



# Curriculum 2026 2027

# Guide



## Mission Statement

Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School, established in 1846 in the Catholic tradition of the Sisters of Mercy and Catherine McAuley, empowers young women to grow in faith, excel academically, and lead with confidence, compassion, and courage.



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# Academic Planning Guidelines

## Graduation Requirements

CREDITS	COURSE
4	English
3	Math
1	Physical Education
4	Science
3	Social Science
4	Theology
2	Language
.5	Personal Finance
.5	Art History
.5	Performing Art Elective
1	Fine Art Elective (i.e., Performing Arts OR Visual Arts and Technology)
4.5	Electives
<b>28</b>	<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>

Graduation requirements can be altered, added or dropped at the discretion of the school.

- Students are responsible for reviewing their class schedules to be certain they are scheduled for required courses. The worksheet on page 5 is meant to guide that process.
- Each student must carry a minimum of seven classes each semester, excluding after school classes. Lunch must be included as a period in a student's schedule and cannot be substituted for a class.
- Students in Illinois must pass an examination on the Federal Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Illinois as part of the graduation requirement.
- Due to the complexity of scheduling courses, conflicts may prohibit students from being enrolled into all the courses they select. Should a conflict arise, students will receive communication from their counselor, the registrar, or the Assistant Principal of Academics if they are not able to be placed in a chosen course.
- The specific period of any course, including study, cannot be selected ahead of time.
- **Students cannot drop full year classes after the first three days of school. Students cannot drop semester classes after the first three days of the semester.** Schedule change requests will be approved on an individual basis and require a \$100 course change fee.

# Four Year Plan

Student's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

FRESHMAN YEAR		SOPHOMORE YEAR	
1 Theology		1 Theology	
2 English		2 English	
3 Language		3 Language	
4 Math		4 Math	
5 Biology		5 Chemistry	
6 Lunch		6 Social Science	
Electives: Semester 1	Semester 2	7 Lunch	
7		Electives: Semester 1	Semester 2
8		8	
9		9	
JUNIOR YEAR		SENIOR YEAR	
1 Theology		1 Theology	
2 English		2 English	
3 Social Science		3 Social Science	
4 Math		4 Science	
5 Science		5 Lunch	
6 Lunch		Electives: Semester 1	Semester 2
Electives: Semester 1	Semester 2	6	
7		7	
8		8	
9		9	

Please note: Final schedule is not in the same order as listed above.

# Course Offerings for Class of 2027, 2028, 2029 and 2030

	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
THEOLOGY	Theology I	Theology II	Theology III	Theology IV / Living Faith Theology IV / Global Studies Theology IV / Peer Ministry
ENGLISH	English I Honors English I Advanced English I	English II Honors English II Advanced English II Journalism I Broadcast Journalism Advanced Creative Writing	AP Language & Composition English III Honors English III Advanced Journalism II Honors - Yearbook & Newspaper Journalism I Broadcast Journalism Advanced Creative Writing	AP Literature & Composition English IV Honors English IV Advanced Journalism II Honors - Yearbook & Newspaper Journalism I Broadcast Journalism Advanced Creative Writing
MATHEMATICS	Geometry Honors Algebra Honors Algebra I Advanced Algebra I	Pre-Calculus Honors Geometry Honors Geometry Advanced Geometry	AP Calculus AB Calculus Honors Pre-Calculus Honors Algebra II Honors Algebra II Advanced Algebra II	AP Statistics AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC Calculus Honors Pre-Calculus Honors Pre-Calculus Trigonometry and Statistics College Algebra with Trigonometry
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Healthy Foundations I Healthy Foundations II Driver Education	Healthy Foundations I Healthy Foundations II Standard First Aid and CPR Healthy You Driver Education	Healthy Foundations I Healthy Foundations II Standard First Aid and CPR Healthy You Driver Education	Healthy Foundations I Healthy Foundations II Standard First Aid and CPR Healthy You Intro to Athletic Training Driver Education
THEATRE	Public Speaking Drama Acting Technical Theatre Intro to Theatre	Public Speaking Drama Acting Technical Theatre Intro to Theatre Theatre Workshop I	Public Speaking Drama Acting Technical Theatre Intro to Theatre Theatre Workshop I Theatre Workshop II Honors	Public Speaking Drama Acting Technical Theatre Intro to Theatre Theatre Workshop I Theatre Workshop II Honors
MUSIC	Intro to Chorus Chorus I Beginning Strings - Violin & Viola Beginning Strings - Cello & Bass Intermediate Strings Symphony Strings Honors Beginning Band Concert Band Symphonic Band Honors Wind Ensemble Honors Music: From Bach to Rock	Intro to Chorus Chorus I Chorus II A Cappella Honors Mac Melody Music Theory Workshop Vocal Techniques Beginning Strings - Violin & Viola Beginning Strings - Cello & Bass Intermediate Strings Symphony Strings Honors String Ensemble Honors Beginning Band Concert Band Symphonic Band Honors Wind Ensemble Honors Music: From Bach to Rock	Intro to Chorus Chorus I Chorus II Advanced Chorus Honors A Cappella Honors Mac Melody Music Theory Workshop Vocal Techniques Beginning Strings - Violin & Viola Beginning Strings - Cello & Bass Intermediate Strings Symphony Strings Honors String Ensemble Honors Beginning Band Concert Band Symphonic Band Honors Wind Ensemble Honors Music: From Bach to Rock	Intro to Chorus Chorus I Chorus II Advanced Chorus Honors A Cappella Honors Mac Melody Music Theory Workshop Vocal Techniques Beginning Strings - Violin & Viola Beginning Strings - Cello & Bass Intermediate Strings Symphony Strings Honors String Ensemble Honors Beginning Band Concert Band Symphonic Band Honors Wind Ensemble Honors Music: From Bach to Rock
<b>ELECTIVES</b> Students must choose a minimum of three course offerings to fulfill the electives credit.				

	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
SCIENCE	Biology Honors Biology Advanced Biology	Chemistry Honors Chemistry Advanced Chemistry AP Computer Science Principles	AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Physics I Physics Advanced Physics Engineering Principles AP Computer Science Principles	AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Physics I Physics Advanced Physics AP Physics C - Mechanics Anatomy & Physiology Anatomy & Physiology Honors Engineering Principles Environmental Science AP Computer Science Principles
SOCIAL SCIENCE	AP Human Geography World History Advanced	AP Human Geography AP World History World History Advanced World History AP US History US History Advanced Personal Finance	AP US History US History Honors US History Advanced Advanced Economics Psychology Advanced Sociology Advanced American Criminal Justice Advanced Sociology Advanced American Criminal Justice Advanced Personal Finance	AP US Government & Politics Advanced Economics Psychology Advanced Sociology Advanced American Criminal Justice Advanced Developmental Psychology Honors AP Psychology Personal Finance
VISUAL ARTS & TECHNOLOGY	Intro to Drawing Intro to Painting Ceramics Sculpture Art and Emerging Tech	Intro to Drawing Intro to Painting Ceramics Sculpture Clay Sculpture and Wheel Throwing Art and Emerging Tech Graphic Design Animation Advanced Drawing Advanced Painting Illustration/Digital Illustration on the iPad Architectural Drawing, Design, and CAD (Computer Aided Design) Journalism I	Art History AP Art History Intro to Drawing Intro to Painting Advanced Drawing Advanced Painting Photography I Photography II Studio Art Honors AP Art and Design Ceramics Sculpture Clay Sculpture and Wheel Throwing Art and Emerging Technology Graphic Design Animation Architectural Drawing, Design and CAD (Computer Aided Design) Illustration/Digital Illustration on the iPad Journalism I Journalism II Honors - Yearbook & Newspaper	Art History AP Art History Intro to Drawing Intro to Painting Advanced Drawing Advanced Painting Photography I Photography II Studio Art Honors AP Art and Design Ceramics Sculpture Clay Sculpture & Wheel Throwing Art and Emerging Tech Graphic Design Animation Illustration/Digital Illustration on the iPad Architectural Drawing, Design, and CAD (Computer Aided Design) Journalism I Journalism II Honors - Yearbook and Design
WORLD LANGUAGES	French I Advanced French I Honors Spanish I Spanish I Advanced Spanish I Honors	French II Advanced French II Honors Spanish II Spanish II Advanced Spanish II Honors	French III Advanced French III Honors Spanish III Spanish III Advanced Spanish III Honors	French IV Advanced AP French Spanish IV Advanced Spanish IV Honors AP Spanish



# Course Placement & Tracking Information

- To accommodate a variety of student learners in terms of skills, abilities, and interest, Mother McAuley uses a vertical tracking system. This system allows for a variety of courses at a variety of levels.
- Incoming freshmen are placed based on the results of their High School Placement Test (HSPT) as well as many pieces of information received from the student's junior high school, including but not limited to grade reports, standardized test scores, and teacher recommendations..
- Once placed, students can move up and down a track depending on performances within specific disciplines.

## Explanation of Tracks

**Academic:** Academic level classes incorporate a review of basic skills with increasing focus on the higher level skill of application. These classes have a slightly smaller class setting and more teacher-facilitated instruction.

**Advanced:** Advanced level classes focus more on higher level skills of application and analysis. The goal is to facilitate student learning so that they become more self-motivated. Advanced classes expect students to be active participants in the learning process.

**Honors:** Honors classes integrate higher level thinking skills of application, analysis, and synthesis of content with an expectation of more independent learning. These classes require students to take initiative, think critically, problem solve, and apply learned concepts.

**Advanced Placement:** AP courses are structured to align with the College Board curriculum focused on depth of content. Students in these courses are independent learners, self-motivated and able to complete assignments with minimal guidance. There is a significant amount of work outside of class. Students who enroll are required to sit for the AP test in May.

# Advanced Placement Program

Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School offers an extensive Advanced Placement Program with a total of 19 classes in English, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Visual Arts & Technology and World Languages. The Advanced Placement Program courses provide students with the opportunity to experience the challenge of college-level courses while still in the supportive high school environment. Students who participate in Advanced Placement courses are challenged to reason, analyze and understand independently. By setting high standards for each student, the Advanced Placement Program instills a quest for knowledge and the ability to be a self-directed learner. Students are required to take the College Board Advanced Placement Exam at the end of the course. Exam fee required. (2025-2026 \$99.00 fee)

## AP Courses offered through Mother McAuley

AP Language and Composition	AP Human Geography
AP Literature and Composition	AP World History
AP Calculus AB	AP U.S. History
AP Calculus BC	AP U.S. Government and Politics
AP Statistics	AP Psychology
AP Computer Science Principles	AP Art History
AP Biology	AP Art and Design
AP Chemistry	AP French Language
AP Physics I	AP Spanish Language
AP Physics C - Mechanics	

## Courses held in conjunction with Brother Rice

AP Biology	Symphonic Band Honors
AP Calculus BC	Wind Ensemble Honors
Engineering Principles	Theatre Workshop I
Beginning Band	Theatre Workshop II Honors
Concert Band	

# Dual Credit Courses

Successful completion of certain courses earns college credit hours through the dual credit program with Saint Xavier University, Chicago, IL, or Lewis University, Romeoville, IL. The purpose of the college credit program is to provide transferable college credit for knowledge and skills students have mastered in high school courses.

Dual Credit courses are reviewed at the university level each year to ensure the course and faculty fall within the university requirements. As a result, course listings are annually subject to change. At the start of a course that is offering Dual Credit, students will be made aware and given the information necessary to determine whether or not they would like to take part in the program. There is a course fee for each credit hour that students are enrolled (\$60/credit hour - SXU 2025-2026; \$35/credit hour - Lewis University 2025-2026).

If you have any questions regarding the Dual Credit Program, please contact our Assistant Principal of Academics, Ms. Sandra Smycz at [ssmycz@mothermcauley.org](mailto:ssmycz@mothermcauley.org)

# Summer Sessions

## **Algebra II Acceleration Course** - 339 - 1/2 Credit

June 29 - July 17

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

At Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School

Open to students who have completed Math 327 with an A- or better or Morning Math 333 with a B or better.

**Teacher recommendation is required.**

Cost - \$500

This summer course is designed to provide an opportunity for acceleration for students who want to take Honors Calculus 335, AP Calculus 300, and/or AP Statistics 326 during high school. In this course, students will study linear, quadratic, and polynomial relations, including systems of equations and inequalities. It also covers exponents, matrices, rational expressions, radicals, and complex numbers. Completion of this program with a minimum grade of an 80% places students in Honors Geometry. Course grades and credit (0.5) will appear on student transcripts and will be calculated in the student's GPA. A TI-84 graphing calculator is required.

## **Driver Education** - 609

June 15 - June 26 (No school June 19)

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

At Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School

Open to rising 10th, 11th, and 12th graders

Cost - \$275

Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School will be offering the Classroom portion of Driver Education over the summer.

- Students must be 15 years of age by the start of the class (June 15).
- Students will receive their permit **at the conclusion of the course**, upon successful completion of the course and their Illinois permit test.
- There is an additional \$20 fee required via check or money order to the Secretary of State.
- Students will need to complete the Driver portion of the course through Bogan High School or another organization. Additional fees to those organizations may apply.

## **Personal Finance (Financial Literacy)** - 604 - 1/2 Credit

Session 1: June 8 - June 26 (No school June 19)

OR

Session 2: June 29 - July 17

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

At Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School

Open to rising 10th, 11th, and 12th graders

Cost - \$500

This course provides students with the foundations and financial skills in money management. Students will explore real-life financial scenarios such as buying a car, filling out a FAFSA form, understanding pay stubs, filing taxes, credit scores, types of insurance, consumer protection, interest rates and investing. **This class is a graduation requirement.**

This summer session offering is ideal for those students who are concerned about taking electives of their choosing while fulfilling their graduation requirements.

**Visit Mother McAuley's website and click "Quicklinks" to register and pay for any of the summer courses listed on this page.**

# Curriculum Guide Key

Course name	→ <b>Introduction to Drawing</b>	9, 10, 11, 12	← <i>Who may take this course</i>
Course number	→ 703	1 semester	← <i>How long the course runs</i>
Amount of credit	→ ½ credit		← <i>Course description</i>
	This course provides an introduction to basic drawing techniques, materials, composition skills and elements of design. Still life and portraiture are among the subject matters covered. <b>This is a required course for those interested in pursuing Introduction to Painting, Advanced Drawing / Painting, Illustration, Digital Illustration on the iPad, Studio Art Honors and Advanced Placement Art and Design.</b>		



# Registration Timeline

## **Class of 2027, 2028, and 2029**

Students will begin the registration process January 7. There will be numerous layers to the registration process:

- A lunch and learn to gather information and hear about electives
- Teacher recommendation information in their classes
- Counselor invitations for meetings to discuss class selection

Students should check their emails and “Class of” Blackbaud pages for more specific information.

## **Class of 2030 (Incoming Freshmen)**

Incoming freshmen will attend one of two registration nights where they will select their classes for next year. Registration nights are scheduled for February 17 and 19, 2026. The Admissions Department will follow up with more information once a student is officially registered.





# English

Students are required to take English all 4 years. The objective of the English curriculum is to expose students to and gain an appreciation for the various genres in literature, continue to strengthen comprehension and writing skills, develop strong critical thinking skills, and foster effective communication skills. The overall goal of the English Department is for each student to continue to deepen her abilities to think critically, write fluently, communicate effectively, and appreciate literature through the power and impact of words. ***If you have any questions about the English curriculum, please contact Interim Division Lead Ms. Sandra Smycz at [ssmycz@mothermcauley.org](mailto:ssmycz@mothermcauley.org).***

## English I Honors

140

1 credit

9

2 semesters

This course focuses on developing composition skills and introducing the students to all major literary genres — short story, drama, poetry, novel, essay, and mythology. Writing is developed alongside grammar and vocabulary work throughout the year. Students write a literary analysis and a research paper in MLA style.

## English I Advanced

141

1 credit

9

2 semesters

This course focuses on composition skills and introduces students to the major literary genres of short story, drama, poetry, novel, essay and mythology. Independent reading assignments are given regularly. Students develop composition skills through various modes of writing, including a literary analysis paper, both with teacher guidance and via independent practice. Grammar and vocabulary are studied throughout the year.

## English I Academic

144

1 credit

9

2 semesters

This course focuses on the basics of composition and introduces students to the major literary genres of short story, drama, poetry, novel, essay and mythology. Reading assignments are completed both with teacher support and independently. Students develop composition skills through various modes of writing, including a literary analysis paper, both with extensive teacher guidance and via independent practice. Students will review basic principles of grammar as a means to develop their writing skills. Grammar and vocabulary are studied throughout the year.

**English II Honors** 10  
130  
1 credit 2 semesters

This course continues to develop and expand upon the composition and analysis skills learned during freshman year. Poetry, short story, drama and novels in World Literature are explored and analyzed. Close reading skills are reinforced and critical thinking skills are cultivated. Writing requirements include various forms of persuasive and literary analysis essays in MLA style. Several forms of graded discussion are implemented throughout the year. This course moves at an accelerated pace and explores literary topics with more complexity and depth. **Successful completion of English I Honors (140) and/or teacher recommendation required.**

**English II Advanced** 10  
131  
1 credit 2 semesters

This course continues to develop and expand upon the writing, grammar, and vocabulary skills learned in freshman year. Poetry, short story, drama and novels in World Literature are explored and analyzed. Close reading skills are introduced and critical thinking skills are cultivated. Writing requirements include various forms of literary analysis essays in MLA style. Writing assignments are completed both independently and with teacher guidance. Several forms of graded discussion are implemented throughout the year.

**English II Academic** 10  
134  
1 credit 2 semesters

This course continues to develop and expand upon the writing, grammar, and vocabulary skills learned in freshman year. Nonfiction, poetry, short story, drama and novels in World Literature are explored and analyzed. Close reading skills are introduced and critical thinking skills are cultivated with teacher support. Writing requirements include various forms of personal and literary analysis essays in MLA style. Research skills are introduced and practiced. Writing assignments are completed both independently and with continual teacher guidance. Graded discussion is implemented throughout the year, and students are given the opportunity to practice their public speaking skills.

**AP Language and Composition** 11  
125  
1 credit 2 semesters  
AP Exam Fee Required

This course provides a study of classical and contemporary American Literature with an emphasis on non-fiction selections. Students write in various forms of discourse on a wide range of subjects. Reading and critical analysis skills are developed through discussion and writing. The focus is on understanding through analysis of style and syntax. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in Language and Composition at the end of the course. **Successful completion of English II Honors (130) with a B or better and/or teacher recommendation required. Summer reading is required for this course.**

**English III Honors** 11  
120  
1 credit 2 semesters

This course is an extensive study of American Literature closely aligned with Advanced Placement U.S. History and U.S. History Honors. Students strive to evaluate and appreciate the literary genres as they broaden their appreciation for the varied voices of the American experience. Close-reading skills and critical analysis skills are developed. Writing requirements include literary analysis and research-based writing in MLA style. Composition, vocabulary, and grammar skills are reinforced within the added context of standardized test prep throughout the year. **Successful completion of English II Honors (130) and/or teacher recommendation required.**

**English III Advanced** 11  
121  
1 credit 2 semesters

This course is a year-long survey of American Literature, stressing the varied voices of the American experience. Close-reading skills are developed and critical thinking skills are cultivated. Writing requirements include personal reflection, literary analysis, and research-based writing. Composition, vocabulary, and grammar skills are reinforced within the added context of standardized test prep throughout the year.



**AP Literature and Composition** 12  
102  
1 credit 2 semesters

AP Exam Fee Required

This course provides an extensive study of classical and contemporary literature in a variety of genres, including novel, short story, drama and poetry. The college-level student writes in various forms of discourse, in addition to mastering the techniques of research and MLA documentation. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in Literature and Composition at the end of the course. **Successful completion of English III Honors (120) with a B or better, successful completion of AP Language and Composition (125) with a C or better, or teacher recommendation required. Summer reading is required for this course.**

**English IV Honors** 12  
110  
1 credit 2 semesters

This course chronologically explores British Literature. Focusing on poetry, drama, and novels, students will understand the development of the English language, as well as the historical significance of its literature. By exploring the novels and poetry of authors such as William Shakespeare, Mary Shelley, and Jane Austen, students gain a comprehensive overview of English literature. The writing component includes literary and argumentative essays and one research paper, which will utilize primary and secondary sources, and follow MLA format. Grammar and vocabulary skills are reinforced throughout the year.

**English IV Advanced** 12  
111  
1 credit 2 semesters

The course provides a chronological study of British Literature, including the genres of poetry, epic, novel, short story and drama during semester one. Students see British history reflected in the literature from the earliest recorded works to those of the modern age. Semester two focuses on fiction and poetry that reflect social, political, and ethical issues of the 20th and 21st centuries. The writing component includes literary essays, as well as one research paper that will display primary and secondary sources and citations. Grammar and vocabulary skills are reinforced throughout the year.

## Journalism I - Yearbook and Newspaper

10, 11, 12

115

1 credit: ½ English, ½ Art

2 semesters

Journalism is an interdisciplinary course that combines the skills of art, writing, and communication. During the first semester, students learn the fundamentals of journalism—researching, interviewing, writing, and editing stories using AP style. In the second semester, students explore photojournalism, page design, and publication layout. Students will gain hands-on experience with Adobe Photoshop, Canva and eDesign software to produce professional-quality print and digital publications. This course emphasizes accuracy, creativity, and visual storytelling. **Enrollment in AP, Honors, or Advanced English must be taken concurrently. Journalism is also a prerequisite for students interested in contributing to the school's newspaper or yearbook as writers, editors, or designers.**

## Journalism II Honors - Yearbook and Newspaper

11, 12

117

1 credit: ½ English, ½ Art

2 semesters

This team-taught, interdisciplinary course builds upon the foundational skills developed in Journalism I. Students will collaborate to write news, editorial, and feature articles for the school's news magazine, *Inscape*, while also learning to advertise, edit, design, and produce the school yearbook. Journalism Honors students will:

- Collaboratively select and develop publication themes for *Inscape* and the yearbook
- Recognize and apply the essential elements of newspaper and yearbook layout
- Utilize photojournalistic techniques to enhance visual storytelling
- Design engaging and effective compositional layouts
- Operate industry-standard software, including Adobe Photoshop, Canva and eDesign
- Produce layouts and written copy that meet professional publication deadline

As an honors-level course, Journalism II maintains a rigorous schedule aligned with publishing deadlines. Success requires strong organizational skills, clear communication, and responsible decision-making. **AP, Honors, or Advanced level English must be taken concurrently. Journalism I is a prerequisite. This class may be taken more than once.**

## Broadcast Journalism

10, 11, 12

145

1 credit

2 semesters

This full-year course is intended for students interested in broadcast journalism and production. Students will learn all aspects of a news production, particularly how it is seen as a team effort - all positions are equally dependent on each other for the success of the production. This course will include reporting, writing, and editing for broadcast news; speech and communication skills for reporting and interviewing; and knowledge of media literacy and the ethical standards of journalism. At the production level, this course will include learning how to use the technical equipment involved as well as learning how to produce and direct. Students will showcase their work on camera and behind the scenes through broadcasts shown to the McAuley community. **This course earns elective credit and does not fulfill an English requirement.**

## Creative Writing

10, 11, 12

107

½ credit

1 semester

This course focuses on the development of creative potential through the techniques of writing fictional genres -- primarily poetry, short story and drama. Students are also introduced to the process of submitting their work for publication and contests. Assessment includes the creation of a portfolio. **This course earns a semester of elective credit and does not fulfill an English requirement.**



# Mathematics

The mission of the Mother McAuley Math department is to provide a rigorous, thought-provoking curriculum to deepen student engagement and interest in mathematics. This is accomplished through teachers' commitments to incorporate student-centered learning activities where students develop and communicate deeper understandings of concepts by exploring real-life reasoning tasks and engaging in mathematical discourse. The overall goal is to empower young women to achieve their greatest potential and prepare them to problem solve and think critically in college courses and professional situations. ***If you have any questions about the math curriculum, please contact Division Lead Mrs. Meghan Brazel at mbrazel@mothermcauley.org.***

## Algebra Honors

9

325

1 credit

2 semesters

Students who demonstrate exceptional mathematical ability on their entrance test are placed in this course. Algebra Honors is a comprehensive study of the principles and concepts traditionally taught in both Algebra 1 and Algebra 2, as well as the critical thinking skills needed for higher-level problem solving. The course covers topics such as equations and inequalities, functions and their graphs, polynomials, rational and radical expressions, and quadratic equations. Students will also be introduced to and will use the TI-84 Plus graphing calculator to support their work. This course moves at a fast pace and is designed to challenge students, providing them with a strong foundation in algebra to continue in the Honors program and potentially take AP Calculus during their senior year.

## Algebra I Advanced

9

327

1 credit

2 semesters

This course is a comprehensive study of the principles and concepts of Algebra and the critical thinking skills used in problem solving. This course covers the Algebra skills necessary for further study of Geometry and Algebra 2. Topics include operations on the real number system, solving equations and inequalities, linear equations and their graphs, polynomials, and algebraic functions. The students are introduced to and use the required TI-84 Plus graphing calculator to support their algebraic work.

## Algebra I Academic

9

328

1 credit

2 semesters

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of Algebra. Topics include operations on the real number system, solving equations and inequalities, linear equations and their graphs, polynomials, and algebraic functions. The students are introduced to and use the required TI-84 Plus graphing calculator to support their algebraic work.

## Geometry Honors

9, 10

315

1 credit

2 semesters

This course offers a comprehensive and thorough exploration of geometric concepts and formal proofs. It covers fundamental ideas in geometry, as well as properties of triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, and three-dimensional shapes. Students will be expected to show independent inquiry and demonstrate resourceful, critical, and creative thinking skills when solving problems. The focus is on developing deductive reasoning abilities and applying them to mathematical proofs and computational problems. A TI-84 Plus graphing calculator is necessary for this course.

**Completion of Math 325 or Morning Math 333 with a C or better and teacher recommendation is required.**

**Summer work is required.**

## Geometry Advanced

10

317

1 credit

2 semesters

This course explores the fundamental concepts of geometry, including points, lines, angles, polygons, circles, and three-dimensional figures, while applying concepts algebraically and deductively. Emphasis is placed on developing spatial reasoning, understanding geometric relationships, and applying problem-solving strategies. Students will learn to calculate perimeter, area, surface area, and volume, and will be introduced to basic proofs and logical reasoning. A TI-84 Plus graphing calculator is required. **Completion of Math 327 with a C or better and teacher recommendation is required.**

## Geometry Academic

10

318

1 credit

2 semesters

This course introduces students to concepts of geometry, including points, lines, angles, polygons, circles, and basic three-dimensional figures, while applying concepts algebraically. Focus is placed on building spatial reasoning, understanding geometric relationships, and developing problem-solving skills. Students will learn to calculate perimeter, area, and volume, and will be introduced to simple logical reasoning. A TI-84 Plus graphing calculator is required.

**Completion of Math 328 and teacher recommendation is required.**

## Pre-Calculus Honors

10, 11, 12

302

1 credit

2 semesters

This course prepares students for the study of Calculus by building on advanced Algebra and Geometry skills. It provides a comprehensive treatment of Trigonometry and key function types—including linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic—while emphasizing problem-solving and real-world applications. Students will also study conic sections and probability. Additionally, they will use graphing calculators to apply their knowledge, extend beyond by-hand calculations, perform higher-level computations, and analyze data through mathematical modeling. **Completion of Math 315 with a C or better and teacher recommendation is required. Summer work is required.**

**Algebra II Honors** 11  
341  
1 credit 2 semesters

This accelerated course is designed for students who have an excellent knowledge of algebra. This course briefly reviews concepts presented in Algebra 1 and then rigorously expands and applies them to other areas of mathematics. This course covers topics similar to those in Algebra 2, but with greater rigor and depth of coverage. A TI-84 Plus graphing calculator is required. **Completion of Algebra 327 and Geometry 317 with an A, along with teacher recommendation is required.**

**Algebra II Advanced** 11  
309  
1 credit 2 semesters

Algebra II is a second-year course in algebra that builds on concepts learned in previous math courses. Students will explore advanced algebraic topics, including linear and quadratic functions, polynomials, rational expressions, absolute value and radical functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, conic sections, and an introduction to trigonometry. Emphasis is placed on developing problem-solving skills and using technology to analyze and model real-world situations. A TI-84 Plus graphing calculator is required. **Completion of Math 317 with a C or better and teacher recommendation is required.**

**Algebra II Academic** 11  
314  
1 credit 2 semesters

Algebra II is a second-year algebra course that builds on concepts learned in previous math courses. Students are introduced to linear and quadratic functions, polynomials, rational expressions, absolute value and radical functions, and exponential and logarithmic functions. Emphasis is placed on developing problem-solving skills, applying algebraic reasoning, and using technology to support understanding. **Completion of Math 318 and teacher recommendation is required.**

**AP Calculus AB** 11, 12  
300  
1 credit 2 semesters  
AP Exam Fee Required

This course is equivalent to the first semester of college calculus and covers the concepts, techniques, and applications of differential and integral calculus, including limits, derivatives, integrals, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. Students develop strong analytical and problem-solving skills and are required to take the AP Calculus AB Exam at the end of the course. A TI-84 Plus graphing calculator is required. **A “B” average in Math 302 and teacher recommendation is required. Summer work is required.**

**AP Calculus BC - Mother McAuley & Brother Rice** 11, 12  
350  
1 credit 2 semesters  
AP Exam Fee Required

This course is equivalent to the first two semesters of college calculus and extends the concepts, techniques, and applications of differential and integral calculus. In addition to all AP Calculus AB topics, students will study vector and parametric functions, their derivatives and applications, polar curves, additional methods of integration, sequences and series, and convergence. Students are required to take the AP Calculus BC Exam at the end of the course. A TI-84 Plus graphing calculator is required. **Successful completion of Math 335, or completion of Math 302 with an A and teacher recommendation is required.**

**Calculus Honors** 11, 12  
335  
1 credit 2 semesters

This course is a continuation of Pre-Calculus Honors 302 and prepares students for advanced college-level mathematics. It covers the concepts and techniques of limits, differential calculus, and integral calculus, with an emphasis on applying these concepts through multi-step calculations to draw accurate conclusions and utilize advanced properties. A TI-84 graphing calculator is required. **Completion of Math 302 or 303 and teacher recommendation is required. Summer work is required.**

**AP Statistics** 12  
326  
1 credit 2 semesters  
AP Exam Fee Required

This course is equivalent to the first semester of statistics in a standard college curriculum. It covers four main areas: exploratory analysis, planning a study, probability and statistical inference. Extensive independent reading and analytical thinking is required. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in Statistics at the end of the course. A TI-84 Plus graphing calculator is required. **Completion of 300, 335 or 302 and teacher recommendation is required. This course can be taken concurrently with 335 or 300. Summer work is required.**

**Pre-Calculus** 12  
303  
1 credit 2 semesters

This course is designed for students who want to be better prepared for college calculus or Advanced Placement courses while still in high school so that they may start in higher level courses when entering college. The course covers the concepts of pre-calculus mathematics including a comprehensive treatment of trigonometry and functions with emphasis on problem solving and applications of math. Extensive work is done with the required TI-84 Plus graphing calculator. A strong algebra and geometry background is required for this course. **Completion of Math 309 with a “C” or better is required.**

**Trigonometry and Statistics** 12  
340  
1 credit 2 semesters

This year-long course is designed for students who have completed Algebra II. The first semester focuses on Statistics, where students study the description of sample data, numerical methods for analyzing data, normal distribution, sampling and estimation, goodness of fit, linear correlation, regression, and rules of probability. The second semester covers Trigonometry, including triangle trigonometry, trigonometric functions, trigonometric identities and equations, and applications of trigonometry. A TI-84 Plus graphing calculator is required. **Completion of Math 309 with a “C” or better is required.**

**College Algebra with Trigonometry** 12  
338  
1 credit 2 semesters

This course strengthens and extends students’ algebraic and trigonometric skills in preparation for entry-level college math. Students will further develop their understanding of function rules, polynomials, rational expressions, and exponential and logarithmic equations learned in earlier coursework. Trigonometry topics include the unit circle, graphing trigonometric functions, applying identities, and using the Laws of Sines and Cosines. The course also introduces fundamental definitions and principles of probability, with an emphasis on solidifying algebra skills and building problem-solving confidence. **Completion of Math 314 and teacher recommendation is required.**



# Performing Arts

## MUSIC

Students at Mother McAuley are required to take 1 year of any fine art class (performing or visual art). Part of that requirement includes a .5 credit in music or theatre. Every music course may be used to fulfill the music/theatre, fine arts, and/or elective graduation requirement. Music program goals include; encouraging and developing each student's giftedness, providing opportunities for students to share their talents with the community through multiple performances, enabling students to think critically about musical pieces, analyze performances, communicate effectively, and grow intellectually and aesthetically. Courses range from beginner to advanced and all levels of talent, in vocal and/or instrumental, are welcomed. **If you have question about the Music curriculum, please contact Division Lead Mrs. Rebecca Finn at [rfinn@mothermcauley.org](mailto:rfinn@mothermcauley.org).**

### Chorus I

9, 10, 11, 12

808

1 credit

2 semesters

If you enjoy singing, this full-year choir course starts students on the road of our much acclaimed choir program, which has been featured on ABC and WGN and has sung throughout the United States and in Europe. There are no prerequisites for this class, and it provides students with an opportunity to creatively collaborate with a large group of people who enjoy singing. No prior singing experience is necessary to be a part of this choir. Chorus I will perform in concerts at Christmas-time and in the spring. **Chorus I is a prerequisite for Chorus II, Mac Melody and A Cappella Choir.**

### Chorus II

10, 11, 12

809

1 credit

2 semesters

Chorus II continues to build and strengthen vocal techniques for the full year. Students are provided with large and small group experience. More advanced levels in theory and sight-singing are covered. Several public performances and concerts are included in the course **Prerequisite of Chorus I or Intro to Chorus is required.**

**Advanced Chorus Honors** 11, 12  
793  
1 credit 2 semesters

Advanced Chorus Honors will provide junior and senior students an intensive study in all facets of music; including vocal performance, theory, and history. Students will perform a wide variety of challenging repertoire. This course will require additional rehearsals and performances as well as opportunities for outside performances. **Prerequisite of Chorus II is required.**

**A Cappella Honors** 10, 11, 12  
794  
½ credit Audition  
Time: Monday & Wednesday – 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. 2 semesters

This is a specialized group concentrating on A Cappella choral literature that demands members who are highly motivated. Students will increase musical proficiency in areas of theory, history, performance and musicianship. Considerable outside performances are required. **Membership in Chorus I is a prerequisite. Concurrent membership in a McAuley chorus (Advanced Chorus or Chorus II) is strongly recommended for each year of enrollment in this class.**

**Mac Melody** 10, 11, 12  
782  
½ credit Audition  
Time: Monday & Wednesday – 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. 2 semesters

Mac Melody is a specialized group concentrating on the “show choir” aspect of music. This class will incorporate dancing into choral performances. **Membership in Chorus I is a prerequisite. Concurrent membership in a McAuley chorus is strongly recommended for each year of enrollment in Mac Melody.**

**Introduction to Chorus** 9, 10, 11, 12  
893  
½ credit 1 semester

If you have ever wanted to try and sing in a choir, this is the class for you. This one semester performing arts course will give students of any age or experience level the chance to see what it is like to creatively collaborate in a group singing experience. Students will learn how to use their voices and grow their self confidence in front of an audience with a supportive group of students who also love singing standing by their sides. Students in this class will perform at the Christmas concert in the fall semester or the spring concert in the spring semester.

**Vocal Techniques** 10, 11, 12  
812  
¼ credit 2 semesters  
Time: Tuesday – 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

This course is for students who want to develop vocal technique and vocal repertoire. Participation in recitals is required. Membership in a McAuley chorus is a prerequisite. **This course alternates yearly with Music Theory Workshop (813) and will be offered in the 2026-2027 school year.**

**Music Theory Workshop** 10, 11, 12  
813  
¼ credit 2 semesters  
Time: Tuesday – 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Music Theory Workshop is a course intended to prepare students for college-level music theory course work or the AP Music Theory class. Aural skills exercises related to these topics will be included. Students will have weekly workbook assignments and aural skills assignments. Students must be members of a music department performance ensemble. **This course alternates yearly with Vocal Techniques (812) and will be offered during the 2027-2028 school year.**

**Beginning Strings – Violin and Viola** 9, 10, 11, 12  
801  
1 credit 2 semesters

Have you ever wanted to play the Violin or Viola but don't have any musical experience? Beginning Strings is for students who would like to learn how to play the Violin or Viola without having studied music before, AND Mother McAuley will provide you with your violin or viola at no charge. Joining Beginning Strings will help you learn to play the violin and viola and allow you to join the McAuley Orchestra. See Course 814 for Cello and Bass.

**Beginning Strings – Cello and Bass** 9, 10, 11, 12  
814  
1 credit 2 semesters

Have you ever wanted to play the Cello or Bass but don't have any musical experience? Beginning Strings is for students who would like to learn how to play the Cello or Bass without having studied music before, AND Mother McAuley will provide you with your Cello or Bass at no charge. Joining Beginning Strings will help you learn to play the cello and bass and allow you to join the McAuley Orchestra. See Course 801 for Violin and Viola.

**Intermediate Strings** 9, 10, 11, 12  
818  
1 credit Audition  
2 semesters

Intermediate Strings is the second year String Orchestra at Mother McAuley and is the course that students who have completed Beginning Strings 801 or 814 should join. The Intermediate String Orchestra is also open to students who have not completed Beginning Strings 801 or 814 but already play an instrument. These students may audition for the Intermediate String Orchestra. Incoming students may also audition for Intermediate Strings and should contact the instructor for placement.

**Symphony Strings Honors** 9, 10, 11, 12  
796  
1 credit Audition  
2 semesters

Symphony Strings Honors is the third year String Orchestra at Mother McAuley and is the course that students who have completed Intermediate Strings 818 should join. The Symphony Orchestra is also open to advanced students, both current and incoming, who have not completed Intermediate Strings 818 but already play an instrument. The Symphony String Honors Orchestra is an advanced ensemble for students with prior musical experience on a stringed instrument that performs several times throughout the school year on a variety of fun and challenging music.

**String Ensemble Honors** 10, 11, 12  
798  
½ credit Audition  
Time: Monday and Wednesday – 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. 2 semesters

String Ensemble is a performing group of violinists, violists, cellists, and bassists who have proficiency on their instruments. This group performs for school and community events. The musical repertoire performed consists of professional, classical pieces as well as pop string arrangements. Students will increase their musical proficiency in area of theory, history, performance and musicianship. **Prerequisite in a String class is required and concurrent enrollment in Symphony String Orchestra is highly recommended.**

**Beginning Band – Mother McAuley & Brother Rice** 9, 10, 11, 12  
785  
1 credit 2 semesters

In this course, members learn to play a wind, brass, or percussion instrument. The course will be paced at a speed for students who have never played an instrument, students who wish to transition to a new instrument or students who have had little to no experience with a wind, brass, or percussion instrument. Upon successful completion of this course, students are expected to continue their musical journey in a performance group. Instrument choice is determined by student preference and balance of the ensemble. **No musical experience on any instrument is necessary.**

**Concert Band – Mother McAuley & Brother Rice** 9, 10, 11, 12  
786  
1 credit Audition  
2 semesters

This course is for students in grades 9 - 12 who have mastered the fundamentals of music (i.e. note reading, physical form, basic playing techniques). Students will continue to develop their technical and reading skills by playing woodwind, brass, or percussion instruments. A variety of method materials and ensemble repertoire will challenge students to prepare for public performance. To enroll, students must have at least one year of musical training. The class will be taught in conjunction with Brother Rice. It is an expectation that all students in the class would march in the Brother Rice/Mother McAuley Marching band during the first quarter including football game performances. Students in Concert Band will be assessed a \$100.00 activity fee to cover the costs associated with participation in the Brother Rice/Mother McAuley Marching Band; the fee will be included in the tuition bill.

**Symphonic Band Honors – Mother McAuley & Brother Rice** 9, 10, 11, 12  
789  
1 credit Audition  
2 semesters

This course is for students in grades 9-12 who have mastered the fundamentals of music and intermediate music theory/performance concepts. Students in this course will work on the “Core” of wind ensemble literature. Admission into this class is by audition only. The class will be taught in conjunction with Brother Rice. It is an expectation that all students in the class would march in the Brother Rice/Mother McAuley Marching band during the first quarter including football game performances. Students in Symphonic Band will be assessed a \$100.00 activity fee to cover the costs associated with participation in the Brother Rice/Mother McAuley Marching Band; the fee will be included in the tuition bill.

### Wind Ensemble Honors – Mother McAuley & Brother Rice

9, 10, 11, 12

780

1 credit

Audition  
2 semesters

This honors class is the most select performance ensemble for students who play wind, brass, and percussion instruments. The ensemble will perform music at a collegiate level, compete at music festivals in the Chicagoland area, and have the opportunity to represent Mother McAuley and Brother Rice at a variety of local and national events. The class will be taught in conjunction with Brother Rice. It is an expectation that all students in the class would march in the Brother Rice/Mother McAuley Marching band during the first quarter including football game performances. Students in Wind Ensemble will be assessed a \$100.00 activity fee to cover the costs associated with participation in the Brother Rice/Mother McAuley Marching Band; the fee will be included in the tuition bill.

### Music: From Bach to Rock

9, 10, 11, 12

790

½ credit

1 semester

This performing arts class celebrates how music is a part of every important aspect of a person's life. Students will learn the building blocks needed to play any of their favorite pieces on piano, guitar, and other instruments! This interactive class enriches students' appreciation for all different styles of music, seeing live performances and understanding how music mirrors our society today. No previous musical experience is necessary.





# Performing Arts

## THEATRE

Students at Mother McAuley are required to take 1 year of any fine art class (performing or visual art). Part of that requirement includes a .5 credit in music or theatre. Every theatre course may be used to fulfill the music/theatre, fine arts, and/or elective graduation requirement. The theatre program creates opportunities for the student to develop her communication as interpretive skills and an actor, speaker or technician and to demonstrate her artistic and personal growth through performance and creation. Program goals include developing self-confidence and poise, creating an environment where students feel supported by peers, applying critical thinking skills through analysis of theatre works and performances, and enhancing awareness of the student's world and her relationship to it through in-depth character study and design projects. ***If you have question about the Theatre curriculum, please contact Division Lead Mrs. Rebecca Finn at [rfinn@mothermcauley.org](mailto:rfinn@mothermcauley.org).***

### Drama

9, 10, 11, 12

721

1 semester

½ credit

This course introduces any student to elements of both acting and technical theatre. Students of any experience level may take this course. This highly interactive, creative, and collaborative class gives students the opportunity to discover strengths and interests in both acting and technical theatre. In the acting unit, students will create relaxing warm-up routines, participate in pantomime scenes with a group, play improv games and develop skits. In the technical theatre unit, students will explore costuming, props, sound, and makeup for actors. This class is designed to help beginners build confidence and find their voice. **This is a performance based class; no experience necessary.** Already know you like Acting or Technical Theatre? Choose course 722 or 723 instead.

### Acting

9, 10, 11, 12

722

1 semester

½ credit

This course is for any student who has a serious interest in acting. Students will practice skills in a collaborative and creative atmosphere. Skilled developed focus on training as an actor, including character development, ensemble work, a dramatic partner scene, and a comic monologue. This supportive environment will prepare students to continue in their theatrical studies. **This course (or 723) serves as a prerequisite for Theatre Workshop I.**

**Technical Theatre** 9, 10, 11, 12  
723 1 semester  
½ credit

This course is for any student who has an interest in technical theatre. Students will practice skills in both traditional classroom and workshop environments. Skills developed focus on more advanced technical theatre training including constructing and painting set pieces, designing and operating stage lights, learning the functions of sound equipment, applying stage makeup, and basic costuming. **This course (or 722) serves as a prerequisite for Theatre Workshop I.**

**Theatre Workshop I – Mother McAuley & Brother Rice** 10, 11, 12  
728 2 semesters  
1 credit

Theatre Workshop I is a full year course for serious actors and theatre technicians. A group of common skills will be taught to all students, while other creative performance projects will be differentiated according to student focus. Those students who declare an acting concentration will focus on the body and voice, and how they are used to build and portray character. Those who declare a technical concentration will focus on the elements of design, and play production. Students will participate in a variety of performance opportunities in and out of the classroom. Collaborative scene projects will give students the opportunity to bring elements of acting and design together on stage. All students will have a role on or off stage in the Spring Play and One Act Festival. Outside rehearsal and performances are required. **Prerequisite of Drama II-Acting/Acting (722) Drama II -Tech/Technical Theatre (723) is required.**

**Theatre Workshop II Honors – Mother McAuley & Brother Rice** 11, 12  
739 2 semesters  
1 credit

Theatre Workshop II is an honors level course for serious actors and technicians. Students will create a dramatization for an all-school performance, analyze scripts for subtext, objective, and relationship, and learn the basic elements of blocking. All students will play a role on or off the stage in the Spring Play. Outside rehearsals and performances are required. Students will continue to read and analyze major works. Students will direct a One Act play, bringing a work from concept through planning, rehearsal, to production. **Prerequisite of Theatre Workshop I is required.**

**Public Speaking** 9, 10, 11, 12  
732 1 semester  
½ credit

This course is designed to prepare young women to meet any and all speaking and communication experiences with confidence. Using a variety of speaking styles and techniques modeled on the TED-Talk presentation format, students will write creative, personal speeches on topics about which they feel passionate. Students will workshop a variety of vocal and physical traits, such as meaningful eye contact, rate, pitch and inflection and appropriate nonverbal expression. Each mode of speaking is practiced and performed. The course will also offer a special emphasis on interpersonal communication skills.

**Introduction to Theatre** 9, 10, 11, 12  
731 1 semester  
½ credit

This course introduces students to amateur and professional theatre, giving them a backstage pass to see how theatre is created. Students will compete on a team to ‘produce’ the most lucrative play, see and review a musical or play at Mother McAuley, explore the creation of a Broadway play, explore the magic of the technical elements on stage, cast a play with your favorite actors and more. Students do not need ANY theatre or acting experience - just a willingness to have fun. **This is NOT a performance class.**



# Physical Education

Mother McAuley students are required to take 1 year of Physical Education. In accordance with the state and national standards, our curriculum exposes students to a wide range of sports and activities and seeks to develop physical literacy and movement skills. Students will engage in cooperative games with their peers, choose goals and self-reflect, and use technology to enhance physical fitness. The goal of the physical education program is to develop students who can have a lifelong appreciation for, and interest in, physical and leisure activities to promote fun and well-being throughout the lifespan. Our electives provide an opportunity for students to learn specialized skills in various areas including CPR, Health, and Athletic Training. ***If you have any questions about the PE curriculum, please contact Division Lead Mrs. Rebecca Finn at [rfinn@mothermcauley.org](mailto:rfinn@mothermcauley.org).***

## **Driver Education - Classroom**

9, 10, 11, 12

609

No Credit

This course is designed to develop good driving skills, knowledge and attitudes with an emphasis on safety. The goal is to develop a more conscientious, efficient traffic citizen, who understands and demonstrates the essential components of the safe operation of a motor vehicle. All students must pass tests on the rules of the road, signs, and vision to be eligible for behind the wheel instruction and to receive their driving permit. Students have to meet the minimum requirement for completion of 30 class hours in order to “pass” the class, thus attendance is imperative. Students must be 15 years of age by December 1 or May 1, depending on the semester in which they are enrolled. Students must also be in good academic standing and tuition must be paid in full. Driver Education is a 1 semester course that meets in conjunction with a study hall. Students will either attend class on M, W, Th or Tu, Th, F, with non class days being a study hall. **There is a \$105 fee to take Driver Education which must be paid at the time of registration. Students will receive their driver’s permit at the end of the semester, upon successful completion of the course and their Illinois permit test. Additionally, Bogan High School charges a \$50 driving fee (if you choose to drive at Bogan), and there is a \$20 fee required to the Secretary of State. \$20 check or money order made payable to the Secretary of State is required. (Students will need to take the driving portion of the class through Bogan High School, their local public school, or a private company.) Additional fees to those organizations may apply.**

**Healthy Foundations I** 9, 10, 11, 12  
638  
½ credit 1 semester

This course is the foundation of the physical education curriculum. Aspects of fitness and wellness are explored such as goal setting, target heart rate and fitness assessment. A variety of team and individual sports will be taught such as volleyball, ultimate Frisbee, bowling, etc. Students will also participate in fitness activities such as yoga, strength training and step aerobics. Upon completion of this course students will be more knowledgeable in rules, skills and strategies of various sports and activities as well as components to a healthy lifestyle. P.E. uniform (shirt and shorts) and heart rate monitor strap are included in the additional fee made payable to Macs LTD. **This course is a prerequisite for Healthy Foundations II. This course, in conjunction with Healthy Foundations II, fulfills the physical education requirement.**

**Healthy Foundations II** 9, 10, 11, 12  
639  
½ credit 1 semester

This course is a continuation of the physical education curriculum. Aspects of fitness and wellness are explored such as goal setting, target heart rate and personal fitness planning. A variety of team and individual sports will be taught such as badminton, flag football, pickle ball, golf, etc. Students will also participate in fitness activities such as yoga, strength training, and step aerobics. Upon completion of this course students will create a personal exercise plan and will be more knowledgeable in rules, skills and strategies of various sports and activities as well as the components to a healthy lifestyle. **A prerequisite of Healthy Foundations I is required. This course, in conjunction with Healthy Foundations I fulfills the physical education requirement. The PE uniform and heart rate monitor strap from Healthy Foundations I are required in this class.**

**Standard First Aid and CPR** 10, 11, 12  
643  
½ credit 1 semester

Safety techniques and the immediate care of the injured or suddenly ill are taught in this course. Students take practical and written tests for bandaging, wound care, choking, unconscious choking, and adult, child, and infant CPR. Students may receive Red Cross Certification for CPR upon successful completion of this course. **This course will alternate yearly with Healthy You and be offered during the 2027-2028 school year. This is an elective course and does not fulfill the PE requirement.**

**Healthy You** 10, 11, 12  
651  
½ credit 1 semester

This course is for students who desire to gain additional knowledge in nutrition, reduce health risks (alcohol, tobacco, drugs), mental and emotional health, stress, personal care and life learning skills. **This course will alternate yearly with Standard First Aid and CPR and be offered during the 2026-2027 school year. This is an elective course and does not fulfill the PE requirement.**

**Introduction to Athletic Training** 12  
641  
½ credit 1 semester

This course is designed for students interested in entering the Athletic Training or another medical profession (i.e. physical therapy, occupational therapy, physician assistant, nurse, etc.) Concurrent enrollment in Anatomy and Physiology is strongly recommended. This course will cover basic principles of Kinesiology as well as the prevention, recognition, evaluation and treatment of athletic injuries. **This is an elective course and does not fulfill the PE requirement.**



# Science

Science is a four-year requirement at Mother McAuley. The goal of the Science department is to help students understand the practical applications that science has in our world. Science classes stress the importance of critical thinking and logical reasoning and use a variety of methods for investigation, including but not limited to observation, comparison, experimentation, and mathematical manipulation. ***If you have any questions about the Science curriculum, please contact Division Lead Mrs. Rebecca Finn at [rfinn@mothermcauley.org](mailto:rfinn@mothermcauley.org).***

## **Biology Honors**

9

480

1 credit

2 semesters

This laboratory course covers in-depth fundamental biological concepts. Topics covered include cellular structure and function, biochemistry, theories of evolution, genetics, ecology and the structure and function of singular and multicellular organisms (including humans). Skills in analytical and critical thinking are emphasized through inquiry based activities. Students are expected to be more independent learners.

## **Biology Advanced**

9

485

1 credit

2 semesters

The biology curriculum is designed around phenomena-driven learning and teaching. It involves three dimensional learning using the engineering principles of disciplinary core ideas, cross cutting concepts, and science practice. The expectations are performance driven across the four Illinois State science standards. Skills in analytical and critical thinking are emphasized through inquiry-based activities.

## **Biology Academic**

9

490

1 credit

2 semesters

The biology curriculum is designed around fundamental learning and teaching. It involves three dimensional learning using the engineering principles of disciplinary core ideas, cross cutting concepts, and science practice. The expectations are performance driven across the four Illinois State science standards. Emphasis is placed on developing study and analytical skills.

## Chemistry Honors

413

10  
1 credit  
2 semesters

The content for this laboratory course emphasizes the structure and interactions of matter. Topics covered include atomic structure, periodic table, chemical bonding, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, states of matter, gas laws, acids and bases, and thermo-chemistry. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving, recognizing patterns and mathematical relationships, cause and effect as well as the development of laboratory skills through inquiry based activities. Students are expected to be more independent learners. **A grade of “C” or better in Biology Honors and Algebra Honors is recommended for this course.**

## Chemistry Advanced

404

10  
1 credit  
2 semesters

The content for this laboratory course emphasizes the structure and interactions of matter. Topics covered include atomic structure, periodic table, chemical bonding, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, states of matter, gas laws, and acids and bases. Skills in analytical and critical thinking are emphasized through inquiry based activities. **A grade of “C” or better in Biology 485 or a teacher recommendation is recommended for this course.**

## Chemistry Academic

414

10  
1 credit  
2 semesters

This laboratory course teaches the concepts of chemistry and how it relates to the world around us through an integrated thematic approach. The content for this laboratory course emphasizes the structure and interactions of matter. Topics covered include atomic structure, periodic table, chemical bonding, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, states of matter, and gas laws. Emphasis is on connecting chemical concepts to real world applications through projects and inquiry. **This course is for students who are in Biology 490.**

## AP Physics I

417

1 credit

AP Exam Fee Required

11, 12  
2 semesters

This course is designed to be an accelerated first-year course, appropriate for students in the Honors track. It covers material that is equivalent to a first semester introductory physics course in college. Content will include motion, forces, energy, momentum, rotational mechanics, gravitation, simple harmonic motion, and fluid dynamics. Laboratory experiments, problem solving, and written explanations of physics concepts are emphasized in all units studied. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in Physics I at the end of this course. **Successful completion of Honors Chemistry or teacher recommendation required. Physics is a graduation requirement to be fulfilled either junior or senior year.**

## Physics Advanced

405

1 credit

11, 12  
2 semesters

This laboratory course surveys the fundamental concepts of physics such as motion, forces, energy, light, electricity and waves. Emphasis is placed on development of problem-solving skills and the application of physics principles to everyday life. Completion of or concurrent enrollment in advance level of Advanced Algebra (309) is required. **A grade of “C” or better in Chemistry 404 or a teacher recommendation is recommended for this course. Physics is a graduation requirement to be fulfilled either junior or senior year.**

## Physics Academic

11, 12

408

1 credit

2 semesters

This is an introductory, conceptual physics course. This laboratory course is a survey of fundamental topics in physics, using strong emphasis on concepts and reasoning, and the mathematical tool of algebra. This course covers the topics of motion, forces, energy, light, electricity and waves. Real world application of physics concepts is stressed.

**This course is for students who are in Chemistry 414. Physics is a graduation requirement to be fulfilled either junior or senior year.**

## Anatomy and Physiology Honors

12

407

1 credit

2 semesters

This laboratory course focuses on the dependent relationship between the structure and function of the human body. Emphasis is placed on the etiology of diseases in relation to the body and its systems. This class covers anatomical and physiological terminology, cells, tissues, membranes, and the organ systems that make up the human body. Full participation in all labs is required and may include live viewing of medical procedures as well as simulated and/or live dissections. Recommended for students who wish to pursue a health science career.

## Anatomy and Physiology

12

401

1 credit

2 semesters

This laboratory course is designed to introduce students to the inner workings of the human body. Students will learn to properly use anatomical and physiological terminology while describing and exploring the organ systems of the human body. Full participation in all labs is required and may include live viewing of medical procedures as well as simulated and/or live dissections. Recommended for students who wish to pursue a career in health science.

## Environmental Science

12

432

1 credit

2 semesters

This introductory course focuses on the interrelationship between humans and the environment. Topics covered include Earth's spheres, climate change, ecosystem and population dynamics, and the role humans play in managing natural resources.

## Engineering Principles (Project Lead the Way) - Mother McAuley & Brother Rice

11, 12

433

1 credit

2 semesters

This exploratory, project-based class exposes students concepts used in various engineering fields including mechanical, electrical, aerospace, civil, and sustainable engineering. Students do not need any background knowledge in engineering, as this class is designed to introduce students to the engineering process and apply it to a project, either in simulations or actual builds of prototypes.

Subjects studied prepare students for post-secondary engineering courses. Speakers and field trips provide additional authentic experiences. **Completion of or concurrent enrollment in Math 302, 303, or 309 required, and completion of Chemistry 404 or 413 with a "C" or better.**

## AP Computer Science Principles (Amazon Future Engineer Course)

10, 11, 12

431

1 credit

2 semesters

AP Exam Fee Required

This year-long course is designed to be the equivalent to the first semester of Introductory Computer Science in college and follows the College Board AP curriculum. The focus of the course is using technology and programming as a means to solve problems. Student discovery and creativity are central to the course. Independent and collaborative work is stressed as students work to create digital artifacts similar to the process invoked by artists, writers, computer scientists and engineers. Several computer languages will be used during the course including Python, HTML and Scratch. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in Computer Science Principles at the end of the course. "This class is open to all junior and senior students or sophomore students with a teacher recommendation.



## AP Biology - Mother McAuley & Brother Rice

11, 12

406

1 credit

2 semesters

AP Exam Fee Required

The Advanced Placement Biology course is designed to be the equivalent of a college level introductory biology course. Extensive laboratory work is an integral part of this course. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in Biology at the end of the course. **Successful completion of Honors Biology is required or teacher recommendation. This is a period and a half course with a 7:30 start time into first period.**

## AP Chemistry

11, 12

402

1 credit

2 semesters

AP Exam Fee Required

The Advanced Placement Chemistry course is designed to be the equivalent of a general chemistry course usually taken during the first college year. Extensive laboratory work is an integral part of this course. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Chemistry Exam at the end of the course. **Successful completion of Honors Chemistry is required or teacher recommendation. This is a period and a half course with a 7:30 start time into first period.**

## AP Physics C - Mechanics

12

412

1 credit

2 semesters

AP Exam Fee Required

This Advanced Placement Physics C course is designed to be the equivalent of a calculus-based physics course in mechanics usually taken during the first college year. Extensive laboratory work is an integral part of this course. Topics include motion, forces, energy, momentum, rotational mechanics, gravitation and simple harmonic motion. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Physics C - Mechanics exam at the end of the course. **Concurrent enrollment Calculus (AP or Honors) is strongly recommended. A grade of "A" or "B" in AP Physics I is required.**



# Social Science

The Social Science Department provides a dynamic, comprehensive curriculum covering World and United States History alongside diverse junior and senior electives. Coursework engages students in critical thinking and effective communication, utilizing information from multiple perspectives to inform ethical, personal, and civic decisions. A foundational focus is placed on the Mercy Critical Concerns, ensuring students understand global systems and current issues to make positive, lasting change in the future. In order to graduate, students must take World History or AP Human Geography as well as United States History, which includes passing the US Constitution test. ***If you have questions about the Social Science curriculum, please contact Division Lead Ms. Amanda Sorice at [asorice@mothermcauley.org](mailto:asorice@mothermcauley.org).***

## AP Human Geography

9, 10

245

1 credit

2 semesters

AP Exam Fee Required

This rigorous, college-level introductory course systematically examines how human activity organizes and interacts with the planet's features and environments. The curriculum is organized thematically around key subtopics, including population, cultural patterns and processes, political organization of space, agriculture, industrialization, and urban geography. The course's goal is to develop sophisticated skills in data and spatial analysis as well as critical thinking, equipping students to become globally informed citizens prepared for advanced study and engaged in solving contemporary issues. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in Human Geography at the end of the course. **AP Human Geography is offered to select freshmen based on their placement in other courses.**

## AP World History

9, 10

228

1 credit

2 semesters

AP Exam Fee Required

Why is the world the way it is? How did we get here? Since the golden age of ancient Athens, historians have sought systematic, evidence-based answers to such questions. AP World History (Modern) offers a year-long introduction to global interaction from before 1200 to the present. Students investigate the past through primary sources, the stories of individuals, and the study of broad patterns and forces. The course emphasizes analytical reasoning — comparison, causation, and continuity and change over time — that prepares students for AP United States History, college-level social science coursework, and beyond. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in World History at the end of the course.

## World History Advanced

9, 10

214

1 credit

2 semesters

It is one of the greatest stories ever told: the story of human civilization from its origins in Mesopotamia more than 5,000 years ago to the transformed and interconnected world of today. How did we get here? This course traces the development of human societies through both the stories of individuals and the broader forces and patterns that have shaped our world. Along the way, students are introduced to key concepts in politics, economics, culture, social structure, and human interaction with the environment while cultivating foundational historical thinking skills — foundations for future study, and an essential part of becoming informed, thoughtful participants in today's world.

## World History Academic

10

215

1 credit

2 semesters

This course invites students to explore the epic story of human civilization, tracing major historical developments from ancient societies to the modern, interconnected world. It focuses on how key changes in politics, culture, and social structure have shaped global communities over time. Students will gain foundational historical thinking skills and knowledge through the key concepts of politics, economics, culture, social structure, and human interaction with the environment. The goal of this course is to foster global awareness and promote thoughtful participation in the world today.

## AP U.S. History

10, 11

208

1 credit

2 semesters

AP Exam Fee Required

This demanding, college-level course provides a comprehensive exploration of the American narrative from the pre-colonial era to the present day. The curriculum focuses on developing high-level critical thinking and analytical skills, training students to evaluate historical evidence, assess multiple scholarly interpretations, and understand how forces like politics, economics, and culture have shaped American identity and experience. By utilizing information from diverse perspectives, students sharpen their effective communication skills and gain the historical judgment necessary to inform ethical personal and civic decisions in the contemporary world. Students in this course are required to pass a test on the United States Constitution. Furthermore, students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam at the end of the course. **A prerequisite of a B or higher in AP Human Geography or AP World History (or a teacher recommendation) is required.**

## U.S. History Honors

11

209

1 credit

2 semesters

This honors-level course offers a rigorous, chronological study of the American experience, tracing pivotal moments and transformative forces from the pre-colonial era to the 21st century. The curriculum focuses on deepening analytical and critical thinking skills by evaluating diverse primary and secondary sources within their historical context. By engaging with multiple perspectives across the nation's timeline, students sharpen their historical judgment to understand complex debates and inform ethical personal and civic decisions. Students in this course are required to pass a test on the United States Constitution.

## U.S. History Advanced

10, 11

212

1 credit

2 semesters

This course offers a comprehensive, chronological survey of American history, tracing the nation's development from its foundational roots to the challenges and triumphs of the modern era. The curriculum introduces students to key historical events, figures, and concepts in politics, society, and culture. Students will develop essential historical thinking skills by examining various sources, understanding cause and effect, and identifying different perspectives on pivotal national moments. The goal of this course is to build historical literacy and foster the knowledge necessary for informed, responsible participation as a citizen. Students in this course are required to pass a test on the United States Constitution.

## AP U.S. Government and Politics

11, 12

226

1 credit

2 semesters

AP Exam Fee Required

This challenging, college-level course offers an in-depth, critical analysis of the foundations, institutions, beliefs, and behaviors that shape the U.S. political system. Students use primary source documents and data to develop sophisticated critical thinking and analytical skills, examining key concepts such as civil liberties, political participation, and policy-making from multiple perspectives. The course empowers students to become highly engaged citizens by fostering effective communication and informed judgment necessary for making ethical and responsible civic decisions. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam at the end of the course. **A prerequisite of a B or higher in AP Human Geography, AP World History, US History Honors, or AP US History (or a teacher recommendation) is required to take this course. Juniors who have taken AP US History will be allowed to take this course with teacher approval.**

## Advanced Economics

11, 12

250

½ credit

1 semester

Economics is the study of how societies allocate scarce resources — in other words, who gets what, and why. The exchange of goods and services in markets is a major part of the answer. This course introduces students to the tools economists use to analyze markets and decision-making. Students explore supply and demand; market structures such as competition and monopoly; labor markets and the role of firms; money, banking, and financial systems; and the ways the government shapes the economy through fiscal and monetary policy. Emphasis is placed on analytical reasoning, interpreting economic data, and understanding debates in contemporary economic policy. This course provides a strong foundation for further study in business, finance, and public policy.

## Developmental Psychology Honors (McAuley Little School)

12

253

2 credits

2 semesters

Application and Personal Interview

This honors course offers an in-depth study of developmental theories, examining the physical, cognitive, and social-emotional changes in children and adolescents. Students cultivate critical thinking and analytical skills to apply psychological and educational principles, terminology, and major theories to real-world settings. Furthermore, students will learn instructional best practices for adolescents based on their developmental level. A mandatory experiential learning component requires professional interaction with personnel and Kindergarten through third grade students at community grammar schools, providing essential practical application and fostering responsible civic engagement in an educational environment. Prerequisites are a minimum of a 3.0 cumulative GPA and the completion of an application and interview. **At the successful completion of this course, students will receive ONE credit in Social Science and ONE general elective credit.**

## Psychology

11, 12

251

½ credit

1 semester

This engaging semester course offers a dynamic introduction to the scientific study of the human mind and behavior. Students explore major psychological phenomena—including intelligence, perception, learning, and social behavior—from both bio-behavioral and socio-behavioral perspectives. The curriculum utilizes group discussion, project-based activities, and individual assessments to cultivate critical thinking and effective communication, enabling students to analyze real-world issues from multiple perspectives and inform ethical personal and civic decisions.

## Sociology

11, 12

252

½ credit

1 semester

This interdisciplinary semester course critically analyzes the structure and forces that construct our social world, challenging students to examine why people are categorized by race, class, and gender. Using a sociological framework, the curriculum explores the causes and consequences of social change, including economic structures, political systems, and evolving social roles. Coursework cultivates critical thinking and effective communication by utilizing multiple perspectives to empower students to make informed, ethical, and responsible civic decisions.

## American Criminal Justice

11, 12

248

½ credit

1 semester

This dynamic semester course provides a comprehensive overview of the American criminal justice system, examining law enforcement, the courts, and corrections. Students explore the theory, policy, and practice of juvenile and adult justice, using real-world case studies and contemporary issues to develop sophisticated critical thinking and effective communication skills. By engaging with multiple perspectives on crime and punishment, the course empowers students to make informed, ethical, and responsible civic decisions.

## AP Psychology

11, 12

206

1 credit

2 semesters

AP Exam Fee Required

This college-level course provides a systematic and scientific introduction to the behavior and mental processes of human beings. Students explore major psychological facts, principles, and phenomena—including the biological basis of behavior, cognition, and abnormal psychology—while also learning the ethical methods used in psychological science and practice. The curriculum fosters critical thinking and effective communication by utilizing information from multiple theoretical perspectives to help students inform ethical personal and civic decisions. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement exam at the end of the course. **A prerequisite of a B or higher in any AP or Honors level Social Science course (or a teacher recommendation) is required to take this course. Juniors who have taken AP US History will be allowed to take this course with teacher approval.**

## Personal Finance (Financial Literacy)

10, 11, 12

604

½ credit

1 semester

This practical and essential semester course empowers young women with the financial skills and critical knowledge needed to navigate the modern economy with confidence. Students explore real-life scenarios, including budgeting, investing, managing credit scores, filing taxes, and navigating the FAFSA. The course fosters critical thinking about personal finance from multiple ethical perspectives, ensuring students can make informed, responsible personal and civic decisions that secure their economic future. **This is a graduate requirement in addition to the 3 credits of Social Science courses. This course will be offered during the summer of 2026 as well.**

Dual  
Credit  
Offered  
25-26



# Theology

Students are required to take four years of Theology at Mother McAuley. The objective of the Theology curriculum is to help nurture the faith life of each student, while enhancing their knowledge of basic tenets of their faith and raising awareness of religions and cultures outside of their own. The Theology Department's goal is that the students leave McAuley having grown in their knowledge of their faith, have personally strengthened their own faith, and that they walk away from McAuley equipped with tools to practice moral decision making and be positive and contributing members of society. Students must complete a minimum of 15 hours of Christian service each year and participate in a day-long retreat or service experience. Kairos, the senior-level overnight retreat, is optional but encouraged. ***If you have any questions about the Theology curriculum, please contact Division Lead Mr. John Kyler at [jkyler@mothermcauley.org](mailto:jkyler@mothermcauley.org).***

## Theology I

9

010

1 credit

2 semesters

Theology I invites students to grow in their relationship with God through a deeper understanding of the central beliefs and practices of the Catholic faith. The foundation of the course is the study of Jesus the Messiah, the Paschal Mystery, sacraments and the liturgical life of the Church. Additionally, students explore the impact of cultural influences on personal development and moral decision-making. Other areas of study include: the dignity and worth of all human life, the sacredness of human sexuality, the value of chastity and abstinence, and the importance of healthy self-esteem and strong personal values. Theology I is rooted in the Mercy tradition and incorporates doctrinal elements from the High School Curriculum Framework of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

## Theology II

10

020

1 credit

2 semesters

Theology II invites students to grow in their relationship with God through an in-depth exploration of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. The focus of the first semester is the Hebrew Scriptures with an emphasis on creation, covenant, freedom, suffering, kingdom, prophecy and hope. Jesus in the Gospels is the primary focus of the second semester. The course surveys the social and cultural backgrounds of the Scriptures, as well as significant persons, events and major teachings. Students reflect on and integrate the universal truths and relevant teachings that emerge from the Scriptures and work to apply those to their own spiritual and personal lives. Theology II is rooted in the Mercy tradition and incorporates doctrinal elements from the High School Curriculum Framework of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

**Theology III** 11  
030  
1 credit 2 semesters

Theology III invites students to grow in their relationship with God through a study of the historical development and Social Teaching of the Catholic Church. Students become familiar with pivotal moments, key teachings and exemplars of faith throughout the course of Church history. Furthermore, students examine a variety of social concerns, as well as the universal call to peaceful / non-violent living in the 21st century. Through a deeper understanding of Church History and Catholic Social Teaching, students gain a greater awareness of the call to transformation and holiness and acquire the knowledge and skills to demonstrate peaceful responses to these issues. Theology III is rooted in the Mercy tradition and incorporates doctrinal elements from the High School Curriculum Framework of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

**Theology IV / Living Faith** 12  
040  
1 credit 2 semesters

Theology IV / Living Faith serves as a culmination of Catholic religious education at Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School. Students are invited to grow in their relationship with God through a synthesis of theological inquiry, lived experience and practical application. In Living Faith, students will specifically reflect on the way God is revealed in both the ordinary and extraordinary experiences of life. Students are invited to explore ultimate questions and challenges of our time through the lens of faith and the unique expression of being a woman in the world today. Senior students will study the religions of the world in order to note how the ultimate questions are explored in different cultures. They are invited to deepen their understanding of their interconnectedness to the global community, ultimately realizing their potential to bring hope and healing to the world. Theology IV / Living Faith is rooted in the Mercy tradition and incorporates doctrinal elements from the High School Curriculum Framework of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

**Theology IV / Global Studies** 12  
041  
1 credit 2 semesters

Theology IV / Global Studies serves as a culmination of Catholic religious education at Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School. Students are invited to grow in their relationship with God through a synthesis of theological inquiry, lived experience and practical application. In Global Studies, students will specifically study the interrelatedness of global cultures, religions and the Christian faith. Steeped in the foundational elements of Catholic Theology students reflect upon the human quest to understand God, individual identity and morality. The formational and theological experiences of the course enable students to develop a stronger sense of identity and spirituality that is reverent and globally informed. Theology IV / Global Studies is rooted in the Mercy tradition and incorporates doctrinal elements from the High School Curriculum Framework of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

**Theology IV / Peer Ministry** 12  
043  
1 credit 2 semesters

Theology IV / Peer Ministry serves as a culmination of Catholic religious education at Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School. Students are invited to grow in their relationship with God through a synthesis of theological inquiry, lived experience and practical application. In Peer Ministry, students will specifically be given opportunities to grow in leadership and ministerial skills to serve the McAuley community, the Church and the world. Students will explore the idea of vocation as a universal call to holiness and discern how to use their unique gifts for the service of others. Hands-on experiences, including liturgical, retreat and service opportunities, are an integral part of the course. Theology IV / Peer Ministry is rooted in the Mercy tradition and incorporates doctrinal elements from the High School Curriculum Framework of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. **Completed application and teacher recommendation required to be considered for this course. This course includes time commitments outside of school hours.**



# Visual Arts & Technology

Mother McAuley students have a 1 year Fine Arts requirement which can include classes in the Visual and Performing Arts. Additionally, students are required to take a semester of Art History prior to graduation. Preparation in the visual arts provides our young women with creative and critical problem-solving skills in addition to developing their own appreciation of art as a unique visual record of the diverse cultures of the world. The Visual Arts take a holistic orientation to education. Our curriculum is designed to challenge McAuley's young women to engage in the imagination, foster flexible ways of thinking creatively and critically, develop disciplined effort, build self-confidence, achieve technical skills for personal expression, and build portfolios for future study and career opportunities. ***If you have any questions about the Visual Arts and Technology curriculum, please contact Division Lead Mrs. Meghan Brazel at [mbrazel@mothermcauley.org](mailto:mbrazel@mothermcauley.org).***

2D Courses Offered	3D Courses Offered	Digital Courses
Intro to Drawing	Ceramics	Art & Emerging Tech
Intro to Painting	Sculpture	Graphic Design
Advanced Drawing	Clay Sculpture & Wheel Throwing	Animation
Advanced Painting		Illustration/Digital Illust. on iPad
Photography I		Architectural Design & CAD
Photography II		
Studio Art Honors		
AP Art & Design		

\*Art History is a semester course and a graduation requirement. Students have the option to take AP Art History (full-year course) instead.

\* Journalism and Journalism II Honors earn 1 full credit (½ credit for each Visual Arts and English).

## Art History

11, 12

742

½ credit

1 semester

This course introduces students to the fundamental skills, concepts, materials and processes of the visual arts. Students will engage with and explore a comprehensive range of art from diverse cultures, artistic traditions and styles. Throughout the course students will be introduced to 21st Century elements and principles of design, art careers as well as creative studio activities. The course includes opportunities for students to create, present, respond, and connect with and through art. The course is designed to promote visual literacy and teach students the many ways the arts are an integral part of human development. Learning historical and cultural context in which artworks were produced will enable students to develop a broad base for understanding cultural diversity and a variety of global points of view. Work on art production activities gives students the opportunity to create works of art using a variety of media. **This course is a graduation requirement.**

## AP Art History

11, 12

701

1 credit

2 semesters

AP Exam Fee Required

This course provides students with an opportunity to examine and critically analyze major historical periods of art. Students examine major forms of artistic expression from the past and present from a variety of cultures. AP Art History emphasizes understanding how and why works of art function in context, considering such issues as patronage, gender, and the functions and effects of art. **Fulfills the Art History requirement.** Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in Art History at the end of our course.

## 2D COURSES

### Introduction to Drawing

9, 10, 11, 12

703

½ credit

1 semester

This course provides an introduction to basic drawing techniques, materials, composition skills and elements of design. Still life and portraiture are among the subject matters covered. **This is a required course for those interested in pursuing Introduction to Painting, Advanced Drawing and Advanced Painting, Illustration/Digital Illustration on the iPad, Studio Art Honors and Advanced Placement Art and Design.**

### Introduction to Painting

9, 10, 11, 12

705

½ credit

1 semester

This course provides an introduction to basic painting media, techniques, color theory, composition skills and elements of design. Still life, landscape, portraiture and non-representational ideas are among the subject matter covered. **This is a required course for those interested in pursuing Advanced Painting, Studio Art Honors or Advanced Placement Art and Design. Introduction to Drawing (703) is a prerequisite.**



## Advanced Drawing

762

½ credit

10, 11, 12

1 semester

This course will provide students with the technical skills and time to create original finished drawings incorporating a broad range of subject matter and artistic media. Students will build onto technical skills learned at the introduction level, and focus on: experimentation, light and shade / rendering of form, mark making, exploring the illusion of depth well-designed visual compositions, and creative problem solving. **This class is required for those interested in moving to Studio Art Honors (743).**

## Advanced Painting

761

½ credit

10, 11, 12

1 semester

This course will provide students with the technical skills and time to create original finished paintings incorporating a broad range of subject matter and paint media. Students will build onto technical skills learned at the introduction level, and focus on: experimentation, light and shade / rendering of form, mark making, exploring the illusion of depth well-designed visual compositions, and creative problem solving. **This class is required for those interested in moving to Studio Art Honors (743).**



## Photography I

710

½ credit

11, 12

1 semester

This course provides students with a technical foundation in black and white film photography. Black and white skills include: how to operate a 35 mm film camera, and the processing of film and prints in a well-equipped darkroom. It is helpful if you have access to a 35mm SLR camera.



## Photography II

711

½ credit

11, 12

1 semester

This course builds on the concepts and techniques introduced in Photography I. The focus of this course is to experience photography as an expressive medium learning alternative techniques and creative processes with film and digital manipulation. Students will be introduced to the creative functions of a digital 35mm, SLR camera as well as the functions of an iPhone and iPad. Additionally students will experiment with Adobe Creative Cloud programs such as Lightroom and Photoshop. **Photography I is a prerequisite (710).**



## Studio Art Honors

11, 12

743

1 credit

2 semesters

This course explores critical thinking / creative problem-solving through various fine art media and techniques, including drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage. This course requires independent work in sketchbook/journal and long-term assignments. Introduction to Drawing, Introduction to Painting, Advanced Drawing and Advanced Painting are prerequisites. This course is targeted for students who are serious about pursuing art in college and/or as a career choice. **Students must take and earn a “C” or better in Advanced Drawing in order to enroll in this course. Studio Art Honors is strongly recommended as a course taken before AP Art and Design.**



## AP Art & Design

11, 12

758

1 credit

2 semesters

AP Exam Fee Required

Portfolio Submission

This course is for highly motivated junior or senior art students who intend to pursue art on the post-secondary level and beyond. The AP Art and Design student will develop and apply skills of inquiry and investigation, practice, experimentation, revision, communication, and reflection. Art and Design is not based on a written examination; instead the student submits a portfolio for evaluation at the end of the school year. The AP portfolio contains two sections.

1) Sustained Investigation made up of art creation through practice, experimentation, and revision and the 2) Selected Works section demonstrating skillful synthesis of art materials, processes, and ideas. **Introduction to Drawing (703), Introduction to Painting (705), and Advanced Drawing (762) and Advanced Painting (761) are prerequisites. Studio Art Honors (743) is strongly recommended.** Students are required to submit an Advanced Placement portfolio at the end of the course.



## 3D COURSES

### Ceramics

9, 10, 11, 12

706

½ credit

1 semester

Ceramics gives students hands-on opportunities to create, experiment, and develop skills with clay. Students will learn to prepare and shape clay using hand-building methods such as pinch pots, coils, and slabs, while experimenting with sculptural composition to create original works. Glazing and surface design are included, allowing students to finish and personalize their pieces with color, texture, and style.

### Sculpture

9, 10, 11, 12

707

½ credit

1 semester

This course invites students to expand their artistic skills as they explore how 3-dimensional artworks take shape. Through hands-on exploration, students will work with a variety of sculptural materials—such as paper, paper mâché, plaster, wire, and other mixed media—to create both representational and non-representational works of art. Building on previously learned techniques, this course encourages creativity, problem-solving, and personal artistic voice as students develop more advanced sculptural forms. **Ceramics (706) is a prerequisite.**

### Clay Sculpture and Wheel Throwing

10, 11, 12

745

½ credit

1 semester

Building on the foundation developed in Ceramics, students will explore new techniques in clay construction and 3-dimensional design while expanding their creative expression. This course emphasizes advanced hand-building methods and the fundamentals of wheel throwing, allowing students to create original sculptures and functional vessels while deepening their understanding of 3D design principles. **Ceramics (706) is a prerequisite.**

## DIGITAL COURSES

### Art and Emerging Technology

9, 10, 11, 12

709

½ credit

1 semester

Art and Emerging Technology will provide students with a variety of creative applications of contemporary technologies including web design, graphic imaging, and animation - utilizing Adobe Photoshop. Students will be able to transfer and apply these skills for further exploration in high school, college preparation, and/or work-related career paths. Final Assessment will include a digital portfolio. **This course is a prerequisite for Graphic Design (760) and Animation (766).**

### Graphic Design

10, 11, 12

760

½ credit

1 semester

Graphic Design is art that combines images, words, and ideas to communicate messages to an audience. It is used in advertising products. This course begins with an introduction to the basic concepts of 2-D design. Students will explore visual communication concepts and design principles through creative problem solving and development of technical skills. Students will use Adobe InDesign and Photoshop. **Art and Emerging Technology (709) is a prerequisite.**

## Animation

10, 11, 12

766

½ credit

1 semester

Step into the world of motion and bring your artwork to life! In this class, you'll learn the fundamentals of digital animation using industry tools like Adobe Animate and After Effects. From storyboarding and character design to timing, movement, and visual effects, you'll explore how animation combines art and storytelling in exciting ways. **This course will alternate yearly with Illustration/Digital Illustration on the iPad and be offered during the 2027-2028 school year. Art and Emerging Technology (709) is a prerequisite.**



## Illustration/Digital Illustration on the iPad

10, 11, 12

763

½ credit

1 semester

Explore the world of illustration through both traditional and digital media! In this class, you'll learn how to bring your ideas to life using markers, colored pencils, pen & ink and watercolor— or use the iPad and apps like Procreate and Adobe Fresco. You'll create projects that are either hand-drawn or digital, experiment with different tools and textures, and develop your own personal illustration style. Projects may include character design, book illustrations, fashion, food, floral, insects and patterns. **This course will alternate yearly with Animation and be offered during the 2026-2027 school year. Intro to Drawing (703) is a prerequisite.**



## Architectural Drawing, Design, and CAD (Computer Aided Design)

10, 11, 12

755

1 credit

2 semesters

This course will provide students an introduction to concepts, tools and language in the areas of architectural drawing and computer-aided design, in order to understand how engineers, architects, and product-designers problem solve and develop creative ideas from inception to production. **There are no prerequisites to take this course.**



## Journalism I - Yearbook and Newspaper 10, 11, 12

115 1 credit: ½ English, ½ Art 2 semesters

Journalism is an interdisciplinary course that combines the skills of art, writing, and communication. During the first semester, students learn the fundamentals of journalism—researching, interviewing, writing, and editing stories using AP style. In the second semester, students explore photojournalism, page design, and publication layout. Students will gain hands-on experience with Adobe Photoshop, Canva and eDesign software to produce professional-quality print and digital publications. This course emphasizes accuracy, creativity, and visual storytelling. Enrollment in AP, Honors, or Advanced English must be taken concurrently. Journalism is also a prerequisite for students interested in contributing to the school's newspaper or yearbook as writers, editors, or designers.



## Journalism II Honors - Yearbook and Newspaper 11, 12

117 1 credit: ½ English, ½ Art 2 semesters

This team-taught, interdisciplinary course builds upon the foundational skills developed in Journalism I. Students will collaborate to write news, editorial, and feature articles for the school's news magazine, Inscape, while also learning to advertise, edit, design, and produce the school yearbook. Journalism Honors students will:

- Collaboratively select and develop publication themes for Inscape and the yearbook
- Recognize and apply the essential elements of newspaper and yearbook layout
- Utilize photojournalistic techniques to enhance visual storytelling
- Design engaging and effective compositional layouts
- Operate industry-standard software, including Adobe Photoshop, Canva and eDesign
- Produce layouts and written copy that meet professional publication deadline

As an honors-level course, Journalism II maintains a rigorous schedule aligned with publishing deadlines. Success requires strong organizational skills, clear communication, and responsible decision-making. **AP, Honors, or Advanced level English must be taken concurrently. Journalism I is a prerequisite. This class may be taken more than once.**





# World Languages

The World Languages Department provides a comprehensive required two-year curriculum focused on achieving linguistic and cultural competence. Coursework engages students in effective communication and a deep appreciation for the diversity of the global community, utilizing language to foster empathy and connect with different perspectives. A foundational focus is placed on preparing students to participate actively and thoughtfully in our increasingly interconnected world, equipping them with the vital skills needed to make positive, lasting change in the future. Note that incoming students can bypass level I of a language course through the successful completion of a placement test. ***If you have questions about the World Languages curriculum, please contact Division Lead Ms. Amanda Sorice at [asorice@mothermcauley.org](mailto:asorice@mothermcauley.org).***

## **French I Honors**

9

515

1 credit

2 semesters

This intensive introductory course rapidly initiates the required two-year curriculum, focusing on achieving advanced linguistic and cultural competence within the French-speaking world. Students engage in rigorous development of all four communication modes—speaking, listening, reading, and writing—with an emphasis on critical grammar analysis and accelerated proficiency acquisition to facilitate highly effective communication. Coursework cultivates a deep appreciation for the diversity of the global community, utilizing complex language study to foster empathy and connect with different perspectives at an advanced level of cultural inquiry.

## **French I Advanced**

9

516

1 credit

2 semesters

This introductory course initiates the required two-year curriculum focused on achieving linguistic and cultural competence within the French-speaking world. Students develop proficiency in all four communication modes—speaking, listening, reading, and writing—to facilitate effective communication. Coursework cultivates a deep appreciation for the diversity of the global community, utilizing language study to foster empathy and connect with different perspectives.

**French II Honors** 10  
510  
1 credit 2 semesters

This dynamic course is the pivotal second step in your required two-year language sequence, focused on rapidly achieving advanced linguistic and cultural competence. Students deepen their proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing through accelerated communicative exercises, enabling effective communication on complex topics. Coursework cultivates a critical appreciation for the diversity of the global community, utilizing language to foster empathy and connect with different perspectives.

**French II Advanced** 10  
511  
1 credit 2 semesters

This engaging second-year course continues the journey toward achieving linguistic and cultural competence, completing your two-year language requirement. Students advance their proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing through communication exercises, enhancing their ability to engage in effective communication. Coursework cultivates a deep appreciation for the diversity of the global community, utilizing language study to foster empathy and connect with different perspectives.

**French III Honors** 11  
505  
1 credit 2 semesters

This rigorous, pre-Advanced Placement course significantly advances student proficiency, explicitly emphasizing the interpersonal, presentational, and interpretive modes of communication. Students deeply explore the six core themes proposed by the College Board, utilizing language study to achieve advanced linguistic and cultural competence and facilitate highly effective communication. Coursework cultivates a critical appreciation for the diversity of the global community, challenging students to foster empathy and connect with different perspectives through complex cultural and linguistic analysis.

**French III Advanced** 11  
506  
1 credit 2 semesters

This advanced third-year program explicitly emphasizes the interpersonal, presentational, and interpretive modes of communication to facilitate highly effective communication. Students reinforce and substantially expand vocabulary and grammatical structures, thereby advancing toward linguistic and cultural competence. Coursework cultivates a deeper appreciation for the diversity of the global community, utilizing language to foster empathy and connect with different perspectives through sustained practice.

**AP French** 12  
500  
1 credit 2 semesters  
AP Exam Fee Required

This rigorous college-level course prepares highly motivated students for the AP Exam and post-secondary communication. Students achieve profound linguistic and cultural competence by mastering speaking, listening, reading, and writing through complex, authentic resources (including media, literature, and current events) aligned with College Board themes. The curriculum facilitates effective communication and a deep appreciation for the diversity of the global community, challenging seniors to foster empathy and connect with different perspectives on vital global issues. Enrollment is limited to those students who have completed three years of study in the Honors French program. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in French at the end of the course. **Placement is based on recommendation by the French III Honors teacher.**

**French IV Advanced** 12  
501  
1 credit 2 semesters

This course has a dual focus. It introduces the student to French literary expression and advances the student's use of the language by providing a variety of culturally relevant materials to stimulate oral and written discussion. Skills are reinforced by a review of grammar.

**Spanish I Honors** 9  
535  
1 credit 2 semesters

This first year honors course introduces students to the target language with a strong foundation in grammar and vocabulary. Foundational skills and techniques are taught to encourage strong development in all areas of the language including reading, writing, listening, speaking and culture. Students will conclude the year by reading a short novel entirely in Spanish.

**Spanish I Advanced** 9  
536  
1 credit 2 semesters

This first year course introduces students to the target language with a strong foundation in essential grammar and vocabulary. Students develop reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills through structured practice, thematic units, and cultural exploration. Emphasis is placed on building confident communication skills while moving efficiently through core concepts to prepare students for success in Spanish II Advanced.

**Spanish I Academic** 9  
538  
1 credit 2 semesters

This first year course introduces students to the target language using a supported and paced approach to foundational grammar and vocabulary. Instruction focuses on developing confidence and proficiency in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and cultural awareness through guided practice and structured learning strategies. This course is designed to reinforce essential skills at a comfortable pace, preparing students for continued success in Spanish II.

**Spanish II Honors** 9, 10  
530  
1 credit 2 semesters

The second year honors program emphasizes competence in the use of vocabulary and grammar review, as well as new. Stress is placed on the development of oral skills, progress in reading, writing and listening and a continuation in grammatical foundation. A short novel in Spanish is included for the literary portion of this class. A movie selection is also included for this class.

**Spanish II Advanced** 9, 10  
531  
1 credit 2 semesters

The second year course is designed to continue building the foundational grammatical skills and vocabulary. Selected readings provide insight into the history, culture and lifestyle of the Spanish people with an emphasis on and the improvement of reading skills in the target language. Target listening, presentational skills, and oral expression are improved directly through conversation, composition and themed grammar/vocabulary activities and projects.

## Spanish II Academic

10

533

1 credit

2 semesters

This second year course continues the supported and paced approach to foundational grammar and vocabulary. Instruction focuses on developing confidence and proficiency in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and cultural awareness through guided practice and structured learning strategies. This course is designed to reinforce essential skills at a comfortable pace, preparing students for continued success in preparation for Spanish III.

## Spanish III Honors

11

525

1 credit

2 semesters

This course begins with a review of the grammatical structures taught at the introductory levels. The course gives an intensive study of grammar structures and themed vocabulary that is necessary for successful development of essential skills. Writing assignments reinforce students' command of more complex grammar structures. Selected readings provide insight into the history, culture and lifestyle of the Spanish people with an emphasis on Spain and Latin America and the improvement of reading skills in the target language. Varied listening comprehension activities provide opportunity for target exposure. Target presentation and oral expression are applied relating to varied themed grammar concepts, activities and situations.

**Prerequisite: Enrollment is limited to those students who have completed 2 Years of study in the Spanish Honors Program.**

## Spanish III Advanced

11

526

1 credit

2 semesters

This course offers students the opportunity to continue to utilize basic grammatical skills and introduce more advanced grammar in addition to new vocabulary. Selected readings provide insight into the history, culture, and lifestyle of the Spanish people with an emphasis on Latin America and the improvement of reading skills in the target language. Target listening, presentational skills and oral expression are improved directly through conversation, composition and themed grammar/vocabulary activities and projects. **Prerequisite: Two years of Spanish classes are required in addition to a discussion with a Sophomore Spanish level teacher.**

## Spanish III Academic

11

527

1 credit

2 semesters

This course continues to build upon the foundational grammar and vocabulary learned in the prerequisite courses, now focusing on the past and future tenses. Target listening, presentational skills and oral expression are improved directly through conversation, writing composition, and themed grammar/vocabulary activities and cultural projects. A large emphasis is placed on Latin American art and culture. **Prerequisite: Two years of Spanish classes are required in addition to a discussion with a Sophomore Spanish level teacher.**

## Spanish IV Honors

12

520

1 credit

2 semesters

This course provides an in depth review of all grammar learned through collaborative and individual project based learning with an emphasis on presentational skills and oral expression. It continues to introduce new themed vocabulary and advanced grammatical structures. Students demonstrate their new skills through composition, authentic listening and themed projects. The literary portion of this course includes a short novel in addition to the history of Spain and Latin America and other authentic resources improving literacy. **Prerequisite: Enrollment is limited to those students who have completed 3 Years of study in the Spanish Honors Program.**

## Spanish IV Advanced

12

521

1 credit

2 semesters

This course provides students with a review of all grammar learned throughout the three years of Spanish. It also introduces new grammar and new vocabulary by themes and expands conversational skills through verbal and written projects and presentations. Through this course, students also develop their reading skills in Spanish. Varied listening comprehension activities provide students with exposure to the target language. Students learn about the customs of Spanish-speaking countries throughout the year. A short novel, Don Quijote, is included for the literary portion of this class. **Pre-requisite: Enrollment is limited to those students who have successfully completed the Spanish III course.**

Dual  
Credit  
Offered  
25-26

## AP Spanish

12

519

1 credit

AP Exam Fee Required

The AP Spanish course is intended for students who wish to develop proficiency and integrate their language skills using authentic materials and sources. Students who enroll should have knowledge of the Spanish language and culture and should have attained a reasonable level of proficiency in using the language. Course content reflects a variety of academic and cultural topics that align with the AP Language Themes as identified by the College Board. Materials include authentic resources in the form of audio recordings, films and newspaper and magazine articles. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Spanish Language and Literature Exam at the end of the course. **Pre-requisite: Enrollment is limited to those students who have completed 3 years of study in the Spanish Honors Program as well as the recommendation of the Spanish III Honors teacher.**





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