



McNicholas HIGH SCHOOL

COURSE GUIDE for 2024-25

McNicholas High School is pleased to present this resource to guide students and parents in exploring course options for the 2024-25 academic year.

Thoughtful choices about core course levels and electives should begin in freshman year and adapt during the remaining years of high school as students' preferences about post-secondary education and career evolve. This planning will ensure that students satisfy the graduation requirements for McNicholas as well as for their next steps after high school.

In some instances, teacher recommendations are necessary for students to be placed in a class. If a student would like to take a class but does not have a teacher's recommendation, the student and parent need affirm that they take responsibility for the decision to take the class.

Each student is provided with course information, teacher recommendations for placement, college requirement updates, and a meeting with their counselor to facilitate the scheduling process. The school counselors are available at 513.231.3500 x 5128.

We invite you to carefully consider course options in light of the following information about:

- Requirements for a McNicholas High School Diploma
- College Entrance Requirements
- Planning for a Balanced Life
- Course Levels
- Paths to college credit at McNicholas
- Online course options
- Credit Flexibility

REQUIREMENTS FOR A McNICHOLAS DIPLOMA

The number indicates the required number of full years (two semesters) of study

4	Theology
4	English
4	Math <i>Including Algebra II</i>
3	Social Studies <i>Including 1 Government, 1 American History, 1 World History</i>
.5	Financial Literacy
3	Lab Science
1	Fine Arts
.5	Health
.5	PE or PE Waiver <i>2 semesters of PE equals .5 credit</i>
4	Additional Electives

*Financial Literacy: Beginning with the Class of 2026, state law requires students to satisfy this requirement through the semester elective. For 2024-2025, this will be a required course for students in grade 11 (Class of 2026). It will be open to students in grade 12 as an elective. In 2025-2026, it will be required for all students and offered for grades 10-12.

In addition to completing the course requirements, students must satisfy these requirements for a diploma

1. Complete 40 hours of approved service work
2. Participate in a junior retreat and participation in a Senior Encounter retreat
3. Complete a senior capstone project
4. Satisfy Ohio graduation requirements found at this link: [Ohio Graduation Requirements](#)

* The following courses offered by McNicholas High School fulfill the fine arts requirement

Percussion Techniques	Animation	Independent Studio
Instrumental Music	Architecture I	Photography I
Music Appreciation	Architecture II	Photography II
Music Theory	Architecture III	AP 2D (Photography)
Guitar Techniques	AP 2D (Architecture)	Portfolio Development
Vocal Music	Art Appreciation	Sculpture
Theatre Appreciation and Performance	Art History CCP	Yearbook I
Theatre Practicum	Ceramics I	Yearbook II
Acting Styles	Ceramics II	New Media Art
Technical Theater	AP 3D (Ceramics)	Design Module
Acting and Directing	Drawing and Painting	Fine Art Module
The Production Classroom	AP Drawing	Visual Communication Module
	Game Design	Foundation of Art

COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Admission requirements for post-secondary educational institutions vary. Many require specific “college preparatory” subjects for admission and often have additional requirements for a particular program. Each school and/or program that a student may be considering should be checked for specific requirements early in the student’s high school career to ensure that the student is taking the appropriate high school courses.

Private, two-year technical, and community colleges have individual requirements that may differ from the Ohio state-supported college requirements. Many colleges require at least two years of foreign language and competitive programs such as the University of Cincinnati Design Art and Architecture Program (DAAP) require a year of physics and a year of calculus or precalculus. As soon as you become interested in a particular college or college program, please find out about its entrance requirements. Your counselor will be happy to assist you.

PLANNING FOR A BALANCED LIFE

Please reflect thoughtfully and realistically about yourself – your capabilities, your interests, and your goals – as you decide on your courses for next year. Find the course workload that will stretch you but not overwhelm you.

Choosing the right mix of courses for YOU depends on you knowing YOU. How much time will you need for other parts of your life to stay in balance: sports, clubs, service, family, church, friends, part-time job? Copying a classmate’s course choices is not a good strategy because your classmate’s overall life is different from yours. None of this is meant to dissuade you from pursuing lofty goals and stretching your ability to cope with stress. Stress is part of daily life and isn’t going away. If you want to go for a spot in any competitive post-secondary program, you will have to do substantial work. Just make sure it’s the RIGHT work to help you reach your goals and that it’s the RIGHT type and level of work for you.

Your teachers and counselors are here to help you. Please don’t hesitate to ask them about the realities of the workload for certain courses. We depend on you to make good choices about your commitments next year because everyone at McNick will benefit from having the best balanced YOU on campus next year.

COURSE LEVELS

College Level courses such as Advanced Placement (AP) and College Credit Plus (CCP) are designed for academically gifted students who possess a strong academic background, advanced research skills, and consistently high levels of motivation and willingness to self-start and work independently. The content is college level, demanding the highest levels of critical thinking -- analysis, application, evaluation, decision making, and complex problem solving -- both individually and in group situations.

Honors courses challenge students with an in-depth, accelerated curriculum of reading, writing, speaking, problem-solving, research, and technological and laboratory skills. The course content is above grade level, and the pacing is faster than that of courses in the COLLEGE PREP levels. Students are required to read and write critically, engage in challenging problem-solving activities, and display higher levels of thinking.

College Prep I courses are designed for students whose needs are best met by a standard college prep curriculum on grade level. These courses fully meet the basic standards required by most universities and post-secondary areas of study. The courses incorporate language skills, research, and technological and problem-solving skills.

College Prep II and III courses cover the same essential material as College Prep 1 and also meet the standards required for most university and post-high school areas of study. However, they are designed for students who will benefit from more systematic and continuous attention to strengthening basic skills in particular subject areas.

THREE PATHS TO COLLEGE CREDIT AT McNICHOLAS

1. Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement is a national program providing college-level courses for secondary school students. Students qualify for college credit based exclusively on the result of the AP exam administered in May. Families are charged a fee of \$98 or \$146 for the exam. Individual colleges make their own decisions about the AP exam scores for which they award credit and/or advanced placement. Students enrolled in an AP course are expected to take the AP exam at the end of the course. McNicholas teachers offer an impressive array of AP courses. McNicholas students also have access to additional AP courses taught online through the Catholic online course provider Catholic Virtual. Registration for these online courses requires prior approval by the Director of Curriculum. McNicholas provides funding that enables a limited number of students to take online courses through Catholic Virtual at no additional cost to the family. Students apply for this funding by completing a brief application form at course registration time. In addition to preparing for the AP exam by taking courses, students may prepare on an individual basis for an AP exam. Students interested in this self-study approach should see the AP Coordinator in the Counseling Department by the end of September to order an AP exam.

McNicholas AP Courses are taught on-campus by McNicholas teachers.

The fee for the AP Seminar and AP Research exams is \$146. The fee for all other AP exams is \$98.

AP Biology	AP French Language and Culture
AP Calculus AB/BC	AP 2-D Art and Design: Architecture
AP Chemistry	AP 2-D Art and Design: Drawing
AP Computer Science A	AP 2-D Art and Design: Media Design
AP Research	AP 3-D Art and Design: Ceramics
AP Seminar	AP Physics 1 & 2
AP Government and Politics	AP English Language and Composition
AP World History: Modern	AP English Literature and Literature
AP Latin	AP Spanish Language and Culture
	AP United States History

Catholic Virtual AP Courses are available to McNicholas students online through Catholic Virtual. Additional tuition for a Catholic Virtual AP course is \$310 per semester. Information about the availability of limited McNicholas assistance for Catholic Virtual tuition appears in the "Online Course Options" section below. The fee for the AP exam is \$98.

AP Environmental Science	AP Psychology
AP Microeconomics	AP Macroeconomics

2. College Credit Plus

The College Credit Plus Program sponsored by the State of Ohio gives qualified high school students the opportunity to earn high school and college credit simultaneously by taking courses offered by Ohio colleges or universities. Colleges usually require satisfactory scores in math and English placement exams. Tuition is free if the student takes classes offered by a public college and if the state allocates tuition to the student. Grades for these courses appear on college transcripts and thus become part of a student's permanent educational record. Thanks to Ohio's Transfer to Degree Guarantee, many entry-level courses earned at an Ohio public college are guaranteed to transfer to any other Ohio public college. Please check the transfer status of a course before registering for it.

McNicholas teachers, as adjunct faculty members of colleges, offer the following courses on the McNicholas campus:

University of Cincinnati Information Technology Pathway

Fundamentals of IT
Fundamentals of Web Development
Computer Programming 1
Database Management
Systems Administration

Cincinnati State College Courses

Algebra III/Trig
Art History
Statistics

In addition, there are other online or on-campus options available for College Credit Plus. Please visit the [College Credit Plus website](#) for more information.

3. Dual Credit

Through agreements that McNicholas maintains with selected universities, students may earn college and high school credit simultaneously. Universities make their own decisions about the college transfer courses that they will accept. Students and parents are advised to check whether prospective universities will accept these courses for transfer credit. Families are responsible for the college credit fees. Students apply for this funding by completing a brief application form at course registration time.

The following dual credit courses are available:

Mt. St. Joseph University

Biblical Literature I, Biblical Literature II

- These courses are taught in person on the McNicholas campus. There is a \$150 per semester course.

ONLINE COURSE OPTIONS

Quality online courses are available to McNicholas students through the Catholic online course provider Catholic Virtual. These classes are only for high school credit.

The following guidelines apply:

- If McNicholas offers a regular face-to-face course, students are expected to take the face-to-face course rather than the online course.
- Any Junior or Senior student taking an online course for English (including CCP), will be highly encouraged to take the summer College Essay Workshop.
- The Student Handbook expectations for regular McNicholas courses apply to online courses.
- Students taking an online course through Catholic Virtual will follow all policies that apply to courses already taught at McNicholas. Additionally, the policies of Catholic Virtual will apply.

McNicholas provides funding that enables a limited number of students to take online courses through these partner organizations at no additional cost to the family. Students apply for this funding by completing a brief application form at course registration time. The school Counseling Department handles registration for these courses.

CREDIT FLEXIBILITY

“Ohio’s plan for credit flexibility is designed to broaden the scope of curricular options available to students, increase the depth of study available for a particular subject and tailor the learning time or conditions as needed. In these ways, students can customize aspects of their learning around more of their interests and needs... The key to this option is that the student drives the request as well as the plan to earn the credit. A specific interest or credit need of the student should be the basis for the request.” (Ohio Department of Education website).

Through Credit Flexibility, students may propose a plan to pursue college preparatory academic work outside of McNicholas classrooms, whether for an individually designed program, a course offered at McNicholas, or a course or experience not offered at McNicholas or through a partner course provider. For the sake of accomplishing the formational and social aspects of education essential to the school’s graduation outcomes, the student ordinarily must be present in the McNicholas school building, or present at educational programs sponsored by or officially affiliated with McNicholas, for at least 80% of the time during which classes are held each week.

To receive credit at McNicholas for this work, a student must

- Submit a Flexible Credit Proposal Form to the Director of Curriculum by May 15 of the year preceding the implementation year (exceptions may be granted by the Director of Curriculum)
- Obtain the approval of the Director of Curriculum for the proposal
- Demonstrate mastery in the proposed area of study according to the plan approved by the Director of Curriculum

The Flexible Credit Proposal Form will require the following elements:

- Name of the student
- Plan Title
- School graduation requirements being met
- Description of the proposed curriculum, measurable learning outcomes, and proposed assessment methods
- Evaluative criteria and methods for determining grade and credit
- Name of the credentialed educator who will evaluate the learning
- Credit to be awarded
- Indication of whether the grade is weighted or unweighted
- Anticipated start and end dates
- Signatures and dates of the Director of Curriculum, student, parent, and credentialed McNicholas teacher who is monitoring the student’s progress on the plan.

The Director of Curriculum will review the request with the assistance of the appropriate Department Chair or his/her delegate in order to render a decision about whether the school finds merit in the proposal. The school may accept the proposal as submitted, communicate additional requirements and/or modify the proposal, or deny the proposal. If accepted or modified, the school will then decide on the unit of credit to be awarded at the completion.

It is required that a McNicholas credentialed educator oversee the student’s progress on any approved plan. The student is responsible for all fees related to the learning plan. In order for a credit to be issued for a graduation requirement, all required course content as outlined in the McNicholas graded course of studies must be met. The designation of whether the credit issued is for a graduation requirement or an elective credit is at the discretion of the Director of Curriculum. When the student completes the stipulated work and demonstrates mastery, the credit will be posted on the student’s transcript and the grade will be determined and included in the GPA.

While “seat time” is not mandated for credit, it might provide a useful guide for the student in developing the learning plan. The Director of Curriculum, in consultation with the adult supervisor/mentor, will assign a grade upon completion. It is a policy of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati that religion classes may not be

taken in this manner. McNicholas does not permit students to graduate in less than four years. There is an additional fee of up to \$500 per credit based upon the extent of a McNicholas teacher's responsibility in the educational option plan. Please see your school counselor for more information.

COURSE SCHEDULING & CHANGES

Course Scheduling starts in the second semester. All schedule change requests are due to Counseling by June 1 of the preceding academic year. Any schedule changes over the summer will be addressed beginning on August 1. If there are immediate concerns over the summer, please reach out to the Director of Curriculum.

A student may change a McNicholas course within the first week of a class under these conditions:

- The student has obtained the Course Scheduling Change Form from the Counselor's Office
- The student has parent permission to change the class
- The student has had a conversation with the teacher
- The student's counselor has approved the change
- There is a fee of \$50 for any schedule change requests with the exception to level changes for placement purposes

Additional conditions may apply for changing a Catholic Virtual online course.

Katie Hambly

Director of Curriculum
513-231-3500 ext. 5823
KHambly@mcnhs.org

Erica Stablum

School Counselor (G-O) – Department Chair
513-231-3500 ext. 5810
ESTablum@mcnhs.org

Alaina Way

School Counselor (A-F)
513-231-3500 ext. 5816
AWay@mcnhs.org

Margaret Vonderhaar

School Counselor (P-Z)
513-231-3500 ext. 5811
MVonderhaar@mcnhs.org