



Seek. Strive. Serve. Thrive.

2025-2026 Program of Studies



MISSION

St. Joseph High School strives to be the premier college preparatory school in Southern Connecticut. The school provides a learning environment that embraces the Gospel values of the Roman Catholic faith and promotes a commitment to family and community. The school prepares our young women and young men to realize their potential, helps them excel in higher education, and provides a foundation to guide them throughout their lives.

VALUES

To support our mission, St. Joseph High School will provide an environment where the faculty, Administration, support organizations, and students, by example and program, actively promote:

- Roman Catholic teaching and values (faith, morals, ethics, and responsibility)
- Family values
- Community responsibility
- Respect and diversity
- Educated and creative thinkers who exhibit superior intellectual and communication skills
- Passion for learning and teaching in a safe and secure environment
- A strong, holistic foundation to enable all students to enter and succeed in competitive higher learning institutions
- A strong program for social and physical development in an atmosphere of healthy competition

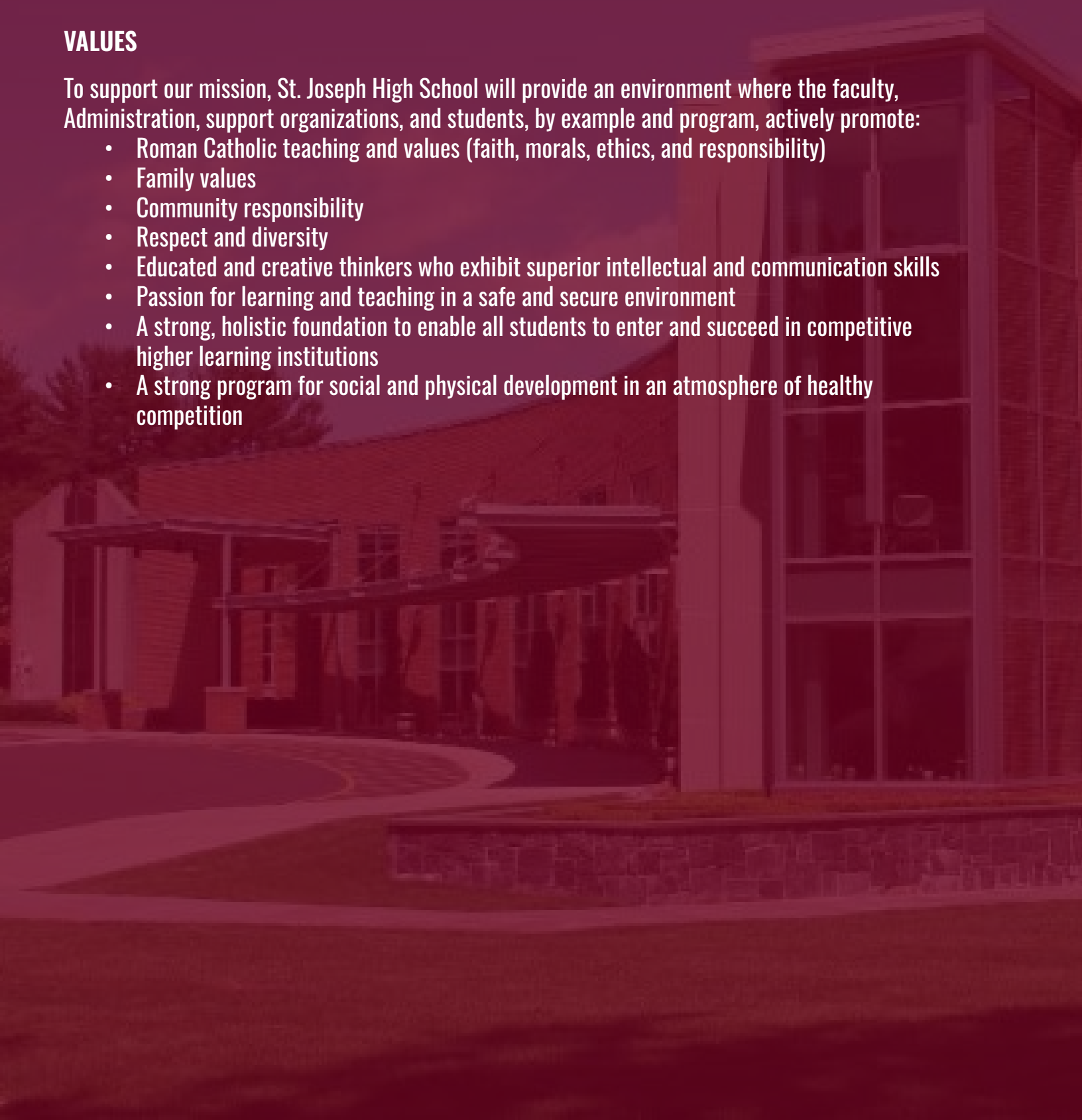




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Dual Enrollment Course Coordinators

Ms. Stacey Nasser	Sacred Heart University	snasser@sjcadets.org	x 302
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Religions (3 credits) • Faith & Reason (3 credits) 		
Mrs. Colleen Piatak	University of Connecticut/ECE	cpiatak@sjcadets.org	x 223
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP Statistics (4 credits) • US History (3 credits) • International Relations (3 credits) • AP Calculus BC (8 credits) • Physics (4 credits) • Advanced Physics (4 credits) • Biology (8 credits) 		
	University of Iowa		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring Entrepreneurship (3 credits) 		



Each student must meet the following graduation requirements

- English: 4 credits, 1 credit per year
- Mathematics: 4 credits, 1 credit per year
- Theology: 4 credits, 1 credit per year
- Social Studies: 3.5 credits (including Civics)
- Science: 3 credits
- World Language: 2 credits of the same language
 - College recommending: 3.0 credits
- General Electives: 3.5 credits
- Grade 9 and 10 Required Electives: 2.0 credits
 - Grade 9 electives: Either Choir, Band or Art, or Theater and IDEA
 - Grade 10 electives: Either Choir, Band, or a full credit comprised of Art, Theater, Technology & Innovation or Business ***Class of 2027 must complete Fine Arts credit in order to graduate***

Total Credits for Graduation: 26

The Core Curriculum represents the required credits for graduation from St. Joseph High School. These requirements ensure a well-rounded education across all disciplines. While the credits meet the standards for high school graduation, students considering specific fields like engineering or nursing should be aware that colleges may have additional prerequisites. Students are encouraged to review their academic plans with their College & School Counselor to align graduation requirements with future goals.

Transfer Students

Transfer students are placed in courses based on St. Joseph High School's curriculum and graduation requirements. Depending on individual circumstances, transfer students may be enrolled in classes with students from different grade levels. Credit requirements for transfer students are assessed and determined on a case-by-case basis as part of the admission process. To earn their diploma, transfer students must meet the following requirements:

- British Literature: 1 credit
- U.S. History: 1 credit
- Civics (.5 credit) or AP US Government & Politics (1 credit)
- Algebra 2 (or equivalent): 1 credit
- Science: 3 credits, including 1 credit in a biological science (Biology or Anatomy) and 1 credit in a physical science (Chemistry or Physics)
- World Language: 2 credits of the same language

Minimum Credit Enrollment

Students must maintain a minimum credit enrollment per academic year to ensure successful completion of requirements.

- Students in Grade 9 and 10 must maintain 7 credits per academic year.
- Students in Grades 11 and 12 must maintain 6 credits per academic year.
- Any variation to this credit requirement must be approved by the Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction.

Overage Credit Enrollment

Juniors and seniors may elect to take a credit overage of 0.5 – 1 credit in place of their study hall. The Registrar will announce which classes are eligible for overage each year. In order to be considered, students must demonstrate high academic achievement, obtain permission from their parent/guardian, and receive a recommendation from their Counselor. All overages are approved by the Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction.

Please Note: taking an overage of credits, though attractive to college admissions, does not allow for early graduation from St. Joseph High School.

Scholar Designation: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Scholars

The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Scholars designation honors students who demonstrate exceptional academic dedication by exceeding the standard graduation requirements. Named after St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, a pioneer in Catholic education, this prestigious recognition is awarded to those who earn additional credits beyond the required 26 for graduation.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Scholars embody a passion for learning, a commitment to intellectual and personal growth, and a deep appreciation for the transformative power of education. These students have maximized the opportunities offered at St. Joseph High School, excelling in Advanced Placement, Early College Experience, and/or elective courses, while embracing the values of faith, service, and community that St. Elizabeth Ann Seton championed.

Recipients of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Scholar designation are celebrated for their ambition, perseverance, and inquiry. This distinction is formally recognized at graduation and noted on their academic transcript as a testament to their outstanding achievement and dedication to academic excellence.

Seal of Biliteracy

St. Joseph High School will award the Seal of Biliteracy to any graduating student that successfully achieves proficiency in both English and a World Language. The Seal of Biliteracy demonstrates a student's dedication to lifelong language learning. The Seal may be awarded to a Senior upon completion of the following requirements:

Spanish: To earn the Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish, students must successfully complete the following:

- Four years of English classes
- Earn a 3 or higher on the AP Spanish Exam or a 1-3 in all four domains of the Spanish AAPPL Test.

Mandarin, Italian, or French: To earn the Seal of Biliteracy in Mandarin, Italian, or French, students must successfully complete the following:

- Four years of English classes
- Earn a 1-3 in all four domains of the AAPPL Language Test in either Mandarin, Italian, or French.

Any student interested in obtaining the Seal of Biliteracy should speak with the World Languages Department Chair.



St. Joseph High School offers a selection of challenging academic levels to meet the needs and goals of all students. Academic placement is determined by the Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction in conjunction with Department Chairs and a student's middle school test scores/grades. Placement also takes into consideration the demonstrated academic ability that meets all course prerequisites and is individualized to highlight student interest as well as academic achievement. **To move to a higher level course a student must earn an average of 90 in the proceeding course.**

Advanced Placement (AP):

- AP courses are College-Level courses taught according to the College Board Advanced Placement program curriculum. AP courses require an exceptional quality of work and requires the approval of the Department Chair and/or Counselor. All students enrolled in an AP course may elect to take the AP exam in May.
- Students in an Advanced Placement-Level course of study are expected to maintain a high level of academic achievement consistent with the rigor of a College-Level course. *Students must maintain an average of 80 to remain in an Advanced Placement course of study.*

College Level (CL):

- CL courses are college-level courses which give students the opportunity to earn college credits. CL courses are offered through University of Connecticut, Sacred Heart University, and the University of Iowa. CL courses require an exceptional quality of work and the approval of the Department Chair and/or Counselor. Students must maintain an average of 80 to remain in a College Level (Dual Enrollment) course of study.

Honors (H):

- Honors courses require superior quality work, successful completion of a challenging workload, and academic achievement. Honors placement requires the approval of the Department Chair and/or Counselor.
- Students who are placed in an Honors course are expected to maintain a high level of academic achievement consistent with the rigor of an Honors placement. Students must maintain an average of 80 to remain in an Honors course of study.

College Prep/College Prep 2 (CP/CP2):

- CP placement require quality work, successful completion of assigned workload, and academic achievement. The majority of students are placed in CP or CP2 courses.
- Students who are placed in college prep have the opportunity to advance to a higher level course (when prerequisites and approvals are met) at the completion of the school year.



COURSE WEIGHTING & HONOR ROLL

COURSE WEIGHTING

Student grades are reported as raw scores on all transcripts and report cards. Students who are enrolled in Advanced Placement, College-Level, or Honors courses receive a multiplier towards their adjusted (weighted) grade point average.

Students must earn a 65 or higher to receive the multiplier. The Registrar's Office updates each student's grade point average upon course completion (0.50 courses in January, 1.0 courses in June, summer courses in August).

The multipliers are as follows:

- | | |
|--|------|
| • Advanced Placement/College-Level(CL) | 1.10 |
| • Honors (H) | 1.07 |
| • College Prep (CP) | 1.00 |
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HONOR ROLL

The following honor roll designations are awarded at the end of each academic quarter:

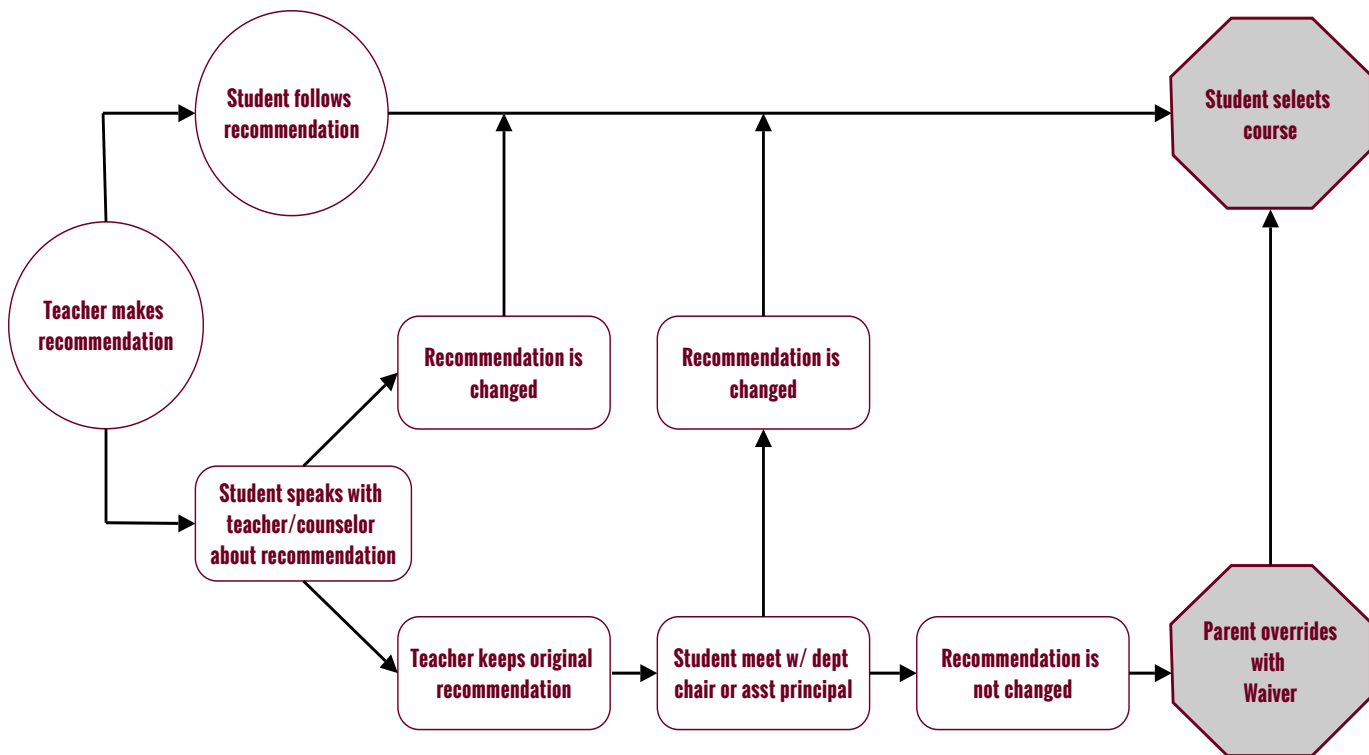
- President's Honor Roll: a weighted quarter average of 95 with no grade less than a 90.
- Principal's Honor Roll: a weighted quarter average of 88 with no grade less than 80.



COURSE RECOMMENDATION & SELECTION PATHWAYS

RECOMMENDATION & SELECTION PROCEDURES

1. Teachers will make course recommendations following the midterm exam period.
2. Recommendations will be available to students and families on January 24, 2025 through the BlackBaud system.
3. If a student agrees with the teacher's recommendation, they should request the recommended course via the parent account in BlackBaud.
4. If a student disagrees with a recommendation, the following process must be followed:
 - » **Step 1: Teacher Consultation**
 - The student appeals directly to their current teacher for reconsideration.
 - If the teacher maintains their recommendation, the student may proceed to Step 2.
 - » **Step 2: Counselor and Department Chair Consultation**
 - The student may consult their College and School Counselor or the Department Chair for further evaluation.
 - If the Counselor and Department Chair uphold the original recommendation, the student may proceed to Step 3.
 - » **Step 3: Assistant Principal of Curriculum**
 - The student may appeal to the Assistant Principal of Curriculum, who will review all documentation and make a final recommendation.
 - If the Assistant Principal maintains the recommendation, the student may proceed to Step 4.
 - » **Step 4: Written Waiver Submission**
 - The student may submit a written waiver, signed by a parent, to override the recommendation and enroll in the desired course.



RECOMMENDATION & SELECTION GUIDELINES:

Current Class Performance

- » Teachers assume that students will pass their current class, even if they are not passing at the time of the recommendation.

Maintaining Level

- » Students must have a minimum 80 average to remain in their current level.

Level Advancement

- » Generally, students achieving a 90 or higher will be recommended for a higher-level course:
 - From CP2 to CP
 - From CP to Honors (H)
 - From H to CL/AP/ECE

Eligibility to Appeal

- » To challenge a recommendation, students must have a minimum 80 average in the current course.

Considerations for Appeals

- » Teachers and Department Chairs may evaluate the following factors when considering appeals:
 - Standardized testing data.
 - College Board's AP Potential™ results.
 - Exigent circumstances beyond the student's control that may have impacted performance.

Parent Waivers

- » If a student overrides a recommendation, a parent-signed waiver is required, acknowledging the recommendation was not followed.



OFF-CAMPUS ACADEMIC AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

I. Senior Internship Program

Seniors are offered the opportunity to enhance their learning by exploring their career interests outside of the traditional classroom. The goal of the program is for students to gain experience in their desired fields and obtain a favorable referral or recommendation from their internship supervisor that will assist in procuring future career opportunities.

Senior internships will be approved on an individual basis. Students who participate in an internship during the Spring Semester of their senior year, should reach out to their College & School Counselor for guidance. Upon completion, students will receive 0.25 credits noted as a pass/fail on their transcript.

The Senior Internship Program does not count towards the required number of credits necessary for graduation from SJHS as this program is considered to be an enrichment opportunity.

II. Independent Study Option

St. Joseph High School offers students the opportunity to earn independent study credit by completing college-level coursework through a community college or university. This option allows students to enrich their academic experience while preparing for the demands of higher education.

Guidelines for Independent Study Credit:

- This option is available exclusively to students in 11th and 12th grades.
- Students who successfully complete a college course will receive 0.50 credits noted as pass/fail on their transcript.
- While the grade earned will not affect the student's overall GPA, the course will strengthen their transcript and enhance their profile for college admissibility.
- Students may pursue one course only under this option during their time at St. Joseph High School.
- The Independent Study Option will be overseen by the Director of College and School Counseling, ensuring alignment with the school's academic standards and support for the student throughout the process.
- Students interested in pursuing independent study credit should consult with their College & School Counselor for additional details and approval.

The Independent Study does not count towards the required number of credits necessary for graduation from SJHS as these classes are considered to be enrichment opportunities.



Curriculum Sequence

This is the typical curriculum sequence for a four-year program of study. As course placement is highly individualized, not all students will adhere this sequence and may see a variation in course planning as a result.

SUBJECT	GRADE 09	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
ENGLISH 4.0 required credits (5.0 if CP2)	World Literature & Composition Academic Writing & Language Skills	American Literature	British Literature Brit/Gothic Literature Brit/Dystopian Literature Shakespeare/Poetry AP English Language & Composition	Sports Lit/Science Fiction Irish Lit/Film & Lit Lit & War/Controversial Lit Creative Writing /Graphic Novel Women in Literature Multicultural Literature AP English Literature & Comp
MATHEMATICS 4.0 required credits	Algebra I Geometry Algebra 2	Geometry Algebra 2 Precalculus	Algebra 2 Precalculus Calculus AP Calculus AB AP Precalculus AP Statistics	Precalculus Calculus Statistics AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Precalculus AP Statistics
SCIENCE 3.0 required credits	Biology	Chemistry	ECE Biology, Chemistry, Modern Chemistry, AP Chemistry, Physics, Advanced Physics, ECE Physics, Sports Medicine, Human Anatomy, AP Environmental Science, Forensic Science	
		Biotechnology I: Medical Microbiology		
				Environmental Science
SOCIAL STUDIES 3.5 required credits	World History	Modern World History AP European History	ECE US History AP US History	Civics AP US Government & Politics
			Intro to Psychology, Intro to Economics, AP Economics, AP Psychology, ECE International Relations , Contemporary Political Philosophy	
		Law & Criminal Justice System		
THEOLOGY 4.0 required credits	Intro to Catholicism / Old Testament	New Testament / Christology	Catholic Social Teaching Morality	Bioethics Faith & Reason Intro to World Religions Peer Ministry Prayer/Spirituality Vocations World Religions



Curriculum Sequence

SUBJECT	GRADE 09	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
WORLD LANGUAGE 2.0 required credits (3.0 college recommending)	Mandarin 1, 2, 3, 4 French 1, 2 Spanish 1, 2 Italian 1, 2	Mandarin 1, 2, 3, 4 French 1, 2, 3, 4 Spanish 1, 2, 3 Italian 1, 2, 3	Mandarin 1, 2, 3, 4 French 1, 2, 3, 4 Spanish 1, 2, 3, 4, AP Italian 1, 2, 3, 4	Mandarin 1, 2, 3, 4 French 1, 2, 3, 4, AP Spanish 1, 2, 3, 4, AP Italian 1, 2, 3, 4
BUSINESS*		International Business, Graphic Design, Principles of Business, Sport Management, Fashion Business	Accounting, Marketing	Entrepreneurship, Financial Lit
FINE ARTS*	Instrumental Music Concert Choir Percussion Ensemble Fundamentals of Art	Sculpture & 3D Design, Instrumental Music, Percussion Ensemble, Advanced Percussion Ensemble, Concert Choir, Advanced Instrumental Ensemble, Advanced Chamber Choir, Fundamentals of Theatre, Art of Acting, Graphic Design, Intro to Fashion Business		
			Studio Art, Music Theory	
			AP Art & Design	
TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION	Engineering Design Lab	Robotics & Automated Systems - Build & App Development, Innovative Project Design, Topics in Computing Applications, AI, and Ethics, Software Design & Integration, Aviation & Flight Science, Cybersecurity, Tech Project		
			Technology & Innovation Capstone Project	

St. Joseph High School is committed to offering a dynamic curriculum that aligns with our students' future needs and career interests. As part of this commitment, new course opportunities may arise after the publication of this Program of Studies. Should this occur, the Program of Studies will be updated accordingly, and all students will be notified of these new offerings to ensure they can make informed decisions about their academic pathways.

*Required credits for Business, Fine Arts, and Technology & Innovation vary based on student selection.



BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

The Business Department at St. Joseph High School equips students with practical knowledge and skills in areas such as marketing, finance, management, accounting, and entrepreneurship. Through diverse course offerings like Introduction to Fashion Business, Sport Management, Financial Literacy, and Exploring Entrepreneurship, students gain real-world insights into various industries. Courses such as Graphic Design and International Business provide additional opportunities to explore creative and global perspectives in business. The curriculum emphasizes critical thinking, problem-solving, and innovation, preparing students for success in both academic and professional settings.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- All Business courses are worth half a credit.
- Courses within the business department are all electives.

10th GRADE <i>Electives</i>	11th GRADE <i>Electives</i>	12th GRADE <i>Electives</i>
	International Business .5 credits (CP)	
	Graphic Design .5 credits (CP)	
	Principles of Business .5 credits (CP)	
	Sports Management .5 credits (CP)	
	Introduction to Fashion Business (.5 credits (CP))	
	Introduction to Marketing .5 credits (CP)	
	Accounting .5 credits (CP)	
		Financial Literacy .5 credits (CP)
		Exploring Entrepreneurship .5 credits (CL)

Accounting (CP)

BUS – ACC 410 (Grades 11, 12)

0.50 Credit

This course focuses on the basic principles of accounting, including the accounting cycle as it applies to a sole proprietorship, by teaching the principles of accounting and the financial operations of a business. Emphasis is placed on the accounting cycle including the recording process, determining income, analyzing, and communicating financial information. * Note: Senior students may choose to take Financial Literacy and Accounting in order to fulfill their required senior-year math credit.

Financial Literacy (CP)

BUS – FIN LIT 410 (Grade 12)

0.50 Credit

This course emphasizes the knowledge and skills required to handle personal finances. Topics include budget analysis, banking, insurance, credit, taxes, real estate, and investments. Students work with the online simulation that incorporates real-world money management skills including paying bills, managing expenses, saving money, and investing in retirement. Students learn the fundamentals of managing financial resources to achieve financial wellbeing. * Note: Senior students may choose to take Financial Literacy and Accounting in order to fulfill their required senior-year math credit.

Introduction to Marketing (CP)

BUS – MKTG 310 (Grades 11, 12)

0.50 Credit

This course studies the scope and significance of marketing in the American business world with an emphasis on marketing consumer goods. Topics include the development of the marketing mix, marketing-information management, product/service management, and sales.

Introduction to Graphic Design (CP)

BUS – GRPH DSGN 310 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

0.50 Credit

This course is for students who want to learn graphic design using Adobe Creative Suite software and Canva. While exploring visual aesthetics, such as the elements and principles of design, students will practice retouching, digital collaging, and design through individual projects. * This course satisfies both a Business and Fine Arts credit.



Exploring Entrepreneurship (CL)

Fall Semester Only

BUS – ENTREPR 500 (Grade 12)

0.50 Credit

Develop the “entrepreneurial mindset” by encouraging creativity, innovation, critical thinking, and problem-solving. Through a research-driven approach, as well as strategic collaborations, students explore an entrepreneurial culture which enhances economic development. This course will include idea generation, market research, marketing, feasibility and risk assessment, customer service and financial projections. Prerequisites: 85 overall average and approval from the department chair.

International Business (CP)

BUS – INTL BUS 310 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

0.50 credit

This course exposes students to the unique challenges facing international firms and to the potential opportunities and markets that are lost to firms that choose not to operate in the global market. International Business broadens student understanding of how businesses operate, grow, and thrive in the ever-changing world.

Principles of Business (CP)

BUS – BUS PRINC 310 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

0.50 Credit

A broad-based introductory course designed to give the student exploratory experiences as they relate to the world of business. Students will explore all aspects of business through problem solving, social responsibility, critical thinking, and the development of projects and activities.

Introduction to Sport Management (CP)

BUS – SPORT MANAG 210 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

0.50 Credit

This course explores the sport industry and introduces classic business and management concepts as they apply in this setting. Students are exposed to planning, organizing, leading, and controlling strategies and skills with special emphasis on how they are applied in an organization operating within the demanding context of modern sports industry. Focuses include managing sporting events, sport marketing, sport in society and sport law.

Introduction to Fashion Business (CP)

FI – FAS 210 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

0.50 Credit

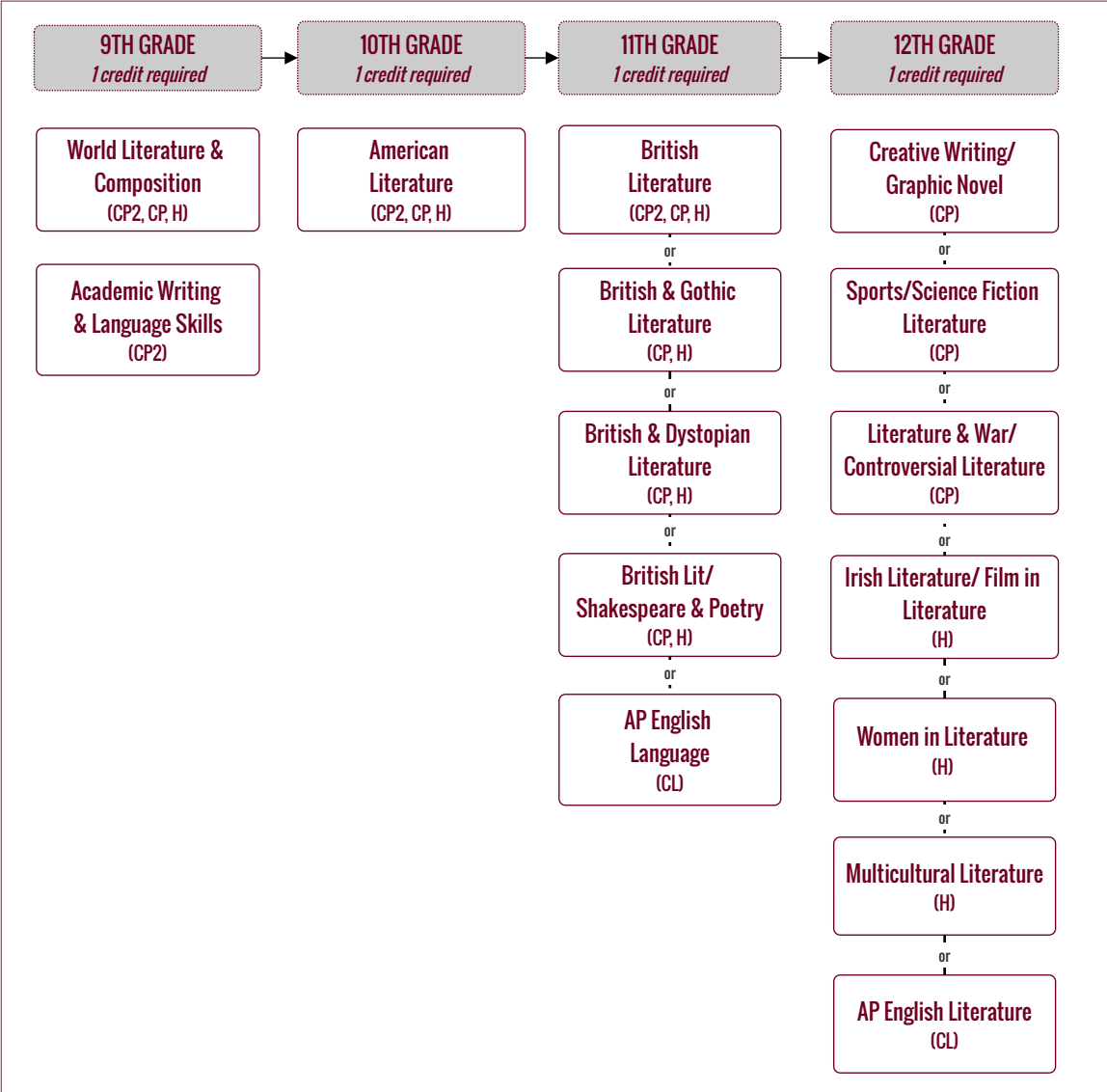
This class will give a birds' eye view of the various aspects of the fashion industry. It will include all phases from concepts, design, manufacturing, production, outsourcing, marketing, advertising, merchandising, and distribution to various retail establishments. **This course satisfies both a Business and Fine Arts credit.*



The English Department presents students with a challenging curriculum that focuses on reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. The curriculum provides a four-year literature-based program that develops excellence in writing and speaking skills, critical analysis of challenging literature and original texts, as well as the growth of vocabulary and grammar skills. 21st century technology promotes media literacy and develops students who are prepared to meet their future academic and career goals in an ever-changing technological world.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Unless otherwise noted, each course is worth one credit.
- Students are required to take one full credit of English per year.



Freshmen English - World Literature & Composition (CP, CP2, H)

ENG WL & C 110, 101, 150 (Grade 9)

1.0 Credit

This literature, project, and activity-based course introduces students to the rich complexity of World Literature and varied literary genres such as poetry, novels, drama, the epic, and the short story, focusing on the basics in reading, oral, and written communication. Novels include, but are not limited to canonical texts, such as *Animal Farm*, and more contemporary texts, such as *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*. Students study grammar and vocabulary and apply this knowledge in developing skills in process analysis, compare and contrast, descriptive essays, and oral presentations.

Academic Writing and Language Skills (CP2)

ENG – AW 101 (Grade 9)

1.0 Credit

This course offers fundamentals in grammar and writing that complements and is offered in conjunction with Freshmen English CP2. Designed for students who need strengthening in grammar, vocabulary, and study skills, the class also focuses on in-class reading assignments and writing prompts. *Students enrolled in this course do not take a world language during their freshman year.*

Sophomore English - American Literature (CP, CP2, H)

ENG – AMER LIT 210, 201, 250 (Grade 10)

1.0 Credit

This course explores, but is not limited to the unique heritage of American Literature, taking students on a journey through the literary genres and stylistic movements from the 1600's to present day that make up the rich and varied American literary canon, from *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* to modern texts, such as *The Secret Life of Bees*. Through an examination of major writers, students continue to develop reading comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, literary interpretation, and critical thinking skills. Students continue to develop their writing skills with narrative essays, definition, and literary analysis essays, as well as oral presentations.

Junior English - British Literature (CP, CP2, H)

ENG – BRIT LIT 310, 301, 350 (Grade 11)

1.0 Credit

This course offers an introduction to the major literary movements and writers of Europe - Great Britain in particular - beginning in the Anglo-Saxon period followed by Medieval, Renaissance, Elizabethan, Restoration, and Modern 20th Century eras. Through an examination of major writers, students continue to develop reading comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, literary interpretation, and critical thinking skills. Students are expected to apply this knowledge in analytical, expository, creative, division, classification, synthesis, and research writing as well as in oral presentations.

Junior English – British/Gothic Literature (CP, H)

ENG – BRIT/GOTH LIT 311, 351 (Grade 11)

1.0 Credit

This course will include the reading, discussion, and research of Gothic Literature; primarily that of 19th Century American, Romantic, and Victorian era British authors. It will include conventions of the genre and examinations of the social and historical issues writers used to expose and critique. Authors will include Washington Irving, Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edith Wharton, Robert Browning, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and Mary Shelley. Analyses will focus on issues of race, gender, class, and religion, and will examine themes dealing with imagination, marginalization, and social justice.

Junior English – British/Dystopian Literature (CP, H)

ENG – BRIT/DYST LIT 312, 352 (Grade 11)

1.0 Credit

This course will include the reading, discussion, and research of dystopian literature, including the work of George Orwell, Aldous Huxley, Margaret Atwood, and others. Students will explore the social and political choices individuals and societies make that create nightmarish scenarios and examine the ways fictional and real societies dehumanize people. It will include small and large group discussion, analysis and synthesis, formal literary writing, and oral presentations.

Junior English – British Shakespeare/Poetry (CP, H)

ENG - BRIT/SHAKE LIT (Grade 11)

1.0 Credit

This course will include the reading, discussion, and research of the work of William Shakespeare and various other poets. Students will become familiar with several major plays and investigate their historical significance, as well as their continued relevance and thematic universality. Students will explore the poem as a form of art and become familiar with various forms of poetry from different periods, learning various methods of reading poetry and analysis of poets and poems.



AP English Language and Composition (CL)

ENG - ENG L&C 380 (Grade 11)

1.0 credit

AP English Language and Composition mirrors a college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum. The focus is on evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays. Students will be required to evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Students also read and analyze rhetorical elements in non-fiction texts from a cross section of time periods. Students will have the option to take the AP exam which will be administered in May. Pre-course summer assignments are required.



AP English Literature and Composition (CL)

ENG - ENG LIT 480 (Grade 12)

1.0 Credit

AP English Literature and Composition mirrors an introductory college-level literary analysis course. This course focuses on close reading and critical analysis of works of literary merit from the 17th century to modern day, including units on short fiction, poetry, and long fiction, and drama. Students learn to dissect a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. Students will have the option to take the AP exam which will be administered in May. Pre-course summer assignments are required.

Senior English: Creative Writing / Graphic Novel (CP)

ENG - SEN ENG CW/GN 411 (Grade 12)

1.0 Credit

During the first semester students will study graphic narrative: the combination of images and text to convey meaning. This storytelling medium will be explored for its cultural significance, the influence of digital technology on the design, distribution and consumption of graphic novels, and the thematic links that speak to issues of cultural memory, nostalgia, and identity. During the second semester, students learn the elements of creative writing, including short story, poetry, expository essay, and character study through weekly writing assignments, peer editing, and story conferencing.

Senior English: Sports Literature and Writing/Science Fiction Literature (CP)

ENG - SEN ENG SPRT & SCI FI LIT 414 (Grade 12)

1.0 Credit

The first half of the courses examines the unique relationship between sports and society through literature by contemporary authors, columnists, and other media. The course affords students the opportunity to examine the historical influence sports has on society and the impact it plays on developing character through universal themes regarding struggle, conflict, victory, and defeat. The second half of this course includes a selection of genres within science fiction literature, including apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic, dying earth, military, time travel, space colonization, and social science fiction. Students explore differences between science fiction and other fantastical works, identify and analyze techniques used to convey imaginary places, beings and ideas, and discuss/compare the evolution of science fiction from its original models to more modern works.

Senior English: Literature and War/Controversial Literature (CP)

ENG - SEN ENG WAR & CONTRO LIT 416 (Grade 12)

1.0 Credit

The first half of this course investigates the issue of literary censorship from multiple perspectives and requires historical, social, and psychological understanding. Students will investigate the reasons why various works of literature have been banned and learn to argue in defense of and against the varied works. The second half of the course examines the intricate and powerful effect war has on its citizens. Students will analyze both fiction and nonfiction prose and poetry that provide insight to the psyche and emotions of war-torn people. Both semesters explore the psychological, emotional, and historical effects of tragedy and subjects such as beauty amid violence, loss, fear and horror, dehumanization, and identity through a compilation of stories, poems, and novels.

Senior English: Women in Literature (H)

ENG - SEN ENG WMN LIT 453 (Grade 12)

1.0 Credit

Historically, women have been marginalized in terms of human and political rights. This course begins with a consideration of the historical events for this marginalization and the literature and art of women in response to it. This course introduces students to female authors of fiction, non-fiction, poetry and critical theory from around the world. The course objectives are to analyze works of literature studied written by women from the late 18th century through the 21st century; examine various literary techniques that women writers use in constructing their texts, and demonstrate an understanding of these techniques. Students will demonstrate, through discussion and writing, an understanding of the tradition of women's literature as an integral part of literary history and society by examining history, culture, language and the woman's experience as represented in literature. They will employ a variety of analytical techniques to respond to the works of the course through questioning, analyzing, interpreting and sharing responses during discussions and in writing. Use critical reading skills to gain a greater understanding of women's literary tradition.

Senior English: Multicultural Literature (H)

ENG - SEN ENG MULTICULT LIT 454 (Grade 12)

1.0 Credit

This course provides an introduction to the academic study of the multicultural genre through poetry, fiction, non-fiction, plays, and music to gain an understanding of the historical and social development of writers of different ethnic, cultural, and racial backgrounds. The course objectives are to examine literary contributions from many cultural groups. Students will read a variety of short fiction and essays and will study the importance of these themes to different groups in society.

Senior English: Irish Literature/Film and Literature (H)

ENG - SEN ENG IRISH 451 (Grade 12)

1.0 Credit

The first semester offers a broad introduction to the study of Irish literature, history, and culture. Students will gain a grounding in Irish storytelling since the early Christian period (including music and song), the history of the conquest of Ireland and Irish independence movements, the role of the Irish language in culture, the famine and its social and political aftermath, the history of religious difference, the relationship between Britain and Ireland, the work of major literary figures such as Swift, Joyce, Yeats, Beckett, and Heaney, contemporary Ireland, and the Irish economy. The second semester is a comparative study of films and the literary sources upon which they are based. Special attention is given to the practical and theoretical problems of adapting literature to film and the basic differences between the two. The course explores how character development, plot, narrative, symbols, and language are translated from literary texts to film, and considers the limitations of film adaptation. Students read, analyze, and respond critically to literature and films in class discussions, examinations, and essays.

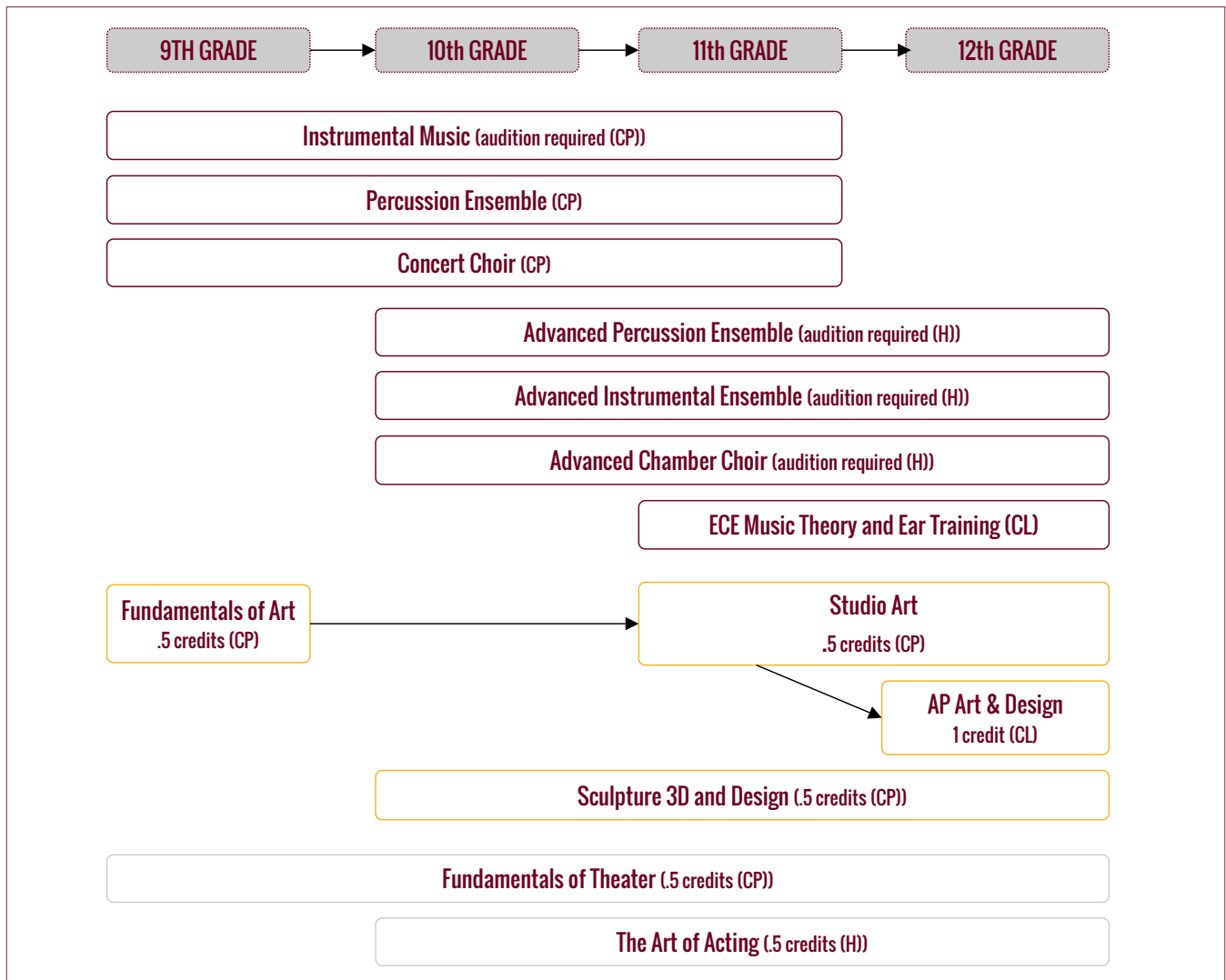


FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

St. Joseph High School believes that every student is entitled to a well-rounded education that includes exposure to the arts, including courses in art, music, and theater. A foundation in the arts develops cognitive, analytical, problem solving, and task completion skills. Fine Arts allow students to develop self-expression through visual, aural, and performance mediums. Upon completion, students will possess a basic understanding and appreciation of the arts in their world and how the arts relate to historical, societal, and cultural awareness.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Unless otherwise noted, each course is worth one credit.
- Students are required to take one half credit of Fine Arts to fulfill graduation requirements.
- There are additional Fine Arts electives within other departments that may fulfill this requirement.



VISUAL AND STUDIO ART

Fundamentals of Art (CP)

FI- ART FUND 210 (Grade 9)

0.50 Credit

This course provides a general overview of the visual arts with an emphasis on design, historical significance, and artistic intent. Students work with two and three-dimensional mediums creating realistic and abstract works including pencil, pastel, marker, and paint. The hands-on work combines with text, multimedia presentations, and class discussions to help students gain an understanding of the societal importance of art.

Sculpture & 3D Design (CP)

FI – SCULP 210 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

0.50 Credit

Students begin an exploration of the structural elements of art used when creating 3-D forms. Additive and subtractive processes are used to manipulate and construct sculptural or ceramic forms in media that may include but are not limited to clay, wood, wire, plaster, found objects, and paper maché.

Studio Art (CP)

FI – SA 310 (Grades 11, 12)

0.50 Credit

This course provides the opportunity for students who have demonstrated talent and interest in art to expand on the drawing and painting concepts introduced in Fundamentals of Art. Emphasis will be placed on more advanced experiences with design principles, drawing, and painting techniques. Coursework is designed to build mastery in technique, composition, design, and creative problem solving. Students will also experiment with various computer art programs such as procreate and sketchbook. Outside work will be required and an active journal/sketchbook is a critical course requirement. *Prerequisite: The completion of the Fundamentals of Art and Portfolio review prior to 2025-26 school year. Students are also encouraged to complete Sculpture prior to taking this course.*



AP Art & Design (CL)

FI – ART 500 (Grade 12)

1.0 Credit

Students work at an advanced level using techniques used to create a variety of 2-D artworks through developing skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage. Students manipulate the structural elements of art to promote creative risk-taking in 2-D artwork. Student artists use art criticism to evaluate, explain, and measure artistic growth. *Prerequisite: Portfolio review by the AP Instructor prior to 2025-26 school year.*

MUSIC

Instrumental Music (CP)

FI – INS MUS 110 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

Instrumental Music - which includes brass, strings, percussion, and woodwinds - provides students the opportunity to develop their musical potential with an emphasis on fulfilling musical objectives. Students engage in activities designed to give them a thorough grounding in instrumental playing and musical literacy, instrumental technique, performance practice and sight-reading. The ensemble performs at St. Joseph High School events. Instrumental Music class requires attendance at all after-school rehearsals and performances. *Prerequisite: Students must have prior instrumental experience and an understanding of sheet music. An audition before the start of the 2025-26 school year required.*

Percussion Ensemble (CP)

FI – PERCUSS 110 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

Percussion Ensemble is for students with prior knowledge of snare drum, keyboard fundamentals, and drum set and builds upon prior knowledge of the “family” of percussion instruments and treats it as its own ensemble. Students in this course will participate throughout the year, performing in Steel Pan Band, Contemporary Percussion Ensemble, and with school bands and choirs as needed. Additionally, students will work through a comprehensive series of textbooks specific to percussionists. Members of the class are highly encouraged to prepare an audition to participate in the Connecticut Western Regional Band, Orchestra, or Jazz Band. *A brief meeting with the music teacher prior to the 2025-26 year to assess knowledge and skill is required.*

Concert Choir (CP)

FI – CHOIR 110 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

Concert Choir is for the student with a love of singing: no previous vocal training required. Students work on sacred and secular choral literature while studying music notation, sight singing, music vocabulary, and vocal technique. In addition to ensemble rehearsal, students receive bi-weekly small group lessons for instruction designed to address individual student needs. The ensemble performs at St. Joseph High School events. Concert Choir requires attendance at all after-school rehearsals and performances.

Advanced Percussion Ensemble (H)

FI - ADV PERCUSS 350 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

Advanced Percussion Ensemble builds on the concepts of Percussion Ensemble while challenging students to further their musicianship skills through intensive technique building. Students will prepare for outside auditions (Regional, All State Ensembles and College) and develop an advanced repertoire. This ensemble performs at St. Joseph High School events. Advanced Percussion Ensemble requires attendance at all after-school rehearsals and performances. *Prerequisite: An audition in the spring semester. Admittance based on content knowledge.*

Advanced Instrumental Ensemble (H)

FI – ADV INS MUS 350 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

Advanced Instrumental Ensemble builds on the concepts of Instrumental Ensemble while challenging students to further their musicianship skills through intensive technique building. Students will prepare for outside auditions (Regional, All State Ensembles, and College) and develop an advanced repertoire. The ensemble performs at St. Joseph High School events. Advanced Instrumental Ensemble requires attendance at all after-school rehearsals and performances. *Prerequisite: An audition in spring semester. Admittance is based on audition scores and ensemble needs.*

Advanced Chamber Choir (H)

FI – ADV CHAMB 350 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

The Chamber Choir builds on the concepts of Concert Choir while challenging students to further their musicianship skills through intensive technique building. Students will prepare for outside auditions (Regionals, All State Ensembles, and College) and develop an advanced repertoire. Advanced Chamber Choir requires attendance at all after-school rehearsals and performances. *Prerequisite: An audition in spring semester. Admittance based on audition scores and ensemble needs.*



ECE Music Theory and Ear Training

FI - MUSI 1011/1012 (Grades 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This full-year (two-semester) course provides an in-depth exploration of the essential concepts that shape a skilled musician. It focuses on Music Theory, which examines the principles and processes behind musical composition, and Ear Training, which develops the ability to critically listen to, analyze, and interpret melodies, rhythms, and complete compositions. Students who successfully complete both semesters of the course will earn 6 college credits, offering both an academic advantage and a deeper understanding of the art and science of music. *Prerequisites: This course is open to juniors and seniors who have completed at least one year of a high school music course where they earned at least a 90 average. Additionally, they must have approval from the music teacher. Ongoing participation in their chosen Music Performance class (Advanced Chamber Choir or Advanced Percussion Ensemble or Advanced Instrumental Ensemble) is also required.*

THEATER

Fundamentals of Theater (CP)

FI – THEATER 210 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

0.50 Credit

Fundamentals of Theater focuses on public speaking, scene studies, improvisation, set design, costume design and performance techniques, as well as exploring how theater has shaped societies since ancient times. Students will learn basic stage combat, backstage skills, as well as directing, improvisation, and acting.

The Art of Acting (H)

FI – ACT 350 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

0.50 Credit

This course provides an in-depth study of the various skills an actor needs in order to be successful; including an awareness and appreciation of acting both as a participant and an observer. Emphasis is placed upon ensemble and scene work, as well as improvisation. Students study texts for clues to character behavior and motivation and are assigned classical and contemporary theater works. Students perform monologues, two-person scenes, improvised 20 scenarios, as well as learning how to audition for a college or professional environment.

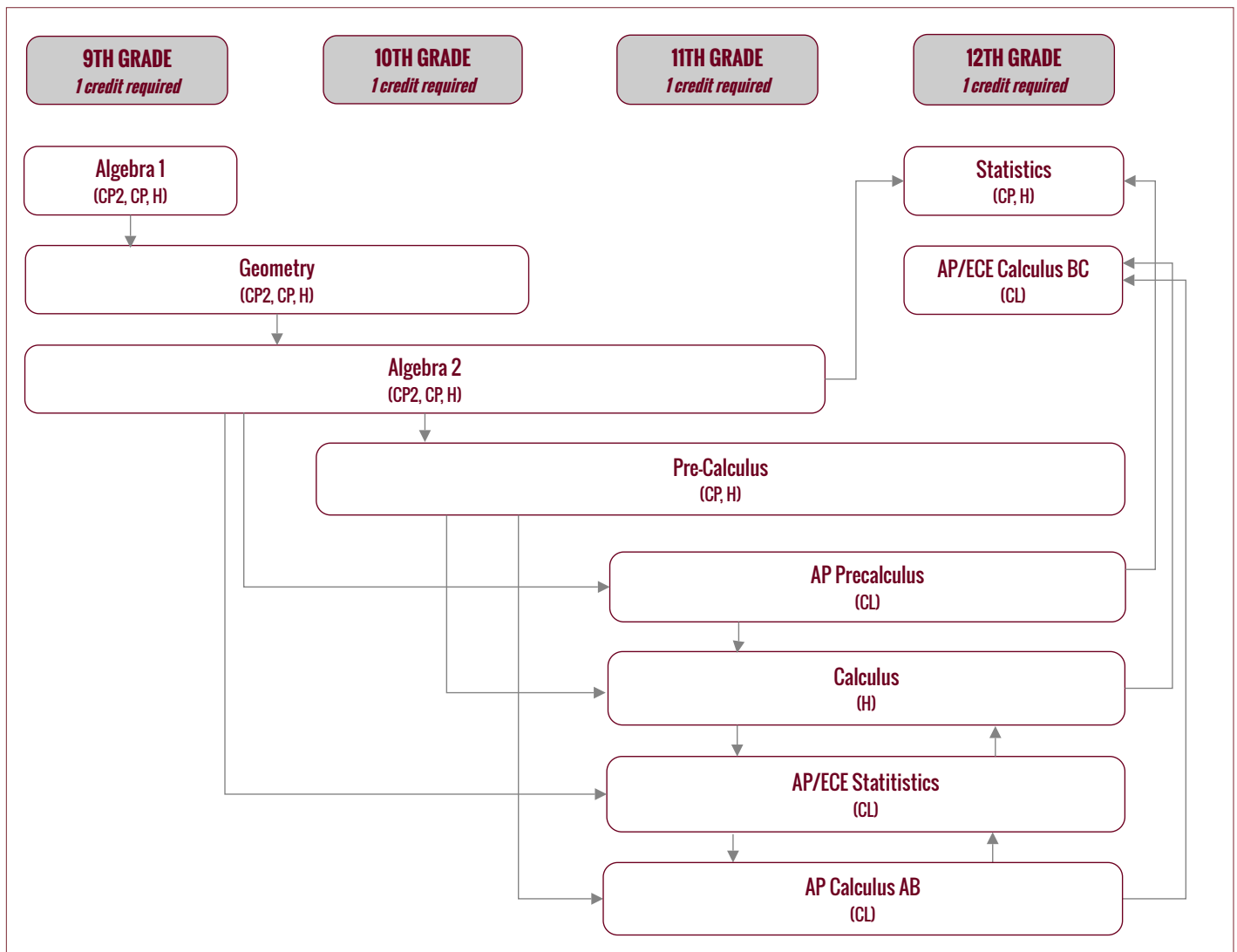


MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

The Mathematics Department strives to offer a learning environment that fosters analytical thinking, logical reasoning, and problem-solving skills. The department and its faculty strive to inspire in each student an appreciation of mathematics and its practical real-world applications. The students enrolled in all Mathematics classes need access to a graphing calculator daily.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Unless otherwise noted, each course is worth one credit.
- Students are required to take one full credit of Mathematics per year.
- Students are required to take a Mathematics exam prior to 9th grade to ensure accurate course placement.



Algebra 1 (H, CP, CP2)

MATH – ALG1 150, 110, 101 (Grade 9)

1.0 Credit

A foundation course for math; topics include solving equations and inequalities, functions, exponents, polynomials, quadratics, and systems of equations. The theory and use of functions will be introduced. A correlation between arithmetic, and algebraic principles and the vocabulary of algebra is stressed.

Geometry (H, CP, CP2)

MATH – GEOM 250, 210, 201 (Grades 9, 10)

1.0 Credit

Two and three-dimensional geometric figures are explored through the use of definitions, postulates, and theorems. Inductive and deductive reasoning are developed in the formulation of proofs and through group activities. Euclidean, coordinate, and spatial geometry is covered. *Prerequisite: Algebra 1.*

Algebra 2 (H, CP, CP2)

MATH – ALG2 350, 310, 301 (Grades 9, 10, 11)

1.0 Credit

Students are introduced to the transcendental functions (exponential, trigonometric, and logarithmic). Matrices, algebraic fractions, functions, introduction to sequences, series and conic functions, and their graphs will complete the year. *Prerequisite: Geometry.*

Pre-Calculus (H, CP)

MATH – PRECALC 350, 310 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This course covers circular, algebraic, exponential, and logarithmic functions as well as trigonometry and its applications, analytic geometry, sequences, and series and vectors. *Prerequisites: Algebra 2.*



AP Pre-Calculus (CL)

MATH – PRECALC 380 (Grades 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

AP Precalculus provides students with an understanding of the concepts of college algebra, trigonometry, and additional topics that prepare students for further college level mathematics courses. This course explores a variety of function types and their applications—polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric, polar, parametric, vector-valued, implicitly defined, and linear transformation functions using matrices. The mathematical practices of procedural and symbolic fluency, multiple representations, and communication and reasoning are developed. Students experience the concepts and skills related to each function type through the lenses of modeling and covariation and engage each function type through their graphical, numerical, analytical, and verbal representations. This course centers on functions modeling dynamic phenomena. This research-based exploration of functions is designed to better prepare students for college-level calculus and provide grounding for other mathematics and science courses. Students study a broad spectrum of function types that are foundational for careers in mathematics, physics, biology, health science, business, social science, and data science. *AP Prerequisite: Algebra 2*



AP/ECE Statistics (CL)

MATH – STAT 500/STAT 1100Q (Grade 12; Grade 11 with approval from the Math Department Chair)

1.0 Credit

AP Statistics is a class for any students who wants to learn how to make sense of the world around them through the use of authentic data. A standard approach to statistical analysis primarily for students of business and economics; elementary probability, sampling distributions, normal theory estimation and

hypothesis testing, regression and correlation, exploratory data analysis. Learning to do statistical analysis on a personal computer is an integral part of the course. This is a college level course and follows the standard syllabus prescribed by the College Board. Students will have the option to take the AP exam which will be administered in May. This course is also a dual-enrollment course with the UCONN. *Prerequisite: Algebra 2.*



AP Calculus, AB (CL)

MATH – CALC AB 480 (Grades 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

The first semester emphasizes a thorough study of derivatives. Students become proficient in both explicit and implicit derivatives of polynomials, rational trigonometric, logarithmic and exponential functions. Derivative applications are studied through motion, curve fitting, extrema, and related rates. The second semester stresses the study of the integral. Applications are stressed through the investigation of volumes, length of curves, volumes of solids of revolution and surface area. This is a college level course and follows the standard syllabus prescribed by the College Board. Students will have the option to take the AP exam which will be administered in May. *Prerequisite: Precalculus.*



AP/ECE Calculus, BC (CL)

MATH – CALC BC 500/MA1131Q MA1132Q (Grade 12)

1.0 Credit

This covers all of the topics from Calculus AB as well as Taylor and Maclaurin series, advanced methods of integration, polar coordinates, and equations as well as parametric equations. This is a college level course and follows the standard syllabus prescribed by the College Board. Students will have the option to take the AP exam which will be administered in May. This course is also a dual-enrollment with UCONN. *Prerequisite: Calculus AB or Calculus (H).*

Calculus (H)

MATH CALC 450 (Grades 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

Calculus topics begin with study of limits. The derivative is introduced through the study of the tangent line problem and the limit definition of the derivative is developed. Students become proficient at both explicit and implicit derivatives of polynomial, rational, trigonometric, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Derivative applications are studied through motion, curve fitting, extrema, and related rates. The course continues with anti-differentiation and its applications. *Prerequisite: Precalculus.*

Statistics (H, CP)

MATH – STAT 450, 410 (Grade 12)

1.0 Credit

Statistics is the science of collecting and analyzing data. This course covers descriptive statistics, axiomatic probability, probability distributions (including the normal binomial), inferential statistics (confidence intervals and hypothesis tests), and curve fitting. *Prerequisite: Algebra 2.*

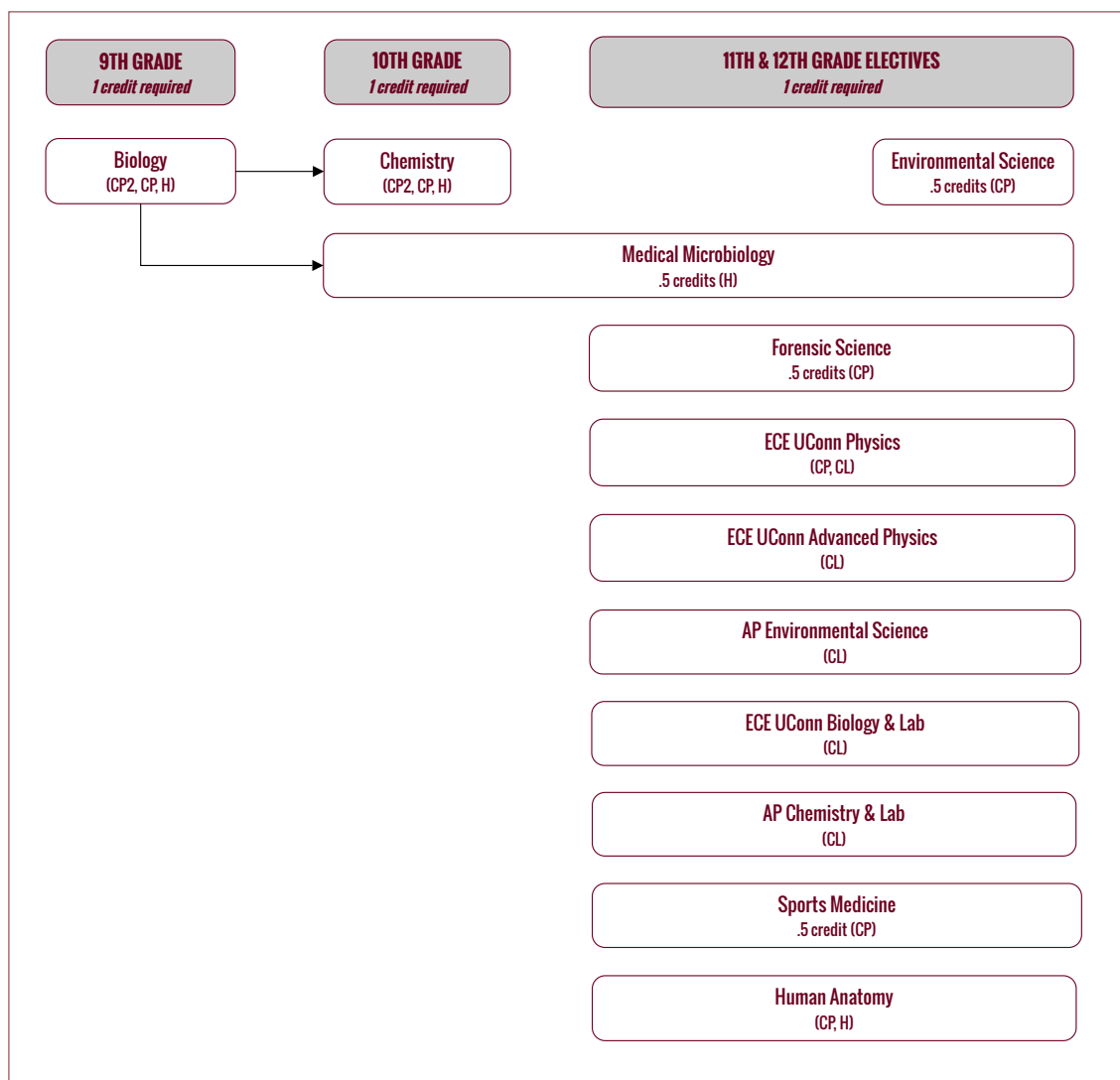


SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

The Science Department prepares students for life in a technologically advancing society. Students are taught the importance of science in everyday life as well as an understanding and appreciation of the laws of nature and the universe. Science is a process of inquiry rather than a collection of facts. Through laboratory work, students are taught how to ask the right questions about nature and learn how the sciences interconnect. Students will prepare to understand the mysteries of the planet, the ecosystems, the various species populating Earth, and themselves as human beings.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Unless otherwise noted, each course is worth one credit.
- Students are required to take 3 credits of Science over the course of four years.



Biology (H, CP, CP2)

SCI – BIO 150, 110, 101 (Grades 9, 10)

1.0 Credit

Biology is the study of life and students will be introduced to major topics found within this field of science, such as biochemistry, cellular biology, Mendelian and molecular genetics, evolution, and ecology. The laboratory component brings hands-on experience to the students.

Elements of Chemistry (CP, CP2)

SCI – CHEM 210, 201 (Grades 10)

1.0 Credit

This course deals with Chemistry and Atomic Theory from a practical point of view. Some topics include fire and the energy it exhibits, maple syrup and Gatorade as solutions you often use, acids and bases in the household, in your body, and in pools. This course is designed as an investigative, hands on, and activity-based journey into chemistry, including lectures and laboratory work. *Prerequisite: Biology.*

Modern Chemistry (H)

SCI – CHEM 250 (Grades 10)

1.0 Credit

This course provides an essential Chemistry background for all AP Sciences. Chemistry is the study of matter and its relationship with energy. Topics include atomic structure, quantum mechanics, periodic trends, bonding, molecular geometry, the behavior of solids, liquids and gases on the molecular level, quantitative and qualitative aspects of chemical reactions, thermochemistry, solutions, acids and bases, and gas laws. *Prerequisites: An 80 overall average in Honors Biology.*

Physics (CP)

SCI – PHYS 410 (Grades 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This course introduces students to the fundamental principles of physics and shows how physics is applied to practical solutions. The course encourages comprehension of physics and scientific communication skills without the use of complex mathematics. The basic rules of the universe: force, motion, energy, light, sound, heat and the interior of the atom are covered through discussion and activity. *Prerequisites: Chemistry.*



ECE Physics (CL)

SCI – PHYS 480/UCONN 1201Q (Grades 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

Honors Physics is the equivalent of a first-semester college course in algebra-based physics, designed to be taught over a full academic year. The course covers kinematics, Newton's Laws of Motion, momentum, work, energy, and power; circular motion and rotation, oscillations, mechanical waves, fluids, and thermal physics. Students will develop the skills and intuition to solve college-level physics problems while applying their deep conceptual understanding of the content through inquiry labs. *Prerequisite: Chemistry.*



AP Environmental Science (CL)

SCI – ENV SCI (Grades 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This course investigates how humankind can become a better steward of the Earth and its resources. The course covers biodiversity, agriculture, water and air pollution, climate change, and fossil fuels versus renewable energy sources. Laboratory experiments and fieldwork are required. Students will have the option to take the AP exam which will be administered in May. *Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry, and approval from the department chair.*



ECE Biology and Lab (CL)

SCI – BIO 500/UCONN BIO 1107/1108 (Grades 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

ECE Biology 1107 is the first of a two-semester course that will introduce students to the foundational college concepts of biological system structure and function at the different hierarchical levels of living organisms. Topics will be explored from a microscopic perspective with molecular and physiological approaches as tools to help students understand how actions at the cellular level can be seen all the way up to the organismal level. Concepts will be studied through the weaving of high interest labs, engaging lectures, and analysis of real-world data in case studies. This course will offer engaging lab investigations and development and use of novel statistical analyses in the creation of scientific reports. Students who earn 75% or better in the course will earn UCONN credit for their effort.

ECE Biology 1108 is the second of a two-semester course that will introduce students to the foundational concepts of population, community, and ecosystem structure and function. Students will trace the evolution of life on Earth and define the processes of evolution that lead to the diversity of life. There will be a greater emphasis on simulations in evolution and data rich modeling work for populations. The Wetlands and Boardwalk will prove invaluable in the learning of ecosystem processes, while field monitoring techniques will help students to develop extensive data sets from which to expand upon in scientific reporting. *Prerequisites: Chemistry*



AP Chemistry and Lab (CL)

SCI – CHEM 480 (Grades 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This course expands on topics from Modern Chemistry and covers nuclear chemistry, electrochemistry, rates of reactions, thermodynamics and the involvement of chemistry in environmental and societal issues. Extensive laboratory work is required, including calculating and interpreting results based on quantitative data. Students will have the option to take the AP exam which will be administered in May. *Prerequisites: Honors Chemistry*



ECE Advanced Physics (CL)

SCI – PHYS 500/UCONN 1401Q (Grades 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

Advanced Physics is the equivalent of a first-semester college course in calculus-based physics, including a laboratory component, designed to be taught over a full academic year. The course covers kinematics; Newton's laws of motion; work, energy, and power; systems of particles and linear momentum; circular motion and rotation; oscillations; and gravitation. *Prerequisites: Physics (CL), completion of, or concurrent enrollment in Calculus.*

Sports Medicine (CP)

SCI – SPORT MED 310 (Grades 11, 12)

.50 Credit

Designed for students interested in the medical/health fields, students learn medical terminology, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation of sports injuries, emergency procedures, and basic first-aid. Practical skills include wrapping, basic first-aid and emergency procedures. Students have the opportunity to assist with the development and application of rehabilitation of St. Joseph High School athletes.

Human and Comparative Anatomy and Physiology (H)

SCI - A&P 450 (Grades 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This course, designed for students interested in medicine/health, provides detailed coverage of the structure and functions of the human body, including the injuries and diseases that affect each organ system. Emphasis is placed on the human body, but comparisons are made to other vertebrates. Major dissections are an essential part of the course. *Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry.*

Human Anatomy and Physiology (CP)

SCI – A&P 410 (Grades 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

Designed for students interested in medicine/health, the course focuses on detailed coverage of the structure and functions of the human body and the injuries and diseases that affect each organ system. Major dissections are an essential part of the course. *Prerequisite: Biology.*

Environmental Science (CP)

SCI – ENV SCI 410 (Grade 12)

0.50 Credit

A study of the fundamental principles of land and marine ecology. Students study various ecosystems, habitats and environmental problems such as climate change, sustainability, and types of pollution.

Forensic Science (CP)

SCI – FSC 410 (Grades 11, 12)

0.50 Credit

A course for students interested in understanding how to apply the sciences to the criminal justice system. Students will learn about the history of forensic science, the process of fundamental investigation techniques; such as fingerprinting, fiber analysis, trace evidence analysis, blood spatters and blood sampling, and taught about proper collecting, preservation, and laboratory analysis of various samples in crime scene analysis.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Biology, Chemistry, and preferably Anatomy.

Biotechnology 1: Medical Microbiology (H)

SCI – MICRO BIO 450 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

0.50 Credit

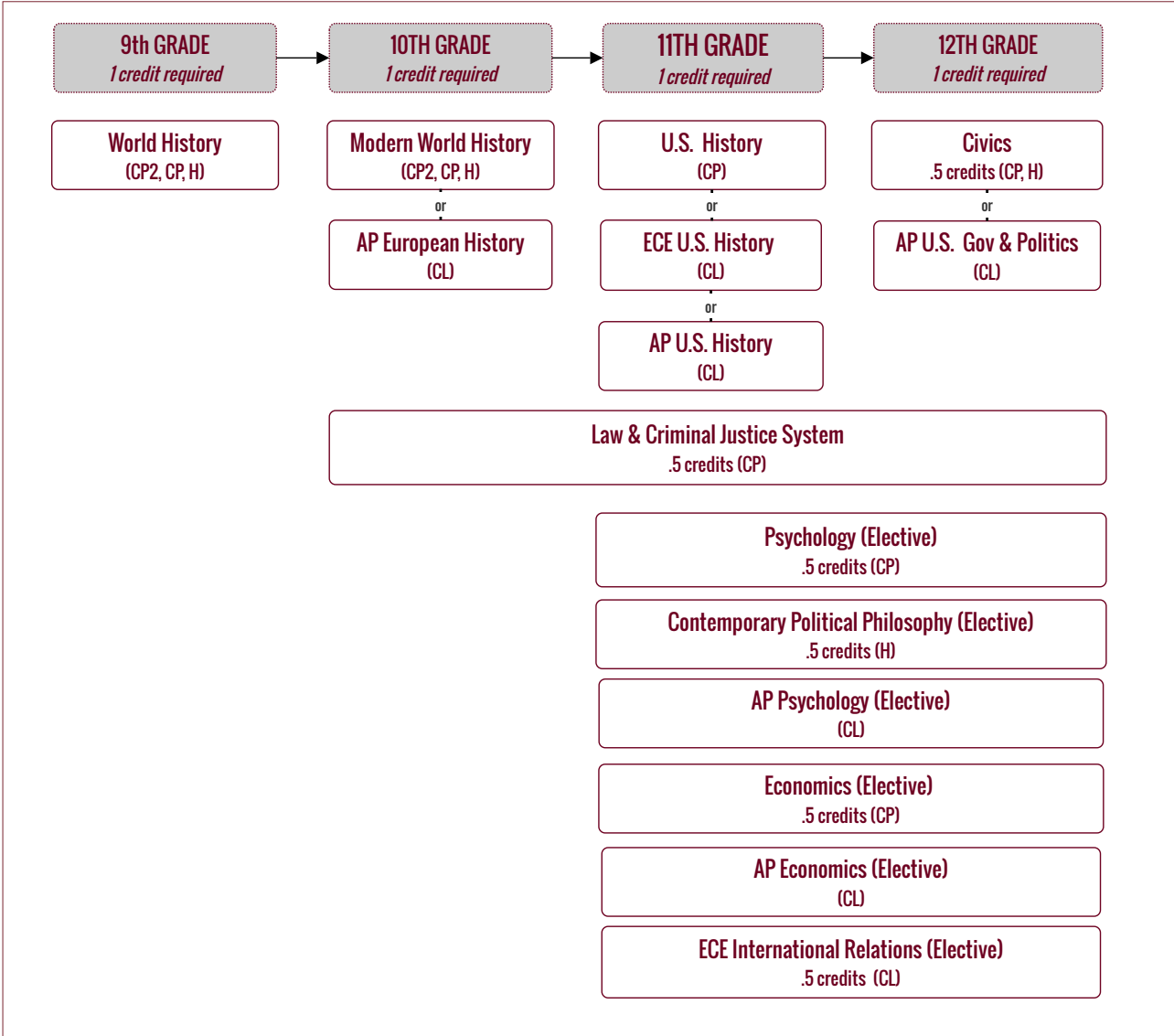
An advanced laboratory and activity-based course meant to introduce students to the principles and practices of medical microbiology. This is an essential course for any student interested in a career in the life sciences such as Nursing, Microbiology, Genetics, Biochemistry, Forensic Science, Medicine, or Veterinary Science. Topics include: identification of microorganisms and the nature and behavior of microorganisms, a variety of analytical methods and benchtop techniques. The determination of how diseases are spread, their clinical features, laboratory data based diagnoses, and appropriate control measures will also be studied. *Prerequisite: Biology*



The Social Studies Department promotes liberal arts instruction that leads to informed citizenship. Historical knowledge can serve as a bridge to the present, explaining and illuminating how we have developed as a civilization. Students are introduced to a thought-provoking process of investigation and analysis centered on social, political, and international issues intended to foster critical thinking skills, diversity of opinion, and moral sensibility.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Unless otherwise noted, each course is worth one credit.
- Students are required to take 3.5 credits of Social Studies over four years, including Civics or AP Government in their senior year.



World History (H, CP, CP2)

SS – WRLD HIST 150, 110, 101 (Grade 9)

1.0 Credit

A comprehensive historical survey of the civilizations of the globe from the early river civilizations to the Enlightenment. Although chronological in approach, this course explores various major themes, such as: political and economic systems, religion, society and culture, the evolution of science and technology, and the impact of a variety of diverse ideologies on the world today. This course will also focus on the development of fundamental skills, including critical reading, writing, and the examination of primary sources and historical evidence.

Modern World History (H, CP, CP2)

SS – MOD WRLD HIST 250, 210, 201 (Grade 10)

1.0 Credit

A comprehensive survey of the history of the globe from the Enlightenment to the present day. Students will continue the analysis of major themes from a political, economic, social, cultural, religious, scientific, and technological perspective. In addition, emphasis will be placed on topics such as the Industrial Revolution; nationalism and imperialism; the Cold War; “self-determination of nations,” and the emerging global world of the 21st century. Special focus will be placed on the development of a variety of skills such as critical reading and writing and the assessment of historical evidence and primary sources.



United States History Since 1877 (CL)

SS US HIST 350/UCONN HIST 1502 (Grade 11)

1.0 Credit

This UConn ECE course is academically challenging and analyzes American history from 1877 to the present. Emphasis is placed on American politics, economic life, social and cultural events, and the role of America in global affairs.

United States History Since 1877 (CP)

SS – US HIST 310 (Grade 11)

1.0 Credit

An examination of American history from 1877 to the present. Emphasis is placed on American politics, economic life, social and cultural events, and the role of America in global affairs.

Law & Criminal Justice System (CP)

SS - CRIM 210 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

.50 Credit

This course focuses on the American judicial system at work in society and demonstrates the responsibilities of American citizens. Students are introduced to a practical understanding of law and the American legal system and familiarized with the criminal justice system through criminal law and criminal procedure.



AP European History (CL)

SS – EURO HIST 280 (Grade 10)

1.0 Credit

This college-level course follows the standard syllabus approved by the College Board and focuses on the study of European History from the Renaissance to the present. Emphasis is on critical reading and writing skills and the ability to work independently. Students will have the option to take the AP exam which will be administered in May. Pre- course summer assignments may be required.



AP United States History (CL)

SS – US HIST 380 (Grade 11)

1.0 Credit

This college-level course follows the standard syllabus approved by the College Board and focuses on the study of American History from 1491 to the present. Emphasis is on critical reading and writing skills and the ability to work independently. Students will have the option to take the AP exam which will be administered in May. Pre- course summer assignments may be required.



AP United States Government and Politics (CL)

SS – GOV POL 480 (Grade 12)

1.0 Credit

This college-level course follows the standard syllabus approved by the College Board and is designed to provide students with an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. Students develop a critical understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the American political system, as well their rights and responsibilities as citizens. Students will have the option to take the AP exam which will be administered in May. This course fulfills a senior's Civics requirement. Pre-course summer assignments may be required



AP Psychology (CL)

SS – PSYCH 480 (Grades 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This is a college-level course providing students an overview of the diverse social and biological science of psychology through multiple perspectives and interpretations. This course emphasizes critical thinking skills in application to the social sciences by immersing students in modern psychological research, techniques, and methodologies. Topics include research methods, learning and cognition, developmental psychology, abnormal behavior, and social psychology. This course follows a syllabus approved by College Board and students may elect to take the AP exam in May.



AP Economics (CL)

SS – ECON 480 (Grades 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This college level course follows the standard syllabus approved by the College Board and provides a thorough understanding of the principles of economics, with particular focus on the American economic system. It covers both microeconomics and macroeconomics. Students will have the option to take the AP exam which will be administered in May.

Introduction to Psychology (CP)

SS – PSYCH 410 (Grades 11, 12)

0.50 Credit

A survey course that introduces students to human development, the brain, the nervous system, statistics, testing, learning, emotions, and communication through supervised experiments and written reports. Emphasis is placed on current theories and how they apply to student lives in modern times.

Introduction to Economics (CP)

SS – ECON 410 (Grades 11, 12)

0.50 Credit

This is a survey course designed to provide students with a fundamental understanding of the workings of the global economic system and the important role played by economics in the modern world.



ECE Introduction to International Relations (CL)

SS – INTL RELAT 500/UCONN POLS 1402-801D (Grades 11, 12)

0.50 Credit

This course focuses on the nature and problems of international politics. Students in this course also prepare for involvement in the Model United Nations conferences through country delegate positions, bloc positions, and prior United Nations policies. Students are required to become delegates for the selected conference. Pre-course summer reading and writing assignments are required. This is a Period M course - students meet before school at 7:00AM.

Contemporary Political Philosophy (H)

SS – POL PHIL 350 (Grades 11, 12)

0.50 Credit

This second semester course covers the major philosophies that affect the global community. Topics such as Marxism, Fascism and Democracy will be examined. The course will also address major religious and economic theories and the application of liberal and conservative points of view on the solution of global issues. This course is offered during the spring semester only. This is a Period M course - students meet before school at 7:00AM.

Civics (CP, H)

SS – CIVICS 410, 450 (Grade 12)

0.50 Credit

This course is an intensive study of the constitutional framework, institutions, and political processes of the United States government. Students focus on the duties, rights, and responsibilities of citizenship and develop a critical understanding of the political, economic, and social challenges in governing a pluralistic society. Case studies of historical and current issues are utilized to provide students an analytical perspective on the evolution of the United States government. This is a required senior course.



The Technology & Innovation Department at St. Joseph High School provides students with a comprehensive, hands-on approach to learning that emphasizes creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. The program is designed to immerse students in cutting-edge fields such as robotics, software design, engineering, and emerging technologies through project-based learning and real-world applications. With a focus on problem-solving and innovation, students develop technical expertise and essential skills like teamwork, communication, and time management. By combining foundational knowledge with advanced technology and industry partnerships, the program equips students to thrive in an increasingly technology-driven world.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Unless otherwise noted, each course is worth 0.5 credit.
- Students are required to take 0.5 credits of Technology and Innovation during the 9th grade.

9TH GRADE <i>.5 credit required</i>	10TH AND 11TH GRADES Optional Electives	12TH GRADE Optional Electives
Engineering Design Lab .5 credits (CP)	Aviation & Flight Science .5 credits (CP)	
Cybersecurity & the Internet of Things .5 credits (CP)		
Drone Tech and Engineering .5 credits (CP)		
Innovative Project Design .5 credits (CP)		
Robotics & Automated Systems (Build and App Development) .5 credits (CP)		
Software Design & Integration .5 credits (CP)		
Tech Project: Create, Design, Manage, Build .5 credits (CP)		
Topics in Computing Applications, AI, and Ethics .5 credits (CP)		

Engineering Design Lab

STEM - EDL 110 (Grade 9)

0.5 Credit

This introductory course immerses freshmen in a dynamic, hands-on exploration of innovation, design, and engineering principles through real-world applications. Students will step into the roles of industry professionals to conceptualize, design, and launch a simulated electric car company. By developing a remote-controlled electric car prototype, creating marketing materials, and presenting their vision to stakeholders, students gain practical experience in project management, teamwork, and entrepreneurial thinking. Through a design-focused approach, the course builds foundational skills in critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and time management, preparing students for future academic and professional success in a technology-driven world.

Innovative Project Design (CP)

STEM - PRJCT DESGN 210 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

0.50 Credit

This semester course teaches students how to plan and build their own designs to achieve a goal. Students work in teams of two and are provided with the tools and materials for hands-on, project based learning that allows for creativity in simple yet challenging projects where there is no single correct answer. Among other projects, students will learn to build and then minimize the effects of friction on a propeller powered toy car; how to balance forces while building an index card tower to hold textbooks; and the aerodynamics of making a paper airplane that makes a sharp left turn after going straight for 50 feet.

Robotics & Automated Systems – Build & App Development (CP)

STEM – RAS I 210 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

0.5 Credit

Offered by Milestone C, this course brings students into the world of robotics, one that is interwoven consistently in the fabrics of every single engineering and scientific industry, from aerospace and automotive, to medicine and nuclear physics. Students will build a robotic hexapod and code/program the robot in order to gain understanding of how electronics, mechanics, and software come together, leading to articulated and automated systems design. Featuring state-of-the-art technology, students rapidly propel from foundational topics into articulation, feedback loops, and automation programming while defining the cutting edge of STEM education at each step. Students will have the opportunity to explore hardware, software, App Development, 3D modeling and printing, and Arduino programming fundamentals. This course pushes students critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills at various stages throughout the program.

Cybersecurity & Internet of Things (CP)

STEM – CYBER SEC 310 (Grades 10,11, 12)

0.5 Credit

Cybersecurity is becoming a booming industry, with every large corporation putting a major focus on how to handle their company data in a thoughtful and protected way while also allowing their workforce to have flexibility and mobility. Students learning the fundamentals of cybersecurity will allow them to flourish in a variety of careers both inside security-focused companies and in careers outside of the tech industry. Students will learn foundational skills in coding and networking and then build into basic skills of encryption, cryptography, and vulnerability analysis.

Software Design & Integration (CP)

STEM – SDI 310 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

0.5 Credit

In today's global technology network, software is the single common thread tying all disciplines together. All STEM industries, without exception, benefit from the efforts of software developers, engineers, and integrators daily. This lightning-paced course will introduce students to how corporate software projects are developed, managed,

integrated, and fielded. An interface-oriented approach to software development eliminates the need for any prior coding experience. Students will navigate this complex world following a project-based roadmap and leave with a significant sense of accomplishment and key professional skills after creating professional-caliber apps, games, and control algorithms. Students will establish a solid foundation in software development principles, and gain big-picture understanding of interface management and the engineering process at large. Students interested in understanding how software and hardware affect each other and how software projects are developed are encouraged to take this course. No prior coding experience required.

Aviation & Flight Science (CP)

STEM – AVIATION 310 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

0.5 Credit

Placing high school math and science classes into applied context through the thrilling real-world framework of aviation. Students are equipped with key college and career skills including critical thinking, public speaking, task management, and effective teamwork and communication. Through extensive ground school studies and strenuous flight training on highly realistic desktop simulators, students will boast a significant portion of the same training civilian and military pilot candidates receive in flight school. Students interested in aviation, physiological effects aircraft on the human body, and application of physics and math in the real world are encouraged to take this course.

Tech Project: Create, Design, Manage, Build (CP)

STEM – EDP 310 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

0.5 Credit

Students embark on an extended design project emulating a real-world engineering program, complete with requirement analysis, milestone reviews, schedule management, and a detailed test program prior to fielding a complex, physical end-product. Students will benefit from the technical and soft skills acquired during this course for years to come, regardless of the career path they choose. Students interested in applying the thought process of a designer while designing, building, and testing a prototype to meet a customer's needs are encouraged to take this course.

Drone Tech & Engineering (CP)

STEM – DTE 210 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

0.5 Credit

Our Drone Technology & Engineering (DTE) program focuses on the hardware and software of drones, breaking down this new-age technology while providing context to students about real-world uses through flying line-of-sight (LOS) and first-person-view (FPV). The racing drone project is structured around a build kit with multiple configurations. The students are provided tools and techniques for engineering decision-making and are given objectives (speed, agility/control, weight) for the drone to accomplish and optimize.

Topics in Computing Applications, AI, and Ethics (CP)

STEM – COMP SCI 210 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

0.5 Credit

This course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of software applications and digital tools. This course aims to equip students with essential skills and knowledge in the field of computing technologies, with a specific focus on modern applications, artificial intelligence (AI), and ethical considerations within technology. The course provides practical insights into computing applications in various aspects of life, emphasizing real-world scenarios where students will engage in hands-on activities, projects, and real-world applications to reinforce their learning throughout the course.

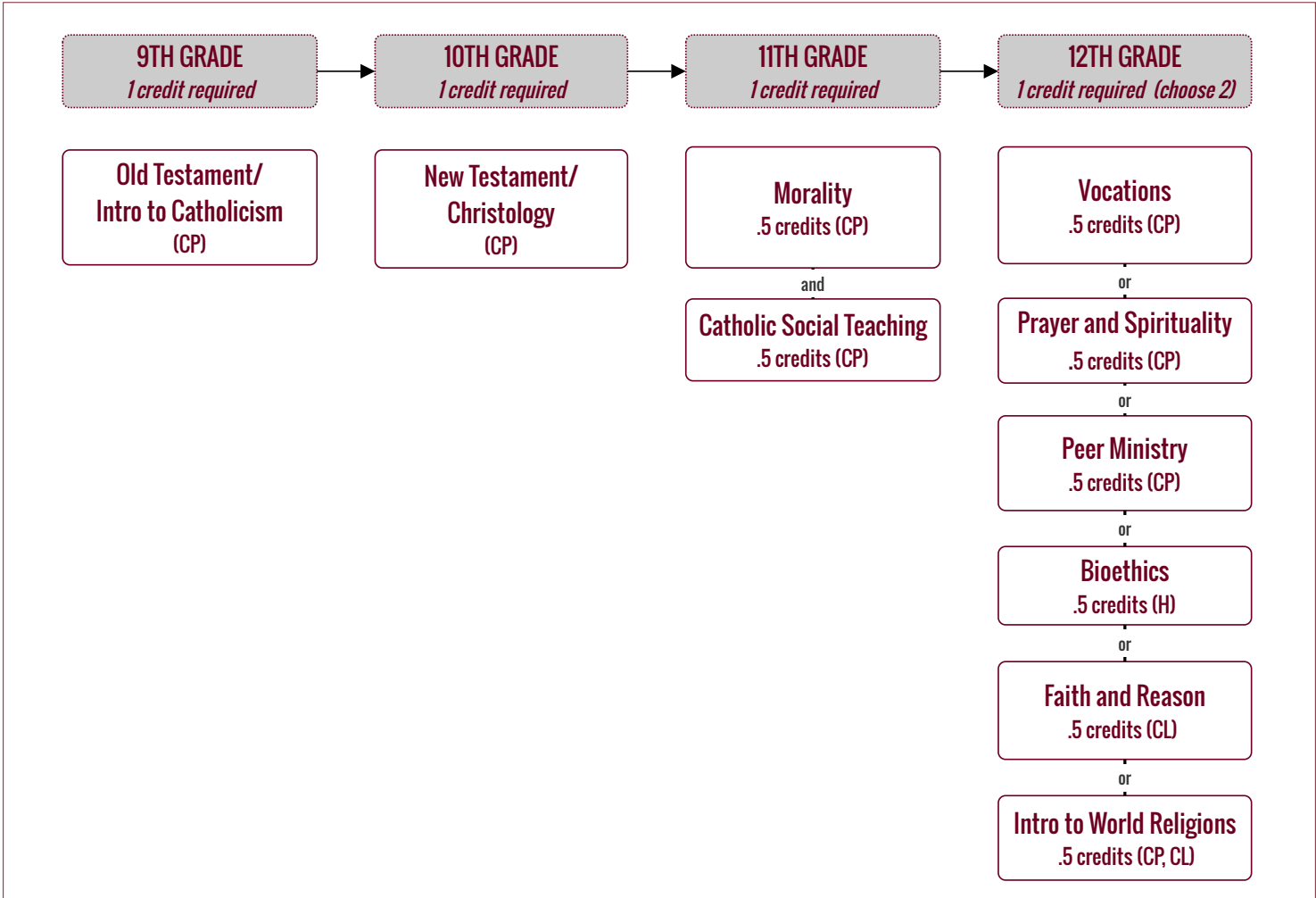


The Theology Department proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the magisterial teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Through rigorous academic study and spiritual formation, students are invited to deepen their understanding of the Catholic Faith, embrace its rich traditions, and develop a personal and transformative relationship with the Triune God.

By exploring Sacred Scripture and in fostering a spirit of prayer and community, the Theology Department teaches our students to not only understand their faith but to embody it through acts of service, compassion, and a commitment to justice in the world.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Unless otherwise noted, each course is worth one credit.
- Students are required to take 1 credit of Theology each year.



Introduction to Catholicism/Old Testament (CP)

THEO – OT 110 (Grade 9)

1.0 Credit

This course presumes a blank slate of knowledge and seeks to ensure that students end their freshman year with not only an understanding of what the Catholic Church believes in and why, but also how its foundation lies within the Hebrew scripture. Students are challenged to look at and explore the implications of the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds, as well as learn to integrate Sacred Scripture into their prayer life and moral decision-making.

New Testament/Christology (CP)

THEO – NT 210 (Grade 10)

1.0 Credit

Building upon the foundation established in their freshman year, this course offers an in-depth look at God's revelation in the New Testament. By spending the year studying the person, role, nature and message of Jesus Christ, students will learn not only the implications of Jesus' life on the people of His time, but also the implications for us as a society as we accept the call to carry Jesus' mission into the world. This course will emphasize the development of Christology from the first century to the modern age and explore how the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles illustrate the role of the early Christian community in the formation of the Church.

Morality: Our Response to God's Love (CP)

THEO - MORAL 310 (Grade 11)

0.50 Credit

Recognizing the complexity of living in our current age, this semester course provides students with the tools to live out a moral life. The curriculum focuses on applying the Church's moral teachings to contemporary life, with a focus on the topics of decision-making, conscience, honesty, laws, virtues, vices, etc. Students will learn how to live out God's call and bring their unique perspective into the world to make it a better place.

Catholic Social Teaching (CP)

THEO – CST 310 (Grade 11)

0.50 Credit

Recognizing the Christian call to act on behalf of the marginalized, this semester course offers the opportunity to take the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching and apply them to the contemporary problems of society. With an emphasis on reflection, judgment, and action, students will not only recognize the difficulties the world is facing, but be empowered to make change where possible. Topics included but are not limited to: capital punishment, caring for God's creation, the dignity of work and rights of workers, euthanasia, prejudice and discrimination, racism, and the right to life.

Vocations and the Call to Holiness (CP)

THEO – VOCATION 410 (Grade 12)

0.50 Credit

This semester course examines Christian vocations and God's universal call to holiness. In the words of Pope Francis, "To be saints is not a privilege for the few, but a vocation for everyone." Students consider what it means to really live life as a Christian. Topics include, but are not limited to: vocations, discernment, the sacraments of marriage and holy orders, the Christian perspective on the family and its importance in society, the consecrated life, love, one's prayer life, and the development of virtue.



Introduction to World Religions (CL)

THEO – WR 500/SHU TRS265 (Grade 12)

0.50 Credit

This college-level semester course examines the origin and expression of the religious impulse from pre-history to modern times. Emphasis is placed on defining religion in general and a study of the world's major religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. Each religion is examined from the viewpoints of theology, cosmology, history, anthropology, and sociology. Students are eligible to apply to receive 3 credits from Sacred Heart University. Prerequisite: Approval from the department chair.



Faith and Reason (CL)

THEO – F&R 500 (Grade 12)

0.50 Credit

This college-level semester course examines profound philosophical and theological questions through ancient and contemporary primary sources spanning the Catholic intellectual tradition, with an emphasis on the interrelation of faith and reason. Students are eligible to apply to receive 3 credits from Sacred Heart University. Prerequisite: Approval of the department chair.

Prayer and Spirituality (CP)

THEO – PRAYER 410 (Grade 12)

0.50 Credit

This semester course offers the opportunity to discover different methods of prayer that students can incorporate into their own spiritual journey. Students will utilize meditation and contemplation, with an emphasis on the experience of prayer to allow them to encounter the Sacred in their lives. The curriculum is split between experiencing prayer and studying the Bible to consider what it reveals about prayer. Students will consider what it means to be a disciple in the modern world and how prayer can help heal strained relationships

Peer Ministry (CP)

THEO – PEER MNST 410 (Grade 12)

1.0 Credit

Designed to help students develop and practice leadership skills inside and outside of the classroom. The course focuses on how the scriptures and the Gospels play a role in our lives and the practical ways we can bring these messages to our world. Students will be challenged to construct and coordinate service projects within the community, demonstrating their effective leadership skills. Students will develop their counseling techniques, group dynamics, and public speaking by working with outside organizations and helping the community. Prerequisite: Application, interview, and approval from the Director of Campus Ministry.

Bioethics: From Basics to the Future (H)

THEO – BIOETHICS 450 (Grade 12)

0.50 Credit

The semester course focuses on the key Catholic approaches to health care ethics and issues. Topics include the history of the Church's medical ethics, ethical methodologies, the development of virtues and key medical ethics issues including reproductive technologies, abortion, genetic engineering, cloning, death and dying, euthanasia, the role of physician as healer, and organ donation. Prerequisite: Approval from the department chair.

World Religions (CP)

THEO – WR 410 (Grade 12)

0.50 Credit

This semester course is designed to help students develop religious literacy in accord with the directive of the Second Vatican Council declaration *Nostra Aetate* to examine the Church’s relationship to non-Christian religions with the intention of “promoting unity and love among men.” Students will identify the similarities and differences between Catholicism, other Christian denominations, and religions such as Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism and how to respectfully navigate these differences.

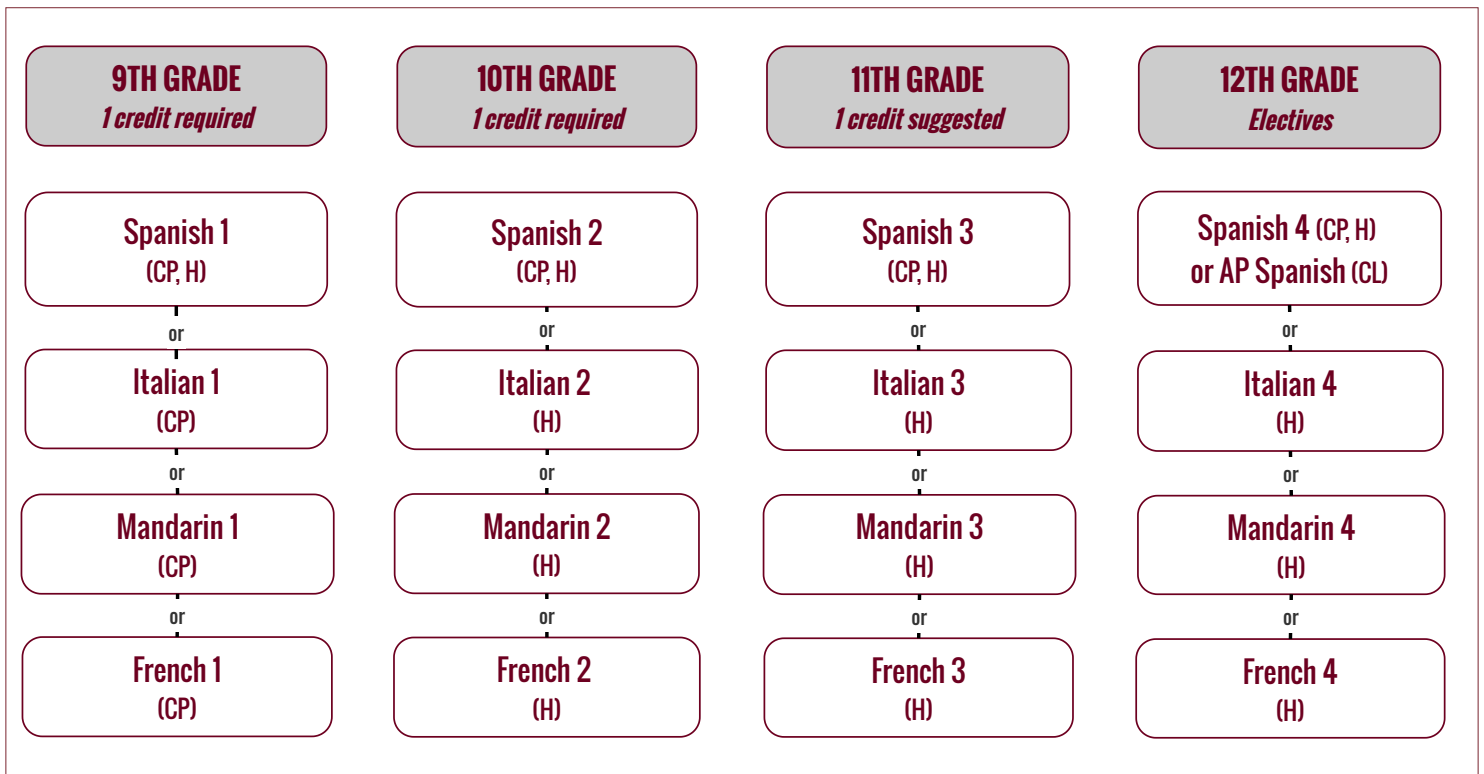


WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

The World Languages Department educates the whole student through the teaching of language, grammar, and culture. ACTFL National Standards of communication, connections, comparisons, cultures, and communities are integrated within all pedagogical initiatives. Interpretive, presentational, and interpersonal modes of communication are also incorporated as to guide students to reach higher communication achievements in speaking, writing, reading, and listening. Additional emphasis is placed on cultural themes, topics, and issues of target language countries. The department encourages students to look beyond their own community and embrace respect, empathy, and diversity in a multicultural society.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Unless otherwise noted, each course is worth one credit.
- Students are required to take 1 credit of World Language for their first two years.
- Students are invited to take a World Language Placement Exam prior to 9th grade if they would like to test into a higher level World Language course.



French 1 (CP)

WL – FRENCH 110 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This course introduces students to the sound systems and intonations of the French language with an emphasis on the development of audio-lingual skills. Students are introduced to basic structures within a defined vocabulary selection in order to engage in simple conversation and develop a reasonable ability to read and write French. Students are also introduced to French culture through geography, history, and art.

French 2 (H)

WL – FRENCH 250 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This course strengthens a student's speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills. New grammatical structures and verb formations are introduced while also improving listening comprehension. Further study is developed regarding French history, civilization, and society.

French 3 (H)

WL – FRENCH 350 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This course continues introducing more advanced structures of the French language while furthering language acquisition/comprehension through listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Basic structures are reviewed as necessary. This is a continued study of French culture.

French 4 (H)

WL – FRENCH 450 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This course is for the advanced student who would like to strengthen and further develop language skills. Oral, written, and grammar study are conducted in French. This course is designed as an interactive communicative approach focusing on meaningful contexts that develop and consolidate a student's speaking, listening, reading, writing, and cultural competencies.



AP French Language (CL)

WL – FRENCH 480 (Grade 12)

1.0 Credit

This college level course follows the standard syllabus approved by College Board. Conducted entirely in French, students use two programs specifically directed toward the AP French Language and Culture Curriculum guidelines. This is an interactive communicative approach that focuses on real communication in meaningful contexts. The course continues to develop a student's speaking, listening, reading, writing, and viewing skills as well as their cultural competencies. Students will have the option to take the AP exam which is administered in May.

Italian 1 (CP)

WL – ITALIAN 110 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This course introduces the student to the sound systems and intonations of the Italian language with emphasis on the development of audio-lingual skills. Students are introduced to basic structures within a defined vocabulary selection in order to engage in simple conversation and to develop a reasonable ability to read and write Italian. Students are also introduced to Italian culture through geography, history, and art.

Italian 2 (H)

WL – ITALIAN 250 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This course strengthens a student's speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills. New grammatical structures and verb formations are introduced while also improving listening comprehension. Further study is developed regarding Italian history, civilization, and society.

Italian 3 (H)

WL – ITALIAN 350 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This course continues introducing more advanced structures of Italian grammar while furthering language acquirement/comprehension through listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Basic structures are reviewed as necessary. There is also a continued study of Italian culture.

Italian 4 (H)

WL - ITALIAN 450 (Grades 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This course is for the advanced student who would like to strengthen and further develop language skills. Oral, written, and grammar study are conducted in Italian. This intermediate-high level course is designed as an interactive communicative approach focusing on meaningful contexts that develop and consolidate a student's speaking, listening, reading, writing, and cultural competencies.

Mandarin 1 (CP)

WL – MAND 110 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This course introduces the student to the correct pronunciations and use of conversational patterns of Mandarin. Emphasis is placed on oral comprehension, speaking, writing, and reading skills. Students learn the creation and use of Mandarin characters and pinyin. Students are also introduced to Chinese culture through geography, history, and art.

Mandarin 2 (H)

WL – MAND 250 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This course strengthens oral comprehension, speaking, writing, and reading skills. Focus is placed on the creation and use of Mandarin characters as well as pinyin. Students make comparisons and connections with other cultures and communities within China while examining cultural themes, topics, and issues.

Mandarin 3 (H)

WL – MAND 350 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This course continues in introducing more advanced structures of Mandarin grammar while furthering language acquirement/comprehension through listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. This course also requires the application of language fundamentals through paired and group activities. Exposure to adapted texts complements interpretive skills of written and spoken Chinese language.

Mandarin 4 (H)

WL – MAND 450 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This course is for the advanced student who would like to strengthen and further develop their language skills. Oral, written, and grammar study are conducted in Mandarin. This intermediate-high level course is designed as an interactive communicative approach focusing on meaningful contexts that develop and consolidate a student's speaking, listening, reading, writing, and cultural competencies.

Spanish 1 (CP)

WL – SPAN 110 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This course introduces students to the sound systems and intonations of the Spanish language with emphasis on the development of audio-lingual skills. Students are introduced to basic structures within a defined vocabulary selection in order to engage in simple conversation and develop a reasonable ability to read and write Spanish. Students are also introduced to Spanish culture through geography, history, and art.

Spanish 2 (H, CP)

WL – SPAN 250, 210 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This course strengthens a student's speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills. New grammatical structures and verb formations are introduced while also improving listening comprehension. This is a further study of Spanish history, civilization, and society.

Spanish 3 (H, CP)

WL – SPAN 350, 310 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This course introduces more advanced structures of Spanish grammar while furthering language acquirement/comprehension through listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. This course also incorporates Hispanic literature, culture, and current publications. The course is conducted primarily in Spanish.

Spanish 4 (H, CP)

WL – SPAN 450 (Grades 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This course is for the advanced student who would like to strengthen and further develop their language skills. Oral, written, and grammar study are conducted in Spanish. This focuses on meaningful contexts that develop and consolidate a student's speaking, listening, reading, writing, and cultural competencies. Students also view, research, and discuss the importance of cultural figures through short Hispanic films, Spanish texts, and current publications. This course is conducted almost entirely in Spanish.



AP Spanish (CL)

WL – SPAN 480 (Grades 11, 12)

1.0 Credit

This college level course follows the standard syllabus approved by College Board. Conducted entirely in Spanish, students use two programs specifically directed toward the AP Spanish Language and Culture Curriculum guidelines. This is an interactive communicative approach that focuses on real communication in meaningful contexts. The course continues to develop a student's speaking, listening, reading, writing, and viewing skills as well as their cultural competencies. Students will have the option to take the AP exam which is administered in May.



St. Joseph High School offers half-credit and full-credit summer courses to rising Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors. “Summer at St. Joes” provides unique opportunities for our students to complete a required course during the Summer Session and, thereby, allow for rising 11th and 12th grade students to engage with their SJ peers in areas of advanced studies or allow rising 9th and 10th grade students the opportunity for a study hall during their upcoming school year.

* Students in Grades 11 and 12 cannot use a summer course to gain an additional study hall and must maintain 6 credits per academic year (September-June). Therefore, students who take advantage of this opportunity will graduate with 26+ credits.

MATHEMATICS

Geometry (H)

Credit Earned Upon Completion: 1.0

Price: \$600

Dates: August 4 – 20, 2025 (8:00am-11:30am)

Open to: Students who have successfully completed Algebra 1

Two and three-dimensional geometric figures are explored through the use of definitions, postulates and theorems. Inductive and deductive reasoning are developed in the formulation of proofs and through group activities. This course allows for students to earn credit prior to their sophomore year, allowing them to take Calculus as Seniors.

FINE ARTS

Fundamentals of Art

Credit Earned Upon Completion: .05

Price: \$300

Dates: June 23 - July 3, 2025 (8:00am-10:30am)

Open to: Rising Freshmen

This course provides a general overview of the visual arts with an emphasis on design, historical significance, and artistic intent. Students work with two and three-dimensional mediums creating realistic and abstract works including pencil, pastel, marker, and paint. The hands-on work combines with text, multimedia presentations, and class discussions to help students gain an understanding of the societal importance of art.

Introduction to Graphic Design

Credit Earned Upon Completion: .05

Price: \$300

Dates: August 11 - 22, 2025 (8:00am-10:30am)

*This course is for students who want to learn graphic design using Adobe Creative Suite software and Canva. While exploring visual aesthetics, such as the elements and principles of design, students will practice retouching, digital collaging, and design through individual projects. * This course satisfies both a Business and Fine Arts credit.*

SCIENCE

Forensic Science

Credit Earned Upon Completion: .50

Price: \$300

Dates: June 23 – July 3, 2025 (8:00am-10:30am)

Open to: Rising Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors

A course for students interested in understanding how to apply the sciences to the criminal justice system. Students will learn about the history of forensic science, the process of fundamental investigation techniques; such as fingerprinting, fiber analysis, trace evidence analysis, blood spatters and blood sampling, and taught about proper collecting, preservation, and laboratory analysis of various samples in crime scene analysis.

Genetics

Credit Earned Upon Completion: .50

Price: \$300

Dates: August 11 – 22, 2025 (8:00am-10:30am)

Open to: Rising Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors

This course examines how physical traits are coded for and expressed in organisms, how traits are inherited from one generation to the next, and how changes in the genetic material, past and present, have led to biological diversity. The course focuses on DNA and how it regulates all processes of the body.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Civics

Credit Earned Upon Completion: .50

Price: \$300

Dates: August 11 – 22, 2025 (8:00am-10:30am)

Open to: Rising Seniors

This course is an intensive study of the constitutional framework, institutions, and political processes of the United States government. Students focus on the duties, rights, and responsibilities of citizenship and develop a critical understanding of the political, economic, and social challenges in governing a pluralistic society. Case studies of historical and current issues are utilized to provide students an analytical perspective on the evolution of the United States government.

The Science of Learning

Credit Earned Upon Completion: .50

Price: \$300

Dates: June 23 – July 3, 2025 (11:00am-1:00pm)

Open to: Rising Freshmen

Students are introduced to the growing field of “learning how to learn,” through lively discussions, group projects, hands-on activities, presentations and mini-lessons. This is an introductory course, open to all interested 9th graders, that explores topics in brain development, sleep, focus, attention, memory and the roles of hormones in human behavior, particularly teenagers. It will enable students to become involved in their academic, social, physical, cognitive and emotional development through high school.

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Engineering Design Lab

Credit: .50

Price: \$300

Dates: July 7 - 18, 2025 (8:30am-11:30am or 12:00-3:00pm); July 28 - August 8, 2025 (8:30am-11:30am)

Open to: Rising Freshmen

This course introduces freshmen students to technology-centered, hands-on, inquiry-based learning. Through assorted projects, students will gain the software and technical skills necessary for success in high school, college and beyond. Students will have repeated opportunities to use design mindset, learn collaboratively, practice task management, and cultivate teamwork, communication, and critical-thinking skills.

THEOLOGY

Catholic Social Teachings

Credit Earned Upon Completion: .50

Price: \$300

Dates: June 23 – July 3, 2025 (8:00am-10:30am)

Open to: Rising Juniors

This course examines the history of Roman Catholic social teaching with an emphasis on Church Documents promulgated by Popes and Bishops. With an emphasis on the principles of Catholic social teaching using reflection, judgment, and action, topics include justice and society, the right to life, prejudice, racism, peace, work, and the environment.

Morality: Our Response to God's Love

Credit Earned Upon Completion: .05

Price: \$300

Dates: August 11 – 22, 2025 (8:00am-10:30am)

Open to: Rising Juniors

Recognizing the complexity of living in our current age, this semester course seeks to provide students with the tools to live out a moral life. The curriculum focuses on applying the Church's moral teachings to contemporary life, with a focus on the topics of decision-making, conscience, honesty, laws, virtues, vices, etc. Students will learn how to live out God's call and bring their unique perspective into the world to make it a better place.

New Testament/Christology

Credit Earned Upon Completion: 1.0

Price: \$600

Dates: August 4 – 20, 2025 (8:00am-11:30am)

Open to: Rising Sophomores

In this course, students learn of God's revelation through an examination of the writings of the New Testament, and by studying the person, role, nature and message of Jesus Christ. Emphasis on the development of Christology from the first century to the modern age, and an exploration of the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles illustrate the role of the early Christian community in the formation of the Church. Students learn to integrate Scripture into prayer life and moral decision-making.

WORLD LANGUAGE

Spanish 4

Credit: 1.0

Price: \$600

Dates: August 4 - 20, 2025 (8:00-11:30am)

Open to: Students who have successfully completed Spanish 3

This course is for the advanced student who would like to strengthen and further develop his or her language skills. Oral, written, and grammar study are conducted in Spanish. This intermediate-high level course focuses on meaningful contexts that develop and consolidate a student's speaking, listening, reading, writing, and cultural competencies. Students also view, research, and discuss the importance of cultural figures through short Hispanic films, Spanish texts, and current publications. This course is conducted almost entirely in Spanish.

OTHER

Senior College Bootcamp

Open to: Current 12th graders

Dates: June 17 & 18 OR August 11 & 12

Cost: Free (students are encouraged to bring a snack/drink)

The Senior College Bootcamp is designed to prepare our seniors with the essential skills, knowledge, and resources they need to thrive during the college application season. Students will learn to navigate the admissions process, receive valuable essay feedback, work on the Common App, and other necessary tasks associated with the process. College Admissions Reps will also attend and speak with students to assist in the process.

Freshmen Seminar

This course is not offered for credit.

Price: \$75 (includes lunch)

Dates: August 18 – 20, 2025 (8:00am-1:30pm)

Open to: Incoming Freshmen

Our Class of 2029 Freshman Seminar class provides a well-rounded orientation for incoming students to ease the transition to high school both academically and socially! This three-day onboarding program will feature academic courses, College & School Counselor meetings, student account set up and a group service project.

Course Notes & Considerations: Daily lunch will be provided, however our catering program will not yet be operating at full capacity. If you have dietary restrictions, we recommend bringing a lunch from home.



St. Joseph High School offers Advanced Placement courses in collaboration with Virtual High School (VHS), a non-profit organization based in Massachusetts, which serves as a portal through which schools and teachers throughout the world offer online courses. Our partnership with VHS allows us to expand our AP course offerings to provide students with the most challenging and extensive academic curriculum possible taught by certified teachers in accredited schools.

VHS Coordinator:

Mr. Brian Gavin, Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction
bgavin@sjcadets.org
(203) 378-9378 x 301

AP courses via VHS present a rigorous curriculum and are best suited for independent, self-motivated students. Students who are successful at taking online courses must be organized, independent learners, who can advocate for themselves when a problem arises. Students may consider AP courses via VHS that are not currently offered at St. Joseph High School and are relevant to the student's intended major or career path.

Eligibility

- Approval to enroll in a VHS class will be decided by the Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction.
- In order to enroll, students will complete an interview with the Assistant Principal, during which they will receive a VHS contract from the school. Students must return this contract, signed by themselves, a parent/guardian, as well as their College and School Counselor, before enrolling in a course.
- Students who are approved will be scheduled for 1 VHS period, in which they report to the Media Center.
- The Assistant Principal serves as St. Joseph High School's VHS coordinator and will assist students with any technical issues or communication with their program instructor.
- St. Joes will only allow students to take a VHS course of something that we do not currently offer (such as AP Computer Science). VHS courses typically start the Friday before or Tuesday after Labor Day, students must be enrolled in their course before it opens. Please let me know if you have any other questions!

Grading

VHS course grades are posted on student report cards, transcripts and factor into honor roll status and cumulative GPA. Note: the passing grade for VHS courses is 60, however, St. Joseph High School students must earn a 65 to earn a passing grade and credit. See the VHS information on Blackbaud for further requirements.

The Virtual High School Course Catalog

The Virtual High School offers over 200 unique courses including 23 AP® options, core courses, engaging electives, credit recovery. Courses subject to change. For a complete list and course descriptions visit VHSLearning.org/Catalog.

Advanced Placement®	Business	AP® English Language and Composition *	AP® Calculus BC *
AP® Art History *	Business and Personal Law	Composition *	AP® Statistics *
AP® Biology *	Business Math	AP® English Literature and Composition *	Differential Calculus
AP® Calculus AB *	Entrepreneurship	Creative Writing	Essential Math for College & Careers
AP® Calculus BC *	International Business	English 9 *	Geometry *
AP® Chemistry *	Investing in the Stock Market	English 10 *	Math and Modern Logic
AP® Computer Science A *	Marketing and the Internet	English 11 *	Mathematics of Electricity
AP® Computer Science Principles *	Personal Finance	English 12 *	Number Theory
AP® Economics *	Computer Science and Technology	Essay Writing	Pre-Calculus *
AP® English Language and Composition *	AP® Computer Science A *	Fantasy and Science Fiction Short Stories	Pre-Calculus I: Advanced Trigonometry
AP® English Literature and Composition *	AP® Computer Science Principles *	Film and Literature	Pre-Calculus II: Functions
AP® Environmental Science *	CAD	Folklore and Literature of Myth, Magic and Ritual	Statistics
AP® European History *	Creative Programming with Scratch	Ghoulies, Ghosties, and Long-Legged Beastsies	Statistics Honors
AP® French Language and Culture *	Introduction to Computer Science Principles	Horror Writers	Science, Life
AP® Human Geography *	Java Fundamentals for Science and Engineering	Journalism in the Digital Age	Anatomy and Physiology
AP® Music Theory *	Java Programming	Literature of the World	Animal Behavior and Zoology
AP® Physics 1 *	Programming in Visual Basic	Mythology	AP® Biology *
AP® Physics C *	Video Game Design	Poetry Writing	AP® Environmental Science *
AP® Psychology *	Web Design	Screenwriting Fundamentals	Biochemistry
AP® Spanish Language and Culture *	Engineering	Shakespeare in Film	Bioethics
AP® Statistics *	CAD	Twentieth Century Women Authors	Biotechnology
AP® United States Government and Politics *	Engineering Principles	Young Adult Literature	Epidemics
AP® U.S. History *	Java Fundamentals for Science and Engineering	Life Skills/Health	Evolution and the Nature of Science
AP® World History *	Sustainable Engineering	Employability Skills	Introduction to Natural Science for ESL Students
Arts	English as a Second Language (ESL)	Health	Genes and Disease
American Popular Music	American Studies *	Kindergarten Apprentice Teacher	Preventive Medicine
AP® Art History *	English Foundations	Now What Will You Do?	Science from Space
AP® Music Theory *	Introduction to Natural Science for ESL Students *	Parenting in the 21 st Century	The Human Body
Art History	Language Arts	Physical Education: Personal Fitness	Science, Earth & Space
Art History: Art of the Caribbean Islands	101 Ways to Write a Short Story	Preparing for College	AP® Environmental Science *
Creating Art History	Academic Writing	Who Do I Want to Be When I Grow Up?	Astronomy Principles
History of Photography		Mathematics	Climate Science
Music Listening and Critique		Algebra 1 *	Earth and Space System Science *
Music: Fundamentals of Composition		Algebra 2 *	Environmental Science
		AP® Calculus AB *	Environmental Science Honors
			Meteorology
			Oceanography

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