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Program of Studies 2024-2025

MISSION STATEMENT

Berks Catholic High School is a Roman Catholic institution for secondary education which maintains that Catholic education is an expression of the mission entrusted by Jesus Christ to his church.

That mission is to deepen awareness and knowledge of the presence of God the Father and to spread the Good News of his Kingdom to all persons. In this ministry, we are guided by the Holy Spirit in communicating morality and values based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

BERKS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Christ Centered Academic Excellence

2024-2025 ACADEMIC CATALOG

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BERKS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Course Offerings

Dear Students,

The principal goal of Berks Catholic High School is to provide an opportunity for academic excellence in a caring community of Faith. The goal of the curriculum is to meet the academic and career needs of each student in a Christ centered atmosphere. Berks Catholic will offer a variety of courses which will challenge, encourage, and help mature each student's God-given talents.

The course selection process is a serious responsibility. Consequently, it is important that you reflect on your future goals. Course selections should be discussed with your parents and teachers. After you have had time to review the course offerings and talk with your parents, you should complete the Course Selection form, have it signed by your current teacher to indicate his/her approval, and then have it signed by your parents.

*For Advanced Placement, Honors, and several other courses, pre-requisites are listed. Please remember that the Department Chairpersons and the Studies Office are responsible for the final decision for student placement in a course. **An AP Commitment Letter is required for all students requesting an AP class.***

In the event that there is a scheduling conflict, individual students will be contacted. Please note that it may be possible that a class may not be offered if an insufficient number of students request a class.

All course selection forms should be completed by March 1st. Teachers will complete online registration during the month of February. Course selection forms will be collected on March 1st and will be used to determine registration for the 2024-2025 school year.

*Once your registration is submitted online, the selections will be considered final. The school will then start to compile the courses and the number of sections and the teachers that will be necessary to accommodate the choices of all students. Any change requests after April 15th will be considered late changes. Since scheduling is expected to begin by April 18th, all change requests **must** be completed by that time. There is no guarantee that late course change requests can be honored after scheduling has begun.*

*Once the schedules are issued at the beginning of the next school year, **no courses may be dropped or changed** unless there are extenuating circumstances. **A \$100 fee is assessed at that time.***

If you have any questions, please contact the Studies Office.

Sincerely,



Noelle Vilardo
Dean of Studies and Counseling
Berks Catholic High School



REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

Graduation from Berks Catholic High School requires satisfactory completion of the following basic required courses mandated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Diocese of Allentown, and Berks Catholic High School:

Theology	4 credits
Mathematics	4 credits*
English	4 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
Science	3 credits
Language/Humanities	2 credits
Electives	4 credits
Physical Ed/Health	1 credit

Each student is required to take six major subjects. Freshmen and sophomores follow a required academic roster. Juniors and seniors select electives after fulfilling the required courses. All students take required minor subjects each year.

* With permission of the Studies Office, a student may be exempt from the fourth year of math if there are extenuating circumstances.

REQUIRED COURSES

Grade 9

Theology
English
Mathematics
Science
Civics
World Language or Reading
Minors: Introduction to Art
Music Appreciation
Physical Education
Intro to STEM
Study Skills w/ Digital Citizenship

Grade 11

Theology
English
Mathematics
Science
Modern American History
Elective – I
Minors: Physical Education
Junior Seminar

Grade 10

Theology
English
Mathematics
Science
World Cultures
World Language
Minors: Health
Physical Education
Driver's Education

Grade 12

Theology
English
Mathematics*
Electives - 3
Minors: Physical Education

*With permission of Studies Office, a student may be exempt from the fourth year of math.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

The AP program is based on the premise that college-level material can be taught successfully to academically able and well-prepared secondary school students. Advanced Placement (AP) courses are offered to prepare students for the AP examination in the spring. Students who enroll in an AP course are required to pay for and to take the examination in May. Participating colleges, in turn, may grant credit and/or appropriate placement to students who have done well on the AP examinations. Our school's teachers who instruct these courses are trained and know what is expected in order for students to succeed in the class and on the examinations. Therefore, the classes are fast paced, demanding, and focused. **Students who are not prepared to work on a college level should not enroll in these classes.** Some students may be offered the opportunity to participate in AP classes online as part of the Virtual High School program which is explained later in this catalog. **Students who register for an AP class are required to sign an AP Commitment Letter. If a student fails to complete a summer assignment for the AP class, they will be dropped from the class at the start of the school year.**

AP courses are taught at the college level. The major difference between a regular/honors high school course and a college-level course is the greater amount of reading and the depth of focus that is found in the college-level course. Moreover, the AP curriculum demands higher-order thinking skills within a rigorous academic context. Thus, students are frequently required to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate in addition to comprehending, memorizing, and applying facts. The overall purpose of this course, however, extends beyond the possibility of earning college credit by providing students the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge that will form a foundation for their continuing educational endeavors. (College Board) All students enrolled in an AP class are **required** to take their respective AP exam at the end of the year.

DUAL CREDIT COURSES

The Dual Credit Program is offered by Berks Catholic High School through Alvernia University and RACC**. Students enroll in classes taught at Berks Catholic **and then they may choose** to register for the Dual Credit Option. Information will be provided to students in April. Upon successful completion of the class(es), students will be awarded college credit from Alvernia University or RACC. Students **must** receive a grade of 77 or better. Dual Credit classes at Berks Catholic are approved by the appropriate academic departments at Alvernia and RACC as being comparable to the same class offered on the college campus. **The credits are offered for a nominal fee and are transferable***. Here are the classes **tentatively** offered and corresponding credits:

Alvernia Dual Credit Classes:

Biology II-Honors	4 Credits	US Government/Politics AP	3 Credit
Calculus-Honors or AP	4 Credits	AP/Honors Physics	4 Credits
AP English (12 th grade)	3 Credits	Statistics-Honors or AP	4 Credits

RACC Dual Credit Classes:

AP/Honors Calculus	4 Credits	AP/Honors Statistics	3 Credits
Pre-Calculus	3 Credits	AP US Government	3 Credits
AP/Honors Physics	4 Credits	AP US History	6 Credits

***Should a receiving college not accept the credits, the colleges will NOT refund the tuition for classes.**

**** Registration for these classes will take place at the beginning of the school year.**

Dual Enrollment Program at Mount St. Mary's University

The purpose of the dual enrollment program is to enable qualified seniors from Berks Catholic High School to take college-level courses taught by Mount St. Mary's University (MSMU) professors. For each satisfactorily completed course, students will receive both university and high school credits; the former to appear on their MSMU transcript, the latter, on their high school graduation transcript. While highly competitive, this program is strictly voluntary. This initiative, which was established in 2017, is supported by the Center for Catholic School Excellence, and provides students with the skill set and independence needed to be successful at the collegiate level. Students are eligible to earn up to 6 college credits per semester in the part-time dual enrollment program. Detailed information regarding courses offered will be announced. *If a student fails the course, the entirety of the \$555 course payment will be the responsibility of the student.

THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Religious education helps the student:

- ❖ Develop an appreciation for sacred scripture and the tradition of God's people as it has developed through the ages;
- ❖ Reach a personal commitment to Jesus Christ and the value He expresses;
- ❖ Attain openness to the action of the Holy Spirit;
- ❖ Deepen personal communion with the Triune God;
- ❖ Know and grasp gradually the message of the Gospel, its doctrinal expression, and the saving plan it unfolds;
- ❖ Increase a Gospel sense of love, which accepts responsibility for self and for the Kingdom through service to all and develops a sense of hope in the heavenly Jerusalem;
- ❖ Develop a sense of loyalty and affection for the Church;
- ❖ Become an active, conscious and genuine participant in the Liturgy of the Church and acquire the habit of personal prayer.

Theology I	Grade 9	College Prep	012
The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture			First Semester

The purpose of this course is 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.

Who Is Jesus Christ?			Second Semester
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The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. 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 about who he calls them to be.

Theology II	Grade 10	College Prep	022
The Mission of Jesus Christ (The Paschal Mystery)			First Semester

The purpose of this course is to help students understand all 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.

Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the Church			Second Semester
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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.

Theology III	Grade 11	College Prep	032
Sacraments as Privileged Encounters with Jesus Christ		First Semester	
The purpose of this course is 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 to learn how they may encounter Christ throughout life.			
Life in Jesus Christ		Second Semester	
The purpose of this course is to help students understand that it is only through Christ that they can fully live out God's plans for their life. Students are to learn the moral concepts and precepts that govern the lives of Christ's disciples.			

Theology IV	Grade 12	College Prep	042
Apologetics and "Why Believe"		First Semester	
The purpose of this course is to help students answer the question "why believe" in Christianity and God in the modern world. Answer some of the key points and questions that continue to be a part of the Catholic Faith. Look at the key aspects of the Catholic Faith and explain why they are essential to believing in the faith.			
Responding to the Call of Jesus Christ		Second Semester	
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.			

Apostolic Service

Diocesan policy mandates that apostolic service be part of the theology curriculum. In order to complete an academic year successfully as well as to fulfill graduation requirements, students must perform apostolic service hours as specified for each grade level.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

It is the aim of the English Department that:

- ❖ Students will exhibit the following characteristics in their writing: substantial and relevant content, logical organization and progression, appropriateness of tone, and accuracy in mechanics and usage;
- ❖ Students will be able to read closely an unfamiliar literary text with good comprehension of its content and literary characteristics;
- ❖ Students will acquire knowledge of important works of major English, American, and World literature;
- ❖ Students will be able to write and to deliver an informative speech and a argumentative speech and will demonstrate the ability to speak clearly and effectively in debate and oral interpretations
- ❖ Students will integrate their writing and research with computer writing labs and on-line library programs.

English: Intro to Lit	Grade 9	College Prep	112
		CP-Modified	113

This course provides an in-depth study of basic language skills in speaking and writing, with emphasis on increasing individual writing and interpretive skills. Additional emphasis is placed on grammar, vocabulary and reading comprehension. Along with various studied literary genres in poetry and prose, outside reading assignments broaden the literature base upon which students can build. The formal essay is introduced. Summer reading and a research paper are required.

English: Intro to Lit	Grade 9	Honors	111
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Prerequisite: Departmental Approval

This course draws from various genres of literature, uses a higher vocabulary level than college prep classes, and integrates grammar with writing. The formal essay is reinforced. Because students are expected to work independently on short research projects and research papers, good writing skills are essential. Summer reading and a research paper are required.

English: World Literature	Grade 10	College Prep	122
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Early and contemporary World Literature is the focus of this course. Student evaluation is based on both objective testing and analytical writing. Writing in all domains and assignments of all types are an integral part of the course. Grammar and vocabulary study continues. Summer reading and a persuasive research paper are required.

English: World Literature	Grade 10	Honors	121
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Prerequisite: 92% in English I Honors and/or Departmental Approval. 95% in CP English I

Designated for sophomores who have demonstrated superior critical reading and analytical abilities, the course focuses on the development of world literature, narrative, expository, analytical/argumentative writing, and analysis of historical fiction. Grammar study continues. Vocabulary study encompasses words in context. The school reserves the right to assign the

student to this level according to performance and mental discipline exhibited during the freshman year, evaluation of writing samples, and teacher recommendation. Summer reading, projects, and a research paper are required.

English: American Literature Grade 11 College Prep 132

Focusing on composition and literature, this course highlights literary figures, themes and ideas in American literature. Students expand their analytical writing skills using supplementary readings in addition to the text for composition topics. Domain writing continues to be a priority, along with oral presentations. Grammar and usage study will be integrated with writing skills. Weekly vocabulary work continues the tradition of previous years. A research paper is mandatory. Grammar and vocabulary study are included to enhance writing skills. Students are assigned to this level based upon performance during freshman and sophomore years, evaluation of writing samples, and teacher recommendation. Summer reading and a research paper are required.

English: American Literature Grade 11 Honors 131

Prerequisite: 92% in English II Honors or 95% in English II CP and Departmental Approval

Designed for the independent learner, this course accelerates development of analytical and argumentative writing, as well as expository and narrative writing skills. Using text selections and outside reading assignments, students trace the development of American Literature. Completion of summer project is required. Research and resulting paper are an integral part of this class.

AP English: Grade 11 Advanced Placement 133
Language and Composition

Prerequisite: 93% in English II Honors and/or Department Approval

*Students selecting this class are **required** to take the AP Language and Composition exam at the end of 11th grade. As stated by The College Board, “Academically talented, imaginative students who read with finesse and write with clarity and style, who are curious and responsive to academic risk-taking, and who are not deterred by hard work are those whom schools will want to support as members of Advanced Placement classes.” As mandated by the College Board, the class will focus on “studying and writing various kinds of analytic or argumentative essays on nonliterary topics.” *Research papers are required. Completion of a summer project is required.**

English: British Literature Grade 12 College Prep 142

Tracing the development of literary traditions, students come to recognize literary styles and devices. Analysis of genres for historical and literary development is an integral focus of the course, which concentrates on representative British authors as well as literature representative of an age. Students hone expository, analytical and argumentative writing skills. Completion of an argumentative or analytical research paper is an integral part of the course. Summer reading is required.

English: British Literature Grade 12 Honors 141

Prerequisite: 92% in English III Honors and/or Department Approval. 95% in English III CP and Department Approval.

Designed for students who have already distinguished themselves by their effort and ability, this course offers a comprehensive study of English Literature. Emphasis is placed on college-level analysis and interpretation of literature. Cognitive skills acquired in the previous three years are developed further with stress on ability to draw on individual aptitude rather than on group consensus. College level vocabulary studies, multiple argumentative and analytical essays, projects, research papers, and formal oral presentations characterize the course. *Completion of a summer project is mandatory.*

AP English: Grade 12 Advanced Placement 160
Literature and Composition

Prerequisite: 92% in English III Honors and/or Department Approval. 95% in English III CP and Department Approval

Students selecting this class are required to take the AP Literature and Composition exam at the end of 12th grade. In this accelerated class students will “learn to discover meaning in literature by being attentive to language, image, character, action, argument, and the various techniques and strategies authors use to evoke emotional responses from readers.” Writing tasks are meant to lead students to insights into a work of literature or, alternately, to record some insight into human behavior to which the work has led the students. *Weekly analytical/argumentative essays, multiple research papers and cooperative projects comprise this course. Completion of a summer project is required.*

Reading Strategies Grade 9 Remedial 114

This class is an in-depth reading class for students in need of remedial help with their reading and writing skills. Students will concentrate on reading comprehension, vocabulary, and writing skills. Study skills, organizational skills, as well as test taking strategies will be covered throughout the year. Students will be placed into this class as a result of low standardized test scores, placement test results, and teacher recommendation. This class is a full high school course and will take the place of a foreign language during 9th grade.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

The Mathematics Department assists the students to:

- ❖ Understand and perform the fundamental operations of mathematics;
- ❖ Recognize the general properties of geometric figures and their relationships;
- ❖ Develop habits of logical thinking and precise expression;
- ❖ Follow a chain of arguments;
- ❖ Recognize a problem when faced by one, formulate it definitively; and project a reasonable solution;
- ❖ Increase understanding of mathematics through the proper molding of concepts, principles and relationships that are basic to building a sound mathematical structure.
- ❖ Use graphing calculator technology to compute, graph, model, and solve problems**

** It is recommended that students who enroll in the Honors classes purchase a graphing calculator that will be used throughout the four years of study. The department recommends the TI-84; a TI-83 or TI-83+ may be used if a calculator has already been purchased,

*** Students who are enrolled in college prep classes are required to have their own scientific calculator for class. The TI30XIIS is recommended and can be purchased in the school bookstore.

Algebra I	Grade 9	College Prep	212
		Experienced	214
		CP-Modified	213

Placement is based on standardized test scores, 8th grade first semester grades in Math, teacher recommendation, and placement test. The objective of Algebra I is to introduce the student to basic concepts of algebra and thus build a foundation for skills in higher mathematics. The concepts include the number line; algebraic expressions; solving equations and inequalities in one variable; operations with polynomials, rational expressions, and radical expressions; linear equations in two variables; and solving quadratic equations. Students develop problem-solving techniques and learn about mathematical relations, function and variations.

Geometry	Grade 9, 10, 11	CP	222
		Honors	221
		CP-Modified	223

Grade 9 Honors: Placement in this class is based on standardized test scores, final grade in Algebra I, teacher recommendation, and a placement test.

Grades 10 Honors: Teacher recommendation.

Prerequisite: Algebra I. Students use deductive and inductive reasoning to formalize a knowledge of angles, parallel and perpendicular lines, properties of polygons, circles, similarity, congruence, area of plane figures, and areas and volumes of solids by means of both expository and discovery methods. In the Honors level, deduction and direct proof are paramount.

Algebra 2	Grade 10, 11	College Prep	232
		CP-Modified	233

Prerequisite: Algebra I and Geometry. Level depends on grades in previous courses and teacher recommendation.

Algebra 2 reinforces Algebra 1 skills. Topics include properties and operations with real numbers, solving equations and inequalities in one and two variables, functions and their graphs, operations on polynomials and rational expressions, operations with irrational and complex numbers, and quadratic and polynomial functions.

Algebra 2	Grade 10, 11	Honors	231
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Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry. Level depends on grade in previous courses and teacher recommendation.

Algebra 2 Honors covers such topics as the real and complex number systems, function concepts including linear and quadratic functions, equations and inequalities of the first and second degree in one and two variables, laws of exponents, polynomials and polynomial equations, and rational expressions.

Trigonometry/Analytic Geometry	Grade 11, 12	College Prep	242
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Prerequisite: Algebra 2 (80%) and department recommendation

Trigonometry/Analytic Geometry is suited for the college bound student. Topics covered include coordinate geometry, functions and relations, conic sections, trigonometric functions and their properties, laws, graphs, and inverses.

Survey of Topics in Mathematics Grade 12 College Prep 243
 This course is available for seniors only. Topics include: set theory, logic, number systems, matrices, sequences, and probability and statistics. Finance, linear programming, data interpretation, and MATH SAT Prep are also presented.

Precalculus Grade 11, 12 Honors 251
Prerequisite: Algebra 2 Honors and department recommendation. This class may be offered for Dual Credit.
 Precalculus provides the student with the background necessary for advanced mathematics courses in college. Topics include relations and functions; linear and quadratic functions; composite and inverse functions; polynomial and rational functions; exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions; and complex numbers.

Precalculus Grade 11, 12 College Prep 253
Prerequisite: Algebra 2 (80%)
 This course provides necessary mathematics knowledge for students interested in continuing mathematical studies in college. The curriculum extends the study of linear and nonlinear functions. Other topics include trigonometry, conic sections, matrices, discrete mathematics, and limits. Real life applications are integrated throughout the year.

Calculus Grade 12 Honors 261
AP Calculus Grade 12 Advanced Placement 260

Prerequisite for Calculus: Precalculus and Department recommendation. This class may be offered for Dual Credit
Prerequisite for AP Calculus: Precalculus and Department Head approval. This class may be offered for Dual Credit.
 AP/Honors Calculus consists of a full academic year of work in Calculus comparable to a full semester course in college. Instruction emphasizes theory and application. The topics covered include development of limits, differentiation and integration of polynomials, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions.
 Students are required to have their own graphing calculator. The department recommends the TI-83 or TI-84 calculator. The course of study recommended by the College Board AP Program is followed. All students enrolled in AP Calculus are **required** to take the AP examination.

Statistics Grade 12 AP 271
Prerequisite: Algebra II and Department Approval **Honors 259**
 Classes may be offered for Dual Credit.
 Honors Statistics consists of a full academic year of work comparable to a full semester course in college. This class emphasizes quantitative methods for decision-making. It is an introduction to statistical concepts including: probability, understanding of and uses of graphs, frequency distributions, measures of central tendency, dispersion and position, various distributions and their properties, testing hypotheses, Chi-square tests, regression and correlation. A graphing calculator is required. The department recommends a TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator. The course of study recommended by the College Board AP Program is followed. All students enrolled in AP Statistics are required to take the AP examination.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

The Science Department helps the student:

- Develop an appreciation of the unity and beauty of the universe;
- ❖ Develop an inquiring mind, so as to discover the basic principles of science and a have a gratifying intellectual experience;
- ❖ Develop facility in analytical and critical thinking in order to recognize logical and quantitative relationships in problem solving;
- ❖ Develop a useful, science vocabulary;
- ❖ Develop skills in using common scientific apparatus;
- ❖ Acquire knowledge of safe laboratory practices and the proper care of scientific equipment;
- ❖ Develop some familiarity with scientific literature.

Biology I Grade 9 College Prep 312
CP-Modified 313
 Placement test, standardized test scores, 8th grade science grade and Department recommendation determine level.
 Biology I College Prep provides students with a study of living organisms. Students are led to develop a respect for and an appreciation of life by investigating the underlying similarities in all living things. Concepts presented in class are reinforced with lab activities. This course includes lab investigation.

Biology I **Grade 9** **Honors** **311**
Placement test, standardized test scores, 8th grade science grade and Department recommendation determine level. Biology I Honors is a sequential study of living systems from simplest to the most complex. Students gain an understanding of life and life processes through a study of the unifying principles applicable to all living organisms. There is an emphasis placed on lab work in which students collect, organize, and analyze data. This course includes lab investigation. A Science Fair Project is required

Physical Science **Grade 10** **CP-Modified** **322**
Prerequisite: Department Approval
Physical Science explores some basic scientific principles and shows how these principles are important both in our world and our daily lives. Topics for discussion include classical forces, forms of energy, how energy is made, the fundamental nature of matter, and the kinds of substances important to daily life, as well as technological advances and what impact they have on our environment and society in general. This course includes lab investigation.

Chemistry **Grade 10, 11, 12** **College Prep** **332**
Prerequisite: 75% in freshman math and science and teacher recommendation
Chemistry helps the student to learn and understand the facts, formulas, and principles of chemistry through classroom discussion and laboratory techniques. The student develops critical thinking and problem-solving skills necessary in science and in everyday life. This course includes lab investigation.

Chemistry Honors **Grade 10, 11** **Honors** **331**
Prerequisite: 90% in Honors Mathematics and Honors Science OR 95% in College Prep Math and Science AND department approval. In the Chem Study course, the unifying principles of chemistry are developed through experimental observation; therefore, the course is a lab-oriented one. The logical deduction of scientific concepts is paramount, so memorization of facts is minimized. Chem Study benefits students who enjoy an academic challenge. This course includes lab investigation. A Science Fair Project is required.

**Environmental Science/
Meteorology** **Grade 11, 12** **College Prep** **334**
Environmental Science: Semester 1
Prerequisite: Successful completion of two years of science
Environmental Science provides the student with the background to understand today's multi-faceted environmental problems and then choose a lifestyle that has a positive impact on the environment. Students will discuss scientific issues of personal relevance and current topics in the news. Class size may be limited. Acceptance will be on a first come basis. This course includes lab investigation.

Meteorology Semester 2
Prerequisite: Successful completion of two years of science
This class introduces student to different dynamics of weather and defines many of the common terms of meteorology. Students learn to read different types of weather maps and they will learn how the weather plays an important role in our society and our environment. The students will be responsible for collecting continuous data and logging information in a daily journal. There will also be a required class project. This course includes lab investigation.

Genetics/Disease **Grade 11, 12** **College Prep** **338**
Prerequisites: Successful completion of CP or Honors Biology I and Chemistry
Genetics: Semester 1
This class will be a survey of genetics. Both classic Mendelian genetics and Molecular genetics will be featured. Mendelian Genetics will introduce more complex topics than were covered in Biology I. Probabilities and statistics important to the topics will be used. Molecular Genetics will take an in depth look at the DNA molecule and how it functions. The ability of DNA to change and mutate will be discussed as it pertains to genetic diseases and evolution. This course includes lab investigation.

Disease and Its Impact on Society: Semester 2
Disease has been part of human existence throughout history. Many diseases have come and gone with little impact, but others have contributed to the way we live our lives. Those would include: Bubonic Plague, Smallpox, and Polio. Analysis of pertinent literature and film treatment of disease outbreaks will be studied for accuracy. This course includes lab investigation.

Forensic Science **Grade 11, 12** **College Prep** **337**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology I and Chemistry

This course introduces the basic principles and relationships between the application of chemistry, biology, and physics to forensic science as they relate to the criminal investigative process. This course is designed to give students insight into the many areas of forensic science and to study the newest techniques used by forensic laboratories. This course includes lab investigation.

Physics I **Grade 11, 12** **College Prep** **342**

Prerequisites: 80% in Chemistry and 85% in College Prep Algebra I

This class covers the different branches of Physics, using basic mathematical, descriptive, and experimental methods. Therefore, while learning the principles of physics, students will learn to think critically. Students must have a basic working knowledge of algebra and trigonometry. The course includes lab investigation.

Physics I-Honors **Grade 11, 12** **Honors** **341**

Prerequisites: 85% in Chemistry Honors and Honors Algebra II OR 90% in Chemistry and College Prep Algebra 2

Physics Honors covers the different branches of Physics, using mathematical, descriptive and experimental methods. Therefore, while learning the principles of Physics, the student will learn to think critically. Physics Honors prepares the student for further studies in Physics. Students must have a good working knowledge of algebra and trigonometry. Lab investigation is included in this course.

AP Physics I: Algebra-Based **Grade 12** **Advanced Placement** **360**

Prerequisite: 90% in Algebra 2 and/or Department Head Approval. Students must have completed Trigonometry or Pre-calculus. Prior coursework in physics is not required; Honors Chemistry (or higher) is strongly recommended.

Advanced Placement Physics is a hands-on lab class, with laboratory exercises comprising 25% of the class time. The Physics I course will utilize guided inquiry and student-centered learning to foster the development of critical thinking skills. The topics covered include: Newtonian mechanics (kinematics and dynamics), energy, rotational dynamics, mechanical waves and sound, and basic electrostatics and electricity. Students must complete 12 mandated labs with a lab notebook or portfolio. There is a summer assignment developing both math and basic physics skills prior to the start of the course. This course includes lab investigation.

Biology II **Grade 11, 12** **Honors** **351**

Prerequisites: 83% in Biology I, successful completion of Chemistry (lab course) and department recommendation

Biology II applies many principles of Biology to the specific areas of entomology, taxonomy, human anatomy and physiology. Students are expected to successfully complete an insect collection and vertebrate dissections. Course includes lab investigation. This class may be offered as a Dual Credit class through Alvernia University. This course includes lab investigation.

AP Biology **Grade 11, 12** **Advanced Placement** **370**

Prerequisites: 90% in Honors Biology I OR 95% in College Prep Biology I, 93% in Honors Chemistry, and Department Head approval. This class may be offered for Dual Credit. AP Biology is the equivalent of a college introductory course usually taken by Biology majors during their first year. The course provides students with the conceptual framework, factual knowledge and analytical skills necessary to deal critically with the rapidly changing science of biology. Topics include organisms and populations, molecules and cells, and heredity and evolution. Two double laboratory periods per week are required. This class runs every other year. **This class will be offered 2024-2025 but will not be offered 2023-2024.**

All students enrolled in AP Biology are required to take the AP Biology examination. Prior to the student's enrollment in AP Biology, parents and student will be required to sign a letter of understanding. This class may also be taken as a Dual Credit class through Alvernia University. This course includes lab investigation.

AP Chemistry **Grade 11, 12** **Advanced Placement** **380**

Prerequisites: 93% in Honors Chemistry, 90% in Honors Math, and Department Head approval.

AP Chemistry furthers the students' understanding of chemistry and prepares them for more advanced chemistry courses. The course helps students keep up to date in this continually developing science through familiarity with new concepts and applications. One double lab per week is required. All students enrolled in AP Chemistry are required to take the AP Chemistry examination. Prior to the student's enrollment in AP Chemistry, parents and student will be required to sign a letter of understanding. This class runs every other year. This course includes lab investigation.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

The knowledge of history is essential in forming American citizens. Social Studies has as its central objective the creation of complete students who develop into:

- ❖ Loyal citizens who understand and empathize with their cultural past;
- ❖ Wise voters who can make sound decisions based on knowledge of their past;
- ❖ Good neighbors who tolerate and appreciate different abilities and interests;
- ❖ Well-rounded individuals who understand and appreciate the intellectual productions of their past.

Civics	Grade 9	CP	403
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Civic education is essential for active participation by informed citizens. Students will explore the structure of the federal government, as outlined in the U.S. Constitution, and the organization of state and local governments. They learn the basics of the American free enterprise system and United States foreign policy. Each of the five units--U.S. Geography, Citizenship, National Government, State and Local Government, and Economics of Free Enterprise--contains an in-depth section where the student investigates a specific incident or issue tied to the unit theme.

World Cultures	Grade 10	CP	422
		Honors	421

Prerequisite for Honors: Average of 95% in Civics, 93% in English, and department recommendation. A summer project will be assigned.

World Cultures helps students learn more about themselves by learning about others. The lands and peoples of the western world are the focus of the course. Students study the geography, history, and ways of life of these people and how they fit into the global society of the 21st century.

AP World History	Grade 10	Advanced Placement	462
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Prerequisite: This course is open to 10th grade students who have 97% in Civics, 93% in English, the recommendation of their 9th grade teacher, and the recommendation of the department chair. The course begins with “from 8000 BCE” and ends in the present day. An extensive summer project is mandatory. All students taking this course are required to take the AP World History Examination.

Modern American History	Grade 11	CP	432
		Honors	431

Prerequisite for Honors: Current average of 93% in Honors or 95% in CP World Cultures, 93% in English, and department recommendation. A summer project will be assigned.

This is a survey of American History since Reconstruction. Emphasizes the emergence and growth of the United States as a world power. The growing role and responsibility of the citizen as a force in determining the future of the nation as it is confronted by the challenges of the 21st century are the focus of the course.

AP United States History	Grade 11	Advanced Placement	459
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Prerequisite: Minimum of 95% in College Prep World Cultures or 93%-Honors World Cultures or AP World History, a general average of 93% in English, and department head approval. This class may be offered as Dual Credit. A summer project will be assigned. United States History encompasses the social, political, economic, and cultural life of the United States. It includes the study of events, movements, and people who shaped or changed the history of our country. In addition to the more traditional historic content, the course introduces the student to a wide range of historical materials and methods of study. The course is taught with college-level texts. All students taking this course are required to take the AP United States History Examination.

AP United States Government & Politics	Grade 12	Advanced Placement	461
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Prerequisite: Minimum of 95%-College Prep or 93%-Honors in Modern American History, a general average of 93% in English, and department head approval. This class may be offered as Dual Credit. A summer project will be assigned. The Advanced Placement course in United States Government and Politics is designed to give students a critical perspective on politics and government. This course involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret United States politics and an examination of the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that make up American politics. The course is taught with college-level texts. Preparation for the AP test will be an integral part of the course. All students taking this course are required to take the AP United States Government and Politics Examination.

Citizen and The Law	Grade 11, 12	College Prep	446
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This course will provide students with an introduction and overview of the system of criminal justice operated in the United States today. Beginning with a survey of the sources, philosophies, and role of law in society, this course will provide

a brief examination of those factors that distinguish civil, criminal and social justice from one another. Students will also explore important cases that helped to establish the freedoms that Americans now enjoy.

Introduction to Psychology Grade 11, 12 College Prep 444

Psychology is the scientific study of human behavior and mental states. In this course, students may study human development, intelligence, personality theory, abnormal behavior, therapeutic intervention and applied psychology. Through lectures, discussions, projects, and labs, students become familiar with the fundamentals of psychology.

AP Western European History Grade 12 Advanced Placement 460

Prerequisite: Minimum of 95%-College Prep or 93%-Honors in Modern American History, a general average of 93% in English, and department head approval. Modern European History encompasses the social, political, economic and cultural life of European nations from the 15th century to the present. It includes the study of events, movements, and people who shaped or changed human history. In addition to the more traditional historic content, the course introduces the student to a wide range of historical materials and methods of study. All students taking this course are required to take the AP European History Examination.

WWII & Holocaust Grade 11, 12 College Prep 445

This is a two-part course about two topics that changed the course of the 20th century. The first semester, WWII, will cover the rise of Adolf Hitler and the beginning of WWII to its conclusion. There will be particular emphasis on U.S. involvement during the war. Second semester, in the Holocaust portion, students will learn about the causes, stages and impact of the Holocaust. The purpose of this study is to understand the roots of prejudice, the acceptance of diversity, the dangers of silence and apathy, the use and abuse of power, and how democratic institutions need to be nurtured and sustained.

WORLD LANGUAGE

These are the specific attitudes and skills that are emphasized by the teachers of foreign languages:

- ❖ A competence in listening, speaking, reading and writing commensurate with the level of instruction;
- ❖ An understanding of the people of a given nation;
- ❖ An appreciation of the literary expression of these nations;
- ❖ A grasp of history, geography, traditions and art of these nations;
- ❖ An appreciation of language as a relevant aid in mastering related disciplines;
- ❖ An awareness of the career opportunities available to those who have mastered a second language.

French I Grade 9, 10, 11, 12 College Prep 512

Prerequisite: Upperclassmen must have a passing grade in other academic subjects. French I gives the student a basic knowledge of the sounds, vocabulary, and patterns of the French language. Through the use of audio and Internet resources, the student will practice listening, speaking, reading, and writing in French. The students will acquire the skills necessary to communicate needs and conversational skills in French while focusing on the present tense.

French II Grade 9, 10, 11, 12 CP 522
Honors 523

Prerequisite for Honors: 90% in French I and teacher recommendation

Prerequisite for College Prep: 70% in French I and teacher recommendation

French II concentrates on the development of the four skills of communication: listening, speaking, reading and writing. There is a greater emphasis on the areas of self-expression, vocabulary building, and the use of French in speaking and writing. Reading is introduced through conversation depicting the life of contemporary teenagers. Cultural information deals with youth and various aspects of life in France and throughout the French-speaking world with an emphasis on Paris. After completion of the second level program, the students will have acquired a command of the key vocabulary and structures of fundamental French as well as an appreciation of the culture, values and attitudes of French-speaking people. The grammar in French II focuses on irregular verbs and expressions in the past. *French II Honors requires independent reading and projects.*

French III Grade 10, 11, 12 Honors 531

Prerequisite: 90% in French II and teacher recommendation

French III introduces language study at an advanced stage. This level continues to build on the known information and reviews vocabulary and grammatical structures acquired in the first two years of French. An increased amount of conversation encourages oral proficiency, facilitated by the use of audio and Internet resources. There is an emphasis on

writing and grammar in future and conditional tenses. French readings, such as *Suivez la Piste*, will improve the four basic language-learning skills: listening, reading, writing, and speaking.

French IV **Grade 11, 12** **Honors** **541**

Prerequisite: 90% in French III Honors and teacher recommendation

French IV Honors coordinates the four skills of language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, while increasing the student's knowledge of French culture and civilization. Thus there is an intensified review of grammar, composition of original paragraphs, and vocabulary study. Students will read selected adaptations from classical French literature, such as *Phantom of the Opera* and *Les Misérables* to ensure comprehension. Students will enhance their conversational skills through Class Announcements. A focus on the history of France will strengthen knowledge of culture.

Spanish I **Grade 9, 10, 11, 12** **College Prep** **516**

Prerequisite: Students in Grades 10 and 11 must have a passing grade in other academic subjects.

Although emphasis is on hearing and speaking, provision is made from the outset for the visual reinforcement of reading and writing. Oral activity proceeds gradually, within each unit, from highly controlled types of responses to the more flexible. The principal goals are to understand and communicate meaningfully within the context of the language elements, which are systematically introduced. Dialogues are used extensively as a source of language assimilation and not merely for memorization. Special language activities are geared toward an appreciation of life as it is lived today in the Spanish-speaking world, with emphasis on the contemporary rather than the historical.

Spanish II **Grade 10, 11, 12** **College Prep** **526**
Honors **525**

Prerequisite for Honors: 96% in Spanish I CP and teacher recommendation

Prerequisite for CP: 70% in Spanish I and teacher recommendation

Spanish II emphasizes the four skills introduced in Level One and develops greater proficiency in reading and writing. Conversation is used to build vocabulary and structural understanding of the language, and ultimately to internalize vocabulary and language patterns. Specific grammar points are explained and drilled in a variety of oral and written exercises. Readings dealing with cultural information give students a better understanding of the countries and people whose language they are learning.

Spanish 2 Honors requires independent reading and projects, during the second semester. A writing journal is optional for extra practice.

Spanish III **Grade 11, 12** **College Prep** **536**
Honors **535**

Prerequisite for Honors: 90% in Spanish II Honors and teacher recommendation or 93% in Spanish II CP and teacher recommendation

Prerequisite for CP: 80% in Spanish II CP and teacher recommendation

Objectives at this level include an increased knowledge of Hispanic culture with special emphasis on Spain, the development of vocabulary, in-depth study of the verb system, development of the ability to communicate, and the development of good writing skills. Building upon vocabulary of the first two years, the student adapts more easily to the Spanish-speaking atmosphere of the daily classroom situation. *All students are required to keep a journal in Spanish.*

Honors students complete several projects that involve independent reading of modern and classical Spanish literature and the writing of essays.

Spanish IV **Grade 11, 12** **Honors** **545**

Prerequisite: 92% in Spanish III Honors or 94% in Spanish III CP, and teacher recommendation. This class may be offered as Dual Credit. Spanish IV Honors expands the four skills of language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, and increases the student's knowledge of Spanish culture and civilization. Practice in listening comprehension is enhanced through the use of videos and feature-length films in Spanish. There is an intensified review of grammar, original compositions and vocabulary study. Students read classical Spanish literature, keep a journal in Spanish and converse in Spanish with the teacher and other students.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

The Computer Education Department develops skills in problem-solving and computer usage using logical and orderly techniques to attain the following objectives:

- ❖ To develop habits of logical thinking and precise expression;
- ❖ To recognize and define a problem, project a reasonable solution, and take steps to reach the desired results;
- ❖ To learn the basic principles behind some of the software packages available in business and in the market today.

Minor: Study Skills with Digital Citizenship **Grade 9 Required** **655**

In an increasingly interconnected world, success in academics and progressional life requires a combination of effective study strategies and a commitment to responsible digital citizenship rooted in Catholic values. This course aims to equip students with essential tools and competencies necessary to excel in their studies while navigating the digital landscape in accordance with Catholic principles of integrity, respect, and social responsibility.

Minor: Intro to STEM **Grade 9 Required** **630**

The introduction to STEM course blends the subjects of science, technology, engineering and math in order to teach 21st-century skills based in experiential learning and inquiry. The course seeks to empower students to embrace a creative and innovative mindset by participating in hands on projects including electric circuitry, drone operation, coding, iPhotography, iMovie, and podcasting. In this course students are also given instruction in digital citizenship and cyber safety, as well as an introduction to Berks Catholic's technology and Apple environment.

Computer Classes: ONLINE through VHS learning **950**
Prerequisite: Approval from the Studies Office/3.0 GPA

All computer classes including AP Computer Science A, Computational Science and Engineering using JAVA, Web Design, Programming is Visual Basic, and Creative Programming with Scratch are available as full course classes. For more information visit: www.vhslearning.org and look at the online course catalog for Computer Science and Technology.

FINE ARTS/HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT ART

The Art Department has the following objectives:

- ❖ Students will experience and gain an appreciation/understanding for the four disciplines of Art Education in accordance with the National Art Education Standards.
- ❖ Students will be able to know, use, and recognize the elements and principles of design.
- ❖ Students will develop an awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the order and beauty of God's creation and of the manmade works of art.
- ❖ Students will develop perceptual awareness for the beauty of the world and art that surrounds them.
- ❖ Students will be stimulated to discover and reinforce their concept of self-expression and self-worth.
- ❖ Students will be encouraged to discuss art thoughtfully and intelligently.
- ❖ Students will learn self discipline when creating their art, and self-pride in the work they complete.
- ❖ Students will learn a vast knowledge of artists, art works, and art styles of the past and present.

Minor: Introduction to Art **Grade 9 Required** **715**

This class will take students through the various art movements. Students will then create a piece of artwork from an art movement studied during the course.

Art I **Grade 11, 12** **College Prep** **722**
Art II **Grade 11, 12** **College Prep** **732**

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Art I and II are designed around the National Visual Arts Standards. Students will be working with both two and three-dimensional design. Projects include drawing, painting, sculpture, mixed media collage, ceramics, and crafts. Students will learn the techniques of each media we cover in order to solve the problems proposed with each studio project. Students will be encouraged to stretch the limits of their creativity, and emphasis will be on achieving individual self-expression.

Media and Film Production Grade 11 and 12 College Prep 721

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic technology and process of producing a creative work in the video medium and the techniques of digital editing. We will be working with GarageBand, iMovie, Final Cut Pro X, and LiveType. Lectures, demonstrations, and hands on experience will lead the students from pre-production considerations through the phases of production and post-production. Videos include a Day in the Life, Narrative, Original Commercial, Music Video, and others. Students will focus on visual expression of ideas and emotions. This class will require outside class work for the filming of footage in a cooperative group.

Craft Design & Ceramics Grade 11 and 12 College Prep 717

This course is an introduction to the fine art of crafts and specifically the art of ceramics. If you like working with your hands in order to create a meaningful work of art, then this is a great class for you. The class will emphasize fundamental skill building, technique, craftsmanship, and safety within the practices of three dimensional design and ceramics. The course will be divided into 2 semesters of work. The first semester will focus on an array of crafts where the studio projects may include weaving, papermaking, mosaic, screen-printing, and collage. The second semester we will focus on ceramics and the techniques surrounded by the art form. Studio projects will include work with pottery and sculpture.

MUSIC/THEATER

The Music Department helps the student:

- ❖ Seek out her/his musical talents;
- ❖ Become acquainted with the musical concepts that make up music;
- ❖ Develop self discipline and pride in developing her/his musical abilities;
- ❖ Understand the history of music and how it evolved;
- ❖ Appreciate the beauty of God's creation in music.

Minor: Music Appreciation Grade 9 Required 716

This course is designed to teach the fundamentals of the elements of music including: sound, melody, harmony, rhythm, texture, form, and expression. Students will explore the instruments of the Symphony Orchestra and be able to identify them by sight and sound.

Music Theory Grade 11, 12 College Prep/Honors 740

This course is designed to acquaint the student with an awareness and working knowledge of the technical elements found in music. It includes detailed preparations concerning analysis, development, and relationship of melody, harmony, and rhythm necessary for each of those aspects to co-exist. The course will show the student how all the traditional/classical elements and compositional rules are continually used in contemporary music.

Honors Choir Grade 9, 10, 11, 12 Honors 743 Saints

Honor Choir is a rigorous performance-based class for serious singers who want to understand the mechanics of music. We will explore vocal studies to help you become an expert choral singer. The class is designed for students to apply musical skills as they continue to create and experience music as a musical ensemble. Auditions are required.

Students will continue developing mastery of 2, 3, and 4-part harmonies. Students will convey musical interpretation with the use of dynamics and phrasing, while incorporating facial expression and movement for refined presentation. Students will understand how a musical composition is structured through listening and analysis.

Students will be able to aurally and visually identify repetition in musical scores. The topics in this class will provide a strong basis for the continuation of their music skills as the high school age child continues on their path to becoming a life-long participant of music.

Honors Instrumental Music Grade 9, 10, 11, 12 Honors 741

This course is designed to provide opportunities for students who play instruments to grow in musicianship through individual study, group performance, and small ensembles. Prerequisites include knowing how to plan an instrument. Honors credit will be given to students who sign up for this course.

Theater Arts Grade 11, 12 College Prep 763

This course is designed to give students interested in acting, producing, and directing the opportunity to learn more about the stage craft. The course will cover acting, lighting, make-up, costume, sound design, props, set construction, and producing. Students will be given hands-on opportunities to learn how a stage production comes to life.

AP Music Theory**Grade 12****Advanced Placement****760**

This course is a more advanced study of the basic elements of music: solfeggio and dictation. Introduction to melody writing and chord writing is given. Music history is studied so students can see how the theory applies to styles and periods of music, therefore offering a more rounded understanding of how theory works. Students taking this course must take the Advanced Placement Examination in Music. **Prerequisites:** Concurrent participation in a BCHS music ensemble or an ensemble independent of BCHS, with the instructor's approval: completion of Music Theory with a final grade of 88% or better and permission of the instructor.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The department objectives are:

- ❖ To promote development of desirable social qualities;
- ❖ To provide opportunities for development of initiative and leadership;
- ❖ To help the student to develop and maintain a healthy body;
- ❖ To meet the general purpose of physical education.

Physical Education

All students are required to participate.

A variety of activities is offered to help develop individual skills and to encourage group participation in recreational games, to promote personal enjoyment of sports as a spectator, and to develop various aspects physical fitness. The Physical Education program strives to develop individual physical fitness, a sense of belonging, good sportsmanship, body coordination, and self-confidence.

Physical Education
Grade 9-12 Required
Gr 9: 813
Gr 10 825
Gr 11-12 823

The following sports are part of the curriculum:

Badminton/ Crab Soccer/ Floor Hockey/ Racquetball/ Net games/ Softball/Basketball/Flag Football

Lacrosse/Tennis/ Soccer/ Coed Volleyball/ Flicker Ball/ Weight Training/ Physical Fitness Testing

Health
Grade 10 Required
817

The students are provided with information concerning the basic structure of the body and its functions. Students receive a basic knowledge of organic and functional disease and practical information relating to the prevention of disease. The course helps every student acquire good physical health habits and an understanding of the conditions necessary for maintaining physical and emotional well-being.

Driver's Education
Grade 10 Required
830

Driver Education is designed to help every student, regardless of their ability level and learning style, to become safe, responsible drivers.

CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

Reading Muhlenberg Career and Technology Center and Berks Career and Technology Center serve Berks Catholic High School. These centers offer an extension of the opportunities available through Berks Catholic. The school district in which a student resides will determine the center he/she would attend. **Students entering grades 11 and 12 are eligible to apply and forms are available on their website.**

Familiarity with advanced technology has become important in the world of work, and students who enroll will be trained using the latest tools and techniques used on actual jobs.

Vocational training programming can assist students in several ways. Some students who enroll will pursue employment directly upon graduation. An increasing number of students, however, are opting to continue their education by attending business schools, trade and technical schools, community colleges, or four-year colleges. The available post-secondary opportunities may be explored through conversation and visitation with representatives from the career centers.

Reading and Muhlenberg School Districts students attend RMCTC: www.rmctc.org

All other school districts attend Berks Career and Technology: www.berkscareer.com

AQUINAS PROGRAM

Instructional I 901
Instructional II 902

Instructional III 903
Instructional IV 904

The primary purpose of the Aquinas Program is to offer a Christ-Centered, quality academic education within a Catholic School environment for young adults with learning disabilities. Students are encouraged to work to their full potential and to be respectful of others. Emphasis is placed on helping students gain self-confidence and develop a positive attitude.

Students are scheduled into regular high school classes with the exception of one period each day. During this time, students are scheduled for instruction in organizational and study skills. Students have a full academic schedule; accommodations and modifications are developed through consultation between the Aquinas Program teacher and subject-area teachers. These accommodations/modifications are those specified in each student's Instructional Plan.

VHS Learning

Several students will have the opportunity to participate in a cutting-edge instructional program, VHS Learning. More and more colleges are offering this form of self-paced instruction as a way to earn a degree, especially at the graduate level.

VHS Learning is an exciting initiative that allows a student tremendous flexibility to take an online class. There are over 300 courses available, and most of the Advanced Placement courses are offered. Only courses that are ***not normally*** offered at Berks Catholic High School will be open for enrollment. Students will take their classes from an accredited and credentialed instructor. They will join a class of approximately 25 students, potentially from around the world, by logging on and taking the course during the school day, when it is most convenient to the student's schedule. A 45-minute period is set-aside during the normal school day for the students to work on their lessons, however, work done on the computer outside of class requires a broadband Internet connection.

The coursework is intense. Students need to be highly motivated and must be able to work well independently. The 15-week sessions, which are less than a normal academic semester, require approximately 10 hours of work a week to stay up with the class.

Students are required to have the approval of the Dean of Studies and the appropriate department chair for the course. GPA requirement to enroll in a VHS course is 3.0. A signed commitment form will be required. Once classes begin, students will not be allowed to drop a VHS course as this class takes the place of a regular BCHS course. The VHS instructor, and not the teachers at Berks Catholic High School, assigns grades. The grades assigned will be part of the student's grade point average. Berks Catholic's grading plan will be in effect for these classes. Students may take a maximum of two VHS classes per semester. Once enrolled, students may not drop the class because of the additional financial cost incurred by Berks Catholic. For more information, interested students and their parents are urged to investigate the program by logging on to the website: www.vhslearning.org.

Reading Hospital Medical Professional Job Shadowing: 923 Seniors

Seniors will be given the opportunity to participate in a program through The Reading Hospital. BCHS is partnering with the Reading Hospital and Medical Center to offer seniors the opportunity to explore professions typically found in a hospital setting. Students will spend a total of six days (September, October, November, February, March, and April) shadowing professionals. Three to four days will be with direct care providers (doctors, nurses, etc.) and two to three days will be spent with administrators, in labs, nutrition, or other areas. Students will be responsible for summaries to be submitted. This program will be worth .25 credits

Students interested should see the Studies Office for an application. The program is limited to 6 students. All students must be interviewed by Reading Hospital for admittance into the program.

FOUR YEAR PLAN

FRESHMAN YEAR	JUNIOR YEAR
<p>Theology 1 _____</p> <p>English 1 _____</p> <p>Math _____</p> <p>Biology _____</p> <p>Civics _____</p> <p>Foreign Language* _____</p> <p><i>* Some students may take Reading Strategies in place of a foreign language.</i></p> <p>Art Appreciation</p> <p>Music Appreciation</p> <p>Physical Education</p> <p>Intro to STEM</p> <p>Study Skills</p>	<p>Theology 3 _____</p> <p>English 3 _____</p> <p>Math _____</p> <p>Science _____</p> <p>Mod Amer Hist _____</p> <p>Elective: _____</p> <p>PE</p> <p>Junior Seminar/SAT Prep</p>
SOPHOMORE YEAR	SENIOR YEAR
<p>Theology 2 _____</p> <p>English 2 _____</p> <p>Math _____</p> <p>Science _____</p> <p>World Cultures _____</p> <p>Foreign Language _____</p> <p>Health</p> <p>PE</p> <p>Driver's Ed</p>	<p>Theology 4 _____</p> <p>English 4 _____</p> <p>Math*: _____</p> <p>Elective 1: _____</p> <p>Elective 2: _____</p> <p>Elective 3: _____</p> <p>PE</p> <p><i>* With permission of the Studies Office, a student may be exempt from the fourth year of math.</i></p>

Notes: