



SAINT AGNES SCHOOL

K-12 Curriculum Overview & High School Course Catalogue

The 2023-2024 Academic Year

Saint Agnes School (Pre-12)
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St. Paul, Minnesota 55103
www.SaintAgnesSchool.org



All wisdom comes from the Lord and is with him forever. The sand of the sea, the drops of rain, and the days of eternity ~ who can count them? The height of heaven, the breadth of the earth, the abyss, and wisdom ~ who can search them out? Wisdom was created before all things, and prudent understanding from eternity.

The root of wisdom ~ to whom has it been revealed? Her clever devices ~ who knows them?

There is One who is wise, greatly to be feared, sitting upon his throne. The Lord himself created wisdom; he saw her and apportioned her, he poured her out upon all his works. She dwells with all flesh according to his gift, and he supplied her to those who love him.

Sirach 1:1-8

As it cultivates a sense of awe and wonder, Saint Agnes School, confident that the universe is intelligible and that there is a truth of things, encourages its students to ask questions, knowing that the Tradition can bear critical scrutiny. The faculty, staff and students of Saint Agnes School affirm that there is no contradiction between faith and reason. Even if the pursuit of truth is sometimes arduous, it is the collaborative task of the educator and the student to uncover and make connections between divine revelation and secular learning. A program of liberal arts in the classical tradition is designed to help our students to grasp and to communicate truth. The primary means to this end is the acquisition of basic knowledge (*grammar*), often by memorization; the mastery of the art of sound reasoning (*logic*); and the mastery of the art of discourse (*rhetoric*), the effective expression of ideas in both the written and spoken word. Focusing on the intellectual tradition of Western Civilization, Saint Agnes School aims to provide our students with an integrated study of the Humanities, Theology, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, the Fine Arts, and Physical Education.

From the section on “Reason” in *The Educational Philosophy of Saint Agnes School*

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OUR MISSION

Saint Agnes School

Founded in 1888 – over 135 Years of Excellence

Our Motto

Forming Catholic Hearts & Minds in Faith, Reason, & Virtue

Our Mission

Saint Agnes School is an award-winning and nationally recognized co-ed, K-12 school rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition and the sacramental life. From the educational philosophy and curriculum to the cultural and aesthetic environment, Saint Agnes is built upon a commitment to Christ and His Church. Our school seeks to instill in students a desire to know, love and serve God in this life and the next. We achieve this by uniting the pursuits of both faith and reason: providing a Catholic education grounded in a challenging, integrated liberal arts curriculum coupled with excellence in fine arts, service and athletic competition. Saint Agnes serves families throughout the Archdiocese and supports parents in their role as primary educators of their children.

Our Curriculum

Saint Agnes School offers a challenging, integrated liberal arts program that prepares students for college, life and beyond. The curriculum underlines the unity of faith and reason and seeks to form students into confident, intelligent and faithful young adults. Rooted in the tradition of Catholic education, the curriculum is broken down into the divisions of Grammar (K-6), Logic (7-8) and Rhetoric (9-12) focusing on religion/theology, literature, history, philosophy, mathematics, science, fine arts and foreign language study. The educational model emphasizes the Virtues, the Catholic intellectual tradition and their origins in the Greco-Roman world.

National Recognition

Saint Agnes is a nationally recognized school of excellence by the Cardinal Newman Society for academic achievement, discipleship/formation, and an intentional Catholic identity that aims to unify faith and reason (through 2023). The school has been awarded among the Top 50 Catholic High Schools in the U.S. two consecutive times (2012 and 2014) prior to CNS expanding the award beyond 50 schools.

Accreditation

Saint Agnes School is fully accredited by Cognia (formerly Advanc-ED/North Central Association Commission on Accreditation & School Improvement).

Membership

Saint Agnes School is an active member of The Institute for Catholic Liberal Education (ICLE), ClassicalU (Classical Academic Press – teacher formation), Minndependent (independent private schools of MN, formerly MISF), and the National Association of Private, Catholic, & Independent Schools (NAPCIS).

Dual-Enrollment through University of Mary, Bismarck, ND

Saint Agnes School has partnered with the UMary to provide students with ample opportunities to earn college credits while in high school on our campus. By hiring teachers with advanced degrees in their teaching field, we are able to offer college credit for over 20 courses, awarding 3 college credits per class through a nationally accredited dual-enrollment program. See page 12 for more details.

OVERVIEW OF ATHLETICS & CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

High School Sports		Grade School / Jr. High Sports	
<i>Boys</i> Baseball Basketball Football Hockey Soccer Track Wrestling	<i>Girls</i> Basketball Cheerleading Hockey Soccer Softball Swimming/Diving Track Volleyball	<i>Boys</i> Baseball Basketball Football Wrestling <i>Potential track and soccer opportunities at the high school level</i>	<i>Girls</i> Basketball Softball Volleyball <i>Potential track and soccer opportunities at the high school level</i>

Concert Band – Band uses composition/improvisation, performance, and music appreciation to help students grow into independent musicians. This program is open to students in grades 7-12. Outside playing opportunities include the Aggie Pep Band, accompanying at Mass, playing in the pit orchestra and a small jazz combo.

Concert Chorale – High school choirs are open to students in grades 9-12 who pass an audition. The Concert Chorale sings for the weekly school Mass and is known throughout the state as one of the best high school choirs. The Madrigal Singers, a smaller, select ensemble, perform for special events including weddings and Christmas caroling. They must be current members of the Concert Chorale. The Parish Children's Choir welcomes all children from the grade school and the parish who are between the ages of 9 and 15 with unchanged voices. They sing once per month at the 8:30 AM Sunday Mass.

Creative Writing Club - The Creative Writing Club meets regularly to compose works together and annually produces a publication of student prose, poetry, and visual art.

Drama Club – The Drama Club provides opportunities for students to develop their talents in the theater arts. The club produces an annual one-act play which is performed in January.

Engineering Club – Students learn to work as part of a team, build and program a Lego robot, and solve design challenges. Past groups have worked Future City, NASA, Purple Comet International Math, and IMA Math Challenges and gone on field trips to learn about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) areas.

Liturgical Ministry – Liturgical Ministry offers students the chance to serve in the rich traditions of the Catholic Church and to offer glory to God. Young men serve as lectors, altar servers, and ushers.

Mock Trial – Mock Trial is a competition-based program which affords students the opportunity to learn about the legal system and to develop public speaking skills through preparing arguments to both prosecute and defend a hypothetical civil or criminal trial.

National Honor Society (NHS) – The National Honor Society is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to honor those students who demonstrate excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

Prayer Group – The prayer group meets regularly before school to pray the Liturgy of the Hours. They pray for intentions among the student body and cultivate relationships around faith and prayer.

Pro-Life Club – The Pro-Life Club’s mission is to defend life from conception until natural death. Activities include praying for the unborn at Mass and Planned Parenthood clinics, helping pack food for Feed My Starving Children, visiting nursing homes, knitting baby hats, and hosting Pro-Life Week.

Quiz Bowl – The Quiz Bowl Team offers students in grades 9-12 the chance to make cross-curricular connections with the knowledge they have learned inside and outside of school. Students are grouped into teams of four and participate in friendly competition against area schools. Additionally, four specially selected eighth graders compete at an archdiocesan tournament held annually at the University of St. Thomas.

The Troops of St. George – We are a Catholic apostolate for Catholic men and their sons. We are Catholic first above all else. Our campouts feature the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the sacrament of Confession, and time-honored Catholic devotions. We are not interested in arts and crafts or meetings for the sake of meetings. Rather, we’re interested in meeting the challenges of being a godly and Christian man for our wives, children, grandchildren, and culture. We want our sons to become true men infused with virtue, decisiveness, and integrity.

Service Club – The Service Club’s mission is to encourage all high school students to become involved with the missionary spirit of the Church through prayer and outreach projects. These projects include the bi-annual Red Cross Blood Drive, and collecting food for the annual Thanksgiving and Christmas food drives. Traditional virtues of personal responsibility, moral courage, cooperation, sacrifice, and social justice are emphasized.

Spanish Club – Saint Agnes Spanish Club provides an environment for students in the high school to explore the language and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Students meet once a month and organize activities such as making guacamole, tortillas and salsa, craft making, learning to salsa dance, and watching videos.

Spring Musical – The Saint Agnes Spring Musical offers students who love to sing, dance, and act the opportunity to perform. It is open to all students in grades 2-12 and is highly regarded as one of the best productions in the area.

Students Ambassadors – High school students assist our Admissions Director by speaking to prospective students on grade school visits, hosting student visitors during the school day, and conducting tours and/or presenting testimonials during Saint Agnes Open Houses.

Student Council – Students in grades 9-12 have an opportunity to represent and serve the student body and school community by participating on Student Council. Student Council members will organize and assist with Fall Orientation, Homecoming week, school dances, and various spirit events that will help bring together both the high school and parish communities.

Yearbook – The Yearbook staff works hard year-round to create a “snapshot in time” for others to keep as a remembrance of their high school years. Being on staff requires dedication, time, and creativity. Staff members are committed to taking pictures and providing commentary to keep high school memories alive.

CURRICULUM MAP: LOWER SCHOOL (Grades K-6)

*The K-6 curriculum is a highly integrated program of study, engaging students in a dynamic way.
Each year the program offers disciplined study in the following areas:*

	K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Religion	Spirit of Truth curriculum from Sophia Institute						
Virtue Formation	Education in Virtue curriculum from the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist						
English <small>Language Arts: Reading/Comprehension, Spelling/Vocabulary, Grammar/Usage, Handwriting, Writing/Composition</small>	Superkids Reading/Language Arts Program Shared Inquiry for reading comprehension English Grammar & Usage: Shurley Grammar			Junior Great Books Series: The Great Books Foundation Short Novels (See Reading List below) Shared Inquiry discussions for reading comprehension English Grammar & Usage: Shurley Grammar Spelling & Vocabulary: All About Spelling (3 & 4), Classical Roots (5), Growing Your Vocabulary (6)			
History & Geography	Introduction to History & Geography	Egypt & Mesopotamia	Ancient Greece	Ancient Rome	Middle Ages & Renaissance	American History	World History
Mathematics	Saxon Mathematics Program & Singapore Math Pedagogical Strategies						
Science	Nancy Larson Science The Science K program focuses on the children and their interaction with the world around them. Science 1 focuses on life science and the children's environment. As children grow older, their interests broaden. Science 2 focuses on physical science and the way things work. In Science 3, children explore the world beyond their immediate environment as they study earth and space science. The Science 4 program focuses on organisms and their interactions as well as forms of energy. Science 5 focuses on the interactions of systems on a micro- and macro-scale. Our 6th grade program, created by a Dominican sister, is based on the model of Nancy Larson Science.						
Latin	Traditional Prayers, Vocabulary, Devotions & Prayers of the Mass: Ave Maria, Pater Noster, Sanctus, Gloria, etc.			Latin for Children from Classical Academic Press			
Physical Education, Music, Studio Art Band & Choir*	Music Theory, Physical Education & Studio Art studied in grades K-6 *Students may choose between Band and Choir in grades 5 & 6						

Curriculum Integration

Throughout the Lower School, students engage an integrated curriculum. For example, students read *Harriet Tubmann* while studying U.S. History in 5th grade, and they read *The Adventures of Robin*

Hood in 4th grade alongside Medieval History. While studying parts of speech in English Grammar, students learn their counterparts in Latin. They copy Egyptian hieroglyphics in Studio Art while studying

ancient Egypt in History. Students also sing songs about virtue in General Music while they are discussing and practicing the Cardinal Virtues with their Homeroom teacher and classmates.

Grades 3-6 Sample Reading List

Junior Great Books titles (The Great Books Foundation)

Jack and the Beanstalk, English Fairy Tale (Grade 2)
The Fisherman & His Wife, The Brothers Grimm (Grade 3)
The Ugly Duckling, Hans Christian Andersen (Grade 3)
Ali Baba & the Forty Thieves, from Arabian Nights (Grade 4)
Thank You, Ma'am, Langston Hughes (Grade 4)
The Road Not Taken, Robert Frost (Grade 6)

Short Novels (classic works selected for each grade level)

Little House in the Big Woods, Laura Ingalls Wilder (Grade 2)
St. Benedict, Hero of the Hills, Mary Fabyan Windeatt (Grade 3)
The Door in the Wall, Marguerite De Angeli (Grade 4)
The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe, C.S. Lewis (Grade 5)
Tales from Shakespeare, Lamb (Grade 6)
Treasure Island, Robert Louis Stevenson (Grade 6)

*Report Cards are issued on a semester basis during the academic year;
 Progress Reports are administered at mid-semester.

**STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE & VIRTUE:
SUCCESSFUL LEARNING BEHAVIORS (Grades PreK-6)**

In addition to evaluating success in each subject area, elementary teachers also assess a set of virtues by which to evaluate growth and development of children both as a student and a disciple of Christ. These are called “Virtues: Successful Learning Behaviors” and these categories also apply well to fruitful habits of life in general. The definitions below clearly lay out what qualities each teacher is looking for in our students.

Docility	<i>Exhibits a willingness to be taught, engaged during lessons, demonstrates an active and enthusiastic pursuit of learning, attentive</i>
Gratitude	<i>Thankful disposition of mind and heart toward one’s education and all the opportunities offered at school</i>
Industriousness	<i>Diligent and hardworking, especially in work that leads to natural and supernatural maturity</i>
Obedience	<i>Assents to rightful authority (e.g. teacher or another adult) without hesitation or resistance</i>
Orderliness	<i>Keeps one’s belongings and school materials organized and in good order; uses time wisely, observant of transitions between activities</i>
Perseverance	<i>Takes steps necessary to carry out duties, and schoolwork, from start to finish, in spite of difficulties and suffering</i>
Respect	<i>Speaks, acts, and listens courteously and respectfully with teachers and classmates</i>
Responsibility	<i>Fulfills one's duties and can be relied upon by peers and adults; accepts the consequences of one's words and actions</i>
Self Control	<i>Joyful mastery over one’s passions and desires</i>

These virtues are rated as follows: (4) Consistently, (3) Frequently, (2) Sometimes, and (1) Rarely.

**CURRICULUM MAP:
JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 7-12)**

Grade	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Theology 4 credits	Christology: Christ as Priest, Prophet & King	Church History & Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation	Divine Revelation & Salvation History	Introduction to New Testament & Sacraments and Worship	Apologetics & Catholic Moral Theology	A History of Catholic Dogma: Documents of the Magisterium & Catholic Social Doctrine
English 4 credits	English Grammar & Literature 7	English Grammar & Literature 8	Literature & Composition	American Literature ~ Hon. American Literature	European Literature ~ The Great Conversation: European Literature (Honors) †	World Literature (Course awards “Honors” Credit)
History 4 credits	The History of Christian Civilization <i>Pre-History to the Reformation</i>	The Making of the Modern World <i>Renaissance to Pope Benedict XVI</i>	Introduction to Logic & Philosophy	United States History ~ Honors U.S. History †	European History ~ Hon. European History †	Economics & Civics Government
Mathematics 3 credits	Pre-Algebra ~ Linear Algebra	Linear Algebra ~ Intermediate Algebra	Intermediate Algebra ~ Geometry ~ Honors Geometry	Geometry ~ Algebra II ~ Honors Algebra II	~Algebra II ~Trig. & Pre- Calculus ~Honors Trig. & Pre-Calculus ~Intro. to Calculus ~Hon. Calc. I †	~Trig. & Pre-Calculus ~Honors Trig. & Pre-Calculus ~Intro. to Calculus ~Honors Calculus I † / ~Honors Calculus II † ~Statistics
Science 3 credits	Earth Science	Physical Science	Biology ~ Adv. Biology	Biology / Adv. Biology ~ Chemistry / Hon. Chemistry	~Chemistry ~Hon. Chemistry ~Physics ~Hon. Physics †	~Human Anatomy & Physiology ~Physics / H. Physics † ~Hon. Chemistry † ~Hon. Biology † ~Fundamentals of Engineering
Foreign Language 2 credits	Latin IA	Latin IB ~ Spanish I	Latin & Spanish – Levels I-V (†Levels IV & V) Greek (limited to juniors/seniors with proficiency through previous language level III)			
Fine Arts 1 credit	Art & Band / Choir	Art & Band / Choir	Concert Band / Concert Chorale / Madrigal Singers Photojournalism 1 & 2 / Drawing / Painting / Sculpture / Portfolio Prep. Advanced Drawing / Advanced Painting / Advanced Sculpture <i>Drawing required prerequisite for all other courses; applies to incoming 9th graders only.</i>			
Phy. Ed.* & Health 1 credit	Physical Education	Physical Education	Strength & Conditioning / Team & Individual Sports Year A: First Aid, CPR & Health / Year B: Recreational Sports Year C: Cardio Conditioning			
Electives 2.5 credits	N/A	N/A	Technology & Keyboarding <i>High School students must take 2.50 credits of Electives from beyond the minimum credit requirements of the core subject areas above.</i>			

Report Cards are issued on a semester basis during the academic year.

24.5 total credits minimum are required for graduation from the High School (1 Semester of a course = 0.50 credit)

*1 season of a High School sport may cover a 0.50 PE/Health credit toward graduation if necessary

/ or ~ symbol indicates a choice in courses † Indicates an Honors course is AP preparatory

OVERVIEW OF JUNIOR HIGH (Grades 7-8)

These years are marked by intellectual formation grounded in observation, memorization, note-taking, grammar, and language study while increasing the rigor and amount of material encountered by students. The goal of the program is to prepare students with the tools necessary for critical thinking and higher-level knowledge application in the High School years.

Saint Agnes' Junior High has a core curriculum offering the following courses in both 7th and 8th grade:

Religion	Latin	Studio Art	Spanish (8 th grade option)
English	Science	Physical Education	
Mathematics	History	Choir / Band	

English

7th Grade: Course of study includes the mastery of basic English grammar, sentence recognition, the 8 parts of speech, parts of sentences, diagramming, and essay composition. 8th Grade: Formal grammar study examines more complex sentence structures, helping students to build writing skills toward the application of proper punctuation, grammar, and syntax. In addition, students will continue to work on composing a coherent thesis, supports, and conclusion in their writing. In each grade, several classic novels such as Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* are read and discussed.

History: A Light to the Nations I & II

7th Grade: From the coming of Jesus Christ, through the achievements of medieval Christendom, to the threshold of the Enlightenment projects of the 18th century, God's work in history reveals itself. This course combines narrative accounts with the necessary facts, dates, short biographies, and concept definitions needed for a Christian cultural understanding. 8th Grade: This course presents the history of the modern era in story form, giving proper emphasis to dates, central characters, and key concepts in each era. The central consideration of this class is how modern ideas, institutions, and culture have developed from the high centuries of Christian culture. This history survey presents the hope that Christian thought and work hold for the future.

Pre-Algebra & Linear Algebra (or Intermediate Algebra or Honors Geometry)

7th Grade: Mastery of integers, exponents, the concept of perimeter, ratios, percentiles, equations, and graphing. 8th Grade: Mastery of complex equations, polynomials, and quadratic functions.

Earth Science & Physical Science

7th Grade: Mastery of geographical and terrestrial surfaces (erosion, etc.), physical properties of material objects, air and water processes (solubility, etc.), and astronomy.

8th Grade: This course introduces students to the basic principles of chemistry and physics, with one semester dedicated to each subject area.

Latin IA & IB / Spanish I (8th grade option)

7th & 8th Grade: Each 7th grade student is required to take Latin IA, the language of the Church, as it is proven to augment the intellectual abilities of all students. Instruction includes the mastery of basic grammar, syntax, 8 parts of speech, Latin vocabulary, English word etymologies, the history of the English language, the origin of Romance languages, and basic phonics. Students will finish Latin IB in 8th grade and be prepared for Latin II as freshmen. *Students may elect to take Spanish I in 8th grade, allowing them to enter Spanish II as a freshman.

Studio Art

7th & 8th Grade: Students will explore the following areas: print making, collage creation, basic drawing (shading, vertical & horizontal lines, concept of perspective, concept of 3D), and other artistic techniques.

Religion

7th Grade: The main focus of the course is Christology: Christ's two natures (human and divine) are carefully examined along with an analysis of *Jesus as Prophet, Priest, and King*. 8th Grade: Mastery of Church history through an analysis of major events from the Chosen People to the Second Coming as well as a basic understanding of the concept of Salvation History. Preparation for Confirmation occurs in 8th grade. (*Faith & Life* series is used.)

Choir or Band

Vocal techniques and music theory are taught with opportunities for performances. Band focuses on performance and instrumental proficiency.

OVERVIEW OF HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 9-12)

*Building on the fundamentals established in the Junior High, the High School offers a challenging curriculum that prepares students for college/university study and other post-secondary opportunities. The grammar study in the Elementary years, followed by an introduction to abstract thinking and logic in Junior High, is augmented in the High School through an encounter with advanced mathematical processes, laboratory sciences, composition, language study, and critical textual analysis. The comprehensive core-study includes such highlights such as four years of Theology, two consecutive years of required language study (Latin or Spanish) and a host of Honors level courses.**

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Graduation: Students must successfully complete the following course of study:

Theology	4	credits
English	4	credits
History, Philosophy & Economics	4	credits
Mathematics	3	credits
Science	3	credits
Foreign Language	2	credits
Fine Arts	1	credit
Physical Education/Health	1	credit
Electives	<u>2 ½</u>	credits
TOTAL CREDITS	24 ½	credits

Note: Courses that are worth ½ credit are semester-long, and courses worth 1 credit are full-year. (e.g., Chemistry is a 1 credit full-year course; Economics is a semester-long ½ credit course.)

*By choosing an Honors course a student is committing to the entire year; students will only be allowed to drop or switch an Honors course for legitimate academic reasons as determined by the Academic Dean in conjunction with teacher input.

Grading: In grades 7-12, academic progress reports are distributed on a quarterly basis and final grades are issued at the end of each semester. Saint Agnes School uses a 4.0 standard GPA scale. Using this scale, a student's grade point average (GPA) is calculated each semester by adding the numerical equivalency of all grades and dividing by the number of courses involved. A multiplier system (1.1 multiplier) is used for Honors (AP) courses. The multiplier effect is indicated on the table with the corresponding percentages.

Letter Grade	% value	Grade Point	Honors 1.1 Multiplier
A	93 and above	4.0	4.4
A -	90	3.7	4.1
B +	87	3.3	3.6
B	83	3.0	3.3
B -	80	2.7	3.0
C+	77	2.3	2.5
C	73	2.0	2.2
C -	70	1.7	1.9
D +	67	1.3	1.4
D	63	1.0	1.1
D -	60	0.7	0.8
F	59 and below	0.0 (no credit earned)	0.0 (no credit earned)

DUAL-ENROLLMENT COURSES & CREDITS

Saint Agnes School has completed an agreement with the University of Mary to host a dual-enrollment program. This dual-enrollment program allows students who have a current cumulative GPA of 2.67 or higher (B- average or higher) to earn college credit simply by taking the rigorous courses that we already offer at Saint Agnes – courses taught by teachers who have either a Master’s degree or PhD. The course syllabi are also approved by the University of Mary to ensure that they are rigorous in their content and pacing and reasonably meet the standard of a similar university course.

The following courses are enrolled in the program and will count for college credit:

Saint Agnes School courses:

Latin I, Latin II, Latin III, Latin IV, Latin V
Catholic Moral Theology
Intro. to O.T. (To be updated for '23-'24)
The Great Conversation: Integrated...
Honors World Literature (Senior English)
U.S. History (non-Honors & Honors)
Catholic Social Doctrine
Introduction to New Testament
The Creed (To be updated for '23-'24)
Apologetics
A History of Catholic Dogma
Greek
Photojournalism
Calculus II
Sacraments & Worship

UMary courses (each listed course will earn 3.00 college credits):

LAT 101, LAT 102, LAT 201, LAT 202, LAT 301
THE 270
THE 110
PHI 201
ENG 130
HIS 271
THE 208
THE 203
THE 112
THE 104
THE 250
GRK 201
ART 108
MAT 210
THE 221



Why should I consider this for my student?

- Dual-enrollment courses, like Honors-level classes, look good on a transcript and benefit the college admissions process.
- Potential to save hundreds and perhaps thousands of dollars on college tuition.
- Exempted from credit requirements in college and/or possibility to take more advanced course work: for sure at UMary and, UMary assures, “are transferrable to just about every other college/university” (please contact UMary directly for more information on this).
- Students will receive a transcript from UMary upon completion and request (in addition to the report card and transcript from Saint Agnes School); families need to request these in the summer from UMary’s registrar office.
- Minimum grade requirement (to earn credit at other college/universities) = depends on which college/university is accepting the transferrable credit, but at least a “B” is recommended to avoid issues.

CATHOLIC VIRTUAL – ONLINE COURSES (Seniors Only)

New for the 2023-24 school year, Saint Agnes School continues to expand its academic offerings and will pilot a partner program with Catholic Virtual to offer online elective courses to seniors. We are responding to the feedback and desire of families to have more course options in addition to the nationally recognized, rigorous in-person Classical Liberal Arts curriculum offered by our school.



About Catholic Virtual

Catholic Virtual is a nationally renowned online learning platform that offers course content to K-12 schools in the United States and abroad, having served Catholic schools for over a decade. Strengths of Catholic Virtual include a strong Catholic identity, use of current online educational platforms, a similar course credit/hours system, well-structured course units, and the ability for students to retest. For the sake of accountability, Catholic Virtual also requires periodic visits between the teacher and student online, and Catholic Virtual teachers are highly qualified and experienced in their subject areas. Finally, Catholic Virtual is fully-accredited by Cognia (Saint Agnes School's accreditation body) and is a member of the National Catholic Educators Association (NCEA).

Participation Requirements for Seniors

This pilot offering is limited to seniors who are demonstrably on track to complete their required 24.5 credits within Saint Agnes' curriculum by graduation and are in good academic standing. These electives, which can earn credit and be included on a student's official Saint Agnes transcript (upon completion), cannot be used for the 2.5 "Elective" credits requirement within the 24.5 total credits for graduation. Seniors who have met the aforementioned requirements can take an online course during a study hall. Approved course options include: Architectural Design, Introduction to Business, Art History, and Accounting (among others, see below). **To summarize the requirements to participate:**

- Must be on track to complete the required 24.5 credits via Saint Agnes in-person courses;
- Must be in good academic standing (passing all courses with a minimum GPA of 2.00);
- Students must use Saint Agnes computers on campus; cell phones are NOT approved devices;
- Students may NOT drop a Catholic Virtual course after day 14 of enrollment in the course;
- May NOT use Catholic Virtual to complete the required 2.50 Elective credit to graduate.

Credits & Required Fees

During the course registration period, seniors must select "Catholic Virtual" in Educate along with their other courses; seniors electing to take an online course will be contacted in the summer to select specific courses. Each semester-long course is worth 0.50 credit similar to regular semester-long courses at Saint Agnes. If electing to take one of Catholic Virtual's courses, there is an extra fee of \$350 per course (per 0.50 credit). There is no financial aid available for these courses.

Catholic Virtual – Courses Approved for 2023-24

Accounting (0.50 credit); Art Appreciation (0.50 credit); Art History (0.50 credit); Basic Web Design (0.50 credit); Business Law (0.50 credit); Career Exploration in Healthcare (0.50 credit); Career Planning (0.50 credit); Introduction to Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources (0.50 credit); Introduction to Business (0.50 credit); Leadership Skills Development (0.50 credit); Marine Science (0.50 credit); Music Appreciation (0.50 credit); Principles of Architecture (0.50 credit); and Startups & Innovation (0.50 credit).

NOTE: Full course descriptions and Catholic Virtual course selections will occur after normal course registration process.

LETTERING IN ACADEMICS (Grades 9-12)



Listed on report cards for grades 9-12 are the criteria for Academic Honors as well as qualifying for a letter in Academics. The criteria are as follows:

First Letter (Academics Patch: book or lamp):

- 2 consecutive semesters of Principal's List (3.67 GPA and above)
- 3 consecutive semesters of Dean's List (3.33-3.66 GPA)
- 4 consecutive semesters of Honor Roll (3.00-3.32 GPA)

Subsequent Letters (bar patch):

- 1 semester of Dean's List or higher

If you qualified for a letter in Academics (or have in the past) and would like to obtain a letter and/or letter jacket, please visit or contact:

Strauss Skates and Bicycles
1751 East Cope Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55109
651-770-1344
www.StraussSkates.com

Or you may order online from:

MECA Sportswear
Click [HERE](#) to begin order process
School ID is: 3881
Password is: **meca**
Click [HERE](#) for Meca online ordering instructions

[Harold's Shoe Repair](#)
2940 Rice Street
Little Canada, MN 55113
651-484-6109

The initial letter is an Academics Patch (actual patches pictured: book and lamp of learning) and subsequent letters are a bar patch (as in Athletics).

Please contact the Main Office at 651-925-8700 if you have further questions.

POST-SECONDARY PLANNING

Overview of the Guidance Office's Services

The Guidance Office at Saint Agnes School supports students and parents through a number of initiatives in the college application process. Materials are available in the Guidance Office Resource Center located on the third floor near the library: guides to choosing the right college, vocational studies, and college/university course guides and brochures. On our website, there are several helpful links containing printable resources, names of post-secondary scholarships, and other information such as college visits at Saint Agnes School.

The Guidance Office faculty also meets with students throughout their academic progression from grades 7-12, culminating in a one hour post-secondary planning meeting during the winter of junior year with both student and parents.

To summarize, the Guidance Office:

- Provides an electronic transcript request service through an online program for students and parents
 - The online program sends grades and ACT/SAT test scores to colleges and universities in minutes, eliminating wait times
- Provides Naviance/Family Connection: a comprehensive online post-secondary planning resource
 - Provides easy access to information about colleges
 - Provides students with helpful career interest and personal inventories
 - Provides easy access to scholarships both local and national
 - Allows students to track the progress of their college applications
- Provides standardized testing practice and experience
 - ACT's Explore exam administered to all incoming freshmen
 - ACT's PLAN exam administered to all sophomores
 - College Board's PSAT exam administered to all juniors
 - ACT is hosted on-site at Saint Agnes School each April
 - An 18 session ACT preparation course offered each spring prior to the April testing date
- Hosts college and university visits on campus
- Provides information about various events at colleges and universities for students to attend
- Collects local scholarship information for students
- Hosts an annual Financial Aid Night in January in anticipation of the completion of FAFSA forms
- Meets with students throughout their time at Saint Agnes
 - Junior High students: regarding the transition to High School
 - Freshmen: about the importance of doing well in High School with an eye to the future
 - Sophomores: about Explore and PLAN standardized test scores and beginning the college planning process
 - Juniors: an hour-long meeting over-viewing the student's full transcript (grades, credits, standardized test scores), career interest inventories, personality inventory and other college/career aspirations in order to create a plan for the college application process
 - Seniors: throughout the year to provide support in the college application process

Course Offerings

FRESHMAN YEAR

Theology:

Divine Revelation & Sacred Scripture1 credit

English:

Literature & Composition1 credit

History, Philosophy & Economics:

Introduction to Logic & Philosophy1 credit

Mathematics:

Intermediate Algebra.....1 credit

Geometry1 credit

Honors Geometry.....1 credit

Algebra II1 credit

Honors Algebra II.....1 credit

Science:

Biology (*typically taken with Intermediate Algebra*).....1 credit

Adv. Biology (*typically taken with Geometry, Honors Geometry or Hon. Algebra II*)1 credit

Foreign Language:

Latin I (or appropriate level)1 credit

Spanish I (or appropriate level).....1 credit

Fine Arts & Electives:

Drawing (NOTE: *Drawing is entry level req. course into other Studio Art classes*) ½ credit

Sculpture..... ½ credit

Painting..... ½ credit

Concert Chorale.....1 credit

Concert Band1 credit

Technology & Keyboarding..... ½ credit

Physical Education/Health:

Strength & Conditioning ½ credit

Team & Individual Sports ½ credit

Year A (offered 2023-24): First Aid, CPR, & Health..... ½ credit

Year B (offered 2024-25): Recreational Sports ½ credit

Year C (offered 2025-26): Cardio Conditioning..... ½ credit

Course Offerings

SOPHOMORE YEAR

Theology:

Introduction to the New Testament (<i>fall semester</i>).....	½ credit
Sacraments & Worship (<i>spring semester</i>).....	½ credit

English:

American Literature	1 credit
Honors American Literature.....	1 credit

History, Philosophy & Economics:

United States History	1 credit
Honors United States History	1 credit

Mathematics:

Geometry	1 credit
Honors Geometry.....	1 credit
Algebra II	1 credit
Honors Algebra II.....	1 credit
Trigonometry & Pre-Calculus.....	1 credit
Honors Trigonometry & Pre-Calculus	1 credit

Science:

Biology	1 credit
Advanced Biology.....	1 credit
Chemistry.....	1 credit
Honors Chemistry.....	1 credit

Foreign Language:

Latin II/III (or appropriate level).....	1 credit
Spanish II/III (or appropriate level)	1 credit

Fine Arts & Electives:

Drawing (Adv. Drawing – for those who’ve already taken Drawing)	½ credit
Sculpture (Adv. Sculpture – for those who’ve already taken Sculpture)	½ credit
Painting (Adv. Painting – for those who’ve already taken Painting)	½ credit
Portfolio Preparation (<i>Instructor approval required</i>)	½ credit
Photojournalism 1 (& 2).....	½ credit
Concert Chorale.....	1 credit
Concert Band	1 credit
Madrigal Singers (<i>8th period, meets three days per week</i>).....	½ credit
Technology & Keyboarding	½ credit

Physical Education/Health:

Strength & Conditioning	½ credit
Team & Individual Sports	½ credit
Year A (2023-24): First Aid, CPR, & Health	½ credit
Year B (offered 2024-25): Recreational Sports	½ credit
Year C (2022-23): Cardio Conditioning	½ credit

Course Offerings

JUNIOR YEAR

Theology:

Apologetics (<i>fall semester</i>)	½ credit
Introduction to Catholic Moral Theology (<i>spring semester</i>).....	½ credit

English:

European Literature	1 credit
The Great Conversation: Honors European Literature	1 credit

History, Philosophy & Economics:

European History	1 credit
Honors European History.....	1 credit

Mathematics:

Algebra II	1 credit
Honors Algebra II.....	1 credit
Trigonometry & Pre-Calculus.....	1 credit
Honors Trigonometry & Pre-Calculus	1 credit
Introduction to Calculus.....	1 credit
Honors Calculus I	1 credit

Science:

Chemistry.....	1 credit
Honors Chemistry	1 credit
Physics	1 credit
Honors Physics	1 credit

Foreign Language:

Latin III/IV (or appropriate level)	1 credit
Spanish III/IV (or appropriate level)	1 credit
Greek (if student has completed language level III)	1 credit

Fine Arts & Electives:

Drawing (Adv. Drawing – for those who’ve already taken Drawing)	½ credit
Sculpture (Adv. Sculpture – for those who’ve already taken Sculpture)	½ credit
Painting (Adv. Painting – for those who’ve already taken Painting)	½ credit
Portfolio Preparation (<i>Instructor approval required</i>)	½ credit
Photojournalism 1 (& 2).....	½ credit
Concert Chorale.....	1 credit
Concert Band	1 credit
Madrigal Singers (<i>8th period, meets three days per week</i>).....	½ credit
Technology & Keyboarding	½ credit

Physical Education/Health:

Strength & Conditioning	½ credit
Team & Individual Sports	½ credit
Year A (2023-24): First Aid, CPR, & Health	½ credit
Year B (offered 2024-25): Recreational Sports	½ credit

Course Offerings

SENIOR YEAR

Theology:

A History of Catholic Dogma: Documents of the Magisterium (<i>fall semester</i>).....	½ credit
Catholic Social Doctrine (<i>spring semester</i>).....	½ credit

English:

Honors World Literature (grade-level course awarded “Honors” credit).....	1 credit
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History, Philosophy & Economics:

Economics.....	½ credit
Civics Government	½ credit

*Combined English & History, Philosophy & Economics:

The Great Conversation: Integrated Humanities Seminar (Honors)	2 credits
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Mathematics:

Functions, Statistics & Trigonometry.....	1 credit
Honors Trigonometry & Pre-Calculus	1 credit
Introduction to Calculus.....	1 credit
Honors Calculus I	1 credit
Honors Calculus II.....	1 credit
Statistics	1 credit

Science:

Physics / Honors Physics.....	1 credit
Anatomy & Physiology.....	1 credit
Fundamentals of Engineering.....	1 credit
Honors Biology.....	1 credit
Honors Chemistry	1 credit

Foreign Language:

Latin IV (or appropriate level)	1 credit
Spanish IV (or appropriate level).....	1 credit
Greek (if student has completed language level III)	1 credit

Fine Arts & Electives:

Drawing (Adv. Drawing – for those who’ve already taken Drawing)	½ credit
Sculpture (Adv. Sculpture – for those who’ve already taken Sculpture)	½ credit
Painting (Adv. Painting – for those who’ve already taken Painting)	½ credit
Portfolio Preparation (<i>Instructor approval required</i>)	½ credit
Photojournalism 1 (& 2).....	½ credit
Concert Chorale.....	1 credit
Concert Band	1 credit
Madrigal Singers (<i>8th period, meets three days per week</i>).....	½ credit
Technology & Keyboarding	½ credit

Physical Education/Health:

Strength & Conditioning	½ credit
Team & Individual Sports	½ credit
Year A (2023-24): First Aid, CPR, & Health	½ credit

DEPARTMENTS & COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Electives

Requirement:

High school students are required to take 2.50 credits (or five semesters) of elective courses. By taking more courses in each subject area beyond the minimum requirement (e.g. more than two years of Spanish, more than three years of Mathematics, more than one year of Art or Physical Education), students may also complete the Elective requirement.

Technology & Keyboarding

Grades: 9-12

Credit: 1/2

Description: The course will provide an opportunity to learn the touch type method on the computer keyboard using correct techniques as well as develop students' proficiency in speed and accuracy. Students will be introduced to the formatting of personal and business letters, tables, notes, memos and reports. No previous keyboarding experience required. In addition, students will be more familiar with the following: Use computer equipment properly and maturely; master the computer keyboard (letters, numbers, and symbols); demonstrate proper keyboarding techniques; use both keyboard functions and a mouse; practice good work habits; improve keyboarding speed and accuracy; improve critical proofreading skills; save and retrieve computer information; properly format and finalize documents (memos, letters, tables, and reports).

English

Statement of Philosophy

The English program at Saint Agnes follows a three-year cycle of American, British and World literature, with advanced electives offered during junior and senior years. Throughout the curriculum there is an emphasis on developing speaking and writing skills through the analysis and discussion of literature. The program exposes students to the great books of the western intellectual tradition in order that they gain the necessary cultural literacy to understand common references and the modern world around them. Through seminar discussions, students are trained to think logically and analyze literature constructively with their peers.

The study and discussion of good literature conveys to students the meaning of things through a re-presentation of human experience using particular images and events, through story and philosophy. Good literature always portrays in some way the true, the good, and the beautiful, but sometimes reveals the reality of suffering, evil and ugliness in order to provide profound insights into our fallen humanity.

A Sample of the works of literature read by Saint Agnes students:

<i>Beowulf</i>	<i>Antigone</i> , Sophocles	<i>Macbeth</i> , Shakespeare	<i>The Scarlet Letter</i> , Hawthorne
<i>The Divine Comedy</i> , Dante	<i>Iliad</i> , Homer	<i>The Great Divorce</i> , Lewis	<i>Crime and Punishment</i> , Dostoevsky
<i>To Kill a Mocking Bird</i> , Lee	<i>Prometheus Bound</i> , Aeschylus	<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> , Dickens	
<i>Twelve Angry Men</i> , Rose	<i>Huckleberry Finn</i> , Twain	<i>A Man for All Seasons</i> , Bolt	

Writing Program: *The Lost Tools of Writing* (CiRCE Institute) in Grades 5-12

Solve the Three Problems All Writers Face Cultivate Deeper Thinking Provide a Foundation for Future Learning

Courses (4 credits/4 years required):

9: Literature & Composition

10: American Literature / Honors American Literature

11: European Literature / The Great Conversation: Honors European Literature*

12: World Literature / The Great Conversation: Integrated Humanities Seminar*

**The Great Conversation: Honors European Literature course helps to prepare students for the AP Language & Composition exam and The Great Conversation: Integrated Humanities Seminar will help to prepare students for the AP Literature & Composition exam. That said, AP exam preparation is not included in this advanced-level study in Honors classes' as it is a secondary concern; preparation for the AP exam should not be viewed as the primary purpose of these English classes. Please consult the Advanced Placement statement in Appendix C of this document.*

Literature & Composition

Grade: 9

Credit: 1

Description: Literature & Composition is a rigorous introduction to the four basic areas of communication: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Literature selections will include a variety of both major and minor works from world literature. Writing and public speaking components will be strengthened by grammar usage, vocabulary building, and development of different types of essays, daily discussions, student-guided dialogue, and formal speeches. Students new to Saint Agnes School will be introduced to writing under the MLA guidelines and format in preparation for undergraduate composition.

American Literature & Composition

Grade: 10

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Introduction to Literature & Composition

Description: In this course, students will explore how literature has developed throughout American history. Literature will focus on a variety of American fiction and nonfiction: essays, short stories, plays, and novels. As students' English skills progress this course will further develop reading and writing skills, including vocabulary, literary analysis, and composition. Moreover, the course incorporates a speech segment that requires the student to improve both formal and informal speaking skills.

Honors American Literature & Composition

Grade: 10

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: "B+" average or above in Literature & Composition and/or recommendation from instructor.

Description: The comprehensive study of communication, reading, writing, speaking, and listening, will continue in this course at an advanced level. The literature component will study and analyze American works from 1590 to the present. The writing component will include advanced grammatical concepts, college-level vocabulary building, the research process, and writing literary criticism and analysis. Public speaking will remain a key component. Study will move at an accelerated pace and will consistently challenge students to think critically.

European Literature & Composition

Grade: 11

Credit: 1

Description: This course analyzes the classics that form the foundation of European Literature, including Chaucer, Plato, Dostoyevsky, Shakespeare, Tolstoy and various poets to the 20th century. In addition, the course covers both reflective and analytical genres of composition to better prepare students to write at the college level. Students will continue to learn compositional and analytical skills by building upon the ascending goals and skills of the freshman and sophomore English program.

The Great Conversation: Honors European Literature (Seminar)

Grade: 11

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: "Above average" or higher in previous course, teacher recommendation, parent approval.

Description: This course strives to impart a general understanding of literature, philosophy and theology in correlation with the historical epoch. The commonly held date of Rome's fall opens the course as it moves through various major thinkers, themes and foundations of the society of Europe. While the instructor facilitates the reading and discussion, many of the fundamental course objectives are to be achieved through vigorous student participation. The skills of reading closely, articulating clearly and thinking creatively are paramount in this course. Each segment will be studied in-depth by a variety of approaches including small and large groups, writing assignments, teacher-led class discussion, student-led class discussion, lecture and seminar. Upon completion of the course, students may elect to take the Advanced Placement examination in Language & Composition for possible credit at their chosen colleges. There is an additional fee for this examination; *preparation for the AP exam is not a focus of the course.*

Honors World Literature & Composition

Grade: 12

NOTE: This grade-level class is awarded honors-level credit as the course of study is quite rigorous compared to most senior-level survey English classes at other high schools.

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: European Literature or Great Conversation: European Literature

Description: This literature and composition course focuses on preparing students for literary analysis and formal writing at the collegiate level. Thus, students spend time studying the conventions of undergraduate composition, developing and articulating a clear thesis statement; providing sufficient support for that thesis; using logical and effective patterns of organization; and observing standards of correct English grammar/usage. In addition, students will study and compose different essay types: expository, persuasive, analytical, and others. Individual conferences with the instructor, as well as extensive peer review of student writing, are important elements of the course. Students will also encounter several classical and modern literary works, investigating the cultural impact of these texts on the realms of literature, history, and culture.

The Great Conversation: Integrated Humanities Seminar

Grade: 12

Credit: 2

Prerequisite: Approved by English & History departments/instructor

Description: The Great Conversation provides students the opportunity for a traditional study in the humanities, one that aims primarily to cultivate a Catholic (and catholic) mind, a notion whose very meaning constitutes part of the course's consideration. To cultivate such a mind, our course purposely eschews modern academic distinctions of subject matter; instead, the course integrates readings of the Great Books of the Western tradition, readings across the humanities in literature, ethics, politics, religion, and the arts. Our body of readings emphasizes works of the classical world, an emphasis whose rationale finds clear expression in Pope Benedict XVI's "Regensburg Address," which holds that the "critically purified Greek heritage forms an integral part of Christian faith."

The course encourages students to be intellectuals—not persons of unusual mental capacity, but ones committed to a life of thoughtful reflection. Such a life, largely a matter of intellectual habit trained by careful reading, discussion, and writing, ponders fundamental questions about the divine, human existence, and the world. Since students engage these questions in a two-period block, which permits genuine leisure (*otium* or *scholē*), they are able to cultivate sustained attention to topics and skills of conversational, Socratic inquiry within an intellectual community.

To achieve the goals of the course, we engage the works of Aeschylus, Aristotle, Dostoyevsky, Homer, Plato, Pope Benedict XVI, Shakespeare, Sophocles, and Vergil. To make these thinkers our teachers, we learn how to approach actively the texts they have written, treating them not as dead objects for dissection by our critical powers, but rather as the available presence of these thinkers. Active participation in the class means that students read carefully, contribute to seminar discussion by both speaking and listening, and seek to write increasingly sophisticated essays.

Upon completion of the course, students may elect to take the Advanced Placement examination in Literature & Composition for possible credit at their chosen colleges. There is an additional fee for this examination; *preparation for the AP exam is a secondary focus of the course.*

Fine Arts

Statement of Philosophy

Studio Art

The goal of the Studio Art program is to provide students with the ability to see beauty and understand that good art is composed through skill and the execution of good techniques. The program aims to introduce students to the skills required to successfully and creatively produce beautiful work in various media. Students have the opportunity to work with various media in an array of different studio classes.

Vocal Music

"The treasure of sacred music is to be preserved and fostered with great care."

-*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 114 (Second Vatican Council)

The Vocal Music program at Saint Agnes is highly regarded for its performances of beautiful music of the Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Contemporary eras. A great deal of emphasis is placed on a healthy vocal technique and the development of a beautiful, rich choral tone. Solfege based sight-reading and ear training is incorporated as well. A computer music theory program is used to supplement this study.

Instrumental Music

The Instrumental Music program at Saint Agnes is grounded in giving students authentic experiences in music that encourage independent musicianship. Through large ensemble, chamber ensembles, and solo study, students are exposed to quality literature that encourages refined technique and ensemble development. The comprehensive curriculum includes listening, analyzing, composing, improvising, and performing, and fosters an appreciation of beauty through understanding music.

Studio Arts courses:

Drawing (grade-level and Advanced)
Painting (grade-level and Advanced)
Sculpture (grade-level and Advanced)
Photojournalism 1 & 2
Portfolio Preparation (Honors GPA)

Performing Arts courses:

Concert Chorale
Concert Band
Madrigal Singers

NOTE: There is a \$35.00 materials fee for all Studio Art courses.

Drawing (& Advanced Drawing)

Grades: 9-12

Credit: 1/2

Prerequisite: Drawing required prior to Advanced Drawing

*\$35.00 Materials Fee will be charged to your TADS account after two weeks in the course.

Description: This course focuses on the mastery of drawing techniques such as line, shading, chiaroscuro, 3D, and perspective. Students will also learn color theory and focus on color methods using a variety of drawing materials. Increase knowledge of different drawing tools, materials and techniques, as well as increase ability to draw accurately with attention to line weight, proportion, shape and value scale. Develop an understanding of the unique combination of drawing methods that is most effective to the individual student's learning style. NOTE: Drawing and Adv. Drawing will be split once the class rosters are complete.

Painting (& Advanced Painting)

Grades: 9-12

Credit: 1/2

Prerequisite: Drawing, Painting prerequisite for Advanced Painting

*\$35.00 Materials Fee will be charged to your TADS account after two weeks in the course.

Description: Students will be introduced to various painting methods and materials and they will also learn to develop aesthetically appropriate content and subject matter in their art. The focus is on color and shading methods and further use of the elements of art. In addition, a study of the artwork of Western Christian Masters from the 14th to the 20th century, particularly oil and watercolor works, will help students learn and appreciate various painting skills and styles. Advanced Painting will offer further, in-depth study.

NOTE: *Painting and Adv. Painting will be split once the class rosters are complete.*

Sculpture (& Advanced Sculpture)

Grades: 9-12

Credit: 1/2

Prerequisite: Drawing, Sculpture prerequisite for Advanced Sculpture

*\$35.00 Materials Fee will be charged to your TADS account after two weeks in the course.

Description: This course is designed for students interested in three-dimensional artwork. The specific objectives of this course are to expose the student to a variety of materials and techniques. Students will work with a variety of mediums including metals, plaster, and ceramics. The development of an aesthetic sensibility as applied to student work will be stressed throughout the semester. Students will be introduced to the styles and concepts of both historical and contemporary three-dimensional work. Individual expression will be encouraged in light of the skills and styles taught. Advanced Sculpture will offer further, in-depth study.

NOTE: Sculpture and Advanced Sculpture will be split once the class rosters are complete and will be based on completion of Sculpture.

Photojournalism 1

Grades: 9-12

Credit: 1/2

Prerequisite: None.

*\$35.00 Materials Fee will be charged to your TADS account after two weeks in the course.

Description: In a continuing effort to educate young adults in Truth, Goodness, and Beauty, this course is intended to introduce students to the digital camera as a tool to create and capture beauty in the world around them. Photography, as experience captured and beauty seen, forces the photographer to use an inquisitive eye that is patient, creative, and open to the world. In order to capture life experiences and beauty in nature, architecture, or people, students will learn the fundamentals of photography and how to utilize those fundamentals. Students will also learn about and begin to apply the elements and principles of design. The photographs students take while completing this course will be used to help create the Saint Agnes High School Yearbook. The Yearbook component will help students to gain useful, real world skills in time management, copywriting, marketing, teamwork, and design principles, underlining the journalism element of the course.

Photojournalism 2

Grades: 9-12

Credit: 1/2

Prerequisite: Photojournalism 1

*\$35.00 Materials Fee will be charged to your TADS account after two weeks in the course.

Description: This course continues the work done on Photojournalism 1 with greater depth. The course will continue to aid the work of the Yearbook, providing many opportunities to experience the work of covering a school event and applying their artistic skills. Students that take Photojournalism 2 will gain the time and experience working and going more in depth with photoshop, design work, and yearbook layouts. In addition to completing the high school yearbook, students will learn how to create a supplement, the additional spring events that help capture our school culture. Students will also take knowledge learned from Photojournalism 1 to take their photography skills to the next level, working with design, composition, and artistic development.

Portfolio Preparation (Honors Level & Honors GPA)

Grades: 9-12

Credit: 1/2

Prerequisite: Written instructor approval required.

*\$35.00 Materials Fee will be charged to your TADS account after two weeks in the course.

Description: This course is reserved for students who have already proven their artistic abilities and are hoping to continue advanced studio art study in various media, to build a portfolio of their work, or to accomplish both. Prospective students must obtain the instructor's written approval to enter into this course. Students will learn how to advance their skills in various media as well as develop their own portfolio and digitize their work. Over the course of the semester, students will prepare a professional portfolio for presentation. Each student will compose an artist's statement and, with the help of the instructor, develop a college letter of intent (if they plan to pursue post-secondary fine arts). The course will also prepare portfolio work for competitions and scholarships as well as a professional press packet, including items such as business cards and postcards.

Concert Chorale

Grades: 9-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Must meet formal audition requirements as deemed by instructor.

Description: The Concert Chorale is a large ensemble whose purpose is to prepare and perform music written for mixed voices. It performs in three yearly school concerts, attends the St. Olaf Choral Festival and other music festivals, goes on tour, and sings at various Catholic grade schools and local churches. Selected members also participate in several honor choir festivals each year and in the MSHSL choral and solo competitions. SATB, SSAA and TTBB music of the Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Contemporary eras are preformed. Strong emphasis is placed on a healthy vocal technique and the development of a beautiful, rich choral tone. Solfege based sight-reading, ear training, and a computer music program are used to supplement this study. Evaluation is based upon concert performance, daily rehearsal, attendance and participation, occasional written assignments, quizzes and outside concert reviews.

Madrigal Singers

Grades: 10-12

Credit: 1/2

Prerequisite: Audition and approval by director.

Note: *The course meets during 8th period three days per week.*

Description: The Madrigal Singers are the elite choir at Saint Agnes School. The group performs at various events and liturgical functions, and is renowned for skilled execution of beautiful music chosen by the director. Students are trained for performance at the highest level.

Concert Band

Grades: 9-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Enrollment in Band previous year or permission from Director is required.

Description: The Concert Band is an ensemble that works towards independent musicianship through large group, individual, and small group playing. Students will become proficient on their instrument through quality band literature, as well as solo and ensemble repertoire. They will develop as musicians through a combination of creating, responding to, and performing music. Students are evaluated on their progress regularly through individual performances as well as recorded performances and written work. Concert Band members are required to attend and perform in three formal concerts per year, as well as numerous athletic pep band events. Students may also receive outside performance opportunities including chamber music performances and assisting with music at school Mass. Unless arrangements are made with the director, students are responsible for their own instruments and materials.

Foreign Language

Statement of Philosophy

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” –John 1:14

The human person is made for communication—with others and with God. Language study at Saint Agnes School responds to students’ innate desire to communicate and in turn to be understood by others.

Through a study of the ancient language of Latin, the major root of English and the Romance languages, students are put in touch with a golden cultural thread woven throughout the ages: the language of western culture and the Catholic Church. All students in grades K-7 have the distinct privilege of studying Latin; those who continue with upper-level study enjoy reading Caesar, Cicero and Vergil in their original tongues as well as ecclesiastical authors. Through the study of a modern language such as Spanish, the student is able to enter into dialogue with the growing number of foreign language speakers not just around the globe, but also in our own country, cities, and neighborhoods. By studying Greek, students are given the opportunity to read the New Testament in its original language as well as classical authors such as Homer, Sophocles and Plato.

By learning another language, whether ancient or modern, Saint Agnes students are immersed in an exciting study of other epochs, geographical regions and cultures through vibrant and living classrooms that make language learning an exceptional experience. The study of foreign languages also trains the mind by increasing memorization, organized thinking, and abstract thought through an integration of history, culture, speaking and translation exercises.

Minimum Requirement: Two consecutive years of Latin or Spanish in High School

Courses: Latin I-V, Spanish I-V and Greek (Honors-level)

Electives:

Further levels of Latin, Spanish or Greek beyond the two-year consecutive minimum in High School.

**Latin V, Spanish V or Greek II may be available with a stable group; please consult the Academic Dean.*

Greek (Honors-level study)

Grades: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Demonstrated proficiency in language level III or permission of the Academic Dean.

Description: This intensive introduction to Greek aims at linguistic training and humanistic insight—a “nuts and bolts” course of ancient Greek grammar with an appreciation for the culture and people who developed this majestic language. The course will focus on the learning of *koine* Greek which will allow the student to read with ease the New Testament. The first semester will largely concentrate on learning basic vocabulary, grammar and insight into the cultural milieu of the rise of Greece as a determining cultural force of the West. Noun declensions and verb conjugations will be emphasized. The second semester transitions from grammar to reading portions of the New Testament and the theological and philosophical import of the sacred texts. As time and progress permit, the course will also access Attic Greek, so that students will be able to read the classics of the Western Tradition such as Plato, Herodotus, Aesop, and Sophocles.

NOTE: Due to uniquely high interest and matriculating Greek students, Greek II offered in 2023-24 (Greek I not offered this year).

Latin I

Grades: 9-12

Credit: 1

Description: The twin goals of the Latin program at Saint Agnes are linguistic training and authentic humanistic insight. To that end, Saint Agnes School offers a four year Latin curriculum employing the pedagogical course outlined by Fr. Robert J. Henle, S.J. Latin I is an introduction to the Latin language and grammar. The main objective of the first year study is a thorough mastery of Latin forms, basic syntax, and vocabulary. Vocabulary is selected from the classical texts that students will read in the later years of our curriculum. In addition, students will be introduced to classical culture and the ecclesial traditions of the Latin Rite.

Latin II

Grades: 9-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Latin I.

Description: Latin II begins with a review of the grammar covered in Latin I. Students will continue the study of Latin grammar and syntax addressing more complex grammatical points. The primary objective of the Latin II course is to read selections from Julius Caesar's *Commentaries on the Gallic Wars*. Students will follow Caesar's campaign through Gaul and Western Europe and trace the very beginnings of the Roman Empire. Students will also study select ecclesiastical texts to include the Scriptures, hymns, and prayers of the Divine Office.

Latin III

Grades: 10-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Proficient completion of previous level.

Description: Latin III introduces students more fully to the genius of the Roman mind through its exemplar, Marcus Tullius Cicero. The bulk of study in this course of study will be Cicero's Orations against Catiline. Students will be introduced to rhetoric and its linguistic subtleties. In addition, through their study of the language, they will be introduced to philosophy, law, and the political organization of Rome. Cicero is the model of Latin expression par excellence and his influence is powerfully felt in the whole of Western Civilization and in the writings of, among others, St. Augustine.

Latin IV (Honors level)

Grades: 10-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Proficient completion of previous level.

Description: Latin IV rounds out the Saint Agnes curriculum through the delightful study of Vergil's great epic poem, *The Aeneid*. Essential to a classical education is the study of this great work written at the request of Emperor Augustus to celebrate the glory and grandeur of Rome. *The Aeneid* has been the staple of a Catholic education as well-treating of its ultimate values in light of the larger truth and higher love which has been given to us by Christ. Thus, it is fitting that the Latin program concludes through an understanding of the poem that influenced Dante in his composition of the *Divine Comedy* and all of Western Civilization. While *The Aeneid* will make up the bulk of the students' study during Latin IV, other texts will also supplement the study, not excluding selections from the Divine Office and other ecclesial writings. The course may also prepare interested students for the AP Latin exam.

Spanish I

Grades: 9-12

Credit: 1

Description: The aim of this course is to provide students with the foundation of the Spanish language as well as to introduce and train the students in the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students develop skills to communicate effectively in real-life situations and build a foundation for greater fluency in successive years of study. Students learn about differences and similarities of Hispanic cultures and explore the traditions of Catholicism in Spanish speaking countries.

Spanish II

Grades: 9-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish I.

Description: This course offers a brief review of level one and helps the students develop knowledge of the more complex structures of the language. Supplemental readings, writing assignments, listening comprehension, and oral speaking drills all help students to coordinate the basic skills. Exploration of Hispanic cultures continues.

Spanish III

Grades: 10-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Proficient completion of previous level.

Description: Spanish III further develops listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills. Mastery of basic grammatical components of Spanish are refined and more complex structures are practiced. Much of the class is conducted in Spanish and students are encouraged to speak Spanish at every opportunity to increase proficiency. This course provides further insights into the culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Supplemental readings are required.

Spanish IV (Honors level)

Grades: 10-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Proficient completion of previous level.

Description: Spanish IV students reinforce language concepts through more complex written work, conversations and presentations, and listening exercises. The goals are to comprehend authentic materials in the target language, to provide opportunities for a significant amount of practice in speaking and listening and to develop writing as a communicative skill. Students are expected to speak in Spanish in order to build proficiency and fluency. The course also offers students the opportunity to prepare for the AP Spanish Language exam in the spring.

History, Philosophy & Economics

Statement of Philosophy

"It is the Christian tradition that is the most fundamental element in Western culture. It lies at the base not only of Western religion, but also of Western morals and Western social idealism."

-Christopher Dawson, Historian & Author

The primary goal of the History program at Saint Agnes School is to immerse students in the history and culture of Western civilization in order to enable and ennoble them with a working historical knowledge and cultural literacy of their own society. Beginning in the elementary school, students study the earliest civilizations with an emphasis on the unique and providential contributions of Greece and Rome to modern society, and in particular to the United States.

Students will learn not only historical facts, names, dates and places, but will also investigate the important development of ideas and watershed movements throughout history. Orienting the History program is the *Introduction to Logic & Philosophy* course for freshmen; this course will train students in traditional logic as well as basic philosophy benefiting their entire Saint Agnes education. In addition, students will gain a solid knowledge of geography and also access primary source materials. By studying the branches of government and the various local, state and national offices, students will also learn about the origins of modern governments and investigate the founding documents of the United States. Integrating faith and reason, students will also discuss ethics in society through the incorporation of Catholic social teaching in order to understand better how to promote and protect the common good.

In addition, students in the High School have the opportunity to study United States History and European History at the Honors-level, which in part also helps to prepare them for the spring Advanced Placement exams.

Courses (4 credits/4 years required):

- 9: Introduction to Logic & Philosophy
- 10: United States History / Honors United States History
- 11: European History / Honors European History
- 12: Economics (semester one)
Civics | Government (semester two)

**Seniors may opt to take the combined English/History Honors-level class:
The Great Conversation: Integrated Humanities Seminar (2 credits)

Introduction to Logic & Philosophy

Grades: 9, *required*

Credit: 1

Description: The fall semester of this new course will focus on the study of traditional logic and reasoning. Spring semester will survey the most important thinkers in western philosophy, introducing students to the basic thought of Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas and others in order to equip them with a better understanding of the development and importance of ideas in western history. The course will benefit the entire academic program as it will properly orient students' understanding of truth, the human person and the unity of faith and reason. In addition, this full-year course will explore the cultural, political, and geographical history of the world with a primary focus on the development of Western Civilization.

United States History

Grades: 10, *required*

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Introduction to Logic & Philosophy

Description: This course seeks to build a broad understanding and appreciation of the events and people that have helped form the United States and its cultural ideals. Emphasis is placed on developing pride in our accomplishments as Americans, and an understanding of how past events in American history have shaped the present. In addition, students will gain an understanding of current issues that affect our nation as a whole.

Honors United States History

Grades: 10, *required in place of United States History*

Credits: 1

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and “above average” work in Introduction to Logic & Philosophy.

Description: Honors American History is a course for the highly motivated student who has proven himself/herself an exemplary student in previous coursework. This is a writing and speaking intensive course focusing on the history of this great nation from its inception to the present. This is a college level course and is meant only for the student wishing to challenge him or herself to go beyond traditional curricular expectations. Upon completion of the course, students may elect to take the Advanced Placement examination in United States History for possible credit at their chosen colleges; there is an additional fee for this examination.

European History

Grades: 11, *required*

Credit: 1

Description: European History is a year-long course that will provide students the opportunity to explore and analyze Europe from economic, political, social, religious, philosophical and artistic perspectives. A variety of topics will be covered in a chronological, thematic manner: “Dark Ages”/Fall of the Roman Empire, Middle Ages, Renaissance, Reformation, Scientific Revolution & Enlightenment, Age of Imperialism, Russian Revolution, and post-World War II Europe. Daily reading, analysis and synthesis of primary and secondary source documents, and periodic research and writing will be assigned throughout the year.

Honors European History

Grades: 11, *required in place of European History*

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and at least a “B+” average in Honors U.S. History.

Description: Honors European History is a year-long course that will provide students the opportunity to intensely explore and analyze Europe from economic, political, social, religious, philosophical and artistic perspectives. A variety of topics will be covered in a chronological, thematic manner: “Dark Ages”/Fall of the Roman Empire, Middle Ages, Renaissance, Reformation, Scientific Revolution & Enlightenment, Age of Imperialism, Russian Revolution, and post-World War II Europe. Extensive daily reading, frequent analysis and synthesis of primary and secondary source documents, and periodic scholarly research and writing are required. Upon completion of the course, students may elect to take the Advanced Placement examination in European History for possible credit at their chosen colleges; there is an additional fee for this examination.

Economics

Grades: 12, *required (unless taking Great Conversation course)*

Credit: 1/2

Description: The focus of the course is to show students how to apply theories of economics to practical, daily life. The content of the course will be designed around adolescents' growing responsibilities and roles in society. Students will have the opportunity throughout the course to interact with ethical, environmental, political, and social issues that relate to economics and society.

Civics|Government

Grades: 12, *required (unless taking Great Conversation course)*

Credit: 1/2

Description: Seniors are on the verge of becoming active citizens in society, and it is essential that each individual be knowledgeable about the operation of our federal, state and local government, and one's responsibilities as a citizen. Civics examines the structure and operation of the government in the United States at all levels, state and federal. Emphasis will be placed on a basic knowledge of institutions, decision-making and how citizens may influence government.

The Great Conversation: Integrated Humanities Seminar

Grade: 12

Credit: 2

Prerequisite: Approved by instructor

Description: See description under English Department.

Mathematics

Statement of Philosophy

The goal of the Mathematics program is to instill in each student an appreciation for Mathematics and to equip him/her with the skills and confidence necessary to succeed in post-secondary study. Through lectures, discussions, and cooperative and independent assignments, students learn the mathematical concepts including algebraic, numerical and graphical representations, as well as corollary applications in problem solving. All of the courses make use of a broad range of technologies, including smartboards, graphing calculators, geometer sketchpad, and interactive board applications.

All courses in the Mathematics Department are challenging and rigorous, preparing students for success at the college level. The program offers a wide selection of courses including a host of Honors courses for advanced-level study. Most students enroll in four years of mathematics courses, and some students earn college credit by taking Honors courses that prepare for AP exams.

Honors Calculus I and Calculus II courses provide to students the opportunity to earn college credits through AP exams. In addition, our Mathematics Tutors are available every day, after school, to provide individual and small group assistance, offering everyone the opportunity for enrichment and one-on-one assistance.

A minimum of 3 Mathematics Credits is required for graduation.

Pre-Algebra	Algebra II	Introduction to Calculus
Linear Algebra	Honors Algebra II*	Honors Calculus I**
Intermediate Algebra	Trigonometry & Pre-Calculus	Honors Calculus II**
Geometry	Honors Trigonometry	Statistics
Honors Geometry*	& Pre-Calculus*	

*** Denotes Honors Course**

**** Denotes Honors Course & Preparation for AP Exams**

Intermediate Algebra

Grades: 9

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: *Linear Algebra* (8th grade)

Description: This course is the second half of the algebra sequence. Topics include linear systems, quadratic equations, graphing, factoring, polynomials, radicals, and operations with rational expressions. As time permits, topics in probability, statistics, and data analysis will be explored. The course emphasizes both skill development and problem solving in preparation of higher level algebra and science coursework.

Honors Geometry

Grades: 8 – 10

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: *Intermediate Algebra* (with a grade of A- or higher)

Description: Students examine the aspects of space, shape and measurement by examining the different characteristics of each concept. By the end of this course, students will analyze properties and use formulas of plane (2-dimensional) and space (3-dimensional) figures, reason both inductively and deductively and use logic, prove and apply properties of triangles, including congruence and similarity, identify and apply properties of quadrilaterals, use and apply trigonometry to solve problems involving triangles, visualize, draw,

and construct plane and space figures from different perspectives, solve many different real-world problems using geometry. Topics are similar to those in traditional geometry; however, this course provides motivated students with a more challenging and accelerated pace and topics of greater depth than traditional geometry.

Geometry

Grades: 9 – 10

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: *Intermediate Algebra*

Description: Students examine the aspects of space, shape and measurement by examining the different characteristics of each concept. By the end of this course, students will analyze properties and use formulas of plane (2-dimensional) and space (3-dimensional) figures, reason both inductively and deductively and use logic, prove and apply properties of triangles, including congruence and similarity, identify and apply properties of quadrilaterals, use and apply trigonometry to solve problems involving triangles, visualize, draw, and construct plane and space figures from different perspectives, and solve many different real-world problems using geometry. Practical application is a key component throughout the course.

Honors Algebra II

Grades: 9 – 11

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: *Honors Geometry* (with a grade of B- or higher) or *Geometry* (with a grade of A- or higher)

Description: This course continues the foundation laid in Algebra I and Geometry. Much of the year will be spent analyzing different kinds of graphs and functions including linear, absolute value, quadratic, polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, rational, and radical. Many different types of expressions will be simplified and various expressions and inequalities will also be solved. As time permits, matrices, conic sections, permutations, combinations, and methods of data analysis will be studied. Topics in Honors Algebra II are covered in more depth than those in traditional Algebra II.

Algebra II

Grades: 10 – 11

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: *Honors Geometry* or *Geometry*

Description: This course continues to build upon the foundation laid in Algebra I and Geometry. Students will spend much of the year analyzing different kinds of graphs and functions including linear, absolute value, quadratic, polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, rational, and radical. Students will also keep building their algebraic skills by simplifying many different types of expressions and solving many varied equations and inequalities. Practical applications will be explored throughout the course.

Trigonometry & Pre-Calculus

Grades: 11 – 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: *Honors Algebra II* or *Algebra II*

Description: Topics in Trigonometry and Pre-Calculus include functions and graphs, transformations, composition of functions, and complex numbers. Students will also learn the connections between right triangle trigonometry and trigonometric functions, including identities, half-angle and double angle formulas, and the laws of sines and cosines. Practical applications will be explored throughout the course. Students completing this course have multiple options for future studies including Statistics, Honors Trigonometry and Pre-Calculus, and numerous college-level math courses.

Honors Trigonometry and Pre-Calculus

Grades: 10 – 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: *Honors Algebra II* (with a grade of B- or higher)

Description: In the first half of the course, students will develop a detailed understanding of various types of functions including polynomial, exponential, and logarithmic with connections to calculus. During the second half, students will explore the connections between right triangle trigonometry and trigonometric functions and will master the six basic trigonometric functions, identities, half-angle and double angle formulas, sum and difference formulas, sum-to-product and product-to-sum formulas, and the laws of sines and cosines. As time permits, studies will also include complex numbers and sequences, series, probability, and statistics, and polar coordinates. The course serves as a bridge to honors calculus and college-level mathematics.

Statistics

Grades: 12

Credit: 1 Prerequisite: *Honors Trigonometry & Pre-Calculus* or *Trigonometry & Pre-Calculus*

Description: Statistics is the science of collecting, organizing, analyzing, and interpreting data in order to make decisions. In this course, probability, data distributions, hypothesis testing with both one and two samples, and linear regression and correlation will be studied. Practical applications will be emphasized with each topic.

Introduction to Calculus

Grades: 10 – 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: *Honors Trigonometry & Pre-Calculus* or *Trigonometry & Pre-Calculus (with Teacher Recommendation)*

Introduction to Calculus is a rigorous, college-level course. Through lectures, discussions, and cooperative and independent assignments, students learn mathematical concepts including algebraic, numerical and graphical representations, as well as corollary applications in problem solving. In addition to basic Calculus ideas, we will explore some mathematical topics that come up in computer science and logic to explore the different pathways among STEM careers.

Honors Calculus I

Grades: 11 – 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: *Honors Trigonometry & Pre-Calculus* (with a grade of B- or higher) and Teacher Recommendation

Description: Honors Calculus I is a rigorous, college-level course. Topics include limits and continuity, derivatives, definite and indefinite integrals, an introduction to differential equations, and numerous applications. Ultimately, students will be prepared and expected to take the AP Calculus Exam (AB).

Honors Calculus II

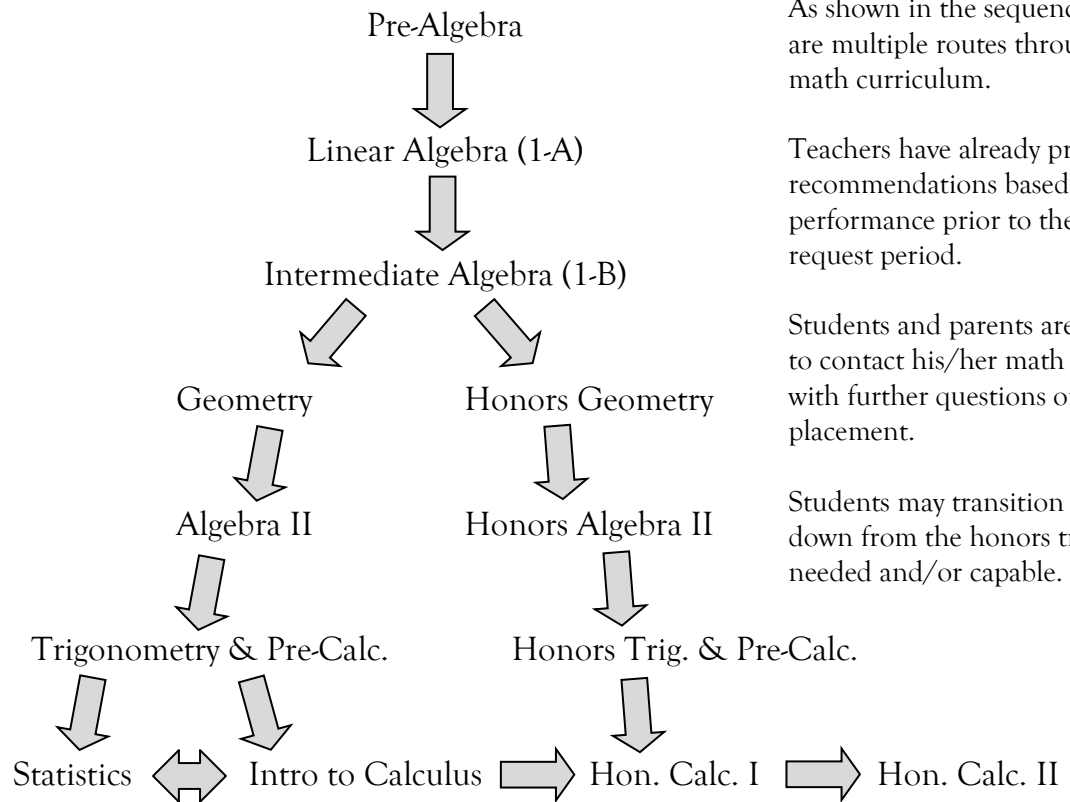
Grades: 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: *Honors Calculus I* (with a grade of B- or higher) and Teacher Recommendation

Description: Honors Calculus II continues the course of study of Honors Calculus I. Topics include techniques of integration, improper integrals, infinite series, parametric equations and polar graphs, and, as time permits, vectors and multivariable calculus. Ultimately, students will be prepared and expected to take the AP Calculus Exam (BC).

Mathematics Sequence (Grades 7-12)



As shown in the sequence, there are multiple routes through the math curriculum.

Teachers have already provided recommendations based on performance prior to the course request period.

Students and parents are asked to contact his/her math teacher with further questions on proper placement.

Students may transition up and down from the honors track as needed and/or capable.

Physical Education & Health

Statement of Philosophy

The goal of the Physical Education program is to engage the whole person: the spiritual, mental and physical qualities of each student. Physical Education classes aim to instill a sense of respect and integrity along with teamwork, sportsmanship and responsibility for self growth. The program's classes are educational and fun for all ability levels, incorporating the values and mission of Saint Agnes School.

Courses (1 credit/2 semesters required; ½ credit may be waived for sport participation):

Courses offered annually:

Strength & Conditioning / Team & Individual Sports

The following courses are offered on a 3-year cycle:

Year A: First Aid, CPR, & Health / Year B: Recreational Sports / Year C: Cardio Conditioning

Strength & Conditioning (Offered annually)

Grades: 9-12

Credit: 1/2

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn strength and conditioning concepts and techniques used for obtaining optimal physical fitness. Students will learn the fundamentals of weight training, strength training, aerobic training, and overall fitness training and conditioning. Weight room safety, warm-up/cool down procedures, lifting technique and safety for all lifts, major muscle identification, and individual goal setting are all important components in this course. The goal is for students to be able to gain experience in a weight room setting and build lifelong skills in this area. This course can be taken multiple times and will be successively leveled for an individual student's abilities and needs.

Team Sports & Individual Sports (Offered annually)

Grades: 9-12

Credit: 1/2

Description: During the first half of the semester, special emphasis is placed on group involvement activities. The two quarter of the class are divided into several different units and each will cover an introduction (to the game), fundamentals, and game play. Some units may include but are not limited to volleyball, floor hockey, basketball, and other recreational team activities. The second half of the semester emphasizes lifetime fitness activities. Some units may include but are not limited to tennis, badminton, bowling, golf, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and other adventure activities. Cardiovascular fitness will be developed and assessed throughout the semester.

First Aid, CPR, & Health (Offered Year A: 2023-24)

Grades: 9-12

Credit: 1/2

Description: This course is a great opportunity for those who may be interested in a career in the health field, babysitters, athletes, and those who want the experience. Students will learn proper first aid for common injuries, burns, treatment of a choking victim and much more. Knowing CPR can save a life in cardiac arrest situations. Students will become first aid and CPR certified by the end of the semester. Training will be hands on and classroom based. The course will also discuss important issues of personal health and social responsibility in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Recreational Sports (Offered Year B: 2024-25)

Grades: 9-12

Credit: 1/2

Description: This course will explore various recreational sports and leisure activities that aren't necessarily highly competitive. Some of the activities included are hiking, yard games, badminton/pickle ball, volleyball, broomball, bowling, bag toss, and more.

Cardio Conditioning (Offered Year C: 2025-26)

Grades: 9-12

Credit: 1/2

Description: This course will focus on cardiorespiratory fitness using treadmills, stationary bicycles, stair climbers, rowing machines, cross-country ski machines, and elliptical trainers. The course aims to develop general endurance of the respiratory and circulatory systems, to reduce or maintain body fat levels, and provide students with the knowledge of safe and sound activity principles.

Science

Statement of Philosophy

Offerings within the Science program aim to provide students with the fundamental skills and knowledge necessary to understand and appreciate God's Creation as well as the scientific theories and natural laws which govern the living and physical worlds. Laboratory experiences are incorporated into all Science courses as an aid in accomplishing this goal.

The Science sequence emphasizes the incorporation of technology; computer-based laboratory technology is increasingly being utilized, particularly in the upper-level courses. All of the courses make use of a broad range of technologies, including smartboards, graphing calculators, and interactive board applications. Other resources include [Vernier LabPro & Sensors](#) during labs, and [POGIL Activities](#) (Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning). In addition, the integration of faith and reason is emphasized in order for students to appreciate more fully the Church's important contributions to scientific inquiry.

Three years of science are required for graduation, and many students complete a four-year program with some students taking the opportunity to complete advanced study. Nearly all students complete a course in Physics in either 11th or 12th grade. Students also have the ability to take Honors Chemistry, Honors Physics and/or Honors Biology which prepare students for AP exams offering an opportunity to qualify for college credit.

Requirements: a minimum of 3 credits in high school in the core is required for graduation.

Junior High:

Earth Science (7th Grade)
Physical Science (8th Grade)

High School Core:

Biology -or- Adv. Biology
Chemistry / Honors Chemistry*
Physics / Honors Physics*

High School Electives:

Human Anatomy & Physiology
Fundamentals of Engineering
Honors Biology*

* Denotes honors-level study and preparation for Advanced Placement exams.

Physical Science

Grades: 8

Credit: 1

Description: This course introduces students to the basic principles of chemistry and physics, with one semester dedicated to each subject area. The chemistry semester explores the structure, properties, and changes of matter as well as the periodic table and chemical reactions. The physics semester examines Newton's laws of motion, the principles of work, energy change, heat, temperature, as well as the properties of waves, electricity and magnetism.

Advanced Biology

Grades: 9 & 10

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Physical Science and Geometry or Honors Geometry.

Description: General Biology, both lab and lecture, is an introductory course that particularly focuses on cell biology, genetics, biotechnology, botany, anatomy/physiology, biodiversity, and ecology. Particular emphasis will be placed on scientific investigation. **Note: This advanced course will cover content at more depth and at a quicker pace than the regular Biology course.**

Biology

Grades: 9 & 10

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: none.

Description: General Biology, both lab and lecture, is an introductory course that particularly focuses on cell biology, genetics, biotechnology, botany, anatomy/physiology, biodiversity, and ecology. Particular emphasis will be placed on scientific investigation.

Chemistry

Grades: 10-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Biology and Algebra II.

Description: This is a quantitative and qualitative introductory course in the following topics: dimensional analysis, thermochemistry, gas laws, quantum theory, covalent bonding, metallic and ionic bonding, phases of matter, solutions, kinetics, equilibrium, acids and bases, energy, thermodynamics, spontaneity, organic chemistry, nuclear reactions, balancing chemical equations, and stoichiometry. The course is based in the study of concepts via the textbook and lab application.

Honors Chemistry

Grades: 10-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Chemistry, Algebra II, Trigonometry & Pre-calculus, and science teacher recommendation.

Description: This is a one-year, college preparatory course. This course is geared toward students wanting to take the AP Chemistry exam and also who are very interested in studying chemistry in depth along with the physical sciences. Topics are covered in depth through discussion, examples, and laboratory work and include the following: atomic theory, chemical bonding, phases of matter, solutions, reaction types, equilibrium, reaction kinetics, and thermodynamics.

Physics

Grades: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Chemistry, Algebra II, Trigonometry & Pre-calculus, and science teacher recommendation.

Description: Physics is a one-year, college preparatory course. Topics covered include: motion, force, energy, momentum, fluid mechanics, waves, thermodynamics, sound, light, electricity and circuits, magnetism, and atomic physics.

Honors Physics

Grades: 11-12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Chemistry, Algebra II, Trigonometry & Pre-calculus, and science teacher recommendation.

Honors Physics is an accelerated course in college level, non-calculus based physics. This course is intended to prepare students to take and succeed at the Physics 1 Advanced Placement examination. Completion of this course (accompanied by a high AP exam score) may enable students to receive credit for or exemption from an introductory non-calculus-based Physics course at some colleges and universities. Students may take Honors Physics as a first or second year course. It is expected that students taking this course will have strong algebra and problem solving skills. Course topics include: kinematics, dynamics, Newton's Laws, circular motion and universal gravitation, energy, momentum, simple harmonic motion, torque and rotational motion, mechanical waves and sound, and DC circuits.

Honors Biology

Grades: 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: "Above average" in Biology and Chemistry, Biology teacher recommendation, parent approval.

Description: A college level course that covers the major themes of the biological sciences. Topics covered include: chemistry of living organisms, cell biology, genetics, energy transfer and storage, evolutionary theory, taxonomy, plant and animal physiology, ecology, and population dynamics. Students will prepare to take the AP Biology exam at the end of course for possible college credit. There is an additional fee for this examination.

Human Anatomy & Physiology

Grades: 12

Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Completion of Biology and Chemistry and "above average" marks in both courses.

Description: Course study will survey the fundamentals of human anatomy and physiology including anatomical terminology, basic biochemistry, cells, and tissues as well as the integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, cardiovascular, lymphatic/immune, respiratory, digestive, and urinary systems. Students will learn how the various organs of the body interact with one another and how they contribute to the overall physiology of the body. The course will also introduce students to pathology and common disease processes. The course's laboratory component includes anatomical studies using microscopy and dissection. This course is recommended to students interested in a future career involving the health sciences (e.g. nursing, pediatrics, dental, M.D. etc.).

Fundamentals of Engineering

Grades: 11-12

Credit: 1 NOTE: \$50 Lab Fee

Description: This full-year course is essentially project based, but students will also utilize Kosky et al., "Exploring Engineering" as a primary reference for coursework. Current defined units, each including a project, will include topics such as the role of engineers in our world, the design process, civil engineering, electrical engineering/programming, manufacturing engineering, chemical engineering, and biochemical/biomechanical engineering. Some of the projects will include work on motors/gears, 3D drawing/printing, shaker table/load testers, and medical device/implants. This course is for any junior or senior interested in pursuing the study of engineering at the post-secondary level or is simply curious about how things work.

Theology

Statement of Philosophy

“What does man desire more deeply than Truth?” -Saint Augustine

The Theology program at Saint Agnes School provides students with a comprehensive overview of the Catholic faith. The program fulfills and exceeds the guidelines set out by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) regarding catechesis in Catholic schools. Students learn the dogmas, doctrines and practices of the Catholic faith in an environment that is imbued with the sacraments, prayer and devotional life. The classes are designed to engage Divine Truth with serious intellectual work so that the students can grow in their knowledge and love of God. For as St. Augustine observed, “Who can call on Thee, not knowing thee?” (*Confessions*, Book I). A unique hallmark of the program is the strong emphasis on apologetics. St. Peter urges us to “be ready always to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15). Therefore, all the classes include a defense of the truths that are learned.

Courses (4 credits/4 years required):

- 9: Divine Revelation & Sacred Scripture
- 10: Introduction to the New Testament (The Creed in 2024-25) / Sacraments and Worship
- 11: Apologetics / Introduction to Catholic Moral Theology and the Social Teachings of the Church
- 12: A History of Catholic Dogma: Documents of the Magisterium / Catholic Social Doctrine

The Creed

Grades: *required* (shifting to Grade 10 in 2024-25)

Credit: 1/2

Description: This semester is devoted to a careful study and analysis of the Apostles' Creed and Nicene Creed. Of the four major sections of the new universal catechism, the longest is a detailed discussion of the Profession of Faith. The first step in a systematic presentation of the Catholic faith is to be sure students understand what truths they as Catholics are to believe and profess, and the course thoroughly covers these topics.

Divine Revelation & Salvation History

Grades: 9, *required*

Credit: 1

Description: This full-year freshmen course serves as a strong foundation to future theological study rooted in an understanding of Divine Revelation, Scripture, and Salvation History. The course engages students in extensive reading of the Bible along with an understanding of the Kerygma, the history of the Sacred Scripture, the relationship of the Church and Scripture, and an understanding of Biblical concepts and terminology. Hermeneutical methods are taught in accordance with the teaching of *Dei Verbum*, The Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation of the Second Vatican Council, and Pope Benedict XVI's Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, *Verbum Domini*. Most importantly, students complete an extensive reading of the Old and New Testaments and become familiar with the meta-narrative of God's plan of salvation as first revealed to the Chosen People, the Israelites, and fulfilled in the Church.

Introduction to the New Testament

Grades: 10, *required (this will be the last year of this single-semester course)*

Credit: 1/2

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 9th grade Theology courses.

Description: The first semester of sophomore theology is designed to provide students with an introduction to the New Testament Scriptures. The goal is a deeper understanding of God's revealed Word, its relationship to the Church, and its role in the spiritual lives of individuals and in the communal life of the Church. Since the New Testament, especially the Gospels, contains the very words and actions of Christ Jesus, it is critically important that our students read it frequently and prayerfully. St. Jerome's wise words bear repeating: "He who is ignorant of Scriptures is ignorant of Christ." Hermeneutical methods are taught in accordance with the teaching of *Dei Verbum*, The Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation of the Second Vatican Council, and Pope Benedict XVI's Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, *Verbum Domini*.

Sacraments and Worship

Grades: 10, *required*

Credit: 1/2

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 9th grade Theology courses.

Description: The second semester of sophomore theology is devoted to one section of the universal Catechism: Sacraments and Worship. Students are given a comprehensive knowledge of the seven sacraments as the primary channels of God's grace. A thorough study of each sacrament is provided. The students are also introduced to the study of the lives of the saints: true models of virtue and sanctity.

Apologetics

Grades: 11, *required*

Credit: 1/2

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 10th grade Theology courses.

Description: This fall semester junior theology course is devoted to the study of apologetics. The students learn how to defend their Catholic faith through the use of logical argumentation and sound reasoning. They also learn to use Sacred Scripture to defend Catholic doctrine. In short, the students learn, as St. Peter says in his first letter, to "always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks [them] for a reason for [their] hope."

Introduction to Catholic Moral Theology and the Social Teachings of the Church

Grades: 11, *required*

Credit: 1/2

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 10th grade Theology courses.

Description: The spring semester of junior theology provides students with an introduction to Catholic moral theology, including such topics as the formation of conscience, the Christian virtues and Christian principles as they apply to bioethical questions. Seniors are also introduced to the social teachings of the Church, especially regarding the critical issues of human life, marriage and the family.

A History of Catholic Dogma: Documents of the Magisterium

Grades: 12, required

Credit: ½

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 11th grade Theology courses.

Description: The History of Dogma course will focus, as the title indicates, on various documents of the Church from the Apostolic Age through the current papacy; students will read primary documents from popes, councils, and Patristic sources in order to understand the development of doctrine from the heart of the Church. The course's primary source reading list will offer ample opportunities for seminar discussions.

Catholic Social Doctrine

Grades: 12, required

Credit: 1/2

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 11th grade Theology courses.

Description: Catholic Social Doctrine will analyze the Church's perennial teaching on the Natural Law as well as study and discuss the application of the Commandments and the Beatitudes on the public square. The course syllabus will include primary texts from the corpus of the Catholic intellectual tradition, exposing students to the greatest thinkers and writers of the Church. Students will gain a great appreciation of the Church and her saints as champions of the dignity of the human person and guardians of the Common Good. The course will also discuss public policy issues in current national and local news, especially those that are most pertinent to Catholic social thought.

Appendix A

College/University Admission Requirements

High School Course Requirements for Four-year State University Programs (these courses are also required for admissions to any additional smaller state universities across the nation as well)

- **Four years of English** (including Composition and Literature)
- **Four years of Mathematics** (two years of Algebra and one year of Geometry)
- **Three years of Science** (including one year of Biological and a Physical Science)
- **Three years of History** (including one year of U.S. History and Geography)
- **Two consecutive years of a single Foreign Language**
- **One credit of Fine Arts**
- **The ACT and /or SAT** taken to fulfill admission requirements

Competitive Four-year Research Based National Public Universities

- **Four years of English** with an emphasis on writing, including English and speaking skills and in literacy understanding and appreciation.
- **Four years of Mathematics**, including one year each of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II
- **Four years of Science**, including one year each of Biological and Physical Science including laboratory experiences (i.e. Chemistry, Physics)
- **Four years of History**, including one year each of Logic & Philosophy, U.S. History, and Civics and Economics.
- **Three-four consecutive years of a single Foreign Language.**
- **One year of Visual and/or Performing Arts**
- **The ACT and /or SAT** taken to fulfill admission requirements

Competitive Minnesota and National Private Colleges

The entrance requirements for private colleges vary from institution to institution but generally students are required to complete:

- **Four years of English** with an emphasis on writing, including English and speaking skills and in literacy understanding and appreciation.
- **Four years of Mathematics**, including one year each of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II
- **Four years of Science**, including one year each of biological and physical science including laboratory experiences (i.e. Chemistry, Physics).
- **Four years of History**, including one year each of Logic & Philosophy, U.S. History, and Civics and Economics.
- **Three-Four consecutive years of a single Foreign Language.**
- **One year of Visual and/or Performing Arts**, including instruction in the history and interpretation of the art form (e.g., theater arts, chorus, drawing, painting, and photography)
- **The ACT and/or SAT** taken to fulfill admission requirements

Appendix B

NCAA Eligibility Requirements

Students wishing to participate in Division I or Division II collegiate athletics must meet NCAA academic requirements. Student athletes should consider their academic choices carefully to ensure the proper coursework is completed. The academic requirements are as follows:

Division I

16 required core courses as follows:

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of Mathematics (Algebra I or higher)
- 2 years of Natural or Physical Science (including one lab course)
- 1 year of additional English, Mathematics, or Natural or Physical Science
- 3 years of Social Science
- 4 additional academic courses in any of the above areas or Foreign Language, Philosophy or Non-doctrinal Religion

Division II

14 required core courses as follows:

- 3 years of English
- 2 years of Mathematics (Algebra I or above)
- 2 years of Natural or Physical Science (including 1 lab course)
- 2 years of additional English, Mathematics or Natural or Physical Science
- 2 years of Social Science
- 3 additional academic courses in any of the above areas or Foreign Language, Philosophy or Non-doctrinal Religion

Note: These are the core classes that are required by the NCAA. Additional eligibility requirements such as minimum GPA, minimum test scores and/or other standards must also be met. Please refer to www.ncaaclearinghouse.net for more information.

The NCAA has adopted new legislation that will require prospects that intend to enroll at NCAA Division I and II institutions to supply ACT or SAT scores to the Clearing house *directly from the testing agencies*. **Tests scores on an official high school transcript will no longer be usable for NCAA purposes.**

Please contact the Guidance Office staff if you are interested in being eligible for Division I or Division II athletics through the NCAA.

Appendix C

Statement on Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

Due to the increased inquiries from current and prospective families, Saint Agnes School has issued the following statement about the Common Core State Standards:

After much consideration and research, Saint Agnes School will not adapt or adopt the Common Core Standards which were developed for the public school system. That said, we acknowledge that there is a base of adequate secular material in the Common Core State Standards that faith-based schools could reference as part of their educational programming. While we respectfully understand that other private and Catholic schools may discern to adapt or adopt the standards for these and other reasons, we do not believe that such actions would benefit the mission, Catholic identity or academic excellence of our school.

The decision not to adopt CCSS will not in any way have a negative effect on our students; Saint Agnes School will continue to assess various standards of excellence in primary and secondary education as well as college readiness norms to develop its own, independent standards of rigor and accountability. We believe that it is of primary importance to infuse elements of the Catholic intellectual tradition into our curriculum; we believe this heritage is an integral component of Catholic education and a distinguishing element of Saint Agnes School's academic program.

To conclude, we believe that our school ought to offer a distinct alternative to the public school model – one that is grounded in faith and the pursuit of truth, beauty and goodness. We believe that Saint Agnes is a model *par excellence* of Catholic education that works.

Statement on Advanced Placement (AP) Offerings

As a policy, Saint Agnes School does not certify Honors courses that are AP preparatory with the College Board, and this is done with purpose and intention for practical and philosophical reasons.

As a Catholic school aiming to prepare students for post-secondary study, Saint Agnes places a strong emphasis on its unique liberal arts curricular approach – one that leans upon the classics of the west. This curricular approach enables the school to emphasize the unity of faith and reason and therefore the integration of subject areas focusing on the western tradition.

Our faculty members work in accord with the Administration to ensure the highest quality of content and academic rigor in each subject area and discipline. As can be seen from our curriculum overview documents, students at all levels share a common sequence of core material that is a shared patrimony of knowledge and wisdom. The approach also offers a unique opportunity to our students to excel beyond their peers who, upon reaching post-secondary study, have not engaged the classics or the western intellectual tradition - and the benefits offered thereby - as anticipated by post-secondary programs and professors.

In addition, Saint Agnes School believes that almost exclusively tying the goals of a course syllabus to one exam is detrimental to the learning process and can, perhaps, produce a utilitarian approach to education that can undercut the value of the liberal arts. Finally, there are a great multitude of competitive public and private high schools that have opted out of the College Board AP course certification for these and other reasons; Saint Agnes School's approach in this regard is not unique and, indeed, she is in good company.

For questions on either Common Core or Advanced Placement, please contact the Dean of Academics.

**“Among all human pursuits, the pursuit of wisdom
is more perfect, more noble, more useful, and more full of joy.”**

–St. Thomas Aquinas



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