

2023-2024

COURSE CATALOG



SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY

CADETS.COM



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1

MESSAGE FROM VICE
PRESIDENT

2

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

UPPER SCHOOL CATALOG

7

ENGLISH

13

FINE ARTS

20

HEALTH &
PHYSICAL EDUCATION

23

MATHEMATICS

28

MILITARY LEADERSHIP

30

SCIENCE

37

SOCIAL STUDIES

47

THEOLOGY

51

WORLD LANGUAGE

57

ANCILLARY ELECTIVES



A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Dear STA community,

I am thrilled to introduce the 2023-2024 course catalog. I think you will find that the program of study herein is a testament to the knowledge and expertise of our faculty, whose curricular enterprise yields a framework for academic excellence. It is also a reflection of the capabilities of our learners, who have proven themselves eager to explore heady terrain with determination, maturity, intellect, and grace.

With that, I would like to outline a few enhancements to the 2023-2024 catalog.

First, the Academy is excited to introduce two Leadership Pathway programs, one in business & economics and another in STEM. Like a college major, these optional programs will allow Cadets to specialize in a discipline so that they leave the Academy well-prepared for a similar program at the baccalaureate level. Mr. Jaime Jurkovich leads this initiative, which he outlines in the Leadership Pathways Catalog.

Second, there are a litany of new electives to consider. In the social and behavioral sciences, Mr. Doug Hoverson will offer a course in food and food history. Mr. A.J. Barker will take an interdisciplinary approach in his exploration of football's history and philosophy – a great pairing, perhaps, with Mr. Luke Mark's existing English course on manliness and the outdoors and Mr. Josh Kaeppe's investigation of boxing and race. Science has several additions including Mr. Dan Hickel's AP Physics, which may appeal to students interested in pursuing a career in STEM. There is also Mr. Tony Kinsley's course on entomology as well as Mrs. Sonya Jaworski's analysis of biotechnology and society. In Theology, Mr. Kevin Zenner will introduce some of the elements of Ignatian Spirituality in his experiential exploration of the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. These are but a small representation of the courses we will offer next year – I encourage you to spend time with this catalog to learn more about the opportunities available to Cadets 2023-2024.

Finally, in addition to surveying next year's coursework, I invite you to familiarize yourself with Saint Thomas's academic policies. Indeed, Cadets are expected to meet certain academic standards: understanding and following these criteria is the first step towards getting the most out of a Saint Thomas Academy education.

Thank you for taking time to review these pages. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have questions.

Regards,

John Buethe ('05)
Vice President



SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY

OUR MISSION

“The excellence of an institution is found in the class of students it sends forth each year to fight the battles of life.”

- Archbishop John Ireland, Founder of Saint Thomas Academy

It is our mission to help each student discover and develop his potential talents and abilities by providing an excellent college-preparatory education that instills qualities of everlasting value: leadership, a sense of brotherhood, a strong moral compass, self-confidence, a faith guided by the Catholic tradition, and an awareness of the importance of service to others.

OUR FOUNDATIONAL PILLARS

- College Preparatory
- Catholic
- Military/Leadership Training
- All-Male

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

COURSE SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR 2023-2024

To ensure that we have an accurate and efficient registration process we ask that:

- Parents and students review this book, taking time to discuss next year's plans
- Students review course selections with their current instructors and in advisory. Class time will be provided to make sure students receive advice about the most appropriate selections for next year
- Students complete the Enrollment Intent Form by a deadline determined by the Vice President

Note, as a college prep school, all students are encouraged to carry a full schedule.

COURSE REGISTRATION PROCESS

The Registrar will plot course enrollments for the coming year based on student demand as evinced by the intent to enroll form that students complete in April. This process ends when Cadets receive their course schedules early summer.

COURSE AVAILABILITY AND PLACEMENT

In order to maximize our instructional resources, the Academy is faced with a few constraints in terms of class scheduling. Please observe that:

- A course may be canceled if enrollment is insufficient
- There is no guarantee that students will be able to fit all desired courses into their schedules
- The Vice President, in consultation with department chairs, reserves the right to place students based on demonstrative aptitude

ADD/DROP POLICY

Students may elect to add or drop coursework within 16 academic days from the start of the semester, after which time an add/drop is permitted only at the instructor's discretion and the Vice President's approval.

If a student is directed to drop a course, he may enroll in a substitute course with permission should the swap occur within 32 academic days from the start of the semester.

Students permitted to swap courses after 32 academic days must remain in their current class until the end of the quarter. The quarter grade in the initial class will be weighted according to the GPA Calculation Table when calculating the semester grade for the receiving course (below). The extent to which this quarter grade factors into the semester grade calculation is left at the discretion of the receiving instructor.

Only in unexpected and extenuating circumstances will a student be permitted to *add* coursework after the first day of a semester's second quarter. The *drop* deadline for coursework is 32 academic days into the second quarter.

CORE ACADEMIC GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Upper School students who matriculate at STA the first semester of their freshmen year enroll in a total of 64 classes across eight semesters. Fifty-three of these courses are required for graduation. These core requirements are:

English	8 semesters (4 years)
Fine Arts	1 semester (0.5 years)
Physical Education/Health	1 semester (0.5 years)
Military Leadership**	8 semesters (4 years)
Mathematics*	A minimum of 6 semesters (3 years)
Science*	A minimum of 6 semesters (3 years)
Social Studies	8 semesters (4 years)
Theology**	8 semesters (4 years)
World Language*	A minimum of 6 semesters (3 years) and successful completion of one level III language

*Most selective colleges expect four years of math, science, and world language.

**The 8-semester theology and military leadership requirement is waived for transfer students. Transfer students satisfy the theology and military leadership requirement by successfully completing this coursework each semester that they are enrolled at the Academy.

ENGAGED LEARNING GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to fulfilling their academic graduation requirements, students must complete the following engaged learning requirements:

- Write and deliver a senior speech to the student body and school community at Formation.
- Complete 70 hours of community service moderated by the STA service-learning program.
- Complete at least one application to a four-year college or university.

GRADING

The following grading system is in use at Saint Thomas Academy:

A = 4 points	I (Incomplete) = 0 points
B = 3 points	S (Satisfactory) = 0 points
C = 2 points	U (Unsatisfactory) = 0 points
D = 1 point	
F = 0 points	

All required courses listed are transcribed on a semester basis. In other words, grades received at the end of the first and second semester appear on a student's transcript whereas quarter grades do not. Likewise, GPA points are calculated by semester, which is an amalgam of quarter and final exam grades.

Please note: AP, CIS and PAAC courses have an additional fee associated with the exam. CIS and PAAC courses allow students to earn college credit and receive a transcript directly from the University of Minnesota or St. Mary's University in addition to the credit transcribed at Saint Thomas. Students enrolled in AP coursework are expected to sit their AP exam.

CALCULATING GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

The following chart illustrates how letter grades, depending on the course weight, are converted to grade points. A student's grade point average (GPA) is calculated by dividing the total points earned by the number of courses taken in a semester.

GPA CALCULATION TABLE

Quality Point Conversion

Grade	1.0 Weight	1.1 Weight	1.2 Weight
A	4.00	4.40	4.80
A-	3.67	4.04	4.40
B+	3.33	3.67	4.00
B	3.00	3.30	3.60
B-	2.67	2.94	3.20
C+	2.33	2.57	2.80
C	2.00	2.20	2.40
C-	1.67	1.84	2.00
D+	1.33	1.47	1.60
D	1.00	1.10	1.20
D-	0.67	0.74	0.80
F, I or W	0	0	0

INCOMPLETE GRADES

An instructor may assign an incomplete grade in cases where a student's ability to submit work by the end of the term is inhibited by unexpected circumstances beyond their control. Unless otherwise approved by the Vice President, all incomplete work must be submitted to the course instructor within two weeks of the start of the subsequent term. Incomplete work that is not completed and submitted by this deadline converts to an 'F' grade and included in the final grade calculation.

A student who fails to sit his exam for whatever reason will be assigned an incomplete grade for the course. Students are ineligible for athletic competition and formal co-curricular involvement until the incomplete grade is resolved.

CREDIT RECOVERY

A student who fails a core academic graduation requirement must make up the credit. It is the parents or student's responsibility to arrange for making up a failed course. Students who have failed a core course may complete the graduation requirement by enrolling in an equivalent course in an accredited and approved summer school program or by registering for the same course at Saint Thomas Academy. The course syllabus should be submitted to the Vice President for his approval prior to registering for external coursework.

Only in sudden and extraneous cases may a student appeal to the Vice President to retake a core courses for which they received a 'C-' or lower. Students will not be permitted to retake a course for which they received a passing grade if the retake interferes with their ability to meet other graduation requirements.

When a course is retaken, the transcribed grade is an average of the quality points accrued between the two attempts. For instance, the transcript of a student who receives a grade of "D" (1.0) in his first attempt and a grade of an "A" (4.0) in his second attempt of the same or equivalent course would reflect the grade of a "C," or 2.5 quality points.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Saint Thomas Academy defines the following as satisfactory academic progress:

- A cumulative GPA of at least a 2.0
- No outstanding incomplete grades
- No 'F' grades in the most recent academic term

Students who fail to meet one or more of these criteria are placed on Academic Probation. Please see the student handbook for more information about Academic Probation, including its impact on co-curricular eligibility.

TRANSFER CREDITS

Transfer credits are articulated by the Office for Admissions and approved by the Vice President.

- The GPA weight for regular courses is 1.0
- The GPA weight for honor courses is 1.1
- The GPA weight for IB courses is 1.2
- The GPA weight for AP courses is 1.2
- Physical Education courses receive an "S" or "U" and have no impact on a student's GPA
- The Vice President will determine credits for online classes

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

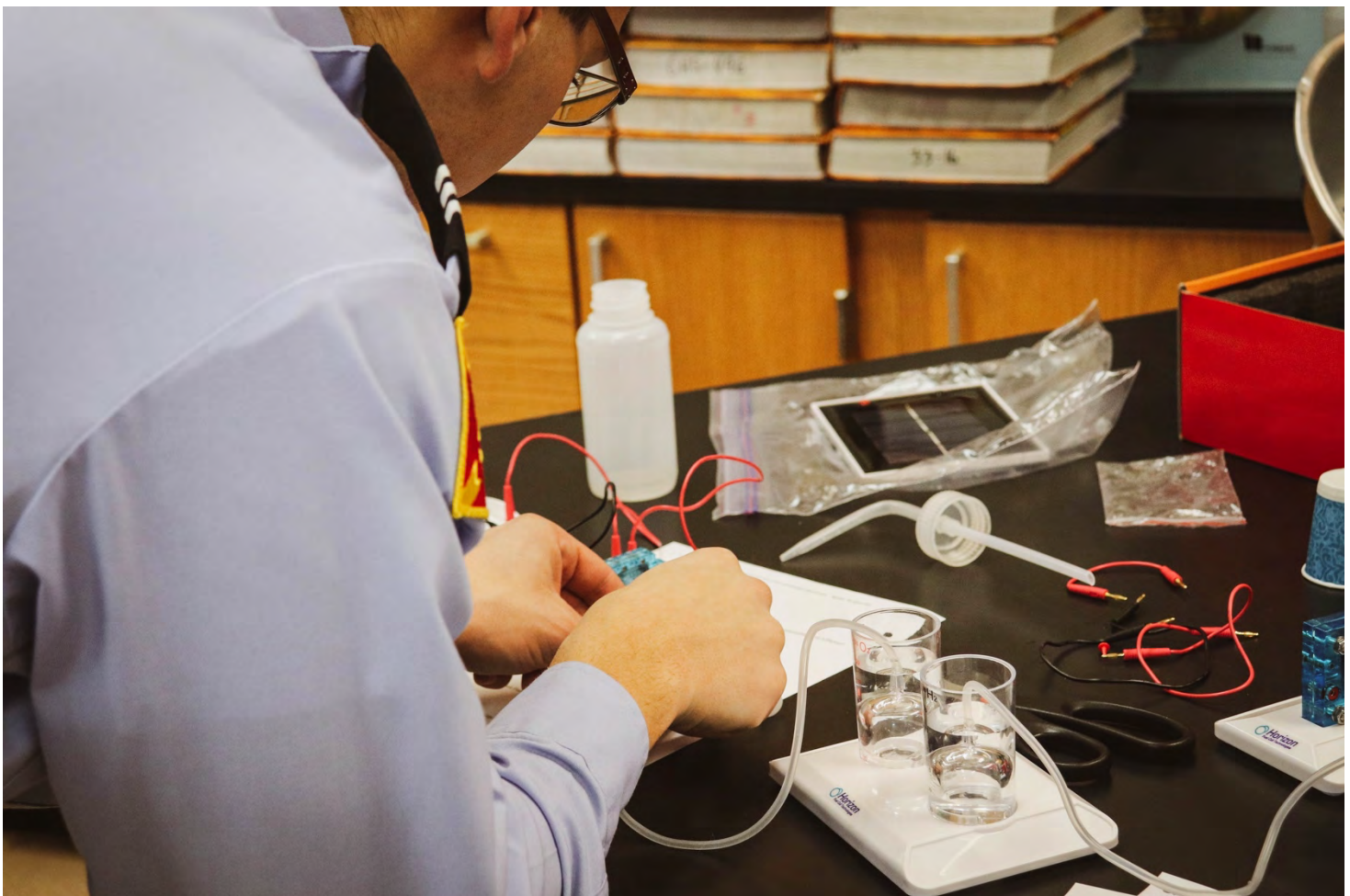
Saint Thomas Academy is committed to the highest standards of personal and academic integrity. Academic misconduct in the form of, inter alia, plagiarism, cheating, or deception is intolerable. The Academy is committed to academic honesty and responds proportionally when this trust is breached. Please see the student handbook for more on the Academy's response to academic misconduct.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Academic accommodations are intended to ensure access to educational opportunities for students with learning, cognitive, and sensory differences. Saint Thomas Academy is committed to helping students realize their full potential and achieve independence by providing reasonable services needed to accommodate individuals with learning differences.

Based on the recommendations included in the documentation of a learning difference provided by the student's parent/guardian, the Learning Specialist and Director of Student Services determines and arranges all academic accommodations for students with learning differences.

Accommodations may include alternative testing arrangements (e.g., extended time and oral clarification), assistance from peer note takers, and preferential seating. Please reach out to the office for student services should you believe that you or your son has a documented difference that may qualify for a learning accommodation.





2023-2024

ENGLISH

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT = 8 SEMESTERS (4 YEARS)

	9	10	11	12
CORE	English 9: Rhetorical Skills	Literature & Composition Or Honors Literature & Composition	American Literature & Composition Or Honors American Studies: English Or AP English Language / Critical Reading & Writing	Senior Choice-Based English Core Courses Or AP English Literature & Composition
ELECTIVE		Creative Writing Digital Journalism Global Affairs Words of the Wild	Creative Writing Digital Journalism Global Affairs Words of the Wild Writing for Screen & Stage The American Novel Minnesota Authors	Creative Writing Digital Journalism Global Affairs Words of the Wild Writing for Screen & Stage The American Novel Minnesota Authors

ENGLISH PROGRAMMATIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

The English program at Saint Thomas Academy provides students with the opportunity to develop mastery of skills in reading, writing and speaking, focusing on student-centered approaches. Grade nine emphasizes language skills necessary for successful study at the Academy while courses in grades ten through twelve increasingly prepare students for successful study at the college level. The department believes that individuals who understand and can use language effectively will enjoy more fulfilling lives.

The English Department provides students the tools to:

- Read with understanding and critical insight.
- Express ideas clearly in a variety of written forms.
- Develop skills necessary for effective oral communication.
- Analyze and evaluate the significance of ideas.
- Conduct and present scholarly research.
- Hone critical thinking skills.

ENGLISH CORE REQUIREMENTS

GRADE 9: RHETORICAL SKILLS - Grade Level: 9

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None

Class notes: This yearlong course fulfills the freshman English graduation requirement.

This course works to establish competency with the necessary English skills that enable students to succeed in a rigorous college-preparatory program. Students read literature from diverse perspectives and settings and develop abilities related to reading comprehension and appreciation, as well as literary analysis and critical thinking. Greek and Latin roots are learned and practiced, helping students develop a strong working vocabulary. Students write a variety of types of essays with a focus on thesis construction and support, organization of paragraphs and ideas, and proper use of language. Effective speaking skills are practiced through a variety of individual and group formats. Research techniques are introduced and developed through the completion of a large project.

LITERATURE & COMPOSITION - Grade Level: 10

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Rhetorical Skills.

Class notes: This yearlong course may be used to fulfill the sophomore English graduation requirement.

This class integrates and builds critical thinking and reading skills by asking students to analyze the styles and techniques of various literary genres: short stories, drama, poetry, and novels. The diversity of voices and experiences contained within these works exposes students to experiences and perspectives that differ from their own. Through persuasive thesis-driven papers and creative writing, as well as multimedia projects, students develop critical thinking, research skills, evidence-based arguments, effective organization, and personal voice.

HONORS LITERATURE & COMPOSITION - Grade Level: 10

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Rhetorical Skills with distinction, as determined by the Rhetorical Skills instructor.

Class notes: This yearlong course may be used to fulfill the sophomore English graduation requirement.

Designed as preparation for Critical Reading and Writing Honors, this course relies on a genuine excitement for literature and writing as well as sincere intellectual curiosity. Focusing on challenging literature and a variety of composition types, the course is built to expand upon and maximize existing skills in discussion, literary analysis, written composition, and critical thinking. Literature will be drawn from a wide swath of genres, and the diversity of voices and experiences contained within the works exposes students to experiences and perspectives that differ from their own.

AMERICAN LITERATURE & COMPOSITION - Grade Level: 11

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Literature & Composition or Honors Literature and Composition

Class notes: This yearlong course may be used to fulfill the junior English graduation requirement.

This course offers a survey of American literature that is organized within dominant themes. Major authors, significant literary movements, and multicultural perspectives are highlighted. Composition and speech are integrated with the reading program, and students do a variety of writing, from informal reading responses to formal literary analysis and creative writing. Students will also need to complete a formal research paper to pass the class. Writing focuses include proofreading for grammatical and mechanical perfection, development of ideas, and revision techniques.

HONORS AMERICAN STUDIES: ENGLISH - Grade Level: 11

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite(s): CGPA of a 3.0 or higher with a B+ or higher in Literature & Composition or Honors Literature & Composition and instructor approval.

Corequisite(s): Honors American Studies: History; Mixed Media (Fine Arts)

Class notes: This course is part of an interdisciplinary triad marrying three yearlong courses across three disciplines – Honors American Studies: English (English), Honors American Studies: History (Social Studies), and Mixed Methods (Fine Arts). Taken together, these courses may be used to satisfy the following graduation requirements: the junior English requirement, the junior Social Studies graduation requirement, and the Fine Arts requirement. The Fine Arts component is embedded – and therefore does not take the spot of an additional elective.

Bob Dylan, Maya Lin, Louis Armstrong, Jackie Robinson, Joe Louis, Dr. Seuss, Aretha Franklin. Writers, artists, musicians, and athletes have been just as important to shaping America as politicians and business owners. American Studies connects important movements and events in American history with literature, art, and popular culture. Instructors place emphasis on critical thinking, encouraging students to see connections within and between eras in American history. Art history and the creation of art projects are an important part of the course. All three strands of the class—English, History, and Art—will focus on four major themes of American culture: liberty, mobility, prosperity, and security.

Our study of American literature will center on the historical context, culture, arts, and humanities of specific periods of American history. For example, while studying the Civil Rights Movement, we'll read Lorraine Hansberry's play *A Raisin in the Sun*, and while learning about the Vietnam War, we'll read stories from Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*. As in other junior English courses, major writers, significant literary movements, and multicultural perspectives are highlighted. Student writing ranges from informal journal entries to formal literary analysis to research projects. Discussion, individual and small group presentations, projects, tests, and both creative and analytical work provide a means for student expression and proof of mastery of the material covered.

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE / CRITICAL READING & WRITING – Grade Level: 11

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Literature & Composition with approval by the Honors Literature & Composition instructor or a grade of A- or better in Literature and Composition with instructor approval.

Class notes: This yearlong course may be used to fulfill the junior English graduation requirement. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

This course is ideal for students seeking the challenge of a year-long college-level literary analysis course that combines the study of fiction and non-fiction texts. During the first semester, students will explore American and world writers, crafting textual interpretations of their work in preparation for 12th Grade AP English Literature. In the second semester, the curriculum shifts to the examination of classic non-fiction, closely studying rhetorical strategies and devices, persuasive argument, research, and source analysis in preparation for the AP English Language and Composition Exam. Assignments in this class center on analytical papers, a research paper, a personal essay, writing workshops, Socratic seminars, and a variety of oral lessons and presentations. The writing growth plan includes an emphasis on using the small group workshop model to develop critically interpretive thesis statements, a persuasive line of reasoning, a variety of argumentative strategies, and the development of rhetorical devices. After completing this course, students should be well equipped to critically interpret a broad spectrum of literature, to develop rhetorically sophisticated thesis-driven essays, and to pair thoughtful analysis with polished, expressive, and structurally varied sentences.

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION – Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Grade of A- or better in Honors Critical Reading & Writing or Honors American Studies: English and instructor's approval. Students who have successfully completed American Literature & Composition with an 'A' grade may apply to enroll in AP English Literature & Composition with instructor's approval.

Class notes: This yearlong course may be used to fulfill the senior English graduation requirement. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

AP English is intended to prepare seniors for the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Exam. Students may receive college credit or placement in advanced levels of college English. The primary emphasis in AP English is to provide students with the rigorous academic experiences of a college English course. Students read and discuss novels, poems, plays, and philosophical essays to hone their literary insight and develop higher-level writing skills. Formal papers prepare students for college writing; timed essays and multiple-choice tests provide them with extensive exposure to the types of questions encountered on the AP Exam. Students will have extensive outside reading and are expected to be able to comprehend difficult texts on their own. It is not unusual for AP English students to read 30 to 40 pages of a novel in one night, and sometimes entire novels are assigned for reading outside of class by a certain date. In addition, students will write frequently, with a long formal paper, several in-class essays, and several short pieces each quarter. Daily preparation for class and participation in class discussion is also required.

SENIOR CHOICE-BASED ENGLISH CORE COURSES

Students who successfully complete two of the following semester-based English core courses fulfill their senior English graduation requirement.

CRIME FICTION – Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of American Literature & Composition, Honors Critical Reading and Writing, or Honors American Studies: English.

Class notes: This semester-based course may be used to partially fulfill the senior English graduation requirement.

Missing persons, institutional corruption, that one last big score. These are the realms of the detectives, criminals, and private eyes who navigate both sides of the law. Having long fascinated popular culture, the crime novel is uniquely positioned to address many significant problems and issues of contemporary society while still offering crackerjack mysteries and sizzling drama. From the earliest examples of Poe and Conan Doyle, through the hard-boiled stylings of Hammett and Chandler, to contemporary writers like George Pelecanos and Vince Flynn, crime fiction perfectly marries exciting narratives, indelible characters, psychological struggles, and social commentary.

FILM & LITERATURE – Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of American Literature & Composition, Honors Critical Reading and Writing, or Honors American Studies: English.

Class notes: This semester-based course may be used to partially fulfill the senior English graduation requirement.

From their inception to *Inception*, films have captivated audiences for over a century, creating a multi-medium art form that combines narrative, staged performance, and cinematic imagery into a dynamic visual text open to multiple critical readings. With an emphasis on critical reading, this course pairs the critical study of novels, novellas, and short stories such as Ken Kesey's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, and Edgar Allan Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher" with their cinematic adaptations, exploring that complex textual relationship through seminar discussions, oral presentations, and analytical essay compositions. Beyond this exploration, students learn film theory, visual analysis, essential film vocabulary, cinematography, videography, and film editing, applying this knowledge to the development of adapted screenplays and to the production of their own short films. By the end of this course, students will have not only read and viewed classic literature and landmark films but will also have cultivated their own talents as story creators and film critics.

THE HERO'S JOURNEY – Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of American Literature & Composition, Honors Critical Reading and Writing, or Honors American Studies: English.

Class notes: This semester-based course may be used to partially fulfill the senior English graduation requirement.

A hero leaves the common world into one of unexplored supernatural wonder, encounters various opposing forces, bests them in a decisive, personal victory, and returns home triumphant. This is the traditional hero's journey, what Joseph Campbell called the monomyth, and from Tolkien to George Lucas, Homer to Han Solo, it offers a unique window into our modern understanding of heroism, villainy, leadership, and even the concept of story itself. This course will explore Campbell's traditional hero's journey, applying it to novels, short stories, poems, and films, opening new avenues of appreciation and understanding. Course will cover material from Ancient Greek myths, to classic novels, to films, allowing students to see heroic patterns in stories and in their own lives.

SCIENCE FICTION – Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of American Literature & Composition, Honors Critical Reading and Writing, or Honors American Studies: English.

Class notes: This semester-based course may be used to partially fulfill the senior English graduation requirement.

Imagine a great ballroom where rocket pilots, child-generals, aliens, and hobbits waltz together across the dance floor. In the Science Fiction and Fantasy genre, these implausible pairings in unlikely places are routinely the clay for fascinating stories set in imaginary worlds. And while traditional critics of this genre may look at this unusual and unlikely story-telling material and call it unrealistic, in this course, we will explore the galactic and the fantastic in the words and spirit of the great Sci-Fi/Fantasy writer, Ursula K. Le Guin, who referred to her colleagues as “realists of the greater reality.” Incorporating a variety of short stories and novels, we will explore the “greater real” and investigate the timeless device of exploring our own world and experience through the lens of a “galaxy far, far away.”

ENGLISH ELECTIVES

The following, semester-based courses may be taken as electives. They cannot be used to fulfill the English Department's core graduation requirements.

CREATIVE WRITING - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Instructor approval.

Class notes: Semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the English Department's core requirements.

The class is conducted as a writer's workshop wherein students share their writings and work towards a polished portfolio of their best work. Students actively write for the purposes of creating finished works, including but not limited to poetry, short stories, essays, memoirs, and drama. Students study models of good writing and varied literary selections.

DIGITAL JOURNALISM - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Instructor approval.

Class notes: Semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the English Department's core requirements.

This class teaches the elements of journalistic writing in the digital age. It will focus on building newsworthy stories, writing to an audience, and mastering the fundamentals of reporting and blogging. Students who take this class will work on the *Citation*, the school blog. The class will present the different sections of the newspaper, such as reporting, editorials, sports.

GLOBAL AFFAIRS - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Instructor approval.**Class notes:** Semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the English Department's core requirements.

Students in this class will explore contemporary geo-political conflicts through the study of fiction, non-fiction, and documentary. Beyond the readings, debates, and investigation of a variety of important global events – India vs. Pakistan, China's emergence as a rising superpower, the problem of rogue regimes, Russia's economic and political war against the West etc. – students will prepare for and lead lively debates, collaborate in simulated think-tanks, study diplomatic policy, role-play in simulated diplomatic conflicts, and develop research-based problems and solutions to some of the planet's most pressing issues. This class will serve as the ideal academic companion piece to students interested in Model UN and foreign affairs.

WORDS OF THE WILD: OUTDOOR & ADVENTURE LITERATURE - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Instructor approval.**Class notes:** Semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the English Department's core requirements.

From the foundational musings of Thoreau and Emerson to the real-life adventures of Ernest Shackleton and Alexander Supertramp, this course dives headfirst into stories of adventure, courage, and survival in the face of the natural world. Learning will begin in the classroom and extend into the natural world as students will not simply read about the wonders of the wilderness but experience it themselves through outdoor activity-based learning.

WRITING FOR THE SCREEN & STAGE - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Instructor approval.**Class notes:** Semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the English Department's core requirements.

Students in this class will be introduced to the art of script writing. They will study significant modern and historical scripts and performances to inspire their own work. Working both individually and in groups, students will brainstorm, outline, and create their own scripts designed for the stage or screen.

THE AMERICAN NOVEL - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Instructor approval.**Class notes:** Semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the English Department's core requirements.

This class will present great American novels from the twentieth and twenty-first century, reflecting the diversity of American voices.

MINNESOTA AUTHORS - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Instructor approval.**Class notes:** Semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the English Department's core requirements.

This elective course will explore literature written by Minnesota writers. Students will read classic and contemporary works of poetry, novels, short stories, and non-fiction from authors such as Sinclair Lewis, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Louise Erdrich, Kao Kalia Yang, and Marlon James. A focus on Minnesota history will allow students to understand the backdrop and context of the great "homegrown" literature that has emerged from the land of 10,000 lakes!



2023-2024

FINE ARTS

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT = 1 SEMESTER

FINE ARTS PROGRAMMATIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through music and visual arts, the Saint Thomas Academy Fine Arts Department promotes creativity, problem solving, critical thinking, knowledge by cultivating the students' artistic faculties. By the end of their fine arts experience, students will be able to:

- Use foundational knowledge and skills while responding to, creating, and presenting artistic work.
- Generate and develop original artistic ideas.
- Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for performance and artwork.
- Make artistic choices to convey meaning through performance and artwork.
- Evaluate artistic work.
- Integrate knowledge and personal experiences while responding to, creating, and presenting artistic work.

In the visual arts, students:

- Demonstrate proficiency in the techniques, skills, and concepts used to convey ideas.
- Apply both abstract reasoning and emotional intuitive responses during the art experience.
- Convey ideas through multiple stage techniques and mixed media processes.
- Make knowledgeable aesthetic value judgments based on personal work, the work of other students, and artists of the past and present.
- Understand the relationship between art and society and learn to respect the expressions of others.

Through music, students:

- Become proficient at their chosen instruments and/or with their voices.
- Become familiar with different historical styles and composers of music through the performance of balanced repertoires.
- Learn what it is like to be a part of a large group, all working towards the same goal, where the efforts of any one individual are considered essential to achieving that goal.
- Prepare and motivate students to continue singing or playing their instruments beyond high school.

FINE ARTS CORE REQUIREMENTS

Students fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement by successfully completing any one of the following Visual Arts, Digital Arts, Art History, or Music courses.

VISUAL ARTS

CERAMICS I - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None

Class notes: This semester-based course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement.

An introduction to ceramics, focusing mainly on hand-building techniques (pinch, slab, and coil). Focus will be on sculpture (both functional and decorative), and an introduction to throwing cylinders, bowls, and cups on the pottery wheel. Proper safety, cleaning, and participation are part of the final grades.

CERAMICS II - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Ceramics I with instructor approval.

Class notes: None

Students will further their skills in ceramics, using the hand-building and throwing techniques, learned in Ceramics I. Expectations for Ceramics II are much higher, as students will be expected to work more independently, to explore concepts and building techniques. Proper safety, cleaning, and participation are part of the final grades.

HONORS CERAMICS – Grade Level 10-12

Weight 1.1

Prerequisite: Ceramics I and II with instructor approval

Class notes: None

Students will further develop their skills in ceramics, using the construction methods they have learned in the previous ceramics courses. They will be expected to work more independently to develop their own concepts and ideas. These projects will be approved by their instructor. A higher level of work ethic, craftsmanship, and ceramics understanding will be expected and pursued. Additional firing and glazing methods will be explored. Students will be encouraged to enter their artwork in at least one regional or national juried exhibition. Proper safety and cleaning are part of the grade.

DRAWING I & PAINTING I - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None

Class notes: This semester-based course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement.

Students will be undergoing a series of studio drawing and painting activities, designed to develop a better understanding of the methods of drawing; including drawing from observation, gesture, still life, portraits, perspective, realism, and abstraction. Additionally, we will learn the elements and principles of design, such as form, contour, line, proportion, value, negative/positive space, balance, contrast, color theory and texture. For drawing, various drawing media will be explored, including charcoal, pastels, pencils, ink, and colored pencils. Painting- we will paint on primarily stretched canvas with acrylic paints.

DRAWING II & PAINTING II - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Drawing I & Painting I with instructor approval.**Notes:** None

Students will further their skills in drawing and painting, using the techniques they learned in Drawing I and Painting I. They will work more independently on their projects, while continuing to challenge themselves and experiment with various drawing media and explore a more in-depth study of color and painting techniques.

HONORS DRAWING & PAINTING - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite: Drawing II & Painting II with instructor approval.**Notes:** None

Students will further their skills in drawing and painting, using the techniques they learned in Drawing II and Painting II. They will work more independently on their projects, while continuing to challenge themselves and experiment with various drawing media and explore a more in-depth study of color and painting techniques.

SCULPTURE - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.**Notes:** This semester-based course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement.

This course will focus on building three dimensional objects/sculptures using mixed media materials; including chicken wire, papier-mâché, plaster gauze, cardboard, plaster, clay, wood and found objects. This is a great course to develop critical thinking, and creative problem-solving skills. This course will be offered every other semester.

MIXED MEDIA - Grade Level: 11

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Drawing/Painting I or Ceramics I or with instructor permission.**Corequisite:** Honors American Studies: English; Honors American Studies: History

Notes: This course is part of an interdisciplinary triad marrying three yearlong courses across three disciplines – Honors American Studies: English (English), Honors American Studies: History (Social Studies), and Mixed Methods (Fine Arts). Taken together, these courses may be used to satisfy the following graduation requirements: the junior English requirement, the junior Social Studies graduation requirement, and the Fine Arts requirement. The Fine Arts component is embedded – and therefore does not take the spot of an additional elective.

Mixed Media is a craft-based art course intended for students who are interested in the creative process in a hands-on way. In this course students will learn about the art and craft of various cultures while creating unique works of art. Students will explore the processes of making materials such as paper and ink from organic matter. Students will learn different mediums and studio techniques in metal, glass, and fiber. Related projects and techniques will include metal embossing, stained glass, copper enameling, Pewter/bronze casting, paper making, fiber and textile techniques

DIGITAL ARTS

COMPUTER GRAPHICS - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Computer Graphics or Digital Photography I with instructor approval

Notes: None

This computer graphics course will provide students with the opportunity to develop an understanding of the power, precision, creative inspiration, and control of computer graphics. Graphic design pushes the boundaries of digital imaging and is a must for students pursuing careers in marketing, business, journalism, PR work, design, advertising, illustration, web design, and video game design. Students will develop foundational skills in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator CC.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY I - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Notes: This semester-based course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement.

Students will learn the basics of digital SLR camera operation and photo creation. Students expand their skills in creating photographs while exploring various experimental photographic techniques, including long exposure, sequence, and cinemograph photography. This course will introduce students to editing in Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom. Registrants for this course are encouraged to have access to a DSLR camera with manual light and speed adjustments.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY II - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Digital Photography I and instructor approval.

Notes: None

This course is designed to help the student who has basic technical and aesthetic knowledge to further his understanding of the principles and techniques of photography. In-class critiques will provide feedback on students' work. Students will explore advanced concepts relating to contemporary artistic and photographic practice, with special emphasis placed on portfolio development. Students should expect to provide their own DSLR camera.

CADET VISION – Grade Level: 10-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: Computer Graphics or Digital Photography I with instructor approval

Notes: None

Cadet Vision will provide students with the opportunity to further develop their skills in the digital field of cinematography. This course will also cover a wide variety of topics such as how to advertise/market a product or service, how to read digital media and how digital media affects our everyday life. We will be creating commercials and sports hype videos to better understand the tools and techniques used by professionals. Students will be given the opportunity to explore the depths of Adobe Premiere Pro, iMovie and After Effects to edit and complete their masterpiece.

DIGITAL ARTS CAPSTONE – Grade Level: 10-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Digital Photography II and instructor approval.

Notes: None

Digital Arts Capstone is designed for students entering their third or fourth year of Digital Arts classes. Students will gain a deeper understanding of how to creatively brainstorm and develop conceptually strong ideas. Students will choose areas of focus within the field of Digital Arts and will work closely with the instructor to customize ambitious, independently tailored projects for each quarter that build on the students' specific interests.

FILM & VIDEO PRODUCTION - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Computer Graphics or Digital Photography I and instructor approval.

Notes: None

This computer graphics and video editing course will provide students with the opportunity to further develop their skills in the digital field. We will use the Adobe Creative Suite with an emphasis on Premiere Pro and additional work in Photoshop, Illustrator, and After Effects. Students will complete projects with the use of cameras, lighting, and the green screen. They will be able to dive into the depths of digital video editing while uncovering new techniques and ways to view film along the way.

ART HISTORY

AP ART HISTORY – Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.2

Prerequisite(s): None

Class notes: This yearlong course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement. Semester 1 focuses on art in the Classical world (Prehistoric to Gothic) and semester 2 focuses on Modern Art (Proto-Renaissance to Post-Modern). AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

These classes will explore humankind's cultural heritage and significant ideas that have contributed to it and its effect upon our lives today. We will also examine art, music, literature, theatre, religion, history, and philosophy as a total product, which collectively represents the thoughts, attitudes, and ideas of humankind. The course will survey artworks and examine art as a reflection of society. Students that complete both courses will have the opportunity to complete AP example for possible college credit.

MUSIC

GUITAR: BEGINNING – Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Notes: This semester-based course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement.

Beginning Guitar is an entry-level fine arts elective course for those students interested in gaining knowledge and skills related to acoustic guitar. Over the length of this course, students will learn the parts of the guitar, chord progressions, scales, strumming patterns, accompaniment figures and arpeggios. By the conclusion of the course, students should be able to play and accompany basic folk and rock songs in their own student-led ensembles. School-owned guitars are available for use during class time and to check-out for at-home practice. Students will receive a grade based upon the following factors: knowledge of the instrument, mastery of basic guitar chords, note reading, scales, rhythm, basic music notation, and individual/small group playing.

PIANO: BEGINNING – Grade Level: 9-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Notes: This semester-based course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement.

Beginning piano is an entry-level fine arts elective course for those students who want to learn and develop their individual playing skills, gain a deep understanding of music, and experience the joy of independent playing. Throughout the course students will learn to read music with an approach that is easy to understand, study basic music theory, discover the world of music at your fingertips such as classical, folk, pop, jazz, blues, and spirituals. Students will work individually and play and perform in groups to master the techniques of playing. Formal and Informal assessments will be part of the course, (quizzes, tests, performance-based rubrics, and class participation. STA will provide electric pianos and the piano course books for students.

PIANO: EARLY INTERMEDIATE – Grade Level: 9-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: Beginning piano course or instructor permission.**Notes:** This semester-based course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts requirement.

This fine arts elective course is for those students who want to further develop their individual playing skills, gain a deeper understanding of music, and experience the joy of independent playing. Throughout the course students will learn to read music with an approach that is easy to understand, study basic music theory, discover the world of music at your fingertips such as classical, folk, pop, jazz, blues, and spirituals. Students will work individually and play and perform in groups to master the techniques of playing. Formal and Informal assessments will be part of the course, (quizzes, tests, performance-based rubrics, and class participation.

STA CHOIR – Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: None**Notes:** This yearlong course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement.

The STA Choir program is open to any student who is interested in singing and wants to be part of a musical ensemble that builds on trust and teamwork. During the course students will develop an understanding and appreciation of the richness of other cultures, and the connections music brings to people. Students will learn how to sing with proper vocal technique and gain confidence in their own singing skills. The focus of the choir is to enhance the musical, creative and expressive qualities of every student through rehearsals and performance. The choir has four main concerts throughout the school year and sings at community and sports events. The choir also collaborates with other VISTA performing groups and has participated in music educational tours nationally and internationally.

HONORS STA CHOIR – Grade Level: 9-12

Weight 1.1

Prerequisite: At least two years choral experience or director's approval.**Notes:** This yearlong course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement.

The Honors Choir Course is offered to musically dedicated juniors and seniors who have made a significant leadership contribution to the choir and achieved the highest level of artistry. Students who have completed two or three years in the STA choral program and wish to participate in the Honors choir, must first get approval from the director.

VISTA CONCERT/MILITARY BAND - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: At least one year of experience playing a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument or prior approval by the director.**Notes:** This yearlong course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement. Attendance at a limited number of rehearsals and performances outside the school day is expected of all members—including the August marching band camp.

The VISTA Concert Band/STA Military Band is open to any students with prior band experience. The band presents three formal concerts annually and performs at military ceremonies, athletic and community events. In addition to furthering personal growth as individual musicians, emphasis is placed on creating a unified musical expression by the entire ensemble through large group rehearsals, sectionals, and chamber music. Students may be invited by the instructor to do honors level work placing an emphasis on private lessons or participation in auditioned ensembles that meet outside the normal school day. Criteria to be eligible for the honors credit is available from the instructor.

HONORS VISTA CONCERT/HONORS MILITARY BAND - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite: Two year's experience playing a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument or prior approval by the director.

Notes: This yearlong course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement. Attendance at a limited number of rehearsals and performances outside the school day is expected of all members--including the August marching band camp.

The VISTA Concert Band/STA Military Band is open to any students with prior band experience. The band presents three formal concerts annually and performs at military ceremonies, athletic and community events. In addition to furthering personal growth as individual musicians, emphasis is placed on creating a unified musical expression by the entire ensemble through large group rehearsals, sectionals, and chamber music. Criteria to be eligible for the honors credit is available from the instructor.

VISTA JAZZ BAND - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: Instructor approval. Satisfactory completion of audition in May for the following academic year. Participation is limited to traditional jazz instruments: saxophones, trumpets, trombones, and rhythm section (bass, guitar, piano, drum set.).

Notes: This yearlong course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement. This course is open to students from both STA and Visitation. Students who perform on saxophone, trumpet or trombone must be concurrently enrolled in either Vista Concert Band course.

The VISTA Jazz Band meets two times weekly during zero hour for full ensemble and sectional rehearsals. Students will study, prepare, and perform jazz music from a wide variety of genres and historical periods. VISTA Jazz will appear at a variety of formal and informal performances and other school and community events both on and off campus.

VISTA STRING ORCHESTRA - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite: Two year's experience playing a string instrument.

Notes: This yearlong course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement. This course is held at Visitation.

The Vista Orchestra includes string players in grades 9 – 12 from Visitation and Saint Thomas Academy. Musicians interested in this class must play the violin, viola, cello, or bass, and must have at least two years of playing experience. String Orchestra is an elective that meets as a regular class in the school day schedule. The string Orchestra curriculum focuses not only on developing musical skills, but also on developing an understanding and appreciation of music through the study, rehearsal, and performance of concert repertoire. The string orchestra participates in numerous concerts and special events throughout the school year.



2023-2024

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT = 1 SEMESTER

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMATIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

Health. The general objectives of health education include instilling in the students:

- An appreciation of current health issues.
- An awareness and understanding social situations and relationships.
- An understanding of body systems and illness.
- An understanding of the correlation between lifestyle and wellness.

Physical Education. The general objectives of the physical education department include instilling in the students:

- An appreciation, understanding and application of physical fitness.
- An appreciation and understanding of lifetime sports and activities.
- An appreciation and understanding of team sports and leadership.
- An introduction to a variety of activities, some of which they would not normally have exposure to.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION CORE REQUIREMENTS

Students satisfy the Fine Arts Core requirement by successfully completing Health and Physical Education (*1-semester*).

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION - Grade Level: 9

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None

Notes: This semester-based course fulfills the Health and Physical Education requirement.

The health component of this course is designed to include current topics as well as information related to body systems, nutrition, anatomy, and personal wellness.

The physical education component of this course enhances both the physical and social development for all students. By providing guidance, instruction and experiences that help young men make informed choices about their fitness and wellbeing, students are challenged to reach their full physical, emotional, and social potential.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION ELECTIVES

ADVANCED HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Satisfactory completion of Health and Physical Education or equivalent.

Notes: This is a semester-based course. Physical Education grades are Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U) and not part of the GPA calculation.

With an individualized approach, the activities of Advanced Physical Education are age-appropriate and designed to allow students to concentrate on life-long skills and activities that will enhance their development as healthy members of society beyond Saint Thomas Academy. Involving the aspects of physiology and life science, students will develop a deeper understanding of why and how they can live healthy lives.

HEY, REF! - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Satisfactory completion of Health and Physical Education or equivalent.

Notes: This is a semester-based course. Physical Education grades are Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U) and not part of the GPA calculation.

The course is designed to train officials for various sports. Students who are enrolled in the course will work towards certification in their chosen sport(s). This course will feature physical fitness training and conditioning, the development of effective communication skills and overall game management skills – including training on how to operate game timing devices. Students will analyze game film, practice/participate as officials during Physical Education classes, and develop an understanding of the overall approach of an effective game official.

STA GRIND – Grade Level: 10-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Satisfactory completion of Health and Physical Education or equivalent.

Notes: This is a semester-based course. Physical Education grades are Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U) and not part of the GPA calculation.

A balance between athletics, academics, and the world in which we live guide the curriculum of this course. Students will be physically active one day a week and explore current health and wellness topics on a separate day. Students will create both large-scale (with collaboration) and individual projects that will demonstrate their understanding of current and student-driven and chosen topics. After their experience in STA Grind, students will have developed a better awareness of their own fitness, life skills and how their personal choices will impact their world.

STRENGTH TRAINING I - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of Health and Physical Education or equivalent.

Notes: This is a semester-based course. Physical Education grades are Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U) and not part of the GPA calculation.

This course is designed to individually train students providing preparation, exercise and recovery procedures for complete strength training. Students will follow a specific regimen increasing general health in the Fitness Center. They will learn to exert and resist force, develop muscle strength and endurance. Using body weight, free weights, plyometrics, speed exercises and resistance bands, students will advance their overall fitness.

STRENGTH TRAINING II - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: Completion of Strength Training I or Instructor approval.

Notes: This is a semester-based course. Physical Education grades are Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U) and not part of the GPA calculation.

An extension or further developmental progress opportunity from Strength Training I. Students will progress utilizing the principles and practices of Strength Training I. Student-specific, personal interest-driven or sport-related strength training will guide how this class is designed for each student.



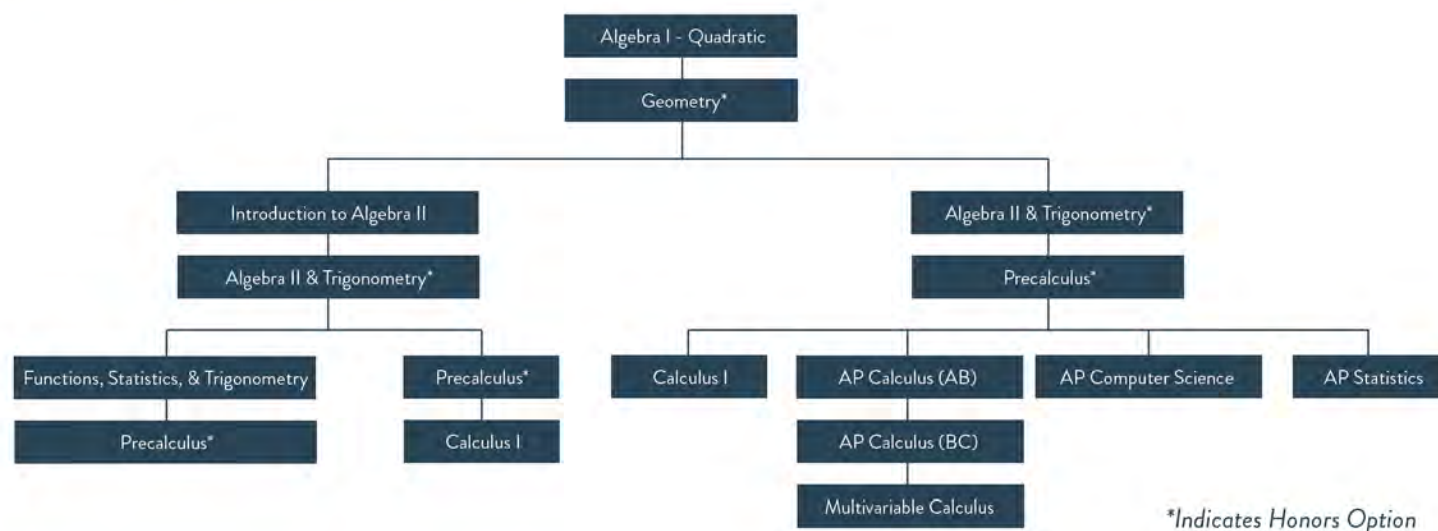
2023-2024

MATHEMATICS

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT = 6 SEMESTERS (3 YEARS)

	9	10	11	12
CORE	Algebra I – Quadratic Or Geometry Or Honors Geometry Or Introduction to Algebra II Or Algebra II/Trigonometry Or Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry	Geometry Or Honors Geometry Or Introduction to Algebra II Or Algebra II/Trigonometry Or Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry Or Precalculus Or Honors Precalculus	Introduction to Algebra II Or Algebra II/Trigonometry Or Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry Or Functions, Statistics, & Trigonometry Or Precalculus Or Honors Precalculus Or Calculus I Or AP Calculus (AB) Or AP Calculus (BC) Or Multivariable Calculus Or AP Computer Science Or AP Statistics	Functions, Statistics, & Trigonometry Or Precalculus Or Honors Precalculus Or Calculus I Or AP Calculus (AB) Or AP Calculus (BC) Or Multivariable Calculus Or AP Computer Science Or AP Statistics
	Introduction to Statistics	Introduction to Statistics Introduction to Accounting	Introduction to Statistics Introduction to Accounting	Introduction to Statistics Introduction to Accounting
ELECTIVE				

MATH PROGRESSION FLOW CHART



MATH PROGRAMMATIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

The mathematics program at Saint Thomas Academy is designed to challenge students with an enriched curriculum and to make appropriate courses available to all students. It is our objective that the students will:

- Become proficient at basic arithmetic, algebra, and analytical thinking skills.
- Develop the ability to solve both routine and non-routine problems using a variety of strategies.
- Become familiar with the use of mathematical tools, such as compasses, protractors, calculators, and mathematical computer software.

MATH CORE REQUIREMENTS

ALGEBRA I – QUADRATIC - Grade Level: 9

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None

Class notes: This yearlong course satisfies one year of the Academy’s three-year math graduation requirement.

Algebra I – Quadratic reviews structure of the real number system, algebraic symbols, and first-degree equations; it then moves quickly into the study of all aspects surrounding second degree equations and graphs; expanded systems of first-degree equations; factoring second-degree functions and the quadratic formula; exponents and square roots.

GEOMETRY - Grade Level: 9-10

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Satisfactory completion of Algebra I – Quadratic or by math placement.

Class notes: This yearlong course satisfies one year of the Academy’s three-year math graduation requirement.

This course first establishes the tools of geometry – methods of reasoning, the coordinate plane, and types of measurement.

Subsequently, it focuses on properties and applications of lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, similarity, right triangle trigonometry, circles, and transformations.

HONORS GEOMETRY - Grade Level: 9-10

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite(s): Grade of A in Honors Algebra I or by math placement.**Notes:** This yearlong course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement.

This course covers all the topics in the regular geometry course. This program will move at a quicker pace and will incorporate enrichment activities to study the topic more in depth.

INTRODUCTION TO ALGEBRA II - Grade Level: 9-11

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None**Notes:** This yearlong course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement.

This course is designed for those students who need a review of Algebra I as they transition to Algebra II. The Algebra II topics include quadratic, polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions.

ALGEBRA II/TRIGONOMETRY - Grade Level: 9-11

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Geometry or Algebra II or by math placement.**Notes:** This yearlong course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement.

Algebra II/Trigonometry includes an in-depth study of the topics taught in Algebra I and Geometry. Additional topics include quadratic, polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, logarithmic functions, and data analysis. The unit circle is the basis for the trigonometric functions.

HONORS ALGEBRA II/TRIGONOMETRY - Grade Level: 9-11

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite(s): A grade of a B- or higher in Honors Geometry or an A in Geometry or by math placement.**Notes:** This yearlong course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement.

Algebra II/Trigonometry is a rigorous in-depth study of functions. A solid foundation in Advanced Algebra is essential. Some areas of study include polynomial, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Rational expressions, data analysis, and trigonometry are also explored.

PRECALCULUS - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): A grade of a C- or higher in Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry.**Notes:** This yearlong course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement and one of the STEM Leadership Pathway's math requirements.

The purpose of a precalculus course is to prepare students for a successful experience in Calculus. Topics include number systems, polynomial, exponential, rational, and logarithmic functions, as well as sequences and series. Trigonometry is developed on the basis of the unit circle, periodic functions, trigonometric identities and proofs.

HONORS PRECALCULUS - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite(s): A grade of a B- or higher in Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry or an A in Algebra II/Trigonometry or with instructor permission.**Notes:** This yearlong course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement and one of the STEM Leadership Pathway's math requirements.

Honors Precalculus is a course designed for students who plan to take Calculus AB or BC. Students will complete an in-depth analysis of topics, which include functions and their graphs, analytic trigonometry, linear systems and matrices, sequences and series, limits, and the introduction of Calculus.

FUNCTIONS, STATISTICS AND TRIGONOMETRY - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Algebra II/Trigonometry.

Notes: This yearlong course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement.

This course is designed for the students who completed the Algebra II class. The trigonometry topics include right triangle trigonometry, the introduction of the unit circle and analytical trigonometry. The statistics topics include basic statistical analysis, regression, and the introduction of probability.

CALCULUS I - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Precalculus.

Notes: This yearlong course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement.

Calculus I covers the major topics of differential and integral calculus. Applications include related rates, areas, volumes, rectilinear motion, and graphing with the use of the first and second derivatives.

AP CALCULUS (AB) - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Precalculus with instructor permission.

Notes: This yearlong course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement. Recommended for students in the Business & Economics Leadership Pathway. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

Calculus (AB) covers the major topics of differential and integral calculus. Applications include related rates, areas, volumes, rectilinear motion, and graphing with the use of the first and second derivatives. All topics that are part of the AB curriculum of the Advanced Placement Program are included. Students should expect to spend 2-4 hours a week reading, completing assignments, and free response questions.

AP COMPUTER SCIENCE - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Algebra 2/Trigonometry and B or better in current math course.

Notes: This yearlong course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement and one of the STEM Leadership Pathway's elective choice requirements. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam

Advanced Placement Computer Science (A) is a study of the Java programming language, emphasizing the object-oriented approach. Students will study computer systems, objects and primitive data, programming statements, flow of control, writing and enhancing classes, arrays, inheritance, and recursion. Students should expect to spend 5-8 hours a week reading, completing assignments, and programming projects.

AP STATISTICS - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Algebra 2/Trigonometry and A- or better in current math course.

Notes: This yearlong course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement and one of the Business & Economics Leadership Pathway's and STEM Leadership Pathway's math requirements. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

The statistics course encompasses four major units: exploring and analyzing data, producing data through samples and experiments, understanding probability and simulation models, and drawing conclusions about population through inference. This is not the typical math class. Each topic is directly connected to the real-world through collecting data, experiments, investigations, and simulations. This course focuses on communication and interpretation of the mathematics, and writing is critical. Students should expect to spend 2-4 hours a week reading, completing assignments, and free response questions.

AP CALCULUS (BC) - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of AP Calculus (AB) with instructor permission.**Notes:** This yearlong course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

AP Calculus (BC) covers the more advanced topics of differential and integral calculus. Applications include related rates, differential approximation, areas, volumes, arc length, and polar coordinates. The course concludes with units on infinite series, including Taylor series and differential equations. All topics that are part of the BC curriculum of the Advanced Placement Program are included. Students should expect to spend 2-4 hours a week reading, completing assignments, and free response questions.

MULTIVARIABLE CALCULUS (CALCULUS III) - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of AP Calculus (BC) with instructor permission.**Notes:** This yearlong course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement.

This course is designed for the students who completed AP Calculus BC. The course will transition to three-dimensional coordinate systems. Topics of study include Vector functions, Partial Derivatives, Multiple Integrals and Line integrals, Stokes and Greens Theorems. Multivariable calculus is not an AP course.

MATH ELECTIVES

INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICS – Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None**Corequisite(s):** Algebra II/Trigonometry or higher-level math course.**Notes:** This course satisfies one of the Business & Economics Leadership Pathway's and STEM Leadership Pathway's math requirements.

The analysis, understanding, and application of statistics is required by virtually all courses of study and job fields. This elective will introduce you the basics of statistics and explore sampling, statistical variables, charting, experiments, and other topics. Any student planning on studying anything after graduating from STA should take this class in preparation for a future statistics course.

INTRODUCTION TO ACCOUNTING - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None**Notes:** This course satisfies one of the Business & Economics Leadership Pathway's social studies elective requirements.

This course is designed for the student who wants to learn the basics of accounting. The student will learn to use Excel for analysis.



2023-2024

MILITARY LEADERSHIP

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT = 8 SEMESTERS (4 YEARS)*

**Transfer students meet the graduation requirement so long as they enroll in Military Leadership each semester that they are at the Academy.*

MILITARY LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMATIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

The mission of Saint Thomas Academy Leadership program is to develop life skills through participation as a Cadet in the Saint Thomas Academy Corps of Cadets structure and military program. These skills include:

- Leader Attributes & Skills
- Cadet Staff Planning
- Team Building & Teamwork
- Followership
- Decision-making
- Problem analysis
- Goal Setting
- Mentorship/Counseling
- Public Speaking / Briefings
- Self-discipline
- Punctuality and Time Management
- Appearance and bearing (presence)
- Standards enforcement
- Selfless-Service
- Respect (for Authority) and each other
- Character Development/Moral Compass
- Citizenship and Patriotism
- Chivalry
- Etiquette and Protocol
- Drill and Ceremony
- Military Customs, Traditions, and Courtesies

Note: Rifle Marksmanship and Range Safety are a required component of Military Leadership. Cadets may enhance their leadership skills in several military led co-curriculars. These include:

- Crack Drill Squad
- Honor Guard/Color Guard
- Ranger Team
- Rifle Team

Saint Thomas Academy is a member of the Association of Military Colleges and Secondary Schools of the United States.

For more information on AMCSUS website at <http://www.amcsus.org/>

MILITARY LEADERSHIP CORE REQUIREMENTS

MILITARY LEADERSHIP (ML 23) - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisites: None

Notes: Military Leadership is required every semester a student is enrolled at the Academy. Military Leadership coursework offers mixed-age-group, “platoon model,” instruction such that upperclassmen mentor their freshmen and sophomore peers.

The Military Leadership course provides each cadet with a military structure, defined roles, and responsibilities, as well as affording a variety of leadership opportunities that teach ethical decision-making. The platoon model of instruction uses a clear set of rewards and recognitions for exceptional performances and consequences when standards are not met. Cadets learn to follow instructions before being promoted into leadership roles. Through this process, a cadet learns that he is both individually responsible and accountable to his fellow cadets for his actions. Primary emphasis is placed on the practical application of learned leadership at the squad and platoon levels.

Subjects include an introduction to and history of the STA Corps of Cadets; drill and ceremonies; uniform and personal appearance; military customs, traditions, and courtesies; Cadet Challenge and physical fitness; rifle marksmanship; US Flag protocol; planning and goal setting; ethical decision making; leadership theory, strategies, and responsibilities; mentorship; performance counseling; and public speaking. Freshman and sophomore cadets are assigned as team members within the Corps of Cadets, junior cadets can be assigned as team and squad leaders while senior cadets can be assigned as platoon sergeants or platoon leaders.

ADVANCED MILITARY LEADERSHIP - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite: Instructor approval

Notes: This course may be used to substitute for a student’s senior Military Leadership core requirement.

Advanced Military Leadership is designed for seniors assigned to the highest levels of leadership within the Corps of Cadets. These cadets are responsible for the planning, organizing, coordinating, and executing of all activities and ceremonial events within the Corps of Cadets. In addition, they manage the cadet awards program, merit/demerit system, promotions, public affairs, technology, operations, and logistics for the Corps of Cadets. Cadets are assigned as Company First Sergeants, Executive Officers, Company Commanders, Brigade Staff Officers, Battalion Commanders, Command Sergeants Majors, and Cadet Colonel – who commands the entire Cadet Brigade.



2023-2024

SCIENCE

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT = 6 SEMESTERS (3 YEARS)

	9	10	11	12
CORE	Biology Or Honors Biology	Chemistry Or Honors Chemistry	AP Biology Or AP Chemistry Or Environmental Science Or AP Environmental Science	Physics Or AP Physics I Or AP Biology Or AP Chemistry Or Environmental Science Or AP Environmental Science
		Introduction to Engineering	Anatomy & Physiology	Anatomy & Physiology
ELECTIVE		Anatomy & Physiology	Honors Anatomy & Physiology	Honors Anatomy & Physiology
		Honors Anatomy & Physiology	Honors Biomedical Ethics	Honors Biomedical Ethics
		Honors Biomedical Ethics	Land Management	Land Management
		Land Management	Zoology	Zoology
		Zoology	Astronomy	Astronomy
			Biotechnology & Society	Biotechnology & Society
			Entomology I (Fall)	Entomology I (Fall)
			Forensic Science	Forensic Science
			Honors Forensic Science	Honors Forensic Science
				Engineering Capstone

The science program at Saint Thomas Academy prepares students for college science courses. We offer sequences for students who are interested in science or engineering programs in college and for those who may not intend to take advanced science courses in college. Students study fundamental scientific principles, theories, and mathematical relationships, and learn scientific reasoning across all grade levels through STEAM related applications and through inquiry-based laboratory investigations.

It is our intent that students will:

- Understand the role of science and technology in their lives.
- Use scientific methods to analyze and solve problems.
- Make valid and ethical decisions about scientific issues.
- Become sensitive to the global implications of life-style choices.
- Evaluate their potential for careers in science.

SCIENCE CORE REQUIREMENTS

BIOLOGY - Grade Level: 9

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None

Class notes: This yearlong course fulfills the freshman science graduation requirement.

This course introduces students to the fundamental concepts of biology including cellular biology, genetics, microbiology, animal and plant biology, and evolution. Introductory laboratory skills are developed with emphasis on collection, observation, and interpretation of data.

HONORS BIOLOGY - Grade Level: 9

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite(s): Minimum composite score of 125 of the STA entrance exams, a first semester, eighth grade science grade of at least an A-, and passing score on science placement exam with instructor approval.

Class notes: This yearlong course fulfills the freshman science graduation requirement.

This course focuses on cellular biology, genetics, microbiology, zoology, evolution, and ecology. College level pedagogy is stressed, as is development of analytical skills in a concentrated laboratory program.

CHEMISTRY - Grade Level: 10

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Satisfactory completion Biology.

Corequisites: Algebra I

Class notes: This yearlong course fulfills the sophomore science graduation requirement.

This course focuses on scientific measurement, chemical nomenclature, atomic theory, molar relationships, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, gases, solutions, acids and bases, and properties of elements and compounds. Mathematical problem solving and a quantitative and qualitative approach toward laboratory investigation are stressed.

HONORS CHEMISTRY - Grade Level: 10

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite(s): Instructor approval; A in Biology 1st Semester or B+ in Honors Biology 1st Semester

Corequisites: Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry.

Class notes: This yearlong course fulfills the sophomore science graduation requirement.

This course introduces students to scientific measurements, chemical nomenclature, atomic theory, molar relationships, stoichiometry, thermodynamics, theories of solutions, acids, bases, equilibriums, properties of elements and compounds and their structural deviations, a study of laws governing the behavior of matter, and organic chemistry. A mathematical approach to problem solving and a quantitative and qualitative approach toward laboratory investigation are stressed.

AP BIOLOGY - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Cumulative GPA of 3.4, Completion of Biology and Chemistry.**Class notes:** This yearlong course fulfills the third and final science graduation requirement. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

This course is comparable to an introductory, upper-level freshman college biology course. The course is intended for highly motivated students able to learn at a college level with a college text. It is under the supervision of the biology department of Saint Mary's University from which four college credits may be earned. Students should expect 2-4 hours of homework a week, which will include reading and taking notes on the textbook, independent research, lab reports and other group work. AP Biology requires summer reading with an assessment the first week of school.

AP CHEMISTRY – Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Cumulative GPA of 3.4, Completion of Biology and Chemistry.**Class notes:** This yearlong course fulfills the third and final science graduation requirement.

Students will complete a summer homework assignment prior to the start of the year. A graphing calculator is required. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

This college-level course prepares students for the Advanced Placement Exam. Topics include atomic structure, intermolecular forces, and bonding, chemical reactions, kinetics, thermodynamics, and chemical equilibrium. Descriptive chemistry is covered in depth and lab experiments reinforce the principles. In addition to traditional content, students will develop skills on six science practices: concept explanation, visual representation, questioning and methods, representing and describing data, data analysis and statistics, and science argumentation from evidence. Students will engage in several laboratory investigations to implement the science practices.

The successful AP Chemistry student will read assigned texts, participate in class discussions, work on problem-solving skills, conduct scientific investigations, and be prepared to write using scientific language. The AP Chemistry framework specifies what students must know, be able to do, and understand, with a focus on the four big ideas that encompass core principles, theories, and processes of the study of Chemistry. The framework also encourages instruction that prepares students for advanced work in STEM majors.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Biology and Chemistry.**Class notes:** This yearlong course fulfills the third and final science graduation requirement.

This course covers five areas of environmental concern: ecology principles, human population and resources, environmental quality and pollution, environment and society, and sustainability. In addition to text reading and assessments, students will perform lab work, water quality testing, and various larger projects.

AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Cumulative GPA of 3.4, Completion of Biology and Chemistry.**Class notes:** This yearlong course fulfills the third and final science graduation requirement. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

This course covers five areas of environmental concern: ecological principles, human population and resources, environmental quality and pollution, environment and society, and sustainability. In addition to text reading and assessments, students will perform lab work; water quality testing and present results to the Mendota Heights City Council. Students should expect a reading load of 2-4 hours per week throughout most of the year. AP Environmental Science requires summer reading with an assessment the first week of school.

PHYSICS - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Geometry

Corequisites: Algebra II/Trigonometry

Class notes: This yearlong course fulfills the third and final science graduation requirement and the STEM Leadership Pathway science requirement.

Physics expands upon the concepts introduced in Physical Science to help students understand the physical world around them. The course follows a traditional physics curriculum beginning with mechanics and kinematics with an emphasis on Newton's Laws of Motion. Students then continue on to learn about energy, waves, sound, and optics. Throughout the course, students learn to apply the above concepts to the world around them through demonstrations, application problems and labs. Physics is a math-based science class that requires algebraic skills, such as solving equations.

AP PHYSICS - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite: Cumulative GPA of 3.4 or higher; successful completion of Geometry.

Corequisites: Algebra II/Trigonometry

Class notes: This yearlong course fulfills the third and final science graduation requirement and the STEM Leadership Pathway science requirement. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course. Students cultivate their understanding of physics through inquiry-based investigations as they explore these topics: kinematics, dynamics, circular motion and gravitation, energy, momentum, simple harmonic motion, and torque and rotational motion.

SCIENCE ELECTIVES

INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING – Grade Level: 10

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Biology

Corequisite(s): Honors Chemistry

Class notes: Semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the Science Department's core requirements but may be used to satisfy the STEM Leadership Pathway elective requirement. Meant for students interested in pursuing engineering as profession.

This course introduces students to CAD design, precision measurement, physics principles, and invention. Students would be challenged to solve problems that have more than one correct answer with creativity and research. The class would promote hands-on learning as students are introduced to the engineering design process and would be given increasingly complex projects that demonstrate their mastery of the material.

ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY – Grade Level: 10-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Biology

Class notes: Semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the Science Department's core requirements but may be used to satisfy the STEM Leadership Pathway elective choice requirement.

This course uses case studies, computer simulations, virtual labs, dissections, and diagnostic equipment to teach the integration of form and function of human organ systems. Human diseases and disorders, their treatments will be examined through a variety of modeling activities.

HONORS ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY – Grade Level: 10-12

Weight 1.1

Prerequisite(s): Biology

Class notes: Semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the Science Department's core requirements but may be used to satisfy the STEM Leadership Pathway elective choice requirement. Honors Anatomy & Physiology differs from regular Anatomy & Physiology in that honors will have a cumulative semester final exam worth 20% of the final grade as well as more independent reading outside of class.

This course uses case studies, computer simulations, virtual labs, dissections, and diagnostic equipment to teach the integration of form and function of human organ systems. Human diseases and disorders, their treatments will be examined through a variety of modeling activities.

HONORS BIOMEDICAL ETHICS – Grade Level: 10-12

Weight 1.1

Prerequisite(s): Instructor approval; successful completion of Biology

Class notes: Semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the Science Department's core requirements but may be used to satisfy the STEM Leadership Pathway elective choice requirement.

This course focuses on students developing critical thinking and argumentation skills while learning about ethically challenging real-world scenarios in the biomedical fields. Forms of learning will primarily include reading and writing about, discussing, presenting on, and debating ethical issues. Topics will include, but not be limited to, various practices such as: in-vitro fertilization and designer genetics, end-of-life care, and stem cell research and therapy. This course is recommended for motivated students who have strong written and verbal argumentation skills. Students will be selected via an application and/or interview process which must be submitted to/scheduled with Mr. Meisch.

LAND MANAGEMENT – Grade Level: 10-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Biology

Class notes: Semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the Science Department's core requirements but may be used to satisfy the STEM Leadership Pathway elective choice requirement.

This course offers a unique opportunity for students to get involved with their Saint Thomas Academy campus while learning how to create, maintain, and sustain native landscapes. This course, in the fall and spring you will be outside almost every day actively improving our Saint Thomas Academy campus, in the winter there will be emphasis on botany and hydroponics. This course is recommended for anyone who has a love for the outdoors and anyone looking to improve the environment around them.

ZOOLOGY – Grade Level: 10-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Instructor approval; successful completion of Biology

Class notes: Semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the Science Department's core requirements but may be used to satisfy the STEM Leadership Pathway elective choice requirement.

In this course participants will learn about the animal kingdom, starting with simple animals and working up the evolutionary tree to the more complex animals. Students will have several dissecting labs throughout the course. Other labs will explore animal behavior, animal ecology, evolution, and genetics.

ASTRONOMY – Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Instructor approval

Class notes: Semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the Science Department's core requirements but may be used to satisfy the STEM Leadership Pathway elective choice requirement.

Over the course of the semester, we will try to answer the question *what's really going on when we look up into the night sky?* Students will dive into the physics behind star formation, what keeps a star burning, and how a star will die. We will look at light waves and the electromagnetic spectrum to better understand how we know what we know about deep space, even though we have never traveled much farther than the edge of our solar system. We will also do some cross-curricular work and visit some ancient cultures to see how astronomy shaped their way of understanding the world around them.

BIOTECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY – Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry

Class notes: Semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the Science Department's core requirements but may be used to satisfy the STEM Leadership Pathway elective choice requirement.

Many young people get overwhelmed and discouraged when they constantly hear about how our planet is suffering due to pollution, changes in climate and spread of novel diseases. This class offers hope. In this lab-based elective course, students will learn about how techniques in biotech are being used to help society and our planet. They will learn about biofuels being used to reduce greenhouse gasses, genetic engineering bacteria to clean up pollutants, and improve crop growth in changing climates. This course will show students that the many environmental problems in our world today can be ameliorated by applications of biotechnology.

ENTOMOLOGY I – Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry

Class notes: Semester-based elective (fall only). May not be used to fulfill the Science Department's core requirements but may be used to satisfy the STEM Leadership Pathway elective choice requirement. Students will be required to drive to collection sites.

In this course, participants will focus on the location, collection, preservation, identification, and classification/organization of insect specimens into professional, high-quality displays. Insects will be collected from local nature preserves and wooded areas. Content will be delivered through lecture, videos, activities, and laboratory activities after hands-on field and lab work is completed as the weather gets too cold for collection.

FORENSIC SCIENCE – Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry

Class notes: Semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the Science Department's core requirements but may be used to satisfy the STEM Leadership Pathway elective choice requirement.

In this course, participants will focus on the application of scientific concepts and laboratory techniques currently used in the field of DNA technology and forensics. Content will be delivered through hands-on methods and lab investigations using methods from several disciplines of science including biology, anatomy and physiology, chemistry, and physics. Throughout the course, labs will include crime scene and evidence collection, time of death analysis, fingerprint analysis, blood spatter analysis, as well as biotechnology techniques such as DNA extraction, gel electrophoresis, and PCR. The Forensic science course will provide students with an interest in science and/or law enforcement the ability to apply foundational knowledge gained in their previous science courses in a hands-on method. The course will focus on practicing lab techniques used in the field of forensic science as well as the development and application of critical thinking skills required to analyze data and reach evidence-based conclusions.

HONORS FORENSIC SCIENCE – Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.1

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry

Class notes: Semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the Science Department's core requirements but may be used to satisfy the STEM Leadership Pathway elective choice requirement. Honors Forensic Science differs from regular Forensic Science in its lab requirements as well as the expectation that students complete two formal lab reports which will include additional research and a more rigorous application of methodology.

In this course, participants will focus on the application of scientific concepts and laboratory techniques currently used in the field of DNA technology and forensics. Content will be delivered through hands-on methods and lab investigations using methods from several disciplines of science including biology, anatomy and physiology, chemistry, and physics. Throughout the course, labs will include crime scene and evidence collection, time of death analysis, fingerprint analysis, blood spatter analysis, as well as biotechnology techniques such as DNA extraction, gel electrophoresis, and PCR. The Forensic science course will provide students with an interest in science and/or law enforcement the ability to apply foundational knowledge gained in their previous science courses in a hands-on method. The course will focus on practicing lab techniques used in the field of forensic science as well as the development and application of critical thinking skills required to analyze data and reach evidence-based conclusions.

ENGINEERING CAPSTONE – Grade Level: 12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Instructor approval

Class notes: Semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the Science Department's core requirements but may be used to satisfy the STEM Leadership Pathway elective choice requirement.

This course will provide students the opportunity to use the Engineering Cycle to research, design, create and test a project of their choosing. Students will be paired with outside mentors as needed. The course will provide an overview of basic engineering skills, lab safety, use of equipment, and computer aided design software. Students will be evaluated by a mid-semester review and an end-of-semester presentation of their working prototype/project. This course is recommended for highly motivated students who can work independently. Course is limited to 12 students/section. Students will be selected via an application and interview which must be scheduled with Mr. Westlake in the Innovation Center.



2023-2024

SOCIAL STUDIES

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT = 8 SEMESTERS (4 YEARS)

	9	10	11	12
CORE	Civics: US	AP World History or two of the following:	U.S. History Or	AP Microeconomics
	Civics: Global	The Ancient World (3000 BCE to 476 CE)	Honors American Studies: History Or	AP Macroeconomics
		A World of Empires (330 CE to 1453 CE)	AP U.S. History	AP U.S. Government & Politics
		Making the Modern World (1450 CE to 1900 CE)		AP Comparative Government
		The Modern World (1900 CE to Present)		Economics and one of the following: Psychology AP Psychology Sociology The State of the World

9	10	11	12
Debate	AP Human Geography	AP Human Geography	AP Human Geography
	Debate	AP Psychology	AP Psychology
	Farm to Feast: History of Food in America	Boxing, Race & American Culture	Boxing, Race & American Culture
	Any of the world history courses beyond the core requirement.	Crime & Justice	Crime & Justice
		Debate	Debate
		Farm to Feast: History of Food in America	Farm to Feast: History of Food in America
		History & Theory of Football	History & Theory of Football
		Jazz to Grunge: American Music History	Jazz to Grunge: American Music History
		Psychology	Personal Finance & Stock Market Investing (Cadet Fund)
		SELL IT!	
		Sociology	Psychology
		The State of the World	SELL IT!
		TV, Movies & Modern Culture	Sociology
		Any of the world history courses beyond the core requirement.	The State of the World
			TV, Movies & Modern Culture
			Any of the world history courses beyond the core requirement.

SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMMATIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Social Studies Department at Saint Thomas Academy designs its courses to provide a challenging learning environment that promotes academic excellence and recognizes the unique abilities of each student. The Social Studies Department expects each student to:

- Develop the ability to connect the past and the present by applying methods of historical research and to use a variety of sources to demonstrate cause and effect relationships in history.
- Acquire geographical skills and to understand and apply the main themes of geographic analysis.
- Acquire economic literacy and apply it to U.S. and world economic institutions in order to be an effective citizen and to enhance personal economic decision-making.
- Acquire political literacy in order to be able to participate effectively in the U.S. democratic process.
- Be able to evaluate controversial issues and apply this knowledge through debates and other methods of presentation (written, verbal, multimedia).
- Develop a multicultural awareness and sensitivity, recognizing that judgments about people of different cultures are usually shaped and influenced by the standards and values of the culture in which one lives.
- Develop the competency to acquire, organize, evaluate, and report information for the purposes of solving problems and clarifying issues.

SOCIAL STUDIES CORE REQUIREMENTS

CIVICS: UNITED STATES - Grade level: 9

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None

Class notes: Students take this one-semester course in the semester opposite of Civics: Global. Satisfactory completion of both sections fulfills the freshman Social Studies graduation requirement.

This course will serve as an introduction to the high school social studies experience. The class will focus on Civics but will also explore elements of other disciplines within social studies. Topics and skills covered will include application of the Constitution and democratic principles in our past and current political climate, the role of federal, state, and local governments, discussion of important social issues, current events in historical context, critical thinking, and media literacy.

CIVICS: GLOBAL - Grade level: 9

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None

Class notes: Students take this one-semester course in the semester opposite of Civics: United States. Satisfactory completion of both sections fulfills the freshman Social Studies graduation requirement.

This course will build on the Civics: United States course and examine the interconnections between nations. The class will examine different government types, economic systems, and religions in an effort to understand differences and similarities that create conflict and cooperation. Students will study patterns of migration, population, and industrialization as well as global environmental topics to create a framework for a fundamental understanding of what it means to be a U.S. citizen within a broader global context.

AP WORLD HISTORY - Grade Level: 10

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): 3.5 cumulative GPA or recommendation by 9th grade social studies instructor

Class notes: This yearlong course fulfills the sophomore Social Studies graduation requirement. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

AP World History is a challenging college-level course that requires students to achieve mastery of the broad historical developments that punctuated and drove the march of history from above the year 1200 CE to the present. In order to achieve mastery, students must be prepared to read and write extensively about world history and acquire and internalize knowledge of historical concepts, events, and movements. They will also analyze the roles of individual men and women who played significant roles in shaping global history during the last eight hundred years. Most students devote around ten hours per week to AP World History.

THE ANCIENT WORLD (3000 BCE to 476 CE) - Grade Level: 10

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None

Class notes: This is a semester-based course (fall or spring) and may be used to fulfill partially the sophomore Social Studies graduation requirement.

This course will explore why and where early civilizations developed, will compare their political and economic systems, and will examine the cultural, religious, and technological advances of ancient civilizations. We will cover the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Persia, Israel, Greece, Rome, India, Africa, and China. Topics will include the rise of cities and empires, cultural and social structures, the evolution of technology and navigation, the development of communication, the importance of agriculture, the evolving conduct of warfare, and the emergence of intellectual and religious thought. Students will examine important themes and trends that affected more than one civilization and provide a crucial overview of cultures and meetings between cultures.

WORLD OF EMPIRES (330 CE to 1453 CE) - Grade Level: 10

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None

Class notes: This is a semester-based course (fall or spring) and may be used to fulfill partially the sophomore Social Studies graduation requirement.

This course will study world history during the period paralleling the rise and fall of the Byzantine Empire. We will cover the Islamic world, the Byzantine Empire, Medieval Europe, China, Africa, the Mongols, India, Japan and the Americas. Students will use primary historical sources to explore how power shifted, trade expanded, technology developed, economies grew, empires rose and fell and ordinary people lived around the world during this important period in history.

THE MAKING OF THE MODERN WORLD - Grade Level: 10

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None

Class notes: This is a semester-based course (fall or spring) and may be used to fulfill partially the sophomore Social Studies graduation requirement.

This course will study World History from the Age of Discovery (about 1450) to the start of the 20th Century. Among the topics we will cover will be the Reformation, the Age of Discovery, the transatlantic slave trade, the rise of absolute monarchs, the "Gunpowder Empires," the Enlightenment, the Atlantic revolutions, the Industrial revolution and imperialism. Students will use primary historical sources to illustrate the advances in art, science and technology and the debates over rights, liberties, and the role of government.

FROM THE GREAT WAR TO THE PRESENT - Grade Level: 10

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None

Class notes: This is a semester-based course (fall or spring) and may be used to fulfill partially the sophomore Social Studies graduation requirement.

This course will survey the great events of the 20th and 21st centuries from a variety of perspectives, considering how nationalism, race, power and privilege influence the way we see and describe the past. Topics will include World War I, the rise of Communist nations, global depressions, World War II, the Cold War, and the rise of globalism. Students will use primary historical sources, including audio and visual recordings, to draw conclusions about the consequences of wars, changing borders, developing technologies and economic exchanges.

UNITED STATES HISTORY - Grade Level: 11

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None

Class notes: This yearlong course fulfills the junior Social Studies graduation requirement.

U.S. History is a yearlong survey course beginning with the pre-Revolutionary period and ending with the Reagan era. Students will explore the forces and individuals that played key roles in the development of the U.S. and examine the causes of the main events in American history. All juniors participate in the History Day competition using a U.S. History topic of their choice related to the national contest theme.

AP UNITED STATES HISTORY - Grade Level: 11

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): 3.5 cumulative GPA or sophomore instructor approval.**Class notes:** This yearlong course fulfills the junior Social Studies graduation requirement. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

This course is a college-level survey of U.S. History. Students will combine secondary texts and primary sources to analyze the cause and effect relationships between people, events, and circumstances from the era of colonization to the present. All 11th grade students participate in the History Day competition using a U.S. History topic of their choice relating to the national contest theme. AP U.S. History will require approximately 5-7 hours per week of reading and homework, with somewhat more required when preparing for major tests and projects.

HONORS AMERICAN STUDIES: HISTORY - Grade Level: 11

Weight 1.1

Prerequisite(s): AP World History with a CGPA of a 3.0 or higher and instructor approval.**Corequisite(s):** Honors American Studies: English; Mixed Media (Fine Arts)**Class notes:** This course is part of an interdisciplinary triad marrying three yearlong courses across three disciplines – Honors American Studies: English (English); Honors American Studies: History (Social Studies); Mixed Methods (Fine Arts). Taken together, these courses may be used to satisfy the following graduation requirements: the junior English requirement, the junior Social Studies graduation requirement, and the Fine Arts requirement. The Fine Arts component is embedded – and therefore does not take the spot of an additional elective.

Bob Dylan, Maya Lin, Louis Armstrong, Jackie Robinson, Joe Louis, Dr. Seuss, Aretha Franklin. Writers, artists, musicians, and athletes have been just as important to shaping America as politicians and business owners. American Studies connects important movements and events in American history with literature, art, and popular culture. Instructors place emphasis on critical thinking, encouraging students to see connections within and between eras in American history. Art history and the creation of art projects are an important part of the course. All three strands of the class–English, History, and Art–will focus on four major themes of American culture: liberty, mobility, prosperity, and security.

The history component of American Studies: History will focus on key events and social movements such as the War for Independence, the Civil War, the wars of the 20th century from an American point of view, the reform movements of the 19th and 20th centuries, and the Civil Rights movements of the 20th century. We will examine how these major events and day-to-day life inspired works of art and literature. Reading assignments will focus on primary sources from each era. Students will demonstrate their learning through creative interdisciplinary projects, presentations, and participation in the History Day in Minnesota contest.

AP ECONOMICS (MICRO) - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): 3.5 cumulative GPA or instructor approval**Corequisite(s):** AP Economics (Macro) unless otherwise approved by the Department Chair**Class notes:** This semester-based course may be used to fulfill partially the senior Social Studies graduation requirement and one of the Business & Economics Leadership Pathway social studies requirements. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

This course is a college-level introduction to microeconomics. Topics include supply and demand, production and market structure, and factor markets. Students must be responsible for knowing the lecture material and be able to work on the material about 2 hours outside of class time per week.

AP ECONOMICS (MACRO) - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): 3.5 cumulative GPA or instructor approval**Corequisite(s):** AP Economics (Micro) unless otherwise approved by the Department Chair**Class notes:** This semester-based course may be used to fulfill partially the senior Social Studies graduation requirement and one of the Business & Economics Leadership Pathway social studies requirements. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

This course is a college-level introduction to macroeconomics. Topics include inflation, unemployment, taxation, and money supply. Students must be responsible for knowing the lecture material and be able to work on the material about 2 hours outside of class time per week.

AP U.S. GOVERNMENT & POLITICS - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): 3.5 cumulative GPA or junior instructor approval.**Corequisite(s):** AP Comparative Government & Politics unless otherwise approved by the Department Chair**Class notes:** This semester-based course may be used to fulfill partially the senior Social Studies graduation requirement. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

This course provides a college-level introduction to political theory and political science. Units include: Foundations of American Democracy, Interactions Among Branches of Government, Civil Liberties and Civil Rights, American Political Ideologies and Beliefs, and Political Participation. Special projects focus on lawmaking, major court cases, and political action. AP Government will require approximately 3 hours per week of reading and homework, with somewhat more required when preparing for major tests and projects.

AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT & POLITICS – Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite: 3.5 cumulative GPA or junior instructor approval.**Corequisite(s):** AP U.S. Government & Politics unless otherwise approved by the Department Chair**Class notes:** This semester-based course may be used to fulfill partially the senior Social Studies graduation requirement. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

AP Comparative Government and Politics introduces students to the rich diversity of political life outside the United States. The course uses a comparative approach to examine the political structures; policies; and political, economic, and social challenges of six selected countries: China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom. Students will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments.

ECONOMICS - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None**Class notes:** This is a semester-based course and may be used to fulfill partially the senior Social Studies graduation requirement and one of the Business & Economics Leadership Pathway social studies requirements.

This course is designed to introduce the principles of economics for students who are not in AP Economics. Topics covered will include supply and demand, behavior of households and businesses, competition and monopoly, inflation, unemployment, government regulation of the economy and the components of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

PSYCHOLOGY - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.0

Corequisites(s): Economics**Class notes:** This is a semester-based course and may be used to fulfill partially the senior Social Studies graduation requirement.

This course is an in-depth study of the processes involved in the operation of the human mind and emotions. The areas of study include the development of cognitive processes, theories of personalities and human development, sensation and perception, emotions and motivation, and psychological disorders.

AP PSYCHOLOGY - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion either of Biology or Honors Biology and either Chemistry or Honors Chemistry. 3.4 GPA with instructor approval.

Class notes: This yearlong course may be used to fulfill partially the Social Studies graduation requirement. To satisfy the graduation requirement, students who complete AP Psychology must complete an additional semester-based or yearlong senior core course. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

AP Psychology explores the ideas, theories, and methods of the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. You'll examine the concepts of psychology through reading and discussion, and you'll analyze data from psychological research studies.

SOCIOLOGY - Grade level: 11-12

Weight 1.0

Corequisites(s): Economics

Class notes: This is a semester-based course and may be used to fulfill partially the senior Social Studies graduation requirement.

Sociology is the scientific study of society, which focuses on the social interactions of people in today's diverse world. It will provide you with a comprehensive study of the basic concepts, principles, and practices of sociology. This course will help you gain a new understanding of human behavior and cultural relationships that apply in everyday life. Looking at the world through the sociologist's point of view can be an exciting adventure.

THE STATE OF THE WORLD - Grade level: 11-12

Weight 1.0

Corequisites(s): Economics

Class notes: This is a semester-based course may be used to fulfill partially the senior Social Studies graduation requirement.

This course will build upon skills learned in previous courses to analyze world events in context. Topics will include international conflicts, national elections and government changes, economic conditions and trends, international migration, environmental conditions, and the roles of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Current events will be evaluated in relation to broad historical trends. Students will learn how to evaluate data and reports by the traditional and new media and to create projects that synthesize their knowledge.

SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES

INTRODUCTION TO COMPETITIVE DEBATE - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This is a semester-based elective course (fall-only) and cannot be used to fulfill the Social Studies graduation requirement. Students are required to participate in at least four interscholastic debates.

This course will introduce students to the exciting and rewarding world of competitive debate. Students will learn how to create and respond to arguments, how to cross-examine opponents, how to research their positions and how to evaluate academic debates as well as the major debates in society. The debate formats used will depend on enrollment, interest, and the content of the national debate topics, but will be those used by the National Speech & Debate Association.

FROM FARM TO FEAST: THE HISTORY OF FOOD IN AMERICA – Grade Level: 10-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This is a semester-based elective course and cannot be used to fulfill the Social Studies graduation requirement.

This course will examine how the ways Americans produce, market, and consume food has interacted with changes in American society. Class activities and student projects will investigate changes in farming, the development of restaurant culture, the expansion of ethnic cuisines, and the way food and eating is advertised. Students will be encouraged to evaluate their own experiences in the broader context of American food culture.

BOXING, RACE, AND THE UNITED STATES - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None

Class notes: This is a semester-based elective course and cannot be used to fulfill the Social Studies graduation requirement.

This course will use sport, particularly the history of boxing, to delve into the challenging issues of race and diversity in the United States. Students will be expected to participate in the discussion of critical and controversial issues with an open mind, while also learning the art of boxing in a safe environment that meets the participant's level of comfort. The end goal of the course is threefold: to establish cultural awareness, to build student confidence in discussing difficult issues such as race in our history, and to learn how to box without looking like a baby giraffe.

HISTORY & THEORY OF FOOTBALL - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Instructor approval based on student writing sample.

Class notes: This is a semester-based elective course and cannot be used to fulfill the Social Studies graduation requirement.

History & Theory of Football will survey the history of the game of American Football from its inception in 1869 to the present day, looking at the historical, economical, and sociological changes and major events that shaped the game we now watch and love. Students will also be exposed to the theory of the game. Comparative theories of schematic football (offensive, defensive & special teams) will be covered.

FROM THE JAZZ AGE TO GRUNGE: AMERICA'S LOVE AFFAIR WITH MUSIC – Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None

Class notes: This is a semester-based elective course and cannot be used to fulfill the Social Studies graduation requirement.

The course will focus on the cultural, social, political, and economic influences of American music genres ranging from Tin Pan Alley to blues, jazz, rhythm and blues, country, folk, soul, rock, disco, hip-hop, grunge, rap, and alternatives. Students will delve into the meaning of lyrics, musical symbolism, and the effects that music had on America both during the time they were created and on future generations of music. Class discussions will focus on the relationship that race, class division, political ideology, and big business had and have on the types of lyrics and sounds that are expressed throughout American music. Readings of selected primary and secondary documents, video, film, and musical excerpts will be used throughout the class.

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY – Grade Level: 10-12

Weight 1.2

Prerequisite(s): 3.5 cumulative GPA and/or recommendation by the previous social studies instructor.**Class notes:** This is a semester-based elective course and cannot be used to fulfill the Social Studies graduation requirement. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

AP Human Geography is a fascinating class that will introduce you to the spatial world around you and its influences on human interaction and the environment. It is, however, a rigorous course, as is the case with all college-level AP courses. APHG Introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice. The course is structured according to the course outline found in the most recent AP Human Geography Course Description published by the College Board (<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-human-geography/course-details>).

CRIME & JUSTICE - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Instructor approval**Class notes:** This is a semester-based elective course and cannot be used to fulfill the Social Studies graduation requirement.

This course is designed for seniors who are considering majoring in sociology, behavioral science, social work, political science, or law enforcement. Students discuss crime and justice from a Catholic perspective. Topics include Catholic Social Doctrine, drug and alcohol abuse, racial profiling, prison reform, prison ministry, the history of crime and punishment in the modern age, mercy and forgiveness, victim's rights, crime scene investigation, interrogation techniques and crime trends and statistics. The course utilizes community experts on various topics and includes several field experiences.

SELL IT! – Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None**Class notes:** This is a semester-based elective course and cannot be used to fulfill the Social Studies graduation requirement. (One of the Business & Leadership Pathway social studies elective requirements.)

This course will cover a range of topics related to business but will emphasize marketing. Students will research and complete a marketing plan and will use Microsoft Excel and PowerPoint to present their proposal. Guests with expertise will present to the class. Students will improve their computer graphics skills during the creation of marketing promotions.

VISUAL MEDIA & MODERN CULTURE: TV AND MOVIE MADNESS – Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None**Class notes:** This is a semester-based elective course and cannot be used to fulfill the Social Studies graduation requirement.

It has been said that television is the greatest teaching tool in the history of mankind. But what does it teach? History? White history? A way of life? Consumerism? What the cool people are wearing? Why my party is right and why your party is wrong? Whether the content is serious or ridiculous, our nation's youth are deluged by visual media without having the skills to consider its influence and impact critically. This course will use high interest visual media to explore the role technology plays in our rapidly changing world, and how media technology shapes our beliefs and values. We will delve into the important issues of our times, such as ideological divisions, racism and sexism, and the entertainment culture.

PERSONAL FINANCE & STOCK MARKET INVESTING (Cadet Fund) - Grade Level: 12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None

Class notes: This is a semester-based elective course and cannot be used to fulfill the Social Studies graduation requirement. (One of the Business & Leadership Pathway social studies elective requirements.)

Students will learn the basics of personal finance and investing and manage a real stock market portfolio. Students will use Microsoft Excel to complete these tasks and will use additional programs to layout their information and findings. Professional experts on this topic will present to the class. As a capstone, students will prepare for and participate in the state competition sponsored by the MCEE, the *Finance Decathlon*.



2023-2024

THEOLOGY

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT = 8 SEMESTERS (4 YEARS)
OF COURSEWORK AND 70 HOURS OF SERVICE*

** Transfer students meet the Theology core requirement so long as they enroll in Theology each semester that they are at the Academy and complete the service hour requirement.*

	9	10	11	12
CORE	Scripture	Sacraments & Morality	World Religions & Church History	Advanced Morality Or Advanced Morality/Campus Morality Or Honors Advanced Morality / P.A.C.C. And Senior Service Project
	Seven Catholic Saints	Seven Catholic Saints	Seven Catholic Saints	Seven Catholic Saints
ELECTIVE	An Experience of The Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius	An Experience of The Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius	An Experience of The Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius	An Experience of The Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius
			The Great Movies: Defending Our Catholic Faith in the Modern World	The Great Movies: Defending Our Catholic Faith in the Modern World

THEOLOGY PROGRAMMATIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

The mission of Saint Thomas Academy is to create Christian leaders. The Theology Department is an integral element in this educational process. By stressing the moral dimension of leadership, we strive to help young men be capable, just, compassionate, and forthright citizens. In assisting students in their faith formation, we seek to develop a spirituality which encourages young men to desire personal holiness as well as to become servant leaders who welcome and care for each other.

It is our hope that each student will come to know the mystery of God's abiding presence and the depth of God's love for all. Our goal is to develop educated and informed Catholics who seek to be knowledgeable in their faith, who are willing to embrace the challenges of Christianity in the new millennium, and who are ready to work for the Church's social mission and justice and peace. The student will:

- Demonstrate basic Biblical interpretation skills, reverence, and appreciation of Sacred Scripture.
- Understand the basic teachings of the Church as articulated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (i.e. sacraments, creed, Ten Commandments, beatitudes, virtues, precepts of the Church, etc.)
- Understand their obligation to act morally as responsible Christians with well-informed and formed consciences.
- Have a basic understanding and appreciation of the history and theology of the Church, diversity of religious traditions, and of contemporary spiritual leaders.
- Understand liturgy and prayer and their movement towards service.
- Explore Christ's invitation to discipleship and personal holiness by exploring those lifestyles compatible with the Christian vocation.
- Know the key principles of Catholic social teaching, especially principles regarding respect for life and sexual morality.
- Develop reflective, critical thinking skills; moral, creative imaging skills and prayer and dialogical skills which allow the students to research and identify, assess, evaluate, discern, judge, and determine action considering Gospel values and Church teaching.

THEOLOGY CORE REQUIREMENTS

SCRIPTURE - Grade Level: 9

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None

Class notes: This yearlong course fulfills the freshmen Theology core requirement.

This survey course imparts a knowledge and love of Scripture. Students study the nature of Divine Revelation and learn how to appreciate the complex development of Scripture as it was passed down through oral tradition, set in written text, and made part of the canon. In keeping with Catholic tradition, students learn basic literary, structural, and historical methodological skills for Biblical interpretation. Students learn how to examine and clarify the meaning of Scripture; they also are encouraged to hear, in their reading of Scripture, the living word of God and reflectively seek to understand how God's word applies to their daily lives. This course also fosters students' moral and spiritual growth through the study of religious and spiritual leaders, examining how they responded in faith to contemporary issues and problems of their day. This course devotes itself to a study of the Old Testament in the first semester and the New Testament in the second semester.

SACRAMENTS & MORALITY - Grade Level: 10

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None

Class notes: This yearlong course fulfills the sophomore Theology core requirement.

This course integrates an exploration of Christian morality with the study of the seven sacraments. Students study the concepts of objective and subjective truth, conscience formation, sin and grace, legal and moral authority, the Ten Commandments, the moral precepts of the Church, sexual morality and the Gospel call to justice and peace. Through the study of the seven sacraments, students learn of God's abiding presence in the human person and the invitation to grow morally and spiritually. The Catechism of the Catholic Church is introduced to the students throughout the course of their study.

WORLD RELIGIONS & CHURCH HISTORY - Grade Level: 11

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None**Class notes:** This yearlong course fulfills the junior Theology core requirement.

During the first semester, students learn about the seven dimensions of religion that are common to all religions. This course surveys the most influential religions from the primal age to modern times. Students acquire a general understanding and respect for each religion studied and the people who practice it, along with presenting perspectives by which to understand and appreciate one's own religion more fully. Second semester students complete a historical survey of the Catholic Church's history, starting at Pentecost. The course covers the development of the early Christian community, the formation of the creeds, Church councils, evolution of worship, evangelism, and major historical events in Church history, including the Reformation period, Vatican II, and the contemporary Church.

SENIOR ADVANCED MORALITY CORE CHOICE COURSES

To graduate, students must complete successfully one of the following Advanced Morality courses.

ADVANCED MORALITY - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None**Class notes:** This yearlong course may be used to fulfill the senior Theology core requirement.

This seminar course will challenge students to study theology and justice at a deeper level. This course includes class presentations. Students will reflect on the life and teachings of Jesus and on the tradition of the Church in learning about and discussing a wide variety of current moral issues such as sexuality, medical ethics, abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia, poverty, and discrimination. Participation will be required and graded, and emphasis will be on the discussion of these issues.

ADVANCED MORALITY/CAMPUS MINISTRY - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Instructor approval based on application and interview.**Class notes:** This yearlong course may be used to fulfill the senior Theology core requirement.

Campus Ministry connects academic learning with real-life application of Catholic values and principles. Grounded in the theological exploration of the social justice issues that each person must confront in daily living, this one-year course is a hands-on experience with an academic examination of the Catholic Church's teachings on social morality. The Campus Ministers are responsible for planning and implementing the Academy's outreach efforts to the poor, the vulnerable, the "at-risk," the immigrant, and all those who live on the margins of society. Additionally, the Campus Ministers help shape the spiritual character and identity of Saint Thomas Academy by planning and leading all Middle School retreats offered to our students, planning, and helping to lead our various prayer services and Masses and creating special liturgies for pivotal times in the school year.

HONORS ADVANCED MORALITY/P.A.C.C. - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite: At least a 3.0 cumulative GPA with at least a 3.3 GPA in Theology coursework and instructor approval.**Class Notes:** This yearlong course may be used to fulfill the senior Theology core requirement. Students have the option of earning college credit (3 cr.) through the Saint Mary's University (MN) P.A.C.C. program, where Advanced Morality Honors is equivalent to TH 260 Foundations in Catholic Theology.

This seminar course will challenge students to study theology and justice at a deeper level. Advanced Morality is an honors course taught at the college level. Post-secondary credit is offered through St. Mary's University with 3 college credits earned through P.A.C.C. (Program for Advanced College Credit), and course expectations will reflect this standard. This course includes class presentations. Students will reflect on the life and teachings of Jesus and on the tradition of the Church in learning about and discussing a wide variety of current moral issues such as sexuality, medical ethics, abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia, poverty, and discrimination. Participation will be required and graded, a paper will be required, and emphasis will be on the discussion of these issues.

SENIOR SERVICE HOUR GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

Saint Thomas Academy invites students to cultivate a vital and relevant spirituality through service, reflection, and prayer. The school's goal is to empower students by encouraging them to become servant-leaders who respect others and work for justice and peace. Since this dimension of a student's development is an integral part of its mission, the Academy has a graduation requirement of 70 service hours, 40 of which are completed outside of school. The remaining 30 hours are completed during the final week of a student's senior year, when they are placed in one of thirty religious, educational, health, or social service agencies.

THEOLOGY ELECTIVES

AN EXPERIENCE OF THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES – Grade Level: 9-12 OF SAINT IGNATIUS

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None

Class notes: This semester-based elective cannot be used to fulfill the Theology core requirements.

Would you enjoy some spiritual rest and meditation during the school day? This course will provide a way for the student to experience an Ignatian retreat. Within that retreat the student can expect to learn how to pray the Examen of Conscience and to use that examen to enrich their own spiritual lives. The student can expect to move through the weeks of the spiritual exercises, experiencing the love of God as well as our own sinfulness. We will pray with the life of Jesus and get to know Christ better through this and through walking through his passion and resurrection as well. Throughout this retreat we will learn how to use contemplative prayer and meditation and use them to help us in our relationship with God. There is an expectation that students will spend time each day in prayer and that they will journal about those prayer experiences. The student will be expected to share about their prayer experiences within the group.

SEVEN CATHOLIC SAINTS – Grade Level: 9-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None

Class notes: This semester-based elective cannot be used to fulfill the Theology core requirements.

This course focuses on students developing their knowledge and understanding of the lives and work of 7 of the “heavy hitters” of Catholic Saints (St. Athanasius, St. Augustine of Hippo, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Padre Pio, St. Theresa of Calcutta, and St. John Paul II). This course will deepen the understanding of the Catholic faith for Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Forms of learning will primarily include reading, writing about and discussing how young men can live in imitation of these absolute beauties as they proceed in life. Topics will include, but not limited to: Hagiography, The Liturgical Year, Mariology, Vocations, Methods of Prayer, and Virtues.

THE GREAT MOVIES: – Grade Level: 11-12 DEFENDING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH IN THE MODERN WORLD

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None

Class notes: This semester-based elective cannot be used to fulfill the Theology core requirements.

The Matrix (1999), *Minority Report* (2002), *Ex-Machina* (2014). These are the great movies of our era. These are some of the movies we will be watching in this course. In our modern world you encounter radically different ideas about the world—how it works, what its source is, what's possible in it, what it means to be human, what its purpose is, etc.

In this course we are going to look at the movies that have shaped the cultural mind of our world today and analyze them through the lens of what they presuppose about the dignity of the human person and the things we can (or ought) to place our hope in. They all reject the notion that we, as humans, are made to the image and likeness of God. And they all say something about what we ought to put our hope in (or not put our hope in) in this life, and it's not God. We will watch these great movies, reflect on them, appreciate them, pick them apart, and have discussions about them in reference to what the Catholic faith teaches about the dignity of the human person and the theology of hope. The mission of this course is to build students equipped to fight valiantly for Christ and our Catholic church in the modern world.



2023-2024

WORLD LANGUAGE

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT = 3 YEARS AND THROUGH
LEVEL III OF ONE LANGUAGE IN HIGH SCHOOL

	9	10	11	12
NEEDS INSTRUCTOR APPROVAL	Chinese I-II	Chinese I-IV	Chinese I-IV	Chinese I-IV
	Or	Or	Or	Or
	French I-III	Honors Chinese IV	Honors Chinese IV	Honors Chinese IV
	Or	Or	Or	Or
	Spanish I-III	French I-V	AP Chinese Language & Culture	AP Chinese Language & Culture
		Or	Or	Or
		Honors French IV-V	French I-V	French I-V
		Or	Or	Or
		Spanish I-V	Honors French IV-V	Honors French IV-V
		Or	Or	Or
		Honors Spanish IV-V	Spanish I-V	Spanish I-V
			Or	Or
			Honors Spanish IV-V	Honors Spanish IV-V
			Or	Or
			AP Spanish Language & Culture	AP Spanish Language & Culture

WORLD LANGUAGE PROGRAMMATIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

Our language program is designed to challenge students with classes in Spanish, Chinese, or French. We offer Honors and AP for many of these courses.

The goals of our department are to teach effective communication, language proficiency, and cultural understanding. To successfully communicate in a world language, it is important to understand the relevance of diversity and culture, and to have a true appreciation of the global society in which we live. At Saint Thomas Academy, our teachers are dedicated to creating high-quality, student-centered learning environments that prepare our boys to excel in college.

Through the study of a world language, students will:

- Gain skills that enable them to communicate orally and in writing with speakers of another language.
- Develop a greater understanding about people across national boundaries by giving them insight into the ways of life and ways of thinking of the people who speak the language they are learning.
- Expand their understanding of how language functions, including their own language.
- Learn to read with comprehension so that they may keep up with current writing, research, and information in the studied language.
- Develop critical thinking skills by understanding perspectives, exchanging opinions, and presenting ideas.
- Be prepared to think and interact in a global community.
- Be inspired and prepared to study a world language and culture in college.

Note: Placement is determined by exam scores, satisfactory completion of a lower-level course, and/or teacher recommendation. A student whose native language is other than English is encouraged to study a third language in the World Language Department.

CHINESE I - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None

Notes: This is a yearlong course that fulfills one of the World Languages core requirements.

Students learn to understand, speak, read, and write Mandarin Chinese. By the end of the year, students will be able to hold brief conversations about their families, friends and daily life activities. Students will also become familiar with Chinese culture and history. This course is intended for students who have had little or no previous exposure to the Chinese language.

CHINESE II - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Chinese I or its equivalent or instructor permission.

Notes: This is a yearlong course that fulfills one of the World Languages core requirements.

In Chinese II, students will continue to learn phonetic sounds and phonemic awareness using literature and skill-building activities. Students will expand their vocabulary and understanding of Chinese syntax and participate in activities designed to refine skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. In Chinese II, students will strengthen their understanding of Chinese culture through authentic Chinese songs, on-line reading materials and projects.

CHINESE III - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Chinese II or its equivalent or instructor permission.

Notes: This is a yearlong course that fulfills one of the World Languages core requirements.

This course continues the aims of Chinese II in emphasizing vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing, and conversation. Reading, writing, and speaking skills are intensified. Cultural studies include Chinese art, music, and holiday celebrations. Chinese poems are introduced.

CHINESE IV - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Chinese III or its equivalent or instructor permission.

Notes: This is a yearlong course that fulfills one of the World Languages core requirements.

The focus of Chinese IV is on integrating the five skills of listening, speaking, reading, cultural competency, and writing. Students will use a rich vocabulary, accurate and more advanced grammar structures, and appropriate cultural understanding to demonstrate proficiency in all manners of communication. In this course, students will read from China's rich collection of folk stories and write compositions on a variety of topics. They will role play, discuss current events in China, and use multi-media to further develop more complex listening comprehension and speaking skills.

HONORS CHINESE IV - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite(s): A grade of B or higher in Chinese III or its equivalent or instructor permission.**Notes:** This is a yearlong course that fulfills one of the World Languages core requirements.

This course is considered a Pre-Advanced Placement Language course. In addition to the standard Chinese IV course work, emphasis of this class is Chinese for literature and conversation. The students will read works of Chinese authors and continue to strengthen their skills in oral presentation and discussion on various topics. Composition and literature assignments will provide the opportunity to review sentence structure and grammar and strengthen the student's Chinese writing skills.

AP CHINESE - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.2

Prerequisite(s): A grade of B or higher in Honors Chinese IV or its equivalent or instructor permission.**Notes:** This is a yearlong course that fulfills one of the World Languages core requirements. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

AP Chinese students will develop and demonstrate proficiency in the three modes of communication: interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational. Since students have a command of the language, they are expected to use the target language as per intermediate to pre-advanced ACTFL standards in listening, reading, speaking, writing, and understanding of Chinese culture. Primary texts, authentic Chinese resources, vocabulary and grammar are studied. Students may take the A.P. exam for possible college credit.

FRENCH I - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None**Notes:** This is a yearlong course that fulfills one of the World Languages core requirements.

French I is an introduction to the French language and culture. The fundamentals of French pronunciation, grammar, and culture are presented through a balanced development of all four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will be able to speak about themselves, their interests and hobbies, families, and homes. Culture will be presented through a Francophone country research project.

FRENCH II - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of French I or its equivalent or instructor permission.**Notes:** This is a yearlong course that fulfills one of the World Languages core requirements.

French II provides students the opportunity to continue to develop the skills of communication through the four modalities of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will continue to develop their understanding of the Francophone culture through readings and projects. There is an increased emphasis on grammatical skills at this level.

FRENCH III - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of French II or its equivalent or instructor permission.**Notes:** This is a yearlong course that fulfills one of the World Languages core requirements.

In French III students continue to develop a strong foundation for the study of language and culture. Students will continue to build and hone their speaking skills through continued grammar and vocabulary acquisition. Readings and discussions about people, places, and traditions from the francophone world will help build cultural competence. Authentic short stories, poems, autobiographies, and legends will build and develop reading fluency.

FRENCH IV - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of French III or its equivalent or instructor permission.**Notes:** This is a yearlong course that fulfills one of the World Languages core requirements.

This course allows students to engage in conversation and comprehend another person's dialogue without much repetition. Topics go beyond basic needs and include personal and family affairs, current events, school, work, etc. Comprehension of past, present, and future events will be the focus of readings and presentations. Cultural competencies will continue to develop through authentic sources.

HONORS FRENCH IV - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite(s): A grade of B or higher in French III or its equivalent or instructor permission.**Notes:** This is a yearlong course that fulfills one of the World Languages core requirements.

This course is for those students who wish to continue to improve their skills in the French language. This course allows students to engage in conversation and comprehend another person's dialogue without much repetition. Topics go beyond basic needs and include personal and family affairs, current events, school, work, etc. Students can comprehend descriptions and narration referring to past, present, or future events.

FRENCH V - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of French IV or Honors French IV or an equivalent or instructor permission.**Notes:** This is a yearlong course that fulfills one of the World Languages core requirements.

Development of oral proficiency and classroom conversation are central to this course. This course will also engage students in reading comprehension to enhance topic-based discussions. Authentic texts are used to achieve this goal. Post-secondary preparation is part of this course.

HONORS FRENCH V - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight 1.1

Prerequisite(s): A B or higher in Honors French IV or an equivalent or instructor permission.**Notes:** This is a yearlong course that fulfills one of the World Languages core requirements.

This course allows students to engage in conversation and comprehend another person's dialogue without much repetition. Current events that challenge the skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking will be present in the curriculum. Students will learn to present opinions on the current event topics succinctly and effectively. Post-secondary preparation is part of this course.

HONORS FRENCH VI - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight 1.1

Prerequisite(s): A B or higher in French V or an equivalent or instructor permission.**Notes:** This is a yearlong course that fulfills one of the World Languages core requirements.

This course provides preparation for post-secondary study. A fluid continuation of the French V curriculum, the course objectives are the development of French vocabulary to achieve fluency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Authentic French texts and French cinema, as a basis for projects and assignments, allow students to continue to develop their knowledge and cultural understanding of Francophone countries around the world.

SPANISH I - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None**Notes:** This is a yearlong course that fulfills one of the World Languages core requirements.

This course introduces the skills of communication (listening, speaking, reading, writing) in Spanish. It also attempts to instill in students an understanding and appreciation of persons belonging to social, cultural, and ethnic groups different from their own. This course is for students who have had little or no previous experience studying Spanish.

SPANISH II - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Spanish I or its equivalent or instructor permission.**Notes:** This is a yearlong course that fulfills one of the World Languages core requirements.

This course offers the opportunity to continue developing and deepening the skills of communication (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) in Spanish, to investigate and experience the richness of cultures, and to continue forming those study skills which help students become lifelong learners. There is an increased emphasis on grammatical skills at this level.

SPANISH III - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Spanish II or its equivalent or instructor permission.**Notes:** This is a yearlong course that fulfills one of the World Languages core requirements.

In Spanish III students continue to develop a strong foundation for the study of language and culture. Students review as well as learn additional vocabulary and grammar. Students read about people, places, and traditions from the Spanish-speaking world and read authentic short stories, poems, autobiographies, legends and song lyrics. Students improve language competence by communicating about friends, relationships and leisure activities. Students also communicate about contemporary topics such as health and nutrition, history, community and the fine arts.

SPANISH IV - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Spanish III or its equivalent or instructor permission.**Notes:** This is a yearlong course that fulfills one of the World Languages core requirements.

This course is designed for students wishing to increase their written and oral proficiency in the language as well as gain cultural insight. Native literature is studied.

HONORS SPANISH IV - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite(s): A grade of B or higher in Spanish III or its equivalent or instructor permission.**Notes:** This is a yearlong course that fulfills one of the World Languages core requirements.

This is a course for those students who wish to continue their mastery of the Spanish language. Grammar is reviewed; however, the majority of the class time is spent building listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills while developing an awareness of Hispanic culture. Students are expected to demonstrate their own proficiency, via impromptu and prepared presentations. Native literature is studied.

SPANISH V - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Spanish IV or its equivalent or instructor permission.**Notes:** This is a yearlong course that fulfills one of the World Languages core requirements.

This is a course for those students who wish to continue their mastery of the Spanish language. Grammar is reviewed; however, the majority of the class time is spent building listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills while developing an awareness of Hispanic culture. Students are expected to demonstrate their own proficiency, via impromptu and prepared presentations. Native literature is studied.

HONORS SPANISH V - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite(s): A grade of a B or higher in Honors Spanish IV or an equivalent or instructor permission.**Notes:** This is a yearlong course that fulfills one of the World Languages core requirements.

This is a course for those students who wish to continue to master the Spanish language. Native literature as well as Hispanic history and culture are emphasized. The continuing development of oral proficiency via topical discussions and classroom conversation also are central to the course. This course provides preparation for post-secondary study.

AP SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE - Grade: 11-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisites: At least a B+ grade in Honors Spanish IV or Honors Spanish V with instructor's permission.

Notes: This is a yearlong course that fulfills one of the world language core requirements. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam. Students should expect 4-5 hours of homework per week.

The Advanced Placement Spanish Language and Culture course is a college-level course, emphasizing the use of Spanish in active communication. The course is conducted exclusively in Spanish. With the rich culture of all Spanish-speaking countries woven into the study, the three modes of communication (interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational) are emphasized.

The course objectives are: the ability to read authentic materials in Spanish such as, authentic newspaper and magazine articles, literary texts, letters, Internet articles, short stories, short plays and other non-technical writings, without dependence on a dictionary; the ability to understand spoken Spanish in various contexts, such as authentic conversations, lectures, oral presentations, radio, and television; the development of a Spanish vocabulary sufficient for reading and writing and the ability to express oneself coherently, resourcefully, and with reasonable fluency and accuracy both in written and spoken Spanish, using strategies for distinct audiences.



2023-2024

ANCILLARY COURSEWORK

COLLEGE BOUND! – Grade Level: 11

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Notes: This is a semester-based elective that supports student learning and success. It does not fulfill a graduation requirement.

The college search and application process can be simultaneously exciting and daunting. This course will cover how to craft an Initial College List (Exploration), Admissions Plans and Applications, Essay Writing, Recommendations and Interviews. Test prep for the PSAT/SAT/ACT will also be included as part of the class.



SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY