



# PROGRAM of STUDY

Educating Founders | established 1858  
2023-2024

  
the  
**MOUNT**  
MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH ACADEMY

# Mount Saint Joseph Academy **Belief Statements**

We believe that:

1. Respect for self and others is at the heart of “unity and reconciliation” (“Mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph”);
2. Single-sex learning environments cultivate strong women leaders, independent in mind and spirit, socially responsible, and intellectually and personally courageous;
3. This school community, impelled by Christian values, emboldens young women with passion, confidence, and competence to found a future committed to justice and peace;
4. Nurturance of the deep, mature faith and prayer life of individuals spiritually energizes and enriches the entire community;
5. Gospel values enlighten developing individual consciences that inform moral and ethical life decisions;
6. The desire to respond actively to the needs of “the dear neighbor” (Sisters of Saint Joseph Documents) empowers each student to assume her responsibilities as a citizen of a global community;
7. Education demands the encouragement of intellectual curiosity and creative problem-solving;
8. Comprehensive, challenging curricula enable each student to realize her fullest academic potential;
9. Innovative, technologically-rich, as well as traditional instructional strategies, maximize the potential academic growth of each student;
10. Gentleness with self and others must temper the drive for excellence.





## Mount Saint Joseph Academy **Mission Statement**



Mount Saint Joseph Academy, a college preparatory school, empowers young women to realize their fullest potential. Imbued with a spirit of unity and reconciliation, the charism of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, Mount Saint Joseph Academy fosters excellence tempered by gentleness and compassion.

Enriched by the values of the Catholic Church, Mount Saint Joseph Academy offers academically rigorous programs that challenge students to shape the future.

In a student-centered, collaborative environment, Mount Saint Joseph Academy provides a holistic education with an emphasis on global responsibility.

Faithful to “educating founders,” Mount Saint Joseph Academy enables students to be agents of transformation in the face of moral and ethical challenges in an ever-evolving society. Trusting in the wisdom echoed by the Constitution of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, the mission asserts, “On the education of women largely depends the future of society.”

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## Philosophy of MSJA

The philosophy of Mount Saint Joseph Academy reflects the mission, charisma, and tradition of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, empowering students to be agents of unity and reconciliation in the world. Although the philosophy is rooted in the past, the members of the school community remain mindful that they live in the present with minds and hearts set toward the future. Mount Saint Joseph Academy endeavors to create a climate in which all can more easily discern truth, love goodness, seek justice, follow right reason, and pursue a sustainable future which reverences God and all creation.

Students are called to “the more,” to be agents of transformation and to be “founders” in a world, broken and longing for unity and reconciliation. The philosophy advances holistic development with an emphasis on global justice and responsibility in an atmosphere that fosters excellence tempered by gentleness and compassion. Mount Saint Joseph Academy remains faithful to “educating founders” and to the belief that “on the education of women largely depends the future of society.”

## Admission Policy

Admission to Mount Saint Joseph Academy is based on academic excellence determined through a competitive examination administered in the fall of a student’s eighth grade year and on the student’s elementary school records and a letter of recommendation. The entrance test consists of a series of aptitude and achievement tests. The student may also qualify or be asked to take placement tests in order to pass out of one level course into another. These tests are offered in the spring. The institution admits students of any race, religion, color, nationality and ethnicity.

## Introduction to the Program of Study

The selection of an educational program is one of the most important decisions you, the student, can make. It is one that will affect your immediate educational plans as well as your future. The purpose of this booklet is to provide a brief description of the courses offered at Mount Saint Joseph Academy.

While planning your program, assess your aptitudes as well as your past scholastic achievements. Think about your college and vocational goals. Before making selections from the courses offered, discuss your educational goals with your parents, teachers, guidance counselors, and siblings. The more information you have, the better will be your decisions.

You may choose any course listed, provided you meet the requirements. These requirements are made because education must build on previous knowledge if it is to be effective. There is no point electing a course if you have not mastered the one upon which it builds. The school may reserve the right to change your selection if you demonstrate a lack of qualification for a course, or if inadequate enrollment or scheduling conflicts warrant such action. No exceptions to stated prerequisites will be considered unless circumstances are such that a grave injustice would otherwise result. Also note that not all courses will match your schedule.

Scheduling conflicts occur when two or more classes that a student requests are offered at the same time. Not all conflicts can be resolved due to the number of courses offered and students requesting courses.

***Courses listed in the Program of Study book are offered only if student registration and staffing permit.***

Students are required to choose enough credits to fulfill graduation requirements. Prerequisites are required for many courses and they must be fulfilled to move into the next level.

## Course Requests

While scheduling, it is important to remember:

- Requests for or from a specific teacher will not be honored.
- Courses will be scheduled only if there is sufficient student demand.
- Choices made during the rostering process must be honored during the upcoming academic year.
- Enrollment in classes with limited seating will be determined by the Administration.

Most requests for changes are not honored after the scheduled deadlines. Exceptions are honored only in the cases of conflicts, scheduling errors or recommendation of the Administration.



## Course Changes

After May 1, a student who requests a change in a course she originally selected is subject to a \$50.00 service charge if the change is approved before July 1. After July 1, the charge is \$75.00 if the change is approved. No courses are changed after the first full week of the Fall Semester. If a level change is made, it is made through teacher recommendation. Courses may be dropped at the end of the first quarter only upon recommendation of the teacher and an administrator and a parent interview. Students may not change courses at will throughout the year.

## Block Scheduling

The block system provides a 4-block day (4 periods) with a two-day cycle, A and B days. To provide a 2-cycle day that works successfully, first and fourth blocks rotate. The student requests courses for 7 or 8 blocks for the year. The school decides which courses will be offered each term. One term runs one half of a school year and courses are scheduled as a full term, half term or a quarter term.

## Graduation Requirements

MSJA requires 28 credits for graduation (at least 7 credits per year).

## Student Earned Credits

Credit is earned upon the completion of a course. Minor courses are given credit based on the length of the course.

1.0 credit	full year (alternating days)
1.0 credit	full semester
0.5 credit	one quarter
0.25 credit	one quarter (alternating days)

## Student Course Load

The mental and spiritual wellbeing of our students is of utmost importance. Due to the stress of transition to high school and the significant academic rigor of the block schedule, **Freshmen will not be permitted to enroll in more than three honors courses.** Similarly, because of the extra study time required for AP work, it is strongly recommended that upperclasswomen elect a maximum of three AP courses in any given year. Credits earned include:

Theology	4 (1 credit per year)
English	4 (1 credit per year)
Social Studies	3
Mathematics	3
Science	3
World Language	3
Health Education	0.25
Physical Education	1
Fine Arts	1
Computer Literacy	0.75

## Grade Level Requirements

### GRADE 9

- 864 Freshman Foundations (Online hybrid).

Theology I                      English I  
Social Studies                  Mathematics

Freshman Rotation consists of:

- 811 Physical Education
- 810 Health
- 712 Exploring Technology
- 091 SSJ Mission: Laced in a Legacy

Choices of:

- Second level of a mathematics
- Science
- Language elective
- Second level of a language
- Art, Choral, Instrumental Ensemble, etc.



### GRADE 10

Theology II                      English II  
Social Studies                  Mathematics  
Science                          Language elective

Sophomore Rotation consists of

- 821 Physical Education/Health
- 862 College & Career Exploration
- 622 Communications/Speech

Study or choice of Music elective:

- 624 Creating Digital Music
- 626 Fine Arts Appreciation
- Choices of Electives

### GRADE 11

Theology III                      English III  
Social Studies                  Mathematics  
Science                          Physical Education  
Choice of Electives

### GRADE 12

Theology IV                      English IV Physical Education  
Physical Education              Choice of Electives

## Fine Arts Requirement

Students attending the Mount are required to fulfill one (1) credit in the Fine Arts. These credits may be elected from courses in the listing of the 600's. The sophomore rotation includes Communications/Speech (0.25 credit) and Art of Human Expression (0.25 credit) or Creating Digital Music (0.25 credit).

## Level of Courses

Courses are leveled according to a student's ability and needs. Four types of courses are offered.

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT

These college level courses are designed for students who are prepared to meet the challenge of a stimulating learning experience. Through the national Advanced Placement curriculum, students enroll in approved AP classes at the Mount and they may receive college credit on the completion of a mandatory exam.

### DIOCESAN SCHOLARS

The Diocesan Scholars program offers college courses to approved students at Chestnut Hill College. These courses are identified on the student's transcript. Courses from the college are 1.0 credit per course and given AP GPA weight. Students who participate in this program may not enroll in more than 2 AP courses at the Mount during their senior year.

### HONORS COLLEGE PREPARATORY

Honors college-prep classes are offered for students who are able to pursue in-depth study and who are willing to spend extra time outside of class working independently. These courses require additional reading and writing assignments.

### COLLEGE PREPARATORY

College-prep courses are offered for students whose command of basic skills enables them to accelerate at a normal high school level.

### ENRICHMENT COURSES

Health, Physical Education, Exploring Technology, Guidance and some Fine Arts are courses designed to enrich the core curriculum or fulfill a state requirement. Grades in these courses do not calculate into the student's Grade Point Average (GPA) and they do not calculate into honor roll.



## Marking System

Academic performance is measured through grades and credits. In all courses, letter grades are given on report cards and transcripts. The letter grade is the actual grade for the level course and is used for calculations. The Mount has a system of A through F with plus and minus grades. There are a few courses that are based on a Pass/Fail system. The current grading scale and equivalency is found in the Student Handbook. Students' marks are not "rounded up" in any course.

## Academic Honors: Semester Honor Roll

The Honor Roll is determined based on a FIRST HONORS and SECOND HONORS SYSTEM. Honors are computed separately on first semester grades and again on the second semester grades. Enrichment courses (Physical Education, Health, Exploring Technology, Guidance, Communications and Fine Arts rotation courses) are not used in honor roll calculations.

FIRST HONORS requires a GPA of 4.000 with no course below a "C." SECOND HONORS requires a GPA of 3.800 with no course below a "C." Honors certificates are issued in January and June based on semester one and semester two marks respectively.

An Academic Awards Ceremony is held each fall to acknowledge the scholastic excellence of students who achieve a 3.800 or better final cumulative GPA for all previous years of study. The National Merit Commended and Semifinalist students are also noted at this time if the nominations are available.

## Graduating with Honors

TO GRADUATE WITH HONORS a student must have a cumulative GPA of 3.900 by the end of first semester senior year. A senior with a cumulative GPA of 4.100 by the end of first semester senior year will GRADUATE WITH DISTINGUISHED HONORS.

## Grade Point Average

Courses are weighted according to the degree of challenge they present. Weighting is used only to calculate the GPA.

$$\text{GPA} = \frac{\text{Potential Credit} \times \text{Quality Points}}{\text{Total Potential Credits}}$$

A potential credit is the possible credit for a particular course. An earned credit is given when the course is completed and passed.

Honor roll is calculated each semester and based on the semester GPA. A cumulative GPA is based on the final grades of courses when computed with the previous years. However, in January, a cumulative GPA is generated for juniors and seniors based on the term averages for college admission purposes and/or applications for special programs. Graduation honors are computed on this cumulative GPA.

Certain courses are not used in the calculations of the GPA. These courses receive earned credit but no quality points. They include: Physical Education, Health, Exploring Technology, Guidance, Fine Arts rotation courses, Communications/Speech, and Instrumental Performance

## Grade Reporting

Power School allows students and parents to monitor progress on a continuous basis. Additionally, Teachers and/or the Studies Office will communicate in writing with students and parents at the midpoint of each marking period when a student has a grade of C- or below. Parents and students must understand that it is possible for a student to be passing a course at the midpoint of a marking period, yet she could perform poorly after the issuance and fail at the end of the marking period. Students who receive a D+ or lower may be removed from activities at the direction of the Dean of Studies and the Principal.

Report cards are distributed four times per year. A student may receive at least one comment in every course on this report at the teacher's discretion. Parent conferences may be requested for a particular subject. Parents should follow up on the recommendations made by the teachers on the report. Students with C-'s, D's or F's may be required to sign a notification from the Studies Office.

## Study Habits and Skills

Homework is part of scholastic life at the Mount. Courses are designed to require a significant amount of homework each night in each major subject. Some assignments are long-range and require planned study time for their completion. ***Because of the extra study time required for AP work, it is recommended that a student elect a maximum of three AP courses.***

## Tests / Examinations

Teachers may administer tests at their own discretion during the school year. Communication between students and teachers avoids multiple tests on a given day. A special schedule is arranged for examinations at the end of each semester. Except for a grave reason, no student may absent herself from examinations. Examinations and alternate assessments are meant to be culminating activities that indicate how well a student has synthesized and analyzed the given material for a course. Examinations or alternate assessments are given in all major classes.

No more than two subjects will have an examination/assessment on a given day at the end of a term. There are no exemptions to exams/assessments. Students who take any AP courses must take the AP exam as the final examination. Seniors who take the AP standardized tests must follow the procedures for all graduation related rehearsals and activities.

## Academic Integrity

Students and faculty at MSJA aim to seek truth and intellectual growth in an atmosphere of mutual support. Such a quest imposes an obligation on the students to be an active part of the learning process and to accept responsibility for their academic behavior and success.

Mount Saint Joseph Academy is committed to providing an environment where young women are enabled and empowered "to meet the moral and ethical challenges of an ever-changing society and a technological future." (Mission statement) Mount students are expected to be young women of outstanding character for whom honesty and integrity are respected values that are practiced in all situations. This is certainly true in academic endeavors. It is the official policy of Mount Saint Joseph Academy that all acts of alleged academic dishonesty be reported to the Dean of Studies. The Dean of Student Life will be notified for appropriate disciplinary action. The Principal will be informed.

## Academic Progress

Progress is monitored through Power School and through report cards, which are issued four times in the year. Any student who receives a C- or below at the midpoint of a marking period, for any quarter, semester average and/or term or final grade is considered to be in academic jeopardy. The parent(s) or guardian(s) should be in contact with the appropriate teacher to discuss remediation.

Any student who receives a D+ or D on any progress report or report card for any quarter, semester average, term or final grade, and whose GPA is less than 2.8, will at the direction of the Dean of Studies, Athletic Director and any major activity moderator, be removed from extra-curricular activities for one full school week. Extra-curricular activities include but are not limited to all major club activities, publications, trips, sporting events and practices, honor societies, service societies and student leadership organizations. The student will be allowed to attend practices or rehearsals for major events but they will not be allowed to participate in games, meets or any other major activity. Progress will be monitored weekly. If after one full school week, progress has been made to improve the grade, the student will be fully reinstated.

Any student who receives a failure (F) on any progress report or report card for any quarter, semester average, term or final grade may, at the direction of the Dean of Studies, the Athletic Director and any major activity moderator, be removed from extra-curricular activities for one full school week. Extra-curricular activities include but are not limited to all major club activities, publications, trips, sporting events and practices, honor societies, service societies and student leadership organizations. The time of removal from the team/activity is set by the Dean of Studies in conjunction with the teacher, moderator and/or Athletic Director. The student may not attend practices or rehearsals and they will not be allowed to participate in games, meets or any other major event. If after one full school week, progress has been made to improve the grade, the student will be fully reinstated. If improvement is not seen in this time, the student's failing status will remain as is until she is reinstated to the sport or activity by the Dean of Studies.

If a student fails a course, she is required to make it up in a school/course approved by the Dean of Studies and pass it. The highest grade achievable will be a "C." Any student who fails more than two courses will be requested to transfer from the Mount to another school. If a senior fails a course, her diploma will be awarded upon successful completion of the course as stipulated by the Dean of Studies. Her report card or transcript will not acknowledge a graduation date until the course

is retaken, passed and the appropriate paper work is forwarded to the Mount. Transcripts from summer sessions must be forwarded to the Studies Office by August 15.

## Assignments / Attendance

Each student is expected to spend a significant and appropriate amount of study time per class day, more if she is taking honors or Advanced Placement courses. For this reason, it is important that a student is absent only when it is absolutely necessary; college visitation should be scheduled for days when seniors have no classes. Students should also be aware that working on weekends or after school is an added pressure when carrying a demanding school schedule. Parents are encouraged to check the study schedule of their daughter; unless she spends the required time on study each day, she cannot expect to achieve academic success.

## Extended Illness

Parents should always contact the Student Life Office when a student is going to be absent from school for any reason. A student who misses one to three days should check Canvas and/or call classmates for assignments and consult each teacher for an update when she returns. Students absent from school for any extended time (more than three school days) should make special arrangements to make up the missed work with the teachers. If the absence extends to four or more days, parents should call the Dean of Studies to estimate the expected extent of the absence and to advise her how assignments can be sent home. Upon return, a student should meet with her teachers to discuss plans for make-up. Students who miss more than a week of school are required to demonstrate they have made up the missed work. Any assignments, homework, tests, etc. must be completed within two weeks of the student returning to school. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Dean of Studies.



Tutors may be required by the school to ensure the material is learned. This is especially true when the next level depends on the current course. If a student is absent without accepted excuse for a total of seven (7) days per semester, or if she misses more than 10% of class meetings, she and her parents must meet with the Dean of Studies to determine if credit will be given for her courses. These absences present a major obstacle to promotion in leveled courses. Students who are absent on a regular basis without sufficient cause may be liable to attend summer school.

Vacation days are considered unexcused absences. *Please see Student Handbook for more detailed information on absences/lateness, etc.*

## Testing Programs

NINTH GRADE	PSAT 8/9
TENTH GRADE	PSAT
ELEVENTH GRADE	PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, ACT
TWELFTH GRADE	SAT, ACT

A student may request testing accommodations with the appropriate professional documentation.

## Counseling Services

The Mount offers three types of counseling to its students: college direction, academic support, and social/emotional guidance. The purpose of these services is to help each student in her vocational, educational and social development.

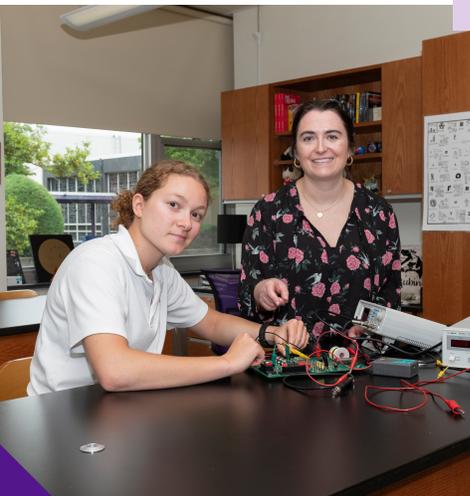
*All information is subject to change within the year. The current year Student Handbook contains updated information and further details.*

## Programs of Study

### NEW COURSES

This section lists the names of courses running for the first or second time this year. Please see the full department listings for the details about these exciting courses.

- English:
  - Yearbook
- Social Studies:
  - Honors Women Studies
- Math:
  - Foundations of Algebra II
- Fine Arts:
  - Art of Human Expression





# 2023      2024

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# COURSE LISTINGS

# THEOLOGY

The Theology Department strives to cultivate and incorporate an academic understanding of Catholic theology and a movement of the heart. In the spirit of the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Philadelphia, we believe: “Such attentiveness of heart leads us into deepening union with God in and through our loving service to the ‘dear neighbor,’ especially to those who are most vulnerable” (Sisters of St. Joseph of Philadelphia.)

A minimum of 4 credits in Theology is required for graduation.

091 – SSJ Mission: Laced in a Legacy  
Required – Grade 9 (Rotation)  
0.25 Credit

The goal of this course is to introduce the students to the history, spirituality, and charism of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. The course explores the rich SSJ heritage and tradition, inviting the students to recognize the privilege and responsibility of being immersed in this charism. The journey will bring awareness to the intersectionality of life in order to see how the charism can be lived in each and every interaction as we aim to answer the question, “What does it mean to ‘serve the dear neighbor?’”

012 - Old Testament, Faith & Tradition  
Required – Grade 9  
1 Credit

Through the perspective of both contemporary Scripture scholarship and Catholic Tradition, this foundational course focuses on providing a deeper understanding of the truth that God conveys in the Old Testament. By studying various books of the Bible, students will acquire skills to comprehend God’s Word at a deeper level along with the strong foundation needed to develop a personal life-long relationship with God. Special emphasis is placed on the goodness of creation, in particular the goodness of the human person as a child of God. Through lecture, class discussion, projects and prayer, students are strongly encouraged to contemplate the many ways that God’s Word continues today to speak to our world and to each of us personally. Because Christianity is rooted in Judaism, the course also engages aspects of Catholic belief such as faith, revelation, morals, prayer and service.

022 - New Testament, Faith & Tradition  
Required – Grade 10  
1 Credit

This course on the New Testament focuses on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the letters of Paul, the Acts of the Apostles, and an introduction to the Early Church. The themes of Catholic social teaching, which develop from Jesus’ teachings and Church history, are integrally woven as this course covers faith, tradition, sacraments, and the lives of faithful women and men who witness to the gospel. Students are encouraged to pray and reflect on the deeper meaning of Jesus and his mission in order to integrate his teachings into their personal lives so as to live gospel values and to be positive influences for change in our world.

031 - Christian Morality & Ethical Issues in Church and Society  
Required – Grade 11  
1 Credit

This course examines the foundations of Catholic morality; specifically, Christ and Church beliefs, while also understanding the roots of how the faith grew within the Church. This allows students to comprehend ideas including comparative moral philosophies, moral psychology, conscience, moral development, character, freedom, sin, virtues, and a process for moral decision making. Integrated throughout the course will be a particular emphasis on specific areas of morality through the framework of the Ten Commandments and the foundational themes of Catholic social teaching.

044 - Catholic Social Teaching  
Grade 12  
0.5 Credit

This course takes a positive approach toward matters of justice. It aims to inspire hope and action, while offering insight into current social justice issues. Most importantly, it holds the invitation to respond to injustices and faithfully live the gospel in this time. The Catholic vision of discipleship and the authentic living of Catholic Social Teaching principles are presented and integrated through current justice issues and witnesses of faithful discipleship. The Catholic Church's "Best Kept Secret" of Catholic social teaching will provide a lens through which students will view social justice issues.

045 - Vocation & Human Sexuality  
Grade 12  
0.5 Credit

This course provides relevant information to all “states of life” from a Catholic Christian perspective. Important developmental tasks of young adulthood are explored: identity, autonomy, love, communication, sexuality, intimacy, sacramentality, and spirituality. The focus is on helping students make healthy, Christ-oriented decisions. In addition to developing a basic understanding of Catholic teaching on vocation and sexual ethics, students will engage and integrate new information and understanding to approach the practical questions that affect their lives.

046 – Catholic Bioethics  
Grade 12  
0.5 Credit

Within the framework of Catholic moral theology, the emphasis in the Bioethics course is placed on understanding principles and key concepts while exploring a variety of bioethical issues. The application of these principles and key concepts in the critiques of some challenges to Catholic moral theology will facilitate informed discussion and critical reflection on issues such as abortion, reproductive technology, genetic testing and engineering, stem cell research, cloning, organ transplants, human experimentation, and end-of-life care.

049 - Contemporary Catholicism  
Grade 12  
0.5 Credit

The purpose of this course is to more deeply explore Catholic teachings on fundamental issues of faith and practice. It allows the students to ask and seek answers to the big questions of life and faith such as the existence of God and human suffering. Through discussion, students are able to expand on previous knowledge, reflect on what it means to be Christian and enrich individual relationships with God. This course examines the Catholic faith through different perspectives while exploring the themes of the life and dignity of the human person, participation in society and the recognition that all people are part of the same human family and share one living space we call earth.

050 - World Religions  
Grade 12  
0.5 Credit

This course, focusing on ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, provides an overview and analysis of the human search for God and meaning throughout a variety of global contexts and religious traditions. In the spirit of Pope Francis' prayer that "sincere dialogue between men and women of different religions may produce the fruits of peace and justice", the course invites students to not simply learn the content, but also to learn from it and integrate it into their lives. Beginning with the foundation of the Catholic and Christian faiths, the course dialogue will focus on Judaism, Islam, Eastern religions, Sikhism, the Baha'i faith and Mormonism.

# ENGLISH

The English Department focuses on both the development of writing skills and literary exploration. The writing and research course work aims to develop expository and expressive writing skills with multiple opportunities to practice them. Students also read selected works of world and contemporary literature, learn the language of analysis, and apply it to writing and discussion. Students also have the opportunity to combine information literacy with technology by practicing research skills in a variety of contexts. The literary-based course offerings, more traditional in the ninth and tenth grades, become more creative in scope for senior electives. Literary analysis, oral presentations, class discussion, grammar review, vocabulary study, and formal research, utilizing both electronic and print sources, cultivate skills necessary for academic success.

A minimum of 4 credits in English is required for graduation.

## 111 – Introduction to Writing & Literature

Grade 9

1 Credit

This course aims to develop expository and expressive writing skills and to provide multiple opportunities to practice them. The students will also read selected works of world and contemporary literature, learn the language of literature, and apply it in writing and discussion. This course includes interdisciplinary applications with Exploring Technology to provide students with instruction and practice in research skills and in utilizing word processing.

## 112 – Honors Introduction to Writing & Literature

Grade 9

1 Credit

Students who have demonstrated in the entrance examination and in elementary school records the mastery of basic skills will have the option of choosing Honors English. The course aims to increase vocabulary knowledge, to build on writing skills developed in middle school, to progress to multi-paragraph expository essays, and to write on various genres. The students will also read selected works of world and contemporary literature, learn the language of literary analysis, and apply it to writing and discussion. This course includes interdisciplinary applications with Exploring Technology to provide students with instruction and practice in research skills and in utilizing word processing.

Prerequisite: Eligibility is based on entrance exam scores, placement test scores, and the Administrative Committee selection process. In order to be eligible to sit for the placement test, the student must have earned an A (94 or above) in grades 6, 7, and 8 English.

## 121 – Introduction to American Literature

Grade 10

1 Credit

This course presents a survey of American literature with a concentration on the works of eighteenth and nineteenth-century authors. Writings based on these readings strengthen students' knowledge of syntax, usage, and diction. Literary analysis, oral presentations, class discussion, grammar review, vocabulary study, and formal research utilizing both electronic and print sources are required.

## 122 – Honors American Literature

Grade 10

1 Credit

This course traces the development of American literature from the Puritan Age to the twentieth century. The curriculum focuses on the ideas and the movements unique to American literature and its representative writers. Students engage in advanced critical reading, thinking, and discussion. Literary analysis, oral presentations, class discussion, grammar review, vocabulary study, and extensive writing and formal research, utilizing both electronic and print sources, are required.

Prerequisite: From 111: A average & department recommendation, as well as successful completion of placement test; from 112: B+ average and department recommendation.

## 131 – Survey of British Literature

Grade 11

1 Credit

This survey course traces British literature, along with relevant historical background, from the Anglo-Saxon to the Victorian periods. The curriculum includes British writers and their works, allowing students to follow the evolution of British literature. Literary analysis, oral presentations, class discussion, grammar review, vocabulary study, extensive writing, and formal research are required.

## 132 – Honors British Literature

Grade 11

1 Credit

This course aims to develop habits of thinking and modes of inquiry that enable students to encounter the master works of British literature with confidence and appreciation. Students write analyses on works from different genres and literary periods. They also write personal narratives, college application essays, expressive pieces inspired by the literature studied, and a formal research paper.

Prerequisite: From 121: A average and department recommendation, as well as successful completion of placement test; from 122: B+ average and department recommendation.

## 141 – Modern Writers

Grade 12

0.5 Credit

This course examines the time periods, cultural influences and major literary themes in works by exemplary modern writers with an emphasis on twentieth and twenty-first century American authors. The curriculum requires extensive reading, writing, analysis of literature from various genres, and vocabulary study.

## 142 – World Literature Themes

Grade 12

0.5 Credit

This course acquaints students with works from classical and modern world literature. The curriculum requires extensive reading, writing, analysis of literature from various genres, and vocabulary study. Written and oral assignments encourage students to express ideas clearly, correctly, and concisely.

### 143 – Shakespeare

Grade 12

0.5 Credit

This course develops a deeper appreciation for and understanding of the works of William Shakespeare. It includes analysis of comedies, tragedies, and histories, as well as a study of the man and his times. Written and oral assignments encourage students to express ideas clearly, correctly, and concisely.

### 153 – Print & Broadcast Journalism

Grade 10, 11, 12

0.5 Credit

Elective only – does not fulfill senior requirement

This course is recommended to students who have an interest in print, online, or broadcast journalism and would like to participate in either *The Campanile* or our television news station, WMSJ. The course will begin by introducing students to journalistic writing and acquaint them with elements of multimedia production. Students will then have the opportunity to acquire and develop broadcasting skills by working in an on-site TV studio set. Students will develop and expand their skills in journalism, communication, editing, technical writing, script writing, and broadcasting.

Prerequisite: Department recommendation.

### 159 – Crime Fiction

Grade 12

0.5 Credit

This course examines the elements of detective fiction. It includes the study and analysis of works by Edgar Allan Poe, the "father" of the detective story; Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; Dame Agatha Christie; and Lisa Scottoline, our own Philadelphia "insider" and *The New York Times* best-selling author. Written and oral assignments encourage students to express ideas clearly, correctly, and concisely.

### 160 – AP English Literature

Grade 12

1 credit

This college-level course offers motivated seniors whose past performance indicates both interest and ability an opportunity to experience literature and writing at a more advanced level. Extensive reading and writing, class discussions, literary analysis, and presentations prepare students to take the College Board Examination in AP Literature and Composition, which is required.

Prerequisite: B+ average in Honors British Literature and department recommendation.

### 154 – Yearbook

Grade 11, 12

0.5 Credit Elective only – does not fulfill senior requirement.

This course is recommended to students who have an interest in being a vital contributor to the creation, design, and publication of the Mount's yearbook, the Sheaf. In this course, students will learn the basic principles of yearbook production and develop skills including page design, caption writing, publishing techniques, editing, photography, time management, and teamwork. Students will have the opportunity to use their creative talents in developing a theme and cover design and learning page layout techniques. Seniors and Juniors who are interested in leadership positions on the yearbook staff are strongly encouraged to take this course.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Social Studies plays a meaningful role in honoring the Mount's commitment to forming globally conscious and socially responsive citizens. The curriculum includes both world history and American history, as well as a wide variety of electives that range in focus from Genocide in History to Human Geography as well as Scandal and Politics in Medieval Italy. Each course is designed so that concept understanding, critical thinking, and research skills enable the student to explore economic, political, cultural, and religious life from ancient to current times.

A minimum of 3 credits in Social Studies is required for graduation.

### **211 – Foundations of Western Civilization**

Grade 9

1 Credit

This course is designed so that through concept understanding, critical thinking, and research skills the student can explore Western civilization's economic, political, cultural and religious life from ancient times through the Renaissance. A unit on the civilizations of Islam and Asia is also included.

### **212 – Honors Foundations of Western Civilization**

Grade 9

1 Credit

This course is designed for those students whose performance in the entrance examination demonstrated a firm grasp of reading comprehension and critical analysis. They should be highly motivated to pursue an in-depth study of Western Civilization: economic, political, cultural and religious life from ancient times through the Renaissance. A unit on the civilizations of Islam and Asia is also included.

Prerequisite: Placement is based on entrance test scores and the Administrative Committee selection process.

### **223 – U.S. History: Modern I**

Grade 10, 11

1 Credit

Building on prior knowledge of US history, students will examine the political, social and economic aspects of United States history. The chronology of the course will begin with the 20th century as it emerged from the turmoil of the Civil War and Reconstruction. As the United States became a world power in the American Century, students will examine how the country found its place in the world, eventually becoming embroiled in the conflagration of two world wars, followed by the Cold War.

Prerequisite: Western Civilizations or Honors Western Civilizations.

224 – Honors U.S. History: Modern I

Grade 10, 11

1 Credit

Building on prior knowledge of US history, students will examine the political, social and economic aspects of United States history. The chronology of the course will begin with the 20th century as it emerged from the turmoil of the Civil War and Reconstruction. As the United States begins to emerge as a world power in the American Century, students will examine how the country found its place in the world, eventually becoming embroiled in the conflagration of two world wars, followed by the Cold War.

Prerequisite: A in Western Civilizations or A- in Honors Western Civilizations and department recommendation.

237 – U.S. History: Modern II

Grade 11, 12

1 Credit

This course is designed to examine the political, social, and diplomatic events that have shaped the United States from the beginning of the Korean War to the present day. The focus of this course provides students with a framework for analyzing the political, social, economic and cultural issues that have impacted American society in the 20th century.

Prerequisite: US History: Modern I or Honors US History: Modern 1.

238 – Honors U.S. History: Modern II

Grade 11, 12

1 Credit

This honors course is designed for those students whose performance in prior courses demonstrates a firm grasp of reading comprehension and critical analysis. This course will examine the political, social, and diplomatic events that have shaped the United States from the beginning of the Korean War to the present day. The focus of this course provides students with a framework for analyzing the political, social, economic and cultural issues that have impacted American society in the 20th century. Students should be highly motivated to pursue an in-depth study focusing on key concepts, critical thinking and research skills.

Prerequisite: A in US History: Modern I, or A- in Honors US History: Modern I and department recommendation.

## 272 – Honors Human Geography

Grade 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

This course is designed to help students better understand our constantly changing world through a basic study of introductory geography. Throughout the course, students will study geography from the physical, political, and cultural perspectives through five basic geographical themes of location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, and region. Additionally, there will be an emphasis on geographical skills and geographic literacy (locating countries, capitals, and physical features of the world), which will benefit students in their other social studies courses. In addition, this course introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice.

Prerequisites: A in any prior college prep Social Studies course or A- in any Honors or AP Social Studies course or department recommendation.

## 249 – Honors Modern Europe

Grade 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

This course is designed to enable the student to understand modern Europe through the study of the French Revolution and Napoleonic Era, the Industrial Revolution, Karl Marx and the growth of Socialism, 19th century Imperialism, the causes of World War I, the Russian Revolution, the rise of Fascism, World War II, the Cold War and its end, and Europe in the present.

Prerequisites: B+ in any prior Social Studies Honors course or AP course.

## 244 – Psychology

Grade 11, 12

0.5 Credit

This course is designed to introduce the student to psychology as a scientific study of human behavior, emotions and mental processes. Topics include: the history of psychology; learning theories and strategies; the interrelationship of the mind, body and behavior; development across the life span, abnormal behavior; and practices in psychology today.

## 248 – Race, Gender & Equity in America

Grade 11, 12

0.5 Credit

This course is an introduction to the history of gender, race, and ethnicity in the United States. This course will assess the struggle to end inequities and to create a society reflective of the proposition that "all men [and women] are created equal" as delineated in the Declaration of Independence. The list of topics covered includes, but is not limited to, the civil rights movement and its descendants, the women's rights and feminist movements, the evolution of immigration to the United States, and mass incarceration and the prison industrial complex.

## 255 – Honors Government, Policy, and Economics

Grade 11, 12

1 Credit

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic theories of government and economics and to explore the policy areas in which they interact. The students will examine the foundations of American government, including introductory political theory, the framework set up by the Constitution, and the role of government in today's society. Students will also learn about the basic micro- and macroeconomic theory behind our economic system as well as the challenges facing the world's economic structure. The class will then study how government and economics mix in domestic policy and in the international arena.

Prerequisites: B+ in any prior Social Studies Honors course or AP course; or A- in US Early 20th Century and/or US Modern History and department recommendation.

## 273 – Genocide in History

Grade 11, 12

0.5 Credit

This course is designed to develop student awareness of the issues associated with the concept of Genocide. The dominant focus of the student's attention will be on the Nazi Holocaust. Students will closely and critically examine the Holocaust in the context of modern European history and culture, with a strong focus on anti-Semitism, the development of Nazi ideologies, and consolidation of power in post-World War I Germany. In addition to the Nazi Holocaust, students will analyze written texts, images, films, and other cultural and artistic creations referring to the Native American Genocide, Armenian Genocide, the "Killing Fields" of Cambodia, the Rwanda Genocide, the situation in "former" Yugoslavia, and Darfur. Students can expect to improve their knowledge and understanding on many issues including racism, anti-Semitism, prejudice, and the ideology of genocide as they are exposed to numerous topics in this course.

## 232 – AP U.S. History

Grade 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

This course is designed to allow the student to build on the foundation acquired in United States History through an in-depth study of significant events and movements in U.S. history, along with the varying interpretations of them as preparation for the Advanced Placement History Examination. Students admitted to this course are required to devote at least eight to ten hours of study per week; this is in addition to study during class time. Students are required to take the AP exam.

Prerequisite: A in Western Civilization and previous US History course or A- in Honors Western Civilization and previous US History course. A in previous college prep English course, A- in previous Honors English course. Department recommendation.

## 257 – AP World History: Modern

Grade 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

In this course, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes on a global scale from approximately 1200 C.E. to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical comparisons; and utilizing reasoning about contextualization, causation, and continuity and change over time. The course provides five themes that students explore in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: interaction between humans and the environment; development and interaction of cultures; state building, expansion, and conflict; creation, expansion, and interaction of economic systems; and development and transformation of social structures. Students will be required to take the AP test.

### Prerequisites:

A- in Honors Western Civilization or an A in Foundations of Western Civilization. Also, A- in Honors Introduction to Writing & Literature or an A in Introduction to Writing & Literature.

## 250 – AP European History

Grade 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

This course is designed to enable the student to understand modern European history through the study of the Renaissance, Religious Reformations, nation building, the French Revolution and Napoleonic Era, the Industrial Revolution, Karl Marx and the growth of Socialism, 19th century Imperialism, the causes of World War I, the Russian Revolution, the rise of Fascism, World War II, the Cold War and its end, and Europe in the present. Students will be required to take the AP test.

Prerequisites: A- in Honors Western Civilization or an A in Foundations of Western Civilization. A in previous college prep English course, A- in previous Honors English course.

## 253 – AP Government & Politics: U.S.

Grade 11, 12

1 Credit

This Advanced Placement course in American Government and Politics is designed to give students a critical perspective on politics and government in the United States. The course involves both study of general concepts and the analysis of specific cases related to government and politics. Students are required to take the AP exam.

Prerequisite: A- in any previous Honors or AP Social Studies course. Department recommendation.

## 251 – AP Psychology

Grade 12

1 Credit

This college level course is for seniors who are interested in advancing their knowledge of behavior and mental processes of humans and other animals. In preparation for the required AP Psychology examination, students will be exposed to the psychological factors, principles and phenomena with thirteen major sub fields within psychology.

Prerequisite: B+ in Honors Biology, A- in Biology, or B in AP Biology. B+ in Honors English or A- in English.

275 – Scandal & Politics in Medieval Italy through Dante’s *Inferno*  
0.5 Credit (This course does not fulfill the graduation requirement in English.)

Most high school students have limited exposure to the political developments of Medieval Italy. Additionally, most students are limited to literary works originally written in English. This course seeks to address those limitations by exploring the significance of Dante’s *Inferno* as both a theological/moral text and a perspective on Italian Medieval politics.

Organized as a seminar-style class, the course will seek to analyze Dante’s conceptions of sin and punishment and how they relate to the political and social relationships of Medieval Italy. The primary goal will be to read the entire *Inferno*, along with supplementary theological, religious, and political texts.

276 – Voices for Change: American History through Written Word  
Grade 11, 12  
0.5 Credit (This course does not fulfill the graduation requirement in English.)

In this course, students will examine the time period in American History from Reconstruction through the Civil Rights Movement. The course will examine not only the social, political and economic milestones in those 100 years, but also, the literature that influences society as well as the influence the prose itself has on our national American identity. The emphasis of the course is on the connection and interaction of literature to changes in American society in the period of 1865 -1965.

262 – Honors Women as Founders  
Grade 12  
1 Credit

As an interdisciplinary course, the Women As Founders Seminar will trace and explore the history of women’s social problems and reform movements, and current movements in women’s immigration and education. Students will examine the ways women have influenced society for the common good. Components of the curriculum will include independent research and community outreach. The course runs throughout the student's senior year, meeting before first block two mornings a week. The remainder of the course consists of work on identifying a social need and creating an independent project which addresses that need. The project will be selected by the student under the guidance of the course moderator and a mentor.

241 - Honors Women’s Studies  
Grade 10, 11, 12  
1 Credit

This course is an opportunity for students to examine the experiences and contributions of diverse groups of women in American society. The main focus of this course will be to highlight women and their societal advancement through American History. This course will provide knowledge and discussion about the social role of women and their involvement in areas such as health, history, and political activism. The course will also provide knowledge about gender stereotypes and how it has affected women’s advancement in our society. Discussion of the status of women in a more global perspective will also occur.

Prerequisites: A in any prior college prep Social Studies course or A- in any Honors or AP Social Studies course or by department recommendation.

# MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics Department focuses on three areas of study in the math curriculum - Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II - with ample opportunity for each student to customize her course of study in upper-level courses, such as Trigonometry, Calculus, Statistics, and Discrete Mathematics. Each course strikes a balance between classic arithmetic skills and problem-solving skills, inviting students to learn the basics of different forms of mathematical thought and then apply that information to new situations via skills of critical thought. Mathematics is about more than just memorization; it is about application of new skills, creativity, development of logical thinking and collaborative problem solving.

A minimum of 3 credits in Mathematics is required for graduation.

## 312 – Algebra I

Grade 9

1 Credit

This course is designed for students who have demonstrated mastery of arithmetic skills and typical problem-solving skills in the Entrance examination. It includes the study of basic operations and graphing of the real number system and its subsets, properties of real numbers, polynomials, factoring, rational expressions, solving and graphing equations and inequalities, functions and relations in the coordinate plane, systems of linear equations, irrational numbers and radicals. Use of the graphing calculator is emphasized.

## 313 – Honors Algebra I

Grade 9

1 Credit

This course is designed for students who have demonstrated mastery of basic arithmetic skills and excellent problem-solving ability in the Entrance examination. These are students who learn quickly and enjoy challenges. The emphasis is placed on a thorough understanding and application of theory. Topics studied include: basic axioms and theorems of real numbers, polynomials, factoring, rational expressions, solving and graphing equations and inequalities, functions and relations in the coordinate plane, systems of linear equations, quadratic equations, exponential functions, irrational numbers and radicals. This course also includes basic probability and statistics concepts.

Prerequisite: Placement is based on entrance test scores and the Administrative Committee selection process.

## 403 – Foundations of Physics and Algebra

Grade 9

1 Credit in Mathematics, 1 Credit in Science

This course is a fully merged Algebra I and Concepts of Physics course. It satisfies both the science and math requirements for grade 9. Students will learn the methods of algebra through the lens of hands-on science experimentation and analysis of student-taken data. The central topics of physics are used to enhance the learning of algebra. Students will use their iPad and the TI-84+ daily, to explore mathematical and physics concepts. Placement in this course is determined by the Dean of Studies.

### 322 – Geometry

Grade 9, 10

1 Credit

This course is designed for students who have mastered Algebra I. The course includes the study of logic, the Postulates and Theorems of Euclid, coordinate geometry, right triangle trigonometry, and properties of triangles, quadrilaterals, circles and solids. Application of real-world problems enhance the learning process. Formal proof and deductive reasoning are an integral part of the course.

Prerequisite: Algebra I or Foundations of Physics and Algebra.

### 323 – Honors Geometry

Grade 9, 10

1 Credit

This course is designed for students who have demonstrated mastery of Honors Algebra I and have good problem-solving ability. These are students who learn quickly and enjoy challenges. The course includes the study of logic, the Postulates and Theorems of Euclid and coordinate geometry. Topics covered include properties of triangles, quadrilaterals, circles, three-dimensional solids, and right triangle trigonometry.

Prerequisite: B+ in Honors Algebra I and/or department recommendation.

### 331 – Algebra II

Grade 9, 10, 11

1 Credit

This course is designed for students who have mastered Algebra I. Topics include the study of quadratic, polynomial and rational functions, inequalities and their graphs, solving equations and problems involving rational expressions, radicals, irrational and complex numbers, as well as basic probability and measures of central tendency and dispersion.

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra I, high A in Foundations of Physics and Algebra, and/or department recommendation.

### 333 – Foundations of Algebra II

Grade 10, 11

1 Credit

This course is designed for students who have completed Algebra I or Foundations of Physics and Algebra. Topics include the study of quadratic, polynomial and rational functions, inequalities and their graphs, solving equations and problems involving rational expressions, radicals, irrational and complex numbers, as well as basic probability and measures of central tendency and dispersion.

Successful completion of this course will prepare students for #353 Trigonometry and Elementary Functions, #351 Discrete Mathematics, and/or #366 Introduction to Statistics and Probability.

Prerequisite: Algebra I or Foundations of Physics and Algebra and/or department recommendation.

### 332 – Honors Algebra II

Grade 9, 10, 11

1 Credit

This course is designed for students who have demonstrated mastery of Honors Algebra I and have good problem-solving ability. Topics include the study of quadratic functions, systems of equations, matrices, polynomial and rational algebraic expressions, radicals, irrational and complex numbers, exponents, logarithms and conic sections. Topics from probability and statistics will be studied if time allows.

Prerequisite: Freshman administration placement or B+ in prior Honors math courses and/or department recommendation.

### 342 – Precalculus/Trigonometry

Grade 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

This course is designed for students who have mastered Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II. It includes a thorough study of elementary functions (polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, logistic and rational), techniques of solving equations and inequalities, graphing transformations and limits. Additional topics include sequences and series, conic sections, solving trigonometric equations, and using trig identities. Emphasis is on graphing where applicable.

Prerequisite: B or higher in Algebra II and/or department recommendation

### 344 – Honors Precalculus/Trigonometry

Grade 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

This course is designed for students who have mastered Algebra on an honors level and who have good problem-solving ability, learn quickly and enjoy challenges. It includes a full treatment of the elements of analytic geometry, trigonometry and the elementary functions, techniques of equation solving, sequences and series, vectors, polar graphs and limits. Emphasis is on graphing where applicable.

Prerequisite: B+ in Honors Algebra II and/or department recommendation.

### 353 – Trigonometry & Elementary Functions

Grade 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

This course involves a thorough study of elementary functions (polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, logistic and rational) and their graphs, techniques of solving equations and inequalities, graphing transformations and a thorough study of trigonometry. With a collection of engaging mathematical topics, it is best suited for students who may not be on a track towards Calculus. The course is intended for students not requesting Precalculus, but who are interested in obtaining additional knowledge of mathematics. Emphasis will be placed on topics that students will encounter on the SAT tests and college math placement tests.

Prerequisite: Algebra II or Foundations of Algebra II and/or department recommendation.

## 351 – Discrete Mathematics

Grade 11, 12

0.5 Credit

Discrete math is the building block of many modern applications, including computer science. In this project-based course, students will explore real-life problems that are challenging and interesting and the mathematics behind their solutions. Classic problems such as the Traveling Salesman will be explored as well as more modern problems like computer security, fair division, and information sharing (gossiping). Students will learn the math behind elections, color mapping, and population growth. Topics will include logic, combinatorics, set theory and graph theory. Students will be given the opportunity to think flexibly and creatively as they explore interesting problems cooperatively.

Prerequisite: Algebra II or Foundations of Algebra II.

## 362 – Calculus

Grade 11, 12

1 Credit

This course is designed for the student who has mastered the Precalculus course and wishes to have a background in Calculus before college. Topics include the concepts of limit, continuity, the derivative, the integral, and their applications.

Prerequisite: B in Precalculus and/or department recommendation.

## 363 – AP Calculus AB

Grade 11, 12

1 Credit

This course is designed for students who have had Honors Precalculus, who have a thorough knowledge of functions and enjoy mathematics. Students study limits and continuity of functions, derivatives and integrals along with their properties and applications as outlined by the College Board. Students are required to take the AP examination in May.

Prerequisite: B+ in Honors Precalculus and/or department recommendation.

## 370 – AP Calculus BC

Grade 11, 12

1 Credit

Calculus BC is an extension of Calculus AB. Topics include: parametric, polar, vector functions, differential equations and slope fields, polynomial approximation and infinite series, and more applications of integrals. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement examination in May.

Prerequisite: Calculus AB.

## 365 – AP Statistics

Grade 11, 12

1 Credit

This is a college level course designed for students who are prepared to work at a level above an honors high school course. This course acquaints students with major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students will frequently work on projects involving the hands-on gathering and analysis of real-world data. Ideas and computations presented in this course have immediate links and connections with actual events. Computers and calculators will allow students to focus deeply on the concepts involved in statistics. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement examination in May.

Prerequisite: B in Honors Algebra II or B+ in Precalculus. Department recommendation.

## 366 – Introduction to Statistics & Probability

Grade 11, 12

0.5 Credit

This course provides an elementary introduction to probability and statistics with real-world applications. Topics include: basic probability models; combinatorics; discrete and continuous probability distribution; measures of central tendency and dispersion. Ideal for any student who may pursue business or social science in college. Prerequisite: Algebra II or Foundations of Algebra II.

## 358H – Personal Finance

Grade 11, 12

0.5 Credit

Students learn how to navigate the financial decisions they must face and to make informed decisions related to career exploration, budgeting, banking, credit, insurance, spending, taxes, saving, investing, buying/leasing a vehicle, living independently, and inheritance. Development of financial literacy skills will provide the basis for responsible citizenship and career success. This course will prepare students to function effectively as consumers, savers, investors, entrepreneurs, and active citizens. Learning methodologies include a semester long portfolio project, life skills projects, and problem-solving exercises. (This course is also listed in the Business & Technology section.)

## 359H – Accounting

Grade 11, 12

0.5 Credit

This course prepares students who will become future workers, business majors or entrepreneurs to understand basic accounting principles that will enable them to manage a business as well as learn how to invest and make good economic decisions. Students will learn the accounting cycle of both service and merchandising businesses. Technology is integrated in this course through automated accounting software, automated working papers, and Excel spreadsheet software. Learning methodologies include interactive problem solving, projects, simulations, and readings. Students also explore current economic trends and learn investment strategies through participating in a stock market game. (This course is also listed in the Business & Technology section.)

## SCIENCE

The Science Department has deliberately shaped the science curriculum to complement the mathematics curriculum. Coursework builds sequentially from Concepts of Physics to Chemistry and then to Biology, emphasizing the ways in which the different disciplines depend on one another. Once students demonstrate a firm grasp on these fundamental areas of study, they have the opportunity to pursue whatever sparks their interest. Several upper-level elective courses - such as Principles of Engineering and Design, Criminalistics and Forensics, and Health & Medicine in the 21st Century - are offered which allow students to apply abstract principles to real-world problems.

A minimum of 3 credits in laboratory science is required for graduation.

### 411 – Concepts of Physics

Grade 9

1 Credit

This course meets the requirements of the first science course. It provides students with an understanding of the central topics of physics, including mechanics, energy transfer and conservation, etc. A strong emphasis is placed on learning the skills required for laboratory work and data collection and analysis. Application of physical principles to everyday situations is stressed, and some skills required to analyze situations mathematically are taught. Selected topics are explored in depth through lab work, research and construction.

### 412 – Honors Concepts of Physics

Grade 9

1 Credit

This course meets the requirements of the first science course. It is intended for students who have demonstrated strong abstract thinking skills and who have expressed willingness to accept the challenge of studying physics at a higher level. Students who select this course will be expected to become skillful at algebraic manipulation of data. Topics studied include those presented in 411, but the depth and pace will be more challenging.

Prerequisite: Placement is based on entrance test scores and the Administrative Committee selection process, and enrollment in Honors level mathematics.

### 403 – Foundations of Physics and Algebra

Grade 9

1 Credit in Science, 1 Credit in Mathematics

This course is a fully merged Algebra I and Concepts of Physics course. It satisfies both the science and math requirements for grade 9. Students will learn the methods of algebra through the lens of hands-on science experimentation and analysis of student-taken data. The central topics of physics are used to enhance the learning of algebra. Students will use their iPad and the TI-84+ daily, to explore mathematical and physics concepts. Placement in this course is determined by the Dean of Studies.

### 421 – Chemistry

Grade 10

1 Credit

This course explores the fine structure of matter and the nature of the changes that occur when matter and energy interact. Concepts studied include structure of the atom, chemical nomenclature, reactions, chemical equations, stoichiometry, gas laws, and acids and bases. The concepts and principles presented in class are reinforced with a variety of laboratory experiences and demonstrations.

Prerequisite: Concepts of Physics or Honors Concepts of Physics.

422 – Honors Chemistry  
Grade 10  
1 Credit

Honors Chemistry is intended for students with a special interest in, and aptitude for science. The relationship between the structure and behavior of substances is studied both qualitatively and quantitatively. Concepts studied include structure of the atom, the periodic system, chemical nomenclature, bonding theories, chemical equations, stoichiometry, and gas laws. Laboratory experiments, demonstrations, and student-driven research reinforce the concepts presented. Emphasis is placed on mathematical solutions to problems and laboratory use of experimental data.

Prerequisites: A- in Concepts of Physics or B in Honors Concepts of Physics  
A- in Algebra I, a B+ in Honors Algebra I or a B in Honors Algebra II.

431 – Biology  
Grade 11  
1 Credit

This course is designed to guide students in a study of the similarities and differences among living organisms, including concepts of structure, function, and changes that occur from a single cell to a complex organism. Topics studied include cell structure and function, energy transformation, the molecular basis of heredity, evolution, and the interdependence of organisms. Laboratory experiments are used to illustrate many of the biological principles.

Prerequisites: Concepts of Physics or Honors Concepts of Physics and Chemistry or Honors Chemistry.

432 – Honors Biology  
Grade 11  
1 Credit

This course is geared toward students who have a special interest in and aptitude for science. Cellular biology and biochemical processes form the core of this course, with emphasis on energy flow in biological systems, structure and synthesis of macromolecules, principles of genetics, and the role of natural selection in shaping biological systems. Laboratory experiences are an integral part of the course. Selected topics are explained in depth through independent research.

Prerequisites: B+ in Honors Chemistry or an A in Chemistry, with recommendation of Chemistry teacher for 2023-2024 school year. Beginning with 2024-2025 registration, Honors Chemistry will be a required prerequisite for Honors Biology.

470 Independent Science Research  
Grade 9, 10, 11, 12  
0.5 Credit (P/F)

This course is designed for students who wish to participate in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) competition, or other scientific research competition approved by the course instructor. Students will be supervised by a science faculty sponsor and be required to maintain a Research Log Book. Students must adhere to a schedule of deadlines and attend progress meetings with the faculty sponsor. All projects require students to deliver an experiment or device that meets requirements, complete the research and projects to their conclusion, and present their work at a culminating event.

Prerequisite: Department approval

### 433 – Principles of Engineering Design

Grade 10, 11, 12

0.5 Credit

This elective course is designed to allow students to develop the technical, mechanical, electrical, programming, and design skills needed to successfully design and build autonomous systems through project-based learning. This 8-week course covers a range of engineering topics and culminates in students building and programming their own

robot. Principles of Engineering Design is open to any students in grades 10, 11, 12, who are interested in exploring the fields of engineering, especially robotics.

Prerequisites: Concepts of Physics.

### 466 – AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based

Grade 11, 12

1 Credit

This course is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course. Students cultivate their understanding of physics through inquiry-based investigations as they explore these topics: kinematics; dynamics; circular motion and gravitation; energy; momentum; simple harmonic motion; torque and rotational motion. AP Physics 1 is intended for students interested in taking physics as a basis for more advanced work in the life sciences, medicine, or related areas, as well as those interested in pursuing non-science college programs that have science requirements.

Prerequisites: B in Geometry or a B- in Honors Geometry and B in Algebra 2 or B- in Honors Algebra 2. Completion of or concurrent enrollment in precalculus is recommended.

### 460 – AP Physics C: Mechanics

Grade 11, 12

1 Credit

The course is designed to be the equivalent of a first semester college physics course for scientists and engineers. It is divided into 7 units: kinematics, dynamics (Newton's laws), energy and power, momentum, rotational motion, gravitation, and oscillations. Calculus concepts are used throughout the course, and usage increases as the course progresses. Significant time and effort are required in order to be successful. This course is recommended for students who have very strong quantitative skills. Students intending to major in physics, chemistry, or engineering are encouraged to take this course.

Prerequisite: Recommended for students who have completed or are currently enrolled in AP Calculus. Also must have earned an A- in Concepts of Physics, or a B+ in Honors Concepts of Physics.

### 461 – AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism

Grade 11, 12

1 Credit

The AP Physics C full two-credit sequence (460 & 461) is designed to be equivalent to the first two semesters of the college physics courses for scientists and engineers. The Mechanics portion of the course runs in semester 1 and is divided into 7 units (see above.) The Electricity & Magnetism portion of the course runs in semester 2 and is divided into 5 units: electrostatics, electric potential and capacitance, circuits, magnetism, and inductance. Calculus concepts are used throughout the entire course. Significant time and effort are required in order to be successful. This course is recommended for students who have completed AP Calculus AB or AP Calculus AB/BC or are currently taking AP Calculus AB/BC. This course is NOT recommended for students not on the BC track. Students intending to major in physics, chemistry, or engineering are encouraged to take this course.

Prerequisite: Must be taken with course #460 and must have completed AP Calculus AB.

### 475 – Honors Chemistry II

Grade 11, 12

1 Credit

Honors Chemistry II is a rigorous course intended for students with a special interest and aptitude for science. This course will thoroughly prepare students wishing to choose a college major in either engineering, science or health profession fields. The course will focus on selected topics not covered in Honors Chemistry. Topics to be covered include water and aqueous systems, colligative properties of solutions, thermochemistry, reaction rates, equilibrium systems, acid/base theory, oxidation/reduction, electrochemistry and nuclear chemistry. Laboratory experience will be an essential part of the curriculum for each topic studied.

Prerequisites: B in Honors Chemistry, or A- in Chemistry.

### 456 – Genetics

Grade 11, 12

0.5 Credit

Curious about cloning, stem cells, genetically modified organisms? Fascinated by DNA, Darwin and genetic disorders? Genetics explores all of these topics and more. Throughout this course, students learn about and debate the influence of modern genetic science on our society. Through numerous labs, simulations, explorations and discussions, students will develop educated and well-supported opinions on the controversial issues presented by our growing ability to control heredity. If you enjoyed studying DNA and heredity in Biology, this hands-on, highly interactive course may be for you. Due to a redundancy in coursework, students enrolled in AP Biology should not request to enroll in this course.

Prerequisite: B in Biology, B- in Honors Biology.

### 459 – Health & Medicine in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Grade 11, 12

0.5 Credit

This course is a case-based study of new and interesting issues in health and medicine. Rapid changes in genetics and technology have revolutionized health care and our understanding of human development and disease treatment. Topics will include new global challenges and innovative medical approaches to diagnosis and treatment.

Prerequisite: B in Biology, B- in Honors Biology, or C in AP Biology.

### 451 – Honors Anatomy & Physiology

Grade 12

1 Credit

This life science course, designed for students interested in health careers or a life science major in college will include a detailed study of all the systems of the human body. Laboratory experimentation, seminars, presentation of student research, and dissection are integral parts of the course.

Prerequisite: B in AP Biology, B+ in Honors Biology or A- in Biology.

### 468/469 – AP Biology

Grade 11 (468I/468II) - 2 Credits

Grade 12 (469) – 1 Credit

This course is available to Juniors (2 credits) or Seniors (1 credit) who have excelled in their previous science courses. The course studies the core scientific principles, theories, and processes that govern living organisms and biological systems. A variety of laboratory investigations provide an opportunity for the design of experiments, analysis and interpretation of data, and support of a scientific claim with evidence. Both courses require significant independent study, and all AP Biology students are required to take the AP Exam.

The 2-credit class will cover all topics from Honors Biology at an Advanced Placement level.

The 1-credit class is designed for students who excelled at Honors Biology and wish for further study at an Advanced Placement level. While there is an enrollment path available for non-Honors Biology students, serious consideration and preparation need to be undertaken before AP coursework can begin.

Prerequisite: 468 A- in Honors Chemistry. 469: A- in Honors Biology or A in Biology with current Biology teacher recommendation.

### 454 – Criminalistics/Forensics

Grade 11, 12

0.5 Credit

This elective course is designed to engage the motivated student and lead them to discuss, evaluate, investigate, and interpret evidence, data, and historical information related to crime and criminal activity. The course will be rich in exploration and lab work, which will apply many disciplines of scientific study. Topics will include an introduction to Fingerprints, Physical Pattern Evidence and Evidence Collection, Ballistics, Forgery, Casts and Impressions, and Blood Analysis. Students will relate Case Studies to lab work and will record and document their findings through various assessments which may include reports, research and presentations, and data analyses. *Note: Some topics will be graphic in nature. Every effort will be made to ensure that these topics will be approached and covered in a professional and clinical manner.*

Prerequisites: Successful completion of required science coursework.

453 – Environmental Science

Grade 11, 12

1 Credit

This elective course builds on concepts covered in Biology. First, students will study aspects of ecology, including population growth, symbiotic relationships, biodiversity and trophic pyramids. Following that introduction, students will analyze the influence that humans have had on all aspects on their environment and debate solutions to humanity's most pressing environmental concerns. Topics covered include food and agriculture, urbanization, water resources, pollution, energy consumption, and climate change. Each student is required to complete a culminating project that focuses on an issue of sustainability in her own school or community.

Prerequisite: B in Biology, B- Honors Biology, or C in AP Biology.

## **WORLD & CLASSICAL LANGUAGES**

The World and Classical Languages Department realizes that if the Mount's alumnae are going to be global citizens, they must be able to communicate with and understand different cultures. The school believes that developing fluency in a second or third language is an essential way for a person to engage the world around her. Coursework in this department begins with a study of basic grammar and vocabulary, but quickly expands to emphasize the ways in which the study of languages can facilitate interdisciplinary work and interculturality. Additionally, the analysis of texts from times and cultures other than our own develops a sense of appreciation for and interconnectivity with all people, which is so critical to life in modern society.

A minimum of 3 consecutive credits in a single language is required for graduation.

511 – French I  
Grade 9, 10, 11, 12  
1 Credit

This course is designed to enable the student to learn elementary conversation, grammar, and vocabulary, to read and to write simple French passages and to become acquainted with various Francophone cultures.

521 – French II  
Grade 9, 10, 11, 12  
1 Credit

This course is a continuation of French I. Elementary French conversation, grammar and vocabulary are continued. Greater stress is given to reading and writing simple French passages. The introduction to aspects of French culture continues.

Prerequisite: French I

531 – French III  
Grade 9, 10, 11, 12  
1 Credit

This course is designed to promote continued progress in the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Supplementary readings of both a cultural and literary nature are introduced.

Prerequisite: French II

532 – Honors French III  
Grade 10, 11, 12  
1 Credit

This course is designed to promote continued progress in the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Supplementary readings of both a cultural and literary nature are introduced. There will be a greater emphasis on proficiency in speaking and writing correct grammatical patterns.

Prerequisite: A- in French II.

542/551 – Honors French IV/AP French: Language

Grade 11, 12

1 Credit

This course is designed to parallel the skill development of a third-year college French course in advanced composition and conversation. The course therefore focuses on mastery of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills and not on the content of specific texts. Students who enroll in this course should demonstrate a good command of the grammar and considerable competence in oral comprehension, speaking, reading and writing. AP test is required for students taking 551.

Prerequisite: Honors French IV: A-in French III, B+ in Honors French III. AP French Language: A- in Honors French III.

513 – Spanish I

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

This course is designed to acquire Spanish language through Comprehensible Input. Class time will be spent using Spanish to talk about interesting and important things in our lives and in the world. Students will spend a great deal of time both listening to and reading in Spanish. Students will also begin to write in Spanish

523 – Spanish II

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

This course is designed as a continuation of Spanish I. It further emphasizes the four basic skills of speaking, reading, listening and writing in Spanish. The students will continue to use the Spanish language to talk about interesting things in our lives and in the world. Students will continue to acquire Spanish language through Comprehensible Input.

Prerequisite: Spanish I.

533 – Spanish III

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

This course is designed as a continuation of Spanish II. It further emphasizes the four basic skills of speaking, reading, listening and writing in Spanish. The students will continue to use the Spanish language to talk about interesting things in our lives and in the world. Students will continue to acquire Spanish language through Comprehensible Input.

Prerequisite: Spanish II.

534 – Honors Spanish III

Grade 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

Students will continue to acquire Spanish language through Comprehensible Input. The course will promote continued progress in the four basic skills of speaking, reading, listening and writing. There will be greater emphasis on the use of correct grammatical patterns when using the language. Students will continue to use the Spanish language to talk about interesting things in our lives and in the world.

Prerequisite: A- in Spanish II.

538 – Spanish IV  
Grade 10, 11, 12  
1 Credit

This course is designed as a continuation of Spanish III. It further emphasizes the four basic skills of speaking, reading, listening and writing in Spanish. The students will continue to use the Spanish language to talk about interesting things in our lives and in the world. Students will continue to acquire Spanish language through Comprehensible Input.

Prerequisite: B+ in Spanish III or B in Honors Spanish III.

544 – Honors Spanish IV  
Grade 11, 12  
1 Credit

This course is designed as a continuation of Honors Spanish III. Students will continue to acquire Spanish language through Comprehensible Input. The course will promote continued progress in the four basic skills of speaking, reading, listening and writing. There will be greater emphasis on the use of correct grammatical patterns when using the language. Students will continue to use the Spanish language to talk about interesting things in our lives and in the world.

Prerequisite: A- in Honors Spanish III.

553 – AP Spanish: Language  
Grade 12  
1 Credit

This course is designed to parallel the skill development of a third-year college Spanish course in advanced composition and conversation. The class therefore focuses on the mastery of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Students who enroll in this course should already have a good command of Spanish grammar and considerable competence in oral comprehension, speaking, reading and writing. AP test is required.

Prerequisite: A- in Honors Spanish IV.

515 – Latin I  
Grade 9, 10, 11, 12  
1 Credit

This course is designed to develop a student's ability to read and appreciate the great works of Latin literature. Students will learn Latin vocabulary, forms and syntax and will be introduced to Roman culture by reading selections from a wide variety of ancient authors.

525 – Latin II  
Grade 9, 10, 11, 12  
1 Credit

This course is designed as a continuation of Latin I. Students acquire additional vocabulary, forms and the more advanced syntax needed to read and appreciate the writings and culture of ancient Rome. The prose of Caesar, Cicero, and Seneca the Younger will be emphasized.

Prerequisite: Latin I.

535/536 – Latin III/Honors Latin III  
Grade 10, 11, 12  
1 Credit

This course is designed to develop competence and enjoyment in reading Latin prose and poetry. Students will be introduced to Roman oratory by reading Cicero's speech in defense of the poet Archias, *Pro Archia Poeta Oratio*. In addition to helping them hone their understanding of Latin forms and syntax, this speech will give the students an inside look into the history and politics of Cicero's time. Selected excerpts from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* will provide an introduction to Latin poetry. During this segment of the course, the students will learn the basics of meter and scanning and how the poets use literary devices to enhance the meaning of their text.

Prerequisite for 535: Latin II. Prerequisite for 536: B+ in Latin II.

545/555 – Honors/AP Latin: Vergil and Caesar  
Grade 11, 12  
1 Credit

This course is designed to parallel the skill development of a third-year college Latin course. Its focus, therefore, is on reading, translating, understanding, analyzing and interpreting Vergil's *Aeneid* and Caesar's *Gallic War* in the original. Extensive attention is given to understanding the cultural, social and political context of these works as well as the authors' use of literary techniques. Students who enroll in this course should demonstrate a good command of Latin syntax and considerable competence in writing. AP test is required for students taking 555.

Prerequisite: Honors Latin IV: B+ in Latin III or B in Honors Latin III. AP Latin: B+ in Honors Latin III.

## FINE ARTS

Through the study and practice of visual art, music and theatre, students are encouraged to broaden their cultural view while strengthening their sense of self. With an emphasis on the creative process, the Fine Arts curriculum sharpens students' problem-solving abilities, abstract thinking, and technical skills. The Mount believes that study of the Fine Arts is essential in educating the whole person, as it builds empathy, open-mindedness and compassion for the "dear neighbor."

A minimum of 1 credit of Fine Arts is required for graduation.

622 – Communications/Speech  
Grade 10 – Required  
(Rotation) 0.25 Credit

This class focuses on developing the student's active listening skills as well as improving upon her oral and written skills. Students write and deliver an extemporaneous speech using visual aids. Other work includes practical exercises to build confidence and develop breath and voice power. This course is also the prerequisite for Communications/Speech II: an elective course suggested for any student who wants to become proficient in public speaking.

624 – Creating Digital Music  
Grade 10 – Optional (Rotation)  
0.25 Credit

Students will use iPad music apps and other digital tools to create compositions in several musical styles. Through hands-on application, students will explore the fundamentals of musical structure and form. Topics will include basic music theory, critical listening and collaborative creation. No prior musical experience is necessary for enrollment in this course.

626 – Art of Human  
Expression Grade 10 –  
Optional (Rotation) 0.25 Credit

This course is recommended to students who have an interest in being a vital contributor to the creation, design, and publication of the Mount's yearbook, the Sheaf. In this course, students will learn the basic principles of yearbook production and develop skills including page design, caption writing, publishing techniques, editing, photography, time management, and teamwork. Students will have the opportunity to use their creative talents in developing a theme and cover design and learning page layout techniques. Seniors and Juniors who are interested in leadership positions on the yearbook staff are strongly encouraged to take this course.

# MUSIC

631 – Choral Class I  
Grade 9, 10, 11, 12  
1 Credit

No prior choral work is necessary to take this course. It is designed to develop choral singing techniques, blending, phrasing, a cappella and other vocal techniques of performing in a group. It also offers basic techniques in voice production, with emphasis on breathing, intonation and phrasing. Brief instruction in music theory, sight singing and history is also included. The students in the class perform for the Christmas and Spring concerts. Students are required to attend several after school rehearsals for concerts, liturgies and special school functions. Students are required to sing for the graduation liturgy if class is scheduled in the Spring semester. Students participating in spring athletics may register for this course with instructor permission.

Prerequisite: Audition or permission from instructor.

632 – Choral Class II  
633 – Choral Class III  
634 – Choral Class IV  
Grade 10, 11, 12  
1 Credit

Choral may continually be taken and the level will change as needed. This course is designed for any student who has completed Choral Class I and wishes to develop vocal techniques and sight-singing skills at the next level. Students will participate in the Christmas and Spring concerts, and special functions throughout the year. The students in the class are required to attend several after school rehearsals for concerts and special school functions. Students are required to sing for the graduation liturgy. Students participating in spring athletics may register for this course with instructor permission.

Prerequisite: Choral I.

644 – Independent Voice Practicum  
Voice Scholarship Only  
0.25 Credit

This is a required course for all four years. Students will receive credit on their duties, performances and rehearsal time given to the Mount community and Music department. Students will be assessed on their rehearsal and performance preparedness, attitude, cooperation and availability to the department. This includes rehearsals, performances, concerts, shows, liturgies and special school functions.

645 – Independent Piano Practicum  
Piano Scholarship Only  
0.5 Credit

This course is required for all four years. Students will receive credit on their duties, performances and rehearsal time given to the Mount community and Music department. Students will be assessed on their rehearsal and performance preparedness, attitude, cooperation and availability to the department. This includes rehearsals, performances, concerts, shows, and special school functions.

690 – Independent Instrumental Practicum  
Instrumental Scholarship Only  
0.25 Credit

This course is required for all four years. Students will receive credit on their duties, performances and rehearsal time given to the Mount community and Music department. Students will be assessed on their rehearsal and performance preparedness, attitude, cooperation and availability to the department. This includes rehearsals, performances, concerts, shows, and special school functions.

655-I – Instrumental Ensemble: Strings, Brass, Woodwinds and Percussion  
656-II  
657-III  
658-IV  
Grade 9, 10, 11, 12  
1 Credit

This instrumental ensemble is a performing group that participates in the Christmas and Spring concerts. The course includes basic techniques in reading music, music theory, transposition, arranging music for the group. Students become acquainted with a variety of music through the literature that they play.

Prerequisites: Students should already play and own an instrument. Members must meet after school for several rehearsals prior to performances.

659 – Instrumental Performance  
Grade 9, 10, 11, 12  
0.5 Credit (Full year)

Orchestra practice is arranged for members of the Instrumental Ensemble. It is offered on a pass-fail basis. Rehearsals take place outside of the school day. Students who wish to perform in the Orchestra, Pit Orchestra or Jazz Ensemble should register for this course.

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

647 – Honors Music Theory  
Grade 10, 11, 12  
1 Credit

This course will be an introduction to the fundamentals of music theory and analysis. Several aspects of musicianship will be covered including aural, sight-singing, written/compositional, and analytical skills. While the reading and writing of musical notation will be our first and primary focus, as the course progresses, we will proceed to higher level musical tasks such as dictation (rhythmic, melodic and harmonic), keyboard harmony and composition. After taking this course, a student will be sufficiently prepared to enroll in the AP Music Theory course.

Prerequisite: Basic music reading skills and interview with the department chairperson or music instructor.

649 – AP Music Theory  
Grade 11, 12  
1 Credit

The goal of the Advanced Placement course in Music Theory is to develop a student's ability to recognize, understand and describe the basic materials and processes of music that are heard or presented in a score. The development of fundamental skills of musicianship such as aural and written analysis, sight-singing, and composition will be of central importance to the course. We will discuss music in a wide variety of styles, but our primary focus will be the discussion of Western tonal music. Students in this course will develop and integrate the basic skills learned in Honors Music Theory in order to come to a deep understanding of the inner workings of music as an expressive tool and as an art form.

Prerequisite: Honors Music Theory and/or instructor permission. Student must be able to read fluently in the treble and bass clefs, and have instrumental or vocal proficiency. Some piano/keyboarding skills will be helpful but are not required.

625 – History of Rock and Roll  
Grade 10, 11, 12  
0.5 Credit

Students will explore American popular music, specifically focusing on mainstream popular music, country and western, rhythm & blues, and rock & roll. Special attention will be paid to examining how this music affected American culture, as well as how American culture affected the music. This course will include listening examples, song analysis, important historical events and the study of artists that made an impact on both music and culture.

## THEATER & COMMUNICATIONS

642 – Communications/Speech II  
Grade 11, 12  
0.5 Credit

This eight-week course is for the student who wants to become proficient in public speaking while also building their self-confidence. Major assignments include a manuscript speech, a mock college admissions/internship interview, and a Ted Talk. Other work includes voice and relaxation exercises. Prerequisite: Communications/Speech I.

Prerequisite: Communications/Speech I.

662 – American Musical Theater  
Grade 10, 11, 12  
0.5 Credit

This performance-based course will explore components of musical theater through experiential learning. Students will be required to sing, dance, act, compose, choreograph, and will take on roles such as director, performer, stage crew, writer, and composer. The quarter will conclude with a final performance of a musical created by the class and performed for other members of the Mount community.

## 153 – Print & Broadcast Journalism

Grade 10, 11, 12

0.5 Credit

Elective only – does not fulfill senior requirement

This course is recommended to students who have an interest in print, online, or broadcast journalism and would like to participate in either *The Campanile* or our television news station, WMSJ. The course will begin by introducing students to journalistic writing and acquaint them with elements of multimedia production. Students will then have the opportunity to acquire and develop broadcasting skills by working in an on-site TV studio set. Students will develop and expand their skills in journalism, communication, editing, technical writing, script writing, and broadcasting.

Prerequisite: Department recommendation.

## VISUAL ARTS

### 671 – Design Basics

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12

1 Credit

This course is designed to investigate the basic elements and principles of design. Concepts are applied to projects through the use of various mediums and with relationship to artists and art history.

Prerequisite: An appreciation for art. This course is a prerequisite for all other studio art classes.

### 672 – 3-D Design

Grade 10, 11, 12

0.5 Credit

This course applies the elements and principles learned in Design Basics to crafting three-dimensional forms. A range of three-dimensional materials are explored with a special focus on hand-building ceramic techniques.

Prerequisite: Design Basics.

### 675 – Graphic Design: Prints & Posters

Grade 10, 11, 12

0.5 Credit

This course focuses on graphic design, applying the elements and principles of art along with design theory to the creation of digital illustration, prints and posters. Students will learn color theory as it relates to digital illustration. Students will expand their knowledge of Adobe Illustrator to learn the many capabilities for digital art.

Prerequisite: Design Basics.

### 676 – Drawing

Grade 10, 11, 12

0.5 Credit

This course builds on techniques introduced in Design Basics and more fully applies the elements and principles of art to a variety of drawing tools. Students are challenged to apply concepts to their projects in addition to becoming proficient in several mark making techniques. There is a strong emphasis on observational drawing skills and students will explore still life, portraiture, and abstract subject matter among others.

Prerequisite: Design Basics.

677 – Painting  
Grade 10, 11, 12  
0.5 Credit

This course builds on techniques introduced in Design Basics and more fully applies the elements and principles of art to a variety of painting methods. Students are challenged to apply concepts to their projects in addition to becoming proficient in several paint application techniques. Color theory as it applies to painting is explored and there is a strong emphasis on observational skills. Students will explore the different paint media and a range of subject matter.

Prerequisites: Design Basics required, Drawing preferred

678 – 3-D Design II  
Grade 11, 12  
0.5 Credit

This course is designed to refine hand-building techniques in clay and to incorporate wheel-thrown and extruded forms. Students are expected to apply concepts to projects in addition to elevating their sculpting techniques. While there is an emphasis on ceramics, other sculpting materials such as plaster, papier-mâché and found objects are encouraged.

Prerequisites: Design Basics, 3-D Design.

682 – Digital Photography  
Grade 10, 11, 12  
0.5 Credit

This course offers an introduction to digital photography using a variety of point and shoot digital cameras along with camera phones. This course builds the foundation for visual literacy regarding both form and content of photographic images. The elements and principles of design as they relate to photographic composition are emphasized along with application of color theory. Digital editing techniques are also emphasized through Adobe Photoshop. (Personal digital camera recommended.)

Prerequisites: Design Basics.

679/680 – Advanced Drawing & Painting  
Grade 11, 12  
0.5 Credit

Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Cooperative Studio Program between PAFA & Philadelphia High Schools. Modeled on PAFA's own historic curriculum and high standards, advanced level classes include still-life drawing and painting in oil, portrait drawing and painting, urban landscape, sculpture, life drawing and anatomy. Skill development, awareness of art history and aesthetics, discipline and portfolio development are hallmarks of the curriculum. One half credit is given from September to January and an additional half credit is given from January to June.

Prerequisites: Teacher approval.

687/688 – Honors Independent Art  
Grade 11, 12  
0.5 Credit (per course)

This course is designed for the exceptional student whose creative ability and work habits enable her to plan and pursue an individual artistic involvement. Students must consult with the arts faculty, provide a portfolio for review and a proposal of their intended curriculum previous to rostering.

Prerequisite: Teacher approval.

692 – AP Art History  
Grade 11, 12  
1 Credit

AP Art History is designed to foster a comprehensive understanding of the history of art from a global perspective through the investigation of diverse artistic traditions of culture from prehistory to the present. Students learn and apply skills of visual, contextual, and comparative analysis to engage with a variety of art forms, constructing an understanding of individual works and inter-connections of art making processes and products throughout history.

Prerequisites: Teacher approval.

693 – Art for Social Change  
Grade 11, 12  
0.5 Credit

This course is for students who have an interest in visual art and its impact on social and political change. Through discussion, examination and exploration, students will learn how artists, artistic movements and various media contribute to turning cultural tides. This non-studio course fosters the development of abstract thinking and critical reflection and requires active participation in class discussions.

699 – AP Studio Art  
Grade 11, 12  
1 Credit

AP Studio Art is designed for art students who are motivated learners and who are serious about developing their ability to communicate in visual form. This course is not based on a written exam; instead, students submit a portfolio of their creative work at the end of the academic term to attempt to earn college credit. Formal visual concerns, technical skills, and conceptual issues will be addressed through creative means in both teacher-directed assignments and student-directed projects. Submission of a portfolio to the College Board in May is required.

Prerequisites: Demonstrated proficiency in desired area of focus (ex. Painting, drawing, sculpture, or digital art), submission of a portfolio to the arts faculty and teacher approval.

681 – Portfolio  
Grade 12  
0.5 Credit

This course is designed for students who are seriously considering an art career and intend on submitting a portfolio to their chosen college. Projects extend all media previously experienced toward compositional mastery and will focus on portfolio requirements based on college standards.

Prerequisite: Design Basics, Teacher approval

## BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

The Mount recognizes that in order for students to become agents of change in society, it is imperative that they develop technological skill and an entrepreneurial spirit. Therefore, the course offerings through the Business & Technology Department focus on building essential literacy in computer applications as well as financial and business acumen. Required technology courses and electives for programming in various computer languages are offered, along with AP Computer Science Principles, AP Computer Science A, and AP Microeconomics. Additionally, students can choose from electives such as Exploring Entrepreneurship and Multimedia Design for Websites.

A minimum of one-half credit in Business & Technology is required for graduation. This can be fulfilled through successful completion of *either* Computer Systems and Applications or AP Computer Science Principles.

A minimum of 0.75 credits in Computer Literacy is required for graduation.

712 – Exploring Technology  
Grade 9 Required  
(Rotation) 0.25 Credit

After a review of finding and citing sources in MLA formatting, freshmen at the Mount will learn to conduct research effectively by honing search skills for relevant sources. File management, word processing, and digital citizenship themes will be reviewed and library skills will be practiced. Students will then learn some computer history and research famous tech people as well as be introduced to basic computer concepts and coding to help develop critical thinking skills.

721 – Computer Systems and Applications  
Grade 10, 11, 12  
0.5 Credit

This course is designed to introduce students to office application software. Students will learn word processing, database, spreadsheet, and presentation graphics. Letter formats, personal finance, a college information search and professional presentation skills will be integrated through various hands-on projects. This course is required for all Mount students unless they take AP Computer Science Principles.

724 – Introduction to Java Programming  
Grade 11, 12  
0.5 Credit

*This is an online course that will be offered during the summer and completed early August.* This course introduces Java programming, which is the language used in Robotics. Students will learn an object-oriented approach to programming with an emphasis on fundamental concepts including variables, conditional control structures, loops, strings, methods, and more. Exercises emphasize code design, implementation, testing, and debugging. Students will learn through video demonstration and lots of hands-on practice.

726 – AP Computer Science Principles  
Grade 11, 12  
1 Credit

Students will learn about the creative aspects of programming including abstractions, algorithms, big data, understanding how the Internet works, issues of cyber security and the global impact of computing. Using problem solving, critical thinking, and group communication skills, students will work together to solve problems and generate projects using a current programming language. One Performance Task, in a programming language, will be created and submitted to College Board as part of the required AP assessment for this course.

### 727 – Multimedia Design for Websites

Grade 11, 12

0.5 Credit

This elective teaches basic HTML, sound and movie-editing as well as image editing. Elements of good multimedia design will be studied. Students will create a website and then add multimedia elements as the course progresses.

### 731 – AP Computer Science A

Grade 11, 12

1 Credit

AP Computer Science A introduces students to computer science through programming. Fundamental topics in this course include the design of solutions to problems, the use of data structures to organize large sets of data, the development and implementation of algorithms to process data and discover new information, the analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing systems. The course emphasizes object-oriented programming and design using the Java programming language. Students in this course are expected to independently spend 8-10 hours on programming lessons per week. Students are required to take the AP exam.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Intro to Java Programming (#724) offered online in the summer.

### 752 – Introduction to Business Marketing

Grade 11, 12

0.5 Credit

This survey course will introduce students to the concepts of Marketing. Students will examine risks and challenges marketers face to establish a competitive edge. Study will cover the free enterprise system, marketing foundations and functions with emphasis on marketing strategy, consumer behavior, market research, product/service management, pricing, distribution, and promotion. Students will apply the theory learned by participating in a variety of marketing projects and will develop marketing plans for new products. Marketing metrics will be used throughout the course to assess the impact of marketing strategies.

### 770 – Exploring Entrepreneurship

Grade 11, 12

0.5 Credit

This course focuses on recognizing a business opportunity, starting, operating and maintaining a business. Students will develop skills associated with critical thinking, problem solving, and innovation. There is an integration of concepts from accounting, marketing, business management, business law, and economics that will enable the student to develop a business plan. The strength of this course is that it combines theory with practice, providing students the opportunity to test theories and strategies learned in the classroom by creating real business plans, working on projects and gaining insights from leaders in the entrepreneurial business community.

### 358H – Personal Finance

Grade 11, 12

0.5 Credit

Students learn how to navigate the financial decisions they must face and to make informed decisions related to budgeting, banking, credit, insurance, spending, taxes, saving, and buying/leasing a vehicle. Development of financial literacy skills will provide the basis for responsible citizenship and career success. This course will prepare students to function effectively as consumers, savers, investors, entrepreneurs and active citizens. Learning methodologies include: life skills projects, and problem-solving exercises. (This course is also listed in the Mathematics section.)

### 359H – Accounting

Grade 11, 12

0.5 Credit

This course is a study of accounting principles and their applications. Instruction and practice will be based on the use of common accounting forms, such as: the general journal, general ledger, and financial statements. The accounting cycle will be completed. Technology is integrated in this course through automated accounting software, automated working papers, and Excel spreadsheet software. Learning methodologies include: interactive problem solving, projects, simulations, and readings. Students also explore current economic trends and learn investment strategies through participating in a stock market game. (This course is also listed in the Mathematics

### 758 - AP Microeconomics

Grades 11, 12

1 Credit

Why do we make certain buying decisions and how do they affect the economy? This AP course will provide a basic understanding of the principles of microeconomics. At its core, the study of economics deals with the choices and decisions we make to manage the resources available to us. Microeconomics is the branch of economics that pertains to decisions made at the individual level, such as the choices individual consumers and companies make after evaluating resources, costs, and tradeoffs. Students will cultivate their understanding of the principles that apply to the functions of individual economic decision-makers by using principles and models to describe economic situations and predict and explain outcomes with graphs, charts, and data as they explore concepts like scarcity and markets; costs, benefits, and marginal analysis; production choices and behavior; and market inefficiency and public policy. Also, explore how these formal principles and concepts apply to real-world issues.

Prerequisite: Algebra II

# HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Through participation in courses offered by the Health and Physical Education Department, students learn that a holistic education values the development of the body as well as the mind. In physical education courses, students are taught values of leadership, loyalty and sportsmanship. Students discover opportunities for personal growth that transfer into every aspect of life.

A minimum of 1.25 credits of Health and Physical Education is required for graduation.

810 – Health

Grade 9 – Required (Rotation)

0.25 Credit

This course is designed to introduce various aspects of health including nutrition, physical fitness, alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse, mental and social health, as well as a basic overview of the systems of the body.

811 – Physical Education

Grade 9 – Required (Rotation)

0.25 Credit

This course is designed to teach basic rules and skills of individual and team sports. Competitive and cooperative games and activities will be presented. Fitness activities will be introduced. Focus is placed on participation, sportsmanship, and cooperation. A uniform is required which may be purchased through the MSJA bookstore.

821 – Physical Education/Health

Grade 10 – Required (Rotation)

0.25 Credit

This course will emphasize team sports and fitness activities with a focus on effort, participation, and sportsmanship. The Health curriculum will explore the study of the reproductive system, reproductive health and building healthy relationships

832 – Physical Education: Sports

Grade 11, 12

0.25 Credit

This PE exemption is given to any school athlete who continues to play a sport, varsity or junior varsity, for the school in her junior and senior years. The individual athlete is exempt from formal PE due to the hours devoted to the school team.

833 – Physical Education: Independent

Grade 11, 12

This alternative to in-school PE is offered to any junior or senior who is a member of an outside athletic organization or fitness club. This course requirement is 25 dates of participation with a sports team, group exercise class, personal training session, or visits to a fitness center/gym. Sessions should be a minimum of 30 minutes of activity.

## **COUNSELING**

864 – Founders Forum

First Year Students – Required (online)

0.25 Credit

This course is designed to aid in the successful transition of students into the Mount community through discussion and activities geared to assist students in becoming more effective individuals. Students will explore the Mount Mission, define a personal mission statement and goals, and develop communication, interpersonal, self-reflection, and time-management skills. Students will also be introduced to Canvas, our Learning Management System, and PowerSchool, our Student Information System.

862 – College & Career Exploration

Grade 10 – Required (Rotation)

0.25 Credit

This course is designed to assist students in acquiring skills for use in exploring personal values, setting individual goals and gathering information to help make satisfying college and career choices. Students are introduced to the Naviance computer program, ways to handle stress, and tips on organization.

## **DIOCESAN SCHOLARS**

900's College Courses

When offered by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, nominated students may apply to the Diocesan Scholars Program. This involves submission of grades, SAT scores, extracurricular activities and an interview with the administrative team. Selected students' credentials are then submitted to the Diocesan committee for final approval. Students attend classes during the third block of school at a neighboring college. Courses are given AP weight (college equivalent) for GPA's. Each class is given 1 credit and carries AP weight. Students who participate in this program will be allowed to register for a maximum of two AP courses at the Mount. Class size is limited.



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MOUNT

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH ACADEMY

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