



Senior High | Program of Studies

Benilde-St. Margaret's

2023-2024



2023-2024 – Senior High Program of Studies

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Senior High Program of Studies – Four Year Plan

Four-Year Plan

Freshman Year - Minimum Credit Requirement = 14

Maximum Credits = 16

First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
English	1	English	1
Mathematics	1	Mathematics	1
Science-Biology	1	Science-Biology	1
Theology	1	Theology	1
World Language	1	World Language	1
Physical Education or Health	1	Physical Education or Health	1
Human Geography or Elective*	1	Human Geography or Elective*	1
Study Hall/Learning Lab/Elective	0 or 1	Study Hall/Learning Lab/Elective	0 or 1
Total credits per semester	7 or 8	Total credits per semester	7 or 8

**PE and Human Geography are in the same semester opposite Health and optional elective*

Sophomore Year - Minimum Credit Requirement = 12

Maximum 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 Year – Minimum Credit Requirement = 12.5

Maximum 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
Elective	1	Elective	1
Elective	1	Elective	1
BSM Hour	0	BSM Hour/ College and Career Portfolio	0 or .5
Total credits per semester	6 to 7	Total credits per semester	6.5 to 7.50

Senior Year – Minimum Credit Requirement = 14

Maximum 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

Policies and Procedures

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 table at right provides a summary of the courses required for graduation. One credit equals one semester of satisfactory completion of coursework.

BSM GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

English	8 credits
Fine Arts	2 credits
Guidance	.5 credit
Health	1 credit
Mathematics	6 credits
Electives	5 credits
Theology	8 credits
Science	6 credits
Social Studies	7 credits
Phy Ed	1 credit
World Language	4 credits
Total credits	48.5

Policies and Procedures

GRADING and HONOR ROLLS

	Standard and Honors	Advanced Placement/CIS/PACC
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, CIS 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 62 of this book for information regarding courses available to students for college credit. Courses taken at Benilde-St. Margaret's under College in School (CIS), Advanced Placement or PACC will carry a weighted grade and are included in the student's gpa calculation. Courses taken under the 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.

Policies and Procedures

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. 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

- Course changes for semester one must be completed by the end of the second week of school. For semester two, no course changes can be made once the semester begins.
- Changes will not be made for teacher or period preferences with the exception of seniors for periods 1,2,7, or 8 if possible.
- All changes are subject to available class space.
- All change requests must be made with the student's assigned 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.

Policies and Procedures

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 student's counselor 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. Note: Students must have six academic classes each semester.

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.

Policies and Procedures

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 transcript. 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

Intermediate Algebra

ENGLISH

Film Studies

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 juniors, and seniors.

Prerequisite: Accounting I

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program (see page 65). 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 entrepreneurship, personal finance, 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.

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, 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 & Computer Science

Department Color Meanings

Computer

Engineering

Line Meanings

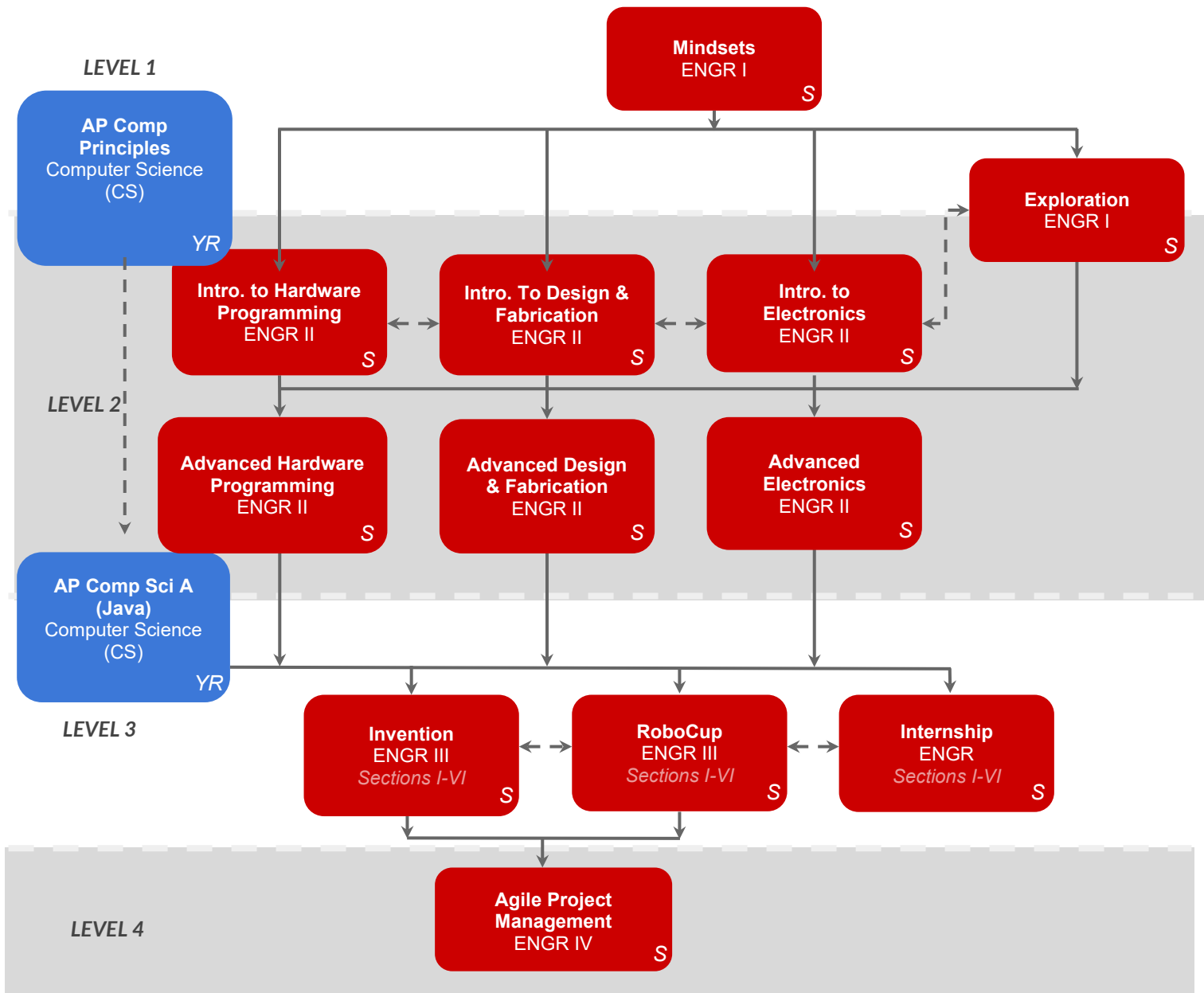
S = Semester Course
Course

YR = Year

← - - - → (Horizontal Dotted Line) Co-requisite with other class; Student can sign up for one of two for first semester and other for second semester

(Non-horizontal Dotted Line) Not a required pre-requisite but helpful for students to get more context in subject matter

(Non-horizontal Solid Line) Required pre-requisite path to proceed to following class in chart



Engineering & Computer Science

Engineering

Engineering courses provide 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.

This is the introductory course in the BSM Engineering Program. The aim of this class is to equip students with the understanding and the decision-making skills needed to be successful in future engineering classes here at BSM. Students will learn via a series of challenges that increase in complexity as they proceed through the semester. Through consistent iteration to complete these challenges, students gain a better understanding of structural, mechanical, and electrical systems.

Engineering I: Exploration (S1) or (S2)

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

Prerequisite: Engineering Mindsets

Engineering Exploration expands student development toward invention and creativity by giving students the freedom to choose a project for the semester that will help them learn some basic concepts of any of the following Engineering II classes (CAD modeling, fabrication, electronics, programming, etc.). This creates a natural project-based, just-in-time learning structure by giving them confidence and ownership of their learning of real engineering skills.

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

Prerequisite: Engineering Exploration

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 in our everyday lives. This class will help students learn the basics of the iterative design process through an introduction of CAD modeling (with Onshape) and rapid manufacturing techniques such as 3D printing and laser cutting. With these skills, students can start making effective prototypes of possible future inventions.

Engineering & Computer Science

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

Prerequisite: Introduction to Design and Fabrication

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

This project-focused class helps students build upon their introductory CAD and fabrication skills by providing modules that challenge their current set of skills as well as assembly-based modeling and fabrication methods. Once students have a grasp on both the CAD design and fabrication, they are free to pursue an original invention that will continue to build on the mixture of those skills.

Engineering II: Introduction to Hardware Programming (S1 or S2)

Prerequisite: Engineering Exploration

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

Want to write code that interfaces with the physical world around you? The Introduction to Hardware Programming course will introduce many applications of programming using a microcontroller (i.e. the Raspberry PI). Students will learn the basics of microcontrollers and how to program them using the Python programming language. Emphasis is placed on programming the microcontroller to utilize external sensors, motors, relays, and actuators to gain information and make data-driven decisions.

Engineering II: Advanced Hardware Programming (S1 or S2)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Hardware Programming

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

The advanced levels of any Engineering II course are exploratory and provide students with freedom and independence to learn unique skills in the world of engineering they wish to pursue. In Advanced Hardware Programming, students expand upon the skills they learned in the previous semester and create a functional project consisting of hardware and software that puts their skills to the test.

Engineering II: Introduction to Electronics (S1 or S2)

Prerequisite: Engineering Exploration

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

Ever looked at complicated circuits or sets of wires and felt like it was just magic? This class allows you to explore the world of basic electronics to demystify the world of electrical systems by learning how to design simple circuits, create logical wire paths, and explore the many components that exist in even the simplest set of electronics.

Engineering II: Advanced Electronics (S1 or S2)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Electronics

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

This project-focused class helps students build upon their introductory electronics skills by providing more projects that enable them to explore more advanced electronics through circuit design and creation. Students have opportunities to explore advanced sensors, learning how they work, and how to implement them into real-world applications

Engineering & Computer Science

Engineering III: Invention (S1 or S2)

Prerequisite: Two semesters of Engineering II classes

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

There are up to 6 sections available for this class, allowing students to take up to 3 years of Invention

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.

Engineering III: RoboCup (S1 or S2)

Prerequisite: Two semesters of Engineering II classes

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

There are up to 6 sections available for this class, allowing students to take up to 3 years of RoboCup

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. In this class, you'll be utilizing the skills you've learned in previous years to create a robot to compete in this unique international robotics competition.

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

Prerequisite: Two semesters of Engineering III classes

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

There are up to 4 sections available for this class, allowing students to take up to 3 years of Agile Project Management

Students who have made it through the rest of our engineering track can take their technical learning from a new perspective, leading a technical team. This class is for students who are interested in leadership, but also have the technical skills required to properly guide their peers to successful and meaningful solutions to their projects. Students will also be learning the basics of Agile project management, which is a collaboration and team management tool used in many industries today.

Engineering: Internship (S1 or S2)

Prerequisite: Two semesters of Engineering II classes

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

This is an off-campus opportunity for interested students to participate in an engineering-related internship, based on their specific engineering interest they wish to pursue. Please contact an Engineering Teacher to get more information.

Engineering & Computer Science

Computer Science

Computer Science courses focus on coding and technology projects, such as computer simulation, programming languages, microcontrollers, scientific applications, and web development. Additionally, students may take the skills they've learned from these courses into later engineering courses.

AP Computer Principles (YR)

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

AP Computer Science Principles (i.e. 'CSP') introduces students to the breadth of the field of computer science. In this course, students will learn to design and evaluate solutions and to apply computer science to solve problems through the development of algorithms and programs. They will incorporate abstraction into programs and use data to discover new knowledge. Students will also be able to explain how computing innovations systems work, including the internet, and their potential impacts to society. Finally, students will contribute to a computing culture that is collaborative and ethical.

AP Computer Science A (YR)

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

The AP Computer Science 'A' course developed by the College Board is equivalent to a first-semester, college-level CS1 course in computer science. The course introduces students to computer science with fundamental topics that include problem solving, design strategies and methodologies, organization of data (data structures), approaches to processing data (algorithms), analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing. The course emphasizes both object-oriented and imperative problem solving and design using the Java programming language. These techniques represent proven approaches for developing solutions that can scale up from small, simple problems to large, complex problems.

College in the Schools

BSM offers Combined Courses that allow students to learn about topics from multiple perspectives. For courses found below, they are being taught with an engineering teacher, as well as a teacher from the science department. You will also see these course listings shown on that department's program of studies page.

Climate Crisis: Implementing Solutions (S1 or S2)

Prerequisite: B or better in Biology or Chemistry AND a B or better in Algebra 2 or Precalculus.

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

The earth's changing climate due to human-generated greenhouse gas emissions poses major challenges to our society in the years ahead. This course is designed to provide students with a fundamental understanding of the threat posed by climate change and the technologies available to combat this threat. Topics to be covered include energy from renewables such as solar and wind to combat potentially catastrophic climate change resulting from our use of fossil fuels; electrifying our transportation; ways to increase energy efficiency and energy conservation; need for energy storage to increase the penetration of renewables; role of technology, societal benefits and the ethics.

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: Fiction
Shakespeare

Creative Writing: Poetry
Journalistic Writing

Debate
Mythology

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: Contemporary (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores.

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

This course is designed for students interested in gaining insight about the complex world they live in who also demonstrate superior language arts skills and desire to learn at an accelerated pace. Students will read approximately ten contemporary works including non-fiction, novels, poems, a memoir, plays, and illustrated (graphic) novels. Seeking to increase writer representation, this course incorporates BIPOC authors, authors from around the world. Writing instruction focuses on composing multi-paragraph essays and utilizes the writing process. Students will explore the research process while writing an analytical essay as well as deliver oral presentations. Students are expected to complete a summer reading assignment. Content covers mature themes and language but will be supported accordingly.

English

Honors English 10: Classic (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores.

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of English 9 with an “A” both semesters or completion of 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.

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- full year

With the four exceptions of AP English Literature and Composition, Writing for Justice, Introduction to Literature: Poetry, Drama, Narrative 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.

English

Senior

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

Creative Writing: Fiction (S1)

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

In this creative writing course, students will study a multitude of writing techniques used in the craft of short fiction. Students will read various essays on the craft of fiction, as well as several short stories by authors from around the world. These stories will vary wildly in subject matter, style, tone, and subgenre. Students will analyze these stories, and then write original stories of their own. The original work created by the students will represent the number of styles studied throughout this course. The primary goal for this course is to teach students the nuts and bolts of fiction, not just how to analyze fiction but how to develop and nourish their own writing practices.

Creative Writing: Poetry (S2)

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

In this creative writing course, students will study poetry in its many forms and modes. Students will dive deep into the tradition of verse, the inner workings of poetic craft, and explore the many fascinating techniques of developing and writing their own poetry. During each unit, students will survey the poetic form, the historical relevance of that form, and read a multitude of examples from the poets who have operated—or continue to write—in that form. Ultimately, students will appreciate the lineage of poets and writers that have come before them; in turn, they will see the relevance of their own creative work as a part of this long legacy of literary genius. Students will understand that poetry is not only a vehicle of self-expression, but a mode that can explore the depths of the collective human condition, of community, of protest, of the heart, [etc.].

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 Works (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 texts as they prepare for college. It picks up where American Literature leaves off, focusing on great novels mostly 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.

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.

Writing for Justice (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.

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 the Schools

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

Four college credits from the University of Minnesota.

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

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.

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 & 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. Design challenges make use of found and non-traditional materials to design water powered hydraulics, marble runs and large-scale inflatable sculptures. Technology inspired projects may incorporate the Glowforge, TinkerCAD, 3D Printing and Makey Makey.

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.

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 designs for t-shirts, posters, and prints that convey a message. Screen printing is a technique that employs stencils transferred into a screen. Ink is pushed through the open areas of the stencil using a squeegee. This technique is used commercially and as a fine arts medium. This course explores printing-making and screen-printing techniques with an emphasis on graphic design. Students will supply their own clothing to print on.

Web Design (S1) or (S2)

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

Websites are important communication and marketing tools and effective design is a necessity in both personal and business applications. Learn the important roles of UX and UI designers. Get started researching and planning your projects using available prototyping tools. You'll learn how to navigate around a WordPress dashboard and explore the growing options of no-code platforms for web and app development. No experience required although having taken Graphic Design would be a plus.

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 – Advanced Placement Art & 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.

Fine Art – Studio Art

College in the Schools

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

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 – Performing Arts

Participation in Performing Arts courses can create strong educational outcomes, but also life-changing experiences that transcend traditional educational measurements. Music students enjoy having a creative outlet in their day to make music, increase their skills, and build relationships within their ensemble. Select students are able to participate in the All-Conference ensembles every year. Outside of the formal course offerings, students may take part in the following extracurricular groups: Red Knots A Capella, Midnights A Cappella, Jazz Band. These groups generally meet before or after school and do not satisfy a Fine Art requirement. In all music ensemble courses, faculty recommends registering for both semesters to ensure continuity, ensemble success, and stronger musical outcomes.

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 – traditionally a freshman ensemble, but open to other grade levels as needed for scheduling purposes.

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.

Concert Band is open to instrumentalists who want to further their study of instrumental music. 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.

Fine Art – Music

Half-time Band, Choir or String Orchestra during BSM hour (S1) and/or (S2)

Band, Choir or Orchestra: One semester, .5 credit

Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors who have completed one full year of regular Band, Choir, or Orchestra

This option is designed for students who desire to continue their participation as they maintain a full academic course schedule. 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.

Band for Beginners (S1) and/or (S2)

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

Would you like to be in band, but missed the chance to learn an instrument? Is there a new instrument that you would like to learn? The objective of this class is to provide an environment in which nontraditional beginners can learn a musical instrument. The course focuses on the basics of instrumental music such as playing simple pieces, learning fingerings, developing a good tone, and understanding basic music vocabulary. Students can remain in beginning band as long as they wish, but also may transition into the main ensemble at the discretion of the director.

Garageband/ Music Studio (S1)

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

Are you interested in music production? Do you want to start a “rock” band? Are you interested in making your own beats? This class offers students an opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of contemporary commercial music. This student-choice driven class provides students with a space to experiment with ideas, grow in skills, and let their creative juices flow. Students will use programs like GarageBand to record their own tracks and experiment with mixing. Recommended skills: experience with one or more instruments like guitar, drums, bass, keyboard, or voice.

World Music Drumming (S2)

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

This innovative, active, hands-on course will introduce students to the drumming and music traditions of various cultures from around the world. Students will study drumming technique, rhythmic movement, and traditional songs while also improving teamwork, concentration, cultural understanding, and musical comprehension. The course will culminate in one performance at the end of the semester.

Fine Art – Performing Arts

Beginning Acting (S1) or (S2)

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

Introduction to the techniques of acting. Students will use theater games and craft to build individual confidence, find new ways to express themselves, and connect with others. Students will perform basic scenes with partners as well as monologues throughout the semester. Students will be expected to see and review at least 3 live-theater performances during the semester (only 1 can be a BSM performance).

Acting: Shakespeare (S2)

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

Students often read Shakespeare, but rarely do they have the chance to dig into what it's like to perform Shakespeare as he intended it to be performed. We will explore the staging conditions from Shakespeare's time and students will have the opportunity to perform monologues, sonnets, and scenes, as well as potentially staging a short reading out of a Shakespearean play. Students will view different versions of Shakespearean plays and compare and contrast the productions that use the same language, but come across differently.

Guidance and Learning Support

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 (S2)

One semester course, .5 credits, required of juniors.

The purpose of the College/Career Planning course is to provide students with the best possible support in choosing, applying for, and committing to a college or university. The course includes a half-day event on college and career planning, completion of a portfolio of work, and attendance at the BSM College Fair. During the 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 counseling 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 for support with work completion.

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.

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. Physical education and human geography are taken the same semester.

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

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.

Heath and Physical Education

Strength Training and Conditioning (S1) and/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

Women's Strength Training and Conditioning (S1) and/or (S2)

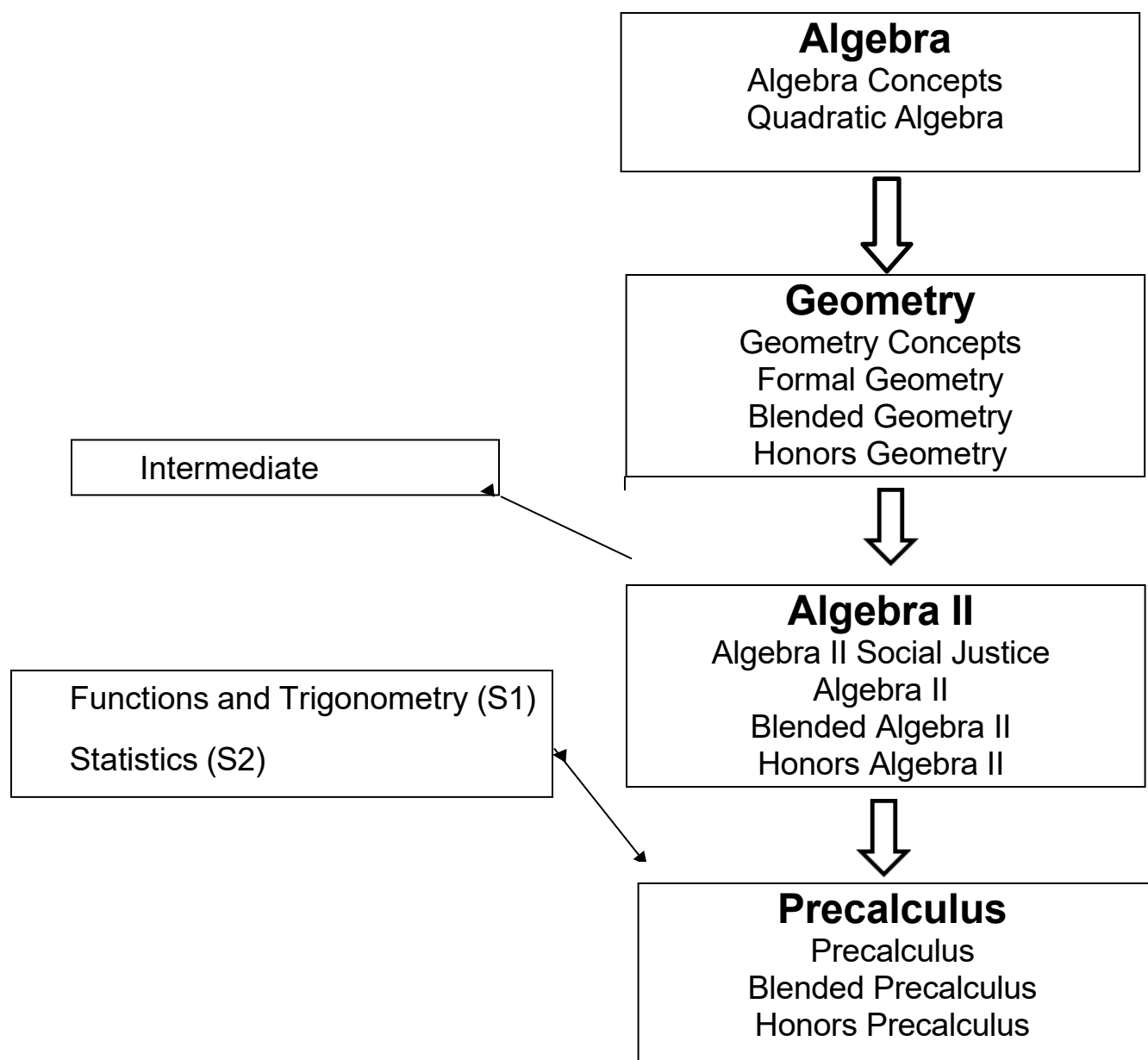
One semester, one credit open to sophomores, juniors. and seniors.

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 but are encouraged to take four 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. Below is a general guide to the course of study.



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

Calculus: page 36

AP: page 38

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Mathematics

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.*

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 going to use this?”. A TI-Nspire calculator is required.

Mathematics

Functions & Trigonometry (S1)

One semester, one credit.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of the full year of an Algebra II course.

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 an Algebra II course.

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: Successful completion of a full year of an Algebra II course or 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: An Algebra II course 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.

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.

Prerequisite: 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.

Prerequisite: 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.

Prerequisite: 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.

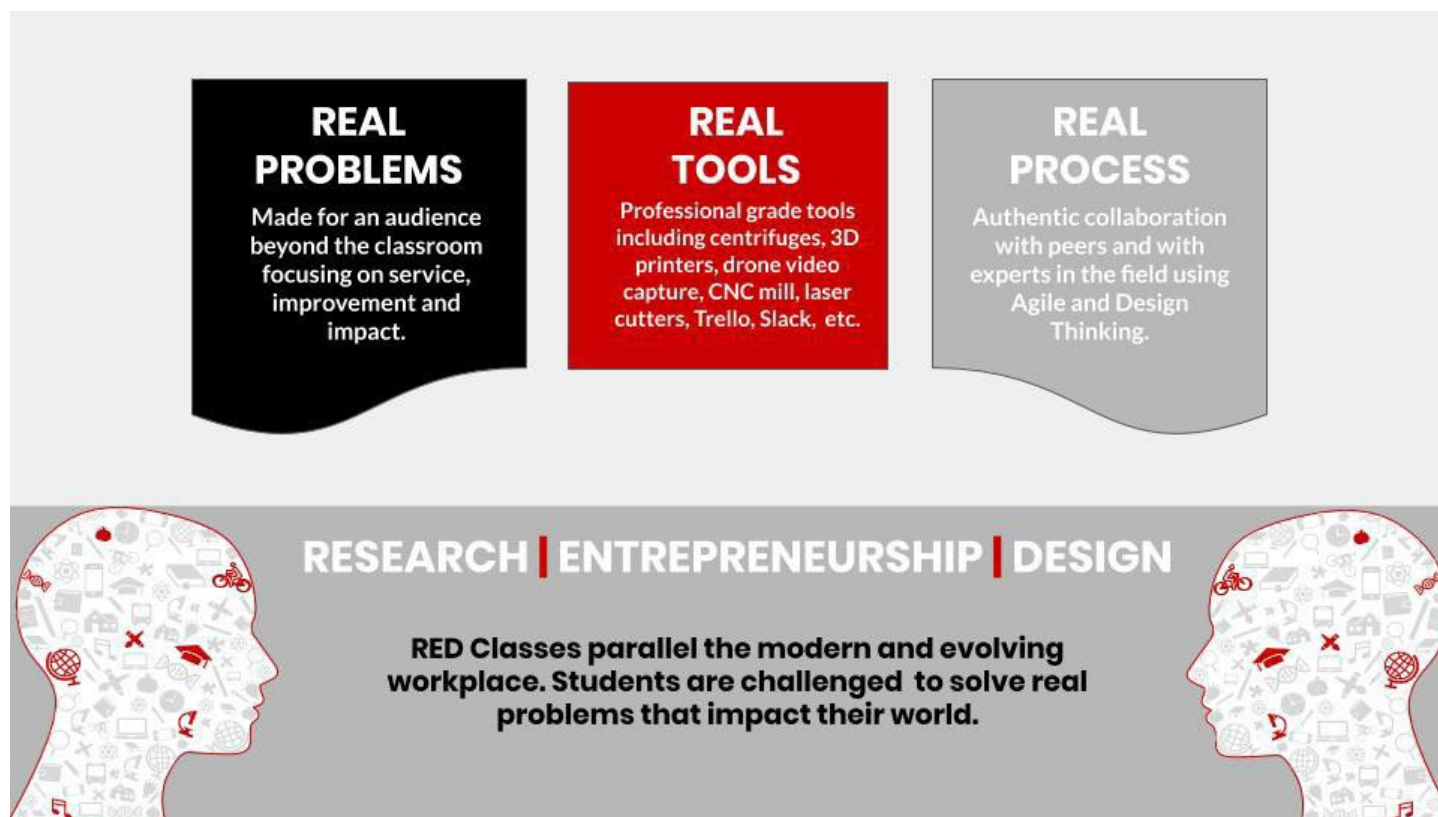
FST with a grade of “A-” or higher. Precalculus with a grade of “C+” or higher.

This is a rigorous writing intensive 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.

Research | Entrepreneurship | Design

RED is a 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 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.

Honors Biology (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Prerequisite: Recommendation from BSM junior high science department OR 85th percentile or higher on a standardized test science section; if no standardized test score is on file, the student must have earned an “A-” or better in both 7th and 8th grade science courses

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.

General Chemistry (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors.

Prerequisite: concurrent enrollment in Intermediate Algebra.

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 sophomores and juniors who meet the math requirement.*

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.

Honors Chemistry (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores and juniors who meet the math requirement.

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra II or Honors Algebra II with at least an “A-” or concurrent enrollment in Honors Algebra II

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.

General Physics (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors.

Prerequisite: Recommendation from chemistry teacher

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

Electives

Ecology (YR)

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

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.

Advanced Placement

AP Biology (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors and seniors

This course is eligible for PACC credit.

Prerequisite: Completion of Biology or Honors Biology; completion of Chemistry or Honors Chemistry.

This course is a second-year biology course, designed to be equivalent to an introductory biology course intended for biology majors during the first year of college. This course prepares students for the Advanced Placement exam in Biology. Students will explore major concepts in Biology, including cell structure and function, the cell cycle, DNA structure and function, principles of genetic inheritance, physiology and anatomy of animals and plants, biodiversity, ecology, and evolution.

Students should have a strong understanding of basic biology and chemistry concepts. Given the amount of material covered on the AP exam, the course will move at a quick pace.

AP Chemistry (YR)

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

Prerequisite: Completion of Chemistry or Honors Chemistry.

This course is available for PACC credit. 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 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. 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 6 for Capstone program information).

Science

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.

College in Schools

BSM offers Combined Courses that allow students to learn about topics from multiple perspectives. For courses found below, they are being taught with an engineering teacher, as well as a teacher from the science department. You will also see these course listings shown on that department's program of studies page.

Climate Crisis: Implementing Solutions (S1 or S2) A course offered through CIS

Prerequisite: B or better in Biology or Chemistry AND a B or better in Algebra 2 or Precalculus.

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

The earth's changing climate due to human-generated greenhouse gas emissions poses major challenges to our society in the years ahead. This course is designed to provide students with a fundamental understanding of the threat posed by climate change and the technologies available to combat this threat. Topics to be covered include energy from renewables such as solar and wind to combat potentially catastrophic climate change resulting from our use of fossil fuels; electrifying our transportation; ways to increase energy efficiency and energy conservation; need for energy storage to increase the penetration of renewables; role of technology, societal benefits, and the ethics.

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.

CLASS OF 2026 and earlier: *The graduation requirement is 3 years of social studies.*

CLASS of 2027 and beyond: *All students must take 3.5 years of social studies starting with human geography Freshman year.*

Freshman

Enrollment in one semester of Human Geography is required. Students with above average reading and writing skills may take AP Human Geography (year-long) instead.

Human Geography (S1) or (S2)

one semester, one credit, taken same semester as physical education.

This semester course serves as an introduction to the study of human geography, which is the study of humans and their interaction with their surroundings. Using global examples, students will study important 21st century topics such as population, the political organization of space, agriculture, development, and culture. Maps will be frequently used to study various regions at different scales. Skill emphasis will focus on reading nonfiction text, note taking, and map analysis.

Advanced Placement Human Geography (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.

Refer to pg. 48 for full description

Sophomore

World History (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Required of sophomores who did not take AP Human Geography freshman year.

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.

Social Studies

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.

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 Human Geography (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to freshman and sophomores

Enrollment in this year-long course fulfills the sophomore World History requirement for the class of 2026.

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.

Human Geography focuses on the distribution, use, and effects of human populations on the planet. Using global examples, students will study topics such as population, migration, culture, agriculture, development, industry, and the political organization of space. A focus on current events around the world and in the United States will occur as we examine these topics in depth. Maps and spatial data will be frequently used to study regions at different scales. In addition, students must be willing and able to work with college-level materials and topics.

Advanced Placement African American Studies (YR)

Two semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors

This year-long course will explore the historical, political, cultural, and economic developments that have shaped North American people of African descent. Students will learn about the diversity, strength, and complexity of medieval African societies before the emergence of transatlantic slavery, the slave economy, reconstruction, the civil rights movement, and contemporary issues facing African Americans today. Using a multi-disciplinary approach, students will identify major themes that inform literary and artistic traditions of the African diaspora and understand the contributions of diverse Black communities in the United States.

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. 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. Students are expected to actively participate in debates, simulations, speeches, presentations, and other classroom activities.

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.

Advanced Placement Microeconomics (S2)

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors.

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.

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.

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 class. This class requires 25 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(S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, required.

The Sisters of St. Joseph, one of Benilde-St. Margaret’s founding religious orders, are inspired by Jesus’ invitation to love God and to love our dear neighbor. Their mission urges us to move from the center where we are comfortable to the margins of vulnerability. This course deepens and broadens students’ understanding of the Gospel call to discipleship and the Catholic social teaching. Students will learn how Christ’s concern for others, especially the poor and vulnerable, is alive today. Students explore the rewards and challenges of living a life of service through a 25-hour service-learning experience that connects them with poor and vulnerable populations in our community.

Theology

Theology 11: Morality (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, required.

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.

Philosophy (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

“Wonder is the beginning of philosophy,” says the great Greek philosopher Socrates. Since his time, countless thinkers have tried to identify exactly what philosophy *is*. At its most basic sense, philosophy is the quest for enlightenment that first began when humans tried to understand and explain the world through the power of reason. It is a questioning - a questioning that seeks to probe into the most fundamental aspects of our human existence.

This one-semester class will investigate this human quest by discussing great philosophical issues, reading major thinkers, and studying developments in the history of philosophical thought that have played formative roles in Christian theology from Ancient Greece to the present day. Through careful reading of texts and class discussion, we will critically analyze the ideas that philosophers have offered and strive to formulate our own philosophical views on these issues.

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.

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.

Theology

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) or (S2)

One semester, one BSM credit, open to seniors.

Three credit college level option.

This course is eligible for PACC credit (see page 65) 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

World Language

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, WWI and WWII, 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 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.

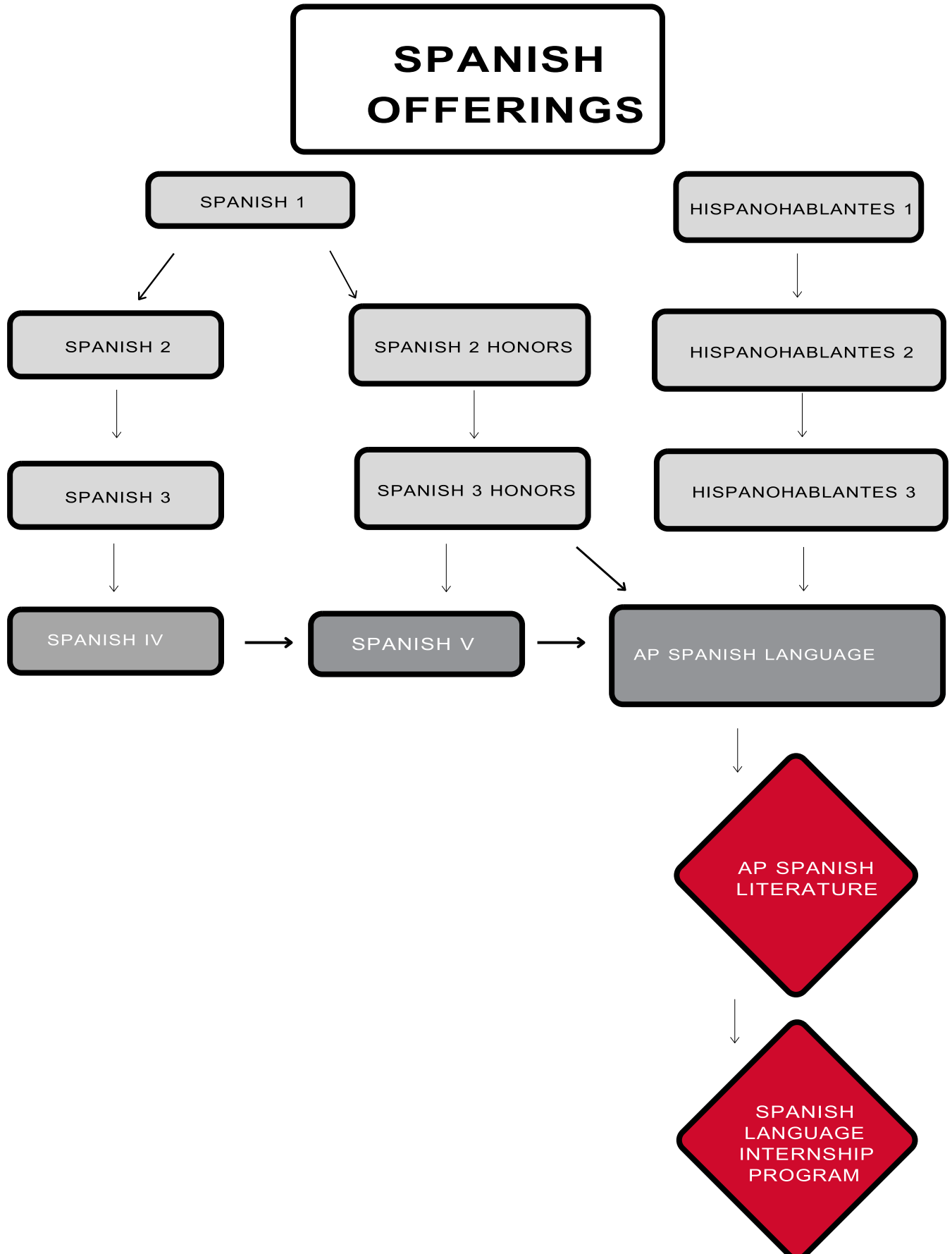
Latin V (YR)

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



World Language

Español Para Hispanohablantes I (YR)

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.

Two semesters, two credits, open to freshmen.

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)

Prerequisite: Spanish I or equivalent.

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

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)

Prerequisite: Spanish II OR Honors Spanish II

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

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)

Prerequisite: Spanish III

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

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)

Prerequisite: Spanish IV

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

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 faced and rigorously builds upon the fundamentals taught in Spanish I. 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.

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 weighted and factored into BSM GPA</small>	PACC <small>PACC course grades are weighted and 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 over twenty 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. Many 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 both high school and college credits.</p> <p>For more information 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><i>For more information:</i> Online users select: Learn more about PACC.</p> <p>Other users copy and paste this address in your browser: 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.</p> <p>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><i>For more information:</i> Online users select: Learn more about PSEO.</p> <p>Other users copy and paste this address in your browser: 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.

BSM offers Combined Courses that allow students to learn about topics from multiple perspectives. For courses found below, they are being taught with an engineering teacher, as well as a teacher from another department. You will also see these course listings shown on that department's program of studies page.

Climate Crisis: Implementing Solutions (S1 or S2)

Prerequisite: B or better in Biology or Chemistry AND a B or better in Algebra II or Precalculus.

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

The Earth's changing climate due to human-generated greenhouse gas emissions poses major challenges to our society in the years ahead. This course is designed to provide students with a fundamental understanding of the threat posed by climate change and the technologies available to combat this threat. Topics to be covered include: Energy from renewables such as solar and wind to combat potentially catastrophic climate change resulting from our use of fossil fuels; electrifying our transportation; ways to increase energy efficiency and energy conservation; need for energy storage to increase the penetration of renewables; role of technology, societal benefits and the ethics.

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

College Credit Options

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.

Prerequisite: A cumulative GPA in previous English courses that exceeds 3.25

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.

College Credit Options

St. Mary's University Program of Advance College Credit

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.

PACC

Accounting II (S2)

Three credit college level option.

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

Prerequisite: Accounting I

This course may be taken for college credit. 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.

AP Biology (YR)

Three credit college level option.

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

Prerequisite: Completion of Biology or Honors Biology and completion of Chemistry or Honors Chemistry.

This course is a second-year biology course, designed to be equivalent to an introductory biology course intended for biology majors during the first year of college. This course prepares students for the Advanced Placement exam in Biology. Students will explore major concepts in Biology, including cell structure and function, the cell cycle, DNA structure and function, principles of genetic inheritance, physiology and anatomy of animals and plants, biodiversity, ecology, and evolution.

Students should have a strong understanding of basic biology and chemistry concepts. Given the amount of material covered on the AP exam, the course will move at a quick pace.

TH111 Thinking Theologically (S1)

Three credit college level option.

One semester, one BSM credit, open to seniors.

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

Senior High Program of Studies

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About This year's Program of Studies Cover: Terra Waymire-Rozman, a member of the Class of 2023 and BSM's Marketing & Communications EPIC internship designed this year's cover. Terra says, "BSM has been a wonderful school for me. I have not only grown as a person but learned important skills which I will be able to apply in my life for years to come. The EPIC internships have been a great way to develop these skills and experience my interests in a professional environment. I would recommend the program, and BSM, to anyone going into high school." After graduation, Terra is currently exploring her options for post-secondary education, deciding on a college where she can pursue a career in the game design industry.



Benilde-St. Margaret's

A Catholic, college preparatory school, grades 7 - 12

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