



**ST. PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL**  
Dominican Sisters of Houston ★ 1956

**Course Catalog**  
**2025-2026**

## Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	3
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.....	3
COURSE SELECTION PROCESS.....	3
COURSE CHANGES.....	4
HONORS/ADVANCED PLACEMENT/DUAL CREDIT COURSE GUIDELINES.....	4
AP EXAM.....	4
GRADE POINT VALUES.....	5
PROGRAM OF STUDY.....	5
THEOLOGY.....	7
ENGLISH.....	10
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS/COMMUNICATION.....	13
FOREIGN LANGUAGE.....	15
MATHEMATICS.....	18
SCIENCE.....	22
SOCIAL STUDIES.....	27
FINE ARTS.....	31
BUSINESS.....	36
COMPUTER SCIENCE.....	37
PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ATHLETICS.....	39
STUDY LAB.....	41
AP FAMILY AGREEMENT.....	42
AP APPROVAL FOR 3+ ADVANCED COURSES WITHIN AN ACADEMIC YEAR.....	43

# Course Selections 2025-2026 School Year

## INTRODUCTION

The curriculum of St. Pius X High School includes the core subject areas of theology, English, foreign languages, mathematics, science, and social studies. The elective program offers students the opportunity to pursue and explore other areas of interest. All courses are designed with the development of well-rounded, critical-thinking, Veritas men and women in mind. SPX frequently reviews and revises course offerings to meet the needs of students and prepare them for college and today's society.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must meet the following requirements of 28 units of credit for graduation from St. Pius X High School:

Theology	4 credits
English	4 credits
Mathematics	4 credits
Science	4 credits
Social Studies	4 credits
Foreign Language	2 credits
Physical Education/Health	1 credit *
Communications	1/2 credit
Service Learning	1/2 credit
Fine Arts	1 credit
Computer Applications	1/2 credit **
Electives	2 credits (minimum)

\* For classes 2026-2028, 1 credit of Physical Education and ½ credit of Health are required. ½ credit of Physical Education can be earned by satisfactorily completing a season of a designated SPX co-curricular. The other ½ Physical Education credit must be taken as a course such as PE and/or Dance class.

Beginning with the class of 2029, 1 credit of Physical Education/ Health is required. The credit must be earned through a one-year course of Physical Education and Health. Participation in an SPX co-curricular or the completion of any other course may not be substituted for this requirement.

\*\* For classes 2026-2028 only.

## COURSE SELECTION PROCESS

Each student meets with his/her counselor during the spring semester to discuss course selections for the following year. Prior to the meeting, each student will view the courses for which they are approved, based on the prerequisites listed in the course catalog. Preliminary honors/AP core course placement will be made using the student's first semester grade and most recent available test scores.

Students will have the opportunity to select electives of their interest. St. Pius X High School will make every effort to place students in their requested electives. If a requested course conflicts with another class, the student will be placed in another elective option. Courses must meet an enrollment threshold. Should a course be closed due to low enrollment, the student will be placed in another course that meets their graduation requirements.

**Student schedules are not created or changed based on requests for specific teachers or specific semesters.** Course instructors may shift from fall to spring as course loads are balanced to meet the needs and interests of students.

Following spring course selections, each student's parent/guardian will be invited to schedule a meeting with their child's counselor to discuss their student's course selections and four-year plan.

## **COURSE CHANGES**

Course selections made during the spring course selection period and registration are considered permanent for the following academic year. Students should think of their selections as a commitment. We encourage students to take full advantage of all resources at SPX as they make their choices, and we expect that students maintain these decisions. We recognize; however, in special circumstances, change may be necessary. A schedule change may be considered justifiable if:

- The student was scheduled for a course in which he or she has inadequate background. This change must be initiated by the student's teacher or counselor.
- The student was scheduled for a course for which he or she has not completed the required prerequisites.
- The student has special circumstances (such as health, wellness, etc.) and the change is approved by the Assistant Principal of Student Support, through the student's counselor.
- A clerical error was made which caused the student to be placed in the wrong class.

All schedule changes will involve the student, parent(s), counselor, and teacher. Students must complete the schedule change request form for each change. The deadline for student/parent-initiated schedule changes for the 2025-2026 school year is Wednesday, August 27, 2025. After that deadline, the student must complete the course for a grade and changes will not be made.

Teachers may initiate schedule changes after the deadline, but prior to the mid-semester report, if it is determined that the student has an inadequate background in the subject area. In these cases, the transcript and report card will reflect the grade and title of the new course. Grades from the dropped course will not carry over.

## **HONORS/ADVANCED PLACEMENT/DUAL CREDIT COURSE GUIDELINES**

Honors/AP courses are designed to meet the needs of students who want an advanced college preparatory curriculum, have an innate interest in learning, and possess a high level of responsibility, aptitude, and achievement. Course content and concepts are explored in greater depth compared to college preparatory level courses and more independent work is expected of the student.

For a student to take an honors/AP/ Dual Credit level course, the student must understand that honors/AP/ Dual Credit courses require considerably more homework and studying than a college preparatory course. Work will be assigned and graded accordingly. Students will not be registered for an honors/AP/ Dual Credit course unless he/she meets all prerequisites.

Honors/AP/ Dual Credit courses have a limited number of students; actual offerings will depend on student interests and qualifications. Once a student is enrolled in an honors/AP/ Dual Credit course, he or she will remain in the course until the completion of the course.

Being mindful of a balanced and healthy workload, students should keep in mind their co-curricular activities, jobs, and other responsibilities, when making scheduling decisions. Students requesting more than three AP/honors courses will be required to obtain approval from the AP of Student Support, through their counselor. All students enrolling in an AP course are required to complete the AP acknowledge form, which can be found at the end of the course catalog or obtained from the counseling office.

## **AP EXAM**

Enrollment in any AP class has the requirement of actively and conscientiously taking the AP Exam. Students are responsible for the fee associated with each AP Exam. Students who meet federal income requirements may request reduced fee information through their counselor.

## GRADE POINT VALUES

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>HONORS/AP</u>	<u>COLLEGE PREPARATORY</u>
A – Excellent	5.0	4.0
B – Above average	4.0	3.0
C – Average	3.0	2.0
D – Below average	2.0	1.0
F – Fail	0.0	0.0

Course offerings are divided into two categories: Honors/AP/ Dual Credit and College Preparatory. These groupings are the basis for grade point values. St. Pius X High School is a non-ranking school. Students in the top 10% of their class will be notified of their standing and colleges and universities will be provided this information.

### HONORS/AP/DUAL CREDIT COURSES

**English:** Honors English I, Honors English II, AP Language, AP Literature

**Social Studies:** Honors Ancient World History and Geography, AP World History: Modern, AP U.S. History, AP Government, Honors Economics, AP Psychology

**Science:** Honors Biology I, AP Biology, Honors Chemistry, AP Chemistry, AP Physics I, AP Physics II

**Foreign Language:** AP Latin, AP Spanish, AP French

**Mathematics:** Honors Algebra I, Honors Geometry/Trigonometry, Honors Algebra II, Honors Pre-calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Statistics, AP Calculus BC

**Computer Science:** AP Computer Science Principles, AP Computer Science

### COLLEGE PREPARATORY COURSES

All courses not listed under Honors/AP/Dual Credit courses are considered college preparatory level and carry academic grade point value.

## PROGRAM OF STUDY

### FRESHMAN

Theology I

English I/Honors English I

Mathematics

Biology/Honors Biology

Ancient World History and Geography/Hon. Ancient World History and Geography

Foreign Language I

Physical Education & Health

Communications and/or Fine Art Elective (will be deferred if enrolled in Academic Strategies)

### SOPHOMORE

Theology II

English II/Honors English II

Mathematics

Science

Modern World History and Geography/AP Modern World History and Geography

Foreign Language II

Communications and/or Fine Art Elective

Other: Business Elective, Computer Science Elective, Social Studies Elective, Academic Strategies II

JUNIOR

Theology III

English III/ AP English Literature

Mathematics

Science

U.S. History, AP U.S. History

Other: Foreign Language III, Business Elective, Computer Science Elective, Social Studies Elective, Fine Art Elective, Science Elective

SENIOR

Theology Electives (2)

English IV/AP English Language

Government/AP Government/Economics/Honors Economics

Mathematics

Science

Other: AP Foreign Language, Business Elective, Computer Science Elective, Social Studies Elective, Fine Art Elective, Science Elective

## THEOLOGY

### TH 112 Theology I

#### **Sacred Scripture and Revelation of Jesus Christ**

*1 credit - Freshman*

**CONTENT:**

The purpose of this course is to give students a general knowledge and appreciation of Sacred Scriptures. Through their study of the Bible, they will come to encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. In this course they will learn about the Bible, authored by God through divine inspiration, and its value to people throughout the world. Students will learn how to read the Bible and become familiar with the major sections of the Bible. The students will pay particular attention to the Gospels, where they may grow to know and love Jesus Christ more personally as the living Word of God, and the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Students will understand that Jesus Christ is the ultimate Revelation to us from God. In learning about who he is, the students will also learn who he calls them to be.

**PREREQUISITES:**

None

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

### TH 122 Theology II

#### **The Mission of Jesus Christ and Its Continuation in the Church**

*1 credit - Sophomore*

**CONTENT:**

The purpose of this course is to allow students to examine all that God has done for humanity through the redemptive work of His Son, Jesus Christ. Students will learn that from the first moment of creation, God planned for humanity to share eternal happiness and Divine life as children of God the Father, sisters and brothers of the Son, and united in the Holy Spirit. Students will recognize the role that salvation history (God acting within history to bring about our salvation) plays in the life of a Christian. Students will learn how all human beings share in this redemption through Christ and will also be introduced to how they can encounter the living Jesus Christ through the Church. They will be introduced to the fact that the Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by Him through the Holy Spirit. Finally, students will discover what it means to live as a disciple of Christ and how to apply this calling in their daily lives.

**PREREQUISITES:**

None

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

### TH 131 Theology III

#### **Moral and Sacramental Life in Christ**

*1 credit - Junior*

**CONTENT:**

This course focuses on the essential message of Christ's moral teaching and the importance of love of God and love of neighbor. Students study Natural Law and Christ's Teachings as well as Principles of Catholic Social Justice, which form the foundation of the Church's Moral Doctrine. By studying the Theological and Cardinal Virtues, Decalogue, Beatitudes and Sacraments, students learn to apply moral teachings to modern social and political issues such as basic human rights, war, poverty, racism and issues of life as well as to familial and sexual relationships.

**PREREQUISITES:**

None

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

**TH 136****Service-Learning Apostolate***1/2 credit - Junior/Senior***CONTENT:**

This course prepares and empowers students to make a sacrificial gift of self, offering 100 hours of community service to the wider community. In union with our founders, the Dominican Sisters of Houston, our junior and senior students serve with a spirit of solidarity alongside those in need of physical, emotional or financial support. The objective of the course is to launch young people into a lifetime of service. The direct-service experience is enhanced by formation, prayer, awareness, guidance and discernment activities. Students meet regularly with a cohort and end their Service Learning Apostolate with a capstone project.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Junior Standing

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

Two semesters

**TH 126****Healing Racism***1/2 credit - Senior Elective***CONTENT:**

This elective course will provide seniors with the opportunity to reflect upon and address the problem of racism in our communities. Using active learning, role-playing, and reflection in a safe environment, students will be challenged to address prejudices and stereotypes and to provide practical solutions to the problem of racism. Students will examine racism as it has been manifested in our history and in our own personal lives. We will explore the Church's teachings on human dignity and the call to respect all human life. Using the four pillars of Dominican Life as our framework (Prayer, Study, Community, and Preaching), the students and teacher will be empowered to celebrate the community's diverse gifts and heritage and to embody social justice and service.

**PREREQUISITES:**

None

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester

**TH 146****Death, Dying, and Resurrection***1/2 credit - Senior Elective***CONTENT:**

This course is the study of the Church's teaching on redemption, salvation, suffering, death, judgment, heaven, hell, purgatory and the end of time. It also introduces students to the stages of grief and how to accompany the suffering and the dying.

**PREREQUISITES:**

None

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester

**TH154****Church History***1/2 credit - Senior Elective***CONTENT:**

The purpose of this course is to help students understand the current state of the Catholic Church by examining its history. This course will focus on history since the Enlightenment through to the current day with a particular focus on the Second Vatican Council. Students will examine the historical context and interactions within external factors with the Catholic Church.

**PREREQUISITES:**

None

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester

**TH 128****Creating Justice: Catholic Social Teaching***1/2 credit - Senior Elective***CONTENT:**

The purpose of this course is to guide students through many different areas of our society and consider just and unjust practices. The guiding principle and standard will be the Catholic Social Teaching Tradition, which students will become familiar with through a reading of primary, largely papal, documents. Some of the areas explored include politics, economics, environmental concerns, religious freedoms, and social structures, among others. The students will then be given the opportunity to create their own just, utopian society based upon Catholic Social Teaching principles.

**PREREQUISITES:**

None

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester

**TH 127****World Religions and Interfaith Dialogue***1/2 credit - Senior Elective***CONTENT:**

This course will help students to reflect on their own beliefs through understanding the way the Catholic Church relates to non-Catholic Christians as well as to other religions of the world. Building on the foundational truth that Jesus Christ established the Catholic Church, and entrusted to her the fullness of God's Revelation, the course is intended to help students to recognize the ways in which important spiritual truths can also be found in other religions. The students will explore religious traditions from around the world (Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism), emphasizing the communal and cultural dimensions of religion as well as religion "adjacent" worldviews.

**PREREQUISITES:**

None

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester

**TH 153****Sacred Scripture***1/2 credit - Senior Elective***CONTENT:**

This course gives an overview of the Biblical narrative and the Biblical canon, with special emphasis on God's salvific action in human history and the divine plan for salvation. Basic principles of scripture study and interpretation are introduced and practiced during the course, supporting lifelong immersion in the Word of God.

**PREREQUISITES:**

none

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester

## ENGLISH

### EN 201

#### **English I: Foundations in Literature and English Composition**

*1 credit - Freshman*

#### **CONTENT:**

English 1 provides students with an overview of literary genres and techniques through the study of novels, short stories, articles, and poetry. Students will develop skills in analyzing, discussing, and writing about literature and will understand how authors are influenced by personal experiences, societal expectations, and historical events. Students should be prepared to read and write every day.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

None

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

### EN 202

#### **Honors English I: Foundations in Literature and English Composition**

*1 credit - Freshman*

#### **CONTENT:**

Honors English I begins a comprehensive study of literature emphasizing characterization, theme, setting, figurative language, irony, symbol, and satire. Students will acquire formal writing and documentation skills to improve their grammar and sentence structure in both paragraphs and analytical essays.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

ISEE scores as determined by English department. If a student does not meet these criteria, they may opt-into taking the SPX placement exam.

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

### EN 205

#### **English II: Foundations in Literature and English Composition**

*1 credit - Sophomore*

#### **CONTENT:**

English II extends the study of literary analysis, composition, and language. Students improve language skills through the study of vocabulary and write a variety of compositions ranging from research essays to literary analysis. Emphasis is placed on the skills of supporting ideas and drawing conclusions. Students will read, study, discuss and write about major works of literature, including a variety of world and multi-cultural literature.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

English I

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

### EN 206

#### **Honors English II: Selected Major Works and English Composition**

*1 credit - Sophomore*

#### **CONTENT:**

In this course, students will study major works of world literature in great depth and write complex compositions in preparation for AP English III and IV. Through rigorous academic work, students will acquire the knowledge, concepts, and skills needed to engage in college-level English classes at the junior and senior level in high school.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

Students must meet two of the following criteria: PSAT 8/9 scores of 500+ in Reading and Writing, 80% + in Honors English I / 95%+ in English I, a teacher recommendation.

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

### EN 210

#### **English III: United States Literature**

*1 credit - Junior*

#### **CONTENT:**

English III focuses on higher order thinking skills in the process of reading and writing and the study of American literature. Speaking, listening, and literary criticism are further developed with an emphasis on analysis. Grammar and SAT vocabulary skills are stressed. This is a two-semester course.

**PREREQUISITES:** English I and II  
**LENGTH OF COURSE:** One year

**EN 211** **Advanced Placement English Language**  
*1 credit - Junior*

**CONTENT:** This course provides an in-depth study of language and rhetoric. The study of forms and themes of American authors' non-fiction rhetoric leads to comparison and contrast of American thought from colonial to modern times. The study of rhetoric, grammar, style, mechanics and usage, syntax, and MLA reference rules culminates in taking the AP exam in May. This course is a composition course; expect to read complex, lengthy texts and write often.

**PREREQUISITES:** Students must meet two of the following criteria: Reading & Writing PSAT score of 550, an 85%+ in Honors English II/ 95% in English II, a teacher recommendation.

**LENGTH OF COURSE:** One year

**EN 215** **English IV: Introduction to Literary Criticism**  
*1 credit - Senior*

**CONTENT:** English IV serves as an introduction to literary criticism and analysis of British Literature. Students will learn how to understand and evaluate works of fiction, poetry, and drama from various periods and cultures. Students will read literary works and write essays to explain and support their analysis of them. Students will apply their study of literary criticisms in formal writing and in creative projects.

**PREREQUISITES:** English III

**LENGTH OF COURSE:** One year

**EN 216** **Advanced Placement English Literature**  
*1 credit - Senior*

**CONTENT:** Students will learn how to understand and evaluate works of fiction, poetry, and drama from various periods and cultures. Students will read literary works and write essays to explain and support their analysis of them.

**PREREQUISITES:** Students must meet two of the following criteria: Reading & Writing PSAT of 550, a 90%+ in AP English Language/ 95%+ English III, teacher recommendation.

**LENGTH OF COURSE:** One year

**EN 224** **Standardized Test Preparation**  
*1/2 credit elective - Sophomore, Junior*

**CONTENT:** This course presents strategies and practices skills for improving standardized test scores. Students will complete and review practice online tests in English, mathematics, reading, and essay writing. They will also review the purposes of the ACT/SAT tests, general test-taking strategies, and ways to reduce test anxiety. This is a pass/ fail course.

**PREREQUISITES:** Successful completion of 10th grade English and mathematics

**LENGTH OF COURSE:** One semester

**EN 229**

**Creative Writing**

*1/2 credit elective - Juniors & Seniors*

**CONTENT:**

Creative Writing provides students with opportunities to develop their literary talents. This course includes a study of varied forms of prose and poetry and gives students the experience to write creatively in different genres. By the end of the course, students will have a small portfolio of individual work. Development of figurative language, syntax, and story structure will be emphasized with the purpose of refining individual student voice.

**PREREQUISITES:**

English I, English II

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS/COMMUNICATION

### LA 241

#### **Communications**

*1/2 credit required - all levels*

#### **CONTENT:**

Students will identify, analyze, develop, and evaluate communication skills needed for success. The course will focus on relationships in interpersonal and intrapersonal communication, small groups, and public speaking. Students will learn to employ appropriate verbal and non-verbal communication. Units on group dynamics and listening skills will give students the skills to participate in classes, larger audiences, on teams and in small groups. Students apply skills presenting speeches, working in groups, and completing projects during the semester.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

None

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester

### LA 245

#### **Debate I**

*1/2 credit elective - Sophomore, Junior, Senior*

#### **CONTENT:**

This course is designed to develop students' critical thinking, research, and public speaking skills through the art of debate. Students will explore various forms of debate, including policy debate, Lincoln-Douglas debate, and public forum debate. They will learn to construct persuasive arguments, analyze evidence, and engage in respectful and evidence-based discourse. Emphasis will be placed on logical reasoning, effective communication, and the ability to articulate and defend viewpoints on a wide range of topics. Students will also learn to critically evaluate the arguments of others and develop the skills necessary to participate in competitive debate tournaments.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

None

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester

### LA 276

#### **Academic Strategies I**

*1 credit - Freshman*

#### **CONTENT:**

This course provides students with an opportunity to practice reading and writing skills across the curriculum to succeed in college preparatory classes. The course emphasizes the development and application of literacy strategies for reading textbooks, novels, articles, and other academic reading materials as well as pragmatic support for communicating academically in formal writing across the curriculum. Students will work with the teacher to devise strategies and schedules for monitoring grades and accessing the tutorial program of the school.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

Recommendation of the Learning Center director and enrollment committee

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

### LA 278

#### **Academic Strategies II**

*1 credit - Sophomore*

#### **CONTENT:**

This course provides students with an opportunity to practice reading and writing skills across the curriculum to succeed in college preparatory classes. The course emphasizes the development and application of literacy strategies for reading textbooks, novels, articles, and other academic reading materials as well as pragmatic support for communicating academically in formal writing across the curriculum. Students will work with the teacher to devise strategies

and schedules for monitoring grades and accessing the tutorial program of the school.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Academic Strategies I or recommendation of the Learning Center director

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

### FL 301

#### **French I**

1 credit - all levels

#### **CONTENT:**

This introductory course exposes students to the language and cultures of the French-speaking world. Students will develop basic proficiency in the four modalities of language learning: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will first learn to communicate about themselves, their families, and their friends. Then, students will respond to oral and written prompts about their daily lives, responsibilities, and favorite restaurants. There is strong emphasis on language learning through curricular activities. French will be used as much as possible during classroom instruction.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

None

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

### FL 302

#### **French II**

*1 credit - all levels*

#### **CONTENT:**

Students will continue to develop proficiency in the four modalities of language learning: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will begin to use the language practically and creatively to make inquiries, gather information, and express opinions. Students will begin to hold conversations on topics ranging from holiday gatherings and food to daily routines and academic choices. Students will be introduced to a broad range of grammatical topics and continue to expand their vocabulary base and increase the number and type of situations in which they can function. There is strong emphasis on language learning through various curricular activities. French will be spoken as much as possible.

#### **PREREQUISITE:**

French I or placement exam

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

### FL 306

#### **French III**

*1 credit - Sophomore, Junior, Senior*

#### **CONTENT:**

Students will continue to use the language practically and creatively to complete a variety of tasks including listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Themes to be explored include vacation and leisure activities, education and career choices, childhood memories, relationships, the environment, and art within the francophone world. More complex grammatical concepts are introduced. There is strong emphasis on language learning through various activities. This course will be conducted in French as much as possible.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

French I, French II

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

### FL 305

#### **Advanced Placement French Language**

*1 credit- Senior*

#### **CONTENT:**

This course prepares students to communicate proficiently through the three modes of communication (interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational). Students will refine their French skills while adding new vocabulary pertinent to a variety of subjects and exploring a variety of material from the francophone world. This course is conducted entirely in French and students are expected to take the AP French exam in May.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

95% or above in French III and teacher recommendation

**LENGTH OF COURSE:** One year

**FL 310**

**Latin III**

*1 credit - Sophomore, Junior, Senior*

**CONTENT:**

In Latin III, students are exposed to the works of classic authors and ancient texts in a variety of genres. Authors may include Cicero, Catallus, and Virgil. Students will continue to learn grammatical concepts, Latin vocabulary, and the etymology and morphology of the Latin language.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Latin I, Latin II

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

**FL 316**

**Advanced Placement Latin: Vergil and Caesar**

*1 credit - Junior, Senior*

**CONTENT:**

The basic objective is to progress reading, translating, understanding, analyzing, and interpreting Latin to successfully pass the AP Latin exam. The course will follow the syllabus required by the AP College Board. AP Latin students prepare for the AP Latin Exam by reading texts, routinely practicing core skills, and engaging meaningfully and repeatedly with the material.

**PREREQUISITES:**

95% or above in Latin III and teacher recommendation

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

**FL 317**

**Spanish I**

*1 credit - all levels*

**CONTENT:**

Spanish I is the foundation course for students who have not taken Spanish previously and/or for those who have had limited instruction in the language. The course develops students' ability to understand, speak, read, and write Spanish. Students will engage in simple conversations using familiar vocabulary and expressions and ask and answer basic questions about personal information, daily activities, and preferences. Hispanic culture and history are integrated into the lessons regularly. The course will be conducted in the target language as much as possible.

**PREREQUISITES:**

None

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

**FL 321**

**Spanish II**

*1 credit - all levels*

**CONTENT:**

Spanish II builds on the basics presented in Spanish I. The course is designed to build listening, reading, writing and speaking skills. Students will begin to learn multiple verb tenses. The course further develops students' ability to understand, speak, read, and write Spanish. Hispanic culture and history are integrated into the lessons regularly. The course will be conducted in the target language as much as possible.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Spanish I

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year or placement exam

**FL 324****Spanish III**

*1 credit - Sophomore, Junior, Senior*

**CONTENT:**

Spanish III continues to build fluency. Advanced vocabulary is introduced. Students learn to discuss possibilities and make predictions. This course serves as a foundation course for those wishing to move to Advanced Placement. The course will be conducted in the target language as much as possible.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Spanish I and Spanish II or placement exam

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

**FL 327****Advanced Placement Spanish Language**

*1 credit - Junior, Senior*

**CONTENT:**

The AP program in Spanish language is intended for those who have chosen to develop their proficiency in all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. It encompasses aural/oral skills, reading comprehension, grammar, and composition. Students will take the AP Exam in May after completing this course.

**PREREQUISITES:**

95% or better in Spanish III and teacher recommendation

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

## MATHEMATICS

### MT 400

#### Algebra I

*1 credit - Freshman*

#### CONTENT:

This course provides the algebraic foundation for college-bound students. Topics include solving equations, graphs and functions, systems of equations, and polynomial functions. This course is designed to prepare students for Geometry. All students must have everyday access to a TI-84 Plus CE graphing calculator.

#### PREREQUISITES:

None

#### LENGTH OF COURSE:

One year

### MT 406

#### Honors Algebra I

*1 credit - Freshman*

#### CONTENT:

This course provides an accelerated, comprehensive overview of Algebra I. It is designed for the college-bound student who enjoys mathematics and displays procedural and problem-solving skills. Both the quantity and complexity of problems are higher than those found in a standard algebra course. The approach is more theoretical. This course prepares students for Honors Geometry/Trigonometry and Honors Algebra II. All students must have everyday access to a TI-84 Plus CE graphing calculator.

#### PREREQUISITES:

ISEE scores as determined by Math department. If a student does not meet these criteria, they may opt-into taking the SPX placement exam.

#### LENGTH OF COURSE:

One year

### MT 410

#### Geometry

*1 credit - Freshman, Sophomore*

#### CONTENT:

This is a college-preparatory course, designed to develop an understanding of geometric relations in a plane and in space. Students learn to reason mathematically while exploring concepts such as parallel and perpendicular lines, triangles, and quadrilaterals. Area, surface area, volume, circles, and 3-D shapes round out the curriculum. All students must have everyday access to a TI-84 Plus CE graphing calculator.

#### PREREQUISITES:

Algebra I or Honors Algebra I; See Algebra II pre-requisites for two-tracking pathway

#### LENGTH OF COURSE:

One year

### MT 411

#### Honors Geometry/Trigonometry

*1 credit - Freshman, Sophomore*

#### CONTENT:

This course presents an accelerated, comprehensive survey of planar and spatial geometric relationships. Designed for the college-bound student with exceptional mathematical and critical/analytical ability, students enrolling in this course should want to move beyond the scope of the normal college preparatory curriculum. All students must have everyday access to a TI-84 Plus CE graphing calculator.

#### PREREQUISITES:

Students must meet two of the following criteria: 80%+ Honors Algebra I/95%+ Algebra I, 500+ on PSAT 8/9 Math, or teacher recommendation. See Algebra II pre-requisites for two-tracking pathway. Students who have completed Algebra I and/or Geometry in eighth grade, and who wish to be placed in this course, must take the St. Pius X placement exam, and receive department chair approval.

<b>LENGTH OF COURSE:</b>	One year
<b>MT 420</b>	<b><u>Algebra II</u></b> <i>1 credit – Sophomore, Junior</i>
<b>CONTENT:</b>	This course provides a detailed study of transformations, irrational and complex numbers, quadratic equations, systems of equations, polynomial functions, graphing techniques, exponential functions, logarithmic functions, rational functions, and graphical analysis. All students must have everyday access to a TI-84 Plus CE graphing calculator.
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	Algebra I, Geometry. Option to two-track with Geometry if student earns at least 90% in Algebra I. Option to two-track with Honors Geometry if student earns at least 95% in Algebra I or 90% in Honors Algebra I.
<b>LENGTH OF COURSE:</b>	One year
<b>MT 423</b>	<b><u>Honors Algebra II</u></b> <i>1 credit - Sophomore, Junior</i>
<b>CONTENT:</b>	This course provides an accelerated, comprehensive program for college-bound students with exceptional ability. It covers all material found in the standard college-preparatory Algebra II course and is expanded to include some Pre-calculus topics. All students must have everyday access to a TI-84 Plus CE graphing calculator.
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	Students must meet two of the following criteria: 80% in Honors Geometry/95% Geometry, 550+ on PSAT, teacher recommendation.
<b>LENGTH OF COURSE:</b>	One year
<b>MT 500</b>	<b><u>Advanced Quantitative Reasoning</u></b> <i>1 credit - Junior, Senior</i>
<b>CONTENT:</b>	The focal points of this course include the analysis of information using statistical methods and probability, modeling change and mathematical relationships, mathematical decision making in finance, and spatial and geometric modeling for decision making. Students learn to become critical consumers of the quantitative data that surround them every day, knowledgeable decision makers who use logical reasoning, and mathematical thinkers who can use their quantitative skills to solve problems related to a wide range of situations. As students work with these mathematical topics, they continually rely on mathematical processes, including problem-solving techniques, appropriate mathematical language and communications skills, connections within and outside mathematics and reasoning. Student will also use multiple representations, technology, applications and modeling, and numerical fluency in problem-solving context. All students must have everyday access to a TI-84 Plus CE graphing calculator.
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	Algebra II; students averaging below 78% in Algebra II will be placed in AQR.
<b>LENGTH OF COURSE:</b>	One year
<b>MT 430</b>	<b><u>Pre-Calculus</u></b> <i>1 credit - Junior, Senior</i>
<b>CONTENT:</b>	This course focuses on the application of algebra and trigonometry to the study of polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions, and their graphs. Special emphasis is given to problem solving, appropriate technology use, and skills needed for calculus. All students must have everyday access to a TI-84 Plus CE graphing calculator.

**PREREQUISITES:** Algebra II; Students with a 78% or higher average in Algebra II will be placed in Pre-Calculus.

**LENGTH OF COURSE:** One year

**MT 435** **Honors Pre-Calculus**

*1 credit - Junior, Senior*

**CONTENT:** This course is designed for the student who intends to take a calculus course at the high school or college level. This comprehensive, fast-paced course will integrate concepts and procedures from all previous mathematics courses and incorporate the theory, symbolism, and precision necessary to be successful in higher mathematics. Critical thinking, analysis skills, and application of concepts and procedures are emphasized. All students must have everyday access to a TI-84 Plus CE graphing calculator.

**PREREQUISITES:** Students must meet two of the following criteria: 80%+ Honors Algebra II/95%+ Algebra II, 550+on PSAT math, teacher recommendation.

**LENGTH OF COURSE:** One year

**MT 439** **Introduction to Calculus**

*1 credit - Senior*

**CONTENT:** In this course students will build on their understanding of the end behavior of graphs to explore the limits of functions. Students will then explore derivatives of functions including polynomial, logarithmic, exponential, and trigonometry. Students will apply their understanding of derivatives to solve real world problems. Students will begin to explore integrals. All students must have everyday access to a TI-84 Plus CE graphing calculator.

**PREREQUISITES:** Pre-Calculus or Honors Pre-Calculus

**LENGTH OF COURSE:** One year

**MT 440** **Advanced Placement Calculus AB**

*1 credit - Junior, Senior*

**CONTENT:** This course prepares students to take the AP Calculus AB Exam in the spring semester. The curriculum closely follows the AP Calculus AB Course and Exam Description with review of the year's material before taking the AP Exam. Students will explore new concepts and applications related to further college study in science, architecture, engineering, pre-medicine, or business. All students must have everyday access to a TI-84 Plus CE graphing calculator.

**PREREQUISITES:** 80%+ in Honors Pre-Calculus and a teacher recommendation

**LENGTH OF COURSE:** One year

**MT 450** **Advanced Placement Statistics**

*1 credit - Junior, Senior*

**CONTENT:** This course will have students exploring data, sampling, and experimentation, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference. All students must have everyday access to a TI-84 Plus CE graphing calculator.

**PREREQUISITES:** 95%+ in Algebra II or successful completion of Honors Algebra II and teacher recommendation

**LENGTH OF COURSE:** One year

**MT 445**

**AP Calculus BC**

*1 credit - Senior*

**CONTENT:**

This course includes the study of differential and integral calculus. Topics are consistent with the guidelines set forth by the College Board for AP Calculus BC. This course mirrors that of a 2-semester college calculus sequence. AP Calculus BC covers the content and skills learned in AP Calculus AB and goes beyond that content to apply calculus concepts to parametrically defined curves, polar curves, and vector-valued functions. BC students develop additional integration techniques and study sequences and series with calculus applications. A TI-84 Plus CE calculator is required. All students are expected to sit for the AP Exam in May.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Successful completion of AP Calculus AB

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

## SCIENCE

### SC 520

#### **Biology I**

*1 credit - Freshman*

#### **CONTENT:**

This course covers biological principles necessary to prepare the student for success in college science, while also emphasizing the practical biological concepts important to his/her own life. Course content includes the study of the metric system, molecule, cells, heredity, evolution, organisms, and populations. This foundation will lead to discussion and study of the six kingdoms of life and will include microbiology and a taxonomic study of plants, invertebrates, and vertebrates with an emphasis on the major systems of the human organism.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

None

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

### SC 521

#### **Honors Biology I**

*1 credit - Freshman*

#### **CONTENT:**

This course provides a more in-depth study of the topics covered in Biology I. Lab work and vocabulary are more detailed and in-depth compared to the standard course. Individual research and outside reading will be required for students to actively contribute to classroom discussions on current topics in the field of Biology.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

ISEE scores as determined by science department. If a student does not meet these criteria, they may opt-into taking the SPX placement exam.

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

### SC 522

#### **Advanced Placement Biology**

*1 credit - Junior, Senior*

#### **CONTENT:**

This course is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory biology course and includes topics and labs covered for biology majors. It aims to provide students with the conceptual framework, factual knowledge, and analytical skills necessary to deal critically with the rapidly changing science of biology. Emphasis is placed on developing an understanding of concepts rather than on memorizing terms and technical details. Study of three major topic areas includes molecules and cells, heredity and evolution, and organisms and populations. The course will prepare students to take the AP Biology Exam in the spring. Students will be required to spend extra time outside of regular classroom hours to complete labs and projects to complete this course. These times may be scheduled before or after school hours depending on scheduling.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

Students must meet two of the following criteria: 85%+ Honors Biology or Honors Chemistry/95% in Biology or Chemistry, 1100+ PSAT score, teacher recommendation.

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

### SC 530

#### **Chemistry I**

*1 credit - Sophomore, Junior (class of 2027 only)*

#### **CONTENT:**

This course provides a solid foundation of concepts and skills to prepare students for chemistry at the college level. Students are challenged to develop and use critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The unifying theme relating all topics is that the properties of matter are a consequence of their structure.

Laboratory experiences challenge the student to apply theoretical concepts to relate them to real world phenomenon. Areas covered include measurement and calculations, classification of matter, matter-energy relationships, atomic and molecular structure, periodicity, the mole concept, formula calculations, solutions, and acids and bases.

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**LENGTH OF COURSE:** One year

**SC 531**

**Honors Chemistry I**

*1 credit - Sophomore, Junior*

**CONTENTS:** This is a challenging course that will prepare students interested in pursuing a career in a scientific field. It is designed for students with strong science reasoning ability and work ethic. Areas covered include principles of matter-energy relationships, classification of matter, the mole concept, formula calculations, periodicity, atomic and molecular structures, solubility, acids and bases, equilibrium, and organic chemistry.

**PREREQUISITES:** Students must meet two of the following criteria: 85%+ in Honors Biology/95%+ in Biology, PSAT scores of 1000+, teacher recommendation.

**LENGTH OF COURSE:** One year

**SC 535**

**Advanced Placement Chemistry**

*1 credit - Junior, Senior*

**CONTENT:** The AP Chemistry course provides students with a college-level foundation to support future advanced course work in chemistry. Students cultivate their understanding of chemistry through inquiry-based investigations, as they explore topics such as: atomic structure, intermolecular forces and bonding, chemical reactions, kinetics, thermodynamics, and equilibrium. Created by the AP Chemistry Development Committee, the course curriculum is compatible with many Chemistry courses in colleges and universities.

**PREREQUISITES:** Students must meet two of the following criteria: 85+% in Honors Chemistry/ a 95% in Chemistry I, score 1100+ on full PSAT, teacher recommendation

**LENGTH OF COURSE:** One year

**SC 552**

**Physics**

*1 credit - Junior, Senior*

**CONTENT:** Physics is an algebra-based, college prep-level physics course that explores topics such as motion Newtonian mechanics (including rotational dynamics and angular momentum), work, energy, power, mechanical waves, and sound. It will also introduce electric circuits. It will promote critical thinking skills and scientific reasoning through guided inquiry and problem solving.

**PREREQUISITES:** Completion of Biology & Chemistry and completion or concurrent enrollment in Algebra II

**LENGTH OF COURSE:** One year

**SC 556**

**Advanced Placement Physics I**

*1 credit - Junior, Senior*

**CONTENT:** AP Physics I is an algebra-based, introductory college-level course that explores topics such as motion Newtonian mechanics (including rotational dynamics and angular momentum), fluid statics and dynamics, work, energy, power, mechanical waves, and sound. It will also introduce electric circuits. It

will promote critical thinking skills and scientific reasoning and develop independent learners through inquiry.

**PREREQUISITES:** Students must meet two of the following criteria: 95%+ in Chemistry I or an 85% in Honors Chemistry, composite PSAT score of 1100+, teacher recommendation

**LENGTH OF COURSE:** One year

**SC 557** **Advanced Placement Physics II**

*1 credit - Senior*

**CONTENT:** AP Physics II is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course that explores topics such as thermodynamics with kinetic theory; PV diagrams and probability; electrostatics; electric circuits with capacitors; magnetic fields; electromagnetisms; physical and geometric optics; and quantum, atomic, and nuclear physics.

**PREREQUISITES:** Successful completion of AP Physics I or 80%+ in Physics and current enrollment in pre-calculus or successful completion of pre-calculus

**LENGTH OF COURSE:** One year

**SC 565** **Environmental Science/Systems**

*1 credit - Junior, Senior*

**CONTENT:** This course includes the study of natural resources, biodiversity, and ecology. Topics include the flow of energy in ecosystems and biomes, the study of populations and how they change and interact, and the organization of life. Students are introduced to science and the environment and will explore the scientific method, statistics, and models to make informed decisions about issues that affect the environment. The second semester includes the study of energy, pollution, and natural disasters as they impact the environment. Topics include environmental interrelationships and ethics, land use planning, agricultural methods, and the effect of greenhouse gases on climate change, water management, air pollution, waste management, alternative energy sources, and environmental policy and decision-making.

**PREREQUISITES:** Successful completion of Biology

**LENGTH OF COURSE:** One year

**SC 570** **Earth and Space Science**

*1 credit - Junior, Senior*

**CONTENT:** This course will focus on three major science concepts: Earth in Space and Time, Solid Earth, and Fluid Earth. Course content includes geology, oceanography, meteorology, environmental science, and astronomy. Students will study the origin, evolution, and properties of the integrated Earth and planetary systems. Using a chronological framework and a systems approach, students will increase their knowledge of the dynamics of Earth and space using data, models, and observations over time.

**PREREQUISITES:** Successful completion of Biology

**LENGTH OF COURSE:** One year

**SC 575****Forensic Science***1 credit – Junior, Senior***CONTENT:**

This course provides a structured and scientific approach to the investigation of crimes of assault, abuse and neglect, domestic violence, accidental death, homicide, and the psychology of criminal behavior. Students will learn terminology and investigative procedures related to crime scenes, questioning, interviewing, criminal behavior characteristics, truth detection and scientific procedures used to solve crimes. Using scientific methods students will collect and analyze evidence through case studies and simulated crime scenes. Methods will include fingerprint analysis, ballistics, blood spatter analysis and DNA testing. Students will learn the history, legal aspects, and career options for forensic science.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Successful completion of Biology

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

**SC 582****Engineering Design and Analysis***1 credit – Sophomore, Junior, Senior***CONTENT:**

Engineering Design and Analysis is a part of the Engineer Your World program from University of Texas at Austin-This course is designed to build 21st century skills, critical thinking and problem solving, communication and collaboration. Students will be working in a project-based environment developing skills to prepare them for a career in an engineering field, train them to think like an engineer, and develop their abilities to complete collegiate level work in the structured environment of an SPX classroom. \*This is a dual-enrollment course with the University of Texas at Austin. Application, acceptance, and proof of successful completion of UT's Dual Enrollment required to earn the extra grade point for this class. Students' schedules will reflect this higher GPA course after acceptances are released by UT in the fall. Students need to show continued proof of completion of the course to remain enrolled in the honors section. If students choose to take the course at SPX, but do not apply or are not accepted to the UT program, they will be enrolled in the class but will not receive the additional GPA point.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Students must meet two of the following criteria: Successful completion of Biology I &amp; Algebra I, teacher recommendation, PSAT score of 460+ in math

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

**SC 583****Engineering Applications of Computer Science***1 credit - Junior, Senior***CONTENT:**

Engineering Applications of Computer Science is a part of the Engineer Your World Program from University of Texas at Austin and comprises a combination of project-based, socially relevant design challenges and explorations that introduce students to key computing principles in the context of engineering. Students employ engineering processes, skills, and mind habits to solve more complex challenges that rely on computing, programming, data representation and analysis, algorithmic thinking, and modeling skills required for engineering. This course builds on the skills set in year one. Students will be working in a project-based environment to prepare them for a career in an engineering field, training them to think like an engineer, and developing their abilities to complete collegiate level work in the structured environment of an SPX classroom.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Engineering Design and Analysis or teacher recommendation

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### SS 632

#### **Ancient World History and Geography**

*1 credit - Freshman*

#### **CONTENT:**

This course is a study of the history of the world, and its impact on the present time. It also includes study of geography as it shapes the development of cultures, social groupings, activities, technologies, means of communication, and world views. The course seeks to develop skills, attitudes, and behaviors that will enable students to function as effective citizens in a changing world. The course will start with the beginnings of civilization and end with the Middle Ages. Major topics include civilizations of Egypt, China, Greece, Rome, and Africa, and major historical periods.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

None

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

### SS 634

#### **Honors Ancient World History and Geography**

*1 credit - Freshman*

#### **CONTENT:**

This course starts with pre-history and includes the earliest civilizations such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, the Americas, Greece, Rome, Persia, and Africa up to the Middle Ages. This course is designed for students with a strong interest in history and historical reasoning. It is a thorough and fast-paced appraisal of world cultures, economics, history, religion, governance, and art while also concentrating on analyzing historical sources and written expression.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

ISEE scores of 7 stanine or above in Verbal Reasoning and Reading Comprehension

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

### SS 633

#### **Modern World History and Geography**

*1 credit - Sophomore*

#### **CONTENT:**

This course is a study of the history of the world, and its impact on the present time. It also includes study of the development of cultures, social groupings, activities, technologies, means of communication, and world views. The course seeks to develop skills, attitudes, and behaviors that will enable students to function as effective citizens in a changing world. The course will start with the Enlightenment and Scientific Revolution and end with modern times. Major topics include: the French Revolution, WWI, WWII, The Cold War, The Korean War, Vietnam, The Gulf War, and the War in Afghanistan.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

Ancient World History and Geography

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

### SS 638

#### **AP World History: Modern**

*1 credit - Sophomore*

#### **CONTENT:**

This course investigates significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from 1200 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills employed by historians: analyzing sources, developing arguments, making connections, and utilizing historical reasoning in essays. The course is designed for those who have a strong interest in history and historical writing. It is a fast-paced appraisal of six main themes across history: the environment, culture, governance, economic systems, social interactions, and technology.

<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	Students must meet two of the following criteria: 80%+ in Honors Ancient World/95%+ in Ancient World History, Composite PSAT over 1100 or PSAT Verbal over 550, teacher recommendation
<b>LENGTH OF COURSE:</b>	One year
<b>SS 600</b>	<b><u>U.S. History</u></b> <i>1 credit - Junior</i>
<b>CONTENT:</b>	This course studies a period of the pre-civil war in America to recent time. This course provides a comprehensive survey of American history from the Reconstruction era following the Civil War to the present day. Students will explore significant political, social, economic, and cultural developments that have shaped modern America. The skills of critical analysis, research proficiency, effective communication, historical interpretation and cultural literacy will be taught and examined.
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	Ancient and Modern World History and Geography
<b>LENGTH OF COURSE:</b>	One year
<b>SS 605</b>	<b><u>Advanced Placement U.S. History</u></b> <i>1 credit - Junior</i>
<b>CONTENT:</b>	The course covers the periods of exploration and colonization to 1763, the Revolutionary era, Constitutional Government, the Jefferson and Jacksonian periods, the split between the North and South, domestic America, and the Imperial Republic during the first semester. The second semester includes the study of the Progressive Movement, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, and current history. Several texts, outside reading assignments, tables, charts, maps, and graph analysis assist students with in-depth, comprehensive coverage of the events of American history.
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	Students must meet two of the following criteria: 80%+ in AP World History or 95%+ in Modern World History, composite PSAT 1100+ or PSAT verbal 550+, teacher recommendation
<b>LENGTH OF COURSE:</b>	One year
<b>SS 640</b>	<b><u>U.S. Government</u></b> <i>1/2 credit - Senior</i>
<b>CONTENT:</b>	This course examines the principles and beliefs upon which the United States was founded and the structure, functions, and powers of government at the national, state, and local levels. Students learn major political ideas and forms of government in history. A significant focus on the course is on the U.S. Constitution, its underlying principles and ideas, and the form of government it created. Students analyze major concepts of republicanism, federalism, checks and balances, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, and individual rights and compare the U.S. system of government with other political systems. Students analyze the impact of individuals, political parties, interest groups, and the media on the American political system, evaluate the importance of voluntary individual participation in a democratic society, and analyze the rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. Students examine the relationship between governmental policies and the culture of the United States.
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	Ancient World History and Geography, Modern World History and Geography, and U.S. History
<b>LENGTH OF COURSE:</b>	One semester

**SS 642****Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics***1/2 credit - Senior***CONTENT:**

This course is designed to conform to the general standards of the AP program and the study of political behavior. It stresses the study of both general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific examples. Special emphasis is placed on the use of cases that describe the activities of citizens and political decision-makers, thus emphasizing an analytical approach to the three branches of government, the federal bureaucracy, and the various unofficial political specialists. Students must have a keen interest in government, politics, current events, and elections.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Students must meet two of the following criteria: 80%+ APUSH/95% US History, PSAT composite score of 1100+ or verbal of 550+, teacher recommendation.

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester, spring

**SS 645****Economics***1/2 credit - Senior***CONTENT:**

The focus of this course is on the basic principles concerning production, consumption, and distribution of goods and services in the United States and a comparison with those in other countries around the world. Students examine the rights and responsibilities of consumers and businesses. Students analyze the interaction of supply, demand, and price and study the role of financial institutions in a free enterprise system. Types of business ownership and market structures are discussed, as are basic concepts of consumer economics. The impact of a variety of factors including geography, the federal government, economic ideas from important philosophers and historic documents, societal values, and technological innovations on the national economy and economic policy is an integral part of the course.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Ancient World History and Geography, Modern World History and Geography, and U.S. History

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester

**SS 646****Honors Economics***1/2 credit - Senior***CONTENT:**

This course is open to students who demonstrate proficiency in mathematics and English. It provides students with an opportunity to thoroughly examine the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision-makers, both consumers and producers, with the larger economic system. It places emphasis on the nature and functions of product markets and includes the study of factor markets and the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. In the second quarter, emphasis is given to the study of economic performance measures, economic growth, and international economics.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Teacher recommendation and PSAT composite score of 1100+ or verbal of 550+

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester, fall

<b>SS 656</b>	<b><u>Psychology</u></b> <i>1/2 credit elective – Sophomore, Junior, Senior</i>
<b>CONTENT:</b>	An introduction to psychology with a focus on the history, current issues, and future of psychology. Students will learn about psychological research, child development, learning theory, intelligence, memory and thought, sensation, perception, motivation, and emotion. The course also includes a study of the brain and nervous system.
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	None
<b>LENGTH OF COURSE:</b>	One semester
<b>SS 655</b>	<b><u>AP Psychology</u></b> <i>1 credit elective – Sophomore, Junior, Senior</i>
<b>CONTENT:</b>	The AP Psychology course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts and phenomena associated with such topics as the biological bases of behavior, cognition, development, learning, social psychology, personality, and mental and physical health. Throughout the course, students apply psychological concepts and employ psychological research methods and data interpretation to evaluate claims, consider evidence, and effectively communicate ideas.
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	Students must meet two of the following criteria: 80% + in Honors English/ 90%+ in English, teacher recommendation, or PSAT verbal of 500 +.
<b>LENGTH OF COURSE:</b>	One year
<b>SS 680</b>	<b><u>Student Leadership</u></b> <i>1/2 credit - Junior, Senior</i>
<b>CONTENT:</b>	Student Leadership is a course for students who seek opportunities to expand and deepen their group and individual skills to positively impact their lives and their community. This is a pass/ fail course.
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	None
<b>LENGTH OF COURSE:</b>	One semester
<b>SS 700</b>	<b><u>American Legal System &amp; Justice</u></b> <i>1 credit – Sophomore, Junior, Senior</i>
<b>CONTENT:</b>	This class covers law enforcement, criminal courts, sentencing, penal institutions, and community-based sanctions. It also includes historical and contemporary perspectives on components of the criminal justice system, as well as the legal and constitutional frameworks in which they operate. Additionally, this class will explore business law.
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	None
<b>LENGTH OF COURSE:</b>	One year

## FINE ARTS

### FA 700

#### **AutoCAD Drafting & 3D Modelling**

*1/2 credit - Sophomore, Junior, Senior*

#### **CONTENT:**

Students will explore and receive instruction in basic architecture, engineering, technical theatre, design, art, 3D printing, and many other computer-aided design subjects. This course will inspire critical thinking, problem solving, creative thinking and builds math skills. This course will integrate 3D modelling software.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

None

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One Semester

### FA 705

#### **Art I: Introduction to Visual Arts**

*1/2 credit elective – all levels*

#### **CONTENT:**

Art I is an introductory course designed to provide students with a foundational understanding of visual arts. Students will explore various art forms, including drawing, painting, sculpture, and mixed media. They will learn about the elements and principles of art, as well as art history and the contributions of diverse artists and movements. Through hands-on projects, students will develop their creativity, observational skills, and artistic expression. Emphasis will be placed on the exploration of different artistic techniques and the development of a personal artistic style.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

None

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester

### FA 901

#### **Art II: Studio Art**

*1 credit elective – Sophomore, Junior, Senior*

#### **CONTENT:**

Art II is an advanced studio art course that builds upon the foundational skills developed in Art I. Students will delve deeper into the exploration of various art mediums and techniques, including advanced drawing, painting, printmaking, and three-dimensional art. They will also study art history, contemporary art movements, and the work of master artists. Through a series of challenging projects, students will refine their technical skills, develop a deeper understanding of artistic concepts, and cultivate a personal artistic voice. Emphasis will be placed on creativity, critical thinking, and the development of a portfolio showcasing the students' advanced artistic abilities.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

Art I

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

### FA 902

#### **Art III: Advanced Techniques**

*1 credit elective – Sophomore, Junior, Senior*

#### **CONTENT:**

Art III is an advanced course that focuses on portfolio development and the mastery of advanced artistic techniques. Students will work extensively on building a comprehensive portfolio that showcases their artistic growth and personal style. They will explore advanced concepts in drawing, painting, sculpture, and mixed media, with an emphasis on individualized projects and artistic exploration. Students will also study contemporary art practices, art criticism, and the role of art in society. Emphasis will be placed on the development of a professional portfolio suitable for college applications or entry into the art world.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

Art II

**LENGTH OF COURSE:** One year

**FA 719**

**Digital Photography**

*1/2 credit elective - all levels*

**CONTENT:**

Students will learn how to photograph, digitally edit, and print photos using digital cameras, Adobe Photoshop, and ink jet printers. Students are expected to master the fundamental principles of design, lighting, basic digital camera operation, and computer photography software. Student-owned digital camera, and \$20 for printing cost for supplies required.

**PREREQUISITES:**

None

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester

**FA 720**

**Graphic Design Techniques**

*1/2 credit elective - all levels*

**CONTENT:**

Digital Media Design is a dynamic course that introduces students to the world of digital media, social media and visual storytelling. Students will explore various forms of media, including social media, graphic design, photography, videography, and digital editing. They will learn to create compelling visual content using industry-standard software and equipment. Through hands-on projects, students will develop skills in visual communication, digital storytelling, and media production. Emphasis will be placed on creativity, critical thinking, and the ethical use of media in today's digital landscape.

**PREREQUISITES:**

None

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester

**FA 761**

**Theatre Arts I: Introduction to Acting and Performance**

*1/2 credit elective - all levels*

**CONTENT:**

Theatre I is an introductory course designed to introduce students to the fundamental principles of acting and performance. Students will explore the basic elements of theatre, including improvisation, character development, stage movement, voice projection, and script analysis. Through a combination of individual and group activities, students will develop their creativity, self-expression, and confidence on stage. They will also learn about the history of theatre and the contributions of various playwrights and theatrical movements.

**PREREQUISITES:**

None

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester

**FA 905**

**Theatre Arts II: Advanced Acting and Performance**

*1 credit elective - Sophomore, Junior, Senior*

**CONTENT:**

Theatre II is an advanced course that builds upon the foundational skills developed in Theatre I. Students will delve deeper into the art of acting and production, focusing on character analysis, scene study, advanced stagecraft, and directing techniques. They will explore various theatrical styles and genres and gain hands-on experience in all aspects of theatrical production, including set design, lighting, sound, and costume. Emphasis will be placed on collaboration, creativity, and the development of a professional approach to theatre. Students will have the opportunity to participate in the planning and execution of a full-scale theatrical production, showcasing their advanced skills and talents.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Theatre Arts I or full year of theatre production participation

<b>LENGTH OF COURSE:</b>	One year
<b>FA 906</b>	<b><u>Theatre Arts III: Advanced Performance and Playwriting</u></b> <i>1 credit elective - Sophomore, Junior, Senior</i>
<b>CONTENT:</b>	The study of theater history and advance acting skills are undertaken in this course. Students will be introduced to more advanced concepts of theatre arts. Students will use various creative drama techniques to build confidence and trust, stimulate imagination, movement, and role-play. Students will get an advanced understanding of “performance” in a playful, encouraging, collaborative atmosphere. Students will also focus on the exploration and analysis of dramatic structure and genres. Through theatre games, performances and activities, students will learn to lose inhibitions and gain self-confidence as performers. Students will perform both classical and contemporary drama, as well as musical theatre.
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	Theatre Arts II or two full years of theatre production participation
<b>LENGTH OF COURSE:</b>	One year
<b>FA 907</b>	<b><u>Theatre Arts IV: Advanced Performance and Playwriting</u></b> <i>1 credit elective - Junior, Senior</i>
<b>CONTENT:</b>	Theatre IV is an advanced course designed for students who are passionate about pursuing a career in theatre or related fields. This course focuses on advanced acting techniques, directing, and the exploration of diverse theatrical styles. Students will engage in in-depth character analysis, advanced scene study, and the development of a directorial vision. They will also have the opportunity to direct scenes and one-act plays, honing their skills in staging, blocking, and working with actors. Emphasis will be placed on professional development, artistic expression, and the creation of a portfolio showcasing the students' advanced skills and accomplishments in theatre.
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	Theatre Arts III or three years of theatre production participation
<b>LENGTH OF COURSE:</b>	One year
<b>FA 764</b>	<b><u>Technical Theatre I</u></b> <i>1/2 credit elective - all levels</i>
<b>CONTENT:</b>	Students will learn general principles, techniques, methods, and skills used in theatrical design and production. Students will participate in model making, tool practicums, construction, and painting. Students will be required to see a play every quarter and provide a critical analysis.
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	None
<b>LENGTH OF COURSE:</b>	One semester
<b>FA 910</b>	<b><u>Technical Theatre II</u></b> <i>1 credit – Sophomore, Junior, Senior</i>
<b>CONTENT:</b>	This course offers continued growth in theatrical design with a greater focus on design, lighting, and sound. Students will further develop their construction skills and electrical work.
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	Tech Theatre I or full year of theatre production participation
<b>LENGTH OF COURSE:</b>	One year

<b>FA 911</b>	<b><u>Technical Theatre III</u></b> <i>1 credit elective - Junior, Senior</i>
<b>CONTENT:</b>	This course is a hands-on class, with the focus on theatrical production from the ground up. Students will work creatively and collaboratively to design and build for the Veritas Theatre shows. Students in the course will be considered "student technicians" and will have opportunities to work real-world events outside of SPX productions.
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	Technical Theatre II or two full years of theatre production participation
<b>LENGTH OF COURSE:</b>	One year
<b>FA 912</b>	<b><u>Technical Theatre IV</u></b> <i>1 credit elective - Junior, Senior</i>
<b>CONTENT:</b>	Tech Theatre IV is an advanced hands-on class that focuses on the advanced aspects of theatrical production and design. Students will engage in in-depth exploration of technical theatre, including set design, lighting, sound, and stage management, with a focus on real-world application and professional-level productions. Emphasis will be placed on advanced creative and collaborative work for Veritas Theatre shows, as well as opportunities to work on real-world events outside of school productions.
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	Technical Theatre III or three full years of theatre production participation
<b>LENGTH OF COURSE:</b>	One year
<b>FA 779</b>	<b><u>Music I: Music Appreciation</u></b> <i>1/2 credit - all levels</i>
<b>CONTENT:</b>	This course serves as a general survey of music. Students will study different periods of music through recordings, videos, and performances of multiple composers. Students will learn the basics of reading music and music theory. In music appreciation, students will also learn the history of music from an early age to the present day. Students will discuss how music affects society and the value it holds. This course is designed to deepen students' understanding and enjoyment of music from various cultures and languages.
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	None
<b>LENGTH OF COURSE:</b>	One semester
<b>FA 915</b>	<b><u>Music II: Music Fundamentals</u></b> <i>1 credit -Sophomore, Junior, Senior</i>
<b>CONTENT:</b>	This course is for students to be introduced to music literacy and to develop musical proficiency. Students will study the fundamentals of tonality, rhythm and ensemble techniques. Students can learn one or multiple instruments of their choosing, if students cannot provide an instrument, school owned instruments are available. There is no requirement to join a school ensemble. This class will perform a class project once a semester.
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	Music I or one full year of participation in Band
<b>LENGTH OF COURSE:</b>	One year
<b>FA 916</b>	<b><u>Music III: Computer Music</u></b> <i>1 credit -Sophomore, Junior, Senior</i>
<b>CONTENT:</b>	This course is made for students who want to make music using computers. Computer Music is an innovative course designed for students interested in exploring music and technology. This class provides hands-on experience with

digital music production, composition, and sound design using digital audio workstations.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Music II or two full years of participation in Band

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

**FA 780**

**Dance I**

*1/2 credit - all levels*

**CONTENT:**

Students will learn applicable dance vocabulary. Students will acquire fundamental skills in ballet, lyrical, hip hop, jazz, modern dance, and more. Students will explore creative expression through movement and develop awareness of the five Elements of Dance: body, action, space, time, and energy. Self-confidence will be developed through use of the body as an expressive instrument in class and by choreographing and performing end of unit routines. Students will need participation attire including appropriate length shorts or leggings, a t-shirt, and appropriate footwear (socks or tennis shoes).

**PREREQUISITES:**

None

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester

**FA 920**

**Dance II**

*1 credit – Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors. Fine Arts or PE credit earned*

**CONTENT:**

Dance II is a paced course with more attention to details and technique of ballet, lyrical, hip hop, jazz, modern dance, and more. Students will learn applicable dance vocabulary. Students will explore creative expression through movement and develop awareness of the five Elements of Dance: body, action, space, time, and energy. Self-confidence will be developed through use of the body as an expressive instrument in class and by choreographing and performing end of unit routines. Students will expand on dance knowledge and skill by completing end of unit dance critiques. Students will need participation attire including appropriate length shorts or leggings, a t-shirt, and appropriate footwear (socks or tennis shoes).

**PREREQUISITES:**

Dance I or full year participation in Pantherettes dance team

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

**FA 001**

**Marching Band**

*1/2 credit elective – Sophomore, Junior, Senior. Fine Arts or PE credit earned (PE for classes '26-'28 only)*

**CONTENT:**

This credit is earned when students participate in marching band beyond the school day; this is not a scheduled class.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Auditions, and/or application/interviews, and teacher recommendation

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester, fall or spring

**FA 000; FA 002**

**Fine Arts**

*1/2 credit elective – Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior*

**CONTENT:**

This credit is earned when students participate in fine arts activities, such as theater production, beyond the school day; this is not a scheduled class.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Auditions, and/or application/interviews, and teacher recommendation

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester, fall or spring

## **BUSINESS**

### **BS 915**

#### **Personal Finance**

*1/2 credit elective - Junior, Senior*

#### **CONTENT:**

Personal Finance is a one semester course which provides the opportunity to learn everyday “life-skills” including money management, personal recordkeeping, career opportunities and economic risk factors through applications. Students will compete in the Budget Challenge to apply financial literacy.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

None

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester

### **BS 925**

#### **Career Exploration**

*1/2 credit elective - Senior*

#### **CONTENT:**

Students will rotate through various departments, including Facilities, Enrollment Management, Learning Commons, Fine Arts, Athletics, and IT, gaining hands-on experience in each area. Throughout the course, students will develop key organizational, social, and professional skills essential for success in post-secondary work environments. Grading will be pass/fail, based on work ethic, conduct, punctuality, and participation. Students will also reflect on their work experiences, considering the skills they bring to each department and identifying areas for growth to pursue their desired career paths.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

Recommendation required

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

### CS 911

#### **Computer Applications**

*1/2 credit – Sophomore, Junior, Senior*

#### **CONTENT:**

This course is designed to introduce students to the Microsoft Office365 and SPX platform. Students will learn how to create documents, spreadsheets, and presentations. Students will organize and share files in an online platform and apply internet-based communications skills. Students will complete a major project at the end of each unit which integrates what they have learned. Access to this course will be limited to sophomores, juniors, and seniors who need the course to fulfil their graduation requirement.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

None

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester

#### **SOFTWARE:**

Microsoft Office 365

### CS 942

#### **Computer Science**

*1/2 credit elective - Sophomore, Junior, Senior*

#### **CONTENT:**

This course is designed to introduce students to the “computational thinking” of Computer Science. The goal is to help students understand the common terminology used in Computer Science. The student is introduced to the elements of program design and implementation, using graphical simulations which resemble computer games although their underpinnings form the basis of computer programming. In a graphical environment, students will learn to create programs which make decisions and respond to keyboard and mouse clicks. It is recommended that a student take AP Computer Science or AP Computer Science Principles after Computer Science. Students who have already taken an AP level Computer Science class should not enroll in Computer Science.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

Algebra I

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester

#### **SOFTWARE:**

repl.it

### CS 944

#### **Web Page Design**

*1/2 credit - Sophomore, Junior, Senior*

#### **CONTENT:**

This is an introductory class in the essentials of web design and development. The class will include terminology, copyrighting laws, evaluation of existing websites, and introduction to HTML programming. Students will develop individual web sites using HTML programming.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

Multimedia or demonstrated proficiency in keyboarding

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester

#### **SOFTWARE:**

Adobe Photoshop, Microsoft Notepad, and various web browsers

### CS 955

#### **AP Computer Science: Principles**

*1 credit elective – Sophomore, Junior, Senior*

#### **CONTENT:**

AP Computer Science Principles covers the principles that underlie the science of computing and develop the thinking skills that computer scientists use. You'll work on your own and as part of a team to creatively address real-world issues using the tools and processes of computation. Students are required to produce a 20+ hour project to submit to the College Board.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

Completion of High School Algebra

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

**SOFTWARE:** repl.it and various web browsers

**CS 948**

**AP Computer Science**

*1 credit elective - Junior, Senior*

**CONTENT:**

AP Computer Science emphasizes object-oriented programming methodology with a concentration on problem solving and algorithm development and is meant to be the equivalent of a first-semester college level course in Computer Science. It also includes the study of data structures, design, and abstraction.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Computer Science or AP Computer Science Principles

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

**SOFTWARE:**

JCreator and Java

**CS 950**

**Robotics I**

*1 credit elective - Sophomore, Junior, Senior*

**CONTENT:**

This course will work to prepare students to work at different levels and to result in the formation of a robotics competitive team. This course will focus on the creation of circuits that are controlled by microprocessors and programmed to reach specific outcomes. Students will follow the engineering design process in a simplified form and will have their work driven by a project-based approach.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Algebra I

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ATHLETICS

### PE 970

#### **Physical Education & Health**

*1 credit - Freshman*

#### **CONTENT:**

Physical Education & Health is a required course for all incoming 9th graders. Students will spend half of their time in the course in the health classroom developing an awareness of and appreciation for the total human being: physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual. This goal is accomplished through a diversified curriculum including study skills, self-concept, relationships, nutrition, substance abuse, physiology, human sexuality, and first aid. The other half of the course is designed to give students a basic understanding of the principles of individual and team sports and develop a passion for life-long physical activity.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

None

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One year

### PE 952

#### **Physical Education II**

*1/2 credit - Sophomore, Junior, Senior*

#### **CONTENT:**

Physical Education II emphasizes health-related fitness and an appreciation for teamwork and fair play through team sports. Students will gain knowledge of physical activity and health components that may be used throughout life. Students will demonstrate competency in many movement forms and proficiency in three or more team sports. Access to this course will be limited to 10th-12th grade students who need the course to fulfill their PE requirement.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

Physical Education I

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester

### PE 954

#### **Health**

*1/2 credit - Sophomore, Junior, Senior*

#### **CONTENT:**

Good health is determined by meeting the physical and emotional needs of the body. This course divides the curriculum into four major areas: knowledge of one's physical self, knowledge of one's emotional self, elements which add to one's health, and elements which take away from one's health. Presenting the facts and allowing the students to make sound decisions based on knowledge rather than myth or hearsay are the crux of this course. Access to this course will be limited to 10th-12th grade students who need the course to fulfill their health requirement.

#### **PREREQUISITES:**

None

#### **LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester

### PE 000; PE 001

#### **Athletics**

*1/2 credit - Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior*

#### **CONTENT:**

This credit is earned when students participate in athletics beyond the school day; this is not a scheduled class. Students have the option of participating in after-school teams including baseball, basketball, cheer, color guard, cross-country, drill, football, rugby, softball, track, golf, soccer, rugby, lacrosse, swimming, tennis and volleyball. Required during and after school are practice, competing against other schools, and following the regulations of the Athletic Department. This credit is earned when students participate in athletics beyond the school day; this is not a scheduled class.

**PREREQUISITES:** None  
**LENGTH OF COURSE:** One semester

**PE 967**

**Intro to Kinesiology and Sports Medicine I and II**

*1 credit – Sophomore, Junior, Senior*

**CONTENT:** This course provides an opportunity for the study and application of components of kinesiology and sports medicine. Topics of study include human movement, sports medicine, concepts of sport injury, athletic healthcare team, sports injury law, sports injury prevention, sports psychology, nutrition, recognition of injuries, emergency action plan and initial injury evaluation, first aid/CRP/AED, the injury process, skin conditions, bloodborne pathogens, thermal injuries, and special medical concerns of the adolescent athlete.

**PREREQUISITES:** Health  
**LENGTH OF COURSE:** One year

## **STUDY LAB**

**SL 041 Fall; SL 042 Spring**

### **Study Lab**

*0 credits*

**CONTENT:**

This time is expected to be productive time to work on course work. Freshmen and Sophomore students may request a study lab however counselor approval will be required. Students are only eligible if they are on-track to fulfilling graduation requirements. Study labs are not guaranteed for any students.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Students who are on-track to fulfill their graduation requirements

**LENGTH OF COURSE:**

One semester

## AP FAMILY AGREEMENT

Advanced Placement (AP) is a nationwide program that is designed to prepare secondary students for higher education. AP classes provide rigorous, college-level curriculum in various subjects and the opportunity to earn college credits or advanced college standing. The AP Program is administered by the College Board under the advisement of national groups of educators.

While St. Pius X encourages all students to enroll in courses that push their academic skills, we also would like to acknowledge that AP courses are college-level rigor and therefore students and families should be prepared for the additional expectations and responsibilities as outlined below. Students interested in enrolling in an AP course are required acknowledgement of the following policies:

1. AP courses will be taken by students interested in experiencing college level curriculum and expectations. Students and families acknowledge that they are not enrolling in AP courses for the additional grade point average.
2. AP courses require additional effort **on the part of the student**. Due to the nature of the coursework this additional time may include: an hour of homework per AP class, additional tutorials as needed, and additional time commitments outside of the school day for studying and/or completing practice exams.
3. AP courses are designed to be college-level curriculum and therefore classes may move at a faster speed than non-AP courses.
4. Students enrolled in AP courses are expected to take and give their best effort on the AP exam. Refusal to take the exam or lack of effort on an exam may preclude the student from enrolling in further AP courses in the future.
5. Enrollment in AP classes will be approved if students meet the criteria as outlined in the course catalog.
6. Students wishing to enroll in **three** or more AP classes in the same academic year must get the additional approval of the AP of Student Support, through their counselor.
7. Students are expected to enroll in AP classes for the duration of the school year.

### SIGNATURES

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Student

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Parent/Guardian

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Counselor

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AP of Student Support

## AP APPROVAL FOR 3+ ADVANCED COURSES WITHIN AN ACADEMIC YEAR

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Advanced Placement (AP) is a nationwide program that is designed to prepare secondary students for higher education. AP classes provide rigorous, college-level curriculum in various subjects and the opportunity to earn college credits or advanced college standing. The AP Program is administered by the College Board under the advisement of national groups of educators.

While St. Pius X encourages all students to enroll in courses that push their academic skills, we also would like to acknowledge that AP courses are college-level rigor and therefore students and families should be prepared for the additional expectations and responsibilities.

As stated in the parent agreement and student handbook: Students wishing to enroll in three or more AP/ advanced classes in the same academic year must get the additional approval of the Assistant Principal of Student Support, through their counselor.

List the courses you wish to take in the next academic school year.

Course Title	Justification and explanation of rationale for taking the courses listed.

### AP OF STUDENT SUPPORT

- Approves the request for 3+ AP/ advanced courses
- Declines enrollment in 3+AP/ advanced courses
- Requests additional conference with the student and/or parent/guardian and counselor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
AP Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date