



2026-2027
Course Catalog



Table of Contents

Course Selection Process & Policies	2
Mercy Graduation Requirements	3
High School Curriculum Required for UNK, UNL, and UNO	4
College Athletics Eligibility	4
Advanced Placement® Courses	5
Dual Enrollment Courses	5
Mercy Learning Online	6
Course Descriptions	7
Business Courses	7
Career Development Courses	9
English Courses	11
Fine & Performing Arts Courses	14
Math Courses	18
Physical Education Courses	22
Science Courses	24
Social Studies Courses	29
Theology Courses	32
World Languages Courses	35

Course Selection Process & Policies

Some courses require additional fees, not to exceed \$50, with the exception of the CNA course. Specific fee information will be outlined in each course syllabus.

Students collaborate with teachers, academic advisors, counselors, and parents to ensure that course selections are appropriate and meet graduation requirements. Careful planning during the registration process should minimize the need for schedule changes, which will be limited whenever possible. However, if a schedule change becomes necessary, the following procedures will apply.

Students who believe a schedule change is necessary must first consult with their counselor. If the change is deemed appropriate, the counselor will initiate the schedule change process.

Enrollment in a course will be considered only if space is available and the course fits within the student's schedule. Placement policies may also impact approval of a schedule change.

Schedule change requests may be considered during the first two weeks of school for the following reasons:

- Scheduling errors
- Teacher-initiated changes
- Counselor-initiated changes
- Student-initiated changes
- Parent-initiated changes

Schedule changes will not be made to change teachers or solely to address poor academic performance.

After the first two weeks of school, students may not add, drop, or change courses. It is essential that students thoughtfully consider their course selections for the entire academic year prior to finalizing registration.

Mercy Graduation Requirements

1 credit is earned for a course that meets 1 semester, 5 days per week.

50 credits are required for graduation. Students must carry at least 12 credits per year.

Academic Department	Credits Required	Classes
Core Classes		
English	8 credits	Must include: English 9, 10, 11, & 12
Math	6 credits <i>Students are advised to complete 8 credits</i>	
Science	6 credits <i>Students are advised to complete 8 credits</i>	Must include: Biology & Chemistry
Social Studies	6 credits	Must include: World History; US History; American Government; Financial Literacy (Economics or Personal Finance)
Additional Requirements		
Computer Technology	2 credits	Must include: Intro to 21 st Century Technology Additional credit options: Digital Design, Foundations of STEAM, AP CSP, Graphic Design and Yearbook S2
Fine Arts	2 credits	Art, Dance, Music, Theatre
Physical Education	3.5 credits	Must include: PE I; PE II; Health
Public Speaking*	1 credit	* Classes 2029, 2028, & 2027
Theology	8 credits	Must include: Theology 9, 10, 11, & 12 and two theology electives
Electives	7.5 or more credits	<i>Students are advised to complete 4 to 8 credits of a world language</i>

High School Curriculum Required for the University of Nebraska System

Students planning to attend the University of Nebraska are expected to follow a college preparatory curriculum, listed below, which includes at least 16 year-long courses. A complete list of Mercy courses accepted by the university system for admission can be found at: <https://schoolcounselors.unl.edu/curriculum/curriculum-list/>

Category	Requirements
English	4 units: All units must include intensive reading and writing experience.
Mathematics	4 units of math required at UNL 3 units required at UNK & UNO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra I • Geometry • Algebra II • 1 additional unit that builds on knowledge and concepts learned in Algebra II
Natural Sciences	3 units: At least 2 units selected from biology, chemistry, physics and/or earth sciences. 1 of the units must include laboratory instruction.
Social Sciences	3 units: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 unit drawn from American and/or world history. • 1 unit drawn from history, American government and/or geography. • 1 unit drawn from any social science discipline.
World Language	2 units: Both units must be in the same language. Students who are unable to take 2 years of world language in high school may still qualify for admission. NOTE: some University of Nebraska degree programs require the equivalent of 4 years of high school world language in the same language in order to graduate.
Additional Academic Requirements	UNO and UNK require one unit chosen from any of the above disciplines

College Athletics Eligibility

Students who wish to compete as collegiate athletes must meet guidelines set by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), or the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). Information concerning eligibility for each of these organizations can be found on the following websites:

NCAA: <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>

NAIA: <https://play.mynaia.org/>

NJCAA: <https://www.njcaa.org/landing/index>

Advanced Placement® Courses

The Advanced Placement® Program is administered by The College Board®, a national nonprofit membership association. Mercy High School is a member school offering AP® courses. Courses are taught by Mercy faculty and are comparable to first-year college courses. At the conclusion of an AP® course, students must take the corresponding exam, which costs \$99 per exam. AP® courses are open to those students who meet the requirements specified for each course. Current AP® offerings are listed below.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Biology | English Literature Composition |
| Calculus AB | Psychology |
| Chemistry | Statistics |
| Computer Science Principles | U.S. History |
| English Language and Composition | U. S. Government and Politics |

AP® and Advanced Placement® are registered trademarks of the College Board®. Used with permission.

Dual Enrollment Courses

Dual Enrollment allows students to register for college credit—earned through successful completion of the Mercy course—at a reduced cost compared to typical college tuition. Registration for dual enrollment through the college(s) occurs mid-quarter in class. Payment due dates and fees are specified by each individual college/university; payments are made directly to the college/university. Mercy currently offers dual enrollment opportunities for the following courses, though these arrangements are subject to change.

Metropolitan Community College	AP Biology, Medical Terminology I, Medical Terminology II
University of Nebraska Omaha	AP Calculus AB*, AP Statistics*, Honors Spanish III, Honors Spanish IV, Honors Spanish V, Intro to Education
College of Saint Mary	Her-Story: Women in the Church, Theology & The Arts, World Religions

*The University of Nebraska Omaha will cover the cost of the AP exam for all dual-enrolled students.

Mercy Learning Online

Mercy Learning Online is a program of the Mercy Education System of the Americas, which links all 41 Mercy-sponsored high schools around the United States. It provides an opportunity for students to take courses online. All courses are taught by faculty employed by Mercy secondary schools and are available only to students attending Mercy secondary schools. These courses provide opportunities for students to take classes for enrichment and acceleration or for makeup credits.

Students must have access to the internet and must log onto the class every day the class meets.

For additional information visit: <http://www.mercylearningonline.org/>.

The tuition rate for Summer 2026 is as follows:

\$305.00 for each student enrolled in a 1 credit course:

Offered June 8 - July 10, 2026

Late Start Health Course offered June 15 – July 17, 2026

\$195.00 for each student enrolled in a credit recovery course for Semester 1:

Offered June 8 - July 26, 2026

\$195.00 for each student enrolled in a credit recovery course for Semester 2:

Offered June 28 - July 17, 2026

Enrichment Courses		
American Government	Economics	Global Affairs
Intro to Psychology	Street Law	Art History
Creative Writing	Health	

Credit Recovery	
Semester 1 Courses	Semester 2 Courses
Algebra I	Algebra I
Geometry	Geometry
Biology	Biology
English 9	English 9
English 10	English 10
English 11-12	English 11-12
Theology 9-10	Theology 9-10
Theology 11-12	Theology 11-12
United States History	United States History
World History	World History
Spanish 1	Spanish 1

Registration for all Mercy Learning Online courses is completed through the main school office no later than April 30, 2026. Payments will be made via FACTS and are due by May 2, 2026.

Course Descriptions

Business Courses

INTRODUCTION TO 21ST CENTURY TECHNOLOGY

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 9

Prerequisite: None

This introductory course develops students' abilities to analyze, evaluate, and reflect upon technologies such as computer hardware, computer software, networking, and security. The concepts taught are fundamentals of programming, computational thinking skills, and reflection on the impact of computing on society. Formatting of suite of sheets, docs and slides in MLA formatting is included in the course. Digital citizenship is studied through examining cultural, social, ethical, and legal issues associated with information technology in the 21st century.

DIGITAL DESIGN FOUNDATIONS

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: 21st Century Technology

This course teaches the steps in the digital design process, an introduction to iPad design applications, and how to design work for clients. The iPad applications include the Adobe apps: Draw, Sketch, Fresco, Photoshop, and Spark Video. The course includes design, editing, and production skills in these graphic arts programs. **This course fulfills the second technology credit.*

FOUNDATIONS OF STEAM

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: 21st Century Technology

This introductory course teaches concepts in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) and will apply the design thinking process to investigate open-ended problems. Tech skills will focus on parametric modeling, circuitry, architectural design, and 3D printing. **This course fulfills the second technology credit.*

AP[®] COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES I

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: 21st Century Technology, Algebra I

AP Computer Science Principles introduces students to the field of computer science. This course, designs and evaluates solutions and applies computer science to solve problems through the development of algorithms and programs. The course incorporates abstraction into programs and uses data to discover new knowledge. The course explains how computing innovations and computing systems, work, explore their potential impacts, and contribute to a computing culture that is collaborative and ethical. *All students enrolled in this course are required to take the AP[®] Computer Science Principles Exam. *This course fulfills the second technology credit.*

PERSONAL FINANCE

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit
Class Standing: 11-12
Prerequisite: None

This course is a basic introduction to the business world. Students learn to understand their role as a consumer in the economy while studying various business theories and practices, including: saving, investing, credit, debt, money management, and being financially responsible. **Either Economics or Personal Finance fulfills the Financial Literacy graduation requirement.*

ACCOUNTING I

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit
Class Standing: 10-12
Prerequisite: None

This course teaches basic accounting principles for a business. The basic accounting cycle is covered, which includes: the accounting equation, simple transactions, recording and posting transactions, payroll, and working with financial worksheets. Any student interested in pursuing a career in business should take this course.

ACCOUNTING II

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit
Class Standing: 10-12
Prerequisite: Accounting I

This course teaches basic accounting principles for running a merchandising corporation. Special journals, subsidiary ledgers, and all financial statements are studied. Any student interested in pursuing a career in business and furthering their knowledge of accounting should take this course.

Career Development Courses

CAREERS IN HEALTH SCIENCE I

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit
Class standing: 9-12
Prerequisite: None

This course introduces career opportunities and related skills in the health sciences. It is designed to give an overview of the therapeutic services, diagnostic services, support services, biotechnology research and development and health informatics pathways. The course focuses on exploring health science pathways and careers, employability skills, ethical and legal responsibilities, safety practices and technical skills, and the history and current healthcare trends.

CAREERS IN HEALTH SCIENCE II

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit
Class standing: 9-12
Prerequisite: Careers in Health Science I

This course provides a more in-depth exploration of personal interests within healthcare as well as a deeper analysis of the healthcare system overall. The course will include demonstrating workplace skills in a health science professional setting or educational facility. Instruction includes health literacy, introduction to organization of the body, medical terminology and medical math, analysis, and application of emergency and technical skills, as well as a deeper analysis of legal and ethical issues within healthcare.

MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY I (HIMS 1120)—online through MCC

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit
Class standing: 9-12
Prerequisite: None

This course emphasizes understanding of medical vocabulary and establishes a solid foundation of medical terms and symbols, prefixes, suffixes, word roots and abbreviations. Students will have one period built into their Mercy schedule to complete the work for this MCC course and will earn college credit from Metropolitan Community College through the Kickstart program.

MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY II (HIMS 1130)—online through MCC

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit
Class standing: 9-12
Prerequisite: Passing grade in Medical Terminology I

This course builds on HIMS 1120 (Medical Terminology I) to present additional body systems, specialty medical areas, clinical procedures, medical terms and abbreviations. Students will have one period built into their Mercy schedule to complete the work for this MCC course and will earn college credit from Metropolitan Community College through the Kickstart program.

NURSING ASSISTANT & LAB (CNA)

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit (Semester 2)

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: Student must be 16 by May 1.

This course prepares the student to perform the duties of a Certified Nursing Assistant. Coursework will be taught online with practical skills taught during class time at Mercy. Students will complete the state-written and skills testing, as well as a clinical experience in May of 2027, which may require time outside of Mercy. This is not a dual enrollment course and will not result in college credit. Students will be required to be up-to-date on vaccinations, including COVID-19 and influenza. There is a course fee of around \$300, plus books and supplies costing approximately \$100. All students registering for the Nursing Assistant class must also register for the Nursing Assistant Lab course which will meet three days per week.

INTRODUCTION TO EDUCATION

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: None

This dual-enrolled course is an introduction to career opportunities and related skills in the education and training career field, including teaching and professional education training. Topics explored will be related to the history of education, philosophy of education, roles of educators, instructional and assessment methods, diversity of cultures and communities related to educational settings, and learner development. **This course requires field experience.*

English Courses

ENGLISH 9

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 9

Prerequisite: None

This course involves reading and interpreting literature related to our place in the global world. The course covers a balance of contemporary and classic literature (drama, non-fiction, and fiction) that encourages inferences and reflection on participation as global citizens. The course develops writing, reading, listening, viewing, and study skills. A particular emphasis is placed on understanding of literary terms and devices. Some books students read are *The House on Mango Street*, and *Maus*.

HONORS ENGLISH 9

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 9

Prerequisite: Placement from school administration

This course engages in an accelerated and intensive study of the English 9 curriculum. Additional reading of challenging texts beyond those taught in English 9 is also included. Independent reading assignments may also be required.

ENGLISH 10

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 10

Prerequisite: English 9

This course is a survey of world literature that builds on the language arts curriculum established in the ninth grade. This course involves reading and interpreting literature to develop an appreciation for and understanding of ideas and experiences from around the world. Through the lens of cultural encounters, students read a balance of contemporary and classic works (drama, novels, poetry, non-fiction and short stories) that encourages the examination of multiple points of view. The course develops the following skills: effective writing, critical thinking, attentive reading, and engaging presentation. A particular emphasis is placed on the hero's journey.

HONORS ENGLISH 10

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 10

Prerequisite: B+ in Honors English 9 or A in English 9 and teacher placement

This course engages in an accelerated and intensive study of the English 10 curriculum. Additional reading of challenging texts beyond those taught in English 10 is also included. Independent reading assignments may also be required.

ENGLISH 11

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 11

Prerequisite: English 10

This course involves reading and interpreting the varied literature of the United States. Also explored is the American identity in the context of a multicultural society, studying canonical pieces as well as new and rediscovered voices. This course analyzes literature (e.g. drama, novels, poetry, non-fiction, and short stories) and produces writings as vehicles to explore social, historical, economic, political, and artistic issues. The course centers on the refinement of expository writing skills with a particular emphasis placed on writing literary analyses.

ENGLISH 12

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 12

Prerequisite: English 11

This course involves reading and interpreting the varied literature of the United Kingdom. This course analyzes literature (e.g. drama, novels, poetry, and non-fiction) and produces writing as vehicles to explore social, historical, economic, political, and artistic issues. A particular emphasis is placed on understanding of the development of the English language and the complex thought patterns embedded in its literary history, as well as many critical reading and thinking strategies to use in post-secondary scholarship.

AP® ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 11

Prerequisite: B+ in Honors English 10 or A in English 10 plus strong standardized test scores, on-demand writing assessment, and teacher placement

This course focuses on the development and revision of evidence-based analytic and argumentative writing, the rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts, and the decisions writers make as they compose and revise. This class will evaluate, synthesize and cite research to support arguments. Additional reading and analyzing rhetorical elements and their effect on nonfiction texts, including images as forms of text from a range of disciplines and historical periods, will be included. *All students enrolled in this course are required to take the AP® English Language and Composition Exam.*

AP® ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 12

Prerequisite: B+ in AP® Language and Composition or A in Honors English 11 plus strong standardized test scores, on-demand writing assessment, and teacher placement

This course focuses on reading, analyzing, and writing about imaginative literature from various periods. This course engages in close reading and critical analysis to deepen understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. Writing assignments include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that require students to analyze and interpret literary works. *All students enrolled in this course are required to take the AP® English Literature and Composition Exam.*

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 10-12 (Graduation requirement for Classes of 2027, 2028 & 2029)

Prerequisite: None

This course is a survey of basic principles, components, and skills in effective speaking and listening. The course includes a variety of public speaking forms, including personal, informative, and persuasive speeches. Students also create podcasts, spoken word-poetry, and stand-up sets to perform.

GREEK TRAGEDY (zero hour)

Term: 1 semester, 1 credit

Class standing: 11-12

Students will read, discuss, and analyze Greek tragic drama over the course of the semester. Titles may include *Oedipus Rex*, *Prometheus Bound*, *Medea*, and *Agamemnon*. Students will gain a deep understanding of Ancient Greek dramatic literature and the tragic hero.

LITERATURE IN FILM (zero hour)

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: English 10 or Honors English 10

This elective course studies the translation of various literary works into the genre of film. Emphasis is placed on illustrating that theme, characterization, motif, mood, and plot are concepts that apply to film as well as literature. Class time is devoted to film-watching, discussion, and analysis. On occasion, students may be asked to view some films outside of class.

YEARBOOK

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit (Students may take this course for a full year for 2 credits.)

Class Standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: Incoming Freshmen must have been in Honors English or have an A In English (8th Grade) or a B or higher in English for grades 10-12

This course is designed to provide journalism skills and the ability to apply those skills to the production of the Monarch Memories yearbook. Units of study include teamwork, journalistic and ethical responsibility, brainstorming, content, coverage, concept, reporting, writing, headlines, captions, editing, photography, typography, design, graphics, finances, yearbook campaigns, advertising and distribution, and careers. **Completing the second semester of this course fulfills the second technology credit.*

Fine & Performing Arts

Art Courses

INTRO TO ART

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

This course presents basic elements of art and design. During the first semester, special emphasis is placed on understanding how the brain functions in a creative process and learning various drawing strategies and techniques. The course will expand into color theory and explore a variety of media and techniques, including painting, pastels, printmaking, ceramics, and glass fusing. Technology, art appreciation, and art history are woven throughout the course.

DRAWING & PAINTING

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: B in Intro to Art

This course concentrates efforts on large-scale works in the area of drawing and painting. Projects are broader by design and allow for multiple creative solutions. Some of the media and advanced techniques covered include charcoal, pastels, watercolors, intaglio printmaking, acrylic, and oil.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: B in Digital Design Foundations

This course concentrates on the foundational skills of graphic design with emphasis on written and visual communication, advertising, marketing, and creating art for a "client." Areas explored include the Principles of Gestalt, generating ideas and concepts, visual problem solving, typography, logos, page layout, and package design. Through the course, hand-drawn design work eventually merges with computer-aided design using Adobe software. **This course fulfills the second technology credit or a fine arts credit.*

3D DESIGN

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: Intro to Art

This course explores creative avenues of constructing three-dimensional forms as well as design applications. Traditional and non-traditional sculptural materials are utilized including found objects, 3D printing, ceramics, and glass fusing. Learning to throw on the potter's wheel and constructing large-scale glass projects are included in this class. This course also incorporates art history and critiques with each unit of study. *(This course is offered alternating years. The next offering is 2027-2028.)*

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: None

This course covers the fundamentals of photography, including camera operations, composition, digital optimizing, critiquing, and photography history. Beginning projects are technical studies and then evolve to creative problem-solving. The course is based on digital photography but also covers a brief overview of black and white film photography and darkroom techniques. A digital camera with manual mode is required for the course. Photo shoots are conducted inside and outside of class time. Photoshop will be utilized throughout the course. *(This course is offered alternating years. The next offering is 2026-2027.)*

ADVANCED DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: B+ in Digital Photography

This course allows more time to solidify understanding of aperture, shutter speed, and ISO through advanced digital projects. Projects will challenge creativity, storytelling, and technical skills. Adobe Photoshop will be utilized for advanced photo editing and manipulation. Students will need to provide their own digital camera with manual mode (same as the camera required for Digital Photography).

HONORS ART

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 12

Prerequisite: B or higher in two Art courses, application and teacher approval

This course is designed for students who intend to go into the field of art or for those with a strong interest in art. Students design self-directed projects through quarterly contracts. Additionally, a few teacher-directed assignments are given each quarter to expand on advanced art topics. Work is expected to be high in quality, concept, and creativity. Students develop artist statements to support and define each of their creations. The capstone of this class is the gallery of work each student will display in the spring Senior Show.

Dance Courses

INTRO TO DANCE

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

This course is ideal for students with less than two years of previous dance experience. This class explores the basics and develops the building blocks for multiple dance styles, including Ballet, Modern, Hip-Hop and Jazz. The course explores the vocabulary used in the different dance techniques and the different styles of ballet through a project. The class will learn about dance history through research about important figures in the dance world and begin to create a unique dance piece. This course will participate in a performance at the end of the semester. Dance shoes are required.

INTERMEDIATE DANCE

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: B in Intro to Dance or approved through an audition.

This course is ideal for students who have completed Intro to Dance or have one to three years of dance experience. This course explores and refines choreography specifically for the spring concert. The course also delves into dance history, dance technique vocabulary, and master works. The course focuses on creating a unique choreography project and submitting work for the spring performance. Dance performances outside of class are required. Dance shoes are required.

ADVANCED DANCE

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: B+ in Dance I or placement through an audition.

This year-long intermediate to advanced dance course is designed for students with three or more years of dance experience. The course develops and refines technique in Ballet, Modern, Jazz, and Hip Hop, while also exploring Pilates and yoga as forms of cross-training. Coursework includes the study of dance history, world dance, dance in media and technology, choreography, and dance beyond high school through projects and presentations. The course also provides several opportunities for student choreography and the presentation of original works. Dance performances outside of class are required. Dance shoes are required. **This course can be repeated for elective credit.*

Music Courses

BEGINNING PIANO

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

This course develops piano performance skills alongside the music theory essential for creating and understanding music. Students learn through a diverse repertoire representing a variety of styles and genres, with ongoing emphasis on music appreciation and theory-based piano study.

MERCY HIGH SINGERS

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

This ensemble is the premier performing choir for Mercy High School, serving as musical ambassadors to the community. Diverse music styles are utilized to broaden abilities in the fundamentals and theory of music; advanced vocal technique and singing in two, three, and four-part harmonies; as well as solo singing. This choir performs at the Christmas and Spring Concerts, District Music Contest, various community engagements, and Mercy functions. **This course can be repeated for elective credit.*

Theatre Courses

INTRO TO THEATRE

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

This course focuses on fundamentals of acting and working in an ensemble environment. This course emphasizes ensemble building, scene work, monologues, and looking at how theatre as a whole promotes the Sisters of Mercy's critical concerns.

INTERMEDIATE THEATRE

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: Intro to Theatre and instructor approval

This course is a continuation of the study of theatre for those seeking deeper understanding following completion of Intro to Theatre or for those who have shown interest in further exploring theatre artistry. The course will involve a more intensive exploration of both performance and technical theatre while continuing the study of theatre history begun in Intro to Theatre.

Math Courses

GENERAL MATH

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 9

Prerequisite: Placement by school administration

This course develops and strengthens needed skills to lay the foundation for success in further high school algebra and geometry coursework. This course improves computational skills and introduces beginning algebra and geometry concepts.

DIRECTED ALGEBRA I AND LAB

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Frequency: 10 times per week (2 periods/day)

Class Standing: 9-10

Prerequisite: Placement by school administration or General Math

Corequisite: Directed Algebra Lab

This course studies real, rational, and irrational numbers and variables. The course involves graphing linear, quadratic, and exponential equations, as well as linear inequalities and systems. Appropriate tools and technology for solving real-world application problems will be integrated into the course. This course meets for two class periods every day, so students must also register for the Directed Algebra I lab.

ALGEBRA I

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 9-10

Prerequisite: Placement by school administration or B+ in General Math

This course studies real, rational, and irrational numbers and variables. This course involves solving and graphing linear, quadratic, and exponential equations, as well as linear inequalities and systems. Appropriate tools and technology for solving real-world application problems will be integrated into the course.

HONORS FRESHMAN GEOMETRY

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 9

Prerequisite: Placement by school administration

This course combines a thorough, fast-paced review of first-year Algebra skills and an accelerated version of the Geometry course. From an algebraic perspective, the course will study systems of linear equations and inequalities, exponential and quadratic functions. Geometry is the branch of mathematics that studies the characteristics, measurements, and relationships of objects in space. This course furthers the development of reasoning and spatial thinking skills through the study of several types of formal proof. Logic patterns, data analysis, and coordinate geometry will be emphasized.

CONCEPTUAL GEOMETRY

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: Directed Algebra I or Algebra I and teacher placement

This course studies properties, measurement, and relationships of points, lines, angles, surfaces, an introduction to proof, and solids. This course furthers the development of reasoning and spatial thinking skills. There will be emphasis on application problems and strengthening arithmetic and algebra skills.

GEOMETRY

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: C- in Algebra I, B+ in Directed Algebra I, and teacher placement

This branch of mathematics studies properties, measurement, and relationships of points, lines, angles, surfaces, and solids. In this course, students will further the development of their reasoning and spatial thinking skills through several types of formal proof. Logic patterns, data analysis, and coordinate geometry will be studied.

INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: Conceptual Geometry or Geometry and teacher placement

This course will review and expand on algebra skills and concepts learned in previous math courses. This class will focus on operations on real number expressions; solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities; absolute value equations and inequalities; polynomial functions and factoring; exponents; square roots; and systems of linear equations and inequalities including applications.

ALGEBRA II

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: C- in Geometry and Algebra I, or a B+ in Conceptual Geometry with a B+ in Directed Algebra I, and teacher placement

This course is an extension of Algebra I. This class includes working with real and complex numbers, linear equations, inequalities, matrices, various functions and graphs, rational functions, logarithms, probability, and statistics. Graphing calculator (TI-83 or TI-84) required.

HONORS ALGEBRA II

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 10-11

Prerequisite: C+- in Honors Freshman Geometry or B+ in Geometry with an B+ in Algebra I and teacher placement

This course is an extension of Algebra I and Geometry and moves at an accelerated pace. This class includes working with real and complex numbers, linear equations, inequalities, matrices, various functions and graphs, rational functions, and logarithms. Application of the content will be addressed throughout the course. Graphing calculator (TI-83 or TI-84) required.

INTRO TO TRIGONOMETRY

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 12

Prerequisite: Algebra II

This course is the study of the properties of triangles, trigonometric functions, and their properties. This course will focus mainly on trigonometry functions, radians, the unit circle and trigonometry identities. Graphing calculator (TI-83 or TI-84) required.

INTRO TO STATISTICS

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 12

Prerequisite: Algebra II

This course studies the collection, organization, and interpretation of numerical data. This course will focus on averages and variation; regression and correlation; binomial probability distribution; normal distributions; and estimation. Graphing calculator (TI-83 or TI-84) required.

PRE-CALCULUS

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: Honors Algebra II, C in Algebra II

This course will study functions: their definitions, equations, graphs, inverses, composition, and applications. Linear, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions are studied in depth, laying the groundwork for the study of calculus. Graphing calculator (TI-83 or TI-84) required.

HONORS PRE-CALCULUS

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: C+ in Honors Algebra II or A- in Algebra II

This course will study functions at an accelerated pace and begin the study of calculus. This course will focus on functions: their definitions, equations, graphs, inverses, composition, and applications. Linear, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions are studied in depth. Students will also study calculus concepts such as techniques of limits and differentiation. Graphing calculator (TI-83 or TI-84) required.

AP® STATISTICS

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: Honors Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Honors Pre-Calculus, or B+ in Algebra II

This dual-enrolled course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. There are four themes evident in the content, skills, and assessment in the AP Statistics course: exploring data, sampling and experimentation, probability and simulation, and statistical inference. Students use technology, investigations, problem solving, and writing as they build conceptual understanding. Graphing calculator (TI-83 or TI-84) required. *All students enrolled in this course are required to take the AP® Statistics Exam if not dual-enrolled.*

AP® CALCULUS AB

Term: 1 Year 2 Credits

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: C+ in Honors Pre-Calculus or an A- in Pre-Calculus and department approval

This dual-enrolled course focuses on understanding of calculus concepts and provides experience with methods and applications. The course uses definitions and theorems to build arguments and justify conclusions. The course features a multi-representational approach to calculus, with concepts, results, and problems expressed graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. Exploring connections among these representations builds understanding of how calculus applies limits to develop important ideas, definitions, formulas, and theorems. A sustained emphasis on clear communication of methods, reasoning, justifications, and conclusions is essential. Technology is used to reinforce relationships among functions, to confirm written work, to implement experimentation, and to assist in interpreting results. Graphing calculator (TI-83 or TI-84) required. *All students enrolled in this course are required to take the AP® Calculus AB Exam if not dual-enrolled.*

Physical Education Courses

PHYSICAL EDUCATION I

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

This course provides the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive program that consists of skill development, lead-up games, and team sports. The course provides instruction in rules, skills, and strategies associated with the different sports. The class will promote the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play, and friendly competition.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION II

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: P.E. I

This course is designed to teach and introduce different sports and activities that may carry into later years. The goal of this class is to instill the importance of physical activity as students continue to grow as teenagers as well as into their adult years. This goal will be accomplished with continued participation in different sports, skills, and activities throughout their lives.

STRENGTH TRAINING (available during zero hour or the school day)

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: P.E. II

This elective course improves muscular strength and endurance through a variety of strength training techniques including resistance bands, free weights, and selectorized machines. This course also studies the concepts of strength training and conditioning. **This course can be repeated for elective credit.*

BACKYARD GAMES

Term: 1 Semester; ½ Credit

Frequency: 3 times per week

Class Standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: P.E. I

This course emphasizes the enjoyment of gameplay while minimizing competitive stress. Games will include: Corn Hole, Yard Yahtzee, Ring Toss, 4 Square variations and Yard Pong, to name a few. Workouts will be incorporated into the games.

DANCE FITNESS

Term: 1 Semester; ½ Credit

Frequency: 3 times per week

Class Standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Dance Fitness is a group exercise class that will incorporate many forms of dance. It is an aerobic workout divided into different tracks that provide peaks and troughs of intensity. The overall intensity of the class varies depending on the style you are doing. This course explores Yoga, Pilates, Zumba, Barre, and Hip Hop.

HEALTH

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 9-10

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to explore current health issues, evaluate personal attitudes towards health-related matters, and make informed decisions about choosing health-enhancing behaviors. This course also includes completing the Heart Association CPR/First Aid certification program.

Science Courses

CONCEPTUAL BIOLOGY

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 9

Prerequisite: Placement by school administration

This is a general introduction to the life sciences with a slight emphasis on biochemistry. The main concepts of ecology, cell structure and function, energy acquisition and transfer, reproduction, genetics, evolution and diversity, and classification of life forms are studied. Microscope usage and laboratory activities will be incorporated in the course.

BIOLOGY

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 9

Prerequisite: Placement by school administration

This course is a general introduction to the life sciences. The main concepts of ecology, cell structure and function, energy acquisition and transfer, reproduction, genetics, evolution, and the diversity and classification of life forms are studied. Microscope usage and laboratory activities will be incorporated in the course.

HONORS BIOLOGY

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 9

Prerequisite: Placement by school administration

This class is for students who have a deep interest in and solid understanding of science. This course includes the study of ecology, cell structure and function, energy acquisition and transfer, mitosis, meiosis, genetics, evolution, and the diversity and classification of life forms. These topics are studied in depth and at a fast pace. Microscope usage and laboratory activities will be incorporated in the course.

INTEGRATED SCIENCE

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 10

Prerequisite: Conceptual Biology

This course provides the foundation needed in future science courses. It will provide an overview of chemistry, physics, and anatomy and physiology through lectures, labs, and the use of technology. During the anatomy and physiology unit, the 11 systems of the human body are examined. Main and support organs' forms and functions will be discussed. Topics covered in the physics unit will include: thermal energy, heat transfer, light, and properties of waves. The chemistry unit will cover the basics of the atom, the periodic table, physical and chemical properties, mixtures, and reactions.

CONCEPTUAL CHEMISTRY

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: Conceptual Biology & Integrated Science

This course combines the core concepts of chemistry with societal issues. The course will cover basic mole concepts, atomic structure and bonding, and balancing equations. Activities, online research, lab investigations, and virtual labs allow exploration of how chemistry relates to supplying our water needs, conserving chemical resources, petroleum, understanding food composition, air, climate, and health. A variety of student decision-making activities encourages small group learning and cooperation to prepare students for effective citizenship. The course will cover lab techniques and an understanding of chemistry models.

CHEMISTRY

Term: 1 Year; 2 credits

Class Standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: Biology and teacher placement

The study topics for this course include the metric system, atomic structure, electron structure, the development of the periodic table, chemical bonding, formulas, and reactions. The course will also include mole concepts, stoichiometry, gas laws, solids, liquids, and analyze solutions. Work includes experiments, research papers, projects, and demonstrations. Lab techniques are stressed throughout the course.

HONORS CHEMISTRY

Term: 1 Year; 2 credits

Class Standing: 10

Prerequisite: Biology or Honors Biology and teacher placement

This course is for students who have a deep interest in and solid understanding of science. The study topics include: properties of matter, scientific measurement, atomic structure, electron configuration, the periodic table and its trends, chemical bonding, chemical nomenclature, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, states of matter, gases, solution chemistry, and thermochemistry. Work includes experiments, projects, research papers, and demonstrations. Lab techniques are stressed throughout the course and topics are studied in depth.

HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY I

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: C in Honors Biology, B in Biology or A in Conceptual Biology

This is a challenging and demanding in-depth course on the human body. It is recommended for anyone considering the healthcare professions as well as for students who want to learn more about their own bodies. Systems covered include: skeletal, digestive, male reproductive, female reproductive, and standard directional terms, cavities, and membranes. Diseases/disorders that affect the body systems being studied are also discussed. Dissection is required.

HUMAN ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY II

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: Anatomy & Physiology I

This course is a continuation of Human Anatomy & Physiology I. Human body systems studied include cardiovascular, muscular, integumentary, and blood along with associated diseases and disorders.

CONCEPTUAL PHYSICS

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: Conceptual Chemistry

This course provides conceptually based exposure to the fundamental principles and processes of the physical world. Topics include basic concepts of motion, forces, energy, heat, electricity, magnetism, and the structure of matter and the universe. The course will include examples and applications of the principles studied. Laboratory experiments and computer-based exercises enhance and consolidate the understanding of basic physical principles and applications.

PHYSICS

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: Chemistry or Honors Chemistry

Physics is the study of motion, the forces that cause motion, and the various forms of energy associated including sounds, light, and electricity. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving and using problems to expand understanding of the principles of physics. Because the language of physics is essentially mathematics, a working knowledge of algebra, geometry, and basic trigonometry is suggested for this course. Various activities will be performed to examine these physical phenomena through computer simulations or experiments performed in the classroom.

PRINCIPLES OF GEOLOGY

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 11-12

This is an introductory course that studies the forces that shape planet Earth including volcanoes, earthquakes, plate tectonics, streams, groundwater, glaciers, waves, wind and weather.

ECOLOGY

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 11-12

Ecology will study the interactions of living things with each other and their environment. Topics of study include: earth as a dynamic system; nutrient cycling; structure and functioning of ecosystems; species interactions and the effect on populations; biodiversity and extinction; environmental policy; and ecosystem health.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: C+ in prior science courses. Ecology students given preference but Ecology not required

This course delves into environmental law and the impacts of these laws on ecosystems and people. Socratic-style discussions, debates, research and presentations will apply real-life scenarios to proposed solutions and legislation.

AP® BIOLOGY

Term: 1 Year, 2 Credits

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: A in Biology or Honors Biology, strong standardized test scores and Department Approval

AP Biology is an introductory college-level biology course. The course cultivates understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations through the exploration of the following topics: evolution, cellular processes, energy and communication, genetic information transfer, ecology, and interactions. Instructional time will be spent in hands-on laboratory work, with an emphasis on inquiry-based investigations that provide opportunities to apply the science practices. Inquiry-based laboratory experiences provide engagement in the science through designing plans for experiments, making predictions, collecting and analyzing data, applying mathematical routines, developing explanations, and communicating findings. *All students enrolled in this course are required to take the AP® Biology Exam if not dual enrolled. (This course is offered in alternating years. Next offering is 2027-2028.)*

AP® CHEMISTRY

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: A in Chemistry or Honors Chemistry, strong standardized test scores and department approval

Corequisite: AP® Chemistry Lab

The AP Chemistry course provides students with a college-level foundation to support future advanced coursework in chemistry. The course cultivates understanding of chemistry through inquiry-based investigations, while exploring content such as: atomic structure and properties, compound structure and properties, properties of substances and mixtures, chemical reactions, kinetics, thermochemistry, equilibrium, acids and bases and thermodynamics and electrochemistry. *All students enrolled in this course are required to take the AP® Chemistry Exam. (This course is offered in alternating years. Next offering is 2026-2027.)*

AP® CHEMISTRY LAB

Term: 1 Year; 0 Credits

Frequency: 2 times per week

Class Standing: 11-12

Corequisite: AP® Chemistry

Instructional time is spent in hands-on laboratory work, with an emphasis on inquiry-based investigations that provide opportunities to demonstrate the foundational chemistry principles and apply the science practices. This includes a minimum of 16 hands-on labs (at least six of which are inquiry-based). Inquiry-based laboratory experiences provide opportunities for students to engage in the science practices as they design plans for experiments, make predictions, collect and analyze data, apply mathematical routines, develop explanations, and communicate about their work.

Social Studies Courses

WORLD HISTORY

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 10

Prerequisite: None

This course will provide an understanding and an appreciation of the diverse history and multitude of cultures in the world. The course will cover the beginning of civilizations across the globe, the origins of the world's major religious traditions, the formation of powerful empires, the significant changes in technology, and the impact leaders and cultures have had on the world.

HONORS WORLD HISTORY

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 10

Prerequisite: A- in English 9 or C+ in Honors English 9

This course is a more rigorous version of World History, designed to follow the same content areas and address the same enduring understandings and essential questions of the standard course offering. The honors component, however, will demand higher standards and expectations with greater emphasis placed on developing advanced reading, writing, analytical, and communication skills. The course will utilize more primary sources, maps, and images to evaluate societies around the world throughout human history.

U.S. HISTORY

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 11

Prerequisite: None

This course includes learning and evaluating fundamental ideals and events concerning the history of the United States. The class will study the formation of American society, the role of America in world affairs, the economic conditions of U.S. regions, and the social movements that impacted American society. The course will utilize a variety of resources including primary sources and secondary sources, images, videos, maps, and charts to critically consider events of the past.

AP® U.S. HISTORY

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 11

Prerequisite: A- in World History or C+ in Honors World History

AP U.S. History is an introductory college-level U.S. history course. The course will cultivate understanding of U.S. history from c. 1491 CE to the present through analyzing historical sources making connections and crafting historical arguments while exploring concepts like American and national identity; work, exchange, and technology; geography and the environment; migration and settlement; politics and power; America in the world; American and regional culture; and social structures. *All students enrolled in this course are required to take the AP® U.S. History Exam.*

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 12

Prerequisite: None

This course provides students with a background in the philosophy, functions, and structure of the United States government and democratic process. The course will investigate the rights, responsibilities, and duties of American citizenship at the national, state, and local levels.

AP® U.S. GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 12

Prerequisite: A- in U.S. History or C+ in AP® U.S. History.

AP U.S. Government and Politics is an introductory college-level course in U.S. government and politics. The course cultivates understanding of U.S. government and politics through analysis of data and text-based sources and the exploration of topics like constitutionalism, liberty and order, civic participation in a representative democracy, competing policy-making interests, and methods of political analysis. *All students enrolled in this course are required to take the AP® U.S. Government & Politics Exam.*

ECONOMICS

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 12

Prerequisite: None

This course aims to provide students with theoretical and functional knowledge in economics, to assist in becoming informed consumers, producers, and citizens in today's world. The role of individuals, businesses, and government are all examined. The course will analyze major concepts of free enterprise capitalism, free markets, command systems, and developing markets. Other topics include the study of scarcity, supply and demand, the development of currency, and personal finance. **Either Personal Finance or Economics fulfills the Financial Literacy graduation requirement.*

INTRO TO PSYCHOLOGY

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: None

This course introduces students to the scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. The class covers topics such as human development, learning, personality, social behavior, and mental health. The course will explore how psychologists conduct research, analyze data, and apply findings to real-life situations. *(This course is offered alternating years. The next offering is 2026-2027.)*

AP® PSYCHOLOGY

Term: 1 Year: 2 Credits

Class standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: minimum C+ or currently enrolled in Anatomy and Physiology or AP® Biology

AP Psychology introduces the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the studies that have shaped the field, the course explores and applies psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with major units of study, including biological bases of behavior, cognition, development, learning, social psychology, personality, and mental and physical health. Throughout the course, an emphasis will be placed on the application of psychological concepts and psychological research methods and data interpretation to evaluate claims, consider evidence, and effectively communicate ideas. *All students enrolled in this course are required to take the AP® Psychology Exam.*

STREET LAW

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: None

This course incorporates discussion of civil, criminal, and consumer laws and responsibilities. Discussion of the roles of lawyers, policemen, and citizens in the court system will be included. The course will debate controversial cases and how they impact our society. Incorporated into the class will be opportunities to participate in role-playing activities, listen to speakers, and visit a correctional facility. The course will develop knowledge of individual rights as a citizen and how to protect them. *(This course is offered alternating years. The next offering is 2027-2028.)*

Theology Courses

THEOLOGY 9

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 9

Prerequisite: None

The purpose of this course is to provide general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. This course will help students encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. The course will look at the ways God has been revealed and, most specifically, how Jesus Christ is the most complete revelation of God. Exploring the Gospels and their vital messages will aid in a deeper understanding of guidelines for living a Christian life. The course will also explore the mystery of Jesus Christ. In learning about who He is, the course will also reflect on who He calls us to be.

THEOLOGY 10

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 10

Prerequisite: None

This course explores the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ and how Jesus' mission was and is carried out in His church. The class will delve into the promise of the Messiah and how we are redeemed through the Paschal Mystery. This course will also analyze how Christ established the church by exploring the history of the Catholic Church. Exploration of the many images of the church and the Marks of the Church will also happen in this course.

THEOLOGY 11

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 11

Prerequisite: None

This course focuses on the sacramental nature of the church and the seven official sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church. Time will be spent reflecting on our moral life and our call as Christians to respond like Jesus Christ to situations, issues, and decisions. The course will encourage looking to the example and teachings of Jesus as a moral guide. The course also discusses the reality of sin and its effects on our community and relationships with God. Special attention will be given to a modern interpretation of the Ten Commandments.

THEOLOGY 12

Term: 1 Semester, 1 Credit

Class Standing: 12

Prerequisite: None

This course explores the rich tradition of Catholic Social Teaching through an in-depth study of official Church documents, Scripture, modern social theories, and current societal/global issues. The purpose of the class is to engage in critical analysis of the social structures of the world that lead to injustice. Special attention will be given to the "Five Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy".

Theology Electives

GOSPELS IN MEDIA I

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: none

This course is designed to help students utilize the TV series *The Chosen* to grow in faith, relationship with Jesus, and strength in character to evangelize as a disciple after graduation. This discussion-based course enhances students' understanding of the humanity of Jesus, through the study of ancient Judaism-- its customs, culture, tradition, and place in the Roman Empire. Emphasis will be placed on studying the lives of the Apostles and their role in emphasizing Jesus' ministry as the Messiah and the foundation of Christianity.

GOSPELS IN MEDIA II (zero hour)

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: Gospels in Media I

This course is designed to help students utilize both Scripture and the TV series *The Chosen* to grow in faith, relationship with Jesus, and strength in character to evangelize as a disciple after graduation. Students will dive deeper into their faith and understanding of Christ through detailed reading of both the Old and New Testament, and then critically analyze episodes of *The Chosen*. Emphasis will be placed on Jesus as the fulfillment of the Hebrew scriptures and what it means for the Church then and now.

HER-STORY: WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: B+ in a previous Theology class and previous English class plus department approval

In this dual credit course, time will be spent studying Biblical women and female saints. Another topic will be an investigation of modern influential Christian women and an analysis of issues facing women in the world. Time is also spent articulating a Christian response to world problems when it comes to women. (*This course is offered alternating years. The next offering is 2027-2028.*)

PRAYER AND LOSS

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 12

Prerequisite: None

This class is designed for students to learn about and experience different styles of prayer. It will highlight the importance of relying on prayer during times of need. The process of grief will be explored in the context of the Paschal Mystery. Class discussion is important in this class, giving students time to process life's challenges.

SOCIAL JUSTICE PLUS

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: None

This unique class is designed to provide the opportunity to participate in an ongoing service project. While answering God's call to service, the course will provide opportunities in a classroom setting to process everything in the theology curriculum. As a class, time will be spent analyzing social justice issues while formulating plans to help solve world issues. This class also ties with the Sisters of Mercy commitment to service charism. **This course requires students to complete 30 hours of service, extending the school day, on service days.**

THEOLOGY AND THE ARTS (available during zero hour or the school day)

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: B+ in a previous Theology class

This dual credit course will delve into the theological meaning and symbolism found in art, literature, film, and music. This multi-media course will tap into creative talents and come to a deeper understanding of Christian themes and messages referred to in the arts. *(This course is offered alternating years. Next offering: 2026 -2027.)*

WORLD RELIGIONS

Term: 1 Semester; 1 Credit

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: B in a previous religion class

This dual credit course is designed to help understand the key elements of religion and compare the fundamental beliefs of Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and others with those of Christianity. This course will also focus on the beliefs and teachings that all religions hold in common and on the significant differences between Western and Eastern Religions. This course will stress a great appreciation for various cultures and religions across the globe. **Attendance at one outside of school event is required.*

World Languages Courses

American Sign Language I

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: Placement by the school administration

This course teaches American Sign Language (ASL) vocabulary and grammatical structures. ASL fingerspelling system, the use of gestural devices and how to appropriately use the signing space in ASL will also be included. The course will also cover deaf culture in the United States. Out-of-class participation in deaf community events may be required. **To complete college world language admissions requirements, students must complete American Sign Language II. This course is accepted by the University of Nebraska school system and Creighton University. If there is another college/university you are considering, you are encouraged to determine if this course satisfies their world language requirement.*

SPANISH I

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: Placement by the school administration

The goal of this course is to develop proficiency in the basic language skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and to create cultural awareness of daily Spanish life. Specifically, this course includes interacting in situations related to introductory conversations, school, family, hobbies, vacations, and shopping. In addition to language structure and vocabulary, lessons are focused on the culture of Spanish-speaking peoples around the globe.

SPANISH II

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: Spanish I

This course consists of a continued development of the skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing in Spanish with a study of more complex language structures and vocabulary. This course includes interacting in situations related to daily routines, food, celebrations, healthcare, technology, and residential life. The course develops a greater understanding of the products, practices, and perspectives of Spanish-speaking peoples around the globe.

SPANISH III

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: C- in Spanish II and teacher placement

This course reviews vocabulary and grammar presented in Spanish I and II in addition to facilitating proficiency with intermediate-advanced language structures. The course will continue to develop the fundamental language skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The course includes communicating primarily in Spanish and interacting in situations related to ecology, urban life, health and nutrition, professional careers, fine arts, and current social movements. The course uses Spanish to learn about and interact with the lives and concerns of Spanish-speaking peoples today, as well as to articulate their own hopes, desires, doubts, and future plans. Also included are short stories, poems, and essays by Spanish-speaking authors.

HONORS SPANISH III

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: C- in Spanish II and Teacher Placement

This dual-credit course reviews vocabulary and grammar presented in Spanish I and II in addition to facilitating proficiency with intermediate-advanced language structures. The course will continue to develop the fundamental language skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The course includes communicating primarily in Spanish and interacting in situations related to ecology, urban life, health and nutrition, professional careers, fine arts, and current social movements. The course facilitates learning about and interacting with the lives and concerns of Spanish-speaking peoples today, as well as articulating hopes, desires, doubts, and future plans. Also included are short stories, poems, and essays by Spanish-speaking authors. This course is dual-enrolled through the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Academic expectations are similar to a college-level class.

HONORS SPANISH IV

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 11-12

Prerequisite: B- in Honors Spanish III or Spanish for Spanish Speakers II

In this dual credit course previous study of vocabulary and language structure comes to fruition while utilizing proficiencies in speaking, listening, reading, and writing to engage in an in-depth study of the societies, cultures, and traditions of Spanish-speaking peoples around the globe. Course content and interactions are expected to be entirely in Spanish. The course includes content through media written by and for Spanish speakers including online media, traditional publications, literature, cinema, and social media. Themes of focus include families and communities, public and private identities, perceptions of beauty and creative expression, science and technology, contemporary life, and global challenges. This course is dual-enrolled through the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Academic expectations are similar to a college-level class.

HONORS SPANISH V

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 12

Prerequisite: B- in Honors Spanish IV

This dual-credit course focuses on literature and culture, providing a learning experience equivalent to that of an introductory college literature course. This course includes reading, discussing, and writing about Spanish literature from Spain, Latin America, and the United States. The overarching aims of this course are to provide ongoing and varied opportunities to further develop proficiencies across the full range of language skills, with special attention to critical reading and analytical writing, and to encourage reflection on the many voices and cultures included in the literature. This course is dual-enrolled through the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Academic expectations are similar to a college-level class.

SPANISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS I

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 9-12

Prerequisite: Must have a Spanish-speaking background.

This course will focus on the unique challenges faced by fluent Spanish speakers who may have difficulty reading and writing the language. It will involve an in-depth study of the intricacies of Spanish grammar and language structure, a study of Spanish language literature, as well as an investigation of the culture, history, and literature of Spanish-speaking peoples around the world. This course is taught exclusively in Spanish.

SPANISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS II

Term: 1 Year; 2 Credits

Class Standing: 10-12

Prerequisite: Spanish for Spanish Speakers I

This course will be an extension of what is learned in Spanish for Spanish Speakers I. The course will move beyond the technical aspects of grammar to a more focused study and appreciation of media and literature in the Spanish language, with particular attention paid to advanced writing and speaking abilities in Spanish. The course will discuss contemporary and historical themes that make up part of the Latin American experience.



PROFILE OF THE GRADUATE

CORE VALUE • STUDENT ATTRIBUTES



Compelled
By Mercy

Compassion. Having concern for the needs of all, including those outside our immediate circle.

Empathy. Putting yourself in someone else's shoes to understand their feelings and perspectives.

Responsibility to Serve. Fulfilling the duty to not just care about others, but to take action on their behalf.



Educational
Courage

Curiosity. Being open to other ways of seeing the world and exploring new ideas.

Personal Accountability. Staying disciplined in decision-making, proactive in correcting mistakes and self-motivated in our studies.

Critical Thinking. Gathering and objectively evaluating and analyzing information through reflection and reason.



Inspired
By Faith

Spirituality. Developing a personal relationship with a loving, merciful God, expressed in service and respecting other faiths.

Modeling of Jesus Christ & Catherine McAuley. Living life with abundant love, compassion, generosity and hospitality, demonstrating the strength of infinite mercy.

Ethical & Moral. Following a personal code based on Gospel values that guides action and choices.



Principled
Leadership

Integrity. Standing up for or doing what's right, including when it's difficult or unpopular.

Lifelong Learning. Always learning something new, gaining skills and wanting to know more, in all walks of life.

Emotional Intelligence. Recognizing and welcoming emotions within ourselves and others to build resilience and healthy relationships.



A Voice For
Dignity and
Respect

Grace. Allowing others to be fully human without judgment, while honoring what is God-like within each person.

Advocate. Being a forceful defender, supporter and sometimes spokesperson for the values and people we hold dear.

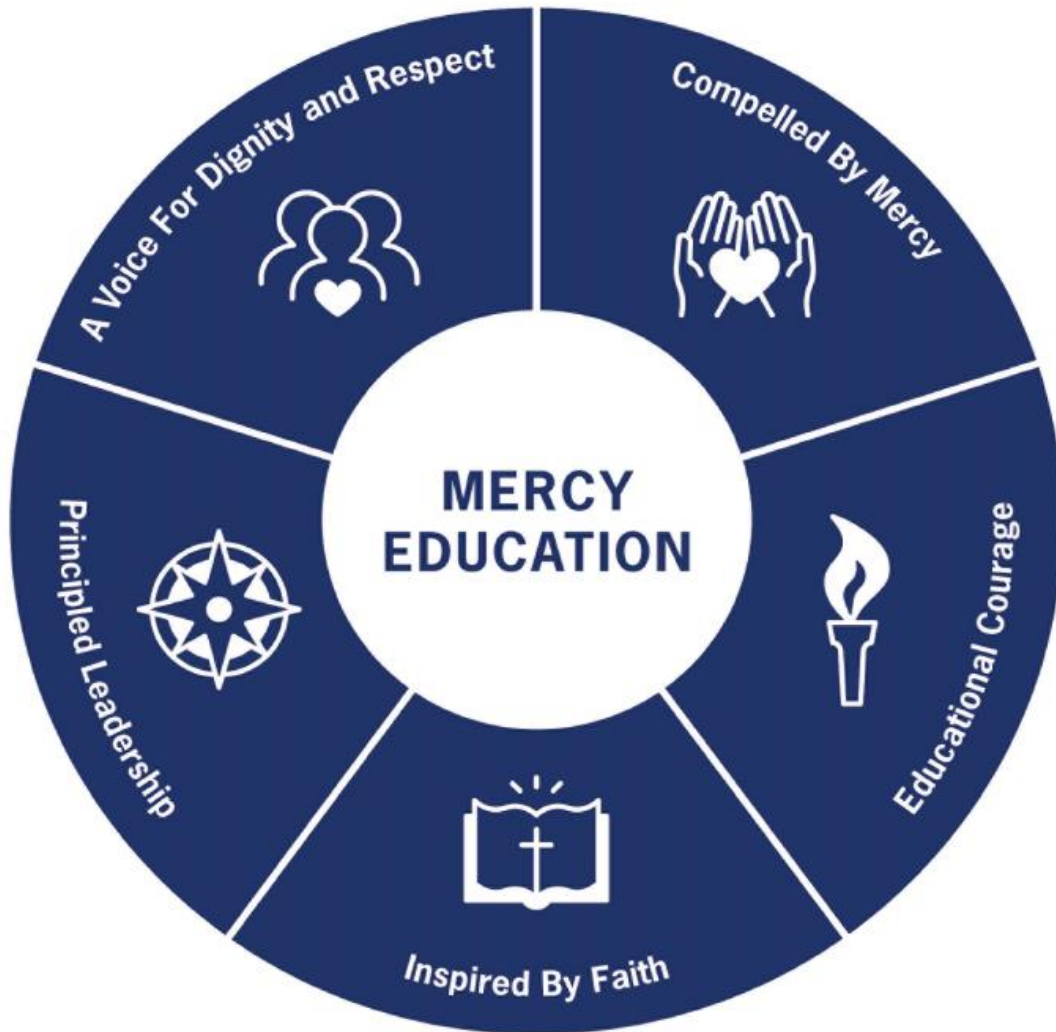
Inclusivity. Going beyond tolerance to embrace diversity, while accepting and serving with open arms.



Mercy
Education
Educación de
la Misericordia

Courageous Action. Selfless Spirit.™
Acción valiente. Espíritu altruista.™

CORE VALUES



Our Core Values are the hallmarks of a Mercy Education. These are the ideals we stand up for and strive to live up to. We hold ourselves to these standards as an institution, as a community and as individuals. Each value is interconnected and necessary as we take Mercy into the world.

