT 8/9.

Honors Biology is a rigorous course designed to challenge students who have a great curiosity and ability in science. The faster pace of this course covers the same material as the regular Biology course while allowing additional topics related to medicine and anatomy to be covered. Because of the faster pace, students will be expected to be hard workers, motivated learners, and able to grasp scientific concepts quickly.

Honors Chemistry (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors.

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra II or Honors Algebra II with an "A-".

Honors Chemistry is a rigorous course designed to challenge students who have a great curiosity and ability in science. Students should be self-motivated and enjoy challenges. Problem solving skills are very important. The faster pace of this course covers the same material as the regular Chemistry course while allowing additional topics to be covered. Because of the faster pace, students will be expected to be independent problem solvers, motivated learners, and able to grasp scientific concepts quickly.

Electives

Ecology (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors.

Ecology will provide hands-on, often outdoor, learning experiences through project-based problem-solving activities. Students will learn about the interrelationships of living things and their physical environments. Students will engage in the study of environmental topics affecting the world in which they live.

Forensic Science (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors.

Prerequisite: Completion of Chemistry or Honors Chemistry

Are you intrigued by CSI? Does a statement like, "We're not quite sure of the C.O.D but there is some GSR on our vic," resonate with you? If so, this class might be for you! Forensic science is a challenging investigative course that applies scientific principles and technological practices from biology, chemistry, and physics for the purpose of justice. Some major themes of study include collecting physical evidence, glass and soil, fingerprints, hair and fiber, DNA typing, chemical analysis, sound waves, blood spatter analysis, entomology, casts, impressions, and tool marks. This is a year-long course that will require critical thinking, problem solving and an investigative and curious mind as we build upon these themes at an advanced level.

Biomedical Science I: Investigations (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Order of enrollment preference: sophomores, juniors, seniors.

Prerequisites: Completion of Biology with an "A-" or Honors Biology with a "B" or higher.

A summer assignment is required and due the first day of school

This course is a hands-on, lab-oriented class designed for those students interested in medicine and medical technologies teaching them how the body works together to maintain health. Students will explore how the body works using Vernier technology, real life medical equipment, act as doctors to diagnose and treat fictitious patients, create, and present models of different systems/organs in the human body. Coursework includes dissections, and case studies, simulations, and guest speakers. The course will culminate with students exploring a disease from beginning to end and creating and presenting their own patient case study.

Science

Advanced Placement

AP Chemistry (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors.

Prerequisite: Completion of Chemistry or Honors Chemistry.

This course is a second-year chemistry course, designed to be the equivalent of the general course taken during the first year of college. This course prepares students for the Advanced Placement exam. It is structured around the six big ideas as described in the AP Curriculum Framework: including the structure of matter, properties of matter, chemical reactions, the rates of chemical reactions, thermodynamics, and equilibrium. A special emphasis will be placed on the seven science practices, which capture important aspects of the work in which scientists engage. Learning objectives will combine content with inquiry and reasoning skills during multiple hands-on laboratory investigations.

AP Physics I (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors.

Prerequisite: Completion of Precalculus or Precalculus Blended Online.

AP Physics I is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course. Students cultivate their understanding of Physics through inquiry-based investigations as they explore the topics of kinematics, dynamics, circular motion and gravitation, energy, momentum, simple harmonic motion, torque and rotational motion, electrical charge and force, DC circuits, and mechanical waves and sound.

Students should have a basic algebra background before enrolling in this course. Students should also plan to spend at least 25% of instructional time doing hands-on laboratory work, with an emphasis on inquiry-based investigations that allow opportunities to demonstrate foundational physics principles and apply important scientific practices.

Biomedical Science II: AP Seminar: (YR) Two semesters, two credits. Open to juniors and seniors.

Prerequisite: Biomedical Science I: Investigations or teacher recommendation. Students are required to complete a summer assignment due the first day of school.

AP Seminar: Biomedical Science is first and foremost a science class. Students will focus their efforts on using the processes of biomedical science to study current areas of debate such as: genetic engineering in humans, animal use in research, effectiveness of stem cell therapies, pandemic preparedness, and cell phone radiation. Using the AP framework, Q.U.E.S.T. (Question, Understand, Evaluate Perspectives, Synthesize Ideas, and Team, Transmit, and Transform), will allow students to look deeply and thoroughly at complex issues through multiple lenses. Each topic addressed will have a series of experiments focused on the biomedical aspect. These experiments and the accompanying research techniques will offer a jumping off point for more questions and answers. The College Board will ask students to engage in two Performance Tasks: one as a team, the other as an individual. Each of these has a multimedia portion and an individual writing assignment. This course prepares the student for the AP Exam in May. College credit may be earned as part of the AP Capstone program. (see page 10 for Capstone program information).

Biomedical Science III: AP Research: (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Prerequisite: Completion of Biomedical Science II: AP Seminar.

Students will collaborate with other students, teachers, and/or professionals in their field of study to design and implement a research project or product. Students will focus on an area of personal interest in the biomedical field and study it in depth. Outcomes from the course may include publishing research findings, a professional poster symposium, participating in national research-related competitions, and/or an internship in the field. AP Research, the second course in the AP Capstone experience, allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue, or idea of individual interest. Student's design, plan, and implement a yearlong investigation to address a research question. Through this inquiry, they further the skills they acquired in the AP Seminar course by learning research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information. Students reflect on their skill development, document their processes, and curate the artifacts of their scholarly work through a process and reflection portfolio. The course culminates in an academic paper of 4,000– 5,000 words (accompanied by a performance, exhibit, or product where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense.

Social Studies

The social studies program at BSM is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to actively participate in our democracy and our increasingly interconnected world. Courses in the social studies department will focus on both essential content as well as skills such as critical thinking, discussion writing, and analysis.

Commencing with sophomore year, BSM students are required to complete a total of 6 semesters of social studies, although interested students have the option to take more courses. Interested and eligible freshmen have the option of starting their social science studies earlier by enrolling in AP Human Geography.

Sophomore

World History (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Required of sophomores who have not taken AP Human Geography

This course explores early modern world history and the historical events that continue to influence the contemporary world. Students will investigate the historical events that led to European domination of the globe and the ensuing consequences. The first semester will start with the Medieval era and end on the eve of WWI. The second semester explores the causes and effects of two global wars and then will focus on case studies of various regions around the world.

The themes emphasized are cross-continental interactions and intellectual movements/theories that still impact the world today including individualism, marginalization of others, self-determination, constitutionalism, authoritarianism, communism, and nationalism. Skill emphasis will be on reading non-fiction text, note-taking, analyzing primary sources, and effective persuasive writing.

Junior

American Studies/Social Studies (S2)

One semester, two credits, open to juniors.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of World History OR AP Human Geography IN ADDITION TO both semesters of English 10 OR Honors English.

IN ADDITION, students must enroll in first semester Advanced Composition. Second semester students must enroll in American Studies English and American Studies Social Studies. This course fulfills the second semester English requirement.

Students must enroll in first semester United States History. Semester two students must enroll in American Studies English and American Studies Social Studies. This course fulfills the second semester United States History Social Studies requirement.

This course blends US historical events and themes in American literature to provide students with a comprehensive social, political, economic, and literary history. Five time periods each reflecting different epochs will be team taught: Great Depression, World War 2, Civil Rights, Cold War Conflict, and Challenges of Modern American Society. Having both literary and historical figures illuminating the human experience, American Studies fosters a deeper understanding of the principles, problems, and issues basic to the establishment of our country. This understanding is essential for students to fully appreciate the complexities of history as it unfolds in modern times. Students enrolled in this course will meet two consecutive class periods.

Social Studies

Junior

United States History (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, required of all juniors.

This course explores the history of the United States of America as a land founded upon high principles. Students will explore the achievements and success of the United States, as well as its failures and challenges from the Reconstruction to the present. The course is designed to give students a fundamental knowledge of major themes in United States history: state and federal control, expansion and conflict, industrial growth and global economic interest, immigration, struggle for rights of marginalized Americans, war and peace, domestic policy, and world politics.

Ongoing skill development in reading comprehension, critical thinking, original source document analysis, source bias, writing for the social studies and research, note taking, and integrative technology are the study skills that are developed in this course.

Senior

United States Government and Politics (S1)

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

This course consists of a survey of political thought and experience in the United States. American government at local, state, and federal levels will be studied, with an emphasis placed upon the institutions of the federal government. Course topics include the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States of America, political process, political philosophy, civil rights, the role of government, current events, and the duties of a United States citizen.

Economics (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

This survey course covers macro- and microeconomic theory, and it is designed to prepare students for an intro-level college economics course. Students will study the fundamental concepts of economics and the national economy and their links to the changing global economy. Course work will include the study of "consumerism," decision-making, various product markets, economic models, and the student's role in the factors of production and consumption. An ongoing analysis and discussion of current economic policies and trends is also a significant aspect of this course.

Psychology (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

This course is a survey of the science of human behavior. Topics include psychology as a science, the psychology of learning, and biological influences on behavior, personality development, and abnormal psychology. Students will discover the many applications that psychology has on their life.

Social Studies

Advanced Placement

Freshman and Sophomore

Advanced Placement Human Geography (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Enrollment in this year-long course fulfills the sophomore World History requirement.

Recommend: Above average reading and writing skills. A summer assignment is required and must be completed to maintain enrollment in the course. This assignment is due the first day of school.

Geographers examine the world by asking three main questions: where, why, and how does it impact us today? In this class, we will apply these questions to some of the most pressing issues of the day: population growth and decline, migration, political borders, terrorism, industrial location, and urbanization. Much of the class will focus on current events around the world and in the United States as we examine these topics in depth. This course is a college-level course designed for students who intend to take the college board exam in May for the potential of receiving college credit.

Junior

Advanced Placement United States History (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors.

Recommend: Successful completion of World History OR AP Human Geography

A summer assignment will be required and must be completed to maintain enrollment in the course. A portion of this assignment is due the first day of school.

This college-level course is designed for juniors who have strong academic abilities, time management and study skills, along with a keen interest in United States History. The course is presented in chronological order from the Colonial Period to the Present. Various topics and events will be examined with an emphasis being placed on in-depth analysis of cause-and-effect relationships. Students are expected to actively participate in debates, simulations, speeches, presentations, and other classroom activities. The course will also focus on the “Course Themes” and “Historical Thinking Skills” required by the College Board for the APUSH class. Special emphasis is placed on learning the writing skills needed for the different types of essays required for the AP exam.

Senior

Advanced Placement European History (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors.

A summer assignment will be required and must be completed to maintain enrollment in the course. This assignment is due the first day of school.

Advanced Placement European History is designed to provide the student with a fundamental understanding of the development of Western Society and culture from 1450-present. The course focuses on the politics, social, economic, intellectual, and diplomatic history of Europe. Critical thinking and writing skills are emphasized as students analyze historical documents and utilize historical thinking skills.

This course is taught at a level commensurate of an introductory college course, and it is expected that the student comes prepared for that level of commitment. A significant amount of reading and writing are requirements for the course, and all course work is geared toward preparation for the AP exam in May. Students with acceptable scores on this exam may be awarded college credit for this course.

Social Studies

Advanced Placement

Senior

Advanced Placement Microeconomics (S2)

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors.

Recommend: Successful completion of United States History or AP United States History

Advanced Placement Microeconomics is a course designed to provide students with a thorough understanding of the principles of economics as they apply to individual decision-making units, including individual households and firms. Students taking the course will spend time examining the theory of consumer behavior, the theory of the firm, and the behavior of profit-maximizing firms under various market structures. They will evaluate the efficiency of the outcomes with respect to price, output, consumer surplus, and producer surplus. Students will have an opportunity to examine the behaviors of households and businesses in factor markets, and learn how the determination of factor prices, wages, interest, and rent influence the distribution of income in a market economy. Students will also consider instances in which private markets may fail to allocate resources efficiently and examine various public policy alternatives aimed at improving the efficiency of private markets.

AP US Government and Politics and AP Comparative Government and Politics (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors.

This year-long course provides students with an in-depth understanding of the American government as well as various political systems around the world. Students will understand what factors contributed to the development of the American political system as well as the structure of the U.S. government. They will also focus on the American political process including how different agencies within the government interact, and how these agencies and their policies affect the daily lives of Americans. In addition, students will also be introduced to the methodology of comparative politics and engage in an in-depth study of six different countries: Iran, Nigeria, China, Russia, Mexico, and Great Britain. They will recognize major comparative political concepts and how to apply them. Finally, students will be able to compare political institutions and processes from across the world and form sound conclusions based on those comparisons. This course prepares students for both AP Exams in the spring.

Theology

Supported by academic rigor and spiritual experiences, we are committed to teaching and celebrating the Catholic faith while simultaneously appreciating differing faith perspectives. Through their theology classes, students will grow in their relationship with the loving God, while nurturing their loving relationships with others, self and creation. As a national service-learning leader school, we have embedded service learning into our curriculum. We challenge students to become agents of positive social change in alignment with Catholic Social Teaching. Students are required to enroll in one theology course each semester.

Freshman

Freshmen are required to choose between either the year-long seminar course OR one semester each, of Introduction to Scripture and Christology: The Person of Jesus

Theology 9: Seminar (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Theology 9 Seminar is a year-long course that covers the same fundamentals as the traditional freshman courses but, in a seminar style – relying on conversation, critical thinking, experiential learning, and in-depth processing. The course is designed to meet the needs of students at varying points on their faith journey – those of deep faith, those seekers and students who are unsure of the role faith plays in their life but are open to exploring. Topics covered will range from Revelation and relationship, Scripture, and story, to the Incarnation and our call to holiness. Students will participate in one school sponsored service project and one individual project.

Theology 9: Introduction to Scripture (S1)

One semester, one credit.

This course gives students a general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. Through their study of the Bible, students will come to encounter the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ. In this course, students will learn about the Bible, authored by God through inspiration, and its value to people throughout the world. Students will learn to navigate the Bible and become familiar with the major sections of the Bible. Throughout the course students will be introduced to a broad range of service experiences as they relate to loving God and others. Students will participate in one school sponsored service project and one individual project.

Theology 9: Christology: The Person of Jesus (S2)

One semester, one credit.

This course introduces 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 Jesus Christ is the ultimate revelation of God. Students will participate in several service projects where they will experience a broad range of needs in the community. Through this service, students will both learn who Jesus is, come to know Him on a personal level, and experience Christ in others as they follow in His footsteps to serve one another. Students will participate in one school sponsored service project and one individual project.

Theology

Sophomore

Sophomores are required to enroll in two semesters, two credits of Theology 10 as outlined below.

Theology 10: Seminar (YR)

One semester, one credit, required.

Theology Seminar 10 is a year-long course that covers the same fundamentals as in the traditional sophomore courses but in seminar-style format: relying on conversation, critical thinking, experiential learning, and in-depth processing. The course is designed to meet the needs of students at varying points on their faith journey - those of deep faith as well as those still seeking and unsure of the role faith plays in their life but are open to exploring. Topics covered will range from creation, the life, suffering and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the institution of the Church and how this all relates to 21st century young people and adults today.

Theology 10: The Paschal Mystery (S1)

One semester, one credit, required.

The word “paschal” comes from a Hebrew word meaning “the passing over” and in the Christian tradition, refers to the passion, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. The Paschal Mystery is a core belief of Catholicism. This course will focus on how we as believers share in the promise and hope of the Resurrection. Through servant leadership and service learning, students will enter the lived experience of the Paschal Mystery.

Theology 10: Jesus Christ’s Mission in the Church (S2) One semester, one credit, required.

This course invites you into the reality of the Catholic Church as a visible sacrament of the Body of Christ in our world. In studying the scriptural and historical foundations, as well as the mystical reality of the Church’s presence throughout time, you will come to understand both the institutional and eternal reality of the Church as well as your place within it. This course will explore what happens when ordinary people encounter the living God and how this manifestation of individual faith necessitates a call outward to build a community of prayer, worship, and service.

Junior

Juniors will engage in a service practicum through the required curriculum. It is essential that juniors take great consideration as to which semester they are enrolling in the Discipleship in Society class. This class requires 35 hours of service outside of class time. Be sure to consider all extra-curricular commitments when selecting the semester of this class. Every effort will be made to accommodate your request, but it is not guaranteed.

Theology 11: Discipleship in Society (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, required.

The Sisters of St. Joseph, one of Benilde-St. Margaret’s founding religious orders, are inspired to Jesus’ invitation to love God and to love our neighbor. Their mission urges us to move from the center where we are comfortable to the margins of vulnerability. Through this course students will deepen and broaden their understanding of the Gospel message and the Church’s social teaching. Students will learn how Christ’s concern for others, especially the poor and vulnerable, is present today in the Church’s mission. Learning about the cycles of poverty and injustice that keep people oppressed, students will discern their roles in service to others. Each student will participate in a service practicum completing 35 hours with one agency during the semester.

Theology

Theology 11: Morality (S1) or (S2)

Through this course, students will discern how God is calling them to live a life of holiness through their actions. Students will learn moral concepts, philosophical and theological reasoning, and the tenets of the Catholic moral vision. Through various readings from Scripture, Church documents, and other literary and secular writings, students will use seminar-based discussion to address moral dilemmas facing their lives. Students will develop moral decision-making skills and learn to apply those skills through the formation and following of conscience. There is no service requirement for this course.

Senior

Seniors are required to enroll in one Theology course each semester and may choose from the electives listed below. Courses may not be repeated.

Introduction to Philosophy (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

In this course, we will ask some of life's greatest questions like: What is the nature and purpose of humanity? Do humans have a soul? Is human personality created by nature or by experience? What is justice? and many more. We will search for answers in collaboration with classmates. We will think deeply, discuss challenging topics, and grow in understanding of ourselves and the world around us. Our search for these answers will consider both Catholic and non-Catholic perspectives.

Faith and Sports (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

This senior level course seeks to engage students in an academic and faith-filled exploration of their involvement in sports and other activities. Focused on theological principles and virtue, students will delve into how sports can help us navigate life's biggest questions and challenges, especially as it pertains to their faith. Through this course, students will also learn practical skills to help them become servant leaders, develop true character, and equip them for life beyond sports.

Christian Vocations (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to seniors

This course is a study of the adult Catholic Christian life and the process of discerning one's vocation in it. Students will learn about and reflect on their identity, their current belief about God, the universal call to all to holiness, the world of work and money, sexuality, marriage, and the religious life. This course utilizes self-reflection, discussion, and a variety of real-life scenarios and simulations to foster learning. Ultimately students will learn what it means to live an adult Christian life dedicated to God, others, and self to achieve lasting happiness.

World Religions (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

Students will explore, compare, and contrast the world's religions. In a systematic and analytical, yet empathetic way. We will study a variety of beliefs and practices encountered in five major religions of the world.

Thinking Theologically (S1)

One semester, one BSM credit, open to seniors.

Three credit college level option. See page 56 for full course information.

World Language

French

Each student is required to take two years of a single world language. Although students may begin a first or second world language at any point in their high school career, it is recommended that students begin as freshmen to take advantage of the full four-year curriculum. Many public and private universities require a minimum of two years of high school language study for admission. Studying a language for three or four years may exempt students from university exit requirements. Every university is different, so direct specific questions to the guidance department.

French I (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

This first-level French course offers students a balanced approach to language learning, giving careful attention to the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will gain cross-cultural awareness as they compare the cultures of French-speaking countries and their contributions to the global society. Students learn to talk about themselves, their families and interests as well as explore units on schools, cuisine, and shopping. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and films.

French II (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

Prerequisite: French I.

This second-level course is designed to develop and expand students' communication skills. The study of Francophone countries broadens to include Quebec and Senegal. Students read about and learn to discuss issues such as health and wellness, festivals, and film. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and films.

French III (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

Prerequisite: French II.

This course is designed to improve the basic skills of listening comprehension, oral expression, reading, and writing through conversations, discussions, oral expression, readings, and practical writing activities. This course will refine and introduce new structures in grammar and vocabulary so students can express themselves in complete sentences. The study of Francophone customs and cultures includes an overview of French history, from Prehistory to the French Revolution, weekly current events from around the francophone world, and exploration of themes such as fairy tales, love and friendships, media, and society. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and films.

World Language

French IV (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

Prerequisite: French III

This course builds upon level III to improve the students' ability to communicate in French and to develop a deeper understanding of Francophone customs and culture. Students work towards communicating a series of ideas with complete sentences and connectors. Thematic units will include personalities, French tale, *La Belle et la Bête*, driving and directions, fashion, French regions, African folk tales, *Le Petit Prince*, by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. Current events from the Francophone world will also be introduced and discussed on a weekly basis. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and films.

French V (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Prerequisite: French IV

This advanced level course follows the history of France from 1800 to 1970 including Napoléon, the evolution in governmental systems from post revolution monarchy up to the current 5th republic, WW1 and WW2, French colonization and decolonization, and the demographic landscape of France today. For each time period, students will learn about the historical context, review and introduce new grammar concepts, and study an authentic document related to this time frame in its entirety. Language is also used in context during debates, cooking classes and pre-AP activities. Students will continue to develop their language proficiency as they develop a more sophisticated vocabulary and grammar base, through the study of authentic sources various formats.

World Language

Latin I (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

This first-year course is designed for students with no prior Latin study. Students study the Latin language, Roman history and culture, and the connections between Latin and English, with a focus on grammar and vocabulary building. Through increasingly complex Latin readings, students move chronologically through the classical period, from early Roman literature to the writers of the early Roman Empire. Cultural and historical perspectives are broadened through supplemental materials and class discussions and projects.

Latin II (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

Prerequisite: Latin I or two years junior high Latin.

This second-year course, designed for students who wish to continue their study of Latin, focuses on more complex Latin grammar, vocabulary expansion, and the culture and history of the classical world. Supplemental materials and class projects enhance understanding of the ancient Roman world.

Latin III (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Prerequisite: Latin II.

Latin III continues to expand students' command of Latin grammar and vocabulary, to gain sufficient proficiency to begin reading ancient Roman authors in the original language. Through the school year, Latin language units alternate with in-depth units on Roman history, from prehistoric Italy to Rome's domination of the Mediterranean world.

Latin IV (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Prerequisite: Latin III.

The Latin sequence continues in a course covering a variety of genres and authors, ranging from Pliny's letters to Cicero's speeches to the poems of Martial and Vergil. Supplemental materials and class projects enhance understanding of the works being studied and the milieu in which they arose.

Latin V (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors.

Prerequisite: Latin IV.

Latin V continues to broaden and deepen students' understanding of the Latin language, Roman history and culture, and their impact on the modern world. A variety of ancient Roman and medieval Latin writers will be read and discussed, sampling an assortment of genres and eras. Poetry and prose, history, philosophy, and drama will be introduced, with authors and works varying at the instructor's discretion.

World Language

Español Para Hispanohablantes I (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to freshmen.

Prerequisite: Native or heritage speakers with a good understanding of grammar or students who were enrolled in a Spanish immersion school for a minimum of five years.

Designed for students with near native spoken fluency in Spanish, the course will be conducted entirely in Spanish. Circumlocution skills will be emphasized in order to progress while maintaining communication in Spanish. Through their study of literature, music, and movies, students will refine their grammar and learn about the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Students will develop their writing skills, with special attention given to spelling and accentuation. Among other activities, students will discuss culture, debate topics, write compositions, and create projects. Of special note, students will practice their research and public speaking skills as they teach elementary school students about zoo animals at the MN Zoo during their World Language Days program. This course prepares students to take *Español Para Hispanohablantes II* the following year.

Español Para Hispanohablantes II (YR)

Prerequisite: Español para Hispanohablantes I

Two semesters, two credits, open to freshmen and sophomores.

This course is designed for students who have completed *Español para Hispanohablantes I*. Through their study of literature, music and movies, students will refine their grammar and learn about the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Students will develop their writing skills, with special attention given to spelling and accentuation. Among other activities, students will discuss culture, debate topics, write compositions and create projects. Circumlocution skills will be emphasized in order to progress while maintaining communication in Spanish. Of special note, students will practice their research and public speaking skills as they teach elementary school students about zoo animals at the MN Zoo during their World Language Days program. This course prepares students to take *Español Para Hispanohablantes III* the following year.

Español Para Hispanohablantes III (YR)

Prerequisite: Español para Hispanohablantes II.

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

This course is designed for students who have completed *Español para Hispanohablantes II*. Through their study of literature, music and movies, students will refine their grammar and learn about the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Students will develop their writing skills, with special attention given to spelling and accentuation. Among other activities, students will discuss culture, debate topics, write compositions and create projects. Circumlocution skills will be emphasized in order to progress while maintaining communication in Spanish. Students will practice their research and public speaking skills when they defend opposing scholarly articles. Of special note, students will write bilingual chapter books for elementary school buddies. This course will prepare freshmen to take AP Spanish Language and Culture the following year, while sophomores and juniors may elect to take AP Spanish Literature and Culture.

Spanish I (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

This first-level Spanish course offers students a balanced approach to language-learning, giving careful attention to the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will engage in conversations, express feeling, and exchange opinions on topics such as likes/dislikes, personality, school life, foods, hobbies, community, sports, family, and clothing. Within these topics, students will build an awareness of culture, including attitudes and lifestyles in Spanish-speaking countries. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate technology, music, and videos.

World Language

Spanish II (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

Prerequisite: Spanish I or equivalent.

This course builds on the fundamentals and skills presented in Spanish I. Students will engage in conversations, develop listening skills, and write in the Spanish language. Thematic units presented include the classroom, daily routines, downtown activities, children and play, emergencies, television programs, and cooking. Within these units, students will build an awareness of culture, including attitudes and lifestyles in Spanish-speaking countries. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and films.

Spanish III (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

Prerequisite: Spanish II OR Honors Spanish II

This third-year Spanish course is designed to continue developing the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing through conversations, discussions, readings, and practical writing activities. This course will refine and introduce new structures in grammar as well as vocabulary. The study of Spanish-speaking people, their customs and cultures include units on art, health and fitness, and communities and volunteerism. Participation and conversation are integral parts of this course. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and films.

Spanish IV (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

Prerequisite: Spanish III

This fourth-year Spanish course is designed to start developing intermediate skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing through conversations, discussions, authentic readings, and composition writing. The study of Spanish-speakers and their culture will include units on conflict resolution and relationships, the workplace, Aztec and Mayan civilizations and their myths and legends, the fusion of cultures in Spain before 1492 and in the Americas after the arrival of Europeans, the environment, civil rights as well as government. Participation and conversation are key components of this course, and one focus will be speaking in Spanish. Students will be engaged in a variety of activities by means of authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and movies.

Spanish V (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Prerequisite: Spanish IV

This fifth-year Spanish course is designed to continue developing intermediate skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing through conversations, discussions, authentic readings, and composition writing. The study of Spanish-speakers and their culture will include units on fashion trends, the environment, human rights, personalities and conflict resolution, entertainment, diversity, the culinary arts, our societal issues, the economy, our free time, and 21st century challenges and advancements. Participation and conversation are key components of this course, and two main focuses will be speaking and writing in Spanish. Students will be engaged in a variety of activities by means of authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and movies.

World Language

Honors Spanish

Honors Spanish II (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

Prerequisite: Spanish I

This second-level Spanish course is fast paced and rigorously builds upon the fundamentals taught in Spanish. Students will engage in conversations, develop listening skills, and read and write in the Spanish language. Thematic units presented include the classroom, daily routines, downtown activities, children and play, emergencies, television programs, cooking outdoors, making travel plans, and tourist activities. Students will build an awareness of culture, including attitudes and lifestyles in Spanish-speaking countries. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and movies.

Honors Spanish III (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

Prerequisite: Spanish II OR Honors Spanish II

This third-year Spanish course is fast-paced and rigorously builds upon the knowledge and abilities students gained in Spanish II. Students will engage in conversations, develop listening skills, and read and write in the Spanish language. This course will refine and introduce new vocabulary and grammar structures. The study of Spanish-speaking people, their customs and cultures include units on art, health and fitness, community and volunteerism, pre-Colombian civilizations, Spanish civilization and colonization, and the environment and conservation. Participation and conversation are integral parts of this course. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and films.

Spanish Internship

Spanish Language Internship Program (SLIP) (S1) and/or (S2)

One credit per semester, open to seniors. Students are highly encouraged to enroll in both semesters.

Prerequisite: AP Spanish Language and Culture or Hispanohablantes III, near native Spanish speaking skills with exceptional participation and usage in previous Spanish classes, an application with writing sample may be required and department chair approval. Admissions are based on the availability of administrative-approved positions, and the spring registration form serves only as a temporary approval.

Earn valuable experience that could lead to your future college/career choice or get a head start on your college and career planning by participating in an internship experience. Students will travel to a local primary immersion, dual-immersion, or another elementary non-immersion school twice a week. Through direct contact in the classroom, students will expand their cultural understanding of Latinos and serve as pronunciation models for K-6 students guiding them in classroom activities, building reading skills, mentoring students, developing English-language learners, and encouraging live-long language learners. Students must be at least 16 years of age and be able to provide their own transportation to and from the work site. The internship will take place during the school day. Students will check in twice a week with the teacher to discuss progress and complete online requirements asynchronously. Students will complete quarterly papers, a teacher interview, and discussion posts as well as a semester service-learning project.

This course does not meet the core course requirements of the NCAA.

World Language

Advanced Placement

AP French Language and Culture (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors.

Recommend: French IV OR V

This intense college-level course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement French Language and Culture Examination. The study of French-speakers and their culture will include the AP College Board units on families and communities, science and technology, beauty and aesthetics, contemporary life, global challenges, and personal and public identities. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the culture(s), incorporate interdisciplinary topics, make comparisons between and native language and target language and between cultures, and use the target language in real-life settings. Students will develop tools of communication for reading and listening to authentic sources to promote a deeper understanding of the French language and its many cultures.

AP Spanish Language and Culture (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Recommend: Spanish IV OR V

This intense college-level course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Spanish Language Examination. The study of Spanish-speakers and their culture will include the AP College Board units on families and communities, science and technology, beauty and aesthetics, contemporary life, global challenges, and personal and public identities. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the culture(s), incorporate interdisciplinary topics, make comparisons between the native language and target language and between cultures, and use the target language in real-life settings. Students will develop tools of communication for reading and listening to authentic sources to promote a deeper understanding of the Spanish language and its many cultures.

AP Spanish Literature and Culture (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors and seniors.

Recommend: Spanish IV, V OR AP Spanish Language

This intense college-level course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Spanish Literature Examination. The study of Spanish-speakers and their culture will include the AP College Board units on societies in contact, gender, time, and space, interpersonal and relationships, duality of being and literary creation. Students will develop further tools for communication for reading and listening to authentic sources to promote a deeper understanding of the Spanish language and its many cultures. This class will explore history, culture, art, and literature through Latin American and Spanish authors, poets, and essayists. Literature in this class covers the Medieval & Golden Age, as well as the 18th – 21st centuries.

College Credit Options

There are four options to obtain college credit while enrolled at BSM. A brief explanation of the options is offered below. Be sure to access each website for specific information as well as researching the requirements of any college or university you are interested in.

| Advanced Placement | College in the Schools <small>CIS course grades are NOT weighted or factored into BSM GPA</small> | PACC <small>PACC course grades ARE weighted or factored into BSM GPA</small> | PSEO <small>PSEO course grades are NOT weighted or factored into BSM GPA</small> |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p>Benilde-St. Margaret's School offers several AP courses to interested and eligible students. AP courses at BSM are first year-college equivalent courses, approved by the College Board. BSM does require students who enroll in any AP course to sit for the May AP exam OR submit the required portfolio of work. Most colleges and universities will provide college credit based on these test results.</p> <p>Course descriptions and requirements will be found under each academic department.</p> <p>Of note: At an information session presented by Georgetown, Harvard, Penn, Duke and Stanford, the admission reps indicated that whether a college accepts the credit or not, the expectation at highly selective schools is that students have taken AP courses <i>and tests</i> because these are the best ways to prepare for the rigors of the freshman year in college.</p> | <p>College in the Schools (CIS) allows motivated juniors and seniors to earn college credits by taking University of Minnesota, Twin Cities courses, at BSM.</p> <p>Students receive concurrent high school and college credits.</p> <p>For more information</p> <p>Online users select Learn more about CIS</p> <p>Other users copy and paste this address in your browser:</p> <p>https://ccaps.umn.edu/college-in-the-schools</p> | <p>Saint Mary's Program for Advanced College Credit (PACC) offers college-level learning experiences and college credit to participating private high school programs, with the same expectations, workload, learning activities, projects, and exams as the courses taught to first-year students at Saint Mary's.</p> <p>Students receive both high school and college credits.</p> <p>For more information:</p> <p>Online users select: Learn more about PACC.</p> <p>Other users copy and paste this address in your browser:</p> <p>https://www.smumn.edu/smc/show_page.php?pageId=168</p> | <p>PSEO is a program allowing high school students to get a head start by taking college courses at colleges and universities. Juniors and seniors in high school may enroll, full-or part-time in courses and will receive concurrent high school and college credit. Students may apply to the University of Minnesota and all of its branches, all the Minnesota State Universities, community colleges, technical colleges or Minnesota private liberal arts colleges. College tuition, fees and textbooks are paid for by the State of Minnesota.</p> <p>For more information:</p> <p>Online users select: Learn more about PSEO.</p> <p>Other users copy and paste This address in your browser:</p> <p>https://education.mn.gov/mde/fam/dual/pseo</p> |

College Credit Options

College in the Schools

College in the Schools (CIS) allows motivated juniors and seniors to earn college credits by taking University of Minnesota, Twin Cities courses, at BSM. Students interested in these courses. Courses listed are subject to University of Minnesota approval.

Creative Problem Solving (S1 or S2)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors.
Three college credits from the University of Minnesota.

The pilot phase has allowed 11th and 12th grade students who have either a 3.0 or better GPA or instructor approval to register for the course.

Are you a creative person? Creativity is essential for success across disciplines and highly valued by employers. A creative mindset gives meaning and value to how you approach your life, solve problems, and pretty much everything you do. Having a mindset for creativity opens you up to opportunities and possibilities because you can appreciate the creative process and embrace innovative thinking. Throughout this course, you will be challenged to move outside your existing comfort zones and recognize the value of exploration. This course presents creativity-enhancing techniques known in the design fields through activities, research, papers, projects, and exams. At the center of the course is personal creative work, accomplished both alone and with others. The course curriculum is provided by the College of Design at the University of Minnesota and awards 3 college credit hours upon completion. It will be necessary for students to put in additional time outside of class to fully complete required projects, readings, and assignments

Introduction to Literature: Poetry, Drama, Narrative (LITR, WI)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors.
Four college credits from the University of Minnesota.

This is a writing-intensive course that also meets the Literature Core requirement. From epic battles against monsters in legendary kingdoms to stories about characters in worlds like our own, literature engages us with the diverse perspectives and experiences that make up our communities and world. This course introduces students to ways of understanding and appreciating literature in English across cultures and historical periods. Through this course, we will develop skills to help us understand literature, especially the ability to read language closely (a skill valuable in many disciplines beyond literature). We will explore how writers use language and literary aspects, such as genre, voice, tone, symbol, motif, theme, imagery, narrative, and form. We also will learn how to write about literature, sharing our interpretations of how and why literary works have meaning for ourselves and others, while viewing them through critical cultural lenses, including ways to understand how gender, race, ethnicity, religion, and class can function in literary texts.

Exploring the Teaching Profession, I (CI 3901)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors.
Two college credits from the University of Minnesota.

In this course, students explore and respond to the question, “Why teach?” Students will examine their own interests in teaching while taking a close look at the multiple factors (social, historical, political) that shape schools today. Students will volunteer in area schools in a service-learning capacity, attend class, make presentations, write reflective papers and blog post in response to assignments, participate in discussions, and engage in small group learning activities. Thirty hours of service learning in area schools is built into the hours for this class.

Course Objectives

- Explore teaching as a personal career goal
- Examine teaching as a profession, professionalism, and the culture of schools
- Experience working with students as learners and to utilize the community as a learning context
- Develop an understanding of multiculturalism, diversity, the sociocultural/political realities of schooling and teaching
- Consider the public and private value of education and the competing norms of school reform efforts
- Reflect on what it means to be equity minded, reflective, and reflexive teaching professionals

College Credit Options

Post Secondary Education Options

Benilde-St. Margaret's School is partnering with Saint Mary's University Program of Advanced College Credit (PACC) to bring undergraduate-level courses into our classrooms. Students choosing to attend Saint Mary's University will earn college credit. Colleges and universities may recognize coursework completed at other institutions. Check with your college of choice regarding their individual transfer credit policy.

COM101 New and Social Media Communications (3 cr.)

This course provides a study of the evolution, trends, and platforms of social and new media. This course will give you an understanding of these online and App-based media by analyzing their technical development and media, business, and social impacts. The course will also address best practices in content creation for use of these media in news content, branding and public relations. Specific platforms we will cover include Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, Pinterest, Google+, YouTube, Blogs, Snapchat, Periscope, and Virtual Reality. Typically offered fall and spring semesters.

COM202 Communication Fundamentals (3 cr.)

This course is designed to awaken, nurture, and empower you to apply communication theories, research and skills to improve your personal and professional interpersonal relationships. It is our belief that the quality of your communication helps to determine the quality of your relationships. The quality of your relationships helps to determine the quality of your life. Therefore, this course can improve the quality of your life! In this class, you will learn from each other through classroom discussion, movie & music analysis, and vlogs. You will engage in civil dialogue as you learn to manage conflict, improve your listening skills, practice useful communication skills, give presentations, analyze the impact of social media/online contexts, and become steeped in the theories, research, and history of the Communication discipline. Topics will include interpersonal relationship development, small group communication theory, basic research, message composition, public speaking, group presentations, listening, non-verbal communication, conflict management, team building, and the communication process.

E130 First Year Writing (4 cr.)

Contributing to the First Year Experience by focusing on the theme of place, this course introduces students to the stages of writing, from generating ideas to revising and editing. In this course, students will practice careful reading, conduct ethical research, and write thesis-driven academic essays, with an opportunity to reflect on their own reading, research, and writing. The course also stresses competence in grammar, punctuation, usage, and mechanics, and includes attention to citation and documentation. Through its assignments and activities, the course fosters awareness of the roles that audience, context, and purpose play in determining rhetorical choices, empowering students to articulate their own place in various communities.

College Credit Options

E175 Introduction to Literature (3 cr.)

In this course, students gain exposure to works of fiction, poetry, and drama and acquire experience in critical reading and interpretation of literature. Students not only read but also actively engage with literary texts, in the process becoming familiar with literary conventions and discourse. Readings may explore a particular theme (e.g., The Heroic, The Quest, The Individual and Community, Coming of Age); themes and reading selections vary by instructor.

EC262 Principles of Macroeconomics (3 cr.)

A traditional introduction to the principles of macroeconomics, concentrating on how aggregate levels of economic activity are determined. The course analyzes macroeconomic policies and economic issues such as problems of unemployment and inflation. Current issues are emphasized.

PACC

FN101 Personal Finance (3 cr.)

This course provides the basics of personal financial management as an important life skill. Students will develop an understanding of personal finance through a series of activities, applications, and projects. Topics include checking and savings accounts, budgeting, use of credit, investing, insurance, and income taxes.

TH111 Thinking Theologically (S1)

One semester, one BSM credit, open to seniors.
Three credit college level option.

This course introduces students to the methods and practices of thinking theologically through an examination of some of the major questions people have asked and found answers to within religious contexts, especially the Judeo-Christian narrative. This course pays particular attention to the human experience of suffering, and how those different experiences shape our theological questions, both past and present. The course also embeds how theology is examined at a university defined by multidisciplinary approaches to truth and knowledge



Benilde-St. Margaret's

A Catholic, college preparatory school, grades 7 - 12

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