



JUNIPERO SERRA HIGH SCHOOL

A CATHOLIC COLLEGE PREPARATORY

COURSE CATALOG

2026-2027

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Graduation Requirements

The Junipero Serra High School diploma will be given to those students who have completed a minimum of 26.2 credits and have passed the required subjects. Usually, each semester of a course meets two or three days a week and is valued at 0.5 credits.

Required Courses for Each Year

NOTE: STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE AT LEAST SIX CLASSES EACH SEMESTER

Freshman Year

English	1.0 credits
Science	1.0 credits
Mathematics	1.0 credits
World Languages	1.0 credits
Social Studies	1.0 credits
Theology 1	1.0 credits
Christian Service	0.5 credits

Sophomore Year

English	1.0 credits
Science	1.0 credits
Mathematics	1.0 credits
World Languages	1.0 credits
Theology 2	0.5 credits
Physical Ed./Health	0.5 credits
Elective	1.0 credits
Christian Service	0.5 credits

Junior Year

English	1.0 credits
Science	1.0 credits
Mathematics	1.0 credits
Social Studies	1.0 credits
Theology 3A	0.5 credits
Theology Selective	0.5 credits
Elective	1.0 credits
College Adv. Sem.	0.2 credits
Christian Service	0.5 credits

Senior Year

English	1.0 credits
Social Studies	1.0 credits
Theology 4A-4B	1.0 credits
Elective	1.0 credits
Elective	1.0 credits
Elective	1.0 credits
Christian Service	0.5 credits

At least one of the electives before graduation must be: Visual & Performing Arts (VPA) 1.0 credits

TOTAL REQUIRED GRADUATION UNITS: 26.2 credits

College Requirements

Students, assisted by parents and counselors, should be extremely careful when choosing their courses so as to fulfill the entrance requirements for colleges they wish to attend. Certain colleges have special requirements in addition to general requirements.

Completion of the following general requirements will prepare students for enrollment at most four-year colleges or universities.

English	4 years
Social Studies	3 years
College Prep Math	3 years – 4 years recommended
Laboratory Science*	2 years – 3 years recommended
World Languages	2 years (same language) – 3 years recommended
Visual/Performing Arts	1 year required by the CSU and UC systems
Electives/Additional Requirement	40 units (8 semesters)

In addition to those requirements listed above, each student can bolster his readiness for college by taking additional courses from the following areas: Social Studies, English, advanced Mathematics, Laboratory Science, World Language, Visual & Performing Arts.

* 1 year Life Science and 1 year Physical Science

General Guidelines

Prerequisite: Students should note that certain courses have prerequisites for admission. Students must meet the prerequisite to qualify for the course.

AP and honors classes will require an additional signature from your counselor.

AP classes will also require the completion of an **AP Contract, which is due February 27, 2026.**

Some VPA courses may require the additional signature of that course instructor (ie. Art courses: Ms. Merola; Drama courses: Mr. Long; Music courses: Mr. Murphy).

Minimum Schedule: The typical student takes at least six courses each semester in order to reach the required 26.2 credits for graduation. Any exceptions to this must have the support of the counselor and parents, and the approval of the Dean of Studies.

Maximum Schedule: Students wishing to take eight classes in a semester must get approval from the Dean of Studies and/or the Assistant Principal: Academics. Students may not take nine classes in one semester.

Teacher's Assistant Courses (TA): If an upper division student selects a TA course, he must obtain the Department Chair approval. Please check the course description for prerequisites. Students signing up for more than one semester of TA require the approval of the Dean of studies.

Repeated Courses: Students may not repeat failed courses during the school year at Junípero Serra High School. Any student who receives a failing grade (or its equivalent) in a required course must make up that course in summer school.

Important reminder: Colleges do not accept grades of a "D" for required courses.

Advanced Placement and Honors Courses: When selecting Honors level or Advanced Placement (AP) courses, students should be aware of the rigorous academic demands and time commitment of each course. They should check with their counselor and review their academic, athletic and personal commitments so they do not overextend themselves.

Once a student signs up for an advanced placement course, he is required to complete an advanced placement contract and turn it in by the posted deadline. Students should be aware that they are not allowed to drop an AP class after the end of spring semester, 2026. The final decision on all course changes will be made by the Dean of Studies.

Summer School: Students may supplement their Serra courses with courses taken for advancement. However, any such course must be pre-approved in writing*. Forward all community college approval documentation to the Dean of Studies. All courses used to qualify for more advanced courses at Serra (math or science courses) must be approved by completing a Summer Advancement Contract and getting the necessary approval signatures from the teacher, Department Chair, counselor, and Dean of Studies. **The submission deadline for all Summer Advancement Contracts is Friday, February 27, 2026.**

**Serra is under no obligation to grant course credit for courses taken without acquiring the necessary pre-approvals. Students should begin the pre-approval process by speaking with their counselor.*

Selection of Elective Courses: As you plan for post high school education, it is important to have a well-rounded course of studies. The benefits derived from electives are not only varied and numerous, but they add depth and richness to your program and enable you to acquire skills which will provide pleasure and satisfaction. You are encouraged to take as full and challenging a program as you are able. The broader your course of studies, the more college and career possibilities it will open up for you.

Special Off-Campus Courses: The following special off-campus instructional programs are available to juniors and seniors (and other students with special permission). These courses can supplement or complement a student's program while attending Serra.

Tri-School classes at Notre Dame High School, Belmont, or Mercy High School, Burlingame.

Special college programs for students in high school offered at College of San Mateo, Cañada and Skyline Colleges. Depending on the course taken, students may receive either college or high school credit. Any such course must be pre-approved in writing. Forward all community college approval documentation to the Dean of Studies.

Department Chair Consultation or Approval: Department Chairs will be available for consultation about courses. The Department Chairs are:

English	Ms. Flynn	English Department Office
Social Studies	Mr. Boesen	Social Studies Department Office
Mathematics	Mr. Marheineke	Math Department Office
Science	Dr. Mann	Science Department Office
World Languages	Ms. Biron	World Languages Office
Theology	Dr. Buckels	Theology Department Office
VPA	Mr. Long	VPA Office
Physical Education	Mr. Oudiz	Main Office
Innovation	Ms. Lee	Main Office
Special Courses*	Ms. Oudiz	Main Office

**Tri-School, Community College Classes, on-line classes*

Scheduling Instructions

All Returning Students

Give a great deal of time and thought to both semesters of your schedule for next year. The Master Schedule is built around what you choose. Carefully review the course directory online with your parents and counselor **BEFORE** you select the courses in which you wish to enroll.

Course and student schedule changes are only made with the written request of the student, the written approval of parents and counselor, and the final approval of the Dean of Studies.

For ALL RETURNING STUDENTS: Please note that course change requests made after the end of spring semester will be granted only if prerequisites are fulfilled and on a space available basis.

Freshmen

Freshman Scheduling Period Closes **Friday, MARCH 20, 2026**.

- Please follow the following steps to complete your preliminary scheduling:
- Preview all sophomore course offerings prior to scheduling your meeting with your counselor.
- Check the prerequisites for courses, and create a tentative list of courses you wish to take.
- Sign up for a scheduling meeting with you, your parents, and your counselor to discuss your selection of courses for next year.

A COURSE SELECTION REPORT will be created at the end of your family scheduling meeting.

REGARDING ELECTIVE COURSE OFFERINGS: Elective course offerings are limited for sophomores, and some elective courses are only offered on a space-available basis. Talk to your counselor and/or the Dean of Studies for more details.

Sophomores and Juniors

Junior Scheduling Week - **FEBRUARY 2-6, 2026**

Sophomore Scheduling Week - **FEBRUARY 9-13, 2026**

Please follow these steps to complete your preliminary scheduling: Once you have reviewed the course directory online, you and your parents will complete your course requests through the PCR Parent Portal.

- Once you have completed your COURSE SELECTION REPORT, CLICK SUBMIT.
- PRINT a paper copy of your completed COURSE SELECTION REPORT.
- SIGN your printed copy of your completed COURSE SELECTION REPORT.
- **SOPHOMORES:** RETURN your complete and signed COURSE SELECTION REPORT to your counselor by **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026**.
- **JUNIORS:** RETURN your complete and signed COURSE SELECTION REPORT to your counselor by **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026**

English Department

Eight semesters of English are required for graduation. Students should choose next year's English classes according to the following guidelines:

- **Freshman Year** – All students are required to take English 1-2 or Honors English 1-2.
- **Sophomore Year** – All students are required to take English 3-4 or Honors English 3-4.
- **Junior Year** – All students are required to take Junior English or AP English Language and Composition. Electives are also available for upper division students.
- **Senior Year** – All students are required to take Senior Literature and Composition, Honors Senior Literature and Composition, or AP English Literature and Composition. Electives are also available for upper division students.

English Department: Honors/AP Student Placement Policy

Regarding Student placement, the goal of the Serra English Department is to appropriately place students in English classes that challenge them and yet does not overwhelm them.

All students must meet established standards and complete the indicated process in order to be considered for Honors or AP English courses.

Initial Placement

Incoming 9th grade students are initially placed in English 1-2 or Honors English 1-2 by the Assistant Principal: Academics, based on the student's HSPT test scores, middle school grades, and teacher recommendations.

Qualifying Into and Out of Honors or AP

Students who earn a first and second semester A (not an A-) in English 1-2, English 3-4, or Junior English are automatically eligible to take an Honors 3-4 (grade 10), AP English Language (grade 11), or AP English Literature (grade 12) placement test. Eligible students will be contacted by the Department Chair after first semester grades have been finalized, and/or by the Dean of Studies (via e-mail) after second semester grades have been finalized.

Junior English students who earn a first or second semester A- are eligible to take an Honors Senior Lit./Comp. (grade 12) placement test. Eligible students will be contacted by the Department Chair after first semester grades have been finalized, and/or by the Dean of Studies (via e-mail) after second semester grades have been finalized.

Note:

- This is exclusively for the Honors Senior Lit./Comp. class. For all other grade levels or courses, a solid A semester grade is required to test.
- Each placement test is evaluated by the Department Chair and the current Honors or AP teacher, who assess the student writing sample, using the appropriate department rubric. Teachers then confer to determine the appropriate placement for that student.
- During this process, English Department members will assess the eligible student's writing placement sample in relation to his summative or major writing assessments.
- Any student in the Honors/AP program who earns a first or second semester C+ or lower must take an Honors/AP placement test (as indicated above) to maintain his placement in that Honors/AP course

Transferring From Another School's Honors/AP Program

Transfer students who request placement into the Honors/AP Program at Serra must take the placement test according to the above policy. Additionally, any incoming transfer student will be required to provide graded writing samples from his previous school's English classes in order to determine the appropriate placement for that student.

Communicating Student Placement

Once all students have been assessed by the English Department, final student placement will be conveyed by the department chair and/or the Dean of Studies, in conjunction with the Assistant Principal: Academics.
(rev. 11/2024)

Note:

All English courses are UC approved under Area B-English

All English courses are NCAA approved.

All English courses are full year, unless indicated otherwise.

Lower Division

1110 ENGLISH 1-2

Prerequisite: None

Description: This year-long, standards-based course builds critical reading, writing, and analytical skills through the study of literature. Using NoRedInk (NRI), students practice close reading, annotation, drafting, editing, sentence structure, and paragraph development. Writing includes personal/reflective, comparison/contrast, and analytical essays, with both timed and multi-draft assignments. Students also review grammar and study vocabulary weekly. Literature selections include short stories, poetry, nonfiction, drama, and novels such as *The Catcher in the Rye* and *The Odyssey*, with emphasis on literary devices, author purpose, tone, and theme.

1120 HONORS ENGLISH 1-2

Prerequisite: Administrative Approval

Description: This advanced, standards-based course mirrors English 1-2 content but moves at a faster pace with greater depth and higher expectations for independence, curiosity, and academic rigor. Students analyze short stories, poetry, nonfiction, and drama, and read major works such as *Lord of the Flies*, *The Odyssey*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. Coursework emphasizes interpretation of literary devices (such as point of view, diction, syntax, imagery, and figurative language) to explain author purpose, tone, mood, and central themes.

1210 ENGLISH 3-4

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 1-2

Description: This course continues to build critical thinking, reading, and writing skills from English 1-2. Students closely analyze fiction and nonfiction, including works such as Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and Zusak's *I Am the Messenger*. Writing instruction uses NoRedInk (NRI) to strengthen the six traits of effective writing with emphasis on ideas, voice, word choice, sentence structure, and conventions. Students complete reflective, analytical, and academic essays while reviewing grammar and building vocabulary through a weekly, systematic process tied to PSAT preparation.

1215 HONORS ENGLISH 3-4

Prerequisites:

- B- both semesters in Honors English 1-2 or
- A both semesters in English 1-2 AND
- Successful results of placement test

Description: This advanced honors course extends the critical thinking, reading, and writing skills from Honors English 1–2 and prepares students for AP English Language. Students study similar material as English 2, but with greater depth, rigor, and expectations for independence. Coursework emphasizes close reading and analysis of fiction and nonfiction, including Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and Zusak's *I Am the Messenger*. Using NoRedInk (NRI), students strengthen the six traits of effective writing, focusing on ideas, voice, word choice, sentence structure, and conventions. They produce reflective, analytical, and academic writing, supported by targeted grammar practice and systematic vocabulary study, which also contributes to PSAT preparation.

Upper Division

1300 JUNIOR ENGLISH

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 3-4

Description: This standards-based upper-division course extends critical reading, writing, and analytical skills developed in grades 9–10 through the study of American literature. Students examine major authors, literary movements, and the ways literature reflects American history and cultural identity. Close reading and written analysis center on works such as Jon Krakauer’s *Into the Wild* and selected pieces by Mark Twain, alongside additional texts from the American literary tradition. Writing instruction is supported through OWL and focuses on the six traits of effective writing, including idea development, voice, sentence progression, and conventions. Students also engage in systematic vocabulary study tied to PSAT preparation while strengthening revision habits, rhetorical awareness, and academic writing confidence.

1307 AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

Prerequisites:

- B- both semesters in Honors English 3-4 or
- A both semesters in English 3-4 AND
- Successful results of placement test AND
- Completion of the AP contract

Description: This course deepens students’ reading and analysis of nonfiction across a range of rhetorical contexts while strengthening writing for academic and real-world purposes. Students learn to read like writers and write like readers by examining how writers communicate—what is said, to whom, how, and why—and by integrating sources to support evidence-based arguments. Coursework emphasizes informed citizenship, critical thinking, and effective rhetorical choices. All students take the AP English Language and Composition Exam, which includes a multiple-choice section and three essays, with the potential to earn college credit or advanced placement.

1350 SENIOR LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Junior English.

Description: This upper division course surveys fiction and nonfiction while deepening critical reading, writing, and presentation skills developed in Grade 11. Students engage in close analysis of complex texts, including *The Things They Carried*, *All American Boys*, and selected short stories and nonfiction works. Emphasis is placed on expository, narrative, and analytical writing, supported through the OWL platform, with focus on developing ideas, voice, organization, and conventions. Students also study vocabulary through a weekly, systematic process connected to SAT preparation.

10230 HONORS SENIOR LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION: DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE

Prerequisites:

- Successful completion of AP Language and Composition OR
- A- both semesters in Junior English AND
- Successful results of the placement test

Description: This course takes students on an exploration of speculative fiction, focusing on themes of societal collapse, authoritarian rule, and existential crises. Beyond captivating narratives, the course fosters critical thinking, analytical skills, and understanding of socio-political issues reflected in dystopian works. Students will read *1984* by George Orwell, *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley, and *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy, engaging in discussions that draw connections between these fictional worlds and real-world challenges. Activities include group discussions to analyze themes and motifs, creative projects such as writing original dystopian stories, and film screenings of classic and modern adaptations. Through these explorations, students will appreciate dystopian literature and understand storytelling as a powerful tool for social critique and change.

1477 AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Prerequisites:

- B- both semesters in AP English Language or
- A both semesters in Junior English AND
- Successful results of placement test AND
- Completion of AP contract

Description: This course prepares students for the AP English Literature and Composition Exam in May. Students read and analyze significant works of fiction, poetry, and drama, writing frequent timed and untimed responses. The course includes a summer reading program and seminar-style classes that foster critical thinking, academic discussion, and literary analysis. Each student leads a Harkness Presentation, moderating discussions on a chosen literary work, its themes, and the author's style, culminating in a written assessment. Emphasis is placed on developing stylistic maturity characterized by varied vocabulary, sentence structures, logical organization, illustrative detail, and effective rhetoric. Reading and writing are taught together to highlight their interconnectedness. Students take the AP Exam, which includes a 60-minute objective section and three essays in two hours, potentially earning college credit or advanced placement.

Upper Division – Electives

1460 PUBLICATIONS 1

Duration: Semester and not NCAA approved

Prerequisites:

- B both semesters in most recent English course AND
- Approval by the Publications instructor

Description: The course offers practice and instruction in writing for newspapers and is designed for those students who wish to do full-time writing for the FRIAR. Students are required to submit written articles and to assist in the production of the paper.

1462 PUBLICATIONS 1-2

Not NCAA approved

Prerequisites:

- B both semesters in the most recent English course AND
- Approval by the Publications instructor

Description: This course offers practice and instruction in writing for newspapers and is designed for those students who wish to do full-time writing for the FRIAR. Students are required to submit written articles and to assist in the production of the paper.

10035 FREELANCE NEWSPAPER REPORTING

Duration: Semester and not UC/CSU or NCAA approved

Prerequisites: Instructor approval, based on application, writing sample, and recommendation of the English teacher.

Description: Students will support the Publications class and the Friar newspaper staff. This will be accomplished through learning how to interview subjects, learning AP publication style writing, and learning how to revise and edit articles. The major work of the class will be writing articles for publication in the newspaper. Students will be required to meet at least twice weekly with the editors from the Publications course either before or after school. Students will receive half of a semester course credit (0.25 credits).

1480 INDEPENDENT STUDY IN ENGLISH

Duration: Semester and not UC/CSU or NCAA approved

Prerequisites:

- B both semesters in all prior English courses AND
- Department Chair approval

Description: The student is assigned to an English teacher who directs him in the study of a particular area of English or the Humanities.

1490 ENGLISH TA

Duration: Semester and not UC/CSU or NCAA approved

Prerequisites:

- B both semesters in all prior English courses AND
- Department Chair approval

Description: The student assists the English department during the same period for one semester. This course is taken in place of a study period and is subject to prior approval by the Department Chair. This cannot be applied toward the eight semesters of English required for graduation. Students are required to meet with their teacher every period and complete all work required by the teacher

Social Studies Department

Six semesters of Social Studies are required for graduation. Students should choose their Social Studies classes according to the following guidelines:

- **Freshman Year** – All students are required to take World History I or Honors World History I.
- **Sophomore Year** – Students may choose Social Studies electives or Honors World History II, which serves as a pre-AP course offering for AP United States History (APUSH), which is offered in the junior year.
- **Junior Year** – All students are required to take US History or AP United States History (APUSH). Electives are also available for upper division students.
- **Senior Year** – All students are required to take Government and Economics or AP Government and Politics. Electives are also available for upper division students.

Social Studies Department: Honors/AP Student Placement Policy

The Honors/AP courses in Social Studies require students to consistently display deep Historical Thinking Skills in the quality of their writing, performance on summative assessments, and participation in class discussions and activities. Students are also expected to meet a demanding homework schedule that provides a solid foundation of understanding of the events and concepts discussed in class. Only the students who are most prepared to thrive in such a rigorous academic environment are placed in Honors/AP courses.

Initial Placement

Incoming 9th grade students are initially placed into Honors World History I by the Assistant Principal: Academics, based on the student's HSPT test scores, middle school grades, and teacher recommendations.

Qualifying Into and out of Honors or AP

Students who are in College Prep courses and have maintained a solid A average are eligible to take a Placement Test, which will be used as an additional data point in evaluating their readiness to thrive in an Honors or AP course.

Students are evaluated by a committee of Social Studies teachers who take into account the student's performance in their current Social Studies class, their performance in their previous Social Studies classes, and their performance on the Placement Test.

Student performance in class is judged primarily on their written work, performance on summative assessments, consistency of active participation in class activities and discussions, and maintenance of a high class average throughout each semester (preferably a high A).

Students who routinely submit late work, utilize quiz retakes, make test corrections, and complete extra credit work are not academically ready to take Honors/AP courses.

Placement Tests are typically given in February of Freshman year, December of Sophomore year, and in April of Junior year. Students who qualify to take a Placement Test and are ready to move into Honors/AP must maintain their excellence through the completion of their current course.

Any student in the Honors/AP program who earns a first or second semester C+ or lower will be placed into the next level college prep course.

Transferring From Another School's Honors/AP Program

Students transferring into Serra from another school's Honors/AP program are placed into the appropriate Social Studies course by the Serra school administration in conversation with the Social Studies department chair, based on the student's previous and current Social Studies courses and grades.

Communicating Student Placement

Once all students have been assessed by the Social Studies Department, final student placement will be conveyed by the department chair and/or the Dean of Studies, in conjunction with the Assistant Principal: Academics.

(Rev. 1/2025)

Note:

All Social Studies courses are UC approved under Area A-History/Social Science, unless indicated otherwise.

All Social Studies courses are NCAA approved, unless indicated otherwise.

All Social Studies courses are full year, unless indicated otherwise.

Lower Division

1510 WORLD HISTORY I

Prerequisite: None

Description: World History I seeks to answer the question “Why does the world look the way it does today?” To that end, this course focuses on the development of ancient peoples and early civilizations, the first empires of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, and Africa, the classical world (Rome, Greece, India, and China), the roots of democracy, the development of Islam, the development of Western Civilization (including the Renaissance and Reformation), the rise of empires in Asia, the Americas and their conquest, and the development of the Modern World. Students analyze the political, economic, and social changes throughout these world cultures. This evaluation includes current political and social issues throughout the world and a comparison of these to the changes and developments of earlier cultures. The textbook is used as the primary resource for this class.

1515 HONORS WORLD HISTORY I

Prerequisite: Administrative Approval

Description: This advanced course in history and world cultures is open to those students who possess advanced reading and writing skills, and have been enrolled in Honors English 1. Honors World History I seeks to answer the question “Why does the world look the way it does today?” To that end, this course focuses on the development of ancient peoples and early civilizations, the first empires of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, and Africa, the classical world (Rome, Greece, India, and China), the roots of democracy, the development of Islam, the development of Western Civilization (including the Renaissance and Reformation), the rise of empires in Asia, the Americas and their conquest, and the development of the Modern World. Students analyze the political, economic, and social changes throughout these world cultures. This evaluation includes current political and social issues throughout the world and a comparison of these to the changes and developments of earlier cultures. The textbook is used as the primary resource for this class. This class has a stronger emphasis on writing and analysis than World History I.

1615 HONORS WORLD HISTORY II

Prerequisites:

- B- both semesters in Honors World History I or
- A both semesters in World History I AND
- Successful results of the placement test or
- Department Chair Approval

Description: The first semester focuses on the development of nations, the Enlightenment, and the major “isms” of the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. This study also serves to act as a springboard into AP U.S. History with an emphasis on analytic reading and writing. In the second semester, students begin the study of United States History within the AP framework. This pre-AP course includes the political, economic, and social growth of the United States from the Colonial period to the Antebellum period. Students who take this course should plan on adding 8-10 hours of study time to their weekly work schedules.

1610 THE 20TH CENTURY

Duration: Semester

Prerequisite: None

Description: The 20th Century is a one semester course where students explore major movements like imperialism and totalitarianism as well as world events like World War I, World War II, and the Cold War. Students identify bias and varying perspectives of primary and secondary sources and use them to identify the causes and effects of these major movements and events.

1960 CALIFORNIA HISTORY

Duration: Semester/ Area G - Elective

Prerequisite: None

Description: California History is a one-semester course where students examine the dominant narrative of California as a land of opportunity and consider counter narratives from various groups throughout its history. The course begins with the culture of Native Californians and examines the impact of the Spanish Mission system, Mexican rule, American Infiltration, the Gold Rush, the railroad and oil industries, the film industry, the Great Depression, World War II, and the 1960's Counterculture movement on Californians.

10139 HISTORY OF GENOCIDE: A STUDY OF HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY

Duration: Semester

Prerequisite: Parent permission to view teacher curated segments of historically significant, sometimes graphic film images, some of which may be rated R or M.

Description: Students will explore the histories of human atrocity during the Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust, the Cambodian Genocide, the Rwandan Genocide, and 'ethnic cleansing' in Bosnia. Students will examine the forces that can lead otherwise ordinary people to commit evil and to act as complicit bystanders, while evaluating the international community's attempts to prevent genocide and punish its perpetrators. Students will identify the life-affirming process of acknowledging these crimes against humanity by remembering the victims, and exploring proactive steps that students today can have on our world by being upstanders in the face of tremendous evil.

10194 ETHNIC STUDIES

Duration: Semester/ Pending UC/CSU Area A - History /Social Science Approval

Prerequisite: None

Description: Ethnic Studies is a one-semester elective course that evaluates historical and current issues related to race and ethnicity in the United States. The purpose of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the complex issues that have driven American society with the goal of helping drive positive change for the future. Students will analyze concepts such as race, ethnicity, identity, power, assimilation, perspective, representation, diversity, inclusion, resistance, etc. In the context of the American story. Students will use concepts from other social science disciplines and from the humanities - such as anthropology, sociology, psychology, art history, and music history - to make connections between key historical events and social issues.

10256 BLACK HISTORY (NEW)

Duration: Semester/ Pending UC/CSU Area A - History /Social Science Approval

Prerequisite: Parent permission to view teacher curated segments of historically significant, sometimes graphic film images, some of which may be rated R or M.

Description: "Knowing the past opens the door to the future" (Lonnie G. Bunch III, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution). This semester course explores the causes, character, and consequences of the Black experience in history from the ancient kingdoms of Africa through contemporary American history. Black History is about honesty, justice, and social equality. Its purpose is to explore dominant and counter narratives of history, and to include the voices, stories, experiences, and impressive contributions of Black people throughout history. This course also explores the history of European colonialism, enslavement of African peoples, and the resulting racism engendered in that horror. The course continues with an exploration of the struggles for equal dignity, freedom, rights, and opportunities for Black Americans, as well as the life-affirming practice of anti-racism.

Upper Division

1900 UNITED STATES HISTORY

Duration: Year

Prerequisite: Successful completion of World History I

Description: This course is required of all juniors except those selected for AP United States History. Students will examine the history of our nation chronologically, using a standard narrative high school textbook and other related materials. Students are expected to master the basic skills needed in order to achieve success in college level work in social sciences and history. Particular emphasis is placed on the continued development of reading, writing, and study skills required in the social sciences. Appropriate attention is focused on the acquisition of topical knowledge, and inquiry skills.

1905 AP UNITED STATES HISTORY

Prerequisites:

- B- both semesters in Honors World History II and
- Completion of the AP contract

Description: This is a 3-semester course (Honors World History II serves as the pre-AP United States History foundation) is open to those students who demonstrate excellence in World History I. Students who take this course may receive college credit upon achieving a passing grade on the College Entrance Examination Board Advanced Placement Test in American History. In order to achieve this goal, the course gives students a thorough grounding in relevant facts, and facilitates students to read historical material analytically and critically, as well guide students to weigh historical evidence and interpretations and arrive at sound conclusions on the basis of informed judgment. Writing intelligent and analytical essays based on careful analysis of historical problems, issues and events is stressed.

1950 GOVERNMENT

Duration: Semester

Prerequisite: None

Description: This is a course in American government providing students with an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. Students examine our governmental institutions and processes through an analysis of the constitutional foundations of American government, public opinion and voting behavior, political parties and interest groups, and our civil rights and liberties.

1945 ECONOMICS

Duration: Semester/ Area G - Elective

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course introduces students to the basic concepts in Economics. Students examine the principles of both macroeconomics and microeconomics. They examine the principles of supply and demand theory, comparative economic systems, inflation, unemployment, fiscal policies and trade, and make connections to principles of Catholic Social Justice. The United States economy and its role in the world marketplace is a topic of special emphasis.

Note: This course is required for graduation and satisfies the Economics California State High School graduation requirement.

1957 AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Prerequisites:

- B- both semesters in AP United States History or
- A both semesters in U.S. History AND
- Successful results of a placement test AND
- Completion of the AP contract

Description: A college-level introductory course in American government providing students with an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. Successful completion of this course fulfills the Junípero Serra High School graduation requirement for both Government and Economics. Students examine our governmental institutions and processes through an analysis of the constitutional foundations of American government, public opinion and voting behavior, political parties and interest groups and our civil rights and liberties. This course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Examination administered by the College Board in May.

Note: This course is required for graduation and satisfies the Economics California State High School graduation requirement.

Upper Division – Electives

1975 PSYCHOLOGY

Duration: Semester/ Area G - Elective

This course is not offered in 2026/2027 school year

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course surveys what is known about human behavior from birth to old age. Students study subjects such as the biological foundations of human behavior, what is now known about the brain and nervous system, human memory and learning, how to improve our intelligence, and human development through the entire life span. Common concerns of youth, such as addiction, sexuality, family problems, shyness, and the making of friends, are given special emphasis. The course concludes with a survey of personality theory, social psychology (human relationships, group differences, etc.) Psychopathology (mental illness), and ways to treat psychopathology (psychotherapy). There is a major emphasis on subject areas in psychology that are important for the growth and development of young people and for their need for increasingly sophisticated levels of understanding regarding human behavior.

10254 MOCK TRIAL (NEW)

Duration: Year/ **Pending** UC/CSU Area A - History /Social Science Approval

Prerequisite: Subject to audition and/or teacher approval

Description: Mock Trial is a year-long course that meets on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, outside of normal school hours, and that immerses students in the study and practice of legal reasoning, oral advocacy, and civic engagement through simulated courtroom trials. Students also compete in the San Mateo County Mock Trial Competition. Students analyze legal case materials, interpret rules of evidence and procedure, and develop persuasive arguments through written motions, opening and closing statements, and direct and cross examinations. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, collaboration, professional communication, and ethical reasoning as students research case law, prepare witnesses, and participate in formal scrimmages and competitions. Through performance-based assessments, reflection, and critique, students develop skills in argumentation, public speaking, and analytical reasoning while gaining an understanding of the legal system and its role in a democratic society.

Note: Mock Trial may not be taken as a sixth class; it may only be taken in addition to a student's other six classes.

1994 SOCIAL STUDIES TA

Duration: Semester and not UC/CSU or NCAA approved

Prerequisites: B- average in all prior Social Studies courses and Department Chair approval.

Description: This Upper Division elective is open for students to assist Social Studies teachers by working with students who are having difficulties with courses, grading tests, making periodic presentations, and working with groups in the resource center. Students are required to meet with their teacher every period and complete all work required by the teacher.

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSE OFFERED THROUGH TRI-SCHOOL

10059 AP PSYCHOLOGY

Description: AP Psychology is a Tri-School offering at Notre Dame High School and Mercy High School. See the Tri-School section in this directory for details.

10258 SPORT PSYCHOLOGY

Description: AP Psychology is a Tri-School offering at Mercy High School. See the Tri-School section in this directory for details.

Mathematics Department

Three years of mathematics – and specifically Algebra 1 and Geometry – are required for graduation. Students should choose next year's Mathematics classes according to the following guidelines:

- The basic college requirements of a three-year curriculum will be met when a student has satisfactorily completed the equivalent of Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2.
- Students are strongly encouraged to take mathematics in their senior year.
- Business courses, computer courses, and Math TA MAY NOT be used to satisfy the third-year graduation requirement.

Note regarding summer advancement courses: All off-campus summer advancement courses must have department and administrative approval.

Mathematics Department: Honors/AP Student Placement Policy

In general, students will be placed in honors classes based on the following criteria: Students currently in an honors class who earn a B or higher both semesters qualify for the next honors course. Students in a college prep class who earn an A both semesters qualify for consideration for the next honors course. The Assistant Principal, Academics and/or Dean of Studies in conjunction with the Mathematics Department Chair will make the final determination for eligibility for all courses. Incoming freshmen will be scheduled based on placement scores, previous course progression, and 8th Grade Teacher recommendations. After initial course placement has been made, incoming freshmen may choose to take a placement test for placement in the next course in sequence. Placement in an AP class is specific for each class, and students should consult the Course Directory for prerequisites.

Initial Placement

Incoming 9th grade students are initially placed by the Assistant Principal: Academics, based on the student's middle school grades, HSPT test scores, and teacher recommendations.

Note: In some cases, students will be required to take an initial placement test to become eligible for advanced standing as an incoming freshman.

Qualifying Into and Out of Honors or AP

- Students earning an A in a college prep level course for both semesters are eligible to be placed into an honors math class.
- Students earning a B- or below for one semester in an honors course will be placed into the college prep level math class the following year.
- Students must meet the prerequisites to move into an honors or AP course.

Transferring From Another School's Honors/AP Program

Transfer students will be placed in a course based on their transcripts, previous math placement, and/or prior math teacher recommendation. In some cases, students may be required to take an initial placement test to determine math placement.

Communicating Student Placement

Once all students have been assessed by the Mathematics Department, final student placement will be conveyed by the department chair and/or the Dean of Studies, in conjunction with the Assistant Principal: Academics.

(Rev. 11/2024)

Note:

All Mathematics courses are UC approved under Area C-Mathematics, unless indicated otherwise.

All Mathematics courses are NCAA approved, unless indicated otherwise.

All Mathematics courses are full year, unless indicated otherwise.

Lower Division

2110 ALGEBRA 1

Prerequisite: None

Description: This is the first course in the college preparatory program, providing an introduction to the basic concepts of higher mathematics, developing mathematical communication skills, providing the opportunity for cooperative learning techniques, and beginning the process of integrating the concepts of all mathematics. The course will integrate components of the CA Common Core State Mathematics Standards and topics covered include: order of operations, solving equations, graphing linear equations, writing linear equations, solving and graphing linear inequalities, solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, properties of exponents, graphing and solving quadratic equations, polynomial operations (including factoring), and operations involving rational and radical expressions and equations.

2111 HONORS ALGEBRA 1

Prerequisite: Administrative approval

Description: This is the first course in the honors college preparatory program and is a more in-depth approach to the Algebra 1 course. It extends beyond the topics from Algebra 1 to also introduce imaginary numbers, trigonometric ratios, sequences, linear programming and other topics appropriate for honors math students. This course begins with the study of the real number system culminating with work on quadratic equations and integrates components of the CA Common Core State Mathematics Standards. The course is designed to develop critical thinking skills and explore applications of mathematics to the larger world. Students regularly encounter more challenging problems, and discussion and collaboration are keys to success.

2210 GEOMETRY

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra 1

Description: This course builds upon the topics and problem-solving techniques from Algebra 1. The emphasis of the course is to explore geometric situations and deepen explanations of geometric and algebraic relationships. Students will think critically, work collaboratively in groups, communicate clearly, and move toward formal mathematical arguments, while integrating components of the CA Common Core State Mathematics Standards. Topics covered include: Congruence, Constructions, Similarity, Proof, Trigonometry, Three-Dimensional shapes, Polygons, Quadrilaterals, Coordinate Geometry, Circles, Probability, along with applications of Algebra in all areas.

2211 HONORS GEOMETRY

Prerequisite:

- B in both semesters of Honors Algebra 1 or
- A in both semesters of Algebra 1

Description: This course follows Honors Algebra 1 and covers all of the topics from Geometry, including the integration of components of the CA Common Core Mathematics Standards. Additional emphasis is placed on laws of logic, transformations, deductive proofs and more complex relationships with material from Algebra 1 such as advanced trigonometry concepts in preparation for the Honors Algebra 2/Trigonometry curriculum.

Upper Division

2310 ALGEBRA 2

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra 1 and Geometry

Description: The next course following Geometry, topics covered in Algebra 2 include linear equations and inequalities, systems of linear equations and inequalities, and quadratic functions. Additionally, students begin the exploration of advanced algebraic concepts that will connect them to upper level mathematics. These topics will include polynomial functions, radical functions, rational functions, exponential functions, logarithmic functions, statistics, and data analysis. Integration of components of the CA Common Core Mathematics Standards are included and students also work directly on preparation for taking standardized tests such as SAT and ACT.

2311 HONORS ALGEBRA 2/TRIGONOMETRY

Prerequisites:

- B in both semesters of Honors Algebra 1 and Honors Geometry or
- A in both semesters of Algebra and Geometry AND
- Department/Administrative Approval

Description: The next course following Honors Geometry, topics include all material from Algebra 2. Additional topics include trigonometric functions, statistics and probability, and introduction to derivatives in preparation for the pre-calculus curriculum of the following year. This course integrates components of the CA Common Core Mathematics Standards as students work directly in preparation to take standardized tests such as SAT and ACT.

10060 BUSINESS ALGEBRA 2

Prerequisites:

- Successful completion of Algebra 2 (D or higher in both semesters of Algebra 2) AND
- Department/Administrative Approval

Description: This course follows Algebra 2 for students where math courses have been a challenge and for students who do not plan on continuing in a math focused field after high school. The course covers math analysis and personal finance concepts such as revenue, cost, profit maximization, banking, and credit while mastering foundational Algebra 2 concepts. Mathematics topics include advanced linear equations, inequalities, systems of equations and inequalities, exponential functions, exponents and polynomials, and rational equations. Using this integrated instructional approach provides students with an analytical understanding of introductory business and finance issues in an engaging manner to better comprehend Algebra 2 content.

2440 PRE-CALCULUS

Prerequisite: C or higher in both semesters of Algebra 2

Description: This course follows Algebra 2. Course content includes Trigonometry and Analytic Trigonometry. Other topics include operations, properties, and graphing of the following functions - polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic. This course also includes an introduction to Calculus in the areas of limits, continuity, and derivatives.

Note: Lower division students must have approval from the Department Chair.

2445 HONORS PRE-CALCULUS

Prerequisite: B or higher in both semesters of Honors Algebra 2/Trigonometry

Description: This course follows Honors Algebra 2. Topics include all those from Pre-Calculus, with additional focus on Trigonometry concepts, Conic Sections, Analytic Geometry, Sequences, Induction, Probability, and an Introduction to Calculus. Students are also recommended to participate in upper division mathematics contests.

Note: Lower division students must have approval from the Department Chair.

2452 CALCULUS

Prerequisites:

- B- or higher in both semesters of Pre-Calculus OR
- C or higher in both semesters of Honors Pre-Calculus

Description: This course follows Pre-Calculus. Students who have completed Honors Pre-Calculus but do not qualify for AP Calculus AB are also encouraged to take this course. This course presents students the same material as AP Calculus AB, but at a slower pace and without the requirement that students take the AP exam. Topics include limits, derivatives, and applications of the derivative, integrals, applications of the integrals, direction fields, volumes, and analysis of graphs.

10225 DATA SCIENCE

Prerequisites:

- C- or higher in both semesters of Pre-Calculus or
- Concurrent Enrollment in Pre-Calculus

Description: Students will learn to analyze data, including - posing questions that can be answered by looking at relationships among variables in a data set, using collected data to generate hypotheses for future data collection, critically evaluating shortcomings and strengths in the data and the data collection process, and informally evaluating hypotheses using big data as well as data they have personally collected. Students will develop an understanding of how data is used in all facets of modern life and how it is used by professionals to tackle real world problems in our communities. Students will create and analyze statistical graphics, looking for patterns and connecting those patterns to real world trends.

2456 AP CALCULUS AB

Prerequisites:

- B in both semesters in Calculus or
- B+ in both semesters in Honors Pre-Calculus AND
- Successful completion of placement test for students advancing through summer school AND
- Completion of AP Contract

Description: Topics include limits, derivatives, anti-derivatives, and integration. This course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Examination administered by the College Board in May.

2458 AP CALCULUS BC

Prerequisites:

- Successful completion of AP Calculus AB or
- 95%+ both semesters in Honors Pre-Calculus (summer advancement course not eligible) AND
- Completion of AP Contract

Description: Topics covered include: (all AB topics) plus parametric, polar and vector functions; further techniques of integration; sequences and series. This course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Examination administered by the College Board in May.

10109 AP STATISTICS

Prerequisites:

- Successful completion of Honors Pre-Calculus or
- B+ both semesters in Pre-Calculus AND
- Concurrent enrollment in Calculus AND
- Completion of AP Contract

Description: AP Statistics is the high school equivalent of a one semester, introductory college statistics course. Students will develop the ability to design, administer, analyze and interpret results from surveys and experiments. Most importantly, they will learn the critical communication skills necessary to share these results with a non-statistically literate audience. Other topics covered include probability models for simulating chance behavior, and sampling distributions to provide the logical structure for confidence intervals and hypothesis tests. Students will further their mastery with the TI-84 graphing calculator, Google Sheets, and web-based java applets to investigate statistical concepts. Exams are built from College Board authored questions, ensuring alignment with the AP Statistics exam, which is administered by the College Board in May.

Electives

2480 MATHEMATICS TA

Duration: Semester and not UC/CSU or NCAA approved:

Prerequisites: B- in both semesters in all prior mathematics classes, including at least Algebra 2 or higher

Description: Students assist a mathematics teacher with test and quiz correction. Teacher assistants act as tutors for lower division students when needed. Students are required to meet with their teacher every period and complete all work required by the teacher.

Physical Education Department

The department of Physical Education offers opportunities for all students to experience physical activity through a variety of courses designed to meet their specific needs.

One semester of Physical Education is required for graduation. Students should choose next year's Physical Education classes according to the following guidelines:

- **Sophomore Year** – All students are required to take one semester of Physical Education/Health.
- **Junior or Senior Year** – Physical Education 3 or Physical Education TA are offered as upper division electives.

Note:

All Physical Education courses are not UC,CSU or NCAA approved.

All Physical Education courses are full year, unless indicated otherwise.

2501 PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

Duration: Semester

Prerequisite: None

Description: This is a required course for all sophomores. Time will be split between classroom time learning about various topics that relate to personal and community health, and physical activity (PE). Athletes on Serra teams will be excused from physical activity on days of competition only. The health topics include Mental and Emotional Health, Diet and Nutrition, Disease Prevention and Recovery, Drugs-Alcohol-Tobacco education, and Physical Fitness education. The focus of the course will be on students acquiring knowledge and skills as well as developing positive attitudes that will help them make responsible choices about their health and the health of others.

2701 PHYSICAL EDUCATION 3

This course is not offered in 2026/2027 school year

Duration: Semester

Prerequisite: None

Description: This upper division PE elective class meets during the school day during the assigned period. Conditioning and skills are developed through participation in individual and team sports.

2720 PHYSICAL EDUCATION TA

Duration: Semester

Prerequisite: Approval of the PE teacher

Description: This upper division PE elective is offered for students who assist the PE instructor. Duties may include set-up of facilities, helping in instruction and skills development and officiating activities. Students are required to meet with their teacher every period and complete all work required by the teacher.

Science Department

Three years of science are required for graduation. Students should choose next year's Science classes according to the following guidelines:

- Students are required to take Biology (Biology, Honors Biology) and Chemistry (Chemistry, Chemistry in the Community, or Honors Chemistry).
- Students who are interested in science or who plan to major in science in college are recommended to take four years of science.
- U.C. requires two years of lab science and recommends three years of lab science. They also recommend that students take all three disciplines: Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.
- **Note regarding summer advancement courses:** All off-campus summer advancement courses must be attended in-person and must have department and administrative approval.

Science Department: Honors/AP Student Placement Policy

In general, students will be placed in honors or AP classes based on the following criteria:

- The Science Department does not administer placement tests.
- Students currently in an honors class who earn B or higher both semesters qualify for the next honors course.
- Students in a college prep class who earn A both semesters qualify for consideration for the next honors course.
- Once the Science Department Chair determines a student's course eligibility, final student placement will be conveyed by the department chair and/or the Dean of Studies, in conjunction with the Assistant Principal: Academics.

Note:

All Science courses are UC approved under Area D-Lab Science, unless indicated otherwise.

All Science courses are NCAA approved, unless indicated otherwise.

All Science courses are full year, unless indicated otherwise.

Lower Division

3720 BIOLOGY

Prerequisite: None

Description: This is a required course (if prerequisites are met, Honors Biology may also be taken to fulfill this requirement). Biology is the study of life examining the structure and function of organisms, including humans, at the molecular, cellular and organismal level, you learn about the structure and function of organisms at the molecular, cellular and organism level. This course covers topics such as biochemistry, cells, genetics, biotechnology, ecology, evolution including lab-based investigations.

3723 HONORS BIOLOGY

Prerequisite: Administrative Approval

Description: This is an accelerated course in general Biology. It covers the structure and function of living organisms at the molecular, cellular and organismal level. Laboratory work, dissection, individual and/or group projects and selected readings are incorporated into this accelerated course.

3708 CHEMISTRY IN THE COMMUNITY

Prerequisites: Prior Science & Math Classes

- Successful completion of Biology or Honors Biology,
- Successful completion of Algebra I or Honors Algebra I.

Description: This is a hands-on, college preparatory course that provides a conceptual focus of chemistry including states of matter, description of the atom and its subatomic particles, and chemical bonding. Students will engage in a deep dive into the lab equipment and procedures that allow us to perform and study chemical reactions.

3710 CHEMISTRY

Prerequisites: Prior Science & Math Classes

- Successful completion of Biology or Honors Biology
- Successful completion of Algebra 1 or Honors Algebra 1

Description: This college preparatory course provides instruction in: metric measurements, the states of matter, the use of the periodic table, chemical bonding, heat transfer, nuclear chemistry, atomic and molecular structure, chemical reactions, plus the chemical equations that describe them, stoichiometry, concentrations of solutions and pH. Students will focus on concepts of chemistry and getting familiar with all lab equipment.

3713 HONORS CHEMISTRY

Prerequisites: Prior Science & Math Classes

- A- in both semesters in Biology or
- B+ in both semesters of Honors Biology AND
- A in both semesters of Algebra 1 or
- A- in both semesters of Honors Algebra 1 or
- B+ in Geometry or Honors Geometry

Description: This course presents the material of Chemistry in an accelerated fashion, with a greater emphasis on deriving principles rather than simply memorizing those principles. Students will explore all the topics in the college prep Chemistry course, as well as gas laws, electrochemistry, and oxidation-reduction reactions. As in Chemistry, students should demonstrate a high proficiency in algebraic manipulations and the ability to extract mathematical data from word equations.

Upper Division

10065 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

This course is not offered in 2026/2027 school year

Prerequisites: Prior Science classes

- Successful completion of previous year's Science class

Description: Environmental science is a multidisciplinary science. This course provides students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and man-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. In this class, students will apply knowledge from the basic sciences and mathematics to practical global problems and search for viable solutions to environmental problems.

Additional Course fee: This course has an approximate fee of \$35 which will be charged to your TADS account.

10253 KINESIOLOGY (NEW)

Prerequisites: Prior Science classes

- Successful completion of previous year's Science class

Description: Kinesiology is a year-long, laboratory-based interdisciplinary science course that examines the principles of human movement, health, and performance through the integration of biology, chemistry, and physics. Students study muscle function, biomechanics, energy metabolism, nutrition, and injury prevention while applying scientific concepts such as force, torque, and energy transfer to real-world human motion. Through hands-on labs, data analysis, case studies, and project-based learning, students investigate how the body responds to physical activity and how science informs fitness, health, and athletic performance. Emphasis is placed on scientific reasoning, applied problem-solving, and effective communication. By the end of the course, students gain a strong foundation in life science concepts relevant to college study and careers in health science, sports medicine, physical therapy, and related fields.

10140 DISEASES AND HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY

Prerequisites: Prior Science classes

- Successful completion of previous year's Science class

Description: In this laboratory life science course, students study the structure and function of human body systems. Examples of major body systems covered include the nervous, circulatory, respiratory, immune, digestive and muscular systems. In addition, students will explore what happens to the body when normal function is upset by environmental toxins, lifestyle choices, genetic risk factors or infection. Diseases covered include diabetes, post-concussion syndrome, cancer, heart disease, allergies and influenza. Laboratory investigations include dissection, microscopic observations, and testing capabilities of the various body systems.

Additional Course fee: This course has an approximate fee of \$35 which will be charged to your TADS account.

10140 HONORS DISEASES & HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY

Prerequisites: Prior Science & Math classes

- B in both semesters of Honors Chemistry or
- A- in both semesters of Chemistry or
- A in both semesters of upper division college prep science courses

Description: In this laboratory life science course, students study the structure and function of human body systems. Examples of major body systems covered include the nervous, circulatory, respiratory, immune, digestive and muscular systems. This course will delve deep into the molecular mechanisms of cell function. We will focus on pathophysiology studying a range of diseases including diabetes, post-concussion syndrome, cancer, heart disease, allergies and influenza. Current public health issues and bioethics will also be discussed. Laboratory investigations include dissection, microscopic observations, and testing capabilities of the various body systems.

Additional Course fee: This course has an approximate fee of \$35 which will be charged to your TADS account.

3830 AP BIOLOGY

Prerequisites: Prior Science Classes

- B+ in both semesters of Honors Chemistry or
- A- in both semesters of any Honors Science elective or
- B in both semesters of any AP Science course
- Or Departmental approval AND
- Completion of the AP Contract

Description: Primary emphasis in this Advanced Placement Biology course is on developing an understanding of concepts rather than on memorizing terms and technical details. Essential to this concept is a grasp of science as a process rather than as an accumulation of facts. Students should have recognition of unifying themes that integrate the major topics of Biology, and be able to apply biological knowledge and critical thinking to environmental and social concerns.

This course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Examination administered by the College Board in May. Students should be prepared to spend time outside of class to complete this rigorous course. The course has the same major themes and topics covered by college level Biology courses. The three major curriculum areas are: 1) Molecules and Cells; 2) Heredity and Evolution, and 3) Organisms and Populations. The course involves extensive lab work and the pace of this course is intense. Students are required to do extensive outside reading. All students who take this course are required to take the AP Exam in May.

Additional Course fee: This course has an approximate fee of \$35 which will be charged to your TADS account.

10252 HONORS BIOCHEMISTRY (NEW)

Prerequisites:

- A in both semesters of Chemistry or
- B in both semesters of Honors Chemistry or
- B in both semesters of an AP Science course

Description: Honors Biochemistry is a year-long, advanced science course for students who enjoy hands-on labs and want to explore how chemistry explains life at the molecular level. The course focuses on proteins, enzymes, DNA, metabolism, and energy transfer, helping students understand how cells function and how biological processes are driven by chemical reactions. Students conduct frequent laboratory experiments, including enzyme studies, protein purification, and molecular biology techniques, while learning how to analyze data and communicate scientific results. This course is ideal for students interested in health sciences, medicine, biotechnology, engineering, or advanced science study, and it provides strong preparation for college-level laboratory courses.

10104 AP CHEMISTRY

Prerequisites: Prior Science & Math Classes

- A- in both semesters of Honors Chemistry or
- A- in both semesters of any Honors Science elective or
- B in both semesters of any AP Science course AND
- Concurrent enrollment in Honors Algebra 2/Trigonometry or
- B+ in both semesters of Algebra 2
- Completion of the AP Contract

Description: Advanced Placement Chemistry is designed to be the equivalent of a first year college Introductory Chemistry course for science majors. As such, this course is a valuable asset for any student with a desire to major in any science at college. Topics covered and presented in considerable depth include atomic theory, molecular bonding, kinetic theory of gasses, chemical equilibria, reaction kinetics, acid-base chemistry, and thermodynamics. Given the strong emphasis placed on quantitative problem solving, this course is suitable only for students with very strong math skills. A mandatory summer homework packet must be completed for the first day of class. All students are required to take the Advanced Placement examination in May.

10238 CONCEPTUAL PHYSICS

Prerequisites: Prior Science classes

- Successful completion of Chemistry in the Community or recommendation of the Chemistry instructor

Description: Description: The Conceptual Physics course is designed to introduce students to the fundamental principles of physics without a heavy emphasis on advanced mathematics. Instead of focusing on complex equations, students will explore the core concepts of physics through real-world applications, hands-on experiments, and qualitative reasoning. Students will investigate topics such as motion, forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism, and the structure of matter in a way that emphasizes understanding rather than calculation. Through engaging discussions, interactive labs, and practical demonstrations, students will develop a deep appreciation for how physics explains the world around them, from everyday phenomena to cutting-edge technology.

3810 PHYSICS

Prerequisites: Prior Science Class

- Successful completion of previous year's Science class

Description: This course investigates the basic concepts of mechanics, force, work, rotation, fluids, heat, sound, light, magnetic fields, AC & DC circuits, and atomic theory. Students will be able to draw valid conclusions through mathematical concepts. Outside reading is required and a scientific calculator is needed.

3813 HONORS PHYSICS

Prerequisites: Prior Science & Math Classes

- B+ in both semesters of Honors Chemistry or
- A- in both semesters of Chemistry or
- A in both semesters of upper division college prep science course AND
- B in both semesters of Honors Geometry or
- B+ both semesters in Geometry

Description: Physics is a traditional algebra-based, laboratory science course that covers the topics of mechanics, energy, heat, sound, light, electricity and magnetism. Students will build on their science fundamentals and develop their problem solving skills. The course is taught with the use of AP approved curriculum and includes demonstrations, lectures, discussions of a wide range of applications, laboratory projects, and computer simulated interactive laboratories.

10094 AP PHYSICS 1

Prerequisites: Prior Science & Math Classes

- A- in both semesters of Honors Chemistry or
- A- in both semesters of any Honors Science elective or
- B in both semesters of AP Science course AND
- B+ in both semesters of Honors Algebra 2/Trigonometry or Algebra 2
- Or Departmental approval AND
- Completion of the AP Contract

Description: This is an algebra-based laboratory science and is the equivalent to a first-semester college course in algebra-based physics. Students will build on their science fundamentals and develop their problem solving skills. The course covers Newtonian mechanics (including rotational dynamics and angular momentum), work, energy, power, mechanical waves, sound, and electric circuits. It includes demonstrations, lectures, discussions of a wide variety of applications, projects and computer simulated interactive laboratories. The course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Exam by the College Board in May.

Note: Students should be prepared to meet for additional instruction outside of class a few times a year.

10117 AP PHYSICS C

Prerequisites: Prior Science & Math Classes

- A in both semesters of Honors Chemistry or
- A in both semesters of Honors Physics or
- B+ in both semesters of AP science course
- Completion of or concurrent enrollment in AP Calculus AB or higher AND
- Completion of the AP Contract

Description: This is a calculus-based laboratory science and is the equivalent to a first-semester college course in calculus-based physics. Students will build on their science fundamentals and develop their problem solving skills while studying physical mechanics. The course covers understanding/analyzing physical data, sequence of steps in the analysis of a particular physical phenomenon/model, and using sound mathematical reasoning to perform laboratory experiments and analyze results. It includes demonstrations, lectures, discussions of a wide variety of applications, projects and computer simulated interactive laboratories. The course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Exam by the College Board in May.

Note: Students should be prepared to meet for additional instruction outside of class a few times a year.

10215 INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING DESIGN

Prerequisites: Prior Science & Math classes

- B in both semesters of previous year's science course AND
- B in both semesters of Algebra 2 or higher

Description: The major focus in class is the design process and its application engineering concepts. Through hands-on projects, students apply engineering standards and document their work. Students use industry standard 3D modeling software to help them design solutions to solve proposed problems, document their work using an engineer's notebook, and communicate solutions to peers and members of the professional community.

10239 ROBOTICS ENGINEERING

Prerequisites: None

Robotics Engineering is a hands-on, project-based course designed to introduce students to fundamental concepts in robotics and engineering. The course focuses on the preparation for and participation in the annual FRC robotics challenge. Students will develop essential skills in basic computer-aided design (CAD), mechanical design, and introductory programming. Students also develop teamwork, problem-solving, and project management skills—critical for future success in both academics and the workplace. The instruction includes a mix of lectures and simple, multi-week design projects, helping students gradually build their technical knowledge and teamwork capabilities. Assessments are based on weekly progress logs, quizzes, attendance, and a final design project

Note:

- Classes are held after school in the Serra Robotics shop, where safety training for tool use is required.
- Hours are flexible to accommodate student schedules but requires the same amount of class time as all other semester 0.5 credit courses.

10240 HONORS ROBOTICS ENGINEERING

Prerequisites: Prior Science or Math classes

- Concurrent placement or past enrollment in honors-level Science or Math classes or approval of the instructor

Description: Honors Robotics Engineering is a hands-on, project-based course that introduces students to a wide range of engineering disciplines, centered around the annual FRC robotics challenge. Students will develop essential skills in CAD, CAM, electrical and mechanical design, systems engineering, machining, fabrication, and software development (Java). Additionally, students learn leadership, teamwork, negotiation, and project management—skills essential in the engineering workplace. Instruction includes both lectures and multi-week design projects, progressively increasing in complexity. Assessment is based on weekly progress logs, quizzes, attendance, and an end-of-semester design project.

Note:

- Classes are held after school in the Serra Robotics shop, where safety training for tool use is required.
- Hours are flexible to accommodate student schedules, but a minimum of four hours per week is required, though more time will likely be necessary.

3895 SCIENCE RESEARCH PROJECT

Duration: Semester and not UC/CSU or NCAA approved

Prerequisites: Completion of application and Department Chair and supervising teacher approval required.

Description: This Independent Study course is taken in addition to the science requirement for graduation. Students may perform a scientific research project in the laboratory or field setting. Topics are of the students own choosing (with Science Department approval.) Areas of study for the research project can be from any of the disciplines of science taught at Serra.

3899 SCIENCE TA

Duration: Semester and not UC/CSU or NCAA approved

Prerequisites:

- Upper division standing AND
- B- in both semesters of previous science courses AND
- Department Chair approval

Description: The student is assigned a period to assist the teacher in order to accommodate the needs of the department. The TA helps the science instructor in the classroom and laboratory and in other science-related activities agreed to by the instructor and the TA. Students are required to meet with their teacher every period and complete all work required by the teacher.

SCIENCE COURSES OFFERED THROUGH TRI-SCHOOL

10066 FORENSIC BIOLOGY

Description: Forensic Biology is a Tri-School offering at Mercy High School for. See the Tri-School section of this directory for details.

3825 ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

Description: Anatomy and Physiology is a Tri-School offering at Mercy High School. See the Tri-School section for details.

3826 HONORS ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

Description: Honors Anatomy and Physiology is a Tri-School offering at Mercy High School. See the Tri-School section for details.

10181 FOUNDATIONS OF SPORTS MEDICINE

Description: Foundations of Sports Medicine is a Tri-School offering at Notre Dame High School. See the Tri-School section of this directory for details.

10259 AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Description: AP Environmental Science is a Tri-School offering at Mercy High School. See the Tri-School section for details.

10262 AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

Description: Aerospace Engineering is a Tri-School offering at Mercy High School. See the Tri-School section for details.

World Languages Department

Two years of the same world language is required for graduation, but three years is encouraged. Students should choose next year's World Language classes according to the following guidelines:

- Most colleges and universities require a minimum of two years of the same world language for entrance.
- Some schools (such as the University of California system and many private schools) recommend three years of the same world language for entrance.
- It is strongly recommended that students check college world language requirements with their counselor or world language teacher.

World Languages Department: Honors/AP Student Placement Policy

In general, students will be placed in honors or AP classes based on the following criteria: Students currently in an honors class who earn a B+ or higher both semesters qualify for the next honors course. Students in a college prep class who earn an A- or higher both semesters qualify for consideration for the next honors course. The Department Chair will make the final determination of eligibility for all courses in conjunction with the Assistant Principal: Academics and/or Dean of Studies.

All students must meet prerequisites and complete the indicated process in order to be considered for Honors or AP World Languages courses and remain in said courses.

Initial Placement

Incoming 9th grade students are required to take a placement test in May to become eligible for advanced standing as an incoming freshman. Non-native and non-heritage speakers of the language, as well as students with little or no prior exposure or instruction in the target language, will be placed in the first level of the world language.

Qualifying Into and Out of Honors or AP

- Students currently in an honors class must earn a B+ or higher to qualify for the next honors course.
- Students taking AP Spanish, AP Mandarin or AP French must meet the prerequisites for the subsequent level, successfully pass a placement test and complete an AP contract.
- Each placement test is evaluated by the Department Chair, along with multiple other teachers within the department, including the current Honors or AP teacher.

Transferring From Another School's Honors/AP Program

Transfer students who request placement into the Honors/AP Program at Serra must take a world language placement test to be placed in our program.

Communicating Student Placement

Once all students have been assessed by the World Languages Department, final student placement will be conveyed by the department chair and/or the Dean of Studies, in conjunction with the Assistant Principal: Academics.

Note:

All World Languages courses are UC approved under Area E-Language, unless indicated otherwise.

All World Languages courses are full year, unless indicated otherwise.

All World Languages courses are NCAA approved, unless indicated otherwise.

French

4100 FRENCH I

Prerequisite: None

Description: This is a first year course of French. Emphasis is placed on basic development of the four language skills: understanding, speaking, reading and writing. Students focus on mastering vocabulary and integrating conversational skills in the classroom.

4200 FRENCH II

Prerequisite: C- in both semesters of French I

Description: This is a second year course of French. A continuation of French I, this course maintains and develops oral competency, develops reading skills, writing skills, and cultural awareness and begins the formal study of grammar.

4301 FRENCH III

Prerequisite: C in both semesters of French II

Description: This is a third year course of French. The goals of this course are to increase oral competency and fluency, to continue the development of reading comprehension, to reinforce oral and written grammatical structures, and to continue awareness of cultural references.

4303 FRENCH IV

Prerequisite: C in both semesters of French III

Description: This is a fourth year course of French. Students continue their learning and usage of the French language by engaging in complex conversations utilizing correct vocabulary, grammar and multiple verb tenses. Speaking, reading and writing skills are heightened by including cultural/historical units, French literature, and creative exercises. New material is introduced using various methods and exercises. Students reinforced their skills through paired, group, and cooperative assignments.

Mandarin

10022 MANDARIN I

Prerequisite: None

Description: This is a first year course of Mandarin. Students will develop the basic skills in Mandarin Chinese, such as useful conversation for daily life. Students will also learn to read, write, speak and understand basic Mandarin Chinese characters and pinyin. Students will be exposed to a variety of Mandarin-speaking cultures in Mainland China, Taiwan, Singapore and more.

Note: This Tri-School course meets during the second period.

10023 MANDARIN II

Prerequisite: C- in both semesters of Mandarin I

Description: This is a second year course of Mandarin. A continuation of Mandarin I, this course maintains and develops oral competency, reading skills, writing skills and cultural awareness of the historical issues and influence of Mandarin-speaking cultures.

Note: This Tri-School course meets during the first period.

10024 MANDARIN III

Prerequisite: C in both semesters of Mandarin II

Description: This is a third year course of Mandarin that builds on the material and skills developed in the first two years of Mandarin. The course reinforces previous material as well as continues to expand in the areas of grammar, vocabulary and conversation. Increased speaking of the target language with cultural accuracy is an important aspect of this course.

Note: This Tri-School course meets during the third period.

10026 MANDARIN IV

Prerequisite: B- in both semesters of Mandarin III

Description: This is a fourth year course of Mandarin. Students will continue to develop the skills necessary to carry on extended conversations in Chinese, expressing their opinions on issues related to current events, Chinese society, politics, economics, education, and Chinese culture. Students will be able to produce and present their own viewpoints of events by using the Chinese language in both spoken and written form. The class will be conducted entirely in Mandarin with an emphasis on active student participation in the target language.

Note: This Tri-School course meets during the fourth period.

10093 AP CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Prerequisites:

- A in both semesters of Mandarin III or
- A- in both semesters of Mandarin IV AND
- Successful results of the placement test AND
- Completion of AP contract

Description: AP Chinese is an advanced Mandarin Chinese course that prepares students for the Advanced Placement Exam in May. Students will be able to successfully communicate both linguistically and culturally in Chinese within and beyond the school setting. The course content includes authentic sources such as Chinese newspapers, radio broadcasts, video clips, and literary texts. Students will be able to demonstrate their Chinese proficiency across three communicative modes (interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational.) This course will be conducted entirely in Mandarin with an emphasis on active student participation in the target language. All students are required to take the AP exam in May.

Note: This Tri-School course meets during the fourth period.

Spanish

4140 SPANISH I

Prerequisite: None

Description: This is a first year course of Spanish. Students are introduced to the four linguistic aims of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Cultural aspects of Spain and Latin America are integrated into the course.

4240 SPANISH II

Prerequisite: C- in both semesters of Spanish I

Description: This is a second year course of Spanish. A continuation of Spanish I, this course focuses on verb formation, sentence structure, vocabulary, and historical and cultural aspects of the Hispanic world.

4246 HONORS SPANISH II

Prerequisites:

- A- in both semesters of Spanish I AND
- Successful results of the placement test

Description: This is a second year course of Spanish designed to challenge students at a higher level than the Spanish II class. The course covers content at a deeper level, it moves at a faster pace, and students demonstrate a higher level of understanding of grammar and vocabulary in both written and verbal forms. To be recommended for this course, students must be active participants in their current Spanish I course. This course focuses on verb formation, sentence structure, vocabulary, and historical and cultural aspects of the Hispanic world.

4341 SPANISH III

Prerequisite: C in both semesters of Spanish II

Description: This is a third year course of Spanish that builds on the material covered in the first two years of Spanish. The course re-enforces previously learned material and continues to expand in the areas of grammar, vocabulary and conversation. Increased speaking of the target language is a key component of this course.

4348 HONORS SPANISH III

Prerequisites:

- A- in both semesters of Spanish II or
- B- in both semesters of Honors Spanish II AND
- Successful results of the placement test

Description: This is a third year course of Spanish designed for students who excel and wish to become fluent in Spanish. This course prepares students for the AP Spanish Language class. This course reinforces previously learned material and expands in more complex areas of verb formation, sentence structure, vocabulary, conversation and culture. Increased speaking of the target language is a key component of this course.

4343 SPANISH IV

Prerequisite: B in both semesters of Spanish III

Description: This is a fourth year course of Spanish. Students continue to learn the Spanish language by engaging in complex conversations utilizing vocabulary, grammar and multiple verb tenses. Speaking, reading and writing skills are heightened by including cultural and historical units, Spanish literature and creative exercises. New material is introduced using various methods and exercises. Student understanding of the material is reinforced through paired, group and cooperative assignments.

4350 AP SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Prerequisites:

- A in both semesters of Spanish III or
- B in both semesters of Honors Spanish III or
- B in both semesters of Spanish IV AND
- Successful results of the placement test AND
- Completion of AP contract

Description: This course is designed to deepen the student's familiarity with the Spanish language in preparation for the AP Spanish Language exam in May. In addition to new grammar and vocabulary, students review and expand on previously learned vocabulary, sentence structure, conversation, reading, writing and culture. The class is conducted entirely in Spanish and involves a rigorous reading and writing curriculum. All students in the class are required to take the AP Exam in May.

Electives

4450 WORLD LANGUAGE TA

Duration: Semester and not UC/CSU or NCAA approved

Prerequisites:

- B- in all previous World Language courses AND
- Department Chair approval

Description: The student TA is required to assist a teacher by working with individual students, making periodic class presentations, working in conversational groups, and assisting with some clerical work. Students are required to meet with assigned teacher every period and complete all required tasks on time.

WORLD LANGUAGE COURSES OFFERED THROUGH TRI-SCHOOL

4180 AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 1

Description: American Sign Language 1 is a Tri-School offering at Mercy High School. See the Tri-School section for details.

10192 AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 2

Description: American Sign Language 2 is a Tri-School offering at Mercy High School. See the Tri-School section for details.

AP SPANISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE

Description: AP Spanish Literature and Culture is a Tri-School offering at Notre Dame High School. See the Tri-School section for details.

10261 HONORS FRENCH III

Description: Honors French III is a Tri-School offering at Notre Dame High School. See the Tri-School section for details.

10196 FRENCH IV

Description: French IV is a Tri-School offering at Notre Dame High School. See the Tri-School section for details.

10236 AP FRENCH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Description: AP French Language and Culture is a Tri-School offering at Notre Dame High School. See the Tri-School section for details.

Theology Department

Seven semesters of Theology are required for graduation. Students should choose next year's Theology classes according to the following guidelines:

- **Freshman Year** – All students are required to take Theology 1: Siempre Adelante: Becoming Men of Faith, Wisdom, and Service.
- **Sophomore Year** – All students are required to take Theology 2: Jesus and the Gospel.
- **Junior Year** – All students are required to take EITHER (A) Honors Philosophy (a one year course) OR (B) BOTH Theology 3A: Catholic Ethics and Morality (a one semester course) AND one one-semester selective course. Students will rank their choices of the selective options: Church History, Religions of the World, and Theology of Sport. Students must meet prerequisites of electives.
- **Senior Year** – All students are required to take Theology:
 - 4A: Men in Relationships and Theology
 - 4B: Social Justice.

Note:

Electives are granted on a first-come-first served basis, so students should register early to increase their chances of getting their first choice elective course.

All Theology courses are UC approved under Area G-Elective.

All Theology courses are not NCAA approved

All Theology courses are full year, unless indicated otherwise.

Freshmen and Sophomore

5100 THEOLOGY 1

Prerequisite: None

Description: Freshman Theology – SIEMPRE ADELANTE: BECOMING MEN OF FAITH, WISDOM, AND SERVICE. This first year of theology takes an in-depth look at the life of St. Junipero Serra and how young men today can follow in his footsteps and live a life of Siempre Adelante (Always Forward). We look closely at the teachings of Jesus and the Church, examining the community that is dedicated to living out the meaning of the Gospels. To do this, we explore the Scriptures, their development, and how these ancient texts influence us to become men of faith, wisdom, service, community, and leadership. Finally, we examine the role of the sacraments and how our faith should inform our actions.

5200 THEOLOGY 2

Duration: Semester

Prerequisite: None

Description: Sophomore Theology – JESUS AND THE GOSPEL. This one semester course seeks to enable students to answer Jesus' question "Who do you say that I am?" in dialogue with the Church's teaching and to identify what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Students will examine the historical, cultural, political, and religious context of the world of Jesus and the Gospel writers.

Junior Year

5250 THEOLOGY 3A

Duration: Semester

Prerequisite: None

Description: Junior Theology – CATHOLIC ETHICS AND MORALITY. This course examines ethical and moral issues from the Catholic perspective. Students are introduced to fundamental concepts, such as imago Dei, human dignity, natural law, Jesus' moral teachings, virtue, original sin, and the primacy of conscience. Students practice skills such as decision making, research, critical thinking, and evaluating sources and points of view. After an introduction to the core concepts of Catholic ethics and morality, students apply them to various ethical issues, such as the death penalty, euthanasia, abortion, racism, substance abuse, and issues pertaining to sex and sexuality. The purpose of the course is to assist students in developing well formed consciences in order to tackle the many issues they will face in their lives.

Junior Selectives

5260 CHURCH HISTORY

Duration: Semester

Prerequisite: Upper Division

Description: Junior Theology Elective – CHURCH HISTORY. This course explores the role of Christian faith in shaping the 2000 year history of the Catholic Church. It will begin with a study of the foundation of the Church and the Patristic period focusing on primary sources. We will continue with an examination of the Church in the Scholastic period through the globalization of the Church with an emphasis on secondary sources and themes such as faith and reason. The culmination of the course is a major research project where students will generate their own questions for historical inquiry. Students will choose topics for research and then develop and implement a research plan. This course seeks to deepen our understanding of the role of faith in Church history and its relevance to our lived experience of Church today.

10257 HONORS PHILOSOPHY (NEW)

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: Upper Division

- Concurrent enrollment in Honors/AP English OR
- Concurrent enrollment in AP Social Studies courses OR
- A- or higher in Philosophy
- May be taken for credit after Philosophy

Description: Honors Philosophy is a year-long, advanced course that introduces students to philosophical inquiry with a sustained focus on ethical reasoning and applied ethics within a broader philosophical framework. Students study major philosophical questions, thinkers, and thought experiments while examining normative and applied ethics, including Catholic moral teaching, through close reading of primary texts, discussion, and analytical writing. Emphasis is placed on critical reasoning, argument analysis, ethical decision-making, and clear communication in both written and oral forms. Students engage in debates, essays, and presentations that require evaluating competing viewpoints, constructing logical arguments, and reflecting on personal and societal implications of philosophical ideas. By the end of the course, students develop advanced skills in critical thinking, ethical analysis, and philosophical reflection appropriate for college-level humanities study.

Note: This Tri-School course meets during first period.

10118 PHILOSOPHY

This course is not offered for 2026/2027 school year

Prerequisite: Upper Division

Description: Junior Theology Elective – This course introduces students to the discipline through discussing and critiquing texts, problems, and thought experiments from thinkers from Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle to contemporary philosophers. Students help choose the focus of the course, but areas of coverage could include applied ethics & bioethics, philosophy of science, philosophy of mind, and free will. The primary objective is to enable students to think critically about complex problems from a variety of angles and generate creative solutions, which they are also able to criticize; this is done both in writing and in discussion. In a world where technology often renders traditional job training obsolete, critical and creative thinking skills are the ultimate portable skills.

10237 PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY OF SPORT

Duration: Semester

Prerequisite: Upper Division

Description: We love to play games, from chess to Monopoly to League of Legends to basketball and track, but what makes a game a sport? We will look at what philosophers and the Church say about sport, going deep into the benefits (fitness, friendship, sportsmanship) and the injustices (cheating, doping, discrimination, violence). The final project will be writing a personal philosophy and theology of sport. Students will work on critical thinking, philosophical and theological speaking and writing skills, along with how to apply what is learned in the course to their own sports. What is God up to when we pursue sport? Let's find out.

10217 RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD

Duration: Semester/ UC/CSU Area A - History /Social Science

Prerequisite: Upper Division

Description: Junior Theology Elective – RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD examines major global religious traditions within their cultural and historical contexts. Beginning with varieties of Christianities, students will explore and compare other Western traditions such as Judaism and Islam. Eastern religions, including Buddhism, Hinduism, Daoism, and Shinto, will also be examined along with new and emerging religious movements. Students will study major themes, sacred literature, and material culture from these traditions, and will participate in experiential elements such as ethnographic site visits to observe rituals and festivals. Christian and non-Christian traditions are considered together to highlight their unique contributions to the world. Emphasis is placed on what students are likely to encounter in local and international settings, including relationships, social events, business, travel, and further study. Students will analyze primary and secondary sources to illustrate the human search for the sacred, both past and present.

Senior Year

5304 THEOLOGY 4A

Duration: Semester

Prerequisite: Upper Division

Description: Senior Theology – MEN IN RELATIONSHIPS. This course explores what it means to be a Christian man in today's world. The student's job is to wrestle with the questions that men encounter through philosophical and theological readings. By the end of the semester they will be able to articulate their thoughts on these and other essential issues for men – responding to text, Scripture, discussion, and their own experience. Areas of study include personality, coming of age, male spirituality and archetypal patterns, love, friendship, dating, intimacy, sexuality, the single life, married life, and religious and consecrated life.

5305 THEOLOGY 4B

Duration: Semester

Prerequisite: Upper Division

Description: Senior Theology – SOCIAL JUSTICE. This is an introduction to and an overview of the Catholic Church's stance on issues of society, striving to live out the Gospel mandate to love one another. The readings, both philosophical and theological, examine how the Church has addressed, in word and in deed, various social issues. Students craft an ethical argument, using philosophical and theological sources, that we ought to act to solve an injustice that they choose and research, and they design a website to present their research, argument, interview with an expert, and solution.

Senior elective

10257 HONORS PHILOSOPHY (NEW)

Duration: Year

Prerequisites: Upper Division

- Concurrent enrollment in Honors/AP English OR
- Concurrent enrollment in AP Social Studies courses OR
- A- or higher in Philosophy
- May be taken for credit after Philosophy

Description: Honors Philosophy is a year-long, advanced course that introduces students to philosophical inquiry with a sustained focus on ethical reasoning and applied ethics within a broader philosophical framework. Students study major philosophical questions, thinkers, and thought experiments while examining normative and applied ethics, including Catholic moral teaching, through close reading of primary texts, discussion, and analytical writing. Emphasis is placed on critical reasoning, argument analysis, ethical decision-making, and clear communication in both written and oral forms. Students engage in debates, essays, and presentations that require evaluating competing viewpoints, constructing logical arguments, and reflecting on personal and societal implications of philosophical ideas. By the end of the course, students develop advanced skills in critical thinking, ethical analysis, and philosophical reflection appropriate for college-level humanities study.

Note: This Tri-School course meets during first period.

Campus Ministry

Each year, 20 hours of Christian Service is required for graduation. Of those 20 hours, 10 hours must be FIAT hours. Students must attend the Junior Urban Plunge with their Junior Theology class.

Note:

All Campus Ministry courses are not UC approved.

All Campus Ministry courses are not NCAA approved

All Campus Ministry courses are full year, unless indicated otherwise.

5397 LITURGICAL STUDIES

Duration: Semester

Prerequisite: Approval of the instructor

Description: Liturgical Studies is a course that explores the various components of liturgical celebrations (i.e. Mass, Prayer Services) in the Roman Catholic tradition. Instruction articulates the evolution and importance of these components. Students study the history of these celebrations and the changes brought about by the Second Vatican Council. Students involve themselves in the design and implementation of liturgical celebrations at Serra High School. Ultimately, students identify ways to strengthen a liturgical celebration in order for the celebration to be transformational to the community.

5395 CAMPUS MINISTRY TA

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: Upper division standing and Director of Campus Ministry approval

Description: Student assists the Campus Ministry office in the organization and running of various programs. A Campus Ministry TA is required to meet with their teacher every period and complete all work required by the teacher.

Visual & Performing Arts Department

One year of Visual and Performing Arts is required for graduation.

Student Placement Policy:

In general, students will be placed in VPA classes based on the following criteria:

- The Visual and Performing Arts Department does not administer placement or challenge exams.
- Students may enroll in any VPA course if they meet the prerequisites for that course.
- Some VPA courses have an audition or performance prerequisite.
- The VPA course instructor, in conjunction with the VPA Department Chair will make the final determination for placement in all courses. Final student placement will be conveyed by the department chair and/or the Dean of Studies, in conjunction with the Assistant Principal: Academics.

All VPA courses are UC approved under Area F-VPA, unless indicated otherwise.

All VPA courses are not NCAA approved.

All VPA courses are full year, unless indicated otherwise.

Performing Arts

10208 CONCERT BAND (BEGINNING BAND)

Prerequisite: None

Description: This is a course for students wishing to learn the basics of a band instrument such as the flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba or percussion. This course is specifically designed to inspire students who have never played a band instrument to learn here at Serra. After a year in this band, students will be invited to join the Symphonic Band. Serra High School will provide an instrument for all participants. Once you sign up for this class, you'll receive a notice of an Instrument Selection Day where students will be invited to try all the instruments to pick one that they like.

Note:

- This Tri-school course meets during the third period.
- Students will need to rent or purchase an instrument.
- Students will be required to purchase a Serra performance polo shirt (\$65).

7010 SYMPHONIC BAND

Prerequisite: Audition and approval by the instructor

Description: This performance-based course is offered to students with experience in music ensemble playing and at least an intermediate playing ability on one or more instruments. Members of the Symphonic Band also. Perform together as the Serra Pep Band for Varsity Football/Basketball home games. Performances may also include Serra Christmas/Spring concerts, community concerts/festivals, and Open House/Recruiting events. All performances are mandatory. Students must provide their own instruments (some exceptions may apply).

Note:

- This Tri-School course meets during the first period.
- Students will be required to purchase a Serra performance polo shirt (\$65).
- The music program MAY travel next year. Participation in travel-related performances is optional. There will be an informational meeting in the fall with details of the trip.
- Students may choose to purchase suggested apps for class, but they are not required.

7020 JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Prerequisite: Audition and approval of the instructor

Description: This Tri-School performance-based course studies the elements found in Bebop, Swing, Blues, Funk, Cool, and Modern Jazz including the unique art form of improvisation. Festival and concert performances allow opportunities for small and large ensemble playing. All performances are mandatory. Students in the Jazz Band are encouraged to also take Symphonic Band. The Jazz Band joins with our Symphonic Band to create our Pep Band which performs at Varsity Football/Basketball games. All performances are mandatory.

Note:

- This Tri-School course meets Monday-Thursday during the zero period (7:20-8:05 AM).
- Students will be required to purchase a Serra performance polo shirt (\$65).
- The music program MAY travel next year. Participation is optional. There will be an informational meeting in the fall with details of the trip.
- Students will be required to purchase the iRealPro app (about \$15) to practice improvisation and lead sheets at home.

10195 MUSIC AND VIDEO PRODUCTION LAB

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course introduces students to making music with digital audio workstations, synthesizers, samplers, and other software tools. Students create compositions exploring approaches from popular genres such as hip hop and electronic dance music as well as noise, ambient, experimental, and avant-garde. Discussion topics include the visual, aural, and physical connections between various styles and functions of composition while developing a critical analysis of musical design and its role or impact in our everyday lives.

This course will also focus on digital videography. Students will learn about camera angles, storyboarding, screen-writing, script-writing, outlining and how to use a green screen. Students will work on projects such as newscasts, short films and commercials where they will shoot the video, play the actors, edit the movies and create soundtracks to their work.

7090 MEN'S CHORUS

Prerequisite: None

Description: A performance-based course for those interested in singing for learning and enjoyment. No experience necessary. Students prepare and perform appropriate choral literature at the highest possible level. In the process, students will learn proper and healthy singing techniques, musical terms, and choral concepts while developing a personal understanding of the details that contribute to choral excellence. Performances include festivals, concerts, and some school events.

Note:

- Participation in ALL performances is mandatory.
- Students will be required to purchase a Serra performance polo shirt (\$65).
- The music program MAY travel next year. Participation in travel related performances is optional. There will be an informational meeting in the fall with details of the trip.

6095 DRAMA 1: INTRODUCTION TO PERFORMANCE

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course introduces students to the art of acting through a combination of theoretical and practical study. Students will experience performance through participation in improvisation, cold reading, pantomime, characterization, movement, monologues, and vocal technique. The class will read scenes and learn about textual analysis, theatrical vocabulary, the history of Western theater, different theater styles and their originators, and the evolution of acting techniques and methods. Students will watch and critique performances and complete one scene study per semester.

Note: This Tri-School course meets during the first period.

10120 DRAMA 2: ACTING FOR THE STAGE

Prerequisites:

- Successful completion of Drama 1 OR by audition AND
- Approval of the instructor

Description: This full-year course builds on the foundations learned in Drama 1 and focuses on the practical application of acting methods and theories. The course will include ensemble acting, movement, mask work, improvisation, vocal technique, and scene study. Students will complete in depth textual analysis and will learn about the evolution of acting techniques and their creators. This course will center on discerning objectives, obstacles, actions when approaching a performance, as well as touch upon inner monologue, power dynamics, behavioral observation, and emotional truth.

Students will watch and critique plays and complete one scene study per term.

Note:

- This Tri-School course meets during third period.
- This course meets concurrently with Drama 3 and Drama 4.
- The Advanced Drama classes MAY travel next year. Participation in travel related performances is optional. There will be an informational meeting in the fall with details of the trip.

10138 DRAMA 3: ADVANCED ACTING & PRODUCTION

Prerequisites:

- Successful completion of Drama 2 OR by audition AND
- Approval of the instructor

Description: This advanced course focuses on each student's individual artistic growth as both an actor/performer and a designer by alternating curriculum year to year.* **Example of Year One:** Students explore movement theater, create and record radio plays, and participate in a student-led public production. **Example of Year Two:** Students focus on film acting methods, genre scene studies, and original writing through Writer's Workshop, leading to a student-produced, designed, and performed public performance.

**Course curriculum is determined yearly based on enrollment, current and recent production seasons, and may change to best fit the education of the students enrolled.*

Note:

- This Tri-School course meets during third period.
- This course meets concurrently with Drama 2 and Drama 4.
- The Advanced Drama classes MAY travel next year. Participation in travel related performances is optional. There will be an informational meeting in the fall with details of the .

10177 DRAMA 4: ADVANCED ACTING & PERFORMANCE

Prerequisites:

- Successful completion of Drama 3 OR by audition
- Approval of the instructor

Description: This advanced course focuses on each student's individual artistic growth as both an actor/performer and a designer by alternating curriculum year to year.* **Example of Year One:** Students explore movement theater, create and record radio plays, and participate in a student-led public production. **Example of Year Two:** Students focus on film acting methods, genre scene studies, and original writing through Writer's Workshop, leading to a student-produced, designed, and performed public performance.

*Curriculum is determined yearly based on enrollment, current and recent production seasons and may change to best fit the education of the students enrolled.

Note:

- This Tri-school course meets during the third period.
- This course meets concurrently with Drama 2 and Drama 3.
- The Advanced Drama classes MAY travel next year. Participation in travel related performances is optional. There will be an informational meeting in the fall with details of the trip.

6210 FILM 1: DIGITAL FILM MAKING AND SCREENWRITING

Prerequisite: None

Description: This hands-on course is designed to familiarize students with cinematic language and film making through from the camera to the computer. Students will learn the basic language of cinema through screenwriting, storyboarding, short form narrative film, the casting process, and designing their own experimental works. Student work will stress collaboration, planning for deadlines, exploiting limited resources, and the application of post production techniques to enhance artistic expression and storytelling.

Note:

- For creating and editing film, this course uses Final Cut Pro, which is available to all students enrolled in the class on school computers.
- All editing must be done on the software provided during class, office hours and by appointment after school.
- Students can purchase the software for use at home provided they have a compatible Mac computer.
- Students are not required to purchase the software to enroll in the class.

Additional Course fee: This course has a materials fee of approximately \$80 for access to the online Screenwriting and Pre-Production suite Celtx, which will be charged to your TADS account.

Visual Arts

6003 ART 1: FOUNDATIONS IN VISUAL ART AND ART HISTORY

Prerequisite: None

Description: This full year course, open to freshmen through seniors, is available to anyone wishing to explore artistic expression through visual media, regardless of experience level. The course begins with the basic foundations of drawing, using charcoal, pencils, and pen and ink. The second semester addresses fundamentals of color, using colored pencils, pastels, watercolor and acrylic paint. In addition, 3 dimensional sculpture, such as mask making and wire sculptures are introduced. Varieties of subject matter are explored, including still life, landscape, perspective, figure and portrait. Art History is taught through powerpoint presentations. Attendance at the winter and spring art shows is mandatory.

Additional Course fee: This course has a materials fee of approximately \$100, which will be charged to your TADS account.

6007 ART 2: ADVANCED EXPLORATIONS IN 2D AND 3D ART

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Art 1 OR Instructor approval

Description: Art 2 builds upon the foundations learned in Art 1 and expands to new forms and mediums previously unexplored. Students will investigate the historical contexts of these new forms in parallel to their artistic creations. Some areas to be explored are armatures, printmaking, oil and mural painting, as well as additive and subtractive sculpture, and mosaic. Mandatory attendance at two field trips and at the winter and spring art shows.

**If you have any prior experience or a strong interest in art, please reach out to the instructor to see if you qualify to enroll in this advanced class without taking Art 1.*

Additional Course fee: This course has a materials fee of approximately \$100, which will be charged to your TADS account.

10251 INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL DESIGN (NEW)

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Art 1 OR Instructor approval

Description: Introduction to Digital Design is a year-long art course for students who enjoy creativity and technology. In this class, students learn how to use digital design tools to create original artwork for print and digital media. Projects focus on image-making, typography, color, layout, and visual storytelling, using industry-standard software. Students work through the creative process by brainstorming ideas, experimenting, revising their work, participating in critiques, and building a digital portfolio. This course is ideal for students interested in art, design, media, or creative careers, and for those who want to explore a digital medium before taking advanced art courses.

Note: Students enrolled in this course will be given an Adobe Creative Cloud account for the duration of the school year, and will use programs such as, but not limited to, Photoshop, Illustrator, After Effects, In Design, and others.

**If you have any prior experience or a strong interest in art, please reach out to the instructor to see if you qualify to enroll in this advanced class without taking Art 1.*

Additional Course fee: This course has a materials fee of approximately \$100, which will be charged to your TADS Account.

10178 AP 2D ART AND DESIGN

10211 AP 3D ART AND DESIGN

10191 AP DRAWING

Prerequisites:

- Successful completion of two fine arts courses
- Approval of the instructor

Description: AP 2D Art and Design, 3D Art and Design or AP Drawing is a course designed for the enthusiast serious art student. He will create a portfolio using different materials that demonstrates inquiry through art and design over the course of a year. This portfolio should include works in progress and documentation of the process. Students will be evaluated on the synthesis of materials, processes and ideas. During the class, students will use their prior knowledge of art making to investigate the element, principle or idea that they are most interested in. The purpose of the class is to find a concentration and do an in depth dive into how far he can take it. He could concentrate on a type of art, a technique or a media. Those who receive a 3 or higher could receive college credit for the class. There is a required summer project. Attendance at the winter and spring art shows is mandatory.

Additional Course fee: This course has a materials fee of approximately \$100, which will be charged to your TADS account.

6004 CERAMICS 1: FOUNDATIONS IN 3-DIMENSIONAL SCULPTURE IN CLAY

Prerequisite: None

Description: Students will explore artistic expression in the 3rd dimension using clay. The course starts with learning the basic techniques of clay and glazes, and then culminates with several projects that show the students' understanding of these techniques, including pinch pots, coils, slab, throwing, molding, trimming, and glazing. Ceramic art history and the use of tools will be taught through power points and quizzes. Attendance at the Art shows in November and April are mandatory. This full year course is open to sophomores, juniors and seniors, regardless of experience level.

Additional Course fee: This course has a materials fee of approximately \$100, which will be charged to your TADS account.

6009 CERAMICS/ART TA

Duration: Semester and not UC/CSU approved

Prerequisites:

- B- in Advanced Art or Basic Art or Ceramics AND
- Approval of the instructor

Description: The duty of the TA is to help the Art teacher, including correcting tests, recycling clay, putting up work and keeping the room organized. Also, the Art TA has the opportunity to work on a project of their choosing during the period that they are the TA. This could include a project that they learned about in either Art 1, Art 2 or Ceramics 1. It is possible that the Art TA could complete more than one project. Students are required to meet with their teacher every period and complete all work required by the teacher.

8620 YEARBOOK PUBLICATION

Prerequisite: Subject to Department and/or Administrative approval

Description: The yearbook course provides students with an introduction to a wide variety of visual and textual creative skills and business skills. Students develop competencies in the following areas: journalism, photography, graphic and visual design, interviewing and networking skills as well as organization and team deadlines. Classes are held during the school day with some required additional time after school. Students will have the opportunity to develop a theme based on their reflection of the school's personality and characteristics. Students are expected to interact with students of all grade levels and all backgrounds and interests as well as with faculty, staff, and coaches. At the end of the year, students will have created a cohesive and appealing publication for their peers to enjoy, and which will remain on the shelves of Serra High School for years to come.

VPA COURSES OFFERED THROUGH TRI-SCHOOL

6250 NON-DARKROOM PHOTOGRAPHY

Description: Non-Darkroom Photography is a Tri-School offering at Mercy High School. See the Tri-School section for details.

10142 3D ART

Description: 3D Art is a Tri-School offering at Mercy High School. See the Tri-School section for details.

10114 VIDEO PRODUCTION I

Description: Video Production I is a Tri-School offering at Notre Dame High School. See the Tri-School section for details.

7087 DANCE V- PARTNERING TECHNIQUES

Description: Dance V-Partnering Techniques is a Tri-School offering at Notre Dame School. See the Tri-School section for details.

10260 INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC: CONCEPTS AND EXPLORATION

Description: Introduction to Music is a Tri-School offering at Notre Dame High School. See the Tri-School section for details.

7098 AP MUSIC THEORY

Description: AP Music Theory is a Tri-School offering at Notre Dame High School. See the Tri-School section for details.

6112 AP ART HISTORY

Description: AP Art History is a Tri-School offering at Notre Dame High School. See the Tri-School section for details.

Innovation and Information

All of these elective courses can count towards graduation requirements.

Student Placement Policy:

In general, students will be placed in Innovation and Information classes based on the following criteria:

- The Innovation and Information Department does not administer placement or challenge exams.
- Students may enroll in any Innovation and Information course if they meet the prerequisites for that course.
- The Innovation and Information course instructor, in consultation with the Department Chair, will make the final determination for eligibility for all courses. Final student placement will be conveyed by the department chair and/or the Dean of Studies, in conjunction with the Assistant Principal: Academics.

All Innovation courses are UC approved under Area G-Elective, unless indicated otherwise.

All Innovation courses are not NCAA approved.

All Innovation courses are full year, unless indicated otherwise.

10112 PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN THINKING

Duration: Semester

Prerequisite: None

Description: Principles of Design Thinking is a process of observing deeply, being empathetic, identifying problems, and creating innovative solutions. We will practice user-centered design and spend a significant amount of time thinking about, discussing, and practicing empathy. A central theme is taking another person's point of view and understanding how different perspectives may lead to very different design problems and solutions. Over the course of the semester, we will study how design thinking can be a key skill for success in an evolving world, learn the theoretical underpinnings of the design thinking process, practice the design thinking process, familiarize ourselves with many universal principles of design, discuss and identify "good" and "bad" design, and explore and develop our capacities for innovation, creative thinking, and problem solving.

Additional Course fee: This course has a materials fee of approximately \$25, which will be charged to your TADS account.

10227 GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Duration: Semester

Prerequisites: Discussion with Director of Design-Led Innovation

Description: Through stories and speakers, students in this course will identify the causes that are important to them and develop ideas for project possibilities related to those causes. Particular attention will be paid to case studies of innovative leadership in a variety of cultural settings. The course is a blended class, with some meetings in person (typically during 0 Period), others via video conference (typically Monday evenings), asynchronous assignments, and other activities that help expand the students' skills with communication, feedback, revision, and presentation in a variety of settings. These meetings and activities will happen both during and beyond the normal school day. Students who complete this nontraditional course may use the project ideas they develop to apply to the Global Leadership Program.

Note:

- This course is pass/fail.
- This course meets outside of the school day (before and after school). Please talk to the Director of Design-Led Innovation for more information.
- This course may not be taken as a sixth class; it may only be taken in addition to a student's other six classes.

10027 CREATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR THE GLOBAL GOOD

Prerequisite: Approval of Director of Design-Led innovation

Description: In this course, students will use Design Thinking principles for an individually designed year-long project. The project will focus on service and should be centered on a topic that the student is personally interested or passionate about - such as recycling, cancer awareness or teaching digital citizenship skills to young children. Students will be responsible for creating a timeline for their project, meeting with project contacts on a regular basis (which may be outside of the regular school day), and executing the project. Students will present their final project at the end of the year to a panel of teachers, mentors, students, and/or parents. This is a nontraditional class, and students are expected to be organized self-starters.

Note: This Tri-School course meets during zero period (7:20-8:05 AM) once or twice a week. It may not be taken as a sixth class; it may only be taken in addition to a student's other six classes.

10028 HONORS ADVANCED SOLUTIONS FOR THE GLOBAL GOOD

Prerequisite: Approval of Director of Design-Led Innovation based on the progress of the student's project

Description: This course will focus on continuing the student project from the Creative Solutions for the Global Good class. The project must focus on community and/or service and should be centered on a topic that the student is personally interested or passionate about - such as recycling, cancer awareness or teaching digital citizenship skills to young children. Students will be responsible for creating a timeline for their project, meeting with project contacts on a regular basis (which may be outside of the regular school day) and executing the project. Students will present their final project at the end of the year to a panel of teachers, mentors, students, and/or parents. Depending on the scope and existing progress of the project, students may take this class in place of Creative Solutions for the Global Good. This is a nontraditional class, and students are expected to be organized self-starters.

Note: This Tri-School course meets during zero period (7:20-8:05 AM) once or twice a week. It may not be taken as a sixth class; it may only be taken in addition to a student's other six classes.

2460 COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

Duration: Semester

Prerequisite: B both semesters of Algebra 1

Description: This course serves as an introduction to the study of computer science/programming and therefore no prior knowledge of the subject is expected. The course focuses specifically on the fundamentals of Java programming including program design, problem-solving, data structures, basic syntax, language features, compilation, and execution. Successful completion of this course will serve as a foundation for more advanced computer science courses, specifically AP Computer Science.

Additional Course fee: This course has an approximate fee of \$10 which will be charged to your TADS account.

2465 AP COMPUTER SCIENCE A

UC/CSU approved under Area C-Mathematics

Prerequisites:

- A both semesters in Algebra 2 or
- B both semesters in Honors Algebra 2/Trig AND
- Completion of the AP contract

Note: This course is a blended course with students meeting with the teacher both in person and online.

Description: This course emphasizes object-oriented programming methodology with a concentration on problem-solving and algorithm development and is meant to be the equivalent of a first semester college-level course in Computer Science. It also includes an introduction to the study of data structures, design, documentation, and abstraction. This course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Examination administered by the College Board in May. Students are expected to take the Computer Science A Advanced Placement exam. Previous experience and strong interest in computer programming is helpful. This is an intensive blended class with some class meetings in person and others remote. During remote classes, students will be given assignments to be completed individually and the teacher will be available online for support. Students are expected to be independent learners who communicate effectively through many different means, such as email, Zoom meetings, and in person.

Note: This course is a blended course with students meeting with the teacher both in person and online.

Additional Course fee: This course has an approximate fee of \$10 which will be charged to your TADS account

102209 INTRODUCTION TO ANDROID APP DEVELOPMENT

Prerequisites:

- B both semesters in AP Computer Science or
- A in Computer Programming or
- B in an approved college level first semester Java course (see the Dean of Studies for approval).

Description: The purpose of this course is to extend the knowledge students already have of Java. Intro to Android App Design applies Java knowledge to app development while nurturing new skills in XML coding and handling what goes on behind the scenes of an app

The first semester of the course focuses on learning how to build 2 main apps. Second semester, students will be able to design their own app, identifying a user and need, how that need would be addressed, and making their app come alive. Students will be asked to present their app, get feedback from their fellow classmates and friends and family, and make the necessary changes to their app.

Note:

- **This course is a blended course with students meeting with the teacher both in person and online.**
- Students will need to download Android Studio and will need a laptop for this class.

10061 INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS: ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Duration: Semester

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course provides students an introduction to the principles and functions of business from an entrepreneurial perspective. Students will look at real-world entrepreneurial topics influencing business today and analyze current business trends by studying relevant and interesting business content throughout the semester. Themes of the course will include Entrepreneurial Characteristics, Business History, Business Ethics, Social Entrepreneurship, Idea Generation, Business Planning and Funding. The class may be taken in conjunction with Intro to Business: Marketing or as a standalone course.

10064 INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS: MARKETING

Duration: Semester

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course provides students with an introductory perspective into the management and marketing functions of operating a business. Students will look at marketing strategies and management topics influencing business today. Special focus is given to vital areas of Marketing like Product, Place, Price and Promotion. Students also analyze current business trends by studying real-world and relevant business content throughout the semester. Themes of this course will include: Business Model Analysis, Product Development, Promotional Strategies like Advertising, Social Media, etc...Pricing Strategies and Product Distribution/E-commerce/Logistics. May be taken in conjunction with Intro to Business: Entrepreneurship or as a standalone course.

10255 AP BUSINESS WITH PERSONAL FINANCE (NEW)

Duration: Year UC/CSU: Pending approval

Prerequisites:

- Cumulative weighted GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Completion of the AP contract

Description: AP Business with Personal Finance is a college-level course that introduces students to core business disciplines and personal financial decision-making through real-world applications and project-based learning. Students explore entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, accounting, and management while developing practical skills in budgeting, saving, borrowing, investing, and financial planning. Emphasis is placed on analyzing data, solving authentic business problems, and communicating ideas effectively through case studies, collaborative projects, and presentations. A major component of the course is a year-long Business Canvas Project in which students design, test, and refine a business idea, integrating financial analysis and strategic planning. By the end of the course, students develop critical thinking, collaboration, and leadership skills while gaining a strong foundation for college study and careers in business, finance, and entrepreneurship.

10228 INNOVATION AND INFORMATION RESEARCH PROJECT

Prerequisites: Department Chair approval

Description: Independent Study – Student will perform a research project of his choice (with Innovation and Information Department approval). Areas of study for the research project can be related to any content taught in the department's courses. These projects are not limited to, but could include, starting a business, researching a cause, or leading a community-focused effort.

10229 INNOVATION AND INFORMATION TA

Prerequisites:

- Upper Division
- Department Chair approval

Description: The student is assigned a period to assist the teacher in order to accommodate the needs of the department. The TA helps the instructor in the classroom or Stinson Center and in other innovation and information related activities agreed to by the instructor and the TA. Students are required to meet with their teacher every period and complete all work required by the teacher.

INNOVATION COURSES OFFERED THROUGH TRI-SCHOOL

10218 AP SEMINAR

Description: AP Seminar is a Tri-School offering at Notre Dame High School. See the Tri-School section for details.

10058 AP RESEARCH

Description: AP Research is a Tri-School offering at Mercy High School. See the Tri-School section for details.

7065 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Description: International Relations is a Tri-School offering at Mercy High School. See the Tri-School section for details.

10216 SPORTS MANAGEMENT

Description: Sports Management is a Tri-School offering at Notre Dame High School. See the Tri-School section for details.

Tri-School Courses

The courses on the following pages are being offered to Serra students for the 2026-2027 school year. If you are interested in selecting one of these courses, please note the following:

- Students should note the times each course is offered.
- Students should review all prerequisites carefully before scheduling a Tri-School course.
- All students are responsible for their own transportation. Missing a class because of transportation problems is not an acceptable excuse.
- All students are responsible for all scheduled class time, even if it falls during a Serra school holiday.
- The school dress code will be observed on all three campuses.
- Once a student selects a Tri-School course and is scheduled into it, as per agreement with the other members of the Tri-School program, no class changes or drops will be allowed.
- All Tri-School classes on Mercy and Notre Dame campuses are for upper division students only unless otherwise noted.

Note:

All Tri-School courses are UC approved, unless indicated otherwise.

All Tri-School courses are NCAA approved, unless indicated otherwise.

All Tri-School courses are full year, unless indicated otherwise.

Notre Dame High School

10059 AP PSYCHOLOGY

Prerequisites:

- B or better in the most recent Social Studies course or
- B- or better in most recent Honors or AP Social Studies course AND
- No lower than B in most recent English and Science classes AND
- 3.0 GPA AND
- Complete Tri-School enrollment form

Description: AP Psychology is an elective course designed to introduce students to the study of human behavior and mental processes at a college level rigor and pace. Students are exposed to the history and subfields of psychology, the brain's structures and functions, altered states of consciousness, psychological testing, and psychological disorders. Students analyze the biopsychosocial approach to psychology in all human interactions and decisions. Emphasis will be placed on the ethics and statistical methods psychologists use in their science and practice as well as on famous psychological experiments that shaped the field of psychology. This class involves an additional workload and extended content for the accelerated student.

Note:

- This course is offered by BOTH Mercy and Notre Dame.
- This Tri-School course meets first period on Mercy's campus and second period on Notre Dame's High School campus.

10114 VIDEO PRODUCTION I

Prerequisite: Complete Tri-School enrollment form

Description: In the Tri-School offering students will learn and apply the basic artistic skills in cinematography (rule of thirds, panning, framing, lighting etc.) with post production skills using Adobe Premiere Pro. This entry level class will explore concepts such as storyboarding, composition, shot angles, point of view, transitions, and continuity. In class discussions will cover various aspects of digital video, which include multiple media formats, cameras, lenses, lighting, sound recording and editing to develop an understanding of film language and grammar. Students will complete several short, silent and sync sound videos, as well as several individual short personal, and group projects.

Note:

- This Tri-School course meets during second period on the Notre Dame High School campus.
- This course may be repeated for credit as it is offered in varying levels I, II, III.

6112 AP ART HISTORY

Prerequisite:

- 3.0 GPA and
- Administrative approval
- Complete Tri-School enrollment form

Description: AP Art History is an image-based subject, and what better way to learn about history than through images of art, discovering artists, understanding their processes, and with hands-on projects.

In the Tri-School offering of AP Art History, students are given control of their learning through lectures that are exciting and discussion-based, hands-on projects that show the process of how artists think, and research that is collaborative. Students will learn the material instead of just memorizing and will gain a deeper appreciation for the history of art by being challenged to think about it in different, creative ways. By the end of the course students will be able to analyze and discuss art from Pre-historic through Contemporary. This course is recommended for motivated students who are self-directed learners. Students completing this course are well prepared to be successful when taking the AP exam. All AP Art History students are required to take the AP Art History exam in May.

Note: This Tri-School course meets during first period on the Notre Dame High School campus.

10181 FOUNDATIONS OF SPORTS MEDICINE

Prerequisites:

- 2 years of science including Biology with a minimum of a B
- Anatomy and/or Physiology recommended but not required
- Complete Tri-School enrollment form

Description: This Tri-School course offering is designed to introduce human anatomy and physiology as it applies to athletic movement and injury, which lays the foundation for further study of Kinesiology. This is an introduction to the field of Sports Medicine and is designed for students who are interested in athletic training, physical therapy, exercise physiology, or other health care professions. Students will develop knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and anatomical terminology. This knowledge will be applied towards the current techniques in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of athletic injuries. Specific topics include first aid/emergency care, concussions, and taping for preventative measures.

Note: This Tri-School course meets second period on the Notre Dame High School campus.

7087 DANCE V- PARTNERING TECHNIQUES

Prerequisite: Complete Tri-School enrollment form

Description: Partnering Techniques and Performance combines body conditioning, stretching, strengthening, acrobatics, ballroom techniques, partnering/lifting techniques, and choreography and performance skill training for multiple performance pieces in Fall and Spring school wide productions. All choreography and training occurs during regular class hours.

Note:

- This Tri-School course meets second period on the Notre Dame High School campus
- Attire: Serra students are required to provide soft sole shoes and clothing suitable for athletic movement, ballroom and partnering stunts, and acrobatics/body conditioning.

AP SPANISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE

UC/CSU approved under Area E - Language Other Than English

Prerequisite:

- B+ in both semesters of AP Spanish Language and Culture AND
- Administrative approval
- Complete Tri-School enrollment form

Description: Based on the CollegeBoard description, AP Spanish Literature is equivalent to a college level introductory survey course of literature written in Spanish. Students continue to develop their interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational skills in Spanish language as well as critical reading and analytical writing as they explore short stories, novels, plays, essays, and poetry from Spain, Latin America, and U.S. Hispanic authors along with other non-required texts. Reading and Speaking exclusively in the target language will be required. Additional meeting periods outside of class may occur at intervals throughout the year.

Note: This Tri-School course meets during the second period on the Notre Dame High School campus.

10216 SPORTS MANAGEMENT

Prerequisite: Complete Tri-School Enrollment Form

Description: This Tri-School course offering is available to students interested in a variety of professions in sports that include jobs working in: athletic programs at the collegiate, high school and interscholastic levels; youth, recreational and professional sports organizations; sports marketing and advertising; radio and television broadcasting and events management. Upon completion of the course, students will gain a better understanding of the required knowledge and expertise involved in the administration, operations and management of sports organizations. This course will provide students experience and insight to continue further studies in the field of Kinesiology and other related disciplines.

Note:

- This Tri-School course meets during second period on the Notre Dame High School campus.
- Internship/Service Hours: Students can earn internship hours assisting the Notre Dame High School athletic staff with operations of home competitions and tournaments to include on their resume.

7098 AP MUSIC THEORY

Prerequisite:

- 3.0 GPA AND
- Students should be able to read and write musical notation and have basic performance skills with voice or an instrument.
- Complete Tri-School enrollment form

Description: In AP Music Theory, students learn to recognize, understand, describe, and produce the basic elements and processes of performed and notated music. Each unit focuses on different elements of music such as pitch, rhythm, timbre, and harmony. Through interactive learning and consistent practice, students will be able to identify and re-create these concepts in different musical examples and contexts. From Renaissance to popular music, students will explore and analyze a variety of repertoire from some of the most prolific composers in history. By the end of the course, students will be able to show what they learned through melodic and harmonic dictation, sight singing, musical analysis, and composition. This course is recommended for motivated students who are interested in deepening their musical knowledge and skills.

Note: This Tri-School course meets during first period on the Notre Dame High School campus.

10260 INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC: CONCEPTS AND EXPLORATION

Prerequisite: Complete Tri-School enrollment form

Description: This course offers an accessible and engaging introduction to how music works and why it matters. Students will learn the basics of music theory and explore the core concepts that shape how music has developed over time. Throughout the year, students will listen to and discuss a wide range of musical genres and eras, discovering what makes each style unique. Hands-on projects, creative activities, and guided listening help students connect music theory to real examples in fun and meaningful ways. By the end of the course, students will be able to understand, discuss, and appreciate music of all kinds. No prior music experience is needed.

Note: This course is a Tri-School offering and is tentatively scheduled to meet during second period on the Notre Dame High School campus.

10261 HONORS FRENCH III

Prerequisite:

- A- or above in French II AND administrative approval
- Complete Tri-School enrollment form

Description: This accelerated course is designed to continue the development of the students' speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. In addition to the regular French III curriculum, this course emphasizes the development of writing skills through short writings and expands language practice through authentic immersive activities. Vocabulary and grammar are reviewed, expanded, and applied in authentic situations. Students explore cultural topics of their choice, and begin reading short selections by authors from different parts of the Francophone world. Students learn to communicate in the target language in order to become life-long learners of French. This course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement French Language and Culture course.

Note: This course is a Tri-School offering and is tentatively scheduled to meet during first period on the Notre Dame High School campus.

10196 FRENCH IV

Prerequisite:

- B or above in French III or B- or above in French III Honors AND administrative approval.
- Complete Tri-School enrollment form

Description: This course enriches the students' knowledge of the French language and culture. The students are encouraged to speak French during the entire class period, and are provided with authentic sources from the francophone world. The interactive environment and the immersive experience expand the students' listening, speaking, reading and writing skills on a weekly basis. The students conduct research about a French-speaking country of their choice and communicate about it. They demonstrate an understanding of the culture and language by producing writings, and by communicating orally.

Note: This course is a Tri-School offering and is tentatively scheduled to meet during second period on the Notre Dame High School campus.

10236 AP FRENCH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Prerequisite:

- A- or above in French III OR
- B+ or above in Honors French III, B test average AND
- Administrative approval
- Complete Tri-School enrollment form

Description: This course explores the richness of the French-speaking language and culture. Every effort is made to conduct the class exclusively in French, and the students are encouraged to speak French during the entire class period. Conducted in an interactive environment that uses authentic sources from the francophone world, this course is designed to expand the students' listening, speaking, reading and writing skills on a weekly basis. The AP French curriculum explores the six following themes: Families and Communities, Personal and Public Identities, Beauty and Aesthetics, Science and Technology, Contemporary Life, and Global Challenges. The students conduct research about a French-Speaking country of their choice and communicate about it. They demonstrate an understanding of the culture(s) orally and in writing, make connections with interdisciplinary topics and make comparisons between the target language and the native languages in real-life settings.

Note: This course is a Tri-School offering and is tentatively scheduled to meet during second period on the Notre Dame High School campus.

Mercy High School

3825 ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

Prerequisite:

- B- both semesters in most recent English and science courses
- Complete Tri-School enrollment form

Description: This rigorous college-preparatory elective science course includes a detailed study of many human body systems. Homeostatic balance, the relationship between structure and function, and the interrelationships between body systems are a focus throughout the course. This course is recommended for students interested in a health-related career, especially those students who plan to study medicine, nursing, physical therapy, and athletic training. The course may also be helpful for those students who plan to enter education as either a life science or physical education teacher. Laboratory activities will include several microscopic analyses of tissue specimens as well as several dissections to accompany the subject matter.

Note: This Tri-School course meets Monday-Thursday during zero period on Mercy's campus.

3826 HONORS ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

Prerequisite:

- B in prior honors-level science courses
- Complete Tri-School enrollment form

Description: This rigorous college-preparatory elective science course includes a detailed study of many human body systems. Homeostatic balance, the relationship between structure and function, and the interrelationships between body systems are a focus throughout the course. This course is recommended for students interested in a health-related career, especially those students who plan to study medicine, nursing, physical therapy, and athletic training. Standards are similar to those in the standard level of the course, but students are expected to have a deeper understanding with a higher level of sophistication. This course uses dissection as an instructional activity.

Note: This Tri-School course meets Monday-Thursday during zero period on Mercy's campus.

10066 FORENSIC BIOLOGY

Prerequisites:

- B- both semesters in most recent science class
- Complete Tri-School enrollment form

Description: Students will build on what they have learned in Biology by applying skills and concepts from biology, chemistry and physics to solve real-life problems within the realm of forensics. All lab activities will involve simulated evidence that will be age-appropriate. The textbook does not include graphic photos. For sophomores, this course will be a good introduction to basic concepts in chemistry and physics. Upper-division students will be able to apply what they have learned in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This laboratory course will teach students about the theory, concepts, and applications of a full-service crime laboratory. It will include units in chemistry, physics, geology, biology, document examination, photography, toxicology, and fingerprinting. Students will be instructed on how laboratory scientists analyze physical evidence, document evidence during laboratory analysis, and present results during testimony upon request of the attorney.

Note: This Tri-School course meets during second period on Mercy campus.

10059 AP PSYCHOLOGY

Prerequisites:

- B or better in the most recent Social Studies course or
- B- or better in most recent Honors or AP Social Studies course AND
- No lower than B in most recent English and Science classes
- 3.0 GPA
- Complete Tri-School enrollment form

Description: AP Psychology is an elective course designed to introduce students to the study of human behavior and mental processes at a college level rigor and pace. Students are exposed to the history and subfields of psychology, the brain's structures and functions, altered states of consciousness, psychological testing, and psychological disorders. Students analyze the bio psychosocial approach to psychology in all human interactions and decisions. Emphasis will be placed on the ethics and statistical methods psychologists use in their science and practice as well as on famous psychological experiments that shaped the field of psychology. This class involves an additional workload and extended content for the accelerated student.

Note:

- This Tri-School course meets during first period on Mercy's campus.
- This course is offered by BOTH Mercy and Notre Dame.

6250 NON DARKROOM PHOTOGRAPHY

Prerequisites: Complete Tri-School enrollment form

Description: This is a beginning level, non-darkroom, art photography course intended to help students develop the ability to take, manipulate, print, alter, and blend their photography through their understanding of visual perception and personal experience. Using digital cameras and professional photo editing software, students learn the basic elements of art photography, develop observational skills and the ability to discuss and critique their experience. Through the year, students will study the world of art photography, its place in art history, and its importance in society. Students will complete written assignments as well as a portfolio of their work. Students supply their own digital cameras. Text required: Focus on Photography.

Note: This Tri-School course meets during first period on Mercy's campus.

10142 3D ART

Prerequisites: Complete Tri-School enrollment form

Description: Students will learn to recognize the basic concepts, media, and techniques involved in a variety of 3D Art forms and produce a variety of functional and decorative products using the skills introduced in class. Students will develop concepts that will be influenced by the producer's knowledge, training, experience, and attitudes, which follow the principles of good design. Students will apply what is learned through lectures, handouts, and demonstration materials. The study of applied technology using paper, glass, metals, textiles, dyes, clay, threads, yarn, and wax is part of the course. Computers are used to assist in design. Materials fee and student exhibition in May are required.

Note: This Tri-School course meets during first period on Mercy's campus.

10218 AP SEMINAR

Prerequisites:

- B or better in Honors English 3-4 or AP English Language or
- A or better in English 3-4 or Junior English AND
- 3.0 GPA
- Complete Tri-School enrollment form

Description: AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and foundational, literary, and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments. AP Seminar is the first of two AP courses offered as part of the AP Certificate and Capstone program.

Note: This Tri-School course meets during zero period on Mercy's campus.

4180 AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 1

Prerequisite: Complete Tri-School enrollment form

Description: American Sign Language 1 has communication in Deaf culture situations as a primary goal. Toward this end, it is imperative that students be placed in situations where they must interpret whole ideas. Students will learn to communicate appropriately in different situations. This is achieved through learning and practicing such things as vocabulary, ASL Structure, and Deaf Culture. This is best accomplished through the use of the latest technology to learn the most current signs, participation in various interactive activities to reinforce vocabulary, doing individual and group projects and viewing current news articles and videos. The Fall semester project is a combination Deaf History/Person poster and presentation. In the Spring the students complete a group project showing the differences between hearing and Deaf culture. One novel is read during the year.

Note: This Tri-School course meets during second period on Mercy's campus.

10192 AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 2

Prerequisite:

- Completion of the second semester of Level 1 with C- (70%) or above. Students with a 70-72% in Level 1 are strongly encouraged to seek remediation during the summer. A student continuing to level 2 who does not meet the course prerequisites must seek remediation during the summer and have proficiency reevaluated before entering level 2 in order to determine the need for additional support.
- Complete Tri-School enrollment form

Description: Beginning the second year of American Sign Language, students will continue with their knowledge of vocabulary and Deaf Culture. Real life situations and information sharing will be expanded, and new vocabulary introduced. Students will have more in class ASL presentations, as well as use technology to record and improve their comprehension and expressive skills. The Fall project is an expansion of the ASL 1 Deaf History/Person presentation but completely in the target language. The Spring project is a group activity that involves the making of a Deaf Culture appropriate music video. A novel is read during the year. Deaf events are encouraged.

Note: This Tri-School course meets during third period on Mercy's campus.

10058 AP RESEARCH

Prerequisite:

- Completion of AP Seminar with a B or better
- Complete Tri-School enrollment form

Description: AP Research, the second course in the AP Capstone experience, allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue, or idea of individual interest. Students design, plan, and implement a yearlong investigation to address a research question. Through this inquiry, they further the skills they acquired in the AP Seminar course by learning research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information. Students reflect on their skill development, document their processes, and curate the artifacts of their scholarly work through a process and reflection portfolio. The course culminates in an academic paper of approximately 4,000–5,000 words (accompanied by a performance, exhibit, or product where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense.

Note: This Tri-School course meets during first period on Mercy’s campus.

7065 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Duration: Semester

Prerequisite: Complete Tri-School enrollment form

Description: This introduction to international relations course will focus on theory, history, current events in regions of the world, globalization and global challenges, and world order to provide context for research and argumentation. In short, this course will make students more globally literate to identify problems and provide solutions to the most important issues of the day. Even if we want to ignore what goes on elsewhere in the world, it will not ignore us.

Note: This Tri-School course meets during second period on Mercy’s campus.

10259 AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Prerequisite:

- B average in previous honors-level science course
- B average or concurrent enrollment in honors-level English course
- or Dean of Studies approval

Description: The goal of the AP Environmental Science course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the inter-relationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. Environmental science is interdisciplinary. It embraces a wide variety of topics from different areas of study. The course includes a field study component

Note: This Tri-School course meets during the first period on Mercy’s campus.

10258 SPORT PSYCHOLOGY

Prerequisite: Complete Tri-School enrollment form

Description: This course introduces students to the foundational principles of sport psychology, exploring how psychological factors influence athletic performance and how participation in sport and exercise affect psychological well-being. Students engage with theories and real-world applications related to motivation, confidence, focus, group dynamics, arousal regulation, and mental toughness. Through a combination of readings, lectures, group activities, reflective journaling, and research-based projects, students build both analytical skills and practical tools for understanding performance and behavior in sports contexts. This course integrates critical thinking, scientific inquiry, and self-reflection to prepare students for future academic and professional studies in psychology, kinesiology, and related fields.

Note: This Tri-School course meets during the third period on Mercy’s campus.

10262 AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

Prerequisite:

- Successful completion of Introduction to Engineering or Physics
- Complete Tri-School enrollment form

Description: Aerospace Engineering ignites students' learning in the fundamentals of atmospheric and space flight. Aerospace Engineering is one of the specialization courses in the PLTW Engineering program. The course deepens the skills and knowledge of an engineering student within the context of atmospheric and space flight. Students explore the fundamentals of flight in air and space as they bring the concepts to life by designing and testing components related to flight such as an airfoil, propulsion system, and a rocket. They learn orbital mechanics concepts and apply these by creating models using industry-standard software. They also apply aerospace concepts to alternative applications such as a wind turbine and parachute. Students simulate a progression of operations to explore a planet, including creating a map of the terrain with a model satellite and using the map to execute a mission using an autonomous robot.

Note: This Tri-School course meets during first period on Mercy's campus