Benilde-St.Margaret's

A Catholic, college preparatory school

2025-2026 – High School Program of Studies

Table of Contents

Policies & Procedures	2
Planning Guide / Four-Year Plan	6
Beyond The Minimum	7
College Credit Options	8

ACADEMIC COURSE OFFERINGS

Business
Counseling & Learning Support
Engineering & Computer Science
English
EPIC Internships / Red Capstone
Fine Arts: Visual Arts
Fine Arts: Performing Arts
Health & Physical Education
Mathematics
Science
Social Studies
Theology
World Language

Policies & Procedures

The courses listed in this Program of Studies may not be the same as the final courses offered during the school year. The number of students registered for a course, scheduling priorities, and personnel will determine final course offerings.

This Program of Studies has been designed to provide information for students and parents as they make informed decisions regarding course selection during their years at Benilde-St. Margaret's.

Students are strongly encouraged to discuss their course selections with their counselors, teachers, and parents. The high school experience is intended to be a four-year process in which students complete an extensive curriculum in preparation for post-secondary studies. Benilde-St. Margaret's offers a variety of elective courses that enhance a college preparatory curriculum.

With this philosophy in mind, we will not allow students to complete their studies after the first semester of senior year.

The table at right provides a summary of the courses required for graduation. One credit equals one semester of satisfactory completion of coursework.

BSM Graduation Requirements

English	8 credits
Fine Arts	2 credits
Counseling	.5 credit
Health	1 credit
Mathematics	6 credits
Phys Ed	1 credit
Science	6 credits
Social Studies	7 credits *
Theology	8 credits
World Language	4 credits
Electives	13 credits
Total credits	**56.5**

** For the Classes of 2025 and 2026, only 6 credits are needed.*

**Transfer students will have their transcripts reviewed on a case by case basis.*

BSM Guidance and College Counselors

Counselors follow the same group of students from 9th grade through graduation.

Amy Larson, last names A – Do	alarson@bsmschool.org
Kate Berry, last names Dr – I	kberry@bsmschool.org
Heidi Wessman, last names J – Me	hwessman@bsmschool.org
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Grading

Grade Scale	Letter Grade	Standard GPA	Honors GPA (Using 1.0625)	AP GPA (Using 1.125)
93-100	A	4.000	4.25	4.5
90-92	A-	3.700	3.93	4.16
86-89	B+	3.300	3.5	3.71
83-85	B	3.000	3.19	3.38
80-82	B-	2.700	2.87	3.04
76-79	C+	2.300	2.44	2.59
73-75	C	2.000	2.12	2.25
70-72	C-	1.670	1.81	1.91
66-69	D+	1.300	1.38	1.46
63-65	D	1.000	1.06	1.13
60-62	D-	.700	0.74	0.79
59 & below	F	.000	4.25	4.5

AP Courses

Effective with the start of the 2022-2023 school year, Advanced Placement (AP) courses, College in the Schools (CIS) courses and courses taken under the Program for Advanced College Credit (PACC) option will carry an additional weighted grade of 1.125%. AP courses are standardized throughout the nation allowing for weighted grades. Colleges will take rigor of curriculum into account during the admission process.

Honor Courses

Effective with the start of the 2025-2026 school year, Honors Courses will carry an additional weighted grade of 1.0625%. Honors courses are designed to challenge capable and motivated students by providing them with clearly stated expectations specifying the rigorous nature of the curriculum.

Expectations of honors courses at BSM may include the following criteria:

1. Clearly defined, measurable prerequisites for placement in honors level courses.
2. Material is covered more extensively or at an accelerated pace.
3. Course activities and assessments require students to demonstrate advanced skills in critical thinking, analysis, interpretation, and synthesis.
4. Course requirements may include completion of a significant project, presentation, or research paper.

College Credit Options

Refer to page 58 of this book for information regarding courses available to students for college credit. Courses taken at Benilde-St. Margaret's under College in School (CIS), Advanced Placement or PACC will carry a weighted grade and are included in the student's gpa calculation. Courses taken under the PSEO option ARE NOT factored into the student's gpa. These grades will be recorded on the student's transcript under the specific college name, with a grade and credit(s) institution. Students will be responsible for obtaining copies of these transcripts as needed. Students taking the CIS or PACC courses will have the credit fees charged to their BSM tuition account.

Honor Rolls

Honor rolls are determined at the end of each semester. Honors (3.5-3.79) High Honors (3.8-4.5)

Policies & Procedures

Students register for courses in the spring of each year, and it is important for students to select courses carefully. This BSM High School Program of Studies contains a listing of all courses offered, and prerequisite information is noted if appropriate. BSM administration may change the semester from which a course is originally offered or cancel any course due to insufficient numbers or personnel changes.

Auditing a Class

Sometimes a student may need to take a course for review or to strengthen his/her skills to progress through the sequence in an academic area. This can be done through auditing a class.
Although a student receives a grade that is reflected on their permanent record, no credit is issued when auditing a class. The grade is not computed into a student's cumulative grade point average. The student may plan to audit a class by contacting their counselor.

Course Change

Changes prior to the start of school:
In late May, students will review their course selections and may make changes. Final schedules will be available prior to the start of the school year.

After the start of school:
Based on the recommendation of your guidance counselor and appropriate department chair, a course change may be approved after the start of the school year, considering the following

- Course changes for semester one must be completed by the end of the second week of school. For semester two, no course changes can be made once the semester begins.
- Changes will not be made for teacher or period preferences except for seniors for periods 1,2,7, or 8 if possible.
- All changes are subject to available class space.
- All change requests must be made with the student's assigned counselor.

Level Changes

- Students are placed in the course level most appropriate to their academic ability. Each department allows a six-week period at the beginning of first semester to confirm that a student is in the most appropriate course level. In some cases, a level change adjustment may become necessary to ensure the best possible academic experience for a student.
- Level changes may be initiated by the student or teacher. Students are encouraged to speak with the instructor of the course if they feel they need a level change. The teacher will speak with the student's academic counselor, their department chair, and a parent. If a change is warranted, the department chair will confirm the change with the academic counselor. Every effort is made not to disrupt the entire student schedule; however, it may be necessary to adjust one or more additional courses to accommodate a level change.

Shortage of Credits

Students are required to be making satisfactory progress toward graduation to be allowed to continue enrollment at Benilde-St. Margaret's School. If a student fails a course and is subsequently short of the required number of credits toward graduation, it is the responsibility of the student and his/her parents to arrange to make up the failed course and the loss of credit. Credit may be recovered by enrolling in an approved course offered at BSM, or by completing an approved, online course. The course must be approved by the student's counselor prior to enrollment.

Withdrawals from a Course

Once a course has begun, withdrawing from a course is strongly discouraged. After conversation with, and with the consent of, a student's parent/guardian, academic counselor, and teacher, it is deemed to be in the best interest of the student, a student may withdraw from a course. The student will receive a grade of "W" (withdraw) on their permanent record if consent to withdraw is during the first six weeks of the semester. After the first six weeks of the semester, no withdrawals will be permitted except for serious and prolonged illness or other unavoidable emergencies. Students who withdraw from a class after the first six weeks of the semester will receive a "WF" on their permanent record. Note: Students must have seven academic classes each semester.

Withdrawal from a Yearlong Course

When enrolling in a yearlong course, students should expect to remain in the course for both semesters. When applying to colleges, students are required to list their course of studies. Colleges look for successful completion of yearlong courses. A grade issued for only one semester of a yearlong course may be a red flag to a college admissions office. Any student wishing to withdraw from a yearlong course must receive permission from the instructor of the course. Seniors should also consult with their counselor and college admission offices before making course changes.

AP Capstone Diploma™

AP Capstone is an innovative diploma program providing students with an opportunity to engage in rigorous scholarly practice of the core academic skills necessary for successful college completion. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar: Biomedical Science and AP Research: Biomedical Science AND on 4 additional AP Exams of the student's choosing to receive the AP Capstone Diploma™. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research but, not on the four additional AP Exams, receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™. The AP Capstone Program cultivates curious, independent, and collaborative scholars and prepares them to make logical, evidence-based decisions.

MN Platinum/Gold Bilingual Seal or World Language Certificate

Students in grades 10, 11, 12 who demonstrate required levels of proficiency in a world language may be eligible to receive a MN Bilingual/Multilingual seal or certificate (depending on their proficiency) on their diploma. These awards verify professional-level bilingualism in both English and another World Language. There are two tests available to students for demonstrating proficiency, the STAMP test ($36 and hosted at BSM in May) or the AP language exams. The award is granted in a student's senior year and added to their BSM transcript. It is a rare accomplishment and one that students should consider highlighting on future applications including those for college, graduate school, and on job applications. Also, MN State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) award college credit based on the student's level of proficiency, i.e. their test results. The student is responsible for seeking MnSCU credit by contacting their college advisor upon enrollment in a MnSCU institution.

NCAA Eligibility Requirements

Students wishing to participate in inter-collegiate athletics on a Division I or Division II level must abide by NCAA guidelines. Students must register and be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center. The NCAA selects courses from English, Math, Social Studies, Science and World Language to use in their core course guideline. Students should be aware some courses offered at Benilde-St. Margaret's School do not meet NCAA core course guidelines.

Below are the core curriculum courses offered at BSM **not approved** by the NCAA:

MATHEMATICS	ENGLISH
Intermediate Algebra	Film Studies
	Editorial Leadership

For additional information about DI or DII course, grade and test score requirements go to the NCAA website: www.eligibilitycenter.org

Select: "enter here>"resources">"US Students">"Eligibility Quick Reference Sheet"

Study Abroad Program

Benilde-St. Margaret's School graduation requirements will not be waived for any student choosing to study abroad for one or more semesters.

- The student must meet with their academic counselor concerning transfer of grades, and to ensure credits earned through studying abroad meet the criteria to remain on track to graduate from BSM.
- The student must meet with the principal to receive written consent to study abroad.

High School Program of Studies – Four Year Plan

Four-Year Plan

Freshman Year – *Minimum Credit Requirement = 14* *Maximum Credits = 16*

First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
English	1	English	1
Mathematics	1	Mathematics	1
Science	1	Science	1
Theology	1	Theology	1
World Language	1	World Language	1
Physical Education or Health	1	Physical Education or Health	1
Human Geography or Elective*	1	Human Geography or Elective*	1
Study Hall/Learning Lab/Elective	0 or 1	Study Hall/Learning Lab/Elective	0 or 1
Total credits per semester	**7 or 8**	**Total credits per semester**	**7 or 8**

**PE and Human Geography are in the same semester opposite Health and optional elective*

Sophomore Year – *Minimum Credit Requirement = 14* *Maximum Credits = 16*

First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
English	1	English	1
Mathematics	1	Mathematics	1
Social Studies	1	Social Studies	1
Theology	1	Theology	1
World Language	1	World Language	1
Science	1	Science	1
Elective	1	Elective	1
Study Hall	0	Study Hall	0
Total credits per semester	**7 to 8**	**Total credits per semester**	**7 to 8**

Junior Year – *Minimum Credit Requirement = 14.5* *Maximum Credits = 16.5*

Guidance: College Planning Portfolio **.5**

First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
English	1	English	1
Mathematics	1	Mathematics	1
Science	1	Science	1
Social Studies	1	Social Studies	1
Theology	1	Theology	1
Elective	1	Elective	1
Elective	1	Elective	1
BSM Hour	0	BSM Hour/ College and Career Portfolio	0 or .5
Total credits per semester	**7 to 8**	**Total credits per semester**	**7.5 to 8.5**

Senior Year – *Minimum Credit Requirement = 12* *Maximum Credits = 16*

First Semester	Credits	Second Semester	Credits
English	1	English	1
Theology	1	Theology	1
Science	1	Science	1
Social Studies	1	Social Studies	1
Elective	1	Elective	1
Elective	1	Elective	1
Elective	1	Elective	1
BSM Hour	0	BSM Hour	0
Total credits per semester	**7 to 8**	**Total credits per semester**	**7 to 8**

Beyond the Minimum at BSM

Minimum College Requirements

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of Math
- 3 years of Science
- 3.5 years of History / Social Studies
- 2 years of a world language
- 1 year of visual or performing arts

Note: These college requirements are **MINIMUM** standards, not recommended coursework.

Colleges Want Students Who Go Beyond the Minimum

What you find published on a college's website should not serve as your course selection guide because the admissions office will be looking for students who have challenged themselves academically and gone beyond the minimum graduation requirements.

Here are some better guidelines:

- **English** — 4 years of English with a mix of literature and composition work.
- **Math** — take math every year in high school. (Note that getting an early start by taking Algebra or Geometry in junior high does not mean you can skip math as a junior or senior.) Colleges will expect to see Algebra II at a minimum and some type of math course every year.
- **Science** — 4 years of science. Most colleges expect to see Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.
- **History / Social Studies** — 3-4 years - Most colleges like to see a geography, history, and government class.
- **World Language** — 2 years of the same language is the minimum; 3 is recommended. If you are applying to highly selective schools, you should give serious consideration to 4 years.
- **Visual or Performing Art** - 1 year

Challenging yourself beyond the minimum requirements is one of the easiest ways to distinguish yourself from other applicants. Some high schools require four years of English, math, science, and social studies, so taking that many years of each puts you on par with those students. BSM requires two years of a world language, so by taking a third or fourth year, you will show your willingness to complete challenging academic work.

High Achievers

The recommendations above apply to all college-bound students, but if you are a high achiever and may consider some of the most highly selective colleges, you need to select courses that will make you competitive with other applicants. BSM offers nine honors courses in English, Math, Science, and Spanish, and 25 AP courses in English, Math, Science, Social Studies, World Language, Studio Art, and Computer Science. We also offer college credit courses through St. Mary's University and the University of Minnesota.

Here are some high achiever course selection tips:

- Make sure you are on track to take the highest level of math offered. Depending on where you start at BSM, this means taking AP Calculus AB or AP Calculus BC your senior year. AP Calculus is generally seen as more challenging than AP Statistics, so if you can take only one, make it Calculus.
- Four years of the same language is highly recommended.

College Credit Options

Obtaining College Credit

There are four options to obtain college credit while enrolled at BSM. A brief explanation of the options is offered below. Be sure to access each website for specific information as well as researching the requirements of any college or university you are interested in.

Advanced Placement	College in the Schools **CIS course grades are weighted and factored into BSM GPA**	PACC **PACC course grades are weighted and factored into BSM GPA**	PSEO **PSEO course grades are NOT weighted or factored into BSM GPA**
Benilde-St. Margaret's School offers over twenty AP courses to interested and eligible students. AP courses at BSM are first year-college equivalent courses, approved by the College Board. BSM does require students who enroll in any AP course to sit for the May AP exam OR submit the required portfolio of work. Many colleges and universities will provide college credit based on these test results. Course descriptions and requirements will be found under each academic department. **Of note:** At an information session presented by Georgetown, Harvard, Penn, Duke and Stanford, the admission reps indicated that whether a college accepts the credit or not, the expectation at highly selective schools is that students have taken AP courses ***and tests*** because these are the best ways to prepare for the rigors of the freshman year in college.	College in the Schools (CIS) allows motivated juniors and seniors to earn college credits by taking University of Minnesota, Twin Cities courses, at BSM. Students receive both high school and college credits. For more information online users select Learn more about CIS Other users copy and paste this address in your browser: https://ccaps.umn.edu/college-in-the-schools * $145.00/ Course if seeking college credit.	Saint Mary's Program for Advanced College Credit (PACC) offers college- level learning experiences and college credit to participating private high school programs, with the same expectations, workload, learning activities, projects, and exams as the courses taught to first-year students at Saint Mary's. Students receive both high school and college credits. *For more information:* Online users select: Learn more about PACC. Other users copy and paste this address in your browser: https://www.smumn.edu/admission/undergraduate/college-credit-in-high-school/pacc/ * $300.00/ Course if seeking College Credit.	Post-Secondary Education Options (PSEO) is a program allowing high school students to get a head start by taking college courses at colleges and universities. BSM juniors and seniors in high school may enroll, full-or part- time in courses and will receive concurrent high school and college credit. Students may apply to the University of Minnesota and all of its branches, all the Minnesota State Universities, community colleges, technical colleges or Minnesota private liberal arts colleges. College tuition, fees and textbooks are paid for by the State of Minnesota. *For more information:* Online users select: Learn more about PSEO. Other users copy and paste this address in your browser: https://education.mn.gov/mde/fam/dual/pseo/index.htm

College Credit Options

College in the Schools (CIS)

Benilde-St. Margaret's School is partnering with the University of Minnesota College in the Schools to bring undergraduate-level courses into our classrooms. Students choosing to attend University of Minnesota College in the Schools courses will earn college credit. Colleges and universities may recognize coursework completed at other institutions. Check with your college of choice regarding their individual transfer credit policy.

*There is a $145 registration fee per student, plus the cost of textbooks, technology and supplies. Students may also need to pay for transportation to and from Field Day activities. Cost for credits ($145/student) will be charged to BSM Tuition account.

Here are BSM's CIS Options:

Creative Problem Solving (S1 or S2)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors

Three college credits from the University of Minnesota

Sophomores may register with instructor permission and a 3.0 or better GPA. Full course description and requirements will be found on 54 of the Program of Studies.

Creativity is essential for success across disciplines and highly valued by employers. Embracing creativity gives meaning and value to how you approach your life, solve problems, and pretty much everything you do. A creative mindset not only unveils opportunities but also nurtures an appreciation for the iterative nature of the creative process, embracing growth arising from perceived setbacks or failures. This course is designed to move you out of your existing comfort zones, encouraging you to explore beyond initial solutions and recognize the inherent value of considering multiple perspectives. The only wrong answer is having only one answer. Central to the mission of the course is the development of your personal traits of creativity, thoughtful analysis, ingenuity, experimentation, and the ability to solve problems both individually and collaboratively. The curriculum, provided by the College of Design at the University of Minnesota, awards 3 college credit hours upon successful completion. It will be necessary for students to put in additional time outside of class to fully complete required projects, readings and assignments.

Introduction to Literature: Poetry, Drama, Narrative (LITR, WI)

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.

Four college credits from the University of Minnesota.

This is a writing-intensive course that also meets the Literature Core requirement. From epic battles against monsters in legendary kingdoms to stories about characters in worlds like our own, literature engages us with the diverse perspectives and experiences that make up our communities and world. This course introduces students to ways of understanding and appreciating literature in English across cultures and historical periods. Through this course, we will develop skills to help us understand literature, especially the ability to read language closely (a skill valuable in many disciplines beyond literature).

We will explore how writers use language and literary aspects, such as genre, voice, tone, symbol, motif, theme, imagery, narrative, and form. We also will learn how to write about literature, sharing our interpretations of how and why literary works have meaning for ourselves and others, while viewing them through critical cultural lenses, including ways to understand how gender, race, ethnicity, religion, and class can function in literary texts.

St. Mary's University of Minnesota
Program of Advance College Credit

Benilde-St. Margaret's School is partnering with Saint Mary's University of Minnesota Program of Advanced College Credit (PACC) to bring undergraduate-level courses into our classrooms. Students choosing to attend Saint Mary's University will earn college credit. Colleges and universities may recognize coursework completed at other institutions. Check with your college of choice regarding their individual transfer credit policy.

*Students can choose whether to earn PACC Credit. The cost is $100.00 per credit. Fee will be charged to tuition at BSM and sent to St. Mary's. The PACC courses we offer are 3-credit courses, so total cost for taking a PACC course for college credit will be $300.00

PACC: Accelerated Spanish III (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels

Prerequisite: Spanish II OR Honors Spanish II

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program

This third-year Spanish course is fast paced and rigorously builds upon the knowledge and abilities students gained in Spanish II. Students will engage in conversations, develop listening skills, and read and write in the Spanish language. This course will refine and introduce new vocabulary and grammar structures. The study of customs and cultures in the Spanish-speaking world will include units on art, health and fitness, community and volunteerism, pre-Columbian civilizations, Spanish civilization and colonization, and natures and environments. Participation and conversation are integral parts of this course. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and film. Due to the unique nature of Honors Spanish II (or III), in that the course covers more than one year's worth of curriculum, students cannot drop this course at semester time to Spanish II (or III).

PACC: Accounting II (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors, and seniors

Prerequisite: Accounting I

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program (see page 58). Accounting II builds on concepts from Accounting I to provide a more complex understanding of financial accounting with sections on inventory, specialized journals, and corporate accounting. The class also introduces students to managerial accounting concepts.

AP Chemistry (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors and seniors

Prerequisite: Completion of Chemistry or Honors Chemistry.

This course is available for PACC credit. This course is a second-year chemistry course, designed to be the equivalent of the general course taken during the first year of college. This course prepares students for the Advanced Placement exam. It is structured around the six big ideas as described in the AP Curriculum Framework: including the structure of matter, properties of matter, chemical reactions, the rates of chemical reactions, thermodynamics, and equilibrium. A special emphasis will be placed on the seven science practices, which capture important aspects of the work in which scientists engage. Learning objectives will combine content with inquiry and reasoning skills during multiple hands-on laboratory investigations.

AP Statistics (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program (see page 58)

Prerequisite: Completion of two semesters of one of the following courses with the required grade indicated Algebra II with a grade of "A" in both semesters.

FST with a grade of "A-" or higher. Precalculus with a grade of "C+" or higher.

This is a rigorous writing intensive course designed to teach students how to organize, display, and interpret data. An emphasis will be placed on the four major themes of the AP Statistics curriculum: exploring data, sampling, and

experimental design, anticipating patterns with probability and simulation, and statistical inference. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

PACC: Español Para Hispanohablantes II (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to freshmen and sophomores

Prerequisite: Español para Hispanohablantes I

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program.

This course is designed for students who have completed Español para Hispanohablantes I. Through their study of literature, music and movies, students will refine their grammar and learn about the cultures of Spanish- speaking countries. Students will develop their writing skills, with special attention given to spelling and accentuation. Among other activities, students will discuss culture, debate topics, write compositions and create projects. Circumlocution skills will be emphasized in order to progress while maintaining communication in Spanish. Of special note, students will practice their research and public speaking skills as they teach elementary school students about zoo animals at the MN Zoo during their World Language Days program. This course prepares students to take Español Para Hispanohablantes III the following year.

PACC: Español Para Hispanohablantes III (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels

Prerequisite: Español para Hispanohablantes II.

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program

This course is designed for students who have completed Español para Hispanohablantes II. Through their study of literature, music and movies, students will refine their grammar and learn about the cultures of Spanish- speaking countries. Students will develop their writing skills, with special attention given to spelling and accentuation. Among other activities, students will discuss culture, debate topics, write compositions and create projects. Circumlocution skills will be emphasized in order to progress while maintaining communication in Spanish. Students will practice their research and public speaking skills when they defend opposing scholarly articles. Of special note, students will write bilingual chapter books for elementary school buddies. This course will prepare freshmen to take AP Spanish Language and Culture the following year, while sophomores and juniors may elect to take AP Spanish Literature and Culture.

PACC: Investing & Portfolio Management (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to seniors

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program (see page 58). The course covers the basic principles of investing from the perspective of a professional portfolio manager. Students in the class actively manage a live six-figure stock portfolio that is part of the BSM endowment fund. Students model the portfolio in Microsoft Excel and use it to create various analytical tools to help make sound investment decisions. Course content includes valuation models, risk assessment, analysis of financial securities, portfolio theory, investment banking, time value of money, and financial derivatives.

PACC: Spanish IV (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels

Prerequisite: Spanish III

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program

This fourth-year Spanish course is designed to start developing intermediate skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing through conversations, discussions, authentic readings, and composition writing. The study of Spanish speakers and their culture will include units on conflict resolution and relationships, the workplace, Aztec and Mayan civilizations and their myths and legends, the fusion of cultures in Spain before 1492 and in the Americas after the arrival of Europeans, the environment, civil rights as well as government. Participation and conversation are key components of this course, and one focus will be speaking in Spanish. Students will be engaged in a variety of activities by means of authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and movies.

PACC: Spanish V (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors

Prerequisite: Spanish IV or Pre-AP Spanish

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program

This fifth-year Spanish course is designed to continue developing intermediate skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing through conversations, discussions, authentic readings, and composition writing. The study of Spanish speakers and their culture will include units on fashion trends, the environment, human rights, personalities and

conflict resolution, entertainment, diversity, the culinary arts, our societal issues, the economy, our free time, and 21st century challenges and advancements. Participation and conversation are key components of this course, and two main focuses will be speaking and writing in Spanish. Students will be engaged in a variety of activities by means of authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and movies.

PACC: Thinking Theologically (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one BSM credit, open to seniors
Prerequisite: satisfactory completion of Theology 10 Discipleship and Theology 10 Morality with a "B" in both semesters.
Three credit college level options

This course is eligible for PACC credit (see page 58). This **college-level** course introduces students to the methods and practices of thinking theologically through an examination of some of the major questions people have asked and found answers to within religious contexts, especially the Judeo-Christian narrative. This course pays particular attention to the human experience of suffering, and how those different experiences shape our theological questions, both past and present. The course also embeds how theology is examined at a university defined by multidisciplinary approaches to truth and knowledge.

Business

The goal of BSM's business courses is to introduce students to new business concepts not previously studied. All students are welcomed and encouraged to take any mix of classes that they are interested in. The courses are designed to prepare students for college-level business coursework, future careers, and financial life as an adult. These courses are available for freshman through senior years with increasing class options as you progress through high school. Both Accounting II and Investing & Portfolio Management have a dual enrollment option with St. Mary's University which allows students to receive college credit for taking the course at BSM.

Department Chair: John Sabol jsabol@bsmschool.org

S = Semester Course YR = Year Long Course

Freshmen	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
Introduction to Business S1, S2	Accounting I S1, S2	Accounting I S1, S2	Accounting I S1, S2
Business and Personal Law S2	Introduction to Business S2	Accounting II S1, S2	Accounting II S1, S2
	Business and Personal Law S2	Business Management S1	Business Management S1
		Business and Personal Law S2	Business and Personal Law S2
		Personal Financial Management S1, S2	Personal Financial Management S1, S2
		Sports and Entertainment Marketing S2	Sports and Entertainment Marketing S2
			PACC: Investing and Portfolio Management S1, S2

Business

Accounting I (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors

Alumni consistently report this to be the most valuable college preparatory class offered in the business department. This course provides a simple approach to learning fundamental accounting principles. Accounting concepts covered include business transactions, financial statements, accounting systems and procedures. The course provides an accounting framework that will be valuable to any student who plans on taking college level business courses or plans to work in any type of business environment. Contact your counselor with any questions on courses.

PACC: Accounting II (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors, and seniors

Prerequisite: Accounting I

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program (see page 58). Accounting II builds on concepts from Accounting I to provide a more complex understanding of financial accounting with sections on inventory, specialized journals, and corporate accounting. The class also introduces students to managerial accounting concepts.

Business Management (S1)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors, and seniors

Have you ever wondered what it takes to operate and manage your own business? This course gives students the knowledge to create a business while exploring various business concepts. The class includes units on entrepreneurship, product development, finance, marketing, ethics, and strategic and operations management. The course utilizes realistic business simulations to allow students to make managerial decisions for their own business.

Business and Personal Law (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors

Are you curious about the law and how it affects you? This course gives students a solid foundation in business and personal law topics that affect both individuals and organizations. The course provides a thorough analysis of the interplay between rights and duties and the regulatory structure that oversees it. Students will be challenged to think analytically as they study legal cases and view the business environment through a legal framework. The course includes sections on ethics, sources of law, the court system, criminal, tort, contract, consumer, and employment law.

Introduction to Business (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to freshmen
second semester, one credit open to sophomores

The class is designed to give students an introductory understanding of business topics including entrepreneurship, personal finance, marketing, business law, international business, economics, and career exploration. Students will have the opportunity to explore areas of business they are interested in and can then further explore those concepts by taking more advanced and detailed business courses throughout their high school experience.

PACC: Investing & Portfolio Management (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to seniors

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program (see page 58). The course covers the basic principles of investing from the perspective of a professional portfolio manager. Students in the class actively manage a live six-figure stock portfolio that is part of the BSM endowment fund. Students model the portfolio in Microsoft Excel and use it to create various analytical tools to help make sound investment decisions. Course content includes valuation models, risk assessment, analysis of financial securities, portfolio theory, investment banking, time value of money, and financial derivatives.

Personal Financial Management (S1 or S2)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors

Do you plan to live on your own someday? Apply for a credit card or a car loan? Set up banking accounts? Financial literacy among teens has been recognized as a necessity to assure financial success. Personal Financial Management helps students become financially literate by gaining knowledge about banking services, savings, wise credit use, investment planning, buying, or leasing a car, and developing techniques for personal money management.

Business

Sports and Entertainment Marketing (S2)

One Semester, one credit open to juniors and seniors

The Gophers, the Vikings, Disney World, movies, stadiums, salary caps, the Emmys, NCAA, and endorsements. If these topics appeal to you, then you will like Sports and Entertainment Marketing. Fans and companies spend billions of dollars each year on sports. The entertainment industry is one of the largest exports of the United States. This class highlights marketing concepts through the lens of these industries. Areas of discussion include pricing, public relations, promotions, legal issues, and marketing strategy. Students will produce an entertainment or sporting related project incorporating the knowledge and skills gained in the course and use marketing simulations to gain real world knowledge. Example simulations include ticket pricing, stadium staffing, sponsorships, and promotions.

Counseling & Learning Support

Department Chair: Counselor Amanda Anderson aanderson@bsmschool.org
Director of Learning Support, Kristin Gilbertson kgilbertson@bsmschool.org

Academic Support (S1) and/or (S2)

One or two semesters, no credit open to sophomores, juniors and seniors with accommodation plans

Prerequisite: Learning Lab 1 Semester

This course provides students the opportunity to receive academic and organizational support in a supervised study hall format. This class supports students with a documented diagnosis that affects their ability to perform in a school setting.

College/Career Planning (S2)

One semester course, .5 credits, required of juniors

The purpose of the College/Career Planning course is to provide students with the best possible support in choosing, applying for, and committing to a college or university. The course includes a half-day event on college and career planning, completion of a portfolio of work, and attendance at the BSM College Fair. During the day event students will attend sessions on a variety of helpful topics to aid them in the college planning and application process. Each student is required to complete a portfolio of work building on the information they receive at the event. Students will be required to use online resources to complete their portfolio. Students are required and parents are encouraged to attend an individual meeting with their guidance and college counselor. This meeting will be scheduled by the counseling office during the spring of junior year. Students will receive a P (pass) /NP (no pass) grade, based on their portfolio on their academic transcript.

Learning Lab (S1) and/or (S2)

One or two semesters, .5 credits per semester, open to freshmen with accommodation plans

Students will receive academic and organizational support in this class supervised by a learning specialist. Students will receive a P (pass) /NP (no pass) notation on their academic transcript. This class supports students with a documented diagnosis that affects their ability to perform in a school setting.

Quiet Study (S1) and/or (S2)

Invitation only. One or both semesters. No credit

Students are assigned to this supervised study hall for support with work completion.

Teacher Assistant (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors

.5 credit. Students must carry the minimum course load for their grade level.

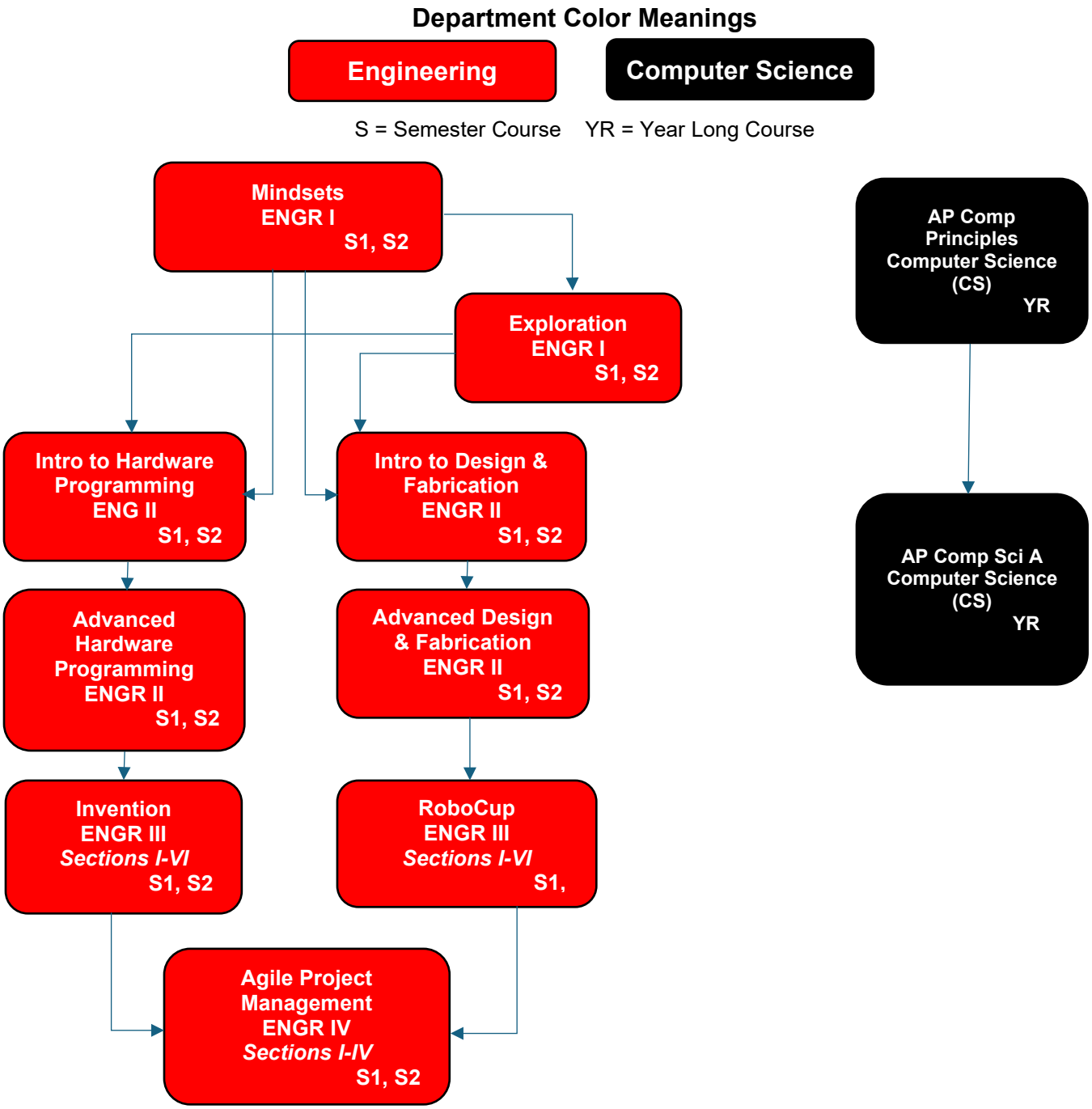
Students can use their expertise in a subject area by serving as an assistant to a teacher. Students should contact the instructor they are interested in assisting. Students are placed in TA positions two weeks after the start of the semester. Students will receive a P (pass) /NP (no pass) notation on their transcript.

Engineering & Computer Science

Engineering courses provide a unique learning environment where students build creative confidence to inspire others, take risks, and persevere through iteration and failure. Students engage in real-world engineering processes, use of real engineering tools, and strive to solve real problems.

Engineering expands student development toward invention and entrepreneurism by exploring mechanical and electrical systems through fabrication and assemblies. Students utilize 3D modeling tools, learn relevant programming languages, and work through projects using Agile and Design Thinking. Contact your counselor with any questions on courses.

Department Chair: Charles Nepomuceno cnepomuceno@bsmschool.org



Engineering & Computer Science

Engineering I: Mindsets (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to 8th grade and freshmen

This is the introductory course in the BSM Engineering Program. The aim of this class is to equip students with the understanding and the decision-making skills needed to be successful in future engineering classes here at BSM. Students will learn via a series of challenges that increase in complexity as they proceed through the semester. Through consistent iteration to complete these challenges, students gain a better understanding of structural, mechanical, and electrical systems.

Engineering I: Exploration (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to freshmen and sophomores

Prerequisite: Engineering Mindsets

This course is open to Freshmen who have previously taken Mindsets, or sophomores new to the Engineering Curriculum.

Engineering Exploration expands student development toward invention and creativity by giving students the freedom to choose a project for the semester that will help them learn some basic concepts of any of the following Engineering II classes (CAD modeling, fabrication, electronics, programming, etc.). This creates a natural project-based, just-in-time learning structure by giving them confidence and ownership of their learning of real engineering skills.

Engineering II: Introduction to Design and Fabrication (S1) or (S2)

Prerequisite: Engineering Exploration

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors and seniors

This course can be taken sequentially with a semester of Fine Arts: Product Design

Almost every professional product offered in the market today began with prototypes, basic designs, and fabrication before they were the well-tuned products we trust and use in our everyday lives. This class will help students learn the basics of the iterative design process through an introduction of CAD modeling (with Onshape) and rapid manufacturing techniques such as 3D printing and laser cutting. With these skills, students can start making effective prototypes of possible future inventions.

Engineering II: Advanced Design and Fabrication (S1) or (S2)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Design and Fabrication

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors and seniors

This project-focused class helps students build upon their introductory CAD and fabrication skills by providing modules that challenge their current set of skills as well as assembly-based modeling and fabrication methods. Once students have a grasp on both the CAD design and fabrication, they are free to pursue an original invention that will continue to build on the mixture of those skills.

Engineering II: Introduction to Hardware Programming (S1) or (S2)

Prerequisite: Engineering Exploration

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors and seniors

Want to create your own electronics, or learn how to fix electronics around your house? Want to write code that interfaces with the physical world around you? The Introduction to Hardware Programming course will introduce many applications of practical electronics and programming using a microcontroller (i.e. the Raspberry PI). Students will learn the basics of microcontrollers and how to program them using different programming languages. Emphasis is placed on programming the microcontroller to utilize external sensors, motors, relays, and actuators to gain information and make data-driven decisions.

Engineering II: Advanced Hardware Programming (S1) or (S2)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Hardware Programming

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors and seniors

The advanced levels of any Engineering II course are exploratory and provide students with freedom and independence to learn unique skills in the world of engineering they wish to pursue. In Advanced Hardware Programming, students expand upon the skills they learned in the previous semester and create a functional project consisting of hardware and software that puts their skills to the test.

Engineering & Computer Science

Engineering III: Invention (S1) and/or (S2)

One or Two semesters, one credit per semester open to sophomores, juniors and seniors

Prerequisite: Two semesters of Engineering II classes
There are up to 6 sections available for this class, allowing students to take up to 3 years of Invention. Our Invention Teams work to create technological solutions to real-world problems of their own choosing. Students rely on inquiry and hands-on problem solving as they integrate lessons from science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) to develop invention prototypes. Interactive, self-directed learning coupled with STEM curricula are essential for experiencing invention. Students learn to work in teams, while collaborating with intended users of their inventions.

Engineering III: RoboCup (S1) and/or (S2)

One or Two semesters, one credit per semester, open to sophomores, juniors and seniors

Prerequisite: Two semesters of Engineering II classes
There are up to 6 sections available for this class, allowing students to take up to 3 years of RoboCup
Once you've mastered some practical engineering skills, you can join our RoboCup team. The RoboCupRescue League is an international league of teams with one objective: Develop and demonstrate advanced robotic capabilities for emergency responders using annual competitions to evaluate, and teaching camps to disseminate best-in-class robotic solutions. In this class, you'll be utilizing the skills you've learned in previous years to create a robot to compete in this unique international robotics competition.

Engineering IV: Agile Project Management (S1) and/or (S2)

One or Two semesters, one credit per semester open to seniors

Prerequisite: Two semesters of Engineering III classes
There are up to 4 sections available for this class, allowing students to take up to 3 years of Agile Project Management
Students who have made it through the rest of our engineering track can take their technical learning from a new perspective, leading a technical team. This class is for students who are interested in leadership, but also have the technical skills required to properly guide their peers to successful and meaningful solutions to their projects. Students will also be learning the basics of Agile project management, which is a collaboration and team management tool used in many industries today.

Engineering & Computer Science

Computer Science

Computer Science courses focus on coding and technology projects, such as computer simulation, programming languages, microcontrollers, scientific applications, and web development. Additionally, students may take the skills they've learned from these courses into later engineering courses.

AP Computer Principles (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels.

AP Computer Science Principles (i.e. 'CSP') introduces students to the breadth of the field of computer science. In this course, students will learn to design and evaluate solutions and to apply computer science to solve problems through the development of algorithms and programs. They will incorporate abstraction into programs and use data to discover new knowledge. Students will also be able to explain how computing innovations systems work, including the internet, and their potential impacts on society. Finally, students will contribute to a computing culture that is collaborative and ethical.

AP Computer Science A (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores, juniors and seniors

The AP Computer Science 'A' course developed by the College Board is equivalent to a first-semester, college-level CS1 course in computer science. The course introduces students to computer science with fundamental topics that include problem solving, design strategies and methodologies, organization of data (data structures), approaches to processing data (algorithms), analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing. The course emphasizes both object-oriented and imperative problem solving and design using the Java programming language. These techniques represent proven approaches for developing solutions that can scale up from small, simple problems to large, complex problems.

English

The English Department at BSM is committed to preparing students for life beyond BSM through a rigorous and thoughtfully constructed curriculum that reflects both universal human truths and the diversity of lived experiences. As students are required to take an English class each semester at BSM, they will develop and refine skills in critical thinking, reading, speaking, and writing.

We believe that students can and should encounter difficult but necessary issues in the classroom, where they can be supported and scaffolded in a safe environment. We value the power of language and literature to illuminate, to communicate, and to create change. Contact your counselor with any questions on courses.

Department Chair: Tiffany Joseph tjoseph@bsmschool.org

Freshmen

S = Semester Course YR = Year Long Course

- English 9 YR
- Honors English 9 YR

Sophomore

YR = Year Long Course

- English 10 YR
- Honors English 10 ContemporarY YR
- Honors English 10 Classic YR

Junior

Option 1

- Advanced Composition and American Literature S1 or S2

Option 2

- AP Language and Composition YR

Option 3

- Advanced Composition S1 and American Studies S2 *Must enroll concurrent with S2 American Studies Social Studies*

*Taken in conjunction with AP African American Studies – Social Studies (S2)

Senior

- Creative Writing S
- Great Am Works S
- Mythology S
- Shakespeare S2
- Debate S
- Film Studies S
- Non-Fict Writing S
- CIS Intro to Lit S
- AP Literature YR
- Sci-Fic Lit S
- Writing for Justice S1
- AP African American Studies- English* S1

Sophomores and Juniors
Students have the option of enrolling in specific electives in addition to the class requirement. Enrollment in an elective as a Sophomore or Junior **does not** fulfill the senior requirement.

Journalism

- Journalistic Writing S,YR
- Yearbook Staff YR
- Yearbook Edit YR
- Edit Lead *Knight Errant* YR

English

Freshman

Enrollment in a yearlong English course is required. Placement is based on test scores and teacher recommendation.

English 9 (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to freshmen

The goals of English 9 are to help students grow in appreciation of literature, develop critical thinking skills, express themselves in an articulate manner both orally and in writing, and to effect a better command of the English language. Writing skills, with a review of the fundamentals of grammar, are stressed with emphasis on paragraph structure and the five-paragraph essay format. Plays, short stories, poetry, and novels are read, studied, and analyzed.

Honors English 9 (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to freshmen

Because this is a reading and writing intensive course, it is recommended that students have earned an "A" in their previous English classes and possess strong literacy skills.

This course is for students who possess superior language arts skills, feel comfortable reading often outside of class time, and have the desire to learn at an intense and accelerated pace. Students will examine the principal literary genres in a varied selection of approximately ten texts, ranging from Shakespearean drama to contemporary novels. The focus of the class will be critical analysis of the literature through discussion, presentation and writing. Students must complete a required summer reading assignment.

English

Sophomore

Enrollment in a yearlong English 10 course is required. In addition, these elective options (listed under "Senior") are available to sophomores:

Creative Writing Debate Journalistic Writing Shakespeare Mythology

English 10 (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores

The English 10 reading program explores a variety of literary genres, the study of which will develop and advance those critical and interpretive reading skills introduced in English 9. The composition portion of this course reviews paragraph development and multi-paragraph essays including an emphasis on research skills. Additionally, students will write a multi-paragraph literary analysis each semester. The first semester focuses on literature covering novels and plays. Included in the second semester is a research unit; students will also gain experience in organizing and delivering formal and informal speeches. A vocabulary program is also part of the curriculum. Students must complete a required summer reading assignment.

Honors English 10: Classic (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of English 9 with an "A" both semesters or completion of Honors English 9.
This course is intended for students who demonstrate superior language arts skills, feel comfortable reading often outside of class time, and have the desire to learn at an accelerated pace. Students study approximately ten classic and contemporary novels and plays from Greek, European, and American literature, and selected works of poetry. Writing instruction focuses on composing multi-paragraph essays, incorporating multiple sources, and employing revision practices throughout the writing process. Students will also engage in the research process during which they write an analytical essay as well as deliver formal and informal oral presentations. Students must complete a required summer reading assignment. Content covers mature themes and language but will be supported accordingly.

Honors English 10: Contemporary (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of English 9 with an "A" both semesters or completion of Honors English 9.
This course is designed for students interested in gaining insight into the complex world they live in who also demonstrate superior language arts skills and desire to learn at an accelerated pace. Students will read approximately ten contemporary works including non-fiction, novels, poems, a memoir, plays, and illustrated (graphic) novels. Seeking to increase writer representation, this course incorporates BIPOC authors and authors from around the world. Writing instruction focuses on composing multi-paragraph essays and utilizes the writing process. Students will explore the research process while writing an analytical essay as well as deliver oral presentations. Students are expected to complete a summer reading assignment. Content covers mature themes and language but will be supported accordingly.

English

Junior

Juniors are required to take one of the following options:

Option 1: American Literature and Advanced Composition- one each semester
Option 2: Advanced Composition (S1) and American Studies (S2)
Option 3: AP Language and Composition- full year

With the four exceptions of AP English Literature and Composition, Writing for Justice, Introduction to Literature: Poetry, Drama, Narrative and Non-Fiction Writing, juniors may choose to enroll in any English electives listed under "Senior."

Advanced Composition (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors

This course prepares students for college writing assignments developing fundamental writing skills. Students will develop their own voices as writers and learn to make the structure and form of their writing match its content through the process of revision. Students will master the basics of grammar, mechanics, and usage as well as elements of logic and rhetoric. Major assignments include a descriptive essay, a narrative essay, a persuasive essay, a college application essay, an art review essay, and an expository essay with a multimedia component. Students must complete a required summer reading assignment.

American Literature (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors

This course focuses on developing a foundation in American Literature while examining American culture as seen through novels, poetry, history, and art.

American Studies/English (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of English 10 OR Honors English 10 IN ADDITION TO: Satisfactory completion of World History OR AP Human Geography.

IN ADDITION, students must enroll in first semester Advanced Composition. Second semester students must enroll in American Studies English and American Studies Social Studies. This course fulfills the second semester English requirement.

This course blends US historical events and themes in American literature to provide students with a comprehensive social, political, economic, and literary history. Five time periods each reflecting different epochs are team-taught: Great Depression, World War II, Cold War Conflict, Civil Rights, and Vietnam Conflict Era. Having both literary and historical figures illuminating the human experience, American Studies fosters a deeper understanding of the principles, problems, and issues basic to the establishment of our country. This approach helps students develop an essential understanding of and fully appreciate the complexities of history as it unfolds in modern times. Students enrolled in this course will meet two consecutive class periods.

English

Senior

Enrollment in one English elective is required per semester. Electives may not be repeated.

Creative Writing (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

In this course, we'll study a multitude of topics concerning short fiction (short stories) and poetry. We'll be reading several short stories and poems, analyzing those stories and poems, and crafting original stories and poems of our own. The primary goal for this course is to teach students the nuts and bolts of fiction and poetry, not just how to analyze different forms but how to craft original work, too. Thus, in order to become a better writer, one must become a better reader. For this reason, we will be reading quite a bit. The stories we read will vary wildly in subject matter, style, tone, and genre. In turn, you'll be asked to write your own original work in any number of styles.

Debate (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors

NOTE: Seniors who choose to enroll in this course as their sole English course must be aware that some colleges and universities may not accept this as a core English course admissions. For example, the University of California and California State colleges do not accept Debate as English courses for their A-G requirements, although those courses do count as electives

Students in this course will learn effective argumentation and the principles of debate. They will study valid persuasion techniques as a defense against irrational arguments and use these techniques to navigate topics and issues relevant to the world they live in. Students will be involved in researching topics, learning debate techniques and terms, and improving speaking skills. Many types of debate will be covered in the class. No previous experience in debate is necessary, and students may enroll in the course without being on the school's debate team.

Film Studies (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors

This course is for students who are genuinely interested in film as a contemporary means of communication and art. The course will cover landmark films, including their relationship to contemporary cinema along with various genres and their relationship to the audience. Students will be expected to write often, putting into practice critical thinking skills as they respond to various films. As a culmination of their learning, students will have the opportunity to make their own digital short films at the end of the semester.

This course does not meet the core course requirements of the NCAA.

Great American Works (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors

This discussion-based course is for students who want to have a wider grasp of American texts as they prepare for college. It picks up where American Literature leaves off, focusing on great novels mostly from the Twentieth Century. Students will explore how American novels reflect the diversity of the American experience and consider what makes a novel "great."

Mythology (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors

This course covers a wide range of myths from various societies and time periods. While reading these stories of myth, students will examine universal archetypes, elements of culture, and human nature. Ultimately students will have the opportunity to critically examine contemporary culture and how their own story is part of it. The primary texts will be Edith Hamilton's Mythology and Joseph Campbell's The Power of Myth, but the course will also pursue many other avenues for studying myth in the modern world.

Non-Fiction Writing (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to seniors

This course focuses on non-fiction essay writing and is geared toward students who have completed either Advanced Composition or AP Language and Composition. With an emphasis on the writing process, this class is taught as a writing workshop with students actively working in small and large groups. Students will cultivate their writing in a variety of genres and forms, culminating in a final portfolio of revised and original content.

Science Fiction Literature (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors

This course is for students who want to examine the genre of science fiction as important and deserving of intelligent consideration and commentary. Using short stories, this course examines the development of science fiction over time. Novels will be read to examine what this genre – which is filled with what seem to be non-realities and impossibilities – has to offer to our present-day world and issues.

English

Shakespeare (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors

Several of the major plays of Shakespeare will be read and discussed in this course, with special emphasis on Shakespeare's understanding of human nature as shown by his character portrayals. Shakespeare will be considered from the point of view of his timelessness, his showmanship, and his relevance for modern teenagers. This course is intended for the student seriously interested in interpreting, analyzing, and enjoying Shakespeare's work.

Writing for Justice (S1)

One semester, one credit, open to seniors

This course focuses on the writing that has inspired and accompanied social change. We will analyze historical and contemporary works and their place in the continuous dialogue for rights in our country's history. Students will study the relationship of medium and message through a wide variety of sources and voices in both primary documents and secondary texts, including pamphlets, letters, speeches, sermons, legal documents, poems, short stories, and beyond. Finally, students will practice the power of writing in a real-world context, empowering them to use their skills to make a difference in the world.

English

Journalism

Editorial Leadership: Knight Errant (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors and seniors

Prerequisite: one semester of another journalism class and instructor approval.

NOTE: Seniors who choose to enroll in this course as their sole English course must be aware that some colleges and universities may not accept this as a core English course admissions. For example, the University of California and California State colleges do not accept Editorial Leadership or Journalistic Writing as English courses for their A-G requirements, although those courses do count as electives

Students who take this hands-on course will oversee production of the print and online editions of the Knight Errant. They will be responsible for all aspects of the publication. As the editorial board of the Knight Errant, students in this class will coordinate the work of the students in Journalistic Writing, and other classes that support the work of the publication such as Graphic Design, in addition to creating their own content for publication. Each student in the class will be assigned a specific leadership role. This course does not meet the core course requirements of the NCAA.

Journalistic Writing (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors

Sophomores and juniors may repeat this course. Seniors may only take the course one semester senior year..

Sophomores and juniors enrolled in Journalistic Writing must enroll in required grade-level English courses.

Students who take this hands-on course will produce content for the Knight Errant and the KEQ magazine. They will work in conjunction with students in the Editorial Leadership class who will guide them through the composition process, from the conception of ideas to the final published product. Students in this class will explore the different styles of reporting encompassed in the Knight Errant, including interview-based stories for the news, sports, and feature sections as well as opinions and reviews. With an emphasis on clear, concise, and engaging storytelling, this class will help students develop and hone their reporting skills and provide them with an authentic audience for their content. Photographers and videographers' welcome!

Yearbook Staff - Sangraal (YR)

Two semesters, two credits Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

This course will allow students to learn about graphic design principles, photography, and journalism through a hands-on manner while producing the High School yearbook. Staff members will be actively engaged in the production process throughout the school year. Staff responsibilities will range from conducting interviews, taking photographs, writing copy, plan and designing page layouts. Enrollment does not qualify as an English credit.

Yearbook: Editorial Leadership: Sangraal (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors and seniors

Prerequisite: Sangraal Staff and instructor approval.

Editorial Leadership: Sangraal is open to students who have been assigned editorial positions on the upcoming Sangraal publication. The production process will be further explored through performing editorial duties, such as supervising staff members, editing proofs, and communicating with the production plant. Enrollment does not qualify as an English credit.

English

Advanced Placement

AP African American Studies - English (YR)

Open to juniors and seniors.

Yearlong course: one English credit and one Social Studies credit.
Juniors must enroll in required grade-level English & Social Studies courses.
This year-long course will explore the historical, political, cultural, and economic developments that have shaped North American people of African descent. Students will learn about the diversity, strength, and complexity of medieval African societies before the emergence of transatlantic slavery, the slave economy, reconstruction, the civil rights movement, and contemporary issues facing African Americans today. Using a multi-disciplinary approach, students will identify major themes that inform literary and artistic traditions of the African diaspora and understand the contributions of diverse Black communities in the United States. Students will read both secondary and primary historical materials, poetry, essays, and novels. There will be a required summer reading assignment.

Junior

AP Language and Composition (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors

Recommended: Satisfactory completion of English 10 OR Honors English 10.
This accelerated writing course is taken in lieu of Advanced Composition and American Literature and is designed for those students who possess advanced writing skills. It is designed to further challenge those students as writers and to prepare them for more complex writing situations. Students will be required to complete a major writing project along with a variety of formal, informal, and in-class essays. In addition, students will be required to read several texts over the course of the year, focusing on American culture and rhetoric in fiction and nonfiction pieces. This is a reading and writing intensive course. Students must complete a required summer reading assignment. Because this is a reading and writing intensive course, it is recommended that students have earned As or Bs in their previous English classes.

Senior

AP English Literature and Composition (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors

Recommended: Satisfactory completion of both Advanced Composition and American Literature OR AP Language and Composition.
This is an intense, college-level course in the reading and critical analysis of literature with a heavy emphasis on formal expository composition. A range of literature representative of different genres and historical periods will be studied, including approximately four novels, a dozen short stories, one play, and a wide selection of poetry. This yearlong course is preparation for the AP Literature exam that is given in mid-May. Thus, it is expected that students taking this course will also take the AP Literature exam. Students must complete a required summer reading assignment. Because this is a reading and writing intensive course, it is recommended that students have earned As or Bs in their previous English classes.

English

College in the Schools

Allows motivated juniors and seniors to earn college credits by taking University of Minnesota, Twin Cities courses, at BSM. Students interested in these courses. Courses listed are subject to University of Minnesota approval.

Introduction to Literature: Poetry, Drama, Narrative (LITR, WI) (S1 or S2)

One semester, one credit, open to seniors.
Four college credits from the University of Minnesota.

This is a writing-intensive course that also meets the Literature Core requirement. From epic battles against monsters in legendary kingdoms to stories about characters in worlds like our own, literature engages us with the diverse perspectives and experiences that make up our communities and world. This course introduces students to ways of understanding and appreciating literature in English across cultures and historical periods. Through this course, we will develop skills to help us understand literature, especially the ability to read language closely (a skill valuable in many disciplines beyond literature).

We will explore how writers use language and literary aspects, such as genre, voice, tone, symbol, motif, theme, imagery, narrative, and form. We also will learn how to write about literature, sharing our interpretations of how and why literary works have meaning for ourselves and others, while viewing them through critical cultural lenses, including ways to understand how gender, race, ethnicity, religion, and class can function in literary texts.

EPIC & RED

EPIC Internships

Explore, Partner, Inspire, Connect

Each of the following BSM EPIC Internships are year-long opportunities to gain professional knowledge and skills. These experiences will appear on your official BSM transcript and will be worth half of an academic credit per semester. Typically, the internships meet once per week during school with some work to accomplish in between meetings.

Department Chair: Stephen Pohlen spohlen@bsmschool.org

After signing up for an internship, there will be an application and interview process to determine who will be offered each internship. You may sign up for more than one and go through the application process but will only be offered a maximum of one internship per year.

Admissions (YR)

Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors

Professional Areas: Event Planning, Marketing, Recruiting, Sales
Description: In this internship, you will work firsthand with BSM's admissions team in sharing BSM's story with future Red Knight families. You will be the lead student ambassadors for visit events on campus, learn more about the "behind the scenes" work of the admissions team, provide student feedback regarding admissions endeavors, and be exposed to professional experiences and connections outside of the school building. Interns applying for this role should be comfortable conversing with just about anyone, possess a vibrant and proactive personality, and have a true passion for all things BSM.

Business and Marketing Hockey Program (YR)

Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors

Professional Areas: Marketing, Graphic Design, Business, Photography, Videography, Events
Description: In this internship, you will create the Hockey Media Guide for the Benilde-St. Margaret's boy's hockey team. All of the images, written text, and ads will be your responsibility. You will design the layout, interview the players, and contact businesses to sponsor the program. You will also be helping with related events and promotional activities of the program. If Sports Business and Marketing is interesting to you, this is a great opportunity.

College and Career Counseling (YR)

Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors

Professional Areas: Marketing, Social Media, Counseling, Communications
Description: In this internship, you will be working alongside the BSM counselors to help update our programming, engage students in counseling events, and work on a variety of college and career counseling-related tasks. You will be in charge of updating our BSM Counseling Instagram and relaying pertinent information to Marketing to display on the TVs around the school. You will be asked to help give the student perspective to younger grades during our Freshmen Forum and Sophomore Sessions. You may help greet college representatives and be involved in advertising these visits to the student body. You will help update scholarship listings, job openings, summer enrichment programs, etc.

Equity Inclusion and Belonging Internship (YR)

Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors

Description: This internship provides a unique opportunity to engage in planning, implementing, and brainstorming events focused on fostering a sense of belonging, as well as supporting student affinity groups. Interns will play a vital role in organizing and mapping out heritage months, updating presentation slides, and researching events that align with student interests. Additionally, interns will produce materials that highlight and showcase school culture and will assist in organizing the Cultural and Heritage Fair while contributing to its planning for the following year. Meetings will be held biweekly during students' free periods, with designated tasks to be completed in each session, ensuring a collaborative and productive experience.

EPIC & RED

Event Planning & Alumni Communications (YR)

Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors

Professional Areas: Event Planning, Marketing, Website Design, Social Media:
Description: In this internship, you will work with members of BSM's alumni relations and events team to help plan the annual BSM gala, promote community and alumni events, and create regular social media posts, reels, and stories about great things BSM alumni are doing out in the community. The internship also includes monthly conversations about best practice to keep our alumni engaged and connected to BSM after they graduate. You will learn skills in event planning, marketing, and website design as you help build the BSM community of students, families, and alumni.

Faith and Mission (YR)

Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors

Professional Areas: Event Planning, Mentoring, Small Group Facilitation, Marketing.
Description: In this internship, you will work with the director of faith and mission to meet the spiritual needs of the High School and Middle School student body (6th-12th grades). You will be creating and leading activities and formation experiences during homeroom, before, during, and after school, and at grade level retreats. You will take leadership roles during key events throughout the school year including the Peer Ministry Retreat, Advent, Catholic Schools Week, Lent, Founders Week, Faculty and Staff Appreciation Week, and more.

Little Knights Early Childhood Program (YR)

Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors

Professional Areas: Psychology, Child Development, Education,
Description: "Nothing Without Joy!"- Loris Malaguzzi
In this internship, while you are with Little Knights (ages 1-5 years) you will be able to Learn, Explore, Observe, Collaborate and Play with the Children. You will spend time learning and experiencing Play based/ Child led/ Reggio inspired learning firsthand. You will have an opportunity to choose a child or age group to observe and document learning and development. You will help expand on observed interests you have witnessed in the children's work and finally compile traces of children's work in a documentation panel for parents, children and students making the learning of the children visible to others.

Marketing & Communications (YR)

Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors

Professional Areas: Marketing, Social Media, Photography, Videography, Journalism
Description: In this internship, you will work with members of BSM's marketing & communications team to write news stories for the BSM website, take photos at events, create original social media posts, reels, and stories, and design branded resources for the school. The internship also includes weekly conversations about marketing and communication topics, lessons in writing, photography, brand building and professional development. Interns also will have an opportunity to hear from guest speakers and participate in marketing/communication field trips.

Parent Association (YR)

Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors

Professional Areas: Event Planning, Marketing, Website Design
Description: In this internship, you will be working with the BSM Parent Association (PA) to engage with the broader BSM community. You will help promote and plan for PA events, from the Homecoming BBQ to the Knightbridge Boutique, to the Spring Plant Sale. You will learn skills in event planning, marketing, and website design as you help build the BSM community of students and families.

EPIC & RED

Sports Medicine Internship (Fall, Winter, Spring)

Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors

Professional Areas: Sports Medicine

Description: This internship's goal is to educate students about the sports medicine profession, career routes and different educational requirements. Students interested in participating in this internship must be a sophomore, junior or senior and interested in pursuing a career in the medical field or other related field (biology, premed, kinesiology, exercise science etc).

In this internship, students will learn the requirements for higher education in the sports medicine field, discuss the fundamentals of athletic training, discuss basic anatomy and evaluation techniques, and discuss and practice basic taping skills and basic wound care.

Requirements: Completion of all requirements will earn the student 0.5 credit that will be reflected on their official BSM transcript. 50 hours 50 Hours maximum over 6 weeks, no more than 8 hours a week. Each student participating will be involved in the program for one season (Fall, Winter, or Spring). Must do one day a week of practice hours after school (2:30-5p). Must attend one varsity sporting event per week, should aim to attend one of each type of sport to learn about the different complexities (6:30-9p). Must complete a project at the end of 6 weeks on a topic discussed during observation, can be a paper or presentation and must have at least 3 cited sources to receive credit for internship hours. Must be in good academic standing to take on an internship. Must have parental consent to participate.

Technology (YR)

Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors

Professional Areas: Hardware Management, Software Management

Description: Get a firsthand view into what makes our technology program so successful. In this internship you will be the first line of defense for students and faculty/staff in the technology help desk. You will be responsible for helping with Google accounts, printers, device repairs, regular maintenance, and classroom audio visual setups. Training will be provided in all these areas. There will also be involvement in other technology projects to help keep our digital environment running smoothly. This is a great opportunity for those that would like to learn more about technology while also helping others.

EPIC & RED

Research | Entrepreneurship | Design

RED is a set of courses offering students an experience that parallels the modern workplace. These courses are found throughout the Program of Studies. RED challenges students to solve problems that impact their world. RED challenges students to develop skills that endure over time.

Director: Stephen Pohlen spohlen@bsmschool.org

RED Capstone Independent Study (S1 and S2)

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors

Prerequisite: Teacher approval required. Students submit proposals in March of the previous semester.

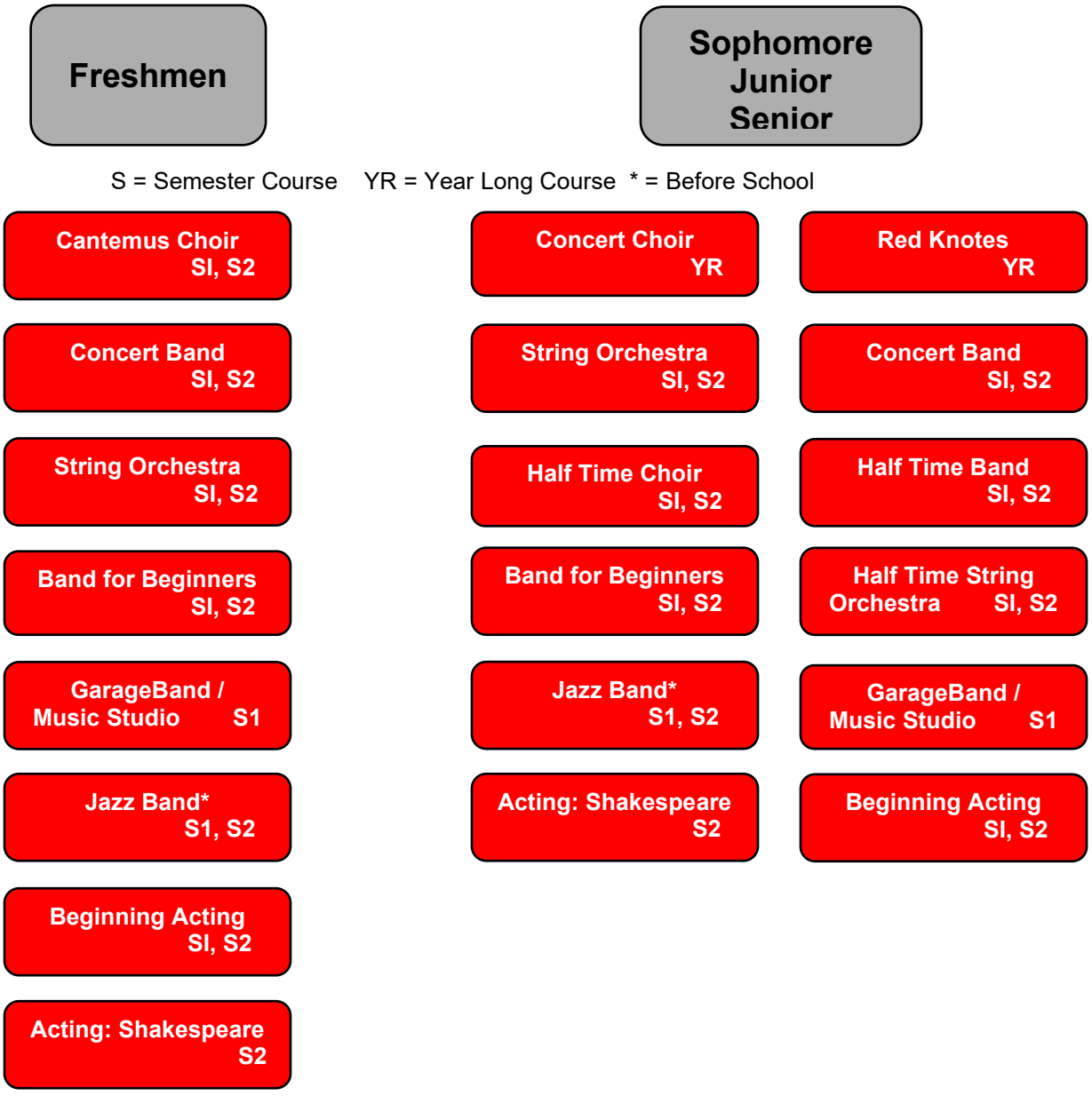
In this ambitious and personalized class, students will use design thinking and the Agile management process to bring a project to life. Publish a book? Patent an invention? Develop a new app? Found a non-profit? You furnish the dream, and we'll help partner you with industry mentors and a BSM leadership coach. This year-long class embraces the mission and vision of the entire RED Department, focusing on offering authentic and collegiate experiences using real world, professional skills to bring your dream to life. Class is scheduled as an independent study with biweekly mentor and coach check-ins.

Fine Arts: Performing Arts

Participation in Performing Arts courses can create strong educational outcomes, but also life-changing experiences that transcend traditional educational measurements. Music students enjoy having a creative outlet in their day to make music, increase their skills, and build relationships within their ensemble. Select students are able to participate in the All-Conference ensembles every year.

Outside of the formal course offerings, students may take part in the following extracurricular groups: MidKnights (treble choir), Jazz Band. These groups generally meet before or after school and do not satisfy a Fine Art requirement. In all music ensemble courses, faculty recommends registering for both semesters to ensure continuity, ensemble success, and stronger musical outcomes.

Department Chair: Miriam Augsburger maugsburger@bsmschool.org



Fine Arts: Performing Arts

Cantemus Choir (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to freshmen

This course is designed for students with developing voice and musical skills. An emphasis is placed on the basics of vocal production and music theory. A wide selection of music is rehearsed and performed throughout the school year. Students will also have an opportunity to work on solos and ensembles for a contest/festival and audition for honor choirs. Attendance is required at all performances and concerts. It is highly suggested to enroll in both semesters of choir.

Concert Choir (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors

This course is designed for students who have built confidence in their musical abilities and are ready to work on music at a higher level. An emphasis is placed on more advanced choral skills and musicianship. A wide selection of music is rehearsed and performed throughout the school year. Students will also have an opportunity to work on solos and ensembles for a contest/festival and audition for honor choirs. Attendance is required at all performances and concerts.

Red Knotes – Choir (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all senior high students

To be in Red Knotes, students must first pass an audition the previous spring. This course is designed for students who have built confidence in their musical abilities, and are ready to work on music at a higher level. An emphasis is placed on more advanced choral skills and musicianship. Red Knotes sings a wide variety of unaccompanied music, from contemporary to classical. Students will be required to attend several contests and festivals outside the school day. Students will also have an opportunity to work on solos and ensembles for a contest/festival and audition for honor choirs. Attendance is required at all performances and concerts. Red Knotes is a full year class.

Concert Band (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to instrumentalists in grades nine through twelve who want to further their study of instrumental music,
Prerequisite: A minimum of two years of band experience.

Emphasis is placed in mastery of instrumental technique, musical literacy, and music theory. Throughout the year, we will rehearse and perform a wide variety of music. Students will also have the opportunity to attend honor bands and festivals. All band students are required to attend public performances throughout the year including various athletic events, festivals, and concerts. It is highly recommended to enroll in both semesters of band.

String Orchestra (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Weekly private lessons outside of school are strongly encouraged.
String Orchestra participates in school liturgies.

This course builds upon the skills developed in junior high, continuing to increase musical awareness, refinement of technique, and performance skills, including various styles and periods of music. The repertoire studied covers a large spectrum from classics to pop to contemporary and liturgical music. Performances in a variety of venues including school mass, community and school events, and seasonal concerts with band and choir will require some after-school and before-school participation. Practice retreats are scheduled in the fall and spring. Extended weekend tours out of state are planned every other year.

Half-time Band, Choir or String Orchestra during BSM hour (S1) and/or (S2)

Band, Choir or Orchestra: One Semester, .5 credit

Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors who have completed one full year of regular Band, Choir, or Orchestra

This option is designed for students who desire to continue their participation as they maintain a full academic course schedule. Students in grades 10, 11 and 12 who have completed one full year of regular Band, Choir or Orchestra are eligible to enroll concurrently in .5 Band, Choir or Orchestra. Band, Choir or Orchestra meets Tuesday-Friday, with Monday scheduled as your BSM Hour. Attendance is required as needed for concert preparation or sectional work.

Fine Arts: Performing Arts

Band for Beginners (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Would you like to be in band, but missed the chance to learn an instrument? Is there a new instrument that you would like to learn? The objective of this class is to provide an environment in which nontraditional beginners can learn a musical instrument. The course focuses on the basics of instrumental music such as playing simple pieces, learning fingerings, developing a good tone, and understanding basic music vocabulary. Students can remain in Band for Beginners as long as they wish, but also may transition into the main ensemble at the discretion of the director.

GarageBand/Music Studio (S1)

One semester, one credit open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors

This course is designed for students with an interest in music production and songwriting. This class offers students an opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of contemporary commercial music. This student-choice driven class provides students with a space to experiment with ideas, grow in skills, and let their creative juices flow. In this class, students will apply basic music theory, music history, and music production technology to the songwriting process while they write, mix, and master their own track. Recommended skills: some experience with one or more instruments like guitar, drums, bass, keyboard, or voice.

Jazz Band (S1) and/or (S2) -Before School

An instrumental ensemble for students in grades 8-12.

Prerequisite: Some instrumental experience required.

This is a zero hour class that **meets before school**. Members will study various styles of jazz music including swing, rock, funk, and contemporary. Improvisation will be taught in various styles. Jazz Band is a performance-based course: students are assessed on skills and personal improvement that will be demonstrated both during and outside of the school day; a few evening activities will be required. It is strongly encouraged that Jazz Band members participate in concert band or orchestra. This course may be taken for credit in multiple years.

Beginning Acting (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors

Introduction to the techniques of acting. Students will use theater games and craft to build individual confidence, find new ways to express themselves, and connect with others. Students will perform basic scenes with partners as well as monologues throughout the semester. Students will be expected to see and review at least 3 live-theater performances during the semester (only 1 can be a BSM performance).

Acting: Shakespeare (S2)

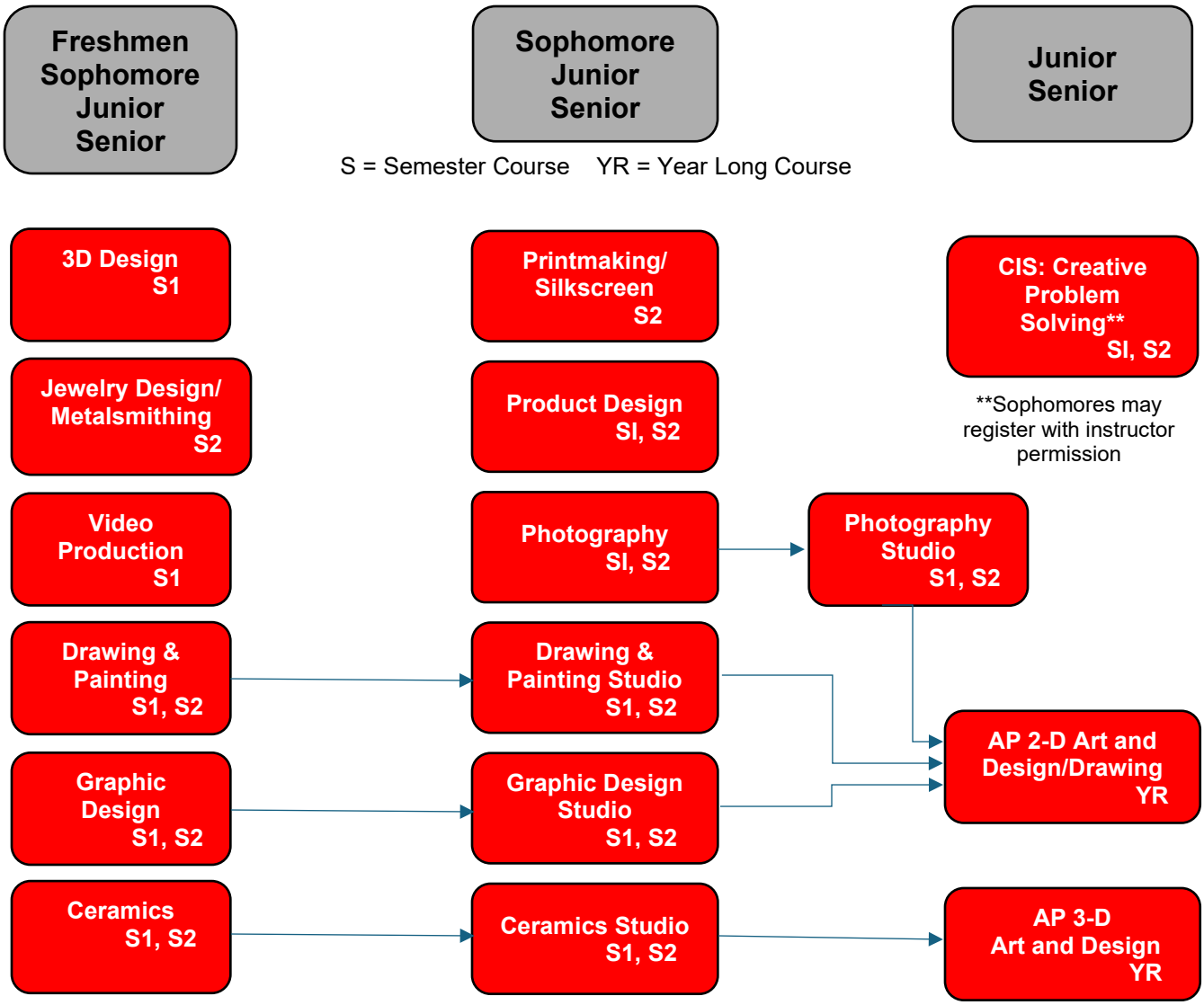
One semester, one credit open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors

Students often read Shakespeare, but rarely do they have the chance to dig into what it's like to perform Shakespeare as he intended it to be performed. We will explore the staging conditions from Shakespeare's time and students will have the opportunity to perform monologues, sonnets, and scenes, as well as potentially staging a short reading out of a Shakespearean play. Students will view different versions of Shakespearean plays and compare and contrast the productions that use the same language, but come across differently

Fine Arts: Visual Arts

All students are required to complete two semesters of a fine arts course, either art or music, before graduation The art program at BSM provides students with the opportunity for developing creativity, imagination, and effective visual expression, with a link to cultural history. Working in a collaborative peer-learning environment, students develop creative problem-solving skills, self- expression, and visual literacy. Contact your counselor with any questions on courses.

Department Chair: Kelli Rahn krahn@bsmschool.org



Fine Arts: Visual Arts

3D Design (S1)

One semester, one credit, open to all grade levels

3D Design is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals and technical principles of working three-dimensionally. It will cover three-dimensional design projects in which students will explore the principles of design and the meaning of form, space, function, mass, and structure. Traditional and non-traditional building materials will be used to explore how three-dimensional sculptures activate space and how consideration must be given to the many viewpoints and perspectives of a form existing in three dimensions.

Ceramics (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to all grade levels

Second semester freshmen may enroll in this course.

This course introduces students to both hand building and wheel throwing techniques. Students will learn to design and build forms using various methods and learn to throw functional objects using the potter's wheel. Students will learn to work with the properties of clay and glaze through progressively more challenging projects. All materials, tools, and equipment will be provided.

Drawing & Painting (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to all grade levels

Students will learn to draw from "life" in the classic genres of art: still-life, portraits, the figure and landscapes as well as methods to increase students' ability to "see" and render. Students will focus on composition and learn to use various media such as charcoal, pen and ink, pastels, acrylics and watercolor in order to create depth, value, texture, variety and contrast in their work.

Graphic Design (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to all grade levels

This introductory course instructs students in design skills using core graphic programs including Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign. The focus will be on developing student understanding of the fundamental principles of design while finding creative visual solutions to projects. Projects may include digital illustrations, logos, typography, magazine covers and spreads as well as skill building exercises. This is a technology heavy course as projects are primarily completed using student laptops.

Jewelry Design/Metalsmithing (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to all grade levels

This is an introductory jewelry design course. Students will explore basic jewelry design & construction, utilizing materials and techniques such as pierced pendants, riveting (cold connections), and ring soldering. Students will recognize and understand the elements of design in the context of jewelry making. Students will analyze and explore jewelry from various cultures and historical periods.

Photography (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors

In this introductory course students will learn to use manual settings on a 35mm film camera, compose strong photographs, develop film, print negatives, and basic digital editing skills using Photoshop Lightroom Classic. Assignments will include composition techniques, portraits, landscape, and environment. All students are encouraged to provide their own 35mm film camera (automatic cameras are acceptable) and have access to a digital camera as well (phone cameras are acceptable). 35mm film, darkroom chemicals and paper are provided.

Product Design (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one ART elective credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors

Can be taken sequentially with a semester of Engineering: Introduction to Design and Fabrication.

Bring your ideas to life! Designers use creative problem solving and ideation skills to produce meaningful products and services. Students will utilize design thinking guided by empathy to solve self-directed design challenges. After identifying a need, asking questions, and developing goals toward designing a solution, students will pitch their new ideas to receive community feedback and possible next steps. Visual appeal, marketing strategies and target market considerations are all part of analyzing potential product impact. In this course, students will use technology, sketching, and rapid prototyping techniques to kickstart the next billion-dollar idea!

Fine Arts: Visual Arts

Printmaking/Silkscreen (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors

Design your own t-shirts, posters, and images that convey a message. Silkscreen and Printmaking were the methods artists used to make multiple prints of an original artwork before printers were invented. This course explores stenciling, carving, and etching to create works of art. We will explore how this art form is used by commercial artists, fine artists, and street artists. Students will supply their own clothing to print on.

Video Production (S1)

One semester, one credit, open to all grade levels

This is an introductory course designed to provide students with an artistic and historical background of video creation. Students will learn the basics of shooting their own videos from pre-production (script-writing and storyboarding) to production (video camera use, lighting, color, camera angles, audio) to post production (video editing). Students will work individually & in groups to create different types of videos.

Fine Arts: Visual Arts

Studio Art

Studio level courses may be repeated. Students must have successfully completed the first level of one medium to be eligible for enrollment.

Ceramics Studio (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit. Open to students who have completed the first level of this medium.

Prerequisites: Ceramics

This advanced course is designed for students who want to further investigate hand-built, sculptural and wheel thrown forms. Students will continue to develop problem solving skills, persistence, and creativity, along with skills in wheel throwing, surface decoration and sculpture. Students will choose their projects or work with the teacher in determining projects and their objectives. The focus will be on improving skills students have begun to develop and on exploring the relationship between form, surface design, and original content. It is highly recommended to take this course for at least two (2) semesters prior to AP Ceramics.

Drawing & Painting Studio (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit. Open to students who have completed the first level of this medium.

Prerequisites: Drawing & Painting

This advanced course is designed for students to further develop their technique and expression in drawing and painting. When students were in Drawing & Painting I, they learned the foundational skills of art creation; Drawing and Painting Studio, students will create individual theme based portfolios while following discovery of new media. Students will show their continued exploration of course-instructed media while emphasizing student choice and problem solving abilities.

Graphic Design Studio (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit. Open to students who have completed the first level of this medium

Prerequisite: Graphic Design

This advanced course will focus on expanding and improving design skills with the Adobe Creative Suite, including Illustrator, Photoshop, and InDesign. Students will design projects for print and digital display with a variety of content, tools, techniques, and strategies. Students will work with the Knight Errant staff to produce the KEQ quarterly magazine and will also be given the opportunity to shoot photos for the KEQ.

Photography Studio (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors
Open to students who have completed the first level of this medium

Prerequisite: Photography

This advanced course is designed for students who have a desire to further investigate photographic techniques and camera controls in both film and digital photography. Adobe Photoshop and Photoshop Lightroom Classic skill sets will be expanded as well as additional darkroom skills. The focus of the course is on developing a personal photographic style while building a digital skill set. Students and teachers will collaborate on the designing of projects that will improve photographic skills and aid in the creation of a student portfolio.

Fine Arts: Visual Arts

Advanced Placement Art & Design

AP 2-D Art and Design/Drawing (YR)

Two semesters, two credits open to juniors and seniors

This course is for students who plan to submit a portfolio in the following mediums: photography, graphic design, painting, or drawing.

Prerequisites: Two semesters in medium of choice and teacher recommendation

***Students are required to complete a summer assignment due on the first day of school to maintain enrollment for this course*

Students must be self-motivated and expect to complete additional studio time outside of class to achieve success in this rigorous college-level studio course. This course develops students' independent voice, skills, and visual vocabulary. Students create a sustained investigation in an area of personal interest and submit a portfolio of 15 connected pieces and 5 selected works to the AP committee for review. To guide the committee students will include a personal statement explaining the evolution of their process and describing how making work developed further questions for deeper exploration. Practice, experimentation, and revision using materials, processes, and ideas are ongoing activities in AP Art. This course is largely student-directed and requires a high degree of independence and time management for success.

AP 3-D Art and Design (YR)

Two semesters, two credits open to juniors and seniors

This course is for students who plan to submit a portfolio in the following mediums: ceramics and sculpture.

Prerequisites: Two semesters of ceramics studio and teacher recommendation

***Students are required to complete a summer assignment due on the first day of school to maintain enrollment I this course*

Students must be self-motivated and expect to complete additional studio time outside of class to achieve success in this rigorous college-level studio course. This course develops students' independent voice, skills, and visual vocabulary. A base of 3 quality artworks is recommended before registering for this course. Students create a sustained investigation in an area of personal interest and submit a portfolio of 15 digital images and 5 selected works to the AP committee for review. To guide the committee students will include a personal statement explaining the evolution of their process and describing how making work developed further questions for deeper exploration. Practice, experimentation, and revision using materials, processes, and ideas are ongoing activities in AP Art. This course is largely student-directed and requires a high degree of independence and time management for success.

Fine Arts: Visual Arts

College in the Schools

Allows motivated juniors and seniors to earn college credits by taking University of Minnesota, Twin Cities courses, at BSM. Students interested in these courses. Courses listed are subject to University of Minnesota approval.

Creative Problem Solving (S1 or S2)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors
Three college credits from the University of Minnesota

Sophomores may register with instructor permission and a 3.0 or better GPA. Full course description and requirements will be found on 54 of the Program of Studies.

Creativity is essential for success across disciplines and highly valued by employers. Embracing creativity gives meaning and value to how you approach your life, solve problems, and pretty much everything you do. A creative mindset not only unveils opportunities but also nurtures an appreciation for the iterative nature of the creative process, embracing growth arising from perceived setbacks or failures. This course is designed to move you out of your existing comfort zones, encouraging you to explore beyond initial solutions and recognize the inherent value of considering multiple perspectives. The only wrong answer is having only one answer. Central to the mission of the course is the development of your personal traits of creativity, thoughtful analysis, ingenuity, experimentation, and the ability to solve problems both individually and collaboratively. The curriculum, provided by the College of Design at the University of Minnesota, awards 3 college credit hours upon successful completion. It will be necessary for students to put in additional time outside of class to fully complete required projects, readings and assignments.

Health & Physical Education

To balance semester sections and to provide the best possible learning experience for students, enrollment in one or more of these courses may differ from the original semester choice. Health and physical education are required of all freshmen and must be taken opposite semesters. Physical education and human geography are taken the same semester.

Department Chair: Alisa May amay@bsmschool.org

Health (S1) or (S2) or Summer

One semester, one credit, required of all freshmen

One Semester opposite of Phy Education
One semester, required of all freshmen. The health curriculum will provide students with knowledge of various health topics to help them make responsible decisions. The students will self-evaluate and develop goals for improvement. Topics covered include mental health, stress management, nutrition, fitness, substance abuse, social health, and CPR/AED.

Physical Education 9 (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit required of all freshmen

One Semester opposite of Health
One Semester, required of all freshmen. This is an activity-based course that involves instruction and participation in individual as well as team sports. The different team sports include but are not limited to speedball, flag football, volleyball, cricket, and floor hockey. In addition, individual activities include weight training and conditioning, and physical fitness testing. Students are required to purchase and wear the physical education uniform approved by BSM.

Health & Physical Education

Electives

BSM offers the following elective health and physical activities to interested students as means to round out their academic choices.

Think, Learn, Communicate (TLC) (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to freshmen

This is a real world applied psychology course where students learn more about themselves and how to relate to others in a more effective way. In this course, students will strive to improve self-confidence, focus on personal development and how to improve relationships with families and friends with the goal of reaching their full potential in high school and beyond. Specifically, the course includes three essential strategies for self-discovery:

Intramural Sports (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors

Students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of competitive individual and team sports in class. Students will learn and understand the advanced rules and skills of a variety of both indoor and outdoor activities, as well as participate in building weekly challenge objectives with the other students in the class. Students will develop leadership skills by creating the framework and objectives for a class period, and implementing them. Students will strive to improve their physical and mental health during class activities, as well as work on communication and critical thinking skills.

Outdoor Adventure (S1)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors or seniors

This first semester course offering will include canoeing, camping skills, outdoor cooking, fishing activities, team building activities, backpacking, conditioning, survival skills, archery, and hands-on activities.

Racquet Sports (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors

Students will understand and apply the advanced rules and skills of badminton, pickleball, table tennis and racquetball. They will also know principles of training necessary to improve fitness.

Sports Performance (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit open to sophomores, juniors. and seniors

Class size is limited to 20 students

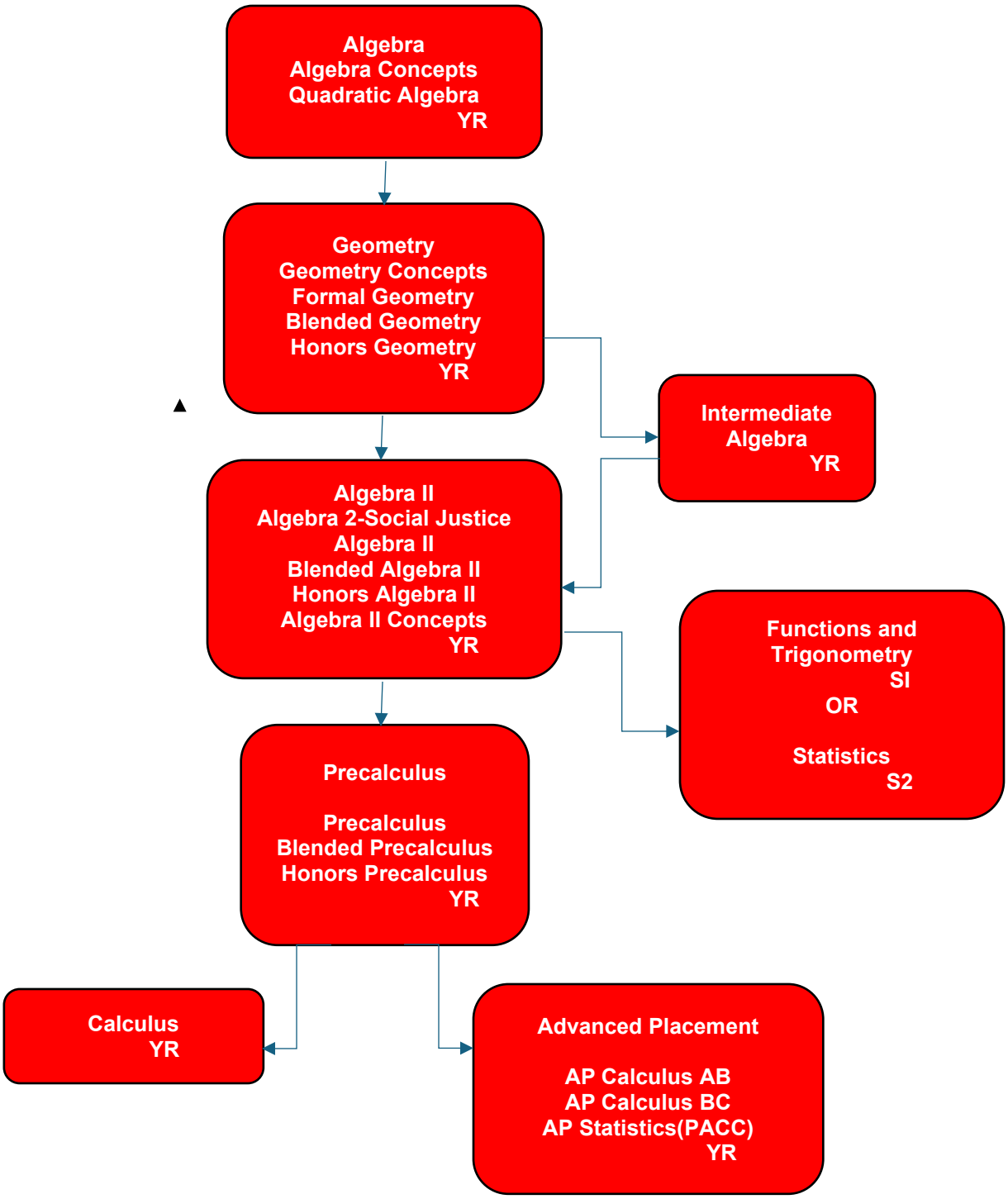
Students will participate in advanced cardio, core, upper and lower body strength activities throughout the term. The emphasis is on improving each student's overall fitness and strength level. Each student will know how to develop a personal fitness plan and will measure and evaluate a person's fitness.

Mathematics

In grades 9-12, each student is required to complete three years of mathematics courses but are encouraged to take four years of mathematics courses. The beginning course is determined by placement test scores, teacher recommendation, and previous courses completed. Placement may be reevaluated based on academic progress. Below is a general guide to the course of study. Contact your counselor with any questions on courses.

Department Chair: Mary Seppala mseppala@bsmschool.org

S = Semester Course YR = Year Long Course



Mathematics

Algebra Concepts (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Prerequisite: Middle school teacher recommendation, student's PreACT 8/9 test score.
This course is designed to give students the opportunity to take more time with algebraic concepts that may be difficult and to give students more individualized attention. A scientific calculator is required, TI-30 recommended.

Quadratic Algebra (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Prerequisite: 8th grade Algebra that DOES NOT cover quadratics, polynomials, and rational functions
This course is designed for those students who completed an Algebra course including linear and exponential functions. This course will complete the Algebra curriculum by covering quadratic, polynomial, rational, and radical functions. Additional topics may include probability, piecewise linear functions, absolute value functions, transformations of all functions, and basic trigonometry. A scientific calculator is required, TI-30 recommended.

Geometry Concepts (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Prerequisite: Algebra Concepts.
This course is designed to provide students more time with difficult geometric concepts and to give students more individualized attention. While the deductive character of Geometry is preserved, emphasis is shifted from formal proofs to practical application and strengthening algebraic skills. A scientific calculator is required, TI-30 recommended.

Formal Geometry (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Prerequisite: 8th grade Algebra that covers quadratics, polynomials, and rational functions, Quadratic Algebra, or successful completion of the summer supplemental Algebra course
This course is designed to develop logic and reasoning skills as the student studies Euclidean Geometry, covering topics including congruence and similarity, properties of 2 and 3 dimensional figures, perimeter, area, and volume. Concentrated work with proof-writing follows a carefully sequenced development of the logic of geometry. A scientific calculator is required, TI-30 recommended.

Formal Geometry-Blended Online (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Prerequisite: 8th grade Algebra that covers quadratics, polynomials, and rational functions, Quadratic Algebra, or successful completion of the summer supplemental Algebra course.
This course follows the same curriculum as formal geometry but allows the student the opportunity to learn through a blended instructional experience. The class combines online resources with a classroom supported environment using a flexible assessment schedule. A scientific calculator is required, TI-30 recommended.

Intermediate Algebra (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Prerequisite: Geometry Concepts, Formal Geometry or Formal Geometry Blended Online.
This course offers an in-depth review of algebra with an introduction to many Algebra II topics including matrices, polynomials, logarithms, and exponential functions. The course is designed primarily to meet the needs of those students who need to strengthen their algebra skills before taking the Algebra II course. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required. This course does not meet the core course requirements of the NCAA.

Algebra II (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Prerequisite: Formal Geometry, Formal Geometry Blended Online or Intermediate Algebra with a grade of "C-"or higher for both semesters.
This course is designed to continue to strengthen algebra skills while introducing more advanced topics. This course emphasizes facility with algebraic expressions and forms, especially linear and quadratic forms, powers and roots, and functions based on these concepts. Students study absolute value, rational, logarithmic, trigonometric, polynomial, and other special functions both for their abstract properties and as tools for modeling real-world situations. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

Mathematics

Algebra II - Blended Online (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Prerequisite: Formal Geometry or Formal Geometry Blended Online with a grade of "B" or higher in both semesters.

This course follows the same curriculum as Algebra II but allows the student the opportunity to learn through a blended instructional experience. The class combines online resources with a classroom supported environment. This course is for students who are self-motivated and self-directed. The expectation is students will meet set test and quiz date deadlines. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

Algebra II - Social Justice (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Prerequisite: Formal Geometry, Formal Geometry Blended Online or Intermediate Algebra with a grade of "C" or higher for both semesters

This course covers traditional Algebra II material with a unique perspective using capstone assessment of each chapter as an examination of topics or events from the world. Students will work mathematically to examine issues like minimum wage, the effects of COVID on the global population, the relationship between income and life expectancy, how design and forced perspective can be used to change the appearance of buildings and objects among other topics. Students will be expected to write responses and discuss questions applying their learnings to large questions using data and verifying its validity. They will leave each chapter of this course with a first-hand example to answer the question: "Where are we going to use this?". A TI-Nspire calculator is required.

Algebra II Concepts (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Prerequisite: Geometry Concepts, Formal Geometry, Geometry Blended Online, or Intermediate Algebra

This course follows the same curriculum as Algebra II but is designed to provide students more time with difficult Algebraic concepts, to give students more individualized attention, and to introduce advanced topics in a way that is more scaffolded. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

Functions & Trigonometry (S1)

One semester, one credit

Prerequisite: Successful completion of the full year of an Algebra II course.

This one-semester course offers a less rigorous alternative to precalculus and integrates graphic and algebraic concepts to study functions and real-world applications of functions. The course previews precalculus work in functions, logarithms, finance, and trigonometry. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

Statistics (S2)

One semester, one credit

Prerequisite: Successful completion of the full year of an Algebra II course.

This one-semester course offers an in-depth introduction to the field of statistics. Students will learn how to organize, interpret, and display numerical data. Data will be analyzed using statistical tools such as the normal distribution, the binomial distribution, and measures of center and spread. Students will also be introduced to probability theory as it relates to statistics. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

Precalculus (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Prerequisite: Successful completion of a full year of an Algebra II course or Functions and Trigonometry and Statistics (FST) with a grade of "B" or higher.

This course is intended for students with a strong background in Algebra II, trigonometry, and geometry. Attention is focused on expanding the depth and breadth of concepts, both old and new, as well as on the refinement of manipulative skills. The course provides work in varied mathematical areas such as functions, logarithms, trigonometry, sequences, combinations, probability, and conics. An emphasis is placed on integration and application of concepts. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

Precalculus-Blended Online (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Prerequisite: An Algebra II course with a grade of "B" or higher in both semesters.

This course follows the same curriculum as Precalculus but allows the student the opportunity to learn through a blended instructional experience. The class combines online resources with a classroom supported environment. This course is for students who are self-motivated and self-directed. The expectation is students will meet set test and quiz date deadlines. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

Mathematics

Calculus (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Prerequisite: Precalculus or Blended Precalculus with a grade of "C+" or higher in both semesters or Honors Precalculus with a grade of "C" or higher in both semesters.

This course is intended to give students a thorough study of differentiation and integration among other topics covered in a first semester college calculus course. The course is designed to allow more time to explore difficult concepts and to give students, who will need to take calculus in college, a head start. It is not intended to prepare students for the AP Calculus test nor are students expected to take the AP Calculus test. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

Honors

Honors Geometry (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Prerequisite: Quadratic Algebra or 8th grade algebra covering quadratics, polynomials, and rational functions with a grade of "A" in both semesters.

Honors Geometry provides an in-depth and very challenging study of geometry at an accelerated pace including rigorous proof and logic-based problems. Strong algebra skills are essential. This course is designed to develop logic and reasoning skills as the student studies topics such as congruence and similarity, properties of 2 and 3 dimensional figures, perimeter, area, and volume. Concentrated work with proof-writing follows a carefully sequenced development of the logic of geometry. A scientific calculator is required, TI-30 recommended.

Honors Algebra II (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Prerequisite: Formal Geometry, Blended Geometry with a grade of "A" in both semesters or Honors Geometry with a grade of "B-" or higher in both semesters.

This course provides an in-depth and very challenging study of advanced algebra at an accelerated pace. Strong algebra skills are essential. This course is designed to continue to strengthen algebra skills while introducing more advanced topics. This course emphasizes facility with algebraic expressions and forms, especially linear and quadratic forms, powers and roots, and functions based on these concepts. Students study absolute value, rational, logarithmic, trigonometric, polynomial, and other special functions both for their abstract properties and as tools for modeling real-world situations. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

Honors Precalculus (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Prerequisite: Algebra II with a grade of "A" in both semesters or Honors Algebra II with a grade of "B-" or higher in both semesters.

This course provides an in-depth and very challenging study of Precalculus at an accelerated pace. Strong algebra skills are essential. This course is intended for students with a strong background in advanced algebra, trigonometry, and geometry. Attention is focused on expanding the depth and breadth of concepts, both old and new, as well as on the refinement of manipulative skills. The course provides work in varied mathematical areas such as functions, logarithms, trigonometry, sequences, combinations, probability, and conics. An emphasis is placed on integration and application of concepts. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

Mathematics

Advanced Placement

AP Calculus AB (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Prerequisite: Precalculus or Precalculus Blended Online with a grade of "A" in both semesters or Honors Precalculus with a grade of "B" or higher in both semesters

This is a rigorous course designed to reinforce and utilize the content of previous courses while acquiring the skills of differentiation and integration and an in-depth application of these concepts. This is material that would be included in a first semester calculus sequence at the college level. The course includes, but is not limited to, all topics in the current Advanced Placement Calculus AB curriculum. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

AP Calculus BC (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Prerequisite: AP Calculus AB with a grade of "B" or higher in completed AP Calculus AB.

This rigorous course covers the same differential and integral calculus topics that are included in the AP Calculus AB curriculum, plus many additional topics including polynomial approximations and series. This is material that would be included in a second semester calculus sequence at the college level. The course includes, but is not limited to, all topics in the current AP Calculus BC curriculum. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

AP Statistics (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program (see page 58)

Prerequisite: Completion of two semesters of one of the following courses with the required grade indicated Algebra II with a grade of "A" in both semesters.

FST with a grade of "A-" or higher. Precalculus with a grade of "C+" or higher.

This is a rigorous writing intensive course designed to teach students how to organize, display, and interpret data. An emphasis will be placed on the four major themes of the AP Statistics curriculum: exploring data, sampling, and experimental design, anticipating patterns with probability and simulation, and statistical inference. A TI-Nspire graphing calculator is required.

Science

Class of 2029 & Beyond

Benilde St. Margaret's science department engages students in a rigorous and diverse curriculum designed to promote a deep understanding of science principles. The department is committed to fostering critical thinking, inquiry-based learning and experiential investigation. The department seeks to make interdisciplinary connections, encouraging students to apply scientific concepts to real-world concerns. All students are required to take biology, chemistry, and physics to graduate. They are further encouraged to participate in science electives that appeal to their individual interests.

Department Chair: Mark Peterson mpeterson@bsmschool.org

Freshmen	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
	S = Semester Course	YR = Year Long Course	
Earth Science YR	Biology YR	General Chemistry YR	Physics YR
Honors Earth Science YR	Honors Biology YR	Chemistry YR	AP Physics YR
		Honors Chemistry YR	AP Biology YR
			AP Chemistry (PACC) YR
			AP Environmental Science YR
	Additional Electives (So)	**Additional Electives (Jr)**	Ecology YR
Electives may be taken concurrently with core science courses	Ecology YR	Ecology YR	Bio Med I, II, or III YR
	Bio Med I YR	Bio Med I, II YR	Forensic Science YR
	Forensic Science YR	Forensic Science YR	Forensic Science II YR

Science

Class of 2026, 2027, & 2028

Benilde St. Margaret's science department engages students in a rigorous and diverse curriculum designed to promote a deep understanding of science principles. The department is committed to fostering critical thinking, inquiry-based learning and experiential investigation. The department seeks to make interdisciplinary connections, encouraging students to apply scientific concepts to real-world concerns. All students are required to take biology, chemistry, and physics to graduate. They are further encouraged to participate in science electives that appeal to their individual interests.

Department Chair: Mark Peterson mpeterson@bsmschool.org

Freshmen	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
	S = Semester Course	YR = Year Long Course	
Earth Science YR	General Chemistry YR	Physics YR	Physics YR
Honors Earth Science YR	Chemistry YR	Ecology YR	Ecology YR
	Honors Chemistry YR	Bio Med I, II YR	Bio Med I, II, or III YR
		Forensic Science YR	Forensic Science YR
		Forensic Science II YR	Forensic Science II YR
		AP Biology YR	AP Biology YR
	Additional Electives (So)	AP Chemistry YR	AP Chemistry YR
	Ecology YR	AP Environmental Science YR	AP Environmental Science YR
	Bio Med I YR	AP Physics YR	AP Physics YR
	Forensic Science YR		

Electives may be taken concurrently with core science courses

Science

Earth Science (YR)

Two Semesters, two credits

This introductory Earth Science course provides students with a broad understanding of Earth's dynamic systems and their interactions. Through engaging lessons and hands-on investigations, students explore topics such as plate tectonics, weather and climate, Earth's resources, and human impacts on the environment. Emphasis is placed on developing scientific reasoning, data analysis, and problem-solving skills. Students will investigate phenomena such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and climate change, using MNSS-based science practices like constructing models and analyzing real-world data. By the end of the course, students will have a foundational understanding of how Earth's processes shape our planet and the role humans play in maintaining its balance. This Earth Science course prepares students for future science coursework with the emphasis on science practices and crosscutting concepts.

Honors Earth Science (YR)

Two Semesters, two credits

Prerequisite: Recommendation from BSM junior high science department OR 85th percentile or higher on a standardized test science section; if no standardized test score is on file, the student must have earned an "A-" or better in both 7th and 8th grade science courses.

This rigorous, accelerated Earth Science course delves deeply into the interconnected systems of our planet, emphasizing critical thinking, advanced scientific practices, and real-world applications. Students will explore complex topics, including plate tectonics, geochemical cycles, climate systems, and human impacts on Earth. Hands-on labs, independent research projects, and the use of cutting-edge technology and datasets will challenge students to apply MNSS-based science practice skills like modeling, argumentation, and data-driven inquiry. This course also emphasizes collaboration and communication through project-based learning and scientific presentations. Designed for motivated learners, Honors Earth Science prepares students for advanced science coursework and fosters an appreciation for the challenges and opportunities in understanding our changing planet.

Biology (YR) ** Transfer Students Only (Class of '26, '27, '28)**

Two semesters, two credits

BSM biology is a year-long course that asks students to conduct investigations to generate the majority of the information to construct an understanding of biology. This course is a direct reflection of the vision of science learning called for by the National Academies of Sciences. Students learn by engaging in science and engineering practices. In an iterative process, students develop understanding of disciplinary core ideas (DCIs) and crosscutting concepts (CCCs) through the use of science and engineering practices (SEPs). This course focuses on storylines to build the core ideas around: Matter and Energy Flow Through Ecosystems, Natural Selection and Evolution, Human Body Systems, Cells and Cellular Processes, Cell Reproduction, and Genetics and Information Flow Between Generations.

Honors Biology (YR)

Not Running for the 2025 - 2026 School Year

General Chemistry (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Prerequisite: concurrent enrollment in Intermediate Algebra.

This laboratory-based course focuses on the key concepts of chemistry. Students will develop their problem- solving and critical thinking skills by collaborating on research projects and laboratory experiments. This course will focus on the following topics: measurement and the metric system, states of matter, atomic structure, kinetic molecular theory, mixtures and compounds, solutions, the periodic table, chemical formulas, chemical reactions, bonding, gas laws, and stoichiometry.

Chemistry (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, must meet the math requirement

Prerequisite: Completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, Algebra II or Honors Algebra II.

This course is intended for those students who seek a solid chemistry background in preparation for college or desire a complete understanding of chemistry principles. Students will study the structure, properties, and changes in matter as well as the laws, principles, and theories describing matter. Classroom activities will include lectures, demonstrations, problem solving, and experiments.

Science

Honors Chemistry (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, must meet the math requirement

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra II or Honors Algebra II with at least an "A-" or concurrent enrollment in Honors Algebra II

Honors Chemistry is a rigorous course designed to challenge students who have a great curiosity and ability in science. Students should be self-motivated and enjoy challenges. Problem solving skills are very important. The faster pace of this course covers the same material as the regular Chemistry course while allowing additional topics to be covered. Because of the faster pace, students will be expected to be independent problem solvers, motivated learners, and able to grasp scientific concepts quickly.

Science

Electives

Physics (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Prerequisite: Completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, Algebra II or Honors Algebra II.

This course is designed for students who have a natural curiosity about how the world works. Have you ever wondered why you get pushed to the outside of a car when going around a curve? Why do spaceships "slingshot" themselves past other planets? Why does your hair get more "static-y" during the winter? We'll focus on topics like kinematics and motion, forces, energy, momentum, electricity, magnetism, waves, light, and sound. Through labs and engineering challenges, students will gain a better understanding of how the rules of nature can explain our everyday experiences. Students will complete lab assignments and 1-2 major projects. This course is designed for anyone who has an interest in science.

Ecology (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Ecology will provide hands-on, often outdoor, learning experiences through project-based problem-solving activities. Students will learn about the interrelationships of living things and their physical environments. Students will engage in the study of environmental topics affecting the world in which they live.

Forensic Science (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Are you intrigued by CSI? Does a statement like, "We're not quite sure of the C.O.D but there is some GSR on our vic," resonate with you? If so, this class might be for you! Forensic science is a challenging investigative course that applies scientific principles and technological practices from biology, chemistry, and physics for the purpose of justice. Some major themes of study include collecting physical evidence, glass and soil, fingerprints, hair and fiber, DNA typing, chemical analysis, sound waves, blood spatter analysis, entomology, casts, impressions, and tool marks. This is a year-long course that will require critical thinking, problem solving and an investigative and curious mind as we build upon these themes at an advanced level.

Forensic Science II (YR)

Two Semesters, two credits

Prerequisite - Forensic I

Second year forensics is a year long elective course aimed at learning scientific principles, laboratory techniques and reasoning skills to solve crimes. We will delve deeper into various topics already studied in Forensics 1 as well as expanding into many areas not yet studied such as toxicology, anthropology, ballistics and accident reconstruction. Students will also analyze real-world criminal cases focusing on how forensic evidence is interpreted and presented in court.

Biomedical Science I: Investigations (YR)

Two semesters, two credits.
Order of enrollment preference:
sophomores, juniors, seniors

Prerequisites: Completion of Biology with an "A-" or Honors Biology with a "B" or higher. A summer assignment is required and due on the first day of school.

This course is a hands-on, lab-oriented class designed for those students interested in medicine and medical technologies teaching them how the body works together to maintain health. Students will explore how the body works using Vernier technology, real life medical equipment, act as doctors to diagnose and treat fictitious patients, create, and present models of different systems/organs in the human body. Coursework includes dissections, case studies, simulations, and guest speakers. The course will culminate with students exploring a disease from beginning to end and creating and presenting their own patient case study.

Science

Advanced Placement

AP Biology (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

This course is eligible for PACC credit.
Prerequisite: Completion of Biology or Honors Biology; completion of Chemistry or Honors Chemistry.
This course is a second-year biology course, designed to be equivalent to an introductory biology course intended for biology majors during the first year of college. This course prepares students for the Advanced Placement exam in Biology. Students will explore major concepts in Biology, including cell structure and function, the cell cycle, DNA structure and function, principles of genetic inheritance, physiology and anatomy of animals and plants, biodiversity, ecology, and evolution. Students should have a strong understanding of basic biology and chemistry concepts. Given the amount of material covered on the AP exam, the course will move at a quick pace.

AP Chemistry (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Prerequisite: Completion of Chemistry or Honors Chemistry.
This course is available for PACC credit. This course is a second-year chemistry course, designed to be the equivalent of the general course taken during the first year of college. This course prepares students for the Advanced Placement exam. It is structured around the six big ideas as described in the AP Curriculum Framework: including the structure of matter, properties of matter, chemical reactions, the rates of chemical reactions, thermodynamics, and equilibrium. A special emphasis will be placed on the seven science practices, which capture important aspects of the work in which scientists engage. Learning objectives will combine content with inquiry and reasoning skills during multiple hands-on laboratory investigations.

AP Environmental Science (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Students should have completed one year of biology and one year of chemistry. Due to the quantitative analysis required in the course, students should also have taken at least one year of algebra.
The goal of this interdisciplinary course is to provide students with the scientific practices required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. Students cultivate their understanding through inquiry-based lab investigations as they explore concepts such as energy transfer, interactions between earth systems, interactions between different species and the environment, and sustainability. Students learn to identify man-made and natural environmental problems, evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and identify sustainable solutions for resolving or preventing them. The AP Environmental Science course is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester, introductory college course in environmental science.

AP Physics I (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Prerequisite: Completion of Precalculus or Precalculus Blended Online.
AP Physics I is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course. Students cultivate their understanding of Physics through inquiry-based investigations as they explore the topics of kinematics, dynamics, circular motion and gravitation, energy, momentum, simple harmonic motion, torque and rotational motion, electrical charge and force, DC circuits, and mechanical waves and sound. Students should have a basic algebra background before enrolling in this course. Students should also plan to spend at least 25% of instructional time doing hands-on laboratory work, with an emphasis on inquiry- based investigations that allow opportunities to demonstrate foundational physics principles and apply important scientific practice.

Science

Biomedical Science II: AP Seminar: (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

Prerequisite: Biomedical Science I: Investigations. Students are required to complete a summer assignment due on the first day of school.

AP Seminar: Biomedical Science is first and foremost a science class. Students will focus their efforts on using the processes of biomedical science to study current areas of debate such as: genetic engineering in humans, animal use in research, effectiveness of stem cell therapies, pandemic preparedness, and cell phone radiation. Using the AP framework, Q.U.E.S.T. (Question, Understand, Evaluate Perspectives, Synthesize Ideas, and Team, Transmit, and Transform), will allow students to look deeply and thoroughly at complex issues through multiple lenses. Each topic addressed will have a series of experiments focused on the biomedical aspect. These experiments and the accompanying research techniques will offer a jumping off point for more questions and answers. The College Board will ask students to engage in two Performance Tasks: one as a team, the other as an individual. Each of these has a multimedia portion and an individual writing assignment. This course prepares the student for the AP Exam in May. College credit may be earned as part of the AP Capstone program. (see page 6 for Capstone program information).

Biomedical Science III: AP Research: (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, seniors only

Prerequisite: Completion of Biomedical Science II: AP Seminar.

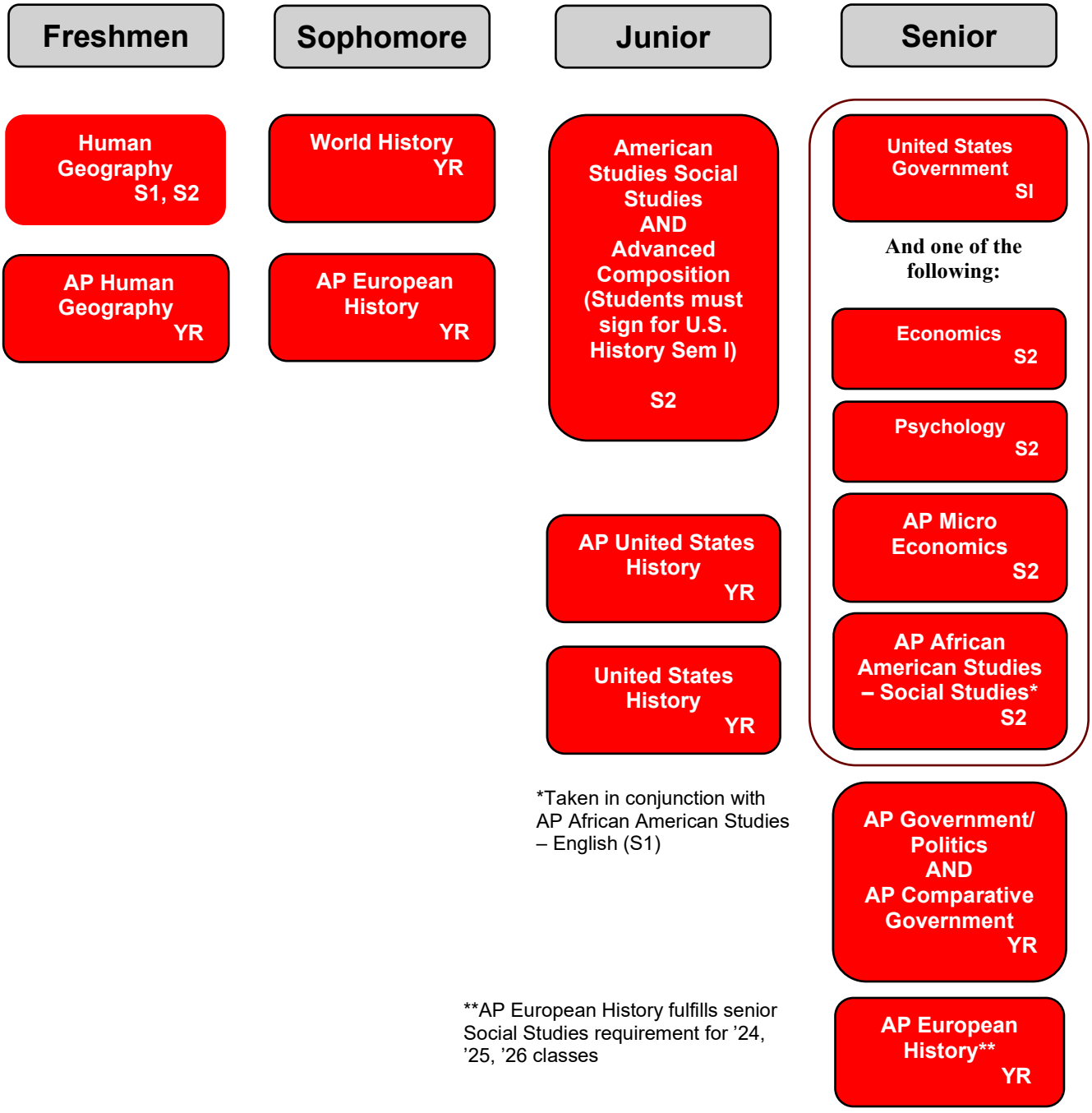
Students will collaborate with other students, teachers, and/or professionals in their field of study to design and implement a research project or product. Students will focus on an area of personal interest in the biomedical field and study it in depth. Outcomes from the course may include publishing research findings, a professional poster symposium, participating in national research-related competitions, and/or an internship in the field. AP Research, the second course in the AP Capstone experience, allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue, or idea of individual interest. Students' design, plan, and implement a yearlong investigation to address a research question. Through this inquiry, they further the skills they acquired in the AP Seminar course by learning research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information. Students reflect on their skill development, document their processes, and curate the artifacts of their scholarly work through a process and reflection portfolio. The course culminates in an academic paper of 4,000– 5,000 words (accompanied by a performance, exhibit, or product where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense.

Social Studies

The social studies program at BSM is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to actively participate in our democracy and our increasingly interconnected world. Courses in the social studies department will focus on both essential content as well as skills such as critical thinking, discussion writing, and analysis.
CLASS OF 2026 and earlier: The graduation requirement is 3 years of social studies.
CLASS of 2027 and beyond: All students must take 3.5 years of social studies starting with human geography Freshman year. Contact your counselor with any questions on courses.

Department Chair: Cherie Vroman cvroman@bsmschool.org

S = Semester Course YR = Year Long Course



*Taken in conjunction with AP African American Studies – English (S1)

**AP European History fulfills senior Social Studies requirement for '24, '25, '26 classes

Social Studies

Freshmen

Enrollment in one semester of Human Geography is required. Students with above average reading and writing skills may take AP Human Geography (year-long) instead.

Human Geography (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, taken the same semester as physical education

This semester course serves as an introduction to the study of human geography, which is the study of humans and their interaction with their surroundings. Using global examples, students will study important 21st century topics such as population, the political organization of space, agriculture, development, and culture. Maps will be frequently used to study various regions at different scales. Skill emphasis will focus on reading nonfiction text, note taking, and map analysis.

AP Human Geography (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

A summer assignment is required and must be completed to maintain enrollment in the course. This assignment is due on the first day of school.

Human Geography focuses on the distribution, use, and effects of human populations on the planet. Using global examples, students will study topics such as population, migration, culture, agriculture, development, industry, and the political organization of space. A focus on current events around the world and in the United States will occur as we examine these topics in depth. Maps and spatial data will be frequently used to study regions at different scales. In addition, students must be willing and able to work with college-level materials and topics.

Social Studies

Sophomore

World History (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

This course explores early modern world history and the historical events that continue to influence the contemporary world. Students will investigate the historical events that led to European domination of the globe and the ensuing consequences. The first semester will start with the Medieval era and end on the eve of WWI. The second semester explores the causes and effects of two global wars and then will focus on case studies of various regions around the world.

The themes emphasized are cross-continental interactions and intellectual movements/theories that still impact the world today including individualism, marginalization of others, self-determination, constitutionalism, authoritarianism, communism, and nationalism. Skill emphasis will be on reading non-fiction text, note-taking, analyzing primary sources, and effective persuasive writing.

AP European History (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

A summer assignment will be required and must be completed to maintain enrollment in the course. This assignment is due on the first day of school.

Advanced Placement European History is designed to provide the student with a fundamental understanding of the development of Western Society and culture from 1450-present. The course focuses on the politics, social, economic, intellectual, and diplomatic history of Europe. Critical thinking and writing skills are emphasized as students analyze historical documents and utilize historical thinking skills. This course is taught at a level commensurate with an introductory college course, and it is expected that the student comes prepared for that level of commitment. A significant amount of reading and writing are required for the course, and all course work is geared toward preparation for the AP exam in May. Students with acceptable scores on this exam may be awarded college credit for this course.

Social Studies

Junior

United States History (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, required for juniors

This course explores the history of the United States of America as a land founded upon high principles. Students will explore the achievements and success of the United States, as well as its failures and challenges from the Reconstruction to the present. The course is designed to give students a fundamental knowledge of major themes in United States history: state and federal control, expansion and conflict, industrial growth and global economic interest, immigration, struggle for rights of marginalized Americans, war and peace, domestic policy, and world politics.

Ongoing skill development in reading comprehension, critical thinking, original source document analysis, source bias, writing for the social studies and research, note taking, and integrative technology are the study skills that are developed in this course.

American Studies/Social Studies (S2)

One semester, one credit

Prerequisite: Successful completion of World History OR AP Human Geography IN ADDITION TO both semesters of English 10 OR Honors English.

IN ADDITION, students must enroll in first semester Advanced Composition. Second semester students must enroll in American Studies English and American Studies Social Studies. This course fulfills the second semester English requirement.

Students must enroll in first semester United States History. Semester two students must enroll in American Studies English and American Studies Social Studies. This course fulfills the second semester United States History Social Studies requirement.

This course blends US historical events and themes in American literature to provide students with a comprehensive social, political, economic, and literary history. Five time periods each reflecting different epochs will be team taught: Great Depression, World War 2, Civil Rights, Cold War Conflict, and Challenges of Modern American Society. Having both literary and historical figures illuminating the human experience, American Studies fosters a deeper understanding of the principles, problems, and issues basic to the establishment of our country. This understanding is essential for students to fully appreciate the complexities of history as it unfolds in modern times. Students enrolled in this course will meet two consecutive class periods.

AP United States History (YR)

Two semesters, two credits fulfills U.S. History requirement

A summer assignment will be required and must be completed to maintain enrollment in the course. This assignment is due on the first day of school.

This college-level course is designed for juniors who have strong academic abilities, time management and study skills, along with a keen interest in United States History. The course is presented in chronological order from the Colonial Period to the Present. Various topics and events will be examined with an emphasis being placed on in-depth analysis of cause-and-effect relationships. The course will also focus on the “Course Themes” and “Historical Thinking Skills” required by the College Board for the APUSH class. Special emphasis is placed on learning the writing skills needed for the different types of essays required for the AP exam. Students are expected to actively participate in debates, simulations, speeches, presentations, and other classroom activities.

Social Studies

Senior

All seniors are required to take U.S. Government unless enrolled in AP European History(Class of 2026 only) or AP Government

United States Government and Politics (S1)

One semester, one credit, open to seniors

This course consists of a survey of political thought and experience in the United States. American government at local, state, and federal levels will be studied, with an emphasis placed upon the institutions of the federal government. Course topics include the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States of America, political process, political philosophy, civil rights, the role of government, current events, and the duties of a United States citizen

Economics (S2)

One semester, one credit

This survey course covers macro- and microeconomic theory, and it is designed to prepare students for an intro-level college economics course. Students will study the fundamental concepts of economics and the national economy and their links to the changing global economy. Course work will include the study of "consumerism," decision-making, various product markets, economic models, and the student's role in the factors of production and consumption. An ongoing analysis and discussion of current economic policies and trends is also a significant aspect of this course.

Psychology (S2)

One semester, one credit

This course is a survey of the science of human behavior. Topics include psychology as a science, the psychology of learning, and biological influences on behavior, personality development, and abnormal psychology. Students will discover the many applications that psychology has on their life.

AP African American Studies – Social Studies (YR)

One SS credit, one English credit, *Open to juniors and seniors*

Yearlong course: one English credit and one Social Studies credit.
Juniors must enroll in required grade-level English & Social Studies courses.

This year-long course will explore the historical, political, cultural, and economic developments that have shaped North American people of African descent. Students will learn about the diversity, strength, and complexity of medieval African societies before the emergence of transatlantic slavery, the slave economy, reconstruction, the civil rights movement, and contemporary issues facing African Americans today. Using a multi-disciplinary approach, students will identify major themes that inform literary and artistic traditions of the African diaspora and understand the contributions of diverse Black communities in the United States.
Students will read both secondary and primary historical materials, poetry, essays, and novels. There will be a required summer reading assignment.

AP European History (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

A summer assignment will be required and must be completed to maintain enrollment in the course. This assignment is due on the first day of school.

Advanced Placement European History is designed to provide the student with a fundamental understanding of the development of Western Society and culture from 1450-present. The course focuses on the politics, social, economic, intellectual, and diplomatic history of Europe. Critical thinking and writing skills are emphasized as students analyze historical documents and utilize historical thinking skills. This course is taught at a level commensurate with an introductory college course, and it is expected that the student comes prepared for that level of commitment. A significant amount of reading and writing are required for the course, and all course work is geared toward preparation for the AP exam in May. Students with acceptable scores on this exam may be awarded college credit for this course.

Social Studies

AP Microeconomics (S2)

Two semesters, two credits

Advanced Placement Microeconomics is a course designed to provide students with a thorough understanding of the principles of economics as they apply to individual decision-making units, including individual households and firms. Students taking the course will spend time examining the theory of consumer behavior, the theory of the firm, and the behavior of profit-maximizing firms under various market structures. Students will evaluate the efficiency of the outcomes with respect to price, output, consumer surplus, and producer surplus. Students will have an opportunity to examine the behaviors of households and businesses in factor markets, and learn how the determination of factor prices, wages, interest, and rent influence the distribution of income in a market economy. Students will also consider instances in which private markets may fail to allocate resources efficiently and examine various public policy alternatives aimed at improving the efficiency of private markets.

AP US Government and Politics & AP Comparative Government and Politics (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

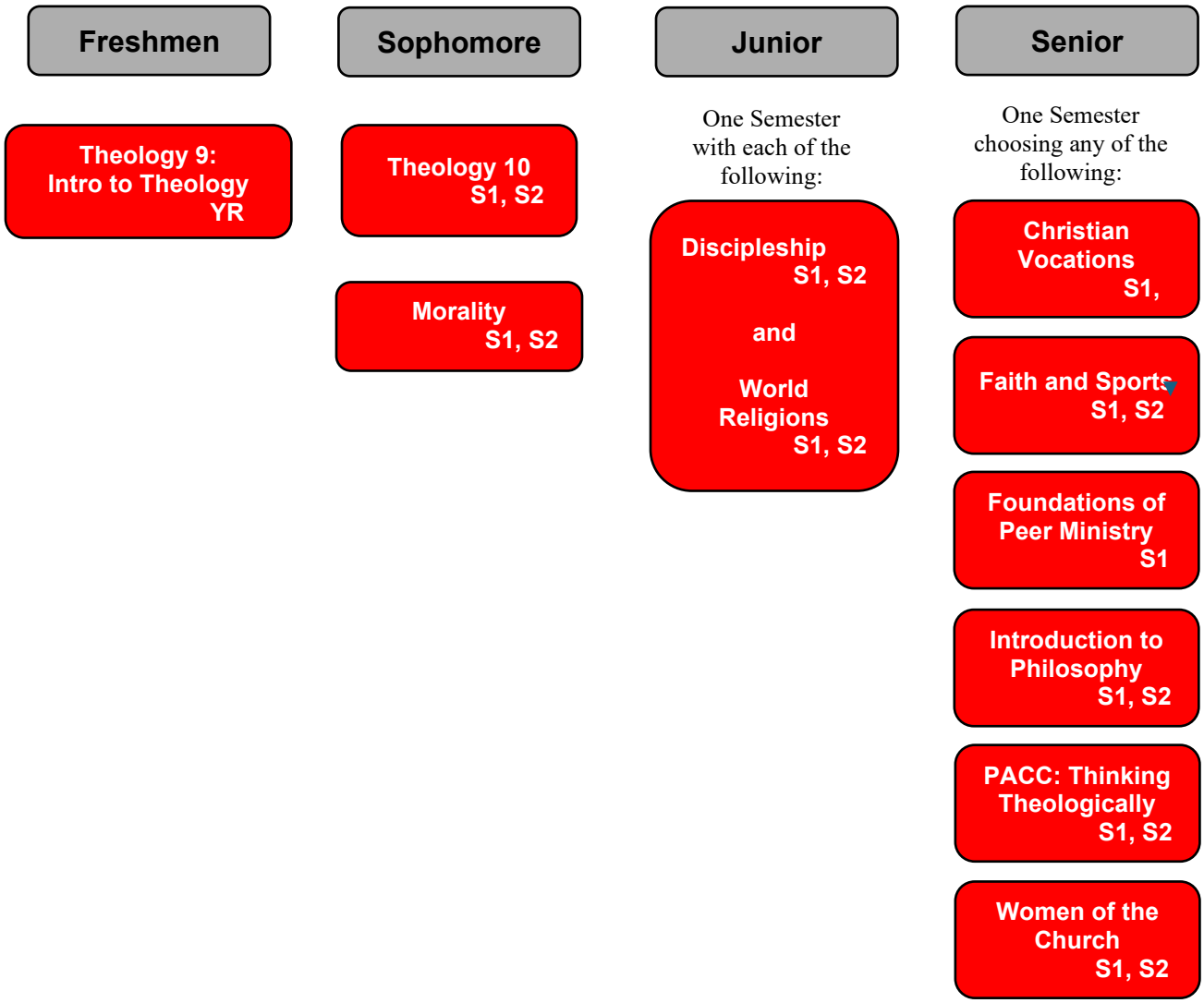
This year-long course provides students with an in-depth understanding of the American government as well as various political systems around the world. Students will understand what factors contributed to the development of the American political system as well as the structure of the U.S. government. They will also focus on the American political process including how different agencies within the government interact, and how these agencies and their policies affect the daily lives of Americans. In addition, students will also be introduced to the methodology of comparative politics and engage in an in-depth study of six different countries: Iran, Nigeria, China, Russia, Mexico, and Great Britain. They will recognize major comparative political concepts and how to apply them. Finally, students will be able to compare political institutions and processes from across the world and form sound conclusions based on those comparisons. This course prepares students for both AP Exams in the spring.

Theology

Supported by academic rigor and spiritual experiences, we are committed to teaching and celebrating the Catholic faith while simultaneously appreciating differing faith perspectives. Through their theology classes, students will grow in their relationship with the loving God, while nurturing their loving relationships with others, self and creation. We challenge students to become agents of positive social change in alignment with Catholic Social Teaching. Students are required to enroll in one theology course each semester. Contact your counselor with any questions on courses.

Department Chair: Michael Becker mbecker@bsmschool.org

S = Semester Course YR = Year Long Course



Theology

Freshmen

Freshmen are required to choose between either the year-long seminar course OR one semester each, of Introduction to Scripture and Christology: The Person of Jesus

Theology 9: Intro to Theology (YR)

Two semesters, two credits

This course serves as an introduction to theology at Benilde-St-Margaret's. Students will learn the fundamentals of theology and what it means to be a Red Knight. Topics covered will range from Revelation and relationship, Scripture, and story, to the Incarnation and our call to holiness. The course is designed to meet the needs of students at varying points on their faith journey – those of deep faith, those seekers, and students who are unsure of the role faith plays in their lives but are open to exploring. Students will take one semester of seminar and one semester of scripture.

Sophomore

Sophomores are required to enroll in two semesters, two credits of Theology 10 as outlined below. Students will be placed in one either semester - no choice needed.

Theology 10 (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, required

This course will explore what happens when ordinary people encounter the living God and how this manifestation of individual faith necessitates a call outward to build a community of prayer, worship, and service. Topics covered will range from creation, the life, suffering, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the institution of the Church, and how this all relates to 21st-century young people and adults today.

Morality (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, required

Through this course, students will discern how God is calling them to live a life of holiness through their actions. Students will learn moral concepts, philosophical and theological reasoning, and the tenets of the Catholic moral vision. Through various readings from Scripture, Church documents, and other literary and secular writings, students will use seminar-based discussion to address moral dilemmas facing their lives. Students will develop moral decision-making skills and learn to apply those skills through the formation and following of conscience.

Theology

Junior

Juniors will engage in a service practicum through the required curriculum. It is essential that juniors take great consideration as to which semester they are enrolling in the Discipleship class. This class requires 25 hours of service outside of class time. Be sure to consider all extracurricular commitments when selecting the semester of this class. Every effort will be made to accommodate your request, but it is not guaranteed.

Discipleship (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, required

The Sisters of St. Joseph, one of Benilde-St. Margaret's founding religious orders, are inspired by Jesus' invitation to love God and to love our dear neighbor. Their mission urges us to move from the center where we are comfortable to the margins of vulnerability. This course deepens and broadens students' understanding of the Gospel call to discipleship and the Catholic social teaching. Students will learn how Christ's concern for others, especially the poor and vulnerable, is alive today. Students explore the rewards and challenges of living a life of service through a 25-hour service-learning experience that connects them with poor and vulnerable populations in our community.

World Religions (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to juniors and seniors

What is religion? What can we term as religious? Religions take on many distinct forms and styles due to the variety of societies, cultures, and histories in which religions are founded.
In a systematic and analytical, yet emphatic way, we will study a variety of beliefs and practices encountered in the major non-Christian religions of the world: Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism. Through this complex nature of religions we will attempt to trace religious similarities and differences in the hope of a richer understanding of what religion is. All other religious systems will be discussed in correlation to our primary focus area.

Theology

Senior

Seniors are required to enroll in one Theology course each semester and may choose from the electives listed below. Courses may not be repeated.

Christian Vocations (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to seniors

This course is a study of the adult Catholic Christian life and the process of discerning one's vocation in it. Students will learn about and reflect on their identity, their current belief about God, the universal call to all to holiness, the world of work and money, sexuality, marriage, and religious life. This course utilizes self- reflection, discussion, and a variety of real-life scenarios and simulations to foster learning. Ultimately students will learn what it means to live an adult Christian life dedicated to God, others, and self to achieve lasting happiness.

Faith and Sports (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to seniors

This senior level course seeks to engage students in an academic and faith-filled exploration of their involvement in sports and other activities. Focused on theological principles and virtue, students will delve into how sports can help us navigate life's biggest questions and challenges, especially as it pertains to their faith. Through this course, students will also learn practical skills to help them become servant leaders, develop true character, and equip them for life beyond sports.

Foundations of Peer Ministry (S1)

One semester, one credit, open to seniors

Application required and priority registration will be given to junior peer ministers who meet application requirements as there will only be one section of the class offered. Students who join the class are expected to participate in Peer Ministry outside of the class in both 1st and 2nd semester even though the class is one semester long.

This senior theology elective is designed to equip students with practical skills and academic knowledge to serve as peer ministers in high school, college, and into adulthood. Catholic Church texts on lay ecclesial ministry, campus ministry, adult formation, and more will be examined. Current topics of a pastoral nature will be explored through a Catholic lens with the goal of understanding how to accompany those who are marginalized and on the peripheries. This fall semester course will include hands-on experience planning, implementing, and leading BSM grade level retreats and other school and community-based ministry activities.

Introduction to Philosophy (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to seniors

"Wonder is the beginning of philosophy," says the great Greek philosopher, Socrates. Since his time, countless thinkers have tried to identify exactly what philosophy *is*. To put it simply, philosophy is the quest for enlightenment that first began when humans tried to understand and explain the world through the power of reason. It involves a questioning - a questioning that seeks to probe into the most fundamental aspects of our human existence. In Philosophy we will discuss great philosophical issues, read major thinkers, and watch a variety of modern films to help us understand the impact that philosophy has on our everyday lives.

PACC: Thinking Theologically (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one BSM credit, open to seniors

Prerequisite: satisfactory completion of Theology 10 Discipleship and Theology 10 Morality with a "B" in both semesters. Three credit college level options

This course is eligible for PACC credit (see page 58). This **college-level** course introduces students to the methods and practices of thinking theologically through an examination of some of the major questions people have asked and found answers to within religious contexts, especially the Judeo-Christian narrative. This course pays particular attention to the human experience of suffering, and how those different experiences shape our theological questions, both past and present. The course also embeds how theology is examined at a university defined by multidisciplinary approaches to truth and knowledge.

Theology

Women of the Church (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to seniors

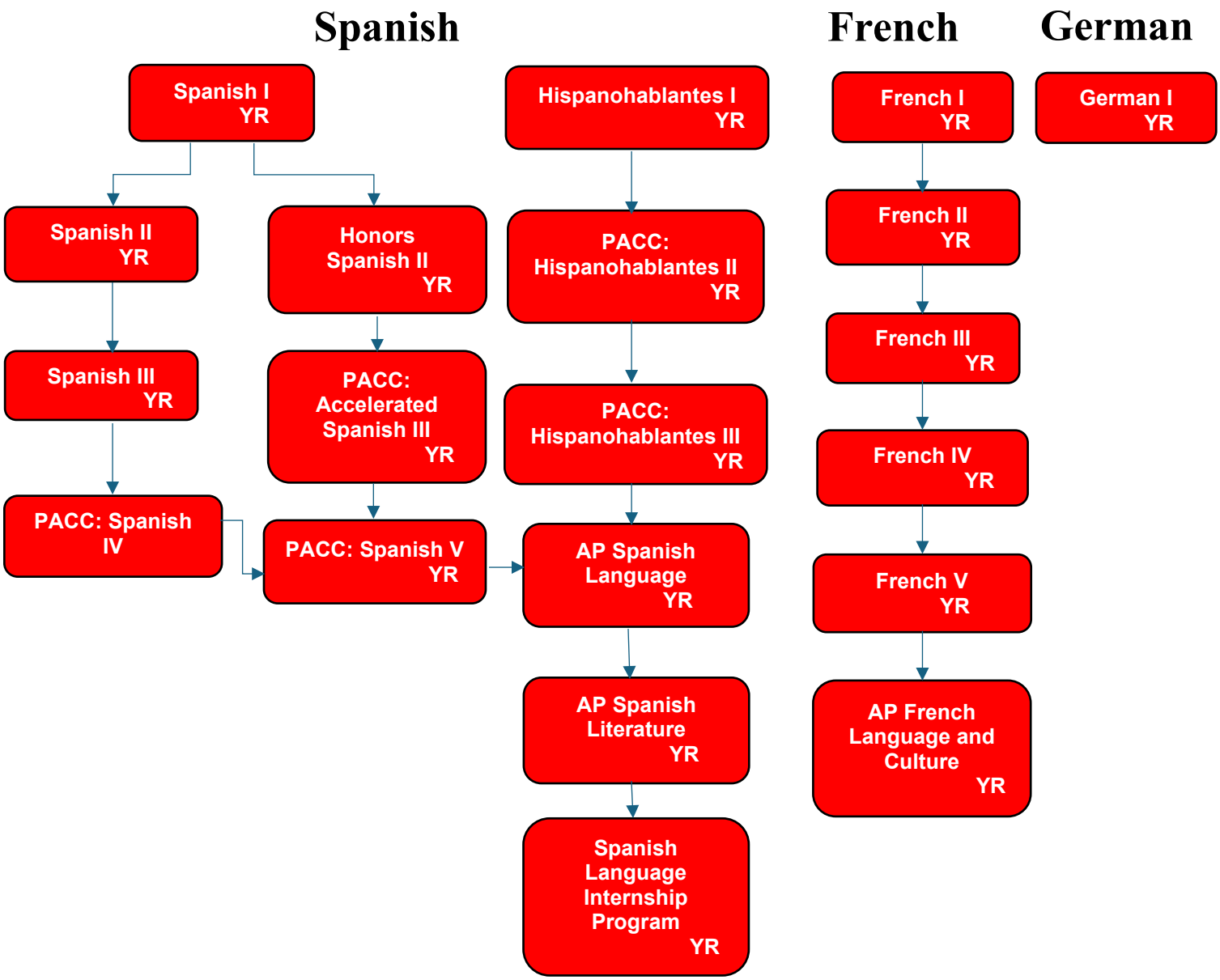
This course examines the vital, but often invisible, role of women in Catholic thought and practice. Students will learn about the first women followers of Jesus, women mystics, theologians, and saints throughout Church history, as well as modern day Catholic women in the Church and the world. Through conversation with each other and student-led research, we will ask whether and how paying attention to the experiences of women makes a difference in theology. This is a seminar style class where students engage with a variety of readings by and about Catholic women.

World Language

Each student is required to take two years of a single world language. Although students may begin a first or second world language at any point in their high school career, it is recommended that students begin as freshmen to take advantage of the full four-year curriculum. Many public and private universities require a minimum of two years of high school language study for admission. Studying a language for three or four years may exempt students from university exit requirements. Every university is different, so direct specific questions to the guidance department. Contact your counselor with any questions on courses.

Department Chair: Megan Hansen mhansen@bsmschool.org

YR = Year Long Course



World Language

French Offerings

French I (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels

This first-level French course offers students a balanced approach to language learning, giving careful attention to the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will gain cross-cultural awareness as they compare the cultures of French-speaking countries and their contributions to the global society. Students learn to talk about themselves, their families and interests as well as explore units on schools, cuisine, and shopping. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and films.

French II (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels

Prerequisite: French I.

This second-level course is designed to develop and expand students' communication skills. The study of Francophone countries broadens to include Quebec and Senegal. Students read about and learn to discuss issues such as health and wellness, festivals, and film. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and films.

French III (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels

Prerequisite: French II.

This course is designed to improve the basic skills of listening comprehension, oral expression, reading, and writing through conversations, discussions, oral expression, readings, and practical writing activities. This course will refine and introduce new structures in grammar and vocabulary so students can express themselves in complete sentences. The study of Francophone customs and cultures includes an overview of French history, from Prehistory to the French Revolution, weekly current events from around the francophone world, and exploration of themes such as fairy tales, love and friendships, media, and society. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and films.

French IV (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels

Prerequisite: French III

This course builds upon level III to improve the students' ability to communicate in French and to develop a deeper understanding of Francophone customs and culture. Students work towards communicating a series of ideas with complete sentences and connectors. Thematic units will include personalities, French tale, La Belle et la Bête, driving and directions, fashion, French regions, African folk tales, Le Petit Prince, by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. Current events from the Francophone world will also be introduced and discussed on a weekly basis. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and films.

French V (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors

Prerequisite: French IV

This advanced level course follows the history of France from 1800 to 1970 including Napoléon, the evolution in governmental systems from post revolution monarchy up to the current 5th republic, WWI and WWII, French colonization and decolonization, and the demographic landscape of France today. For each time period, students will learn about the historical context, review and introduce new grammar concepts, and study an authentic document related to this time frame in its entirety. Language is also used in context during debates, cooking classes and pre-AP activities. Students will continue to develop their language proficiency as they develop a more sophisticated vocabulary and grammar base, through the study of authentic sources in various formats.

World Language

German Offerings

German I (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grades

Learn to speak German, the language of engineers, scientists and musicians, in an interactive and engaging environment! German 1 offers students a multi-faceted approach to learning German by focusing on the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will produce basic conversations to express their feelings and exchange opinions on common, everyday topics such as personalities, school, food, family hobbies, and clothing. At the same time, students will experience German culture and history. A variety of methods and resources are used, including readings, videos, music, as well as authentic audio and reading exercises.

World Language

Spanish Offerings

Español Para Hispanohablantes I (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to freshmen

Prerequisite: Native or heritage speakers with a good understanding of grammar or students who were enrolled in a Spanish immersion school for a minimum of five years.

Designed for students with near native spoken fluency in Spanish, the course will be conducted entirely in Spanish. Circumlocution skills will be emphasized in order to progress while maintaining communication in Spanish. Through their study of literature, music, and movies, students will refine their grammar and learn about the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Students will develop their writing skills, with special attention given to spelling and accentuation. Among other activities, students will discuss culture, debate topics, write compositions, and create projects. Of special note, students will practice their research and public speaking skills as they teach elementary school students about zoo animals at the MN Zoo during their World Language Days program. This course prepares students to take Español Para Hispanohablantes II the following year.

PACC: Español Para Hispanohablantes II (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to freshmen and sophomores

Prerequisite: Español para Hispanohablantes I

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program.

This course is designed for students who have completed Español para Hispanohablantes I. Through their study of literature, music and movies, students will refine their grammar and learn about the cultures of Spanish- speaking countries. Students will develop their writing skills, with special attention given to spelling and accentuation. Among other activities, students will discuss culture, debate topics, write compositions and create projects. Circumlocution skills will be emphasized in order to progress while maintaining communication in Spanish. Of special note, students will practice their research and public speaking skills as they teach elementary school students about zoo animals at the MN Zoo during their World Language Days program. This course prepares students to take Español Para Hispanohablantes III the following year.

PACC: Español Para Hispanohablantes III (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels

Prerequisite: Español para Hispanohablantes II.

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program

This course is designed for students who have completed Español para Hispanohablantes II. Through their study of literature, music and movies, students will refine their grammar and learn about the cultures of Spanish- speaking countries. Students will develop their writing skills, with special attention given to spelling and accentuation. Among other activities, students will discuss culture, debate topics, write compositions and create projects. Circumlocution skills will be emphasized in order to progress while maintaining communication in Spanish. Students will practice their research and public speaking skills when they defend opposing scholarly articles. Of special note, students will write bilingual chapter books for elementary school buddies. This course will prepare freshmen to take AP Spanish Language and Culture the following year, while sophomores and juniors may elect to take AP Spanish Literature and Culture.

Spanish I (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels

This first-level Spanish course offers students a balanced approach to language learning, giving careful attention to the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will engage in conversations, express feelings, and exchange opinions on topics such as likes/dislikes, personality, school life, foods, hobbies, community, sports, family, and clothing. Within these topics, students will build an awareness of products and practices of the Spanish-speaking world. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate technology, music, and videos.

World Language

Spanish II (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels

Prerequisite: Spanish I or equivalent.

This course builds on the fundamentals and skills presented in Spanish I. Students will engage in conversations, develop listening skills, and write in the Spanish language. Thematic units presented include the classroom, daily routines, downtown activities, children and play, emergencies, television programs, and cooking. Within these units, students will build an awareness of products and practices of the Spanish-speaking world. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and films.

Spanish III (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels

Prerequisite: Spanish II OR Honors Spanish II

This third-year Spanish course is designed to continue developing the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing through conversations, discussions, readings, and practical writing activities. This course will refine and introduce new structures in grammar as well as vocabulary. The study of Spanish-speaking people, their customs and cultures include units on art, health and fitness, and communities and volunteerism. Participation and conversation are integral parts of this course. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and films.

PACC: Spanish IV (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels

Prerequisite: Spanish III

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program

This fourth-year Spanish course is designed to start developing intermediate skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing through conversations, discussions, authentic readings, and composition writing. The study of Spanish speakers and their culture will include units on conflict resolution and relationships, the workplace, Aztec and Mayan civilizations and their myths and legends, the fusion of cultures in Spain before 1492 and in the Americas after the arrival of Europeans, the environment, civil rights as well as government. Participation and conversation are key components of this course, and one focus will be speaking in Spanish. Students will be engaged in a variety of activities by means of authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and movies.

PACC: Spanish V (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors

Prerequisite: Spanish IV or Pre-AP Spanish

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program

This fifth-year Spanish course is designed to continue developing intermediate skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing through conversations, discussions, authentic readings, and composition writing. The study of Spanish speakers and their culture will include units on fashion trends, the environment, human rights, personalities and conflict resolution, entertainment, diversity, the culinary arts, our societal issues, the economy, our free time, and 21st century challenges and advancements. Participation and conversation are key components of this course, and two main focuses will be speaking and writing in Spanish. Students will be engaged in a variety of activities by means of authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and movies.

World Language

Honors Spanish

Honors Spanish II (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels

Prerequisite: Spanish I

This second-level Spanish course is fast paced and rigorously builds upon the fundamentals taught in Spanish. Students will engage in conversations, develop listening skills, and read and write in the Spanish language. Thematic units presented include the classroom, daily routines, downtown activities, children and play, emergencies, television programs, cooking outdoors, making travel plans, and tourist activities. Students will build an awareness of culture, including attitudes and lifestyles in Spanish-speaking countries. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and movies. Due to the unique nature of Honors Spanish II (or III), in that the course covers more than one year's worth of curriculum, students cannot drop this course at semester time to Spanish II (or III).

PACC: Accelerated Spanish III (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to all grade levels

Prerequisite: Spanish II OR Honors Spanish II

This course may be taken for college credit through St. Mary's PACC program

This third-year Spanish course is fast paced and rigorously builds upon the knowledge and abilities students gained in Spanish II. Students will engage in conversations, develop listening skills, and read and write in the Spanish language. This course will refine and introduce new vocabulary and grammar structures. The study of customs and cultures in the Spanish-speaking world will include units on art, health and fitness, community and volunteerism, pre-Columbian civilizations, Spanish civilization and colonization, and natures and environments. Participation and conversation are integral parts of this course. Teaching and learning methods actively engage students in a variety of activities, which incorporate authentic materials, interactive technology, music, and film. Due to the unique nature of Honors Spanish II (or III), in that the course covers more than one year's worth of curriculum, students cannot drop this course at semester time to Spanish II (or III).

Spanish Internship

Spanish Language Internship Program (SLIP) (S1) and/or (S2)

One credit per semester, open to seniors

Students are highly encouraged to enroll in both semesters.

Prerequisite: AP Spanish Language and Culture or Hispanohablantes III, near native Spanish speaking skills with exceptional participation and usage in previous Spanish classes, an application with writing sample may be required and department chair approval. Admissions are based on the availability of administrative- approved positions, and the spring registration form serves only as a temporary approval.

Earn valuable experience that could lead to your future college/career choice or get a head start on your college and career planning by participating in an internship experience. Students will travel to a local primary immersion, dual-immersion, or another elementary non-immersion school twice a week. Through direct contact in the classroom, students will expand their cultural understanding of Latinos and serve as pronunciation models for K-6 students guiding them in classroom activities, building reading skills, mentoring students, developing English-language learners, and encouraging life-long language learners.

Students must be at least 16 years of age and be able to provide their own transportation to and from the work site. The internship will take place during the school day. Students will check in twice a week with the teacher to discuss progress and complete online requirements asynchronously. Students will complete quarterly papers, a teacher interview, and discussion posts as well as a semester service-learning project.

World Language

Advanced Placement

AP French Language and Culture (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to seniors

Prerequisite: French V

This intense college-level course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement French Language and Culture Examination. The study of French speakers and their culture will include the AP College Board units on families and communities, science and technology, beauty and aesthetics, contemporary life, global challenges, and personal and public identities. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the culture(s), incorporate interdisciplinary topics, make comparisons between and native language and target language and between cultures, and use the target language in real-life settings. Students will develop tools of communication for reading and listening to authentic sources to promote a deeper understanding of the French language and its many cultures.

AP Spanish Language and Culture (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Prerequisite: Spanish V

This intense college-level course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Spanish Language Examination. The study of Spanish speakers and their culture will include the AP College Board units on families and communities, science and technology, beauty and aesthetics, contemporary life, global challenges, and personal and public identities. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the culture(s), incorporate interdisciplinary topics, make comparisons between the native language and target language and between cultures, and use the target language in real-life settings. Students will develop tools of communication for reading and listening to authentic sources to promote a deeper understanding of the Spanish language and its many cultures.

AP Spanish Literature and Culture (YR)

Two semesters, two credits, open to juniors and seniors

Prerequisite: AP Spanish Language

This intense college-level course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Spanish Literature Examination. The study of Spanish speakers and their culture will include the AP College Board units on societies in contact, gender, time, and space, interpersonal and relationships, duality of being and literary creation. Students will develop further tools for communication for reading and listening to authentic sources to promote a deeper understanding of the Spanish language and its many cultures. This class will explore history, culture, art, and literature through Latin American and Spanish authors, poets, and essayists. Literature in this class covers the Medieval & Golden Age, as well as the 18th – 21st centuries.