



Course Catalog

**CRISTO REY JESUIT
SEATTLE HIGH SCHOOL**

2024-2025

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*Igniting minds and spirits
for college and career.*



Welcome

Dear students and families,

At Cristo Rey Jesuit Seattle, the high school experience marks an exciting chapter in life, offering abundant opportunities to unearth your personal character while developing unique skills across various subject areas and corporate work experiences. CRJS students will participate in a diverse array of educational classes spanning from reading to math while engaging in a variety of activities from sports to fine arts. Our aim? To equip our students not just for college but for a lifetime of success.

Ever thought of college as a grand treasure hunt? The college experience is a personal quest to uncover layers of yourself and envision the extraordinary superhero you aspire to become in this world. At CRJS, we liken the college search and selection process to being a detective – it is a journey of self-discovery and an opportunity to explore and gather clues about your true passions and aspirations. At CRJS, you will learn to identify your unique strengths, make crucial decisions, and chart a course toward achieving your goals for the future. It is not just about the destination; it is about relishing the steps and experiences that lead you there.

The “Magis” block (magis, meaning “more”) is all about aiming higher and striving for your personal best. A variety of options may include creating intricate paper art (origami), singing your heart out in a Gospel choir, playing sports, or forming a student club. Magis classes allow you to personalize your high school learning experience.

As St. Catherine of Siena wisely said, “Be who God meant you to be, and you will set the world on fire.” We wholeheartedly believe in the incredible potential within each of you just as you are. I am thrilled to embark on this exciting journey of learning, discovery, and growth alongside all our students this year. I cannot wait to make this year an unforgettable adventure together!

Warm regards,

Dr. Nadia Despenza Guy
CRJS Principal

Our Philosophy

CRJS emphasizes not only subject matter but more importantly the process by which one “comes to know and understand.” The learning process is the central focus. Rather than passively receiving information and predefined explanations, students actively engage in learning what they want and need to know. Teachers guide students in the art of “learning how to learn” while acknowledging the socio-political context around race and language, recognizing their bias and privilege to disrupt the status quo.

Ignatian Pedagogy

Ignatian education goes beyond academics; it’s a teacher-student partnership fostering lifelong learning while inspiring students to use their unique talents to create positive change by helping others.



CONTEXT

When learning is connected to real-life situations, it becomes more meaningful. Teachers consider student experiences, relevant cultural teachings, and what’s happening in the world to help guide content.

EXPERIENCE

Teachers encourage students to do more than just remember things. They guide them to think critically and use what they’ve learned in the real world, including in the workplace setting.

REFLECTION

Teachers help students think deeply about what they’ve learned. They challenge students to ask themselves, “Who am I?” and “How do I relate to others?”

ACTION

For St. Ignatius, love is shown in deeds not words; action was the direct result of a “change of heart” experience. Through reflection, students make the truth their own and learn to serve others.

EVALUATION

Teachers evaluate the whole person when giving feedback to students as they grow and develop. Evaluation methods include assessments, reflections, written work, and discussions.

Program of Studies



SELECTION + SCHEDULING

- All courses may not be available each year.
- For a course to be offered, a minimum number of students must request it.
- The regular rotating daily schedule consists of seven periods.
- Some classes take place after school, allowing students to earn credits. Various guidelines may apply to these courses.
- Due to scheduling constraints, students may not always receive their first choice of courses, and we are unable to accommodate teacher requests.



HONORS + ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

- Honors-level courses have established prerequisites and are only open to students meeting these criteria. Criteria include specific skills and performance levels.
- Honors-level courses encompass extended content and increased workload, distinguishing them from regular college-preparatory high school courses in the same subject.
- Advanced Placement courses prepare students for an examination designed by the College Board, considered as college-level courses eligible for potential college credit.
- Students enrolled in Honors/Advanced Placement courses commit to the full year. Those in Advanced Placement courses must take the AP exam in May, with associated fees.
- Students interested in Honors/Advanced Placement courses must meet their respective requirements during the course request process every spring semester.
- Some courses may require summer preparation.

College Success

Our four-year program helps students and families through their journey to college.

CRJS is focused on preparing students for college academics AND getting students excited about going to college. Our faculty and staff are trained to know and understand college admissions, how to navigate the financial assistance process, and how to help students identify the best college fit for them. We want the journey to be personal and real, not just about getting accepted. Following the principles of Ignatian discernment (that is another way of saying thoughtful decision making), students are regularly challenged to reflect on what they want for their college experience. They will research, dream, and set goals step by step.

The 9th grade year is about learning how to navigate high school life, making friends, getting involved in activities, and doing well in class. Sophomore year is about exploring and investigating a variety of colleges. Students will begin to learn college admissions expectations and standards. By junior year, students begin looking for colleges that match their specific strengths and values. Senior year is when students apply and make decisions for their future.

Throughout this four-year journey, we will provide students and families with guidance and a clear framework to follow, so the college admissions process and decision is both easy to navigate and a personal, smart, and thoughtful choice.

College planning by year:

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
College night for first-year families	College night for second-year families	College night for third-year families	College night for fourth-year families
College counselor assigned by May	Diagnostic SAT	Diagnostic SAT	College counseling class
Diagnostic SAT	Standardized Testing Night	Standardized Testing Night	University Partners application workshop
	College counseling advisory meeting	Introductory individual college meetings	Ongoing individual meetings, application/essay review, and strategy sessions
	Individual 11th grade course scheduling	College counseling class	
		Individual 12th grade course scheduling	
		Family college meetings	

Graduation Requirements

Cristo Rey Jesuit Seattle HS graduation requirements exceed the Washington State graduation requirements. 1 semester=0.5 credit; 1 year=1.0 credit.

Subject	Credits	CRJS Requirement	WA State Requirement
English	4.0	4 years	4 years=4 credits
Social Studies/History	3.0	3 years	3 years=3 credits
Mathematics	4.0	4 years	3 years=3 credits
Science	4.0	4 years*	3 years=3 credits
Religious Studies	4.0	4 years	0 years
The Arts	2.0	2 years	2 years=2 credits
Health/Exercise Science	2.0	2 years	2 years=2 credits
College + Career Readiness	2.0	2 years	0 years
World Language	2.0	2 years**	2 years=2 credits
Corporate Work Study Program	4.0	4 years	0 years
Electives	2.0	2 years	4 years=4 credits***

**Includes 1 lab science **3 years recommended*

****CRJS students earn elective credit in religious studies and other courses*

4-Year Sequence

	9th Grade	10th Grade
English	English 1	English 2
Social Studies/ History	Geography	Modern World History
Mathematics	Algebra 1 Geometry	Geometry Algebra 2/Trig
Science	Biology Honors Biology	Environmental Science Honors Environmental Science
World Languages	Foundations of Spanish Spanish 1 Honors Spanish 1	Spanish 2 (non-native speakers) AP Spanish Language
PE Health and Wellness	Athletics after school only	PE Health and Wellness Athletics
Fine and Performing Arts	Courses include visual arts, music, and drama	Courses include visual arts, music, and drama
Religious Studies	Foundations of Faith	Foundations of Scripture
CWS Program	Job placement	Job placement

4-Year Sequence

	11th Grade	12th Grade
English	English 3 AP Language and Composition	Creative Writing AP English Lit. and Composition English 4
Social Studies/ History	United States History Honors United States History	Economics Gender Studies AP History Psychology
Mathematics	Algebra 2/Trig Precalculus or Honors Precalculus Intro to Stats and Probability	AP Calculus AB or Calculus AP Computer Science Principles Intro to Stats and Probability
Science	Physics Honors Physics	AP Computer Science Principles Chemistry or Honors Chemistry AP Biology Bio Ethics (A+B)
World Languages	AP Spanish Literature Spanish 3	AP Spanish Literature
PE Health and Wellness	PE Health and Wellness Athletics	PE Health and Wellness Athletics
Fine and Performing Arts	Courses include visual arts, music, and drama	Courses include visual arts, music, and drama
Religious Studies	Ethics and Social Justice	World Religions
CWS Program	Job placement	Job placement

9th Grade Course Descriptions

ENGLISH

Introduction to Literature with Integrated AI

1.0 credit

What are your values, and how can you activate them in your daily life? How do you know if you are living with integrity? How can you “walk the talk” of your beliefs? In Intro to Literature, students will clarify their personal values while learning to read and write at the high school level. Through daily discussions, students will acquire and hone careful reading, active listening, and respectful discussion techniques. Alongside crafting critical essays and creative writing assignments that analyze literary works, students will also gain proficiency in crafting AI prompts to aid their writing processes. In each unit, students will also consider their relationship to a specific value or set of values, such as courage, justice, citizenship, faith, truth, love, and self-advocacy.

MATHEMATICS

Intermediate Algebra

1.0 credit

Students placed into Intermediate Algebra will experience an in-depth Algebra course followed by the option in their sophomore year to take Geometry or Honors Geometry depending upon their performance in this course. Students who take Intermediate Algebra in 9th grade have the possibility of taking Calculus or AP Calculus AB as seniors if they do well in our courses and do summer work between junior and senior year. Placement in Intermediate Algebra does not ultimately limit a student’s options.

Geometry

1.0 credit

This course presents concepts of Euclidean geometry as a topic for daily living, for career development, and for the future study of mathematics. It applies engineering, measurement, visualization, inductive and deductive logic, and proof to the study of triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, and solids. It analyzes concepts of similarity, congruence, and isometric transformations of figures. Emphasis is placed upon the analysis of right triangles and the area and volume of plane and solid figures as well as algebraic strategies to solve geometric problems including coordinate representations and vectors. Trigonometry of right triangles is introduced, and techniques of coordinate geometry are developed. Algebraic representation and deductive analysis of geometric relations are stressed throughout the course.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Geography

1.0 credit

Our geography course offers students a transformative learning experience, fostering global awareness and critical thinking. Through a blend of theoretical concepts and practical applications, students delve into the interconnected realms of geography, economics, politics, and culture. They analyze case studies like lithium production in Bolivia to grasp geography's influence on regional dynamics. Explorations into Indigenous cultural regions and the development of early Americas civilizations provide insights into human-environment interactions. Additionally, students examine the adaptive strategies of Indigenous communities and the transformative role of women micro-entrepreneurs in Africa. This immersive approach allows students to see the world through a geographer's lens, equipping them with a holistic understanding of geography and the skills to navigate our complex global landscape

SCIENCE

Biology

1.0 credit

This course applies scientific concepts related to the living environment while tracing the historical evolution of scientific ideas. Focusing on seven pivotal concepts—including the distinctions between living and non-living entities, genetic inheritance, species evolution, the continuity of life, dynamic equilibrium in sustaining life, and the interdependence of plants, animals, and their environment—the curriculum integrates a minimum of 1200 minutes of hands-on laboratory experiences. Through these practical sessions and mandatory lab reports, students reinforce theoretical knowledge beyond traditional classroom instruction, honing their analytical and experimental skills. By delving into the historical development of scientific theories and actively engaging with contemporary applications, this course empowers students to comprehend, critically evaluate, and apply scientific principles.

Honors Biology

1.0 credit

The Honors program stands out through its accelerated pace in presenting concepts, demanding depth of understanding, and rigorous evaluation methods. Students enrolled in the Honors Biology course should anticipate an increased workload with additional projects, extensive reading, writing assignments, and guided independent studies. This advanced curriculum emphasizes conceptually challenging laboratory sessions that necessitate the synthesis of studied topics, fostering a scientific mindset by encouraging students to question, hypothesize, and systematically seek answers. Attending designated "lab days" is crucial as these sessions form the core of the curriculum, challenging to replicate if missed, emphasizing the significance of hands-on experience in understanding scientific principles.

RELIGION

Foundations of Faith

1.0 credit

9th graders attend CRJS from a wide variety of educational backgrounds and varying degrees of religious education. Foundations of Faith provides all students with the vocabulary and basic knowledge they will need to succeed in their religious studies.

Foundations of Faith assists students in understanding the Catholic Christian experience of the presence of God in all aspects of creation and human experience. Students explore both the Old and New Testaments with an emphasis on contextual interpretation to reveal religious truths and how these truths shape belief and practice. Students will examine their personal faith in response to themes such as the goodness of Creation, our need for community, what it means to be “made in the image and likeness of God,” and covenant. With this foundation, students will connect Jesus’ command to love one another to the Hebrew prophets’ understanding of justice. Throughout the course, students will reflect on the role of narrative as a vehicle for understanding their own identities relative to ongoing Salvation History. Students will complete 20 hours of Christian Service as part of the CRJS graduation requirement.

SPANISH

Spanish 1

1.0 credit

Spanish 1 is designed for students who have little or no prior background in learning the language. During this course students are introduced to the Spanish language and the cultures and communities in which it is spoken. During the year, students begin to acquire and develop the language in the four primary skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Honors Spanish 2

1.0 credit

Honors Spanish 2 is a continuation of Spanish 1, but marks a pivotal stage in which students are expected to move beyond memorization to create and express their own ideas in Spanish through written and oral projects. The study of grammar is complemented with additional practical and literary vocabulary. Written and oral skills are further developed. More advanced reading selections are introduced. The scope of Spanish and Latin American culture is broadened. This course is conducted entirely in Spanish.

MAGIS

Magis

1.0 credit

Students choose from a variety of arts options including visual arts, music, and drama courses.

CORPORATE WORK STUDY

Preparedness for the Modern Workplace (Job Placement)

1.0 credit

CWS Practicum 1



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