

Course of Studies

2024-2025



CARDINAL
GIBBONS
HIGH SCHOOL



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Academic Philosophy

A Cardinal Gibbons education inspires students to learn with purpose. Here, students:

- Discover and pursue their God-given vocations in a caring Catholic environment.
- Grow as creative, discerning, and collaborative agents of their own learning.
- Develop as conscientious members of a global Catholic community.

Portrait of a Learner

A Cardinal Gibbons Learner is...

PURPOSEFUL

A Gibbons learner is motivated to achieve their academic goals. They build strong relationships with educators and peers, and engage in work relevant to the world they live in. St. Paul told the Christians of Rome, “and we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Motivated, Determined, Collaborative

INQUISITIVE

A Gibbons learner is a problem solver. They are willing to take risks, try new approaches, and think critically about their studies. They value intellectual growth over extrinsic rewards. Proverbs states that “the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding.”

Curious, Brave, Engaged

PERSISTENT

A Gibbons learner is strong. They know that growth over time is the key to academic success. They show resilience in the face of adversity and remain focused on their goals. In the book of Matthew, Jesus tells us that nothing is impossible with God.

Resilient, Reflective, Perseverant

COMPASSIONATE

A Gibbons learner is a servant. They care for the world around them and all who live in it. They show gratitude when they succeed and appreciate the community that surrounds them. St. Paul tells the Ephesians to “be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ.”

Empathic, Humble, Grateful

General Information

INTRODUCTION AND TIMELINE

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year takes place in February of 2024. All course placement and selection information will be shared with students weeks prior to the deadline.

For current students in rising grades 10-12, the \$100 registration fee is included in the re-enrollment fee, which is paid through SchoolAdmin. Re-enrollment must be completed by January 31st in order to register for classes.

Course registration opens in PowerSchool on February 1st with a deadline of February 14th. Courses requests will be removed for students who do not complete the re-enrollment process. To request a change to course selections between February 15th and March 31st, students should contact their college counselor.

TYPES OF COURSES

Cardinal Gibbons offers four types of courses:

1. *College Preparatory*: These courses at Cardinal Gibbons High School are designed for students enrolled in a college preparatory program.
2. *Honors*: These courses represent an academic challenge for students and are weighted when calculating GPA. Students are placed in these courses based on grades in current classes and/or test score prerequisites.
3. *Advanced Placement (AP)*: These courses are weighted in GPA calculations and present college-level material according to the course requirements of the College Board AP Program. They conclude with the AP examinations. Students who perform successfully on the AP examination may receive college credit. Students are placed in these courses based on grades in current classes and/or test score prerequisites.
4. *Advanced/Dual Credit*: These courses are weighted in GPA calculations and present college-level material according to the course when students have enrolled at Marymount.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to complete 24 credits; a credit is defined as a yearlong course.

Theology	4 credits - one credit for each year of attendance
English	4 credits
Mathematics	4 credits - one credit must be above Math III
Science	3 credits - Biology is required; one credit must be a physical science (Chemistry or Physical Science)
Social Studies	3 credits - World History, U.S. History, Economics, and U.S. Government are required
World Language	2 credits in the same World Language
Fine Arts	1 credit
Physical Education	1 credit*
Freshman Seminar	1 credit - Gibbons Freshman Seminar is required
Elective	1 credit - any additional course in any department

**Students may choose to defer the PE requirement. See "PE Deferment" for more information.*

Cardinal Gibbons' graduation requirements exceed the minimum undergraduate admissions requirements at all 16 constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina.

Please note: Individual constituent institutions or a specific area of study may require other courses in addition to the minimum requirements and, therefore, prospective students should refer to the catalogs and contact the admissions offices of any institutions to which they plan to apply.

GRADING SCALE

Cardinal Gibbons uses letter grades in evaluating scholastic achievement. GPA points are awarded based on the grade earned and the course level.

Grading Scale and GPA Points				
Letter Grade	Range	College Prep	Honors	AP
A+	97 – 100	4.33	4.83	5.33
A	93 – 96	4.00	4.50	5.00
A-	90 – 92	3.67	4.17	4.67
B+	87 – 89	3.33	3.83	4.33
B	83 – 86	3.00	3.50	4.00
B-	80 – 82	2.67	3.17	3.67
C+	77 – 79	2.33	2.83	3.33
C	73 – 76	2.00	2.50	3.00
C-	70 – 72	1.67	2.17	2.67
D	65 – 69	1.00	1.50	2.00
F	64 or below	0.00	0.00	0.00

HONORS OPTION

Cardinal Gibbons offers students the opportunity to enroll in Honors Option courses. Honors Option allows students to earn honors credit (and honors course name designation) for selected elective courses.

Honors Option requirements are specific to each course and are determined by course educators at the beginning of each semester. All students enrolled in the class have the option to complete these additional assignments. Students who successfully complete the Honors work to the standard designated by the educator and by the assigned deadlines will receive honors credit at the end of the semester. This credit will be reflected in GPA points, as well as by honors course name designation on the student's transcript.

In yearlong courses, honors credit is granted by semester. A student may opt in to Honors Option and receive honors credit for one or both semesters.

Information about Honors Option and the complete list of Honors Option courses can be found at cghsnc.org/honorsoption.

DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM WITH MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

Cardinal Gibbons High School and Marymount University are working in partnership to expand opportunities for high school students to pursue excellence in their academic development. Through the Dual Credit program, participating Gibbons students may earn college credit while in high school from Marymount University, a four-year Catholic university.

The opportunity for obtaining dual credit is open to students whose general academic profile meets Marymount University criteria. Students are required to take both semester exams in order to earn Dual Enrollment credit from Marymount. All grades earned in dual credit courses will be weighted per the AP scale.

Dual Credit Courses Offered

For the 2024-2025 school year, *Advanced Anatomy with Lab* (8 total college credits), *Advanced Latin*, *Advanced U.S. History*, and *Advanced Art History* (all 6 college credits) will be offered. See course descriptions in the Department Course pages.

Student Status and Cost

Students registered for Dual Credit are billed directly by Marymount University for tuition. Dual Credit courses are offered at a significantly reduced rate for Gibbons students. The cost is \$150 per college credit. Students who are on financial aid at Cardinal Gibbons will receive a reduced rate based on their Gibbons financial aid package.

Once accepted into the program, students will officially register for classes and receive instructions for using school resources. These students receive a Marymount ID card with full student privileges, including complete access to the school's library resources. They will receive official grades and transcripts from the university as well as from Cardinal Gibbons High School.

How to Enroll

Students should select the corresponding Gibbons course on PowerSchool during course registration. In the fall, students will be billed by Marymount and pay tuition directly to the university. Upon successful completion of each semester of the course, students will receive a Marymount transcript with credits earned. It is the student's responsibility to check if these credits transfer to colleges they plan to attend.

Registration Guidance

REGISTRATION CONSIDERATIONS

When registering for classes, students and parents should take a four-year view, keeping in mind graduation requirements and college entrance requirements. School personnel are available to assist students individually in selecting courses.

Keep the following points in mind when planning an academic program:

- Rising 9th-11th grade students will register for 7 credits of live instruction on campus. (A yearlong course = one credit; a semester course = half a credit.) Rising 12th grade students will register for between 6 and 7 credits, with 7 credits recommended.
- In addition to seven courses, every student will be enrolled in a flex course for each semester. This time may be utilized in a multitude of ways such as meeting with an educator, study hall/completing assignments or assessments, group work, club activities, physical activity, etc. Rising 12th grade students who register for less than seven credits will have an additional flex period one or both semesters.
- Students may also enroll in a semester or year-long elective course for online instruction through Catholic Virtual. Contact the College Counseling Coordinator for more information.
- The school reserves the right to place students in the grade level and subjects most appropriate for their school experience.
- The school reserves the right to drop elective courses for which there is insufficient enrollment or no educator available.
- Students must obtain all necessary approval before enrolling in a particular course. Review the individual course descriptions (see the Department pages) to determine which courses require prior approval of the department or educator.

SUBMITTING COURSE SELECTION

All current rising grade 10-12 students will select courses using PowerSchool. Course selections must be completed by February 14th.

Students will log on and click the “Class Registration” icon to access the course selection screen. Read the instructions regarding registration as they vary by grade level.

1. Click on the first pencil icon to access the first required course: **Theology**
 - Rising 12th grade - Choose two (2) semester classes for Theology and click “Okay.”
 - Rising 9th-11th grade - Theology is preselected for each student.
2. Click on the second pencil icon to access the second required course: **English**
 - Choose one (1) English class and click “Okay.”
 - Choices should appear with a green check mark.
 - Placement is determined by semester one grade and/or PSAT scores.
3. Repeat this process for each required class and any electives.
 - Rising 9th grade - Gibbons Freshman Seminar is preselected. Must also choose Math, Science, World Language, and PE or elective.
 - Rising 10th grade - Must also choose Math, Science, Social Studies, World Language, and elective.
 - Rising 11th grade - Must also choose Math, Science, Social Studies, and elective(s). World Language is recommended.
 - Rising 12th grade - Must also choose Math, Social Studies, and elective(s). Science and World Language are recommended.
4. Complete registration and check selections. Use the prerequisite notes as a guide for placement and other course requirements.

Course Placement Philosophy

Cardinal Gibbons High School's rationale when placing a student in a course is typically based on a combination of factors aimed at ensuring the student's academic success, personal growth, and adherence to educational standards. Here are some key considerations and factors we determined influence the placement of students in courses:

- **Academic Preparedness:** One of the most important factors is the student's academic preparedness. This includes their prior academic performance, grades, standardized test scores, and classroom educator recommendations. Students are generally placed in courses that match their current skill level and knowledge to ensure that they can succeed and make meaningful progress.
- **Course Prerequisites:** Many courses have specific prerequisites, which are courses or skills that students need to have completed or mastered before enrolling. Cardinal Gibbons creates course pathways and prerequisites to ensure students have the foundational knowledge required for success in the next course or in advanced courses.
- **Grade Level:** Students are typically placed in courses appropriate for their grade level. Freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors often have different course options available to them, with increasing levels of complexity and specialization as they progress through high school.
- **Student Interests and Goals:** Cardinal Gibbons often take into account students' interests, college aspirations, and career goals when offering courses and the pathway and placement prerequisites.
- **Class Size and Availability:** Practical considerations such as class size and the availability of teachers and resources can also impact course placement. We may need to balance the number of students in each course and ensure that there are enough sections to accommodate demand.
- **Learning Differences:** Students with learning differences may require specific accommodations or placement in courses that cater to their unique learning needs.
- **Advanced Placement (AP), Advanced, and Honors Courses:** Some high-achieving students may be placed in advanced courses like AP, Advanced, or honors classes to challenge them academically and prepare them for college-level coursework.
- **Teacher Insight:** Teachers who have worked with students may provide valuable insights into their abilities, work habits, and potential for success in certain courses. They are a resource when considering course selection and readiness.
- **Parent and Student Input:** We consider input from parents and students when making placement decisions. While these inputs may not be the sole determinant, they can help align course selections with a student's interests and goals.
- **Counselor guidance:** Our counselors play a crucial role in helping students navigate course selection. They can provide advice on course choices based on a student's individual strengths, weaknesses, and aspirations.
- **Cardinal Gibbons High School Graduation Requirements:** We must ensure that our students meet the graduation requirements, which may include specific course credits

Ultimately, the goal of course placement is to create a customized educational experience that supports each student's growth and success, while also ensuring that they meet the necessary academic standards and requirements for graduation. This process should be a collaborative effort involving educators, students, parents, and counselors to make informed decisions that align with the student's academic journey and future goals

PLACEMENT PROCESS FOR STUDENTS WHO DO NOT MEET THE PREREQUISITE REQUIREMENTS:

For the past 15 years, Cardinal Gibbons High School has allowed students to request a change in placement even when the student didn't meet the grade or PSAT requirements. Through much exploration we have determined the following reasons why we are shifting our practice for a change in placement.

1. **Academic Preparedness:** Prerequisites are in place to ensure that students have the foundational knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in a particular course. Allowing students to bypass prerequisites can lead to academic struggles, frustration, and potentially failure in the more advanced course.
2. **Course Integrity:** Prerequisites help maintain the integrity and quality of the course. If students with insufficient background knowledge are allowed to enroll, it can disrupt the learning experience for others in the class who have met the prerequisites. The course may need to be slowed down or simplified, which can be detrimental to those who are prepared for the course.
3. **Teacher's Ability to Teach:** Teachers often plan their instruction based on the assumption that students have met the prerequisites. Allowing students to enroll without prerequisites can make it challenging for teachers to provide effective instruction that meets the needs of all students in the class.
4. **Curriculum Alignment:** Prerequisites are often aligned with the curriculum and educational standards. Enforcing prerequisites ensures that students progress through a logical sequence of courses, which is essential for meeting state or national educational requirements.
5. **Student Success:** The primary goal of any high school is to promote student success. Allowing students to enroll in courses for which they are not prepared can hinder their progress, lead to lower grades, and negatively impact their self-confidence and motivation.

6. **Counselor Guidance:** High school counselors play a significant role in helping students make informed course selections. They consider a student's academic strengths, weaknesses, and goals when advising on course choices, and they often rely on prerequisites as part of that guidance.

Because of our placement process, course alignment, and prerequisite rationale, we adhere to our placement decisions. However, when a student does not meet the prerequisite(s) for a given course, and the student wants to enroll in the course, the student may elect to take a course placement test to assess the student's readiness, competence, and aptitude for the course in order to enroll in the course.

Registration Policies

COURSE PLACEMENT TESTING

Cardinal Gibbons High School uses guidelines from academic departments to place students in courses for the upcoming school year. These placements are determined by one or more of the following prerequisites: Semester 1 grade, PSAT scores, evidence-based reading and writing, a readiness test, and/or a placement test.

Students seeking a change in placement should contact the content area teacher to gain insight into their readiness for the course. If the student wants the change in placement, he or she must take a course placement test. Course placement tests are available and are administered during the registration window. Students must register for the test by visiting cghsnc.org/registration. Placement test dates, locations, and content specific testing information can be found here.

All Course Placement testing must be completed by February 12th. Students seeking a change in placement from February 14th through March 31st must contact their college counselor.

COURSE CHANGES

All course changes require approval from a student's parent and school administration. Work on the master schedule for the following school year begins in May, and course sections and educator assignments are based on student requests made during the registration process. It is difficult to reassign educators and adjust the master schedule when class enrollments change unexpectedly.

Therefore, course changes are approved only for sound academic reasons. Cardinal Gibbons does not accommodate requests for specific flex periods, course order, teachers, or lunches. Students seeking a change in course selection after April 1st must complete the Course Change Inquiry Form on the school website. The registrar or a college counselor will contact the student regarding the requested change. These course changes are subject to a \$75 fee.

FINE ART EXEMPTION

A student pursuing four years of computer science or technology may be exempt from the Fine Arts requirement. To qualify for this exemption, the student must not have room for a Fine Arts class during senior year due to the fourth year of computer science or technology.

PE DEFERMENT (FOR FINE ARTS, TECHNOLOGY, OR ENGINEERING)

Freshmen at Cardinal Gibbons who wish to pursue an interest in Computer Science, Technology, and/or Fine Arts may do so in lieu of the Physical Education requirement. These students must take two years (freshman and sophomore year) of a course in the BTE department or two years of a course in the same Fine Arts discipline (i.e. two years of Computer Science, two years of Dance, two years of Vocal Ensemble, etc.).

During the second semester of sophomore year, College Counseling will contact the student to complete the PE Independent Study, which is due before the start of the junior year.

Students who wish to opt out of this requirement for their sophomore year are required to obtain approval from their current Fine Art educator and the Director of Fine Arts. Student options for switching out of their current track for sophomore year are limited to: Men's/Women's Fitness or Level I of a Fine Arts or BTE course.

Registration Special Requests

The registration portal in PowerSchool does not allow for certain special requests. Students wishing to pursue any of the options listed in this section should complete the Special Request Form on the Course Registration website. Administration and College Counseling will review all requests and notify students of their request status. The registrar will update the student's course selections appropriately.

All special requests should be submitted by February 14th.

Cardinal Gibbons does not accommodate requests for specific teachers, course order, flex period, or lunch period.

ADDITIONAL COURSE

Rising 10th-12th grade students can request an additional semester or year-long course in place of their flex period one or both semesters for a total of 7.5 or 8 credits. The list of approved classes is available on the school website. Enrollment in these classes is not guaranteed and is based on availability and other scheduling constraints. Priority is given by grade level.

Students interested in taking an additional course should register for seven credits in PowerSchool and submit the Special Request Form to indicate their preference for an additional class. The seven credits registered for in PowerSchool will be given priority in scheduling. Students will be notified in August if their request for an additional class was accommodated.

CATHOLIC VIRTUAL AP COURSES

Students can take selected AP courses through Catholic Virtual School. These courses require an extra fee and are completed independently by the student during the summer and/or school year. They do not replace a course taken on campus, and the grade(s) earned will not contribute to the student's Cardinal Gibbons GPA nor be reflected on the Cardinal Gibbons transcript. Catholic Virtual School will provide the student with a separate transcript.

Students should indicate interest in these courses by completing the Special Request Form. College Counseling will contact the student to officially register for the selected course. Students will have the option to take the AP test in May.

The Catholic Virtual AP courses listed below are available for the 2024-2025 school year. See course descriptions in the Department Course pages.

AP Human Geography - Available to rising 10th-12th grade students.

AP Macroeconomics - This course is available to rising 11th and 12th grade students only. Senior student completion deadline is December 1st and junior student completion deadline is June 1st prior to senior year.

AP Macroeconomics does not replace a course taken on campus; however, it does fulfill the Economics graduation requirement. While the grade earned will not contribute to the student's Cardinal Gibbons GPA, the course will be listed on the transcript with a designation of "pass."

CURRICULUM ASSISTANCE

Students qualifying for the Curriculum Assistance program may choose to enroll in this course in lieu of their flex period. They should submit the Special Request form to indicate interest, and the Learning Support Specialist will coordinate with the registrar to enroll students who are approved.

LABORATORY AND TECHNICAL THEATER ASSISTANTS

Students may be approved to be a Laboratory or Technical Theater Assistant in lieu of having a flex period. These courses require educator approval. Students interested in either position should complete the Special Request Form and speak with the appropriate educator.

SUMMER ECONOMICS DUE TO AP U.S. GOVERNMENT CONFLICT

Rising seniors may request to take a summer Economics course if they want to enroll in AP U.S. Government and do not have room for a semester of Economics due to: two math courses, two science courses, continuing with a Fine Art, Computer Science, or Engineering program, and/or a fourth year of a World Language.*

Students should register for U.S. Government and Economics in PowerSchool and submit the Special Request Form. College Counseling will contact the student in May to sign up for the summer course. Please note, there is a fee for all summer courses. Upon successful completion of the summer course, AP U.S. Government will be added to the student's course requests by the registrar.

Summer Economics will not be approved for students who register for elective courses for which they do not have an established course history and interest. Additionally, a student cannot submit a course change request for such an elective course after completing the summer Economics course. In this instance, the summer course would become void, and the student would be enrolled in Economics during the school year.

**Note: As an alternative to summer Economics, a rising senior may also submit a special request to take Economics in place of their flex period one semester.*

SUMMER JAVA COURSE

Rising grade 10-12 students wishing to pursue AP Computer Science without having taken Introduction to Computer Programming may take a summer Java course to bypass this course.

Students should register in PowerSchool for Introduction to Computer Programming and submit the Special Request Form. College Counseling will contact the student to sign up for the summer Java course. Please note, there is a fee for all summer courses. Upon successful completion of the summer course, the student's course request will be updated to AP Computer Science Principles by the registrar.

SUMMER MATH ADVANCEMENT

Students wishing to advance in Math from Math III to Precalculus (not Honors) may request to take a summer course to cover the required material.

Students should register in PowerSchool for the math course for which they currently meet the prerequisites and submit the Special Request Form. College Counseling will contact the student in May to sign up for the summer math course. Please note, there is a fee for all summer courses. Upon successful completion of the summer course, the student's math request will be updated by the registrar.

Other Academic Information

REPORT CARDS AND GPA

Students and parents can view quarter, exam, and semester grades by logging in to PowerSchool. Additionally, report cards are emailed to parents/guardians at the conclusion of each quarter.

Each quarter counts for a minimum of 40% of the semester average, and the semester exam counts for no more than 20%. Credit is given by semester, and only semester grades are recorded on the student's transcript and contribute to the cumulative GPA.

TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts are an official record of a student's semester grades and GPA. The registrar is responsible for these records. Transfer student grades will not be a part of the Cardinal Gibbons transcript. Only high school courses taken at Cardinal Gibbons are included in the GPA and determination of awards. High school credit is not given for courses taken at a middle school, college, or university.

Parents and students may obtain a copy of the transcript at any time. A student's permanent record (transcript) will remain on file at Cardinal Gibbons indefinitely. Students should be aware that the transcript is a permanent, official record that contains all semester grades and a cumulative grade point average. Colleges and employers often ask that this record be provided.

HONOR ROLL

Students must take a minimum of five courses to be eligible for Honor Roll. The following honors are recognized:

A Honor Roll: All A's for the semester (A+, A, A-)

A/B Honor Roll: No grade below a B- for the semester (A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-)

OTHER ACADEMIC AWARDS

Junior Marshals

The recognition of *Junior Marshal* is given to the top 15 junior students after five consecutive semesters. These students are asked to serve as marshals for Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation. A student must be enrolled at Cardinal Gibbons for at least three semesters to be considered.

Senior Awards

Only students who have been enrolled at Cardinal Gibbons for at least five consecutive semesters are eligible to receive the senior academic awards below. Only Cardinal Gibbons courses are included in the GPA and determination of these awards.

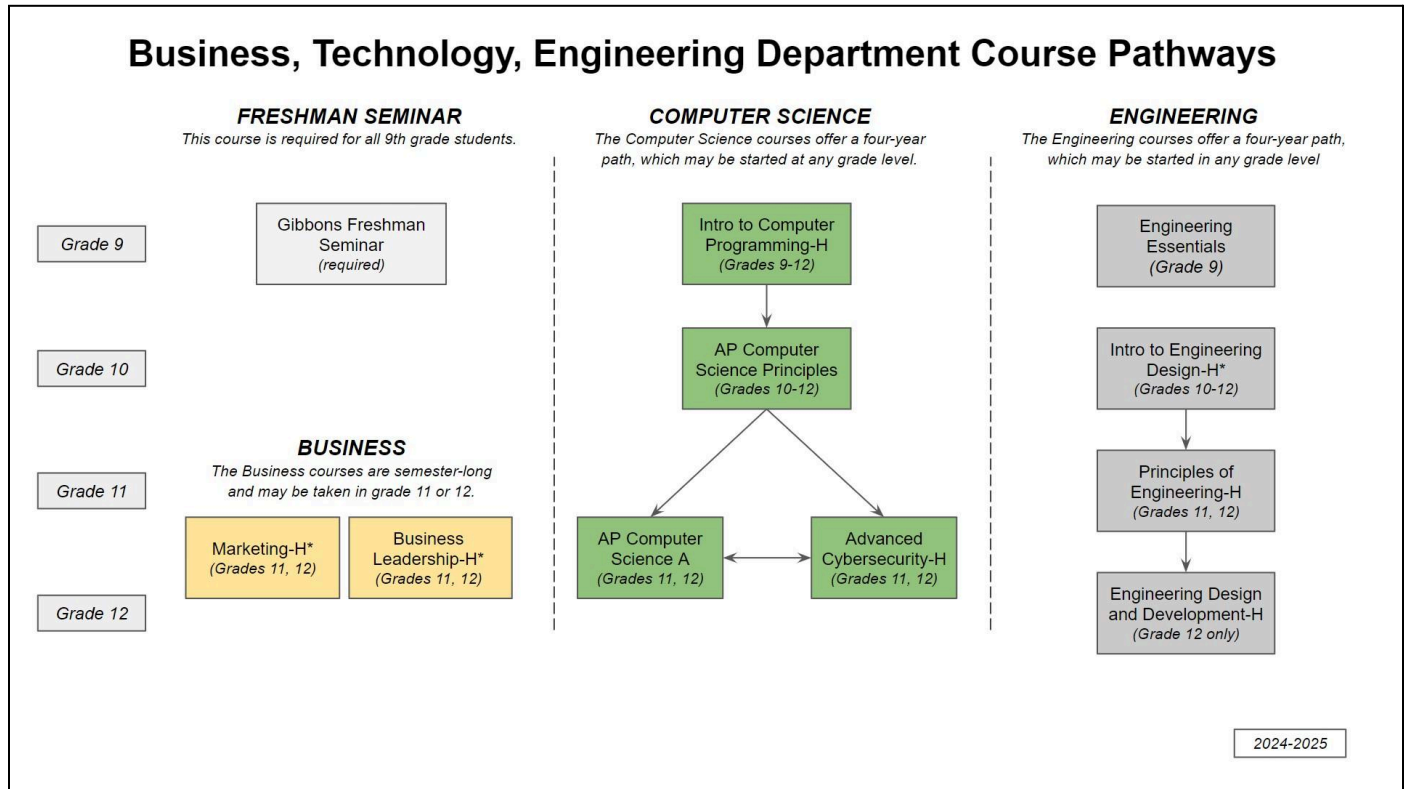
The *Valedictorian* and *Salutatorian* are the top two students in the class, based upon the cumulative weighted GPA after seven semesters.

The *Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama Award* is given to seniors who rank in the top 10% of the graduating class, based upon the cumulative weighted GPA after seven semesters. This award is a medal worn on a green ribbon over the graduation gown.

The *Bishop F. Joseph Gossman Award* is given to the senior who has the best overall average in a particular content area, over the four years of high school and who has shown extraordinary interest in the subject. This award is given by each department, and the recipients of these awards are announced at graduation.

The *President's Education Award Program* is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. A certificate signed by the President of the United States and the Secretary of Education is given for outstanding academic achievement. The criteria for the President's Education Award are a minimum of a 3.5 unweighted GPA and a score on the SAT or ACT in the 85th percentile or higher.

Business, Technology, Engineering



Freshman Seminar

Gibbons Freshman Seminar is a required course for all 9th grade students.

Gibbons Freshman Seminar

Grade Level(s): 9

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0

The Gibbons Freshman Seminar implements a technologically-blended learning approach where educators facilitate student discovery of passions and pathways to build student leadership capacity for academic, personal, spiritual, and professional growth. This course acclimates students to the 1:1 program and Gibbons culture while also exposing them to opportunities tied to careers, passions, and interests. Students learn to incorporate health and wellness practices through experiences that promote social and emotional awareness. The course fulfills the health requirement for graduation.

Business Electives

The business electives are semester-long and may be taken independent of each other.

Business Leadership Honors

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 0.5

This elective course is for students passionate about exploring the many different areas of commerce. Students focus heavily on understanding various philosophies for leadership in business. The class uses our business and entrepreneurship program, iCube, and student-run coffee shop, Holy Grounds, to give students experiential learning in diverse career opportunities. The course also explores employment paths with the goal of propelling Gibbons' students into fulfilling careers.

Marketing Honors

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 0.5

This course is designed to introduce students to the core concepts and tools to better understand marketing and its role in business. Students will learn the foundations and functions involved in successful marketing of goods, services, and ideas to targeted audiences in both the consumer and business sectors. Key topics include market research and its importance to strategy, brand strategy, pricing, distribution, integrated marketing communication, social media strategy, the evolution of 20th century marketing theory and practices, self-marketing, and career exploration. Marketing studies gives students a unique competitive advantage to learn how to promote themselves and their work. Students leave this course with a resume and a comprehension of what is meant by the value of the person or brand that delivers a product. Skills developed in this course include: communication skills for thinking, writing, and presenting like a marketer.

Computer Science Electives

The computer science electives offer a four-year path, which may be started in any grade level.

Introduction to Computer Programming Honors

Grade Level(s): All

Prerequisite: Students must be enrolled in Math II or higher math course

Credit: 1.0

Students will be introduced to the fundamental knowledge of algorithms, problem solving, and logic structures typical in many programming languages. Code HS introduction to computer science teaches the foundations of computer science and basic programming. Once students complete this course, they will have learned material equivalent to a semester of a college introductory course in Computer Science and be proficient in basic programming skills.. *See page 8 regarding PE Deferment for rising 9th grade students.

AP Computer Science Principles

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Introduction to Computer Programming Honors

Credit: 1.0

The AP Computer Science Principles course is a continuation of Introduction to Computer Programming. Students develop computational thinking skills vital for success across all disciplines, using computational tools to analyze and study data. The course engages the creative aspects of the field by student development of computational artifacts based on their interests. The course explores web development, app creation, as well as ethics and security in computer science. Students will also develop effective communication and collaboration skills by working to solve problems, reflecting on the impacts these solutions could have on their community, society, and the world.

AP Computer Science A

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: AP Computer Science Principles

Credit: 1.0

The AP Computer Science A course allows students a continuation from AP Computer Science Principles to really deepen their knowledge of programming. The curriculum focuses on object-oriented programming and creating and manipulating data structures. This AP class is designed to help students master the Java programming language and equip them to successfully pass the AP Computer Science A Exam in May.

Advanced Cybersecurity Honors

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: AP Computer Science Principles

Credit: 1.0

Cybersecurity is a growing sector of computer science that needs skilled professionals at all levels and is in high demand. The Advanced Cybersecurity course utilizes a blended classroom approach of web-based and physical activities. Students will investigate cyber-related topics, create digital presentations, and engage in in-person collaborative exercises, as well as modify text-based programs in HTML, JavaScript, SQL, and simulate shell commands. Students will also participate in simulated cyber-attacks on safe sites in order to learn how to mitigate cyber-attacks. They will also document their processes and discuss best practices for preventing cyber-attacks.

Engineering Electives

The engineering electives offer a four-year path, which may be started in grade 9 or above. These courses follow the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) curriculum.

Engineering Essentials

Grade Level: 9

Prerequisite: Placement Test

Credit: 1.0

Engineering Essentials is a year-long introductory engineering course that explores the role of engineers in real-world problem-solving across various engineering disciplines. Using tools like ArcGIS and OnShape modeling software, students develop technical skills and apply the engineering design process to create solutions in sectors like health care and manufacturing. Emphasizing collaborative problem-solving, critical thinking, and ethical reasoning, the course addresses societal impacts of engineering decisions, aiming to instill enthusiasm and a solid understanding of engineering's role and impact. **See page 8 regarding PE Deferment for rising 9th grade students.*

Introduction to Engineering Design Honors

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None, but Art I, Introduction to Computer Programming, or Engineering Essentials are suggested

Credit: 1.0

Students dig deep into the engineering design process, applying math, science, and engineering standards to hands-on projects. They work both individually and in teams to design solutions to a variety of problems using 3D modeling software, and use an engineering notebook to document their work. This course is a foundation course for the Cardinal Gibbons Engineering Academy and will be a prerequisite for further courses in our Engineering Academy. Students looking for enrichment in Engineering will have opportunities with our competitive robotics team.

Principles of Engineering Honors

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Introduction to Engineering Design Honors

Credit: 1.0

Principles of Engineering is the second course of our Engineering Academy pathway. Through problems that engage and challenge, students explore a broad range of engineering topics, including mechanisms, the strength of structures and materials, and automation. Students develop skills in problem solving, research, and design while learning strategies for design process documentation, collaboration, and presentation. Motivated students may further their study in our competitive robotics club.

Engineering Design and Development Honors

Grade Level(s): 12

Prerequisite: Principles of Engineering Honors

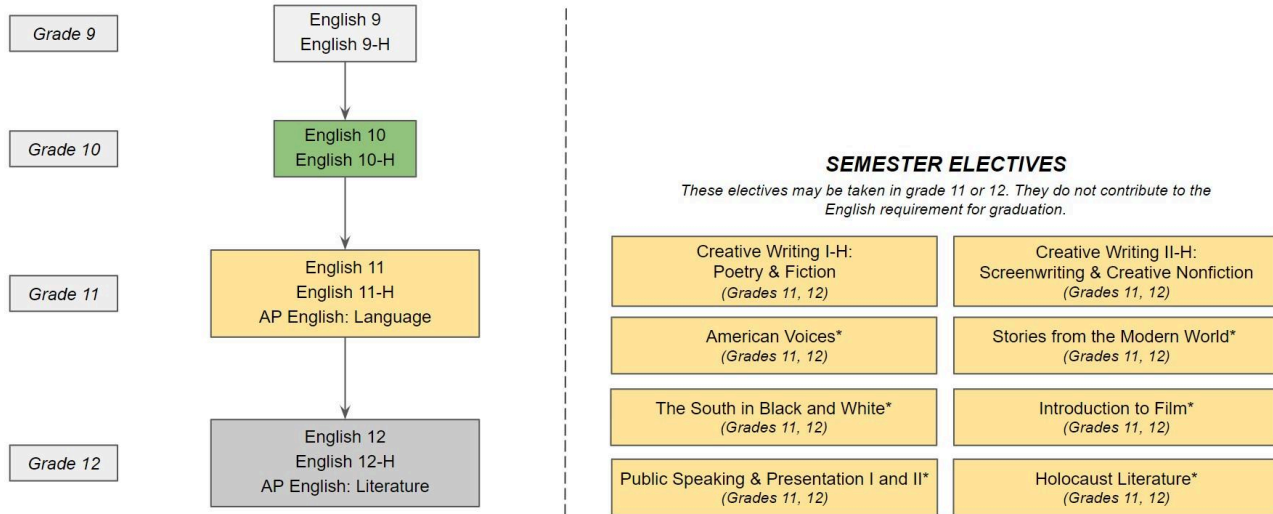
Credit: 1.0

The knowledge and skills students acquire throughout the Engineering Programs come together in PLTW Engineering Design and Development as they identify an issue and then research, design, and test a solution, ultimately presenting the solution to a panel of engineers. Students apply the professional skills they have developed to document a design process to standards, completing Engineering Design and Development ready to take on any post-secondary program or career.

English

English Course Department Pathways

Students take one English course each year. Placement in Honors and AP levels is determined by prerequisites.



2024-2025

Four English credits are required for graduation.
Students take one grade-level English course each year.

English 9

Grade Level(s): 9

Prerequisite: Completion of 8th grade English

Credit: 1.0

The freshman course emphasizes the development of the basic English skills of grammar, composition, reading and vocabulary, and the importance of organization, structure, and the revision process as vital components of effective writers. Composition instruction focuses on expository, descriptive, narrative, and analytical writing. Literature study focuses on the genres of fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry. Students are encouraged to approach literature as a source of enjoyment as well as an art form. A multi-media approach to learning is used throughout the year. Vocabulary development is implemented through the use of online programs and the study of vocabulary in the context of the literature. Basic research skills are introduced and culminate in a required documented research product.

English 9 Honors

Grade Level(s): 9

Prerequisite: Reading and verbal scores from the High School Placement Test above 75th percentile

Credit: 1.0

English 9 Honors provides an accelerated study of grammar, composition, reading, and vocabulary. Emphasis is placed on reading and critical analysis of the various literary genres of fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry. An intensive writing program emphasizes the importance of organization, structure, and the revision process as vital components of effective writers. Composition instruction focuses on expository, narrative, descriptive, and analytical writing. A multi-media approach to learning is used throughout the year. Vocabulary development is implemented through the use of online programs and the study of vocabulary in the context of the literature. Basic research skills are introduced and culminate in a required documented research product.

English 10: American Literature

Grade Level(s): 10

Prerequisite: English 9

Credit: 1.0

English 10 is a survey of American literature from the pre-Colonial period to the present. Students read and are taught to analyze works of fiction and nonfiction. The writing component builds on the previous year's emphasis of essay construction, with continued emphasis on grammar, mechanics, and revision as important parts of the writing process. Vocabulary development is implemented through the use of online programs and the study of vocabulary in the context of the literature. A multi-media approach to learning is used throughout the year. Research skills are reinforced with the completion of a required documented research paper.

English 10 Honors: American Literature

Grade Level(s): 10

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B in English 9 Honors or an A in English 9, *and* PSAT: RW score of 450; **or** PSAT: RW score of at least 500 and minimum of B- in English 9/Honors

Credit: 1.0

English 10 Honors is a survey of American literature from the pre-Colonial period to contemporary authors. The literature is presented within the context of the social and historical forces which shaped it. Through representative readings from various literary genres, students learn about their cultural heritage, develop strategies for reading critically, improve upon language skills necessary for clear and effective communication, and expand their vocabulary. The writing component builds on the previous year's emphasis of essay construction, with continued emphasis on grammar, mechanics and revision as important parts of the writing process. Vocabulary development is implemented through the use of online programs, textbooks, and the study of vocabulary in the context of the literature. A multi-media approach to learning is used throughout the year. Research skills are reinforced with the completion of a required documented research paper.

English 11: British Literature

Grade Level(s): 11

Prerequisite: English 10

Credit: 1.0

British Literature is a year-long course that provides a survey of representative genres from the Anglo-Saxon period to the modern day. Composition instruction focuses on critical analysis of literature covered in class as well as outside parallel readings, and emphasizes the development of an argument, providing textual evidence as support. Vocabulary development is implemented through the use of online programs and the study of vocabulary in the context of the literature. Preparation for the SAT includes attention to both vocabulary in context and various analytical skills in reading fiction and nonfiction passages. A multi-media approach to learning is used throughout the year. A research / thesis paper is a requirement of the class.

English 11 Honors: British Literature

Grade Level(s): 11

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B in English 10 Honors or an A in English 10, *and* PSAT: RW score of 480; **or** PSAT: RW score of at least 550 and minimum of B- in English 10/Honors

Credit: 1.0

Designed as a preparation for English 12 Honors or AP English, this course provides a year-long study of British literature from the Anglo-Saxon period to the present. Students are challenged to analyze literature and generate class discussion from their understanding of literary concepts such as point of view, diction, style, theme, and purpose. Writing skills are further developed, with the focus on making an argument, using textual support to validate an opinion and effectively incorporating quotes into an analysis. Self-assessment, revision, and rewriting are integral parts of the writing process in this class. Students are encouraged to develop voice and a personal style in their writing. Preparation for the SAT and ACT includes attention to both vocabulary in context and various analytical skills in reading fiction and nonfiction passages. A multi-media approach to learning is used throughout the year. A research/thesis paper is a requirement of the class.

AP English Language and Composition

Grade Level(s): 11

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B+ in English 10 Honors or an A in English 10, *and* PSAT: RW score of 530; **or** PSAT: RW score of at least 590 and minimum of B- in English 10/Honors

Credit: 1.0

AP English Language and Composition enables students to become skilled readers of complex texts written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts, and to become skilled writers who compose prose for a variety of purposes in order to communicate effectively with mature readers. The course allows students to write in various modes and on many different subjects ranging from personal experience to literary analysis. English Language and Composition prepares students for the writing that forms the basis of academic and professional communication as well as the personal and reflective writing that fosters the development of writing facility in any context. The course demands work equivalent to that of an introductory college course. A multi-media approach to learning is used throughout the year. Students study an advanced vocabulary curriculum designed for post-secondary students. Students will be responsible to complete a summer assignment for this course.

English 12: World Literature

Grade Level(s): 12

Prerequisite: English 11

Credit: 1.0

World Literature is a study of selected major works from both eastern and western civilizations. Set within a historical context, the ancient and modern literature explores the intellectual, moral, and ethical orientation of the diverse cultures of humanity. Writing and research are an integral part of the course. Vocabulary development is implemented through the use of online programs and the study of vocabulary in the context of the literature. A multi-media approach to learning is used throughout the year. Completion of a thesis paper is a requirement for graduation.

English 12 Honors: World Literature

Grade Level(s): 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B in English 11 Honors or an A in English 11, *and* PSAT: RW score of 500; **or** PSAT: RW score of at least 570 and minimum of B- in English 12/Honors

Credit: 1.0

World Literature Honors is an intensive year-long course that gives students an overview of the literature of many peoples and cultures. Much comparative work is done with the class comparing the genres from culture to culture. Emphasis is on understanding the world through a study of literature that reflects the social, religious, and philosophical practices of a people. Composition focuses on critical analysis of literature covered in class. Emphasis is placed on the research process throughout the year. This course is designed for the student who seeks the challenges of an English course that exceeds the expectations of the college preparatory literature course. A humanities approach to learning is used throughout the year. Vocabulary development is implemented through the use of online programs and the study of vocabulary in the context of the literature. A multi-media approach to learning is used throughout the year. Completion of a thesis paper is a requirement for graduation.

AP English Literature and Composition

Grade Level(s): 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B in AP English Language, a B+ in English 11 Honors, or an A in English 11, *and* PSAT: RW score of 550; **or** PSAT: RW score of at least 590 and minimum of B- in English 12/Honors/AP

Credit: 1.0

AP English Literature and Composition provides students with a course in composition and literary analysis. Through the close study of literary works of all genres and diverse cultures, students develop critical standards for appreciating and evaluating literature. They further sharpen their awareness of language and their understanding of the writer's craft. The course demands work equivalent to that of an introductory college course. Vocabulary development is implemented through the use of online programs and the study of vocabulary in the context of the literature. A multi-media approach to learning is used throughout the year. Students will be responsible to complete a summer assignment for this course. Completion of a thesis paper is a requirement for graduation.

English Electives

The following elective courses are semester-long and do not satisfy the English graduation requirement.

American Voices (Honors Option)

Grade Level(s): 11, 12
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 0.5

This elective course will be an introductory survey of literature from the perspectives of American writers belonging to a variety of cultural, ethnic, religious, and racial backgrounds. Students will read contemporary short stories, novels, plays, poems, and informational texts to study how historical context and cultural influence impact the diversity of the American experience. This is a seminar course that will rely upon assigned reading and independent research, participation in class discussion, and academic and informal writing responses. Novels that may be studied are Sherman Alexie's *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian*, James McBride's *The Color of Water*, and Cristina Henriquez's *The Book of Unknown Americans*.

Creative Writing I Honors: Poetry and Fiction

Grade Level(s): 11, 12
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 0.5

This writing-intensive course employs a draft-feedback-revision cycle where each student creates a portfolio that comprises some or all of the following: short, flash, and microfiction; the opening chapters of a novel; a comic book, graphic novel, or manga script; and both formal and free verse poetry. Some of this work occurs within the collaborative storytelling context of a Dungeons & Dragons adventure. Students submit their work to the school literary magazine, contests, and magazines such as *Teen Ink*. This is a semester 1 course. It is not a prerequisite for Creative Writing II.

Creative Writing II Honors: Screenwriting and Creative Nonfiction

Grade Level(s): 11, 12
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 0.5

This writing-intensive course employs a draft-feedback-revision cycle where each student creates a portfolio that comprises some or all of the following: short-film screenplays, feature-length film treatments, scripted podcasts, and creative nonfiction essays. Additionally, the class might collaborate on a fiction podcast script. Students submit their work to the school literary magazine, contests, and magazines such as *Teen Ink*. This is a semester 2 course. Creative Writing I is not required to enroll.

Holocaust Literature (Honors Option)

Grade Level(s): 11, 12
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 0.5

Holocaust Literature is an intensive semester-long study of the literature that has come out of the Holocaust. Students are challenged in a very real and intense way to read stories and novels from a troubling time in our world's history. We lean towards primary sources to discover a genre that is unique since these events were unique. These selected works will be used to help students develop and refine their analytical and critical thinking skills. The fine points of writing, grammar, and mechanics are taught. Research is also an important element of this course. Most importantly, students will enter into a study of one of our worst moments in history, grappling with some of the most important questions of man's nature, his relationship with others, and his relationship with God. These questions will be asked directly.

Introduction to Film (Honors Option)

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 0.5

Introduction to Film provides a general introduction to the history of American film, its language, and chief directors. Specifically, this elective examines selected major films in terms of the genres from which they emerge. The course also examines technical elements of filmmaking and screenwriting, the financial and economic impact of the industry, and the evolution of film as art since inception. In addition, the course seeks to discover ways in which films reflect a given society at a specific point in time. Introduction to Film requires visual, oral, and written analysis of films presented in class.

Public Speaking and Presentation (Honors Option)

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 0.5

Public Speaking and Presentation provides a general introduction to and extensive practice in the art of communication and different kinds of speeches. This elective examines the elements of what makes an effective speech, specifically speeches to inform, to persuade, and to entertain varying audiences in different settings. Public Speaking and Presentation will develop both writing and presentation skills through a series of class experiences that provide many opportunities to practice and perfect speech creation and delivery. It also requires analysis of speeches and peer reviews that will improve students' public speaking abilities over the course of this class.

Public Speaking and Presentation II (Honors Option)

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Public Speaking
and Presentation

Credit: 0.5

Public Speaking and Presentation II provides the next level for extensive practice in the art of communication and different kinds of speeches. This elective examines the elements of what makes an effective speech, specifically speeches to inform, to persuade, and to entertain varying audiences in different settings. Public Speaking and Presentation will develop both writing and presentation skills through a series of class experiences that provide many opportunities to practice and perfect speech creation and delivery. It also requires analysis of speeches and peer reviews that will improve students' public speaking abilities over the course of this class.

Stories from the Modern World (Honors Option)

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 0.5

This elective course will be an introduction to contemporary World Literature that has been written in or translated into English. Students will read a variety of short stories, novels, plays, poems, and informational texts to identify universal themes across cultures. This is a seminar course that will rely upon assigned reading and independent research, participation in class discussion, and academic and informal writing responses. Novels that may be studied are Joy Kogawa's *Obasan*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus*, and Rajaa Alsanea's *Girls of Riyadh*.

The South in Black and White (Honors Option)

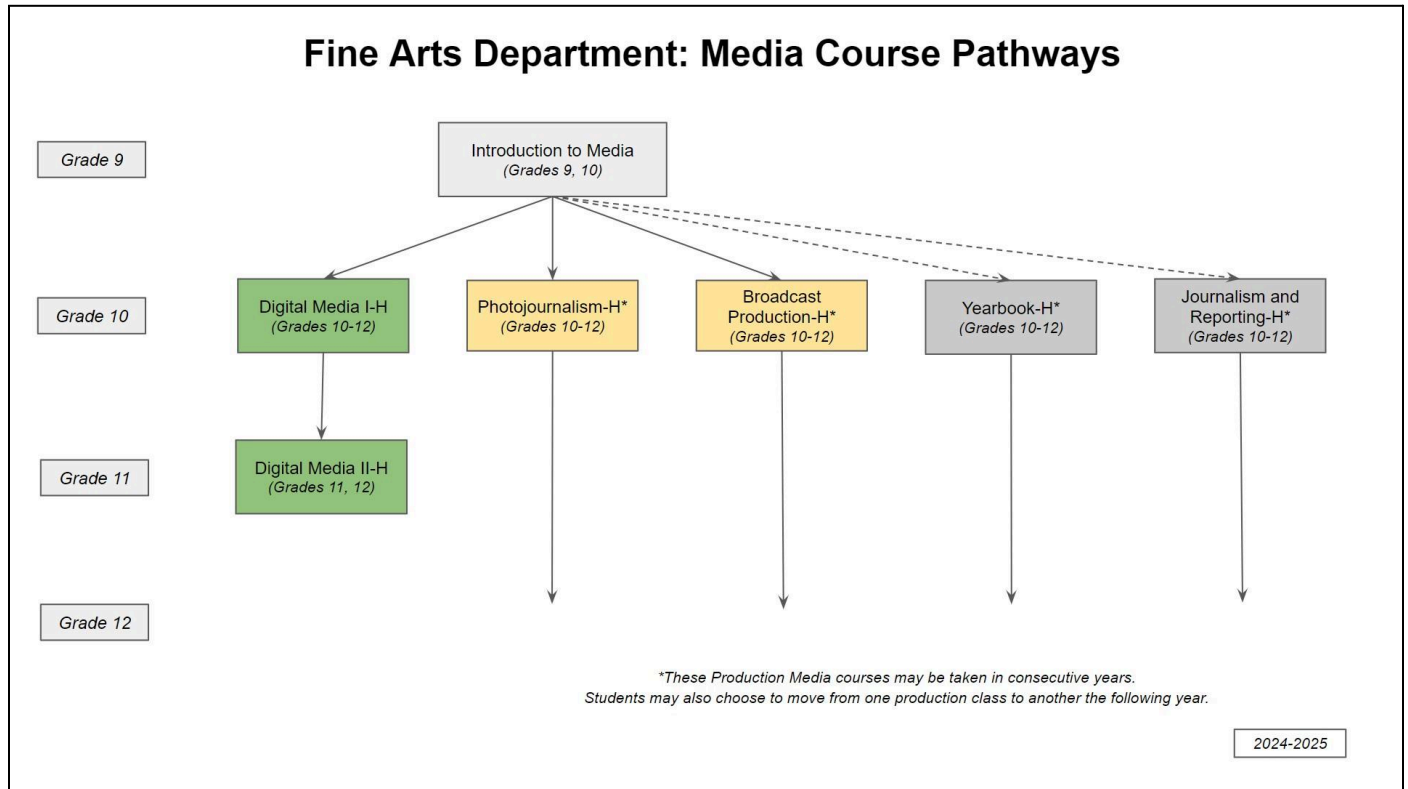
Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 0.5

This elective class will engage in discussions centered on present-day and historical documentary traditions in the American South, with an emphasis on call and response between black and white cultures. The arts and humanities as embedded histories and cultures found in the South, and as performed in music and theater; and portrayed in documentary films, civil rights photography, Southern literature, and historical and autobiographical writing. The class will culminate with an optional trip to Montgomery, AL visiting the Equity and Justice Museum, Rosa Parks Museum, a walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, and a visit to Dr. King's Church on Dexter Avenue.

Fine Arts: Media



All Performing Arts/Media/Music/Visual Arts courses fulfill the Fine Arts requirement for graduation. Ninth grade students who choose to take a Fine Arts elective in place of PE must commit to taking a second course **in the same Fine Arts discipline** their sophomore year in order to defer the PE requirement. See page 8 for more information.

Introduction to Media

Grade Level(s): 9, 10

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0

Introduction to Media is designed to teach essential skills for freshman and sophomore students in their first year in high school and/or the Gibbons Media program. The course emphasizes essential media and digital skills and tools necessary for success both in high school and in the media program, beginning with how to properly and efficiently use their: personal cell phone (Apple iOS); school-issued PC (Microsoft Windows); school-issued Google Account (Drive, Slides and Docs); Vidigami, the school's photo sharing site; and concluding with a survey of the media tracks available in the Gibbons Media program. Students will practice the skills and techniques of storytelling in digital media through a series of projects, exploring creative applications of digital media through the integration of text, photographs, graphics, audio, and video.

*See page 8 regarding PE Deferment for rising 9th grade students.

Digital Media Electives

The digital media path can be started in grade 10, 11, or 12.

Digital Media I Honors

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B+ in Intro to Media for Grade 10 only

Credit: 1.0

Digital Media I Honors allows students to develop knowledge of the Adobe Academy Adobe Cloud Suite and helps prepare for Adobe ACA certification in Adobe Premiere, After Effects, and Photoshop and InDesign. Students are exposed to digital media principles in the areas of graphic design, animation, audio/video production, and web design, photography demonstrating how all elements of media design and development work together. Portfolios will be established to showcase the accomplishments and projects undertaken throughout the year. Students gain experience through real-world application to understand the roles and processes across a broad range of careers involving digital media. The Digital media path can be started in grade 10, 11, or 12. Courses must be taken in order.

Digital Media II Honors

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B+ in Digital Media I

Credit: 1.0

The introductory concepts and curriculum learned in Digital Media I are taught with greater depth while emphasis is placed on application of skill using the industry-standard software. Collaboration occurs between courses, such as Theatre, Music, and Broadcast Journalism, to produce visual content, broadcasts, and other digital projects. Students create and add to their portfolios of their digital creations that showcase work and provide a viable tool to demonstrate abilities to prospective employers and post-secondary institutions. Students have the chance to achieve ACA certification in Premiere Pro and other programs within the Adobe suite. Students are required to participate in events occurring after school.

Production Media Electives

These media courses may be taken in multiple years during grades 10, 11, and 12.

Students may also choose to move from one production course to another the following year.

Broadcast Production Honors

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Intro to Media for Grade 10 only

Credit: 1.0

Broadcast Production Honors focuses on the skills, tools, and techniques required to produce student-led and student-centered video broadcasts to celebrate, enrich and promote our school community. Broadcasts include: GNN (general news and school announcements); GNN+ (student-centered creative promos and features); and daily prayer and Pledge videos broadcast daily. Students will take an ownership role in video and content creation and production, learning how to handle audio and visual production as well as work with and develop their own on-air talent (including on-camera and voiceover-only). Students may take this course in consecutive years, and students in their second, third or fourth years will be assigned leadership roles appropriate to their experience. This course is designed for the serious and dedicated student and requires some non-class time for maximum success.

Journalism and Reporting Honors

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0

Journalism and Reporting Honors is a production class focusing on learning and developing the skills necessary for the creation and publication of the online student newspaper, The Gibbons Globe. Individual initiative and personal responsibility will be stressed while students practice their journalism skills in a group-oriented, business-like environment in which teamwork and cooperation are essential for success. Skill areas emphasized are: writing for the various reporting styles, including opinion, news feature and review writing; optimizing social media use, including Twitter and Instagram; newspaper design using a WordPress based application; and selecting images and graphics to accompany articles. Students are evaluated on meeting their deadlines and editing the sections within their responsibility. Students may take this course in consecutive years, and students in their second and third years will be assigned leadership roles.

Photojournalism Honors

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Intro to Media for Grade 10 only

Credit: 1.0

Photojournalism Honors focuses on the skills, tools and techniques necessary to be successful student photojournalists and videographers, practicing the art of digital storytelling through compelling visual imagery which serves the school community. Students practice “in the field” by covering Gibbons events, and learn how to capture, curate, edit and publish their photos and videos via school media, e.g., Vidigami, Google Drive, in-school digital signage, yearbook and school-approved social media accounts. Students will be required to cover Gibbons events, including after school, on occasion. Students may take this course in consecutive years, and students in their second, third or fourth years will be assigned leadership roles appropriate to their experience. This course is designed for the serious and dedicated student and requires some non-class time for maximum success.

Yearbook Honors

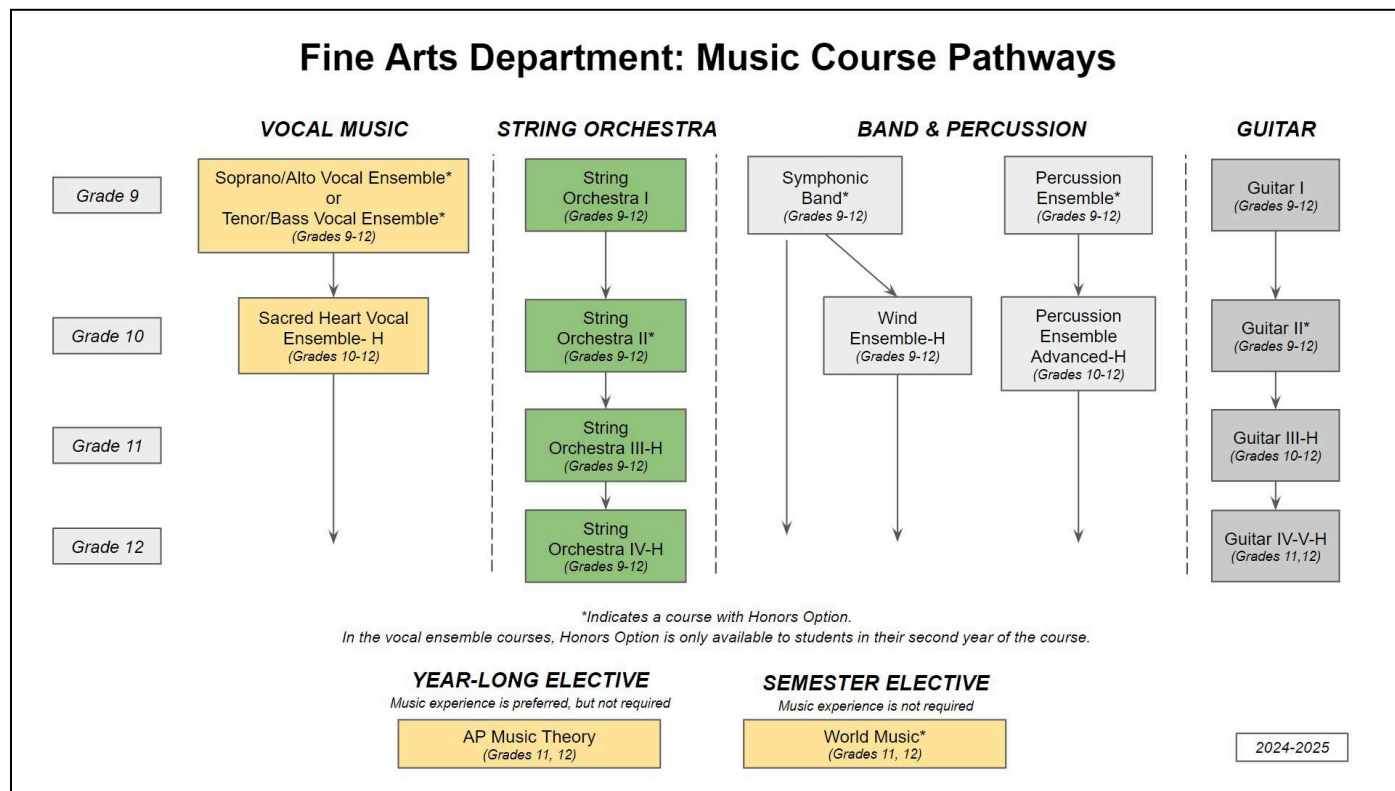
Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0

Yearbook Honors is a production class focusing on learning and developing the skills necessary for the creation and publication of The Landmark yearbook. Yearbook students collaborate with each other and other media students to cover all of the memorable Gibbons events throughout the year. Yearbook students also create and develop a unique yearbook theme, culminating in the publication of the yearbook each year. Skill areas emphasized are: interviewing, newswriting, yearbook design, using Yearbook Avenue, digital photography and photojournalism, and using school-provided DSLR cameras. Students will practice these skills by covering school events such as athletic games, arts performances, all-school Masses, etc. Students may take this course in consecutive years, and students in their second and third years will be assigned leadership roles, such as Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor, Layout Editor and Section Editor, and together will provide editorial control and direction for The Landmark. This course is designed for the serious and dedicated student and will require significant non-class time for maximum success.

Fine Arts: Music



All Performing Arts/Media/Music/Visual Arts courses fulfill the Fine Arts requirement for graduation. Ninth grade students who choose to take a Fine Arts elective in place of PE must commit to taking a second course **in the same Fine Arts discipline** their sophomore year in order to defer the PE requirement. See page 8 for more information.

Band and Percussion Electives

Symphonic Band (Honors Option)

Grade Level(s): All
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 1.0

Symphonic Band is open to all students with a desire to play a band instrument. Emphasis is placed upon teaching the fundamentals of music performance through daily rehearsals and an understanding of music theory. Students perform in on-campus concerts and have opportunities to participate in formal concerts, combining with the Wind Ensemble class, and playing various styles of music. Students should provide their own instruments unless other arrangements are made with the instructor. Percussion students may take this class if they have two years of experience and audition. Students may take this course for Honors credit if they participate in the Pep Band, Drum Line, or are in their second year. *See page 8 regarding PE Deferment for rising 9th grade students.

Wind Ensemble Honors

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Symphonic Band and educator approval*

Credit: 1.0

**Exceptional rising 9th grade students may audition. See page 8 regarding PE Deferment.*

Wind Ensemble is a course for students who have met the standards for Symphonic Band. Members learn aspects of playing an instrument including reading music, completion of music theory assignments each semester, and performing various wind band literature (Wind Ensemble, Pep Band, Jazz Band, and Small Ensemble). On and off-campus concerts, Cardinal Gibbons home football games, specified community parades, and outreach performances are all required. Home practice is expected, and private lessons are strongly encouraged to perform the music in this course. Students should provide their own instruments unless other arrangements are made with the instructor. Percussion students may take this class if they have three years of experience and they audition. Students may take this course in consecutive years.

Percussion Ensemble (Honors Option)

Grade Level(s): All

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0

This course is designed for first-year high school students or students who are new to percussion. Students are introduced to playing all areas of percussion including snare drum, mallets (bells, vibes, xylophone) timpani, hand percussion (congo, bongos, etc.) and drum set. Students learn all the basic skills in reading music, music theory, and percussion history. Students are required to attend formal on-campus concerts, and may participate in other opportunities such as Drum Line and Symphonic Band. Percussion students who wish to play in the Symphonic Band as a freshman should schedule a placement audition. A pair of "SD-1 General" Drumsticks will be required for the class. Students may take this course in consecutive years. Students may take this course for Honors if they participate in Drumline, or are in their second year. **See page 8 regarding PE Deferment for rising 9th grade students.*

Percussion Ensemble Advanced Honors

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Audition

Credit: 1.0

This course is designed for the experienced high school percussionist ready to perform college-level percussion literature. Emphasis is placed on advanced fundamentals of percussion performance (snare drum, timpani, keyboards, marching percussion, and drum set), including tonal concepts, music theory, technical skills, and rehearsal etiquette. Formal concerts, performing with both band classes, various school performances, and community outreach opportunities are requirements for this course. Students are encouraged to audition for honors ensembles such as All-District Band, All-Honors Orchestra, or Solo and Ensemble Festival. Students may take this course in consecutive years.

Guitar Electives

The guitar electives must be taken in the specified order. An audition is required to skip any class in the sequence.

Guitar I

Grade Level(s): All

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0

This course introduces students to the basics of guitar and understanding music. The course will cover note reading, basic chords, rhythm, and basic music theory. Students are exposed to classical and current literature. No experience is required. Electric bassists can be accommodated in this course. **See page 8 regarding PE Deferment for rising 9th grade students.*

Guitar II (Honors Option)

Grade Level(s): All
Prerequisite: Guitar I or
audition
Credit: 1.0

In this course, students work on understanding more complicated rhythms as well as exploring higher positions on the neck of the guitar. Students learn bar chord shapes, finger picking, and many common chord progressions. Students are introduced to jazz concepts in addition to classical and current literature. Electric bassists can be accommodated in this course, but they are required to learn some guitar basics. Home practice is required. **See page 8 regarding PE Deferment for rising 9th grade students.*

Guitar III Honors

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12
Prerequisite: Guitar II
Credit: 1.0

This course covers advanced note reading, techniques, music theory, and improvisation. Students have more individualized parts and approach arranging in an ensemble setting as well as electric instrument basics. Home practice is required.

Guitar IV-V Honors

Grade Level(s): 11, 12
Prerequisite: Guitar III Honors
and audition
Credit: 1.0

This course continues the exploration of advanced techniques, music reading, and arranging. Students compose their own pieces for an end-of-year performance. Additional performances are expected, and practice outside of class is required.

String Orchestra Electives

*The string orchestra electives must be taken in the specified order.
An audition is required to skip any class in the sequence.*

String Orchestra I

Grade Level(s): All
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 1.0

The String Orchestra I course offers instruction to the fundamentals of playing violin, viola, cello or bass with a focus on developing skills for long-term success. No prior experience needed and a school instrument is provided. This class is ideal for those who have piano experience, were unable to take an instrumental music class during previous school experiences, or for those wishing to review their instrument skills. We will learn the basics of rhythm, reading music, scales, music theory, and ensemble playing. **See page 8 regarding PE Deferment for rising 9th grade students.*

String Orchestra II (Honors Option)

Grade Level(s): All
Prerequisite: String Orchestra I
or audition
Credit: 1.0

The String Orchestra II course offers instruction for the violin, viola, cello, bass, or piano students who already demonstrate a basic understanding of rhythm, pitch, reading music, scales and ensemble playing. Material covered will include expanding on rhythms, time signatures, shifting, two octave scales, theory, intermediate music reading, and vibrato. School instruments are provided for use in class. **See page 8 regarding PE Deferment for rising 9th grade students.*

String Orchestra III Honors

Grade Level(s): All

Prerequisite: String Orchestra II or audition

Credit: 1.0

The String Orchestra III Honors course offers instructions for the violin, viola, cello, bass, or piano students who demonstrate an advanced understanding of rhythm, pitch, reading music, scales and ensemble playing. Material covered will include expanding on rhythm, shifting past third position, three octave scales, chamber music and advanced ensemble playing. Students considered for this course would have at least 2 years of experience on their instrument. School instruments are provided for use in class. **See page 8 regarding PE Deferment for rising 9th grade students.*

String Orchestra IV Honors

Grade Level(s): All

Prerequisite: String Orchestra III Honors or audition

Credit: 1.0

The String Orchestra IV Honors course offers instructions for the violin, viola, cello, bass, or piano students who demonstrate an advanced understanding of rhythm, pitch, reading music, scales and ensemble playing. Students in this ensemble will be performing as the leading string ensemble of Cardinal Gibbons. School instruments are provided for use in class. Students may take this course in consecutive years. **See page 8 regarding PE Deferment for rising 9th grade students.*

Vocal Ensemble Electives

Soprano/Alto Vocal Ensemble (Honors Option Y2 and above)

Grade Level(s): All

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0

Soprano/Alto Vocal Ensemble is designed to expose students to the art and science of vocal music. This course will scientifically and pedagogically develop the soprano and alto voice to prepare students for continuation to the Sacred Heart Vocal Ensemble Honors, lifelong singing outside of the vocal ensemble, and support vocal communication on athletic teams. Students will be placed in the appropriate voice parts to ensure proper and healthy vocal development. This ensemble is meant to facilitate sopranos and altos who have some experience or no experience in a vocal ensemble. Music reading is not a prerequisite to participate in this ensemble; however, emphasis will be placed on the development in music theory, sight-singing, and ear training skills. The Soprano/Alto Vocal Ensemble performs SSA and SSAA pieces, both accompanied and a cappella in a diverse array of genres. Participation in on-campus performances and collaborations with other Cardinal Gibbons vocal ensembles are required. Students may take this course consecutive years; the Honors Option is only available to students in Year 2 and above. **See page 8 regarding PE Deferment for rising 9th grade students.*

Tenor/Bass Vocal Ensemble (Honors Option Y2 and above)

Grade Level(s): All

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0

Tenor/Bass Vocal Ensemble is designed to expose students to the art and science of vocal music. This course will scientifically and pedagogically develop the tenor and bass voice to prepare students for continuation to the Sacred Heart Vocal Ensemble Honors, lifelong singing outside of the vocal ensemble, and support vocal communication on athletic teams. Students will be placed in the appropriate voice parts to ensure proper and healthy vocal development. This ensemble is meant to facilitate tenors and basses who have some experience or no experience in a vocal ensemble. Music reading is not a prerequisite to participate in this ensemble; however, emphasis will be placed on the development in music theory, sight-singing, and ear training skills. The Tenor/Bass Vocal Ensemble performs TBB and TTBB pieces, both accompanied and a cappella in a diverse array of genres. Participation in on-campus performances and collaborations with other Cardinal Gibbons vocal ensembles are required. Students may take this course consecutive years; the Honors Option is only available to students in Year 2 and above. **See page 8 regarding PE Deferment for rising 9th grade students.*

Sacred Heart Vocal Ensemble

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Audition

Credit: 1.0

Named after the original name of Cardinal Gibbons High School, the Sacred Heart Vocal Ensemble is the advanced vocal performing ensemble. Sacred Heart Vocal Ensemble is a mixed SATB ensemble that facilitates students who have met standards for Soprano/Alto Vocal Ensemble or Tenor/Bass Vocal Ensemble. This course will scientifically and pedagogically refine the sound of the ensemble for lifelong singing after high school and supporting vocal communication in athletic teams. This ensemble is a continuation of the members developing music reading, sight singing, and ear training skills; the primary focus of this ensemble is performance. The Sacred Heart Vocal Ensemble performs diverse SATB repertoire including but not limited to: Classical, Gospel, Jazz, Commercial, and World Multicultural music. This ensemble performs on and off campus concerts and is the primary vocal ensemble in the Cardinal Gibbons High School Masses as a requirement. Solo/small group work will be encouraged.

Other Music Electives

These elective courses are non-instrument based.

Music experience is not required for either course, but is preferred for the AP course.

World Music (Honors Option)

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 0.5

This elective music course will explore the music of different regions of the world and its application in cultural settings. Students receive instruction on major musical styles, traditions, and characteristics as they pertain to different cultures throughout the World. Playing an instrument is not required and no prior musical experience is needed. This course works well in conjunction with other semester courses offered at Cardinal Gibbons.

AP Music Theory

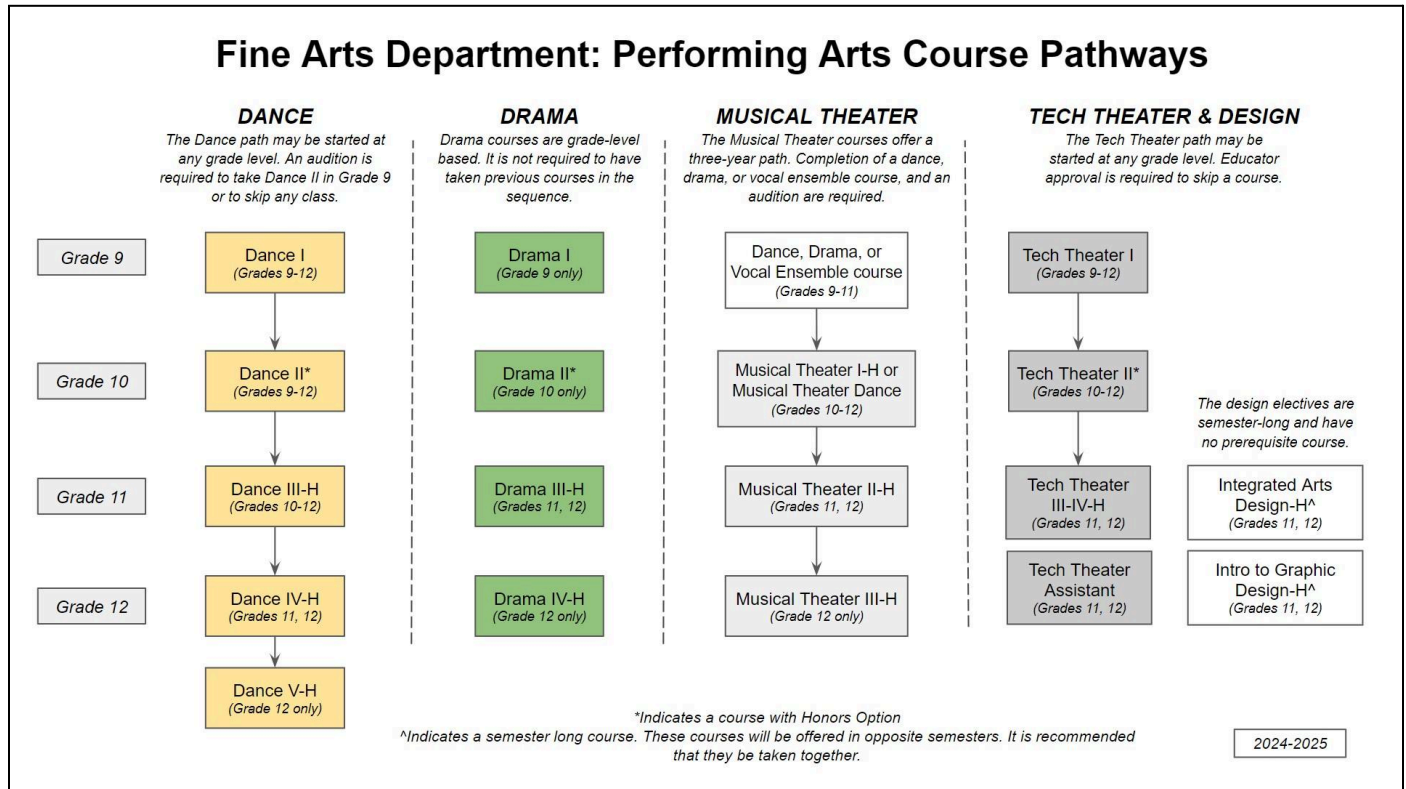
Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Educator approval

Credit: 1.0

AP Music Theory provides an opportunity to learn how musicians and composers make music including a deeper understanding of how the music of today was created. Students study elements of pitch, rhythm, melody, chords, harmony, texture, and notation. Students also cover concepts in composition, musical cultures, and music history with a focus in European and American music. Students prepare for the College Board AP Music Theory exam and may qualify for college credit or placement, but one may also enroll in the course without intent to take the exam.

Fine Arts: Performing Arts



All Performing Arts/Media/Music/Visual Arts courses fulfill the Fine Arts requirement for graduation. Ninth grade students who choose to take a Fine Arts elective in place of PE must commit to taking a second course **in the same Fine Arts discipline** their sophomore year in order to defer the PE requirement. See page 8 for more information.

Dance Electives

The dance electives must be taken in the specified order. An audition is required to skip any class in the sequence.

Dance I

Grade Level(s): All
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 1.0

Dance I is divided into three main areas of study: technique, dance history, and performance. The course covers a variety of techniques at the beginning level, including modern, jazz, hip-hop, and ballet. Students will also learn choreographic tools to create movement studies and solos. Two performances are required. Students must provide dance wear attire/shoes. Placement for technique level is through audition. *See page 8 regarding PE Deferment for rising 9th grade students.

Dance II (Honors Option)

Grade Level(s): All
Prerequisite: Dance I or audition
Credit: 1.0

Dance II is divided into three main areas of study: technique, dance history, and performance. The course covers a variety of techniques, including modern, jazz, hip-hop, and ballet. Other forms of dance and movement are introduced including conditioning and Pilates. Students will continue to learn choreographic terms and explore creating a movement vocabulary. Two performances are required. Students must provide dance wear attire and dance shoes. *See page 8 regarding PE Deferment for rising 9th grade students.

Dance III Honors

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Dance II or audition

Credit: 1.0

Dance III Honors continues to work with technique, dance history, and performance in addition to arts, production, and management. Students continue to further their skills in choreography and present their own solos. Two performances are required. Students must provide dance wear attire and dance shoes.

Dance IV Honors

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Dance III Honors or audition

Credit: 1.0

Dance IV Honors continues to work deeper with dance technique including modern/contemporary, jazz, hip-hop, and ballet. Students will have an opportunity to showcase their own movement studies in class. Students will continue to experiment and look deeper into improvisation and choreography. Two performances are required. Students must provide dance wear attire and dance shoes.

Dance V Honors

Grade Level(s): 12

Prerequisite: Dance IV Honors or audition

Credit: 1.0

Dance V Honors continues to work with dance technique. Students will have the chance to perform their own choreographic studies in a performance and have an opportunity to teach other students their own movement. Students will have a chance to perform in other dance concerts and conventions in North Carolina. Two performances are required. Students must provide dance wear attire and dance shoes.

Drama Electives

The drama electives are grade level based.

It is not required to have taken previous courses in the sequence to enroll.

Drama I

Grade Level(s): 9

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0

Drama I is designed to be a general overview of the theatrical arts. Students will be introduced to and develop a strong foundation in the many facets of dramatic production, including acting basics, theatrical terminology, and the elements of stagecraft. *See page 8 regarding PE Deferment for rising 9th grade students.

Drama II (Honors Option)

Grade Level(s): 10

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0

Drama II continues the study and application of the fundamentals of acting and stagecraft with an emphasis on collaborative projects and self-expression. Students will learn to fully engage with the three tools of the performer -- voice, body, and imagination -- through in-class projects that emphasize creating and doing in a supportive and active classroom environment.

Drama III Honors

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0

Drama III continues the study and application of theater arts and stagecraft at an advanced and challenging level with a specific emphasis on personal expression and the creative process. Advanced acting, performance, and stagecraft techniques are developed in a collaborative, project-based environment.

Drama IV Honors: Performance Studies

Grade Level(s): 12
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 1.0

Drama IV allows students to apply, practice, and synthesize the skills acquired in previous Drama classes and previous drama experiences via in-class student-driven theatrical productions. Students engage in creating, producing, directing, designing, writing, and developing their own work via a variety of rotating Drama IV class projects, each of which ends with a series of shared public performances. This class requires an investment of time outside scheduled class hours.

Musical Theater Electives

After an introductory course in Drama, Dance or Vocal Music, students will be eligible to audition for placement in the musical theater track. This track is intended to be a three-year course of study in the multidisciplinary subject area of Musical Theater. However, upperclassmen may audition for placement in their grade level cohort if they do not start the program in grade 10. Musical Theater Dance does not require an audition.

Musical Theater I Honors

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12
Prerequisite: Dance, Drama, or Vocal Ensemble course **and** vocal audition
Credit: 1.0

Musical Theater I is the first course in a three-year immersive and multi-disciplinary course of study in the elements of musical theater performance. Students in the musical theater track will rotate through classes in the essential subjects of drama, dance, vocal music, and stagecraft in their assigned cohort, developing and applying the fundamental skills required for success in the field of musical theater performance. Student work will be shared with the public in a showcase at the end of each semester. No previous musical theater experience is required to audition for placement in this course.

Musical Theater II Honors

Grade Level(s): 11, 12
Prerequisite: Musical Theater I **or** vocal audition and educator approval
Credit: 1.0

Musical Theater II is the second course in a three-year immersive and multi-disciplinary course of study in the elements of musical theater performance. Students will continue to rotate through the essential subjects of drama, dance, vocal music, and stagecraft in their assigned cohort, and will begin to develop their “audition book” song portfolio along with engaging in song workshop performance rounds and multi-cohort group numbers. Student work will be shared with the public in a showcase at the end of each semester.

Musical Theater III Honors

Grade Level(s): 12
Prerequisite: Musical Theater II **or** vocal audition and educator approval
Credit: 1.0

Musical Theater III is the third and final summative course in a three-year immersive and multi-disciplinary course of study in the elements of musical theater performance. Musical Theater III is centered on the direct application of the skills and talents developed in Musical Theater I & II and includes several capstone projects in staging, directing and completion of the student’s “audition book”. Students will continue to rotate through the essential subjects of drama, dance, vocal music, and stagecraft in their assigned cohort. Student work will be shared with the public in a showcase at the end of each semester.

Musical Theater Dance

Grade Level(s): 10,11, 12
Prerequisite: Drama I or Dance I
Credit: 1.0

This course focuses on the dancing techniques that are unique to the profession of musical theater. This process will advance one’s understanding of what it means to be an actor/performer. A course like this deals with aspects like body position, dance technique, and an understanding of past and present professional choreographers. We will go through the process of starting with George Balanchine and the Ziegfield Follies. We will move into choreographers like Fosse, Gower Champion, Jerome Robbins, and Michael Bennet. It ends with recent choreographers like Andy Blankenbuehler and Savion Glover. An extension of this curriculum will be studying the shows the choreographers worked on.

Technical Theater Electives

*The technical theater electives must be taken in the specified order.
Educator approval is required to skip any class in the sequence.*

Technical Theater I

Grade Level(s): All
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 1.0

This course is a study and application of technical and backstage elements of theater production. Students will focus on learning craft skills associated with scenery, lighting, and costuming. The class will also support the technical needs of Cardinal Gibbons performances and other school presentations. They will be evaluated on their understanding of theater production and on their ability to safely and proficiently assist in the construction of scenery, costumes, and props. *See page 8 regarding PE Deferment for rising 9th grade students.

Technical Theater II (Honors Option)

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12
Prerequisite: Tech Theater I or
educator approval
Credit: 1.0

This course continues the study of technical theater. Students will begin the study of theatrical design in costume, scenery, light, and sound. They will advance their technical craft skills and be heavily involved in construction of scenery and costumes for Cardinal Gibbons productions. They will be evaluated on individual design projects and their demonstrated technical skills. Some work may be required after school and on weekends.

Technical Theater III-IV Honors

Grade Level(s): 11, 12
Prerequisite: Tech Theater II or
educator approval
Credit: 1.0

This course furthers the study of Technical Theater and its respective disciplines, with an emphasis on design. Students will be involved in the design process for all Cardinal Gibbons theatrical productions. Students will be responsible for working and running the technical crews in a leadership role for all Cardinal Gibbons Fine Arts productions. Students will also mentor Tech I and II students. Students may take this course in consecutive years.

Technical Theater Assistant

Grade Level(s): 11, 12
Prerequisite: Educator approval
Credit: 1.0

This special request course provides experienced students the opportunity to receive more hands-on and individualized training based on interest in technical theater. Tech Theater Assistants are required to contribute to and participate in co-curricular productions and mentor students in beginning tech theater classes. Students can register for this class by submitting the Special Request Form.

Theatrical Design Electives

The theatrical design electives are semester-long and will be offered in opposite semesters. Students are encouraged to enroll in both courses.

Intro to Graphic Design Honors

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 0.5

This course introduces students to the building blocks of graphic design. These building blocks are the elements that make up both digital and printed content. Through visual examples, students will learn fundamental principles such as image making, typography, composition, color and shape. Students will use programs in the Adobe Suite (Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, Express) to create content. These designs will be displayed throughout the school throughout the year. Students will explore and investigate visual representation through a variety of image-making techniques. At the end of the course, they will be able to understand and apply the basic principles and elements of Graphic Design.

Integrated Arts Design Honors

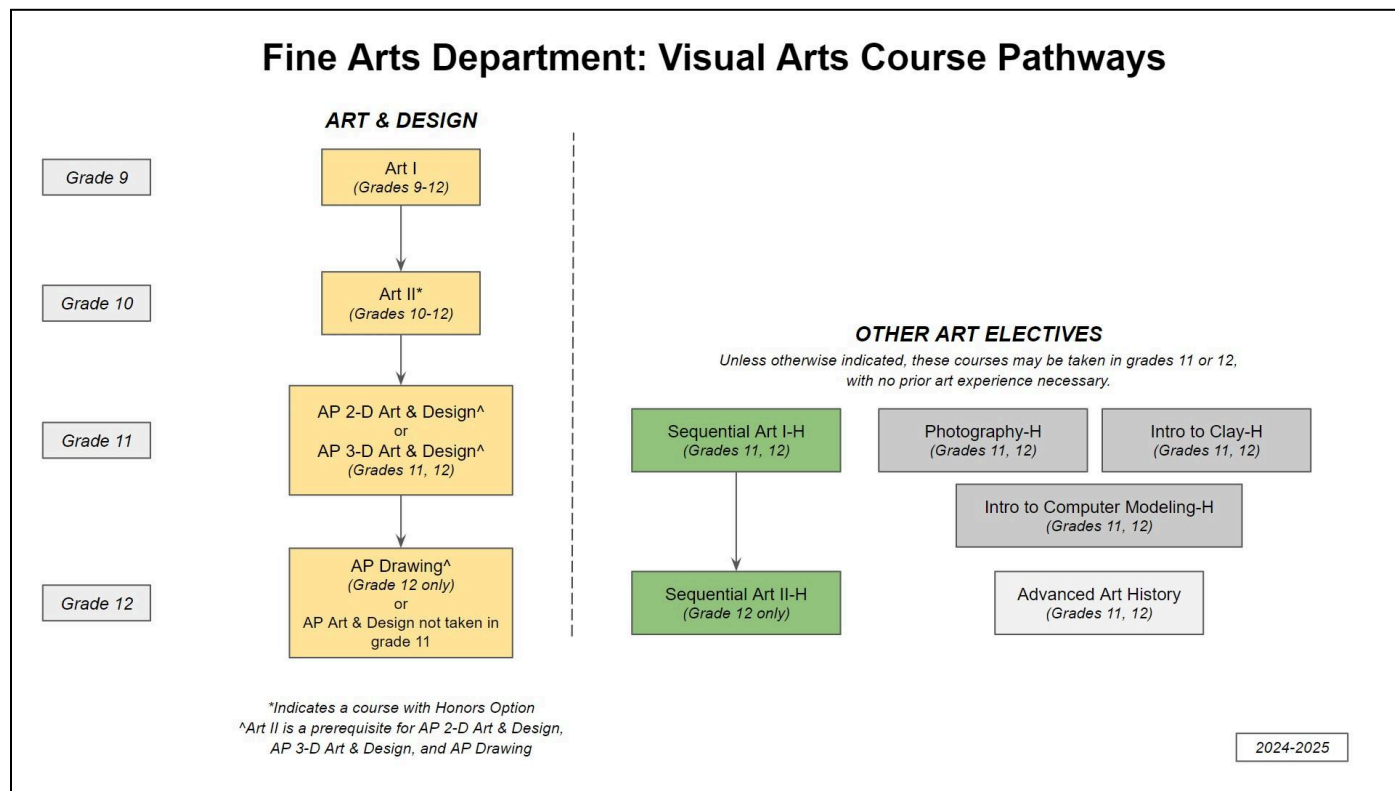
Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 0.5

This course introduces students to integrated conceptual design via a focus on the process of Theatrical Design. By examining photography, architecture, literature, color, and music, among other elements, students can develop ideas, images, and concepts used in design. Execution of these designs will be used in areas of theater, such as costume design, poster and program graphic design, and set dressing. Students will learn how to ensure that the right visual style is reflected in each of these areas, creating unity and consistency in both onstage and offstage elements. Students will see their designs implemented in Gibbons Drama Productions throughout the year. Through the presentation of ideas and design concepts, students build strong communication skills while learning to be efficient creative collaborators.

Fine Arts: Visual Arts



All Performing Arts/Media/Music/Visual Arts courses fulfill the Fine Arts requirement for graduation. Ninth grade students who choose to take a Fine Arts elective in place of PE must commit to taking a second course **in the same Fine Arts discipline** their sophomore year in order to defer the PE requirement. See page 8 for more information.

Art and Design Electives

The art and design electives must be taken in the specified order.

Art I

Grade Level(s): All
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 1.0

Art I provides a general introduction to the visual arts, its language, tools, media and processes. The student will be exposed to a variety of studio experiences as well as artists of past and present. The focus at the beginning of the year is on developing strong drawing skills. Other projects will include printmaking, painting, ceramics and mixed-media. *See page 8 regarding PE Deferment for rising 9th grade students.

Art II (Honors Option)

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12
Prerequisite: Art I
Credit: 1.0

Art II builds upon the basic art concepts and skills developed in Art I through more advanced applications of media, concepts, and expressions of ideas. Students are encouraged to begin to develop a personal style of expression and choose media appropriate for communication of concept.

AP 2-D Art and Design

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Art II

Credit: 1.0

AP 2D Design is offered for the outstanding art student who wishes to prepare and present a 2D Design portfolio to the National Placement Board. College credit or placement may be given if a qualifying evaluation is received. Students will be responsible to complete a summer assignment for this course.

AP 3-D Art and Design

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Art II

Credit: 1.0

AP 3D Design is offered for the outstanding art student who wishes to prepare and present a 3D Design portfolio to the National Placement Board. College credit or placement may be given by some institutions if a qualifying evaluation is received. Students will be responsible to complete a summer assignment for this course.

AP Drawing

Grade Level(s): 12

Prerequisite: Art II

Credit: 1.0

AP Drawing is offered for the outstanding art student who wishes to prepare and present a drawing portfolio to the National Placement Board. College credit or placement may be given by some institutions if a qualifying evaluation is received. Students will be responsible to complete a summer assignment for this course.

Other Visual Art Electives

These specialty art electives are available to juniors and seniors only.

Introduction to Clay Honors

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0

The student will be introduced to the art of clay as a means of personal expression and communication. Students will experiment with the plastic quality of clay to form three-dimensional structures using the pinch, coil, slab, and potter's wheel techniques. Students will understand the chemical and physical changes that take place in clay through the construction and firing processes and will be able to evaluate clay forms on the basis of elements and principles of design.

Introduction to Computer Modeling Honors

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0

This course will cover the basics of 3D object modeling in 3D Studio Max software. No drawing ability is necessary. Students will learn the fundamentals of how to visualize and construct basic objects using polygons and then learn how to create and apply their own texture maps to the objects. Once a familiarity with the software and techniques are established, more complex and original objects can be approached. The skills acquired in this class can be applied to video games, 3D animation, architecture, and other areas in the entertainment and communication fields.

Photography Honors

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0

This course introduces the fundamental techniques used in digital photography. Emphasis is placed on concept and content as well as technical proficiency. Students will learn to operate digital camera equipment and accessories as well as explore digital manipulation using Photoshop and other digital imaging software and techniques. In addition, emphasis is placed on alternative approaches to photographic imaging. Students will explore the image-making process using a variety of mixed media and digital photo techniques.

Sequential Art I Honors

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0

This course will explore the ancient tradition of conveying stories/ideas through words and pictures. Students will study the history of sequential art and its broad range of styles and genres, and they will write and draw their own short stories in several different formats. Each storytelling element will be studied and explored, including subject research, script writing/outlining, developing effective characters, drawing settings, objects, and people in various styles, establishing mood, conveying emotion, the importance of color, mythology, iconography, metaphor, and “personal voice” panel composition and overall page design. Students will also learn how to have their work “print ready” for publication, both on paper and digitally on the internet.

Sequential Art II Honors

Grade Level(s): 12

Prerequisite: Sequential Art I Honors

Credit: 1.0

This course is designed to be a continuation of Sequential Art I, and will build upon the skill sets covered there. Students will be asked to display a more advanced level of drawing and visual storytelling, and the projects will be greater in length and more substantive in content. Students will also be expected to work independently and develop their own story ideas. More advanced techniques in drawing, coloring, and inking will be pursued, and we will explore more prolific areas and methods of visual storytelling.

Art History Elective

Advanced Art History

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B in current English class

Credit: 1.0

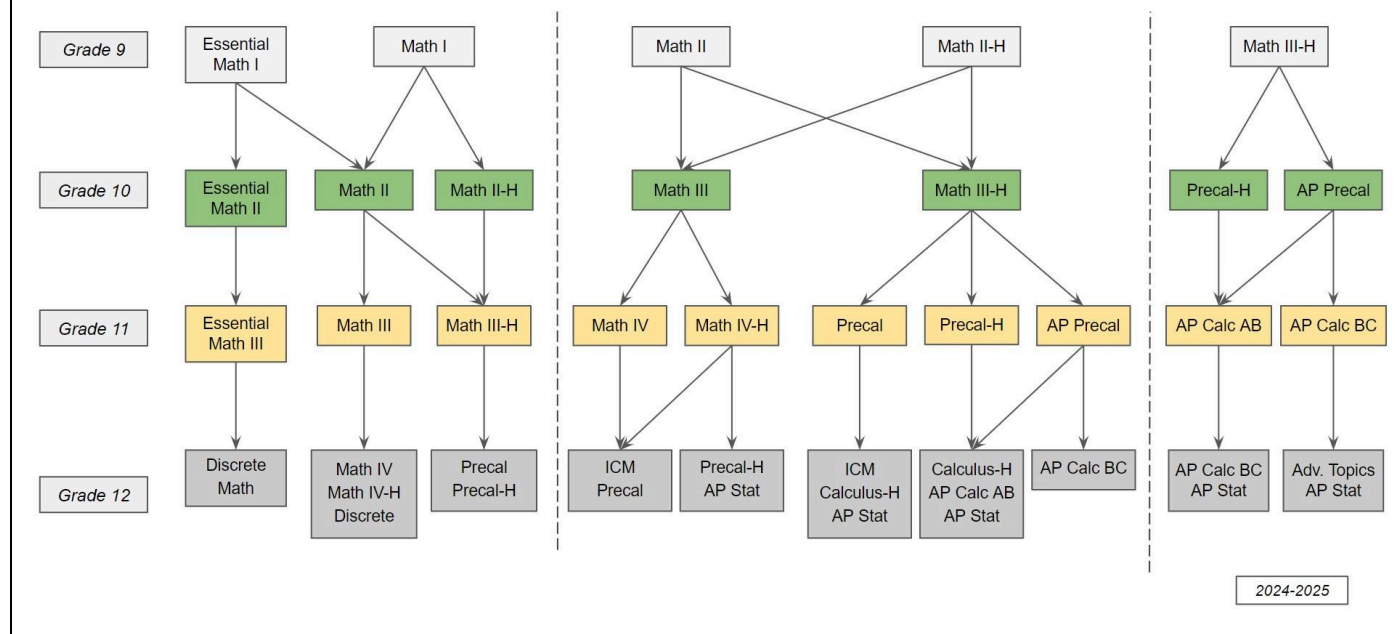
Advanced Art History Semester 1 is a survey of world painting, architecture, and sculpture, from Prehistory to the 14th century. This course will investigate meaning in the visual arts and the development of artistic style within an historical context. Semester 2 is a survey of world painting, architecture, and sculpture from the 14th to the 20th century. This course uses those works to investigate meaning in the visual arts and the development of artistic style within an historical context.

**Advanced Art History is a dual credit course; all grades will be weighted on the AP scale. Students in this course have the option to enroll in the Dual Credit program with Marymount University, at an additional cost, to receive college credit for Art History (6 total credits). However, students are not required to enroll in the Dual Credit program to take this class and will still earn GPA points per the AP weighted scale. See page 4 for more details about the Dual Credit program.*

Mathematics

Math Department Course Pathways

Students take one math course each year. Seniors may take two math courses.
Placement in math courses is determined by prerequisites.



Four math credits are required for graduation. One credit must be above Math III.
Students take one math course each year. Seniors may take two math courses.

Essential Math I

Grade Level(s): 9

Prerequisite: Completion of Math 8

Credit: 1.0

This course introduces students to the real number system and its properties. Students will study linear relationships and be introduced to evaluating and graphing quadratic and exponential functions. Topics will include simplifying polynomial expressions, solving and graphing algebraic equations and inequalities, factoring, solving systems of linear equations, distance, area and volume formulas, and interpreting data. Students will be introduced to evaluating and graphing quadratic and exponential functions. Topics will be based on students' needs and aligned with Math I Standards.

Note: While this course meets Cardinal Gibbons and the state's requirements for graduation, and the course is a good fit for students who find Math challenging, it does not meet the NCAA guidelines for eligibility in D1 or D2 schools.

Math I

Grade Level(s): 9

Prerequisite: Completion of Math 8 **and** quantitative and math scores on the High School Placement Test above the 25th percentile

Credit: 1.0

Math I will deepen and extend the understanding of linear relationships, by contrasting them with exponential and quadratic phenomena, and in part by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Topics will include simplifying polynomial expressions, solving and graphing algebraic equations and inequalities, solving systems of linear equations, coordinate geometry, congruent figures, distance, area and volume formulas, and interpreting data. Students will cover methods of factoring quadratic expressions and will be introduced to quadratic functions. The Standards for Mathematical Practice apply throughout the course, and together with the Math I Content Standards, allow students to experience mathematics and apply it as they make sense of problem situations.

Essential Math II

Grade Level(s): 10

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Essential Math I

Credit: 1.0

This course will continue to strengthen students' algebraic and geometric skills. There will be a concentrated study of function notation. Students will use algebra and graphing to describe quadratic and radical functions, as well as inverse variation. Students will apply basic ideas of triangle relationships, including the Pythagorean Theorem, and will be introduced to similar triangles and trigonometric ratios. Students will explore basic probability and counting problems. Topics will be based on students' needs and aligned with Math II Standards. A graphing calculator is required, and a TI-84 is recommended.

Note: While this course meets Cardinal Gibbons and the state's requirements for graduation, and the course is a good fit for students who find Math challenging, it does not meet the NCAA guidelines for eligibility in D1 or D2 schools.

Math II

Grade Level(s): 9, 10

Prerequisite: Minimum of a C in Math I* or an A in Essential Math I with educator approval

Credit: 1.0

Math II stresses the concept of a function. Students concentrate on the study of quadratic and radical functions, as well as inverse variation. Algebraic and graphical knowledge of these functions is emphasized. Geometric transformations are examined and then related to the study of congruent and similar triangles. The study of similarity leads to an understanding of right triangle trigonometry and connects to Pythagorean relationships. The Standards for Mathematical Practice apply throughout the course, and together with the Math II Content Standards, allow students to experience mathematics and apply it as they make sense of problem situations.

**For rising 9th grade students, placement in this course also requires quantitative and math scores from the High School Placement Test above the 25th percentile.*

Math II Honors

Grade Level(s): 9, 10

Prerequisite: Minimum of an A in Math I **and** PSAT: Math score of at least 450*

Credit: 1.0

Math II Honors is a more challenging approach to all of the geometry, algebra, and probability covered in Math II. Topics will be expanded and deepened, and the pace of the course will be faster than Math II. Content is explored at a rigorous level with an emphasis on application of each function. Students will be introduced to additional topics such as, function inverses, and geometric probability, as time permits. The Standards for Mathematical Practice apply throughout the course, and together with the Math II Content Standards, allow students to experience mathematics and apply it as they make sense of problem situations.

For rising 9th grade students, placement in this course requires successful completion of Math I **and quantitative and math scores from the High School Placement Test above the 70th percentile.*

***For Math I students, educator approval and completion of a summer assignment are strongly recommended.*

Essential Math III

Grade Level(s): 11

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Essential Math II

Credit: 1.0

This course will reinforce the students' basic Algebra skills. Students will solve equations and inequalities in the real number system. Applications will be made to linear and polynomial functions as well as more elementary exponential functions. The students will study the fundamentals of trigonometric functions. Students' graphing skills will be reinforced and expanded. Topics will be based on students' needs and aligned with Math III Standards.

Note: While this course meets Cardinal Gibbons and the state's requirements for graduation, and the course is a good fit for students who find Math challenging, it does not meet the NCAA guidelines for eligibility in D1 or D2 schools.

Math III

Grade Level(s): 10, 11

Prerequisite: Minimum of a C in Math II

Credit: 1.0

This course is designed to continue the study of functions from Math II. Students will then expand their knowledge of polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions.. Students will extend their study of trigonometry to include the study of circular trigonometry and trigonometric functions that model periodic phenomena. Students will bring together their experience with functions and geometry to create models and solve problems, including the study of geometric solids.. The Standards for Mathematical Practice apply throughout the course, and together with the Math III Content Standards, allow students to experience mathematics and apply it as they make sense of problem situations. A graphing calculator is required, and a TI-84 is recommended.

Math III Honors

Grade Level(s): 9, 10, 11

Prerequisite: Minimum of an A in Math II* or a B in Math II Honors **and** PSAT: Math score of at least 500

Credit: 1.0

Math III Honors is a more challenging approach to all of the topics in Math III. Topics will be expanded and deepened, and the pace of the course will be faster than Math III, in preparation for Precalculus mathematics. Applications of all functions are included. Trigonometry is covered extensively, including trigonometric equations and Pythagorean identities. The Standards for Mathematical Practice apply throughout the course, and together with the Math III Content Standards, allow students to experience mathematics and apply it as they make sense of problem situations. A graphing calculator is required, and a TI-84 is recommended.

**For Math II students, educator approval and completion of a summer assignment are strongly recommended.*

***For rising 9th grade students, placement in this course requires successful completion of Math II or Geometry **and** quantitative and/or math scores from the High School Placement Test above the 60th percentile.*

Math IV

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a C in Math III

Credit: 1.0

This course is designed to continue the study of functions from Math III, with an introduction to statistical thinking. Students will expand their knowledge of functions, trigonometry, and probability to build on topics learned in Math I - III. Students will be prepared for college level algebra and statistics or as a bridge to prepare students for Precalculus or other advanced math courses. A graphing calculator is required, and a TI-84 is recommended.

Math IV Honors

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of an A in Math III

Credit: 1.0

This course is a more demanding, faster-paced approach to Math IV. Students will expand their knowledge of functions, trigonometry, and probability to build on topics learned in Math I - III. The course also provides a more in-depth study of statistics. Students will be prepared for college level algebra and statistics or as a bridge to prepare students for Precalculus or other advanced math courses. A graphing calculator is required, and a TI-84 is recommended.

Precalculus

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B+ in Math IV, a B in Math IV Honors, or successful completion of Math III Honors

Credit: 1.0

Precalculus involves an in-depth analysis of polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions including applications. This course prepares a student for Calculus Honors at the high school level or possible placement into college Calculus. A graphing calculator is required, and a TI-84 is recommended.

Precalculus Honors

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B in Math III Honors or an A in Math IV Honors **and** PSAT: Math of at least 550

Credit: 1.0

This course is a more rigorous approach to the topics in Precalculus using both an analytical and a graphical approach. An emphasis will also be placed on applying polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions. Students will be introduced to vectors, polar graphing, sequences and series, and matrices. This course prepares students for AP Calculus AB. A graphing calculator is required, and a TI-84 is recommended.

AP Precalculus

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: An A+ in Math III Honors **and** PSAT: Math of at least 550

Credit: 1.0

This course is an advanced precalculus course designed for the highest achieving math students. The course will cover the precalculus curriculum at an accelerated pace and begin the study of calculus to prepare students to take AP Calculus BC the following year. A graphing calculator is required, and a TI-84 is recommended.

Discrete Math

Grade Level(s): 12

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Math III Essentials or educator approval

Credit: 1.0

Several diverse topics will be covered in this course including: consumer math and social choice, set theory, statistics, and matrices. Applications and the use of technology are central to the course. A study of several algebraic topics including probability and trigonometry will be presented as time allows. A graphing calculator is required, and a TI-84 is recommended.

Introduction to College Math

Grade Level(s): 12

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Math IV or Math IV Honors

Credit: 1.0

This course is recommended for those who want a math class that will introduce areas that are covered at the entry level of college. The goal for this class is to integrate basic elementary matrix methods, sets, counting techniques, linear programming, modeling of real life situations through graph theory, data collection and analysis, fair and estate division, and apportionment. Many of the objectives require students to apply knowledge to new situations rather than following a procedure. A graphing calculator is required, and a TI-84 calculator is recommended.

Calculus Honors

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B- in Precalculus or a C in Precalculus Honors

Credit: 1.0

Calculus Honors continues the study of analysis of functions and introduces limits, differential calculus, and integral calculus with applications. The course gives students a strong foundation for college-level Calculus. This course is strongly recommended as a rigorous fourth-year math course. A graphing calculator is required, and a TI-84 is recommended. Students will be responsible to complete a summer assignment for this course.

AP Calculus AB

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a C in AP Precalculus, a B in Precalculus Honors or an A in Calculus Honors

Credit: 1.0

AP Calculus AB involves an in-depth look at functions and the use of limits, differentiation, and integration concepts in graphing and analysis. The curriculum follows the College Board's recommendation. A graphing calculator is required, and a TI-84 is recommended. Students will be responsible to complete a summer assignment for this course.

AP Calculus BC

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B in AP Precalculus or a B in AP Calculus AB

Credit: 1.0

AP Calculus BC is a more extensive and demanding study of Calculus than Calculus AB. Students who receive qualifying scores on the BC test may receive credit for two semesters of college Calculus. A graphing calculator is required, and a TI-84 is recommended. Students will be responsible to complete a summer assignment for this course.

AP Statistics

Grade Level(s): 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a C in Precalculus Honors, a B in Precalculus, or an A in Math IV Honors

Credit: 1.0

This course is an in-depth study of Statistics, equivalent to a one-semester Introduction to Statistics course at the university level. The purpose of the course is to introduce the students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students will frequently work on projects involving the hands-on gathering and analysis of real world data. This course is recommended for students who plan a major in college in Engineering, Psychology, Sociology, Business or the biological and health sciences. A graphing calculator is required, and a TI-84 is highly recommended.

Advanced Topics in Math

Grade Level(s): 12

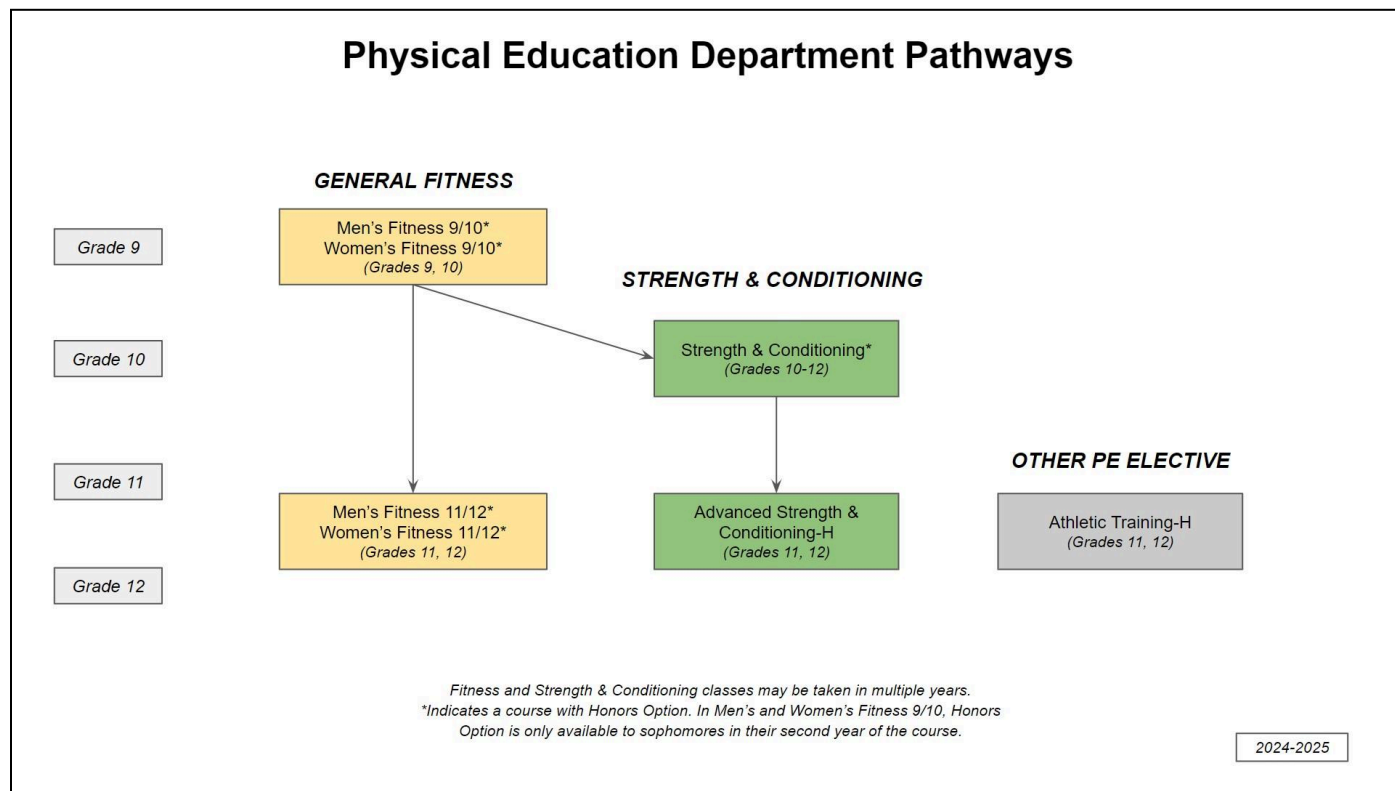
Prerequisite: Minimum of a B+ in AP Calculus BC with a 3 or better on the AP Calculus BC Test

Credit: 1.0

A year-long course that follows successful completion of BC Calculus with a score of at least a 3 on the AP exam. This course will introduce students to a variety of collegiate level mathematics topics. Each quarter a different member of the math department will lead the class through one or more of the topics listed below. The rotation of topics include: multivariable calculus, set theory, logic, differential equations, linear algebra and matrices, game theory and advanced geometry.

**Due to the advanced nature of this course, grades will be weighted on the AP scale.*

Physical Education (PE)



One credit in PE is required for graduation. This credit may be earned through Men's Fitness 9/10, Women's Fitness 9/10, or by independent study. To be eligible for the PE independent study, a student must have taken a course in the Fine Arts or BTE department during both 9th and 10th grade.

General Fitness Courses

Men's Fitness 9/10 (Honors Option in Y2 only)

Grade Level(s): 9, 10
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 1.0

This required course provides students with the fundamental skills necessary for balanced development in physical fitness. This course supports learning about the physiological benefits an active lifestyle promotes. Its purpose is to develop the components of fitness in the areas of cardio, strength, human movement, resistance training, mobility, and recovery. Students may take this course in consecutive years; the Honors Option is only available to students in their second year of the course.

Women's Fitness 9/10 (Honors Option in Y2 only)

Grade Level(s): 9, 10
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 1.0

This required course provides students with the fundamental skills necessary for balanced development in physical fitness. This course supports learning about the physiological benefits an active lifestyle promotes. Its purpose is to develop the components of fitness in the areas of cardio, strength, human movement, resistance training, mobility, and recovery. Students may take this course in consecutive years; the Honors Option is only available to students in their second year of the course.

Men's Fitness 11/12 (Honors Option)

Grade Level(s): 11, 12
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 1.0

This course builds on Men's Fitness 9/10 and the fundamental skills required for balanced development in physical fitness. This course supports learning about the anatomical and physiological benefits an active lifestyle promotes. Its purpose is to develop the components of fitness in the areas of macros, nutrition, cardio, strength, human movement, resistance training, mobility, and recovery. Students may take this course in consecutive years.

Women's Fitness 11/12 (Honors Option)

Grade Level(s): 11, 12
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 1.0

This course builds on Women's Fitness 9/10 and the fundamental skills required for balanced development in physical fitness. This course supports learning about the anatomical and physiological benefits an active lifestyle promotes. Its purpose is to develop the components of fitness in the areas of macros, nutrition, cardio, strength, human movement, resistance training, mobility, and recovery. Students may take this course in consecutive years.

Strength & Conditioning Electives

These courses do not fulfill the PE graduation requirement. Students must complete the PE requirement prior to taking a strength and conditioning course.

Strength & Conditioning (Honors Option)

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12
Prerequisite: Men's Fitness, Women's Fitness, or PE Independent Study
Credit: 1.0

Subject matter for this year-long course will include principles of beginning strength training (functional, power and Olympic lifts) as well as coverage of general conditioning principles related to the development of the high school athlete. Other related topics include nutrition, ergogenic drugs, and basic anatomy and physiology. This class will emphasize direct involvement in the techniques and theory taught through daily workouts.

Advanced Strength & Conditioning Honors

Grade Level(s): 11, 12
Prerequisite: Strength & Conditioning
Credit: 1.0

This class is designed to build upon the knowledge and techniques acquired in Strength & Conditioning. Subject matter for this year-long course will include more advanced strength training techniques (functional, power and Olympic lifts, different styles of workouts, and coverage of plyometric and conditioning principles. Related topics include proper nutrition, ergogenic drugs, and a more expansive look at anatomy and physiology. This class will require daily physical workouts.

Additional PE Elective

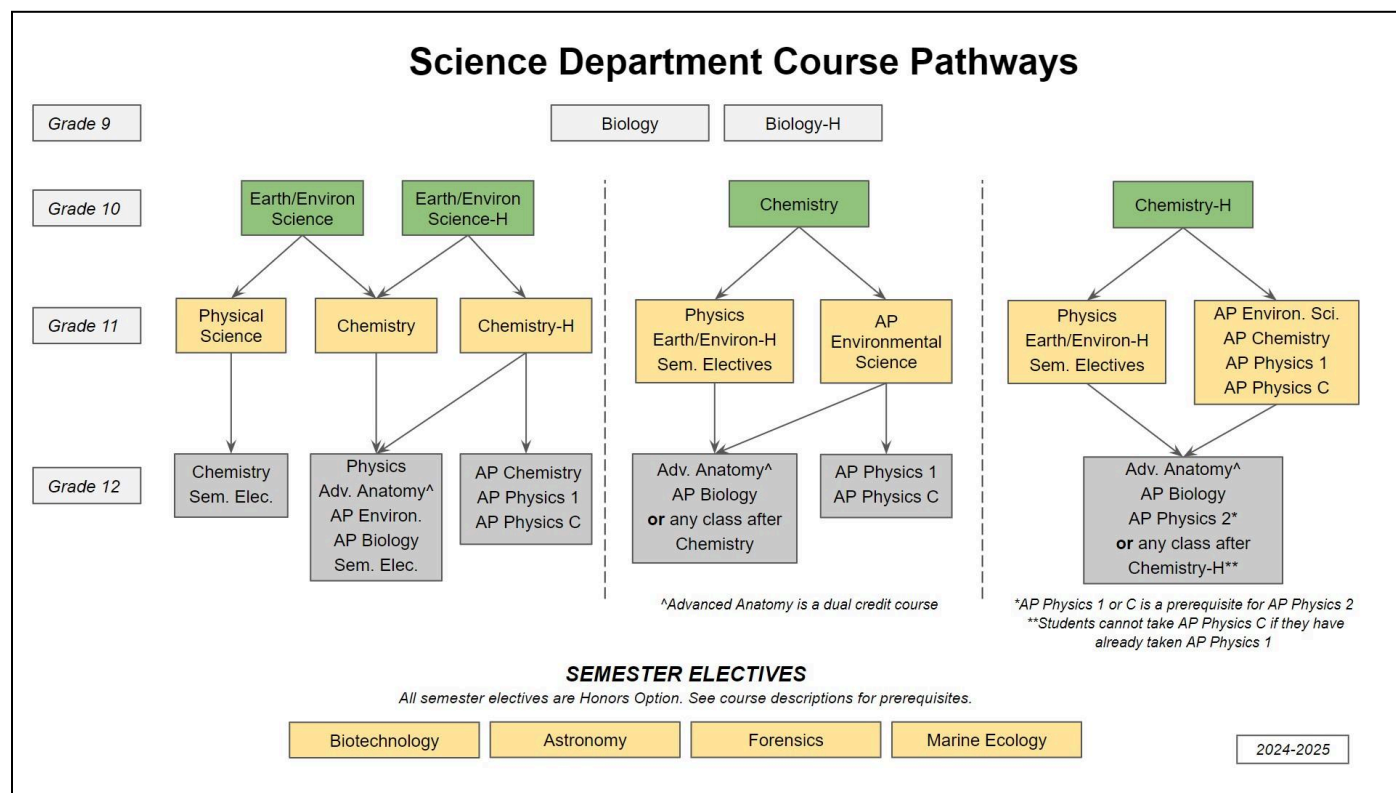
This course does not fulfill the PE graduation requirement.

Athletic Training Honors

Grade Level(s): 11, 12
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 1.0

This year-long course provides the student with the most current information on the subjects of prevention and basic care of sports injuries. This course is designed for students going into the field of coaching, physical education, and/or the medical/healthcare profession. Its major thrust is toward injury prevention and immediate care of the most common sports injuries. Basic foundations are also provided for the student interested in substantive areas of rehabilitation. Students enrolled in this class are required to complete athletic training hours as part of their class grade. Please contact any member of the PE department with specific questions about the training hour requirement.

Science



Three science credits are required for graduation. Biology and a physical science (Chemistry or Physical Science) are required. Unlike other subject areas, the four semester science electives do contribute to the graduation requirement. Juniors and seniors may take multiple science courses.

Biology

Grade Level(s): 9

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0

This laboratory course covers the chemical and physical nature of living things with an emphasis on the cell, its anatomy, and physiology. The course includes a general survey of all 6 kingdoms focusing on their interactions with each other, their relationship with humans, and the basic principles of Ecology. Emphasis is placed upon the skills of microscope use, safe laboratory practices, dissection and the continuing use of proper scientific methods.

Biology Honors

Grade Level(s): 9

Prerequisite: Reading and verbal scores from the High School Placement Test above 80th percentile **and** placement in Math II or higher

Credit: 1.0

Biology Honors is a comprehensive, fast-paced overview of general biology. Throughout the year, students will develop their understanding of how living things are organized - beginning with understanding the molecular components of life and culminating with ecological relationships across the entire biosphere. An emphasis is placed on inquiry to discover major concepts through collaborative lab investigations. Laboratory experience is extensive, and students will be required to complete numerous lab reports.

Earth and Environmental Science

Grade Level(s): 10

Prerequisite: Biology or Biology Honors

Credit: 1.0

This is a course that focuses on the function of the earth's systems and NGSS Standards. Emphasis is placed on crustal dynamics, models of the earth, minerals and rocks, geologic history, earth's place in the universe, and environmental awareness. Students learn to use the Earth Science Reference Guide to read measurements, use equations, read and analyze maps, and use identification tables as tools to analyze data and make conclusions. The course will prepare students for Physical Science or Chemistry.

Earth and Environmental Science Honors

Grade Level(s): 10, 11

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B+ in Biology or a B in Biology Honors

Credit: 1.0

This is an in-depth laboratory course with concentrations in geology, meteorology, oceanography, climate, and astronomy. The course will allow students to evaluate data representations in the Earth Science Reference Guide. Students will compare values from two or more graphs, analyze data in a table or a graph, identify relationships from provided data representations, and use relationships to make a prediction. This accelerated course will include topics in weather analysis, global climate patterns, erosion processes and controls, geological history, and current astrological discussions. The course will prepare students for Physical Science or Chemistry, but may also be taken following Chemistry.

Chemistry

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B in Biology, a B- in Biology Honors, a B in Earth Science, or a B- in Earth Science Honors **and** placement in Math II Honors or higher

Credit: 1.0

This laboratory course will investigate the structure, properties, and composition of matter. Mathematical rigor will be emphasized, and students will need a strong foundation in math. This course will cover basic first year college concepts in chemistry such as atomic and molecular structure, the periodic table, chemical bonds and reactions, equilibrium, thermochemistry, kinetic theory, solutions, and acids and bases. Students should be prepared for a demanding course load and a relatively fast-paced presentation of material. Critical thinking, problem solving, scientific inquiry, and concept mastery are the cornerstones of this course.

Chemistry Honors

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of an A in Biology, a B+ in Biology Honors, or a B in Earth Science Honors **and** placement in Math III Honors or higher

Credit: 1.0

Chemistry Honors is an in-depth laboratory course requiring extensive self-motivation and self-monitoring. By programmatically infusing concept mastery, critical thinking, problem solving, and laboratory experimentation strands, this program underpins and expands upon the facts, formulas, and principles of a regular chemistry course. This course is geared toward why chemistry happens, and students will be required to explain what happens using mathematical skills with little difficulty. Extensive laboratory experimentation highlights this course.

Physical Science

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Earth Science or Earth Science Honors

Credit: 1.0

This course is designed to give students an introduction to two subjects: physics and chemistry. Students will develop problem-solving skills and a basic knowledge in physics. Major topics discussed are motion, forces, work, energy, waves, sound, light, and electricity. Students will develop critical thinking skills and a basic knowledge in chemistry. Major topics discussed are matter, the atom, the periodic table, compounds, chemical reactions, solutions, and nuclear changes. During both semesters, students will perform numerous labs that will enhance their data collection, interpretation, and graphing skills.

Physics

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B in Chemistry or C+ in Chemistry Honors **and** placement in Math IV Honors or higher

Credit: 1.0

In this laboratory course, students will actively study classical kinetics and dynamics of motion, work and energy, momentum and collisions, magnetism and electricity, sound, and light. Emphasis will focus on the development of critical thinking skills and problem solving.

Advanced Anatomy and Physiology

Grade Level(s): 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of an A in Chemistry, a B in Chemistry Honors, or a B in AP Environmental Science

Credit: 1.0

This course is designed to introduce students to the structure and function of the human body. It is of special interest to students who intend to pursue careers in the allied health fields. Building in an understanding of anatomical vocabulary, concepts and physiological processes, rather than rote memorization, is emphasized. Discussions of clinical examples, current research techniques, and medical ethics occur to highlight these complementary areas. The meticulous dissection of several lower mammals and mammalian organs form the framework for the Gross Anatomy study. Physiology labs and microscopic studies of the various tissues enable the students to master good laboratory technique and report writing. Students will be responsible for completing a summer assignment for this course.

**Advanced Anatomy and Physiology is a dual credit course; all grades will be weighted on the AP scale.. Students in this course have the option to enroll in the Dual Credit program with Marymount University, at an additional cost, to receive college credit for Anatomy 1 and 2 with Lab (8 total credits). However, students are not required to enroll in the Dual Credit program to take this class and will still earn GPA points per the AP weighted scale. See page 4 for more details about the Dual Credit program.*

AP Science Courses

AP Chemistry

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B+ in Chemistry Honors

Corequisite: By enrolling in this course, students will automatically be enrolled in AP Chemistry Lab

Credit: 1.0

This laboratory course is intended to prepare the student to earn college credit by passing the AP test in chemistry. This course is presented at college level and at an accelerated pace. This second-year chemistry course will present first year topics in greater detail and will additionally explore solubility, equilibrium, weak acids and bases, buffers, thermodynamics, kinetics, electrochemistry, complex ions, analysis, and nuclear chemistry. The course is intended to fully cover all topics in college freshman year chemistry, but will not include organic chemistry. AP Chemistry is recommended for students with a serious interest in science or those who are considering health care careers. Students will be responsible to complete a summer assignment for this course.

AP Chemistry Lab

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Corequisite: Must be enrolled in AP Chemistry

Credit: 1.0

This course is pass/fail and replaces Flex in a student's schedule. Similar to college-level science courses, this laboratory course is taken in conjunction with AP Chemistry. It augments student understanding of important concepts in chemistry through hands-on experiments. Students become proficient in advanced chemistry laboratory techniques while learning how to operate modern instruments and acquiring necessary skills for collecting data accurately and performing error analyses. *This course is required for all students enrolled in AP Chemistry and will be added to a student's schedule after registration is closed.*

AP Environmental Science

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B in Chemistry or a B- in Chemistry Honors

Credit: 1.0

This laboratory course is intended to prepare the student to earn college credit by passing the AP test in environmental science. It will provide students with knowledge of the principles that underlie the interrelationships of the natural world and methods to identify and analyze natural problems and human-caused problems in the environment along with examination of possible solutions to these problems. Environmental Science uses much of the knowledge students gained in Biology, Chemistry, and Math III classes to investigate relationships and problems in the environment. Much of the lab work is done outdoors. Due to limited classroom time, Saturday and after school labs may be required. Students will be responsible to complete a summer assignment for this course.

AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B in Chemistry Honors or a B in AP Environmental Science **and** enrolled in Precalculus Honors or higher **and** PSAT: Math score of at least 550

Credit: 1.0

AP Physics 1: Algebra-Based is a demanding study of mechanics and is equivalent to a one-semester, algebra-based, college-level physics course. This course is more appropriate for students planning to major in the health sciences. This course provides a systematic development of the principles of physics by emphasizing problem solving and helping students develop a deep understanding of physics through conceptual and quantitative aspects utilizing interactive lectures, demonstrations, videos, and laboratory experiences. Topics covered kinematics, dynamics, circular motion and gravitation, energy, momentum, simple harmonic motion, torque, and rotational motion. Students will be responsible to complete a summer assignment for this course.

AP Physics C: Mechanics

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B in Chemistry Honors or a B in AP Environmental Science **and** enrolled in AP Calculus AB or higher **and** PSAT: Math score of at least 570

Credit: 1.0

AP Physics C is an extensive and demanding study of mechanics. AP Physics C is equivalent to a one-semester, calculus-based, college-level physics course, especially appropriate for students planning to specialize or major in physical science or engineering. The course explores topics such as kinematics; Newton's laws of motion; work, energy, and power; systems of particles and linear momentum; circular motion and rotation; and oscillations and gravitation. Introductory differential and integral calculus are used throughout the course. Students will be responsible to complete a summer assignment for this course.

AP Physics 2: Algebra-Based

Grade Level(s): 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B in AP Physics 1 or AP Physics C **and** a minimum of a B in Precalculus Honors **and** PSAT: Math score of at least 550

Credit: 1.0

AP Physics 2: Algebra Based provides a systematic development of the principles of physics by emphasizing problem solving and helping students develop a deep understanding of physics through conceptual and quantitative aspects utilizing interactive lectures, demonstrations, videos, and laboratory experiences. Topics covered include fluids; thermodynamics; electrical force, field, and potential; electric circuits; magnetism and electromagnetic induction; geometric and physical optics; and quantum, atomic, and nuclear physics. Students will be responsible to complete a summer assignment for this course.

AP Biology

Grade Level(s): 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of an A in Chemistry, a B in Chemistry Honors, or a B in AP Environmental Science

Credit: 1.0

This course is equivalent to two semesters of college-level biology and provides an in-depth exploration of many areas of Biology. We will cover biochemistry, cells, heredity, evolution, organisms, and ecology. Students will be required to perform laboratory investigations throughout the course with lab reports and presentations to demonstrate their understanding of the topics covered in the lab. Students will be responsible to complete a summer assignment for this course.

Science Electives

These science electives are semester-long courses that may be taken junior and senior years.

Astronomy (Honors Option)

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Must concurrently take Chemistry or Physical Science or have successfully completed one of these classes

Credit: 0.5

This semester course provides the student with an introduction to Astronomy. This course covers selected topics from six units including: the Motions of the Sky; the Tools of the Astronomer; the Earth, Moon, and Sun System; the Planets; the Stars; and the Universe. Students will experience astronomy through a variety of activities (hands-on and computer simulations), videos, and telescopic observations. Assessments range from quizzes to challenge projects to basic observations of astronomical phenomena.

Biotechnology (Honors Option)

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a C+ in Chemistry

Credit: 0.5

This survey course will explore how living cells are used to create products with medical, industrial, agricultural, and environmental applications. Students will study the basics of cellular biology including DNA replication and translation to understand how scientists have learned ways to modify the code of life, including CRISPR and recombinant DNA, in an effort to feed, heal, and sustain life on our planet. Students will examine the ethical considerations and moral dilemmas of these technologies and will look to our Catholic theology for guidance. This class will include laboratory investigations such as DNA extraction, PCR amplification, electrophoresis, bacterial transformation, and stem cell investigations. Students will partner with local biotech companies and researchers to experience real world applications and to spark interest in biotech careers.

Forensics (Honors Option)

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Must concurrently take Chemistry or Physical Science or have successfully completed one of these classes

Credit: 0.5

This semester course is designed to introduce students to topics such as fingerprinting, blood typing and spattering, trajectories, comparative anatomy, and chemical analysis of drugs, poisons, and trace evidence. Through the use of various Science and Math topics, students will learn about the difference between real life forensics and “Hollywood” forensics. Coursework will include lab work and projects. Students will learn the steps in solving a mock crime. They will all be given the tools to interpret data and techniques involved for analysis of evidence.

Marine Ecology (Honors Option)

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Must concurrently take Chemistry or Physical Science or have successfully completed one of these classes

Credit: 0.5

This course is designed to introduce students to the field of Marine Ecology. Topics covered will come from Earth Science, Biology, Environmental Science, and Zoology. Students will investigate the history of ocean exploration, the physical and chemical makeup of the oceans, the interaction between organisms and the oceans, the interaction between the land and the oceans and environmental issues that affect the oceans. Topics of special interest to North Carolina will be included. Laboratory investigations will be conducted throughout the course.

Laboratory Assistant

Grade Level(s): 12

Prerequisite: Educator approval

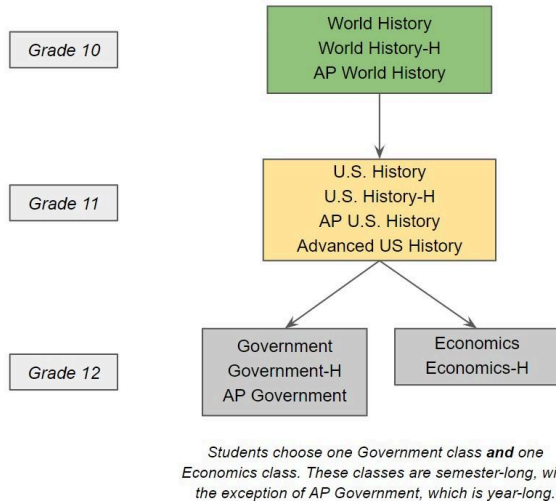
Credit: 0.5

This special request course offers students the opportunity to explore laboratories in their favorite science course. Students will set up the classroom laboratories and classroom demonstrations and help the instructor break them down. Students will also help the instructor to manipulate experiments in order to test for possible outcomes to the standard laboratory. Emphasis is placed on general laboratory knowledge and a readiness to learn and explore new avenues in science. This is a pass/fail course.

Social Studies

Social Studies Course Department Pathways

Students take one Social Studies course in grades 10 and 11. In grade 12, students take **both** Economics and Government. Placement in Honors and AP levels is determined by prerequisites.



ELECTIVES

These electives do not contribute to the Social Studies requirement for graduation.

Psychology*
(Grades 11, 12)

Sociology*
(Grades 11, 12)

AP Psychology
(Grades 11, 12)

*Indicates a semester-long, Honors Option course.

CATHOLIC VIRTUAL

These are online courses, which are taken independently by the student.

AP Human Geography
(Grades 10-12)

AP Macroeconomics
(Grades 11, 12)

2024-2025

World History Courses

All 10th grade students are required to take one of the following courses.

World History

Grade Level(s): 10

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0

World History is a course in which students explore the story of the human experience. We will use the nine themes of History to guide us along our path of understanding this fascinating and complex subject. This course will place special emphasis on reading comprehension, analysis of primary sources, determining cause and effect, technology, and art.

World History Honors

Grade Level(s): 10

Prerequisite: Minimum of an A in English 9 or a B in English 9 Honors, **and** PSAT: RW score of 450; **or** PSAT: RW score of at least 500 and minimum of B- in English 9/Honors

Credit: 1.0

World History Honors is a college-preparatory survey course designed to introduce students to a thematic approach to learning about human history. Attention will be given to preparing students to think and write analytically about world historical issues, trends, and events. Course work will include examination of primary and secondary sources and the development of historical research and writing skills. Special emphasis will be placed on learning the historian's key skills of interpreting and analyzing evidence; determining cause and effect; assessing change and continuity over time; and comparative analysis, both across societies and across time periods.

AP World History

Grade Level(s): 10

Prerequisite: Minimum of an A+ in English 9 or a B+ in English 9 Honors, *and* PSAT: RW score of 500; **or** PSAT: RW score of at least 550 and minimum of B- in English 9/Honors

Credit: 1.0

AP World History is a college-level survey course designed to introduce students to a thematic approach to learning about human history and to prepare students for more advanced studies at the high school and college levels. Attention will also be given to preparing students for the AP World History exam, including extensive examination of primary and secondary sources, comparative and analytical historical research, and effective essay writing. Special emphasis will be placed on learning the historian's key skills of interpreting evidence, analyzing point of view; assessing change and continuity over time; and comparative analysis, both across societies and across time periods. Students will be responsible to complete a summer assignment for this course.

U.S. History Courses

All 11th grade students are required to take one of the following courses.

U.S. History

Grade Level(s): 11

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0

U.S. History is a required course which surveys the growth and development of the United States and its people from colonization to Reconstruction (semester 1) and from the post-Civil War economic developments to the present (semester 2). The events of our national history are viewed in terms of the impact they have had on the political, economic, social, and cultural character of American society.

U.S. History Honors

Grade Level(s): 11

Prerequisite: Minimum of an A in World History, a B in World History Honors, or a C in AP World History, *and* PSAT: RW score of 480; **or** PSAT: RW score of at least 550 and minimum of B- in World History/Honors

Credit: 1.0

U.S. History Honors is a year-long course which surveys the growth and development of the United States and its people from colonization to Reconstruction (semester 1) and from the post-Civil War economic developments to the present (semester 2). The events of our national history are viewed in terms of the impact they have had on the political, economic, social, and cultural character of American society. An extensive amount of reading, writing, and research will be required. This course fulfills the U.S. History requirement.

AP US History

Grade Level(s): 11

Prerequisite: Minimum of an A+ in World History, a B+ in World History Honors, or a B- in AP World History, *and* PSAT: RW score of 530; **or** PSAT: RW score of at least 590 and minimum of B- in World History/Honors

Credit: 1.0

AP U.S. History is a college-level introductory course which focuses on developing students' abilities to think conceptually about U.S. history from approximately 1491 to the present and apply historical thinking skills as they learn about the past. Seven Themes of equal importance — National Identity; Migration and Settlement; Politics and Power; Work, Exchange, and Technology; America in the World; Environment and Geography; and Culture and Society — provide areas of historical inquiry for investigation throughout the course. These require students to reason historically about continuity and change over time and make comparisons among various historical developments in different times and places. In this pursuit, the acquisition of factual knowledge is the beginning of the process, but the main focus of the course will be the development of historical thinking skills and student application of those skills. Students will be responsible for completing a summer assignment for this course.

Advanced US History

Grade Level(s): 11

Prerequisite: Minimum of an A+ in World History, a B+ in World History Honors, or a B- in AP World History, and PSAT: RW score of 530; **or** PSAT: RW score of at least 590 and minimum of B- in World History/Honors

Credit: 1.0

This year-long course is designed to introduce students to the history of the United States from the colonial period to the present. It is intended to help students build a foundation in the skills of a historian: working with primary sources, critical reading and analysis, and historical writing. In addition, content knowledge is strongly emphasized. The course will move at a fast pace and stress depth as well as breadth. The first semester will focus on the struggle to create, implement, and preserve the structures of a democratic republic. The second semester will focus on international diplomacy along with domestic economic, political, and social changes. The development of a uniquely American culture will be studied throughout. Students will be responsible for completing a summer assignment for this course.

**Advanced US History is a dual credit course; all grades will be weighted on the AP scale. Students in this course have the option to enroll in the Dual Credit program with Marymount University, at an additional cost, to receive college credit for US History 1 and 2 (6 total credits). However, students are not required to enroll in the Dual Credit program to take this class and will still earn GPA points per the AP weighted scale. See page 4 for more details about the Dual Credit program.*

Economics Courses

A half credit in Economics is required for graduation. Seniors should take one of the following courses to fulfill this requirement. If a student is enrolling in AP U.S. Government and does not have room in their schedule, they may take a summer Economics course prior to the start of senior year. Please see page 10 for additional details.

Alternatively, students may take AP Macroeconomics independently through Catholic Virtual School during their junior year or first semester of senior year. Please see the Catholic Virtual course descriptions for additional details.

Economics

Grade Level(s): 12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 0.5

Economics is a required course which introduces the fundamental principles and theories of economics. The first nine weeks of the course focus on basic issues of scarcity, supply and demand, markets, the role of government, employment, inflation, and banking. The second nine weeks place an emphasis on financial literacy that is relevant to the lives of young adults.

Economics Honors

Grade Level(s): 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of an A in US History, B in US History Honors, or a C in AP US History, and PSAT: RW and Math scores of 500; **or** PSAT: RW score of at least 570, PSAT: Math score of at least 550 and minimum of B- in US History/Honors

Credit: 0.5

Economics Honors is a required course which introduces the fundamental principles and theories of economics. The first nine weeks of the course focus on basic issues of scarcity, supply and demand, markets, the role of government, employment, inflation, banking, and the Federal Reserve System and business organizations. The second nine weeks place an emphasis on financial literacy that is relevant to the lives of young adults. Moreover, the course addresses the impact of the commodities market on the domestic and global economies.

Government Courses

All 12th grade students are required to take one of the following courses.

U.S. Government

Grade Level(s): 12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 0.5

U.S. Government is a required semester course which concentrates on the democratic principles upon which the United States was founded. The meaning of citizenship in terms of the rights and responsibilities of the people of the United States is stressed. Areas examined include: the adoption of the Constitution, the three branches of government, local and state governments, the art of politics, and current events.

U.S. Government Honors

Grade Level(s): 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of an A in US History, a B in US History Honors, or a C in AP US History, and PSAT: RW score of 500; **or** PSAT: RW score of at least 570 and minimum of B- in US History/Honors

Credit: 0.5

U.S. Government Honors is a semester survey course which examines the democratic system upon which the United States government is based. The rights and responsibilities of citizens, the federal system as established by the Constitution, political parties, the workings of the three branches of government, and state and local governments will be studied in some depth. Emphasis will be placed on the examination of the workings of the U.S. judicial system.

AP U.S. Government and Politics

Grade Level(s): 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of an A+ in US History, a B+ in US History Honors, or a B- in AP US History, and PSAT: RW score of 550; **or** PSAT: RW score of at least 590 and minimum of B- in US History/Honors

Credit: 1.0

AP U.S. Government and Politics is a rigorous course which provides an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. It will familiarize students with various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. Politics. Topics covered include: the constitutional underpinnings of the United States government, political beliefs and behaviors, political parties, interest groups, mass media, institutions of the national government, public policy, and civil rights and civil liberties.

Social Studies Electives

The following elective courses do not satisfy the Social Studies graduation requirement.

Sociology (Honors Option)

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 0.5

Sociology is an elective course that engages students in the understanding, articulation, and dissemination of sociology as a behavioral science. Students are introduced to sociology, with the study of culture, socialization, societal inequities, and social change. It emphasizes the observation of collective human behaviors, and it infuses varying perspectives that foster students' growth, and promotes an understanding of social norms, values, and common practices across different societies and groups. Students of Sociology will acquire information from a variety of sources as they draw conclusions, make evaluations, and solve problems.

Psychology (Honors Option)

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 0.5

Psychology is an elective course that engages students in the understanding, articulation, and dissemination of psychology as a social science. Students are introduced to psychology, with the study of human development, learning, motivation, and personality. It emphasizes the empirical examination of behavior and mental processes, and it infuses varying perspectives that foster students' growth, and promotes an understanding of social conformity and obedience. Students of psychology will acquire information from a variety of sources, use information as they draw conclusions, make evaluations, and solve problems.

AP Psychology

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of an A in English 10 or 11, a B+ in English 10 Honors or 11 Honors, or a B in AP English Language, and PSAT: RW score of 500; **or** a PSAT: RW score of at least 590

Credit: 1.0

AP Psychology is an elective course that introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the psychologists and studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with such topics as the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and cognition, motivation, developmental psychology, testing and individual differences, treatments of psychological disorders, and social psychology. Throughout the course, students employ psychological research methods, including ethical considerations, as they use the scientific method, evaluate claims and evidence, and effectively communicate ideas.

Catholic Virtual Courses

The following courses may be taken independently through Catholic Virtual Schools during the school year and/or summer. These courses require an extra fee and do not replace a course taken on campus. Grades earned in these courses will not contribute to the student's Cardinal Gibbons GPA, but students may obtain a separate transcript from Catholic Virtual. Please visit the Course Registration page on the Cardinal Gibbons website for additional details and use the Special Request Form to express interest in these courses.

AP Human Geography

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: No credit is awarded from Cardinal Gibbons for this course.

In AP Human Geography, students will explore how humans have understood, used, and changed the surface of the Earth. Students will use the tools and thinking processes of geographers to examine patterns of human population, migration, and land use. The focus of the course will be on connections between geographic concepts and processes to real-life scenarios, and seeing patterns and trends in data and in visual sources such as maps and drawing conclusions from them. In addition, students will explore spatial relationships using geographic scales.

AP Macroeconomics

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

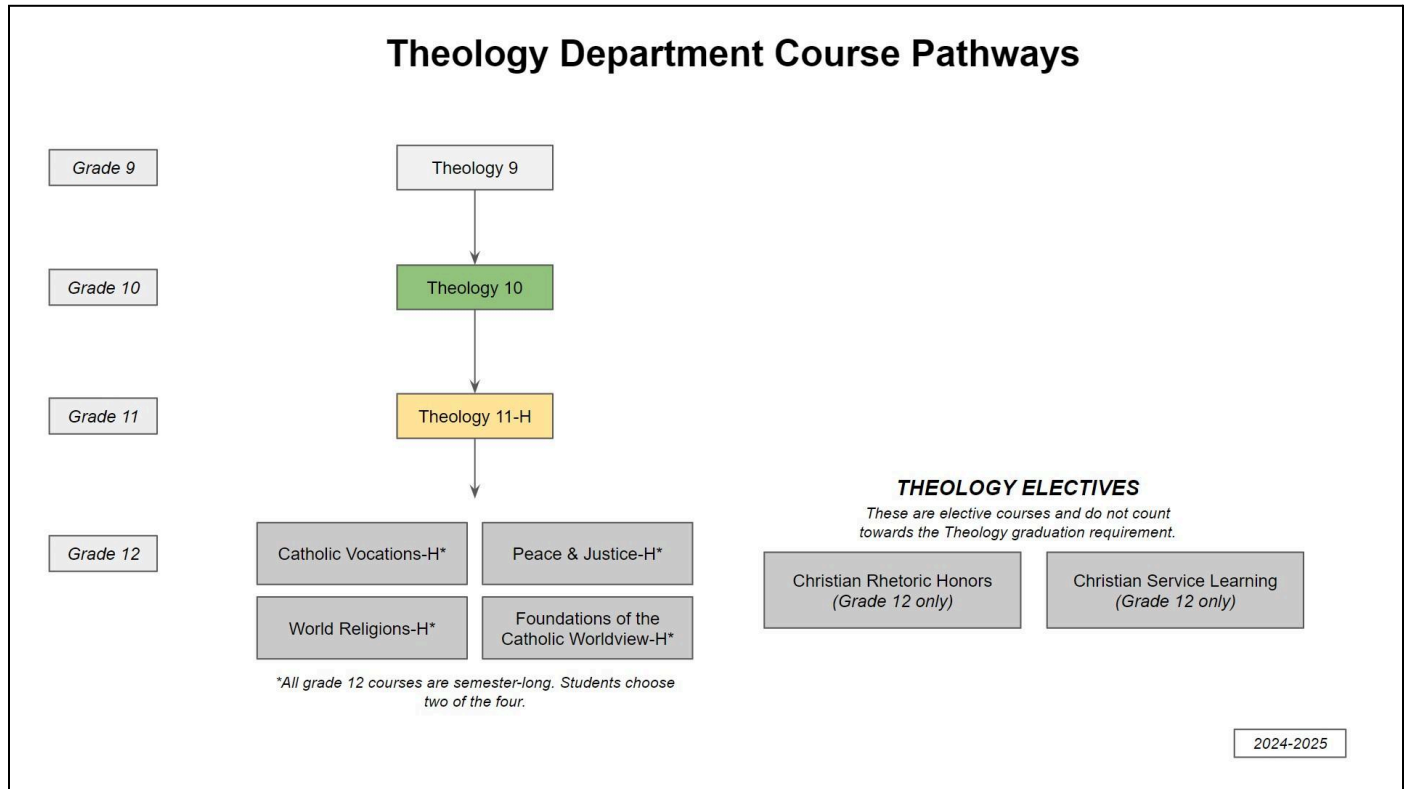
Prerequisite: None

Credit: 0.5

In AP Macroeconomics, students will explore the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. To accomplish this, students will use graphs, charts, and data to analyze, describe, and explain economic concepts. The primary focus of the course will be on defining economic principles and models, explaining given economic outcomes, determining outcomes of specific economic situations, and modeling economic situations using graphs or visual representations.

Note: While the grade earned in this class will not contribute to the Cardinal Gibbons GPA, this class does fulfill the graduation requirement for Economics and will be listed on the Cardinal Gibbons transcript with a designation of "pass."

Theology



Four credits in Theology are required for graduation, one credit for each year of attendance.

Theology 9

Grade Level(s): 9

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0

This course serves two purposes: 1) “to introduce students to the Mystery of Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God, and the second Person of the Blessed Trinity. In this course students will understand that Jesus Christ is the ultimate revelation to us from God. In learning about who he is, the students will also learn who he calls them to be”; (Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age, p.6) and (2) “to help students understand that they can encounter Christ today in a full and real way in and through the sacraments, and especially through the Eucharist. Students will examine each of the Sacraments in detail so as to learn how they may encounter Christ throughout life.” (Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age, p.20) Corresponds to USCCB Curriculum Framework Core Courses II (“Who Is Jesus Christ?”) & V (“Sacraments as Privileged Encounters with Jesus Christ”).

Theology 10

Grade Level(s): 10

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0

This course serves two purposes: (1) “to give students a general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. Through their study of the Bible they will come to encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. In the course they will learn about the Bible, authored by God through Inspiration, and its value to people throughout the world. If they have not been taught this earlier, they will learn how to read the Bible, and will become familiar with the major sections of the Bible and the books included in each section. The students will pay particular attention to the Gospels where they may grow to know and love

Jesus Christ more personally”; (Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age, p.2). and (2) “to help students understand all that God has done for us through his Son, Jesus Christ. Through this course of study, students will learn that for all eternity, God has planned for us to share eternal happiness with him, which is accomplished through the redemption Christ won for us. Students will learn that they share in this redemption only in and through Jesus Christ. They will also be introduced to what it means to be a disciple of Christ and what life as a disciple entails.” (Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age, p.11). Corresponds to USCCB Curriculum Framework Core Courses I (“The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture”) & III (“The Mission of Jesus Christ”), and Elective Option A (“Sacred Scripture”).

Theology 11 Honors

Grade Level(s): 11
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 1.0

The purpose of this course is to help the students understand that in and through the Church they encounter the Living Jesus Christ. They will be introduced to the fact that the Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by him through the Holy Spirit. The students will come to know that the Church is the living Body of Christ today. This body has both Divine and human elements. In this course, students will learn not so much about events in the life of the Church but about the sacred nature of the Church.” (Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age, p.15). Additionally, this course will help students understand that it is only through Christ that they can fully live out God’s plans for their lives. Students are to learn the moral concepts and precepts that govern the lives of Christ’s disciples.” (Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age, p.27). Corresponds to USCCB Curriculum Framework Core Course IV (“Jesus Christ’s Mission Continues in the Church”) & Elective Option B (“History of the Catholic Church”). Corresponds to USCCB Curriculum Framework Core Course VI (“Life in Jesus Christ”).

Senior Theology Courses

Senior Theology courses are semester-long. Each senior chooses two.

Catholic Vocations Honors

Grade Level(s): 12
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 0.5

The purpose of this course is to help students to understand the vocations of life: how Christ calls us to live. In this course students should learn how all vocations are similar and how they differ. The course should be structured around married life, single life, priestly life, and consecrated life. Students should learn what it means to live life for the benefit of others and the value in considering a vocation in service to the Christian community. (Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age, p.44) Corresponds to USCCB Curriculum Framework Elective Option D (“Responding to the Call of Jesus Christ”).

Foundations of the Catholic Worldview Honors

Grade Level(s): 12
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 0.5

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the philosophical foundations of Catholicism by examining the lives and thoughts of philosophers and theologians who have contributed significantly to the establishment of that foundation. Emphasis is placed especially on Plato and successive Christian 'Platonists' like St. Augustine, and on Aristotle and Christian 'Aristotelians' like St. Thomas Aquinas. The relationship between these philosophers and their Christian successors is used as a model for understanding the relationship between (1) Catholicism and secular culture, (2) reason and revelation, and (3) Catholic thought and Catholic life. Contemporary Thomistic Catholics and the Church's responses to Modern and Post-modern worldviews are also considered.

Peace and Justice Honors

Grade Level(s): 12
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 0.5

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the Church's Social Teaching. In this course students are to learn how Christ's concern for others, especially the poor and needy, is present today in the Church's social teaching and mission. This course focuses on Church teaching with respect to poverty, the environment, and war, as well as the impact of social justice themes in the Gospels as they intersect with crucial public policy debates concerning life issues, prejudice, racism and the right to work. (Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age, p.40). Corresponds to USCCB Curriculum Framework Elective Option C ("Living as a Disciple of Jesus Christ in Society").

World Religions Honors

Grade Level(s): 12
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 0.5

The purpose of this course is to help students understand the manner in which the Catholic Church relates to non-Catholic Christians as well as to other religions of the world. Building on the foundational truth that Jesus Christ established the Catholic Church and entrusted to her the fullness of God's Revelation, the course is intended to help students to recognize the ways in which important spiritual truths can also be found in non-Catholic Christian churches and ecclesial communities as well as in non-Christian religions. It is also intended to help them to recognize the ways in which other systems and practices differ from the Catholic faith. (Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age, p.49) Corresponds to USCCB Curriculum Framework Elective Option E ("Ecumenical and Interreligious Issues").

Theology Electives

These elective courses are open to seniors only and do not count towards the Theology graduation requirement.

Christian Rhetoric Honors

Grade Level(s): 12

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 0.5

This Senior Theology elective begins with a study of the Church's rich tradition of Rhetorical education – the art of debate and public speaking. This provided the foundation for the work of great Catholic thinkers like St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas. Students will learn how the Church today continues to promote discourse and cooperation by examining controversial modern issues that need real solutions. Students will engage with these issues by participating in classroom debate, which will challenge the current behavior we see in the political world -- where only loud voices have an impact. Thoughtful arguments and ideas are celebrated, where students learn to embrace difficult conversations with those with whom they disagree.

Christian Service Learning Honors

Grade Level(s): 12

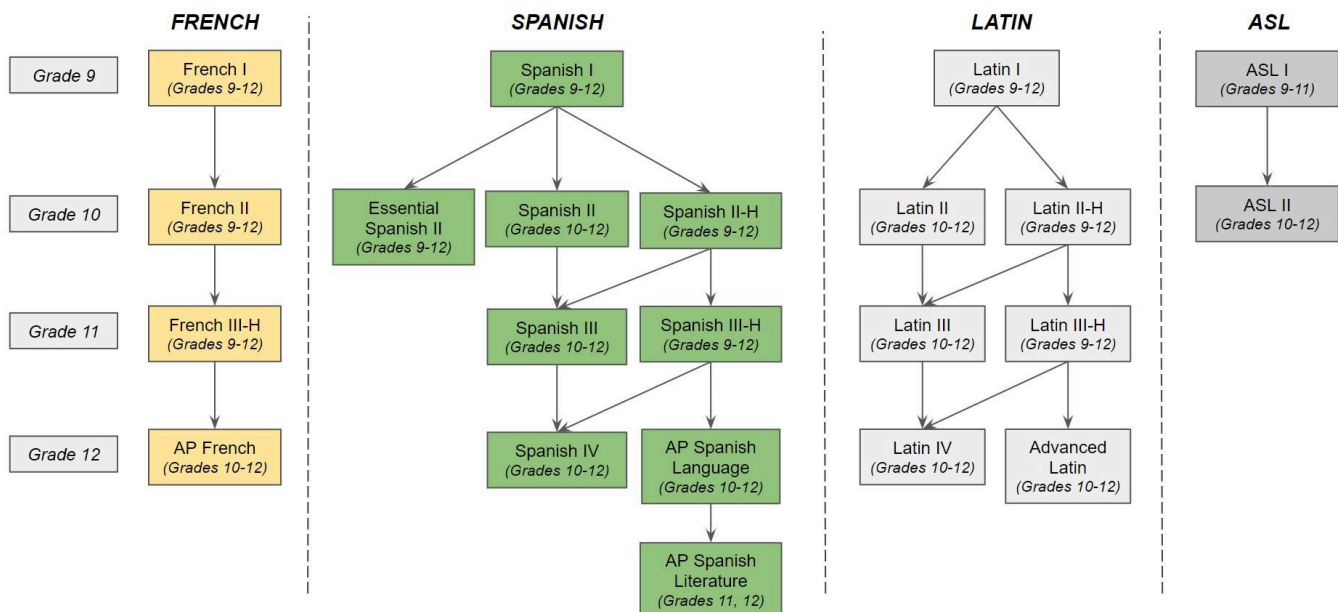
Prerequisite: None

Credit: 0.5

Service learning is an educational approach that goes beyond the usual classroom experience by combining meaningful community service with academic study. Once a week, students will use class time to visit and provide service to an organization in the Raleigh area, gaining valuable insights into the world around them. Using this hands-on experience, students will reflect on Catholic social teaching and create projects that address and find solutions to the real needs and issues of our community.

World Languages

World Languages Department Course Pathways



*Rising 9th grade students may take a placement exam in any World Language to be placed in a higher level course.

2024-2025

Two credits in the same world language are required for graduation. The World Language department recommends that students begin in level one of any language. However, students with significant experience in a particular language may opt to take a placement test to place into level II or III of that language.

French Courses

French I

Grade Level(s): All
Prerequisite: None
Credit: 1.0

French I offers students the opportunity to acquire a beginner's level of proficiency in the basic skills of understanding, speaking, reading, and writing French, and it provides an introduction to the cultures of the French-speaking world.

French II

Grade Level(s): All
Prerequisite: Successful completion of French I
Credit: 1.0

French II offers students the opportunity to achieve an advanced beginner's level of proficiency in the basic skills of understanding, speaking, reading, and writing French, and it provides further glimpses into the cultures of the French-speaking world.

French III Honors

Grade Level(s): All
Prerequisite: Minimum of an A- in French II
Credit: 1.0

French III Honors offers the students the opportunity to achieve an intermediate level of proficiency in the basic skills of understanding, speaking, reading, and writing French. It continues the exploration of the cultures of the French-speaking world by means of articles, stories, literature, history, and film in French.

AP French

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B+ in French III Honors

Credit: 1.0

This course follows the prescribed curriculum of the Advanced Placement program. It provides an in-depth study of the French language through extensive reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college level. Students will be responsible for completing a summer assignment for this course.

Latin Courses

Latin I

Grade Level(s): All

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0

Latin I provides extensive and engaging reading material (e.g., stories and novellas) designed to enable students to develop their interpretive reading skills in the Latin language at the beginner (novice) level, focusing on core Latin vocabulary. The reading material also provides context for an introduction to Roman history, mythology, and culture, which has had a profound influence on our language and culture. Some attention is also given to the other three areas of proficiency: writing, listening, and speaking Latin, but reading comprehension is the main focus.

Latin II

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Latin I

Credit: 1.0

Latin II provides more difficult Latin novellas to read than Latin I, which expands the range of vocabulary and complexity of sentences and develops interpretive reading skills at the advanced beginner (novice-high) level. The course examines more themes of Roman culture, history, and mythology. Some attention is also given to the other three areas of proficiency: writing, listening, and speaking Latin, but reading comprehension is the main focus.

Latin II Honors

Grade Level(s): All

Prerequisite: Minimum of an A- in Latin I

Credit: 1.0

Latin II Honors provides more difficult Latin novellas to read than Latin I or Latin II, and expands more quickly the range of vocabulary and complexity of sentences that a student reads. The course develops interpretive reading skills mostly at the intermediate-low level and examines more themes of Roman culture, history, and mythology, especially that might contribute to understanding the authors of the golden age period of Latin literature. Some attention is given to the other three areas of proficiency: writing, listening, and speaking Latin, but reading comprehension is the main focus.

Latin III

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a C+ in Latin II or Latin II Honors

Credit: 1.0

Latin III provides more difficult Latin novellas to read than Latin II, but mostly on par with Latin II Honors. This course expands the range of vocabulary and complexity of sentences that a student reads. Latin III develops interpretive reading skills mostly at the intermediate-low to intermediate-high level and examines more themes of Roman culture, history, and mythology. Some attention is given to the other three areas of proficiency: writing, listening, and speaking Latin, but reading comprehension is the main focus.

Latin III Honors

Grade Level(s): All

Prerequisite: Minimum of an A- in Latin II Honors

Credit: 1.0

Latin III Honors provides more difficult Latin novellas to read than Latin II Honors, while preparing students to read authentic Latin authors. The reading pace is intensive and extensive, expanding the range of vocabulary and complexity of sentences that a student reads. This course develops interpretive reading skills mostly at the intermediate-high to advanced-low level. Students begin learning some explicit Latin grammar, poetic meter, and deepen their knowledge of Roman history, culture, and mythology. Latin III Honors includes the practice of oral reading, listening, prose composition, translating, and writing analytical essays about Latin texts. The course will culminate with selected authentic and adapted readings in Latin from the classical and medieval periods.

Latin IV

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B- in Latin III or Latin III Honors

Credit: 1.0

Latin IV provides more difficult Latin novellas to read than Latin III, but on par with Latin III Honors. This is an intensive and extensive reading course designed to consolidate a solid foundation of Latin prose that could be carried on to study at the college level. Latin IV develops interpretive reading skills mostly at the intermediate-high level. Explicit grammar will be introduced or reviewed. Some attention is given to the other three areas of proficiency: writing, listening, and speaking Latin, but reading comprehension is the main focus. Students will continue examining Roman history, mythology, and culture, in the context of the novellas, and draw connections and comparisons to our own.

Advanced Latin

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of an A in Latin III Honors

Credit: 1.0

The Advanced Latin Dual Credit Course focuses on reading excerpts from authentic and modified (i.e. tiered) Latin texts from a variety of silver and golden age authors. In the Fall Semester, we focus on prose, and on poetry in the Spring. Each quarter, students read two authors, spending about four weeks (10 class meetings) on each author. Prose selections in the fall may include selected works of Pliny the Younger, Cicero, Seneca, Apuleius. Poetry selections in the spring may include selections from Ovid, Catullus, Vergil, and Martial.

**Advanced Latin is a dual credit course; all grades will be weighted on the AP scale. Students in this course have the option to enroll in the Dual Credit program with Marymount University, at an additional cost, to receive college credit for Latin 1 and 2 (6 total credits). However, students are not required to enroll in the Dual Credit program to take this class and will still earn GPA points per the AP weighted scale. See page 4 for more details about the Dual Credit program.*

Spanish Courses

Spanish I

Grade Level(s): All

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1.0

This course offers the opportunity to get acquainted with the Spanish language. The students will practice pronunciation and will work to acquire mastery of the basic structure and syntax of the language. While studying basic grammar structures, the students will also learn about the culture for both Spain and Latin America. The course will start working on the beginner's level of proficiency in the four areas of communication: speaking, reading, writing, and listening.

Essential Spanish II

Grade Level(s): All

Prerequisite: Department Approval

Credit: 1.0

This course is designed for students who plan to end their language studies upon completion of Spanish II. The focus of this course is primarily on conversation and culture, rather than on increased mastery of grammar and syntax. This course does not qualify a student for placement to a third level of Spanish.

Note: While this course meets the Cardinal Gibbons and the state's requirements for graduation, and is a good fit for students who find Spanish challenging, it does not meet the NCAA guidelines for eligibility in D1 or D2 schools.

Spanish II

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a C in Spanish I

Credit: 1.0

A continuation of Spanish I, this course offers students the opportunity to achieve an advanced beginner's level of proficiency in the basic skills of understanding, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish. It also provides further glimpses into the culture of the Spanish-speaking world.

Spanish II Honors

Grade Level(s): All

Prerequisite: Minimum of an A in Spanish I

Credit: 1.0

This class is for those students who exhibited an excellent command of the language in Spanish I or scored a B+ or better on the Spanish Placement Exam. Spanish II Honors emphasizes an accelerated study of grammar, reading, speaking, listening, and writing. This course will also emphasize Hispanic culture by means of articles, literature, and history.

Spanish III

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a C+ in Spanish II Honors or Spanish II

Credit: 1.0

This course begins with a comprehensive review of Spanish grammar followed by the introduction and mastery of advanced grammar. Grammar and syntax are coordinated with readings of Hispanic culture and literature. Emphasis is also placed on developing conversational and written skills through the use of thematic vocabulary units dealing with everyday situations. Activities are used to develop oral/aural proficiency.

Spanish III Honors

Grade Level(s): All

Prerequisite: Minimum of an A- in Spanish II Honors

Credit: 1.0

In this course, students will continue to work on listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. All verb tenses of the Spanish language will be covered. There will be extensive reading for comprehension and vocabulary building. Students will be expected to participate in listening and/or speaking activities on a daily basis. The emphasis of the course will be on mastery of the material.

Spanish IV

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a C+ in Spanish III Honors or B- in Spanish III

Credit: 1.0

This college prep course is a continuation of Spanish III. It will consist of further study of advanced grammar and vocabulary, along with further development of skills in reading, writing, listening comprehension, and speaking.

AP Spanish Language

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B+ in Spanish III Honors

Credit: 1.0

This course follows the prescribed curriculum of the AP Program. It provides an in-depth study of the Spanish language through extensive reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college level.

AP Spanish Literature

Grade Level(s): 11, 12

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B+ in AP Spanish Language

Credit: 1.0

AP Spanish Literature is an advanced course designed to be the final step of preparation at the high school level. This course focuses on analyzing the literary selections on the AP Literature list. The course will concentrate on different literary genres: poetry, short stories, drama, and longer prose; the students will read, analyze, discuss, compare, and write extensively on these readings. There is a summer reading assignment for preparation for this course.

American Sign Language Courses

Successful completion of ASL I and II fulfills the Cardinal Gibbons and North Carolina World Language requirement for graduation.

American Sign Language I

Grade Level(s): 9, 10, 11

Prerequisite: Approval from Learning Support Specialist

Credit: 1.0

ASL I introduces students to the language and culture of the hearing impaired in the United States. The course will focus on specific language and cultural behaviors, as well as introduce students to the grammar of ASL. Both expressive and receptive skills of students will be the focus of the course, with a major emphasis placed on receptive skills. Students will participate extensively in interactive classroom activities. This course is designed for the student that may find the format and curriculum of a traditional world language course challenging.

American Sign Language II

Grade Level(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: ASL I

Credit: 1.0

Students continue the sequential development of the communicative skills for American Sign Language (ASL). They use the language in relevant and purposeful contexts to exchange information, interpret the language on a variety of topics, and make presentations to diverse audiences. In addition, culture is an integral part of meaningful language use.

Non-Curricular Offering

Curriculum Assistance

Grade Level(s): All

Prerequisite: Educator approval

Credit: 1.0

Curriculum Assistance class is for students with diagnosed learning differences challenging them to capitalize on their strengths in learning to facilitate growth in academics. The purpose of the class is to provide direct academic intervention, teach study and test taking strategies, and provide small group and individualized curricular assistance. Strategies for executive processing skills such as time management, goal setting, planning, task initiation, attentional control, organization, and task completion are provided. Students are encouraged to recognize their academic and learning strengths, to explore new learning styles, and to problem solve. Diagnostic evaluations are reviewed to determine eligibility. A grade of Pass or Fail is given for this course.

Department Offerings by Grade Level

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
THEOLOGY Theology 9	Theology 10	Theology 11 Honors	Peace and Justice Honors Foundations of Catholic Worldview Honors Catholic Vocations Honors World Religions Honors Christian Rhetoric Honors Christian Service Learning Honors
ENGLISH English 9 English 9 Honors	English 10 English 10 Honors	English 11 or English 11 Honors AP English Lang. and Comp. American Voices, Creative Writing Honors, Holocaust Lit, Intro to Film, Public Speaking I & II, Stories from the Modern World, The South in Black and White	English 12 or English 12 Honors AP English Lit. and Comp. American Voices, Creative Writing Honors, Holocaust Lit, Intro to Film, Public Speaking I & II, Stories from the Modern World, The South in Black and White
MATH Essential Math I Math I Math II Math II Honors Math III Honors	Essential Math II Math II Math II Honors Math III Math III Honors Precalculus Precalculus Honors AP Precalculus	Essential Math III Math III or Math III Honors Math IV or Math IV Honors Precalculus, Precalculus Honors, or AP Precalculus AP Calculus AB or BC	Discrete Math Math IV or Math IV Honors Intro to College Math Precalculus, Precalculus Honors, or AP Precalculus Calculus Honors, AP Calculus AB or BC AP Statistics Advanced Topics in Math
SCIENCE Biology Biology Honors	Earth and Environmental Science Earth and Environmental Science Honors Chemistry Chemistry Honors	Physical Science Earth and Environmental Science Honors Chemistry or Chemistry Honors Physics, AP Physics 1 or C AP Chemistry and AP Chemistry Lab AP Environmental Science Forensics, Astronomy, Marine Ecology, Biotech	Chemistry Physics, AP Physics 1 or C, AP Physics 2 Advanced Anatomy and Physiology AP Biology AP Chemistry and AP Chemistry Lab AP Environmental Science Forensics, Astronomy, Marine Ecology, Biotech Lab Assistant
SOCIAL STUDIES n/a	World History World History Honors AP World History	U.S. History or U.S. History Honors AP U.S. History, Advanced U.S. History Psychology, Sociology, AP Psychology	U.S. Gov., U.S. Gov. Honors, AP U.S. Gov and Politics Economics or Economics Honors Psychology, Sociology, AP Psychology
WORLD LANGUAGES Latin I, IIH, IIIH French I, II, IIIH Spanish I, IIH, IIIH American Sign Language I	Latin I, II, IIH, III, IIIH, IV, Adv. Latin French I, II, IIIH, AP Spanish I, II, IIH, III, IIIH, IV, AP Lang, Essential Spanish II American Sign Language I or II	Latin I, II, IIH, III, IIIH, IV, Adv. Latin French I, II, IIIH, AP Spanish I, II, IIH, III, IIIH, IV, AP Lang., AP Lit. Essential Spanish II American Sign Language I or II	Latin I, II, IIH, III, IIIH, IV, Advanced Latin French I, II, IIIH, AP Spanish I, II, IIH, III, IIIH, IV, AP Lang., AP Lit. Essential Spanish II American Sign Language II
FINE ARTS Dance I or II* Drama I Tech Theater I Art I Guitar I or II* Symphonic Band Wind Ensemble-H* Percussion Ensemble String Orchestra I, II*, IIIH*, IVH* Vocal Ensemble Intro to Media *require audition	Dance I, II, or IIIH Drama II Musical Theater IH, Musical Theater Dance Tech Theater I or II Art I or II Guitar I, II, IIIH Symphonic Band Wind Ensemble H* Percussion Ensemble Percussion Ensemble Advanced-H String Orchestra I, II, IIIH, IVH Vocal Ensemble Sacred Heart Vocal Ensemble-H Intro to Media or Digital Media IH Broadcast Production-H, Journalism & Reporting-H, Photojournalism-H, or Yearbook-H	Dance I, II, IIIH, or IVH Drama III or Musical Theater IH, IIH, MT Dance Integrated Arts Design-H , Intro to Graphic Design-H Tech Theater I, II, III-IVH Art I, Art II, AP Art (2D or 3D), Advanced Art History Intro to Clay-H, Seq. Art IH, Photography-H, Intro to Computer Modeling-H Guitar I, II, IIIH, IV-VH Symph. Band, Percussion Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble Adv.-H, Wind Ensemble-H AP Music Theory String Orchestra I, II, IIIH, IVH World Music Vocal Ensemble, Sacred Heart Vocal Ensemble-H Digital Media IH or IIH Broadcast Production-H, Journalism & Reporting-H, Photojournalism-H, or Yearbook-H	Dance I, II, IIIH, IVH or VH Drama III, IVH, or Musical Theater IH, IIH, IIIH, MT Dance Integrated Arts Design-H or Intro to Graphic Design-H Tech Theater I, II, III-IVH, Tech Theater Assistant Art I, Art II, AP Art (2D or 3D), AP Drawing, Advanced Art History Intro to Clay-H, Seq. Art IH, Seq. Art IIH, Photography-H, Intro to Computer Modeling-H Guitar I, II, IIIH, IV-VH Symph. Band, Perc. Ensemble, Perc. Ensemble Adv-H, Wind Ensemble-H AP Music Theory String Orchestra I, II, IIIH, IVH World Music Vocal Ensemble, Sacred Heart Vocal Ensemble-H Digital Media IH or IIH Broadcast Production-H, Journalism & Reporting-H, Photojournalism-H, or Yearbook-H
PHYSICAL EDUCATION Men's Fitness 9/10 Women's Fitness 9/10	Men's Fitness 9/10 Women's Fitness 9/10 Strength & Conditioning	Men's Fitness 11/12 Women's Fitness 11/12 Strength & Cond., Adv. Strength & Cond.-H Athletic Training Honors	Men's Fitness 11/12 Women's Fitness 11/12 Strength & Cond., Adv. Strength & Cond.-H Athletic Training Honors
BTE Freshman Seminar Intro to Comp Programming-H Engineering Essentials	Intro to Comp. Programming-H AP Computer Science Principles Intro to Engineering Design-H	Intro to Comp. Programming Honors AP Computer Science Principles AP Computer Science A Advanced Cybersecurity Honors Intro to Engineering Design Honors Principles of Engineering Honors Business Leadership Honors Marketing Honors	Intro to Comp. Programming Honors AP Computer Science Principles or A Advanced Cybersecurity Honors Intro to Engineering Design Honors Principles of Engineering Honors Engineering Design & Development Honors Business Leadership Honors Marketing Honors
CURRICULUM ASSISTANCE Curriculum Assistance	Curriculum Assistance	Curriculum Assistance	Curriculum Assistance

Cardinal Gibbons High School
is a college preparatory school of
the Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh.
We embrace the mission of Jesus Christ:
to form men and women of
faith,
service,
and leadership
in church and community.



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