



ST. JOHN'S

COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL | Est 1851



COURSE CATALOG

2026–2027

THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

The Brothers of the Christian Schools (De La Salle Christian Brothers) is the largest community of lay religious men in the Catholic Church today. Since their founding in France in 1680 by John Baptist de La Salle, the Brothers have striven to meet the ever-present and growing educational needs of all people, especially the young and the poor and they do so in a wide array of apostolates including high schools, middle schools, universities, and childcare institutions.

Presently, about 4,500 De La Salle Christian Brothers teach nearly a million students in 900 schools, located in 82 countries of the world. In the United States, 1,000 Brothers conduct 105 institutions, educating over 70,000 students. For over 300 years, the Brothers have followed St. John Baptist de La Salle's vision of providing a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor, according to the ministry which the Church has entrusted to it.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Faithful to the charism of St. John Baptist de La Salle, St. John's College High School is an independent, Catholic college preparatory school whose mission is to provide a human and Christian education to young men and women from diverse socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds.

St. John's is a community of faith and zeal with dedicated Lasallian educators committed to the spiritual, academic, cultural, physical, and moral development of its students. Rooted in Christian values, the Lasallian experience at St. John's prepares young men and women for a life dedicated to leadership, achievement, and service to the community.

January 2026



Dear SJC Community,

In this course catalog, you will find detailed information about the academic offerings at St. John's. We encourage you to review it carefully and use the course descriptions to guide your decision-making as you navigate the registration process.

St. John's offers a wide range of courses at varying levels, making it important to select classes that align appropriately with your academic strengths and goals. Each course is intentionally designed not only to build subject-specific knowledge, but also to challenge students to think critically. The ultimate goal of our curriculum is to foster lifelong learners who are motivated to continually grow and challenge themselves, pushing beyond their comfort zones.

A version of this course catalog will be available in each student's self-service folder on their iPad, and an electronic copy will also be accessible under the Academics section of the SJC website.

I wish you nothing but success in your coursework this coming school year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian MacInnes". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mr. Ian MacInnes
Principal

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Course Selection Overview

Course registration provides an opportunity for students to select their courses for the next academic year. Students should examine this catalog and consult with their parents, teachers, and counselors before submitting their course preferences. Course approvals will initially be reviewed at the end of the third quarter, and again at the conclusion of the year. It is assumed that the students have discussed their choices with their parents before registering online with PowerSchool.

Information obtained from the preregistration process is critical in determining the staffing needs and in constructing the academic schedule. St. John's assumes that students and parents have given serious consideration to this matter. Once a student has submitted the registration form, that student is committed to those courses for the coming year. Students are cautioned not to select a course with the expectation of studying with a particular teacher.

Courses described in this course catalog are offered only if there is sufficient student interest to constitute a class. Courses with an insufficient enrollment may not be offered.

Juniors are advised to coordinate their course selections with the requirements of their college choices. Juniors should be sure that the courses they select are challenging and present a true picture of them as students.

Once schedules have been issued, adjustments will be made only in cases where there has been administrative error or an error by the department in placing a student. Requests for placement in a particular section of a class or for a particular teacher cannot and will not be honored.

Seniors are required to complete at least 6.5 credits in their senior year. Juniors, sophomores, and freshmen are required to complete 7 credits.

No course can be added or dropped after the first 6 days of the semester.

Elective Courses: Enrollment in some elective courses is limited. Space is made available in these courses on a first come, first serve basis or by seniority for all students who meet the course requirements.

Study Hall: All freshmen are required to take a Study Hall in addition to their 7 credits.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

In order to obtain a diploma from St. John's, students must have a minimum of 26 Carnegie Units (credits).

Graduation requirements for students who enter St. John's in Grade 10 or 11 will be evaluated by the Principal. Requirements for all students:

Religion	4 years
English	4 years
Mathematics	4 years
Science	3 years
Social Studies	3 years
Modern Languages	2 years

COLLEGE PREPARATORY CURRICULUM

The following is a typical course of study for St. John's students:

Grade 9

Religion (1 Credit)
English (1 Credit)
Math (1 Credit)
Science (1 Credit)
Foreign Language (1 Credit)
Social Studies (1 Credit)
Electives (1 Credit)
Study Hall (No Credit)

Grade 10

Religion (1 Credit)
English (1 Credit)
Math (1 Credit)
Science (1 Credit)
Foreign Language (1 Credit)
Social Studies (1 Credit)
Electives (.5 Credit to 1 Credit)

Grade 11

Religion (1 Credit)
English (1 Credit)
Math (1 Credit)
Science (1 Credit)
Foreign Language (1 Credit)
Social Studies (1 Credit)
Electives (.5 Credit to 1 Credit)

Grade 12

Religion (1 Credit)
English (1 Credit)
Math (1 Credit)
Electives (.5 Credit to 1 Credit)

HONORS AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

Advanced level courses are offered in most disciplines. No student may take more than four advanced level classes without the permission of the principal. Students wishing to register for Honors or AP classes must have a cumulative 3.0 grade point average, the approval of the current teacher in the department, and the approval of their counselor. Students who enroll in AP classes are encouraged to take the AP exam in May. AP classes will also involve substantial summer assignments. Any student may petition for placement in an advanced course at registration time.

GRADUATION

Seniors who have completed all course requirements and have satisfied all other requirements of St. John's will receive their diplomas and final report cards at the graduation ceremony.

Seniors who fail fewer than three academic credits may participate in the graduation ceremony, but will not receive a diploma until the credits have been made up in summer school. The Board of Trustees has mandated that any senior who fails three or more credits may not participate in the graduation ceremony and may not receive a diploma from St. John's.

The Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be chosen by the administration from the top 5% of the class according to the cumulative GPA at the end of the first semester of the senior year. Factors to be considered include, but are not limited to, the following: GPA, courses taken, attendance, school activities, and honors. Students will also be asked to present a speech.

Other medals and prizes awarded at graduation are determined by the administration with input from the senior counselors and senior teachers. Students may be asked to submit materials to be considered for certain awards.

STUDENT TRANSCRIPTS

The student transcript is the official record of the student's performance at St. John's. It includes the final grade of every class that the student has completed.

Transcripts can only be released with the signature of a parent or guardian. Official transcripts must be mailed directly by St. John's. Only unofficial transcripts can be released to the parent or student. The cumulative GPA on the transcript is weighted and truncated. An official transcript cannot be released until the student (and parent/guardian if under 18) has signed the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) waiver and this document is on file in the Counseling Center.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

St. John's operates the Archbishop Philip Hannan Chapter of the National Honor Society. Students who have a cumulative 3.70 grade point average (truncated) and whose attendance and discipline records are satisfactory in the judgment of the Associate Principal for Academic Affairs are invited to apply for membership during the summer prior to their Junior or Senior year.

Candidates must demonstrate their character, leadership, and service to the satisfaction of an NHS admissions committee and the Principal. Students must maintain these high standards to continue in the organization. NHS regulations state that any student whose membership is revoked for any reason may not be readmitted to the NHS.

EXTENDED TIME TESTING

In order for a student to use this accommodation, they must have current (within three years) psycho-educational testing on file with their counselor. The testing must include a recommendation for this accommodation. Psycho-educational testing is required; St. John's does not recognize IEP or 504 plans when granting accommodations.

Should a student choose NOT to use the accommodations, they must submit a letter signed by their parent/guardian waiving the use of testing accommodations. Please be aware that if a student waives use of this accommodation at St. John's, they will also not be able to use the accommodation for any further standardized testing, including the PSAT, SAT, ACT, and Advanced Placement exams.

Religion

All students, regardless of their religious affiliation, are required to actively participate in the religious education program each year they are enrolled at St. John's.

011 Introduction to Sacred Scripture | Grade 9 | 1 credit

In this course, students are invited into a personal encounter with God through a Christian education and biblical study. The year begins with an introduction to what it means to be a part of a Lasallian, Catholic faith community. With a focus on Hebrew Scriptures, students will reflect on the Word of God from the creation accounts through the expectation of the Messiah. Students will explore the deeper meaning of biblical events by exploring God's ongoing relationship with all people, as He works towards bringing about the Kingdom of Heaven through Jesus Christ. Students will engage in 10 hours of Christian service to their own families and 5 SJC flex hours to the school community as an expression of what it means to follow in the footsteps of our founder, St. John Baptist de La Salle.

021 Jesus and Church | Grade 10 | 1 credit

The class begins by considering how the promise of the Messiah in the Hebrew Scriptures has been fulfilled in Jesus. The redemptive mission of Jesus is then studied through a focus on the 4 Gospels. In the second semester, attention is turned to examine the historical development of the Church. From the establishment of the Church by the Apostles, to the modern mission of the Church, students will discover how the People of God have responded to the mission of Christ. Students are required to complete 25 hours of Christian Service to a faith community, integrating their understanding of the Church as the 'Body of Christ.'

031 Morality and Social Justice | Grade 11 | 1 credit

In the first semester, the course introduces students to the academic and moral tradition of the Church through an exploration of Sacred Scripture, Church doctrine, natural law, and secular philosophical principles. In the second semester, students are led to apply our moral tradition through the lens of the Catholic Social Teaching, to contemporary issues of peace and justice in the global community. Students are required to complete 25 hours of direct service to a marginal community, as a concrete response to the Church's call to justice.

032 Peer Ministry | Grade 12 | 1 credit

This course consists of in-class lectures, training, orientation, and in-service ministry to the school community. The goal of Peer Ministry is to have the participants grow in their own faith development by serving the needs of the school, especially the spiritual and personal needs of the student body. A peer minister is responsible for the direction and running of class retreats and helps with school liturgies and activities. It is intended for students who seek a greater involvement in the life of the school and who wish to share their gifts, talents, and Christian faith with their peers. It requires personal commitment to the program and to Christ and allows for practical application of the Christian principles taught in Religion courses. Students complete an application process to be placed in this course. Students fulfill their Christian Service requirements as part of this course.

041 Senior Religion | Grade 12 | 1 credit

The first semester will offer an introduction to foundational Systematic Theology, its historical roots and contemporary application, with an emphasis on sacramental theology. The second semester consists of a survey of other faiths, including Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, and Islam, studied in the context of the Church's teaching on salvation. Students are required to complete 25 hours of Christian Service to an organization of their choosing that aligns with their own vocation and responsibility to the wider community.

English

At least one full credit of English is required of every student all four years. All writing assignments must use MLA formatting. All major papers must be submitted to turnitin.com.

111 English 9 | Grade 9 | 1 credit

In English 9, we explore the development of the individual identity. We follow characters as they strive to find both voice and purpose in the face of conflict, alienation, persecution, and marginalization. We also examine how these oppositional forces shape our own lives as we understand our position in relation to society. Students engage in this exploration through a variety of genres, including short fiction, plays, poetry, and novels. By establishing close-reading habits and annotation skills, students consistently prepare themselves for academic discussions and analytical, evidence-based writing. By the end of the year, students are well-versed in organizing paragraphs and crafting a thorough and well-argued five-paragraph essay.

115 Honors English 9 | Grade 9 | 1 credit

Honors English 9 is an intensive course which follows the same goals and priorities of English 9. However, the honors course covers additional texts and places further emphasis on careful and complex analysis in reading and writing. Students consistently engage in the writing process and are expected to be well-versed in writing conventions as they develop sophisticated and complex arguments. Placement in Honors English 9 depends on the student's 8th grade transcript and performance on the High School Placement Test.

109 Speech and Communication | Grade 9 | .5 credit

During this course, students will develop and practice the skills of foundational communication. Students will participate in individual and group exercises that will enhance their written, verbal, and non-verbal presence and confidence in both academic and real-world settings. For academic settings, they will learn basic presentation skills, practice group discussion and debate, and hone conversation skills to advance educational reasoning. Students will also engage in professional settings, as they cultivate etiquette related to interviewing and networking. They will enhance their social communication skills through basic introductions and the creation of a positive social media presence. This course is a hands-on, highly participatory class where students can expect to give and receive constant feedback. Throughout the course, they will reflect on their growth as speakers and listeners.

117 English 10 | Grade 10 | 1 credit

English 10 examines the question: What is the American story and who gets to tell it? We consider the idealistic and realistic ramifications of the American Dream, the relationship and frequent conflict between the ideas of liberty and justice, and the tension between personal and societal aspirations. We explore a variety of genres within primarily American literature, examine the eras and movements which influenced them, and come to understand a text as both a product of and a contributor to its cultural and historical environment. Students will focus on the power of language as they continue to develop skills in literary analysis, writing and self-expression.

118 Honors English 10 | Grade 10 | 1 credit

Honors English 10 is an intensive version of English 10 which covers additional texts and places a stronger emphasis on historical criticism and awareness of literary and political history. Students are expected to readily engage with nuanced language and challenging themes, and they build upon established writing structures to develop sophisticated arguments through the incorporation of multiple sources. **PREREQUISITE:** Students must have an "A" average in English 9 or at least a "B" average in Honors English 9 in order to be eligible. Prospective students must have department approval.

120 Creative Writing | Grades 10 & 11 | .5 credit

Writing is one of the truest forms of self-expression. In this elective course we will explore writing as an art form. Students will read the works of great writers, so they can learn the styles and techniques that make their writing exceptional. There will be multiple opportunities for students to practice various writing techniques as they craft their own pieces of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. The class will be structured as a writing workshop where students will hone their writing skills through the development of multiple drafts and the opportunity to both receive and provide constructive critique of one another's writing. This course is intended for all levels of writers in 10th and 11th grade.

127 English 11 | Grade 11 | 1 credit

English 11 builds on the themes of sophomore year by examining the ways in which groups and individuals are influenced by overt and covert forces of oppression and manipulation. We track the conflict between agency and control and analyze broader cultural and systemic factors which influence human behavior and the production of literary works. We engage intensely with the complexity of human nature and understanding as influenced by systems of power. Students read a variety of texts in addition to focusing on major British authors and their cultural and historical contexts, and they continue to read closely and think critically about specific elements of each author's craft. Students continue to evaluate and incorporate secondary sources, completing a benchmark research paper by the end of the year.

128 Honors English 11 | Grade 11 | 1 credit

Honors English 11 follows the course priorities and skills of English 11 with additional challenging texts and further emphasis on understanding the progression of literary periods in British Literature. The course is writing-intensive and directs major writing projects toward the consistent college-level expectations of research and analytical writing. As in English 11, students complete at least one benchmark research paper by the end of the year. **PREREQUISITE:** Students must have an "A" average in English 10 or at least a "B" average in Honors English 10 in order to be eligible. Prospective students must have department approval.

144 AP English Language and Composition | Grade 11 | 1 credit

AP English Language and Composition takes the place of English 11 and Honors English 11 but similarly prioritizes engagement with writers and texts that probe systemic human rights issues and current events. Students in this course critically analyze a broad selection of readings, emphasizing non-literary works from a range of historical contexts. Texts may include advertisements and film, essays and memoirs, speeches and lectures, but are also interwoven with poetry, fictional prose, and drama. Writing assignments are varied and often involve students selecting and researching their own topics. The course encourages students to read like writers and then apply what they have learned, with the ultimate goal of becoming more effective writers and communicators. **PREREQUISITE:** English 10 students must have an A average for the year AND a high A (95% or above) for the second semester. Honors English 10 students must have a B average for the year AND a B+ or above for the second semester. Prospective students must have department approval.

175 Political Documentary Filmmaking: From Concept to Screen | Grades 10 & 11 | .5 credit

This semester-long course analyzes and then applies the composition strategies essential to political documentaries. In the first quarter, students watch and analyze political documentaries such as 13th, Maya Lin: A Strong Clear Vision, The Fog of War, or An Inconvenient Truth. Analytical skills are demonstrated through group presentations about the films. Because the class is designed to be experiential, the second quarter features students applying the concepts they learned in the first quarter. They do this by preparing and submitting a 5-6-minute documentary to enter into C-SPAN's annual Student Cam competition, which, in addition to fulfilling course objectives, reinforces long-term planning skills and SJC aims regarding creativity and collaboration. The prompts for this competition change each year, but the goal is to encourage students "to think critically about issues that affect our communities and our nation." The prompt for 2026, for example, is to explore the American story through the Declaration of Independence.

178 Lasallians in Action: Writing for Change | Grades 10 & 11 | .5 credit

This semester-long course analyzes and then engages in the composition of public-facing writing geared towards advocacy and activism. In the first quarter, students study a variety of genres, such as investigative journalism, speeches, spoken-word poetry, drama, op-eds, letters to the editor, letters to political representatives, and/or protest signs/art. For further engagement with the community, the course includes 2-3 speakers (writers) each semester. Students show their understanding of these genres through analysis and, at times, replication of texts and genres. Since the course is designed to be democratic and collaborative, the capstone requires students to work together to design an on-campus event centering around one topic and featuring different forms of writing learned throughout the semester. Examples of topics include Promoting Peace, Care for God's Creation, and Combating Social Injustice.

179 Graphic Novels: Understanding the Art of Sequential Storytelling | Grades 10 & 11 | .5 credit

In this course, students will explore the world of graphic novels and learn how to analyze and interpret sequential storytelling as a form of literature. Students will build their foundation of knowledge on the structural elements of graphic works before exploring the complexities of visually dominant storytelling in a variety of genres and styles. Students will be encouraged to think deeply about the presented materials in search of the author's hidden truths within and connections beyond their work.

SENIOR ENGLISH COURSES

During their senior year, students have the option to take AP English Literature and Composition, Honors English 12, or an English 12 elective. Twelfth grade courses build upon the themes and focuses of earlier grade levels, transitioning to the meta-critical level of analysis and engaging with intersectionality, intertextuality, and deconstruction. Seniors learn to understand both texts and people as "containing multitudes" and conversing across various boundaries and socially-constructed spaces of difference. In each course, we apply a variety of critical approaches or literary lenses to engage with the world beyond the text and to dismantle traditional boundaries of literary criticism. Each senior course requires students to complete a senior thesis paper which serves as the culminating literary analysis and writing project of their St. John's career.

132 English 12 - Literature on Stage and Screen | Grade 12 | 1 credit

Which is better: the movie or the book? In this course, we regularly address this question but move well-beyond its parameters to engage with meaningful topics regarding the performance and visual presentation of texts. Taking a comparative approach to plays, screenplays, and novels, we explicate the processes of interpretation and adaptation and all of the interesting cross-pollination that happens through the involvement of authors, directors, actors, and audiences. We also engage with secondary sources through film and theatrical criticism of the works we study. Students read and watch works from a diverse array of authors and artists in order to track the influences, tropes, and archetypes that connect them and to engage authentically in the fields of cultural studies and comparative literature. The Senior Thesis is a course requirement.

133 English 12 - The Hero's Journey | Grade 12 | 1 credit

Hamlet confronts his destiny as articulated by a ghost; Bilbo, mentored by Gandalf, faces a dragon; Amir comes of age after much torment and suffering, and Luke Skywalker is rescued by Obi-Wan Kenobi. For all their differences, these moments share a common theme: the dramatization of the monomyth as articulated by Joseph Campbell. This course is concerned with comparing different forms of storytelling and finding those symbols, myths, and archetypes that are universal to them all. While conquering dragons and defeating evil emperors, we also follow heroes who confront the monsters of prejudice, racism, and sexism. We connect the study of poetry, drama, short stories, and novels to other media such as film, television, and theater, and we take a broad look at literary genres and eras of thought, focusing on literary meanings and interpretations that both sustain and transcend borders. Students complete substantial amounts of reading and research, and the Senior Thesis is a course requirement.

134 English 12- The Story of Change | Grade 12 | 1 credit

In *The Story of Change* we focus on non-fiction texts inspired by individuals who chose to be brave and resilient when faced with adversity, and whose identity is ultimately shaped by the decisions they made when they thought nothing was in their control. This course will ask its students to consider different individuals' reactions to traumatic events and extreme setbacks as they answer the essential questions of: "How do humans make sense out of a world full of chaos?" and "How is change an indication of life?" We read a cross-section of stories depicting unbridled character, resilience, and renewal from various autobiographies, memoirs, narratives, and poetry and study the concept of how humans must make courageous choices in their journey to create change. Students complete substantial amounts of reading, research, and writing. The Senior Thesis is a course requirement.

145 AP English Literature and Composition | Grade 12 | 1 credit

AP English Literature and Composition allows for the student to become the teacher. Thomas Caruthers states, "A good teacher is one who makes himself progressively unnecessary." This course requires students to read, analyze, write about, and teach one another the significance of thematic, narrative, and poetic elements of a diverse range of literature, spanning in time from ancient texts to contemporary, and with no geographical bounds. Students explore all genres of literature with an emphasis on complexity and tensions within each given text. As a result, students emerge from this class with a better understanding of how to read and respond to the complexities and tensions they encounter in their experiences with others in the world. The Senior Thesis is a course requirement. **PREREQUISITE:** English 11 students must have an A average for the year AND a high A (95% or above) for the second semester. Honors English 11 students must have a B average for the year AND a B+ or above for the second semester. AP Language and Composition students must have a B average for the year. Prospective students must have department approval.

148 Honors English 12 | Grade 12 | 1 credit

This course prepares students for the academic environment they will find in college. In addition to rigorous engagement with discussions of intertextuality, intersectionality, and deconstruction, students read a variety of texts which question the nature of reality and justice through contexts in which such concepts might be interpreted as relative or open for debate. How do you maintain purpose, identity, or an effective moral code in situations of chaos or extreme evil? Such investigations are pursued through organized discussions and written analysis, and students become well-versed and practiced in the application of a survey of critical approaches. The Senior Thesis is a course requirement. **PREREQUISITE:** Students must have an "A" average in English 11, a "B" average in Honors English 11 or AP English Language to be eligible. Prospective students must have departmental approval.

174 English 12 - Minority Voices in American Literature | Grade 12 | 1 credit

This course focuses on the voices of those who have been historically stifled, underheard, and underappreciated within the realm of American literature. We explore literature from African-Americans, Latinos, women, and members of other religious and ethnic minority groups. By examining their struggles and triumphs, we analyze how individual prejudices and more systemic forms of oppression impact identity and sustain inequalities in America. The Senior Thesis is a course requirement.

Mathematics

Four years of mathematics are required for all students.

211 Algebra I | Grade 9 | 1 credit

This course introduces the real number system. Students will investigate sets and operations with real numbers, solving and graphing linear and quadratic functions and inequalities, operations with polynomials, factoring polynomials, systems of equations/inequalities with two variables, exponents and exponential functions, rational equations and functions, radicals and geometry connections.

215 Honors Algebra I/Geometry | Grade 9 | 1 credit

Designed for students who have had a full year of Algebra in the eighth grade and passed the placement exam, this course will include an in-depth study of linear and quadratic equations, absolute value equations and inequalities, factoring techniques and formulas, exponents and radicals, problem analysis, and solution techniques for multivariable systems including graphing, elimination, and the use of determinants. Euclidean Geometry is presented as a formal system of mathematics. Specific topics to be covered include congruent and similar triangles, parallel and perpendicular lines, polygons and circles, area, volume, and total surface area. A graphing calculator is required for this course. Recommendations: TI 83 plus or TI 84. **PREREQUISITE:** Placement will be based on an Algebra I Placement Test and department approval. Each semester must be passed independently. A student who receives a grade lower than a C at the end of the first semester will not be allowed to continue second semester in Geometry. The student will be reassigned to an Algebra I section to ensure a solid foundation is achieved by the end of freshman year.

220 Geometry | Grade 10 | 1 credit

This course examines relationships between points, lines, angles, planes, circles, triangles, and other polygons. Other topics include algebraic and geometric proof, formal logic, an introduction to trigonometry, and the concepts of perimeter, area, and volume. The ties between algebra and geometry are stressed throughout the course. **PREREQUISITE:** Departmental approval.

221 Geometry | Grade 10 | 1 credit

This course examines relationships between points, lines, angles, planes, circles, triangles, and other polygons. Algebraic and geometric proofs are used throughout the course. Additional topics include right angle and non-right angle trigonometry, formal logic, and the concepts of perimeter, area, and volume. The ties between algebra and geometry are stressed throughout the course. **PREREQUISITE:** C or above in 211 Algebra 1.

225 Honors Algebra II | Grade 10 | 1 credit

This course begins with a brief review of the topics in Algebra I and continues with an in-depth analysis of the following topics: linear functions, quadratic equations, trigonometric functions to include ratios, identities, equations and graphs, analysis of polynomials, complex numbers, conics sections and their uses, matrix algebra, exponential and logarithmic functions, sequence and series and the Binomial Theorem. **PREREQUISITE:** “B” in Honors Algebra I/Geometry. A graphing calculator is required for this course. Recommendation: TI 83 or TI 84.

230 Algebra II | Grade 11 | 1 credit

This course begins with a brief review of Algebra I. Topics for this course include operations with real numbers, solving equations and inequalities, word problems, linear functions, polynomial operations and factoring, rational expressions, systems of linear equations, complex numbers, conic sections, and graphing. **PREREQUISITE:** Departmental approval.

231 Algebra II | Grade 11 | 1 credit

This course is designed as an extension of topics covered in Algebra 1. Advanced factoring techniques include the sum and difference of two cubes and factoring polynomial functions by grouping. Linear, quadratic, absolute value, radical, rational, exponential, logarithmic and polynomial functions and their graphs are explored. Other topics include conic sections and their algebraic relationships, complex numbers, systems of equations with three variables, and word problems. A graphing calculator is required for this course. Recommendation: TI 83 or TI 84. **PREREQUISITE:** “C” or above in 221 Geometry and departmental approval.

235 Honors Pre-Calculus | Grade 11 | 1 credit

A thorough preparation for AP Calculus. Topics include algebraic, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions, matrices, conics, parametric and polar equations, vectors, and if time permits, limits and an introduction to Calculus. **PREREQUISITE:** “B” average in Honors Algebra II. A graphing calculator is required for this course. Recommendations: TI 83 plus, TI 84 or TI 89.

240 Trigonometry | Grade 12 | 1 credit

This course is designed for the student who has completed basic Algebra II. The six trigonometric functions are defined as ratios of right triangles and also as coordinates of the unit circle. From this base further topics such as periodicity, graphing, trigonometric proofs, and inverse relationships are explored. Practical applications are emphasized through word problems and vector analysis. Complex numbers, exponential and logarithmic functions are also covered to help prepare the student for advanced college math courses. **PREREQUISITE:** A “B” in 230 Algebra II and department approval.

241 Pre-Calculus | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

This course provides preparation for the college-level Calculus courses. Content focuses on a rigorous and in-depth treatment of trigonometry including vectors, trigonometric functions, equations, identities, graphs of functions, solutions of right and oblique triangles. Other topics dealing with Advanced Algebra include functions, logarithmic and exponential equations, sequences and series, probability and both polar and parametric graphs. A graphing calculator is required for this course. Recommendations: TI 83 plus or TI 84. **PREREQUISITE:** “B” average in 231 Algebra II.

243 Algebra III | Grade 12 | 1 credit

This senior level course is designed to maintain math skills for the college bound student. Semester One provides a review of algebraic and geometric concepts and skills as well as the application of those skills through solving real-life problems. Semester Two will provide a basic introduction to trigonometry. **PREREQUISITE:** Department approval.

245 Honors Calculus | Grade 12 | 1 credit

An introduction to Calculus. Careful consideration is given to all elementary functions, their inverses, composition, and graphs as used in Calculus. The notion of limit is developed and used in the two basic ideas of Calculus: differentiation and integration. Various applications of those ideas will be studied, including tangent lines, function behavior, optimization, area and volume, and basic differential equations. **PREREQUISITE:** “B” average in 241 Pre-Calculus or a “C” in 235 Honors Pre-Calculus and departmental approval. A graphing calculator is required for this course. Recommendations: TI 83 plus, TI 84 or TI 89.

246 AP Calculus (AB) | Grade 12 | 1 credit

A thorough preparation for the Advanced Placement AB examination. Topics studied include: limits, derivatives of algebraic and transcendental functions and their applications in curve sketching, motion, optimization, and related rates. Antiderivatives and the definite integral are studied with applications in summation, average value, and differential equations. This course is designed to cover all material that would be covered in a one-semester college Calculus course. **PREREQUISITE:** “B” average in Honors Pre-Calculus and department approval. A graphing calculator is required for this course. Recommendations: TI 83 plus, TI 84 or TI 89.

247 AP Calculus (BC) | Grade 12 | 1 credit

A thorough preparation for the Advanced Placement BC examination. This course contains all topics from Calculus AB presented at a faster pace. Also included are parametric, polar, and vector functions, power series, and advanced integration methods. This course is designed to cover all material that would be covered in two semesters of college Calculus.

PREREQUISITE: “A” average in Honors Pre-Calculus, or “B” average in AB Calculus, and department approval. A graphing calculator is required for this course. Recommendations: TI 83 plus, TI 84 or TI 89.

250 AP Statistics | Grade 12 | 1 credit

AP Statistics is a yearlong high school course equivalent to a one semester, introductory, non-calculus based, college course in statistics. Students will be exposed to concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students will explore data and how to describe any patterns that are found through probability and simulation. The methods involved in planning and conducting a study through sampling, experimentation, confidence intervals, and hypothesis testing will be emphasized. Students who pass the national May exam may earn college credit. **PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of Precalculus, Honors Precalculus, Honors Algebra II or a "B" or better in 231 Algebra II and departmental approval. A graphing calculator with statistical capabilities is required for the course. Recommendations: TI 84.

251 Multivariable Calculus |Grade 12| 1 credit

This course extends students’ understanding of single-variable calculus into multiple dimensions. Topics include vectors and the geometry of three-dimensional space, partial derivatives, gradients, optimization of functions of several variables, multiple integrals, vector fields, line and surface integrals, and the fundamental theorems of vector calculus (Green’s, Stokes’, and Divergence Theorem). Emphasis is placed on conceptual understanding, visualization, and mathematical rigor, with regular applications to physics, engineering, and mathematical modeling. Students will strengthen their problem-solving skills while developing fluency with the tools needed for college-level STEM coursework. **PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of AP Calculus BC.

Science

Students are required to complete three years of laboratory science, which includes Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Students who are approved for an Advanced Placement science course during their junior year, may substitute that course for Physics. All students are encouraged to elect a fourth year.

312 Biology | Grade 9 | 1 credit

Biology introduces students to the fundamental principles of life sciences. The course explores the structure and function of living organisms, their interactions with the environment, and the processes that sustain life. Through various activities, laboratory experiments, and discussions, students will develop a strong foundation in biology, fostering critical thinking and scientific inquiry. The biology curriculum is designed to continue student investigations and deepen student understanding of the biological sciences. This will include concepts introduced in previous learning at more abstract level. Biology is designed to help students understand the basic units in biology, including genetics, cellular structure and organization, DNA as the basic unit of heredity, taxonomic organization of life, interaction with the environment, six kingdoms, and biological evolution. Laboratory and fieldwork are used to introduce and develop these topics within a context of experiential learning. Biology is designed to give the student an introductory experience of the Standards in Biology.

315 Honors Biology | Grade 9 | 1 credit

Honors Biology is taught on a higher level, and it is intended for students who are motivated to work independently, and who possess a special interest in the sciences. The biology curriculum is designed to continue student investigations and deepen student understanding of the biological sciences. This will include concepts introduced in previous learning at a more abstract level. In-depth study of the following concepts is included: the cell, the molecular basis of heredity, biological evolution, the interdependence of organisms, matter, energy and organization in living systems, and the adaptive responses of organisms. Honors Biology is designed to give students a more challenging and in-depth experience of the Standards in Biology. Students are expected to work more independently on a variety of assignments and accept greater responsibility for their learning. Enrollment in this course is based on a student's HSPT scores and 8th-grade grades.

330 Topics in Chemistry | Grade 10 | 1 credit

The aim of this course is to introduce basic chemical concepts and apply them to real world problems. Areas of discussion include atomic theory and the periodic table, chemical reactions, solutions, acid-base chemistry, and gas laws. Once learned as theory, these concepts will then be used to independently solve real-world problems in the lab using what they've learned. The most successful student in this class will be self-motivated and interested in finding creative solutions to actual problems involving chemistry. **PREREQUISITES:** Departmental approval required.

331 Chemistry | Grade 10 | 1 credit

The aim of this course is to provide students with a foundation of chemistry. The concepts and laws of chemistry are approached both quantitatively and qualitatively. Emphasis is placed on the solution of word problems covering chemical stoichiometry, solutions, energy changes, acid-base chemistry and gases. Atomic structure, nomenclature and descriptive chemistry are also covered. Hands-on demonstrations and lab activities are an integral part of the course.

PREREQUISITES: Grade of "C+" or better in Biology and concurrent enrollment in 221 Geometry or higher.

335 Honors Chemistry | Grade 10 | 1 credit

The aim of this course is to provide students with a foundation in analytical and computational chemistry, beyond that which is usually provided in a first-year high school course. Emphasis is placed on the analysis of physical systems through a rigorous quantitative approach. Topics include scrutiny of measurements, classical and modern atomic theory, energy considerations, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, chemical bonding and acid-base theory. Laboratory studies and investigations are an integral part of the course. **PREREQUISITES:** Successful completion of Biology (A in general level course or B in honors course); Concurrent enrollment in 231 Algebra II or higher.

340 Topics In Physics | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

Through a study of the historic progression of theories and experiments, this course is designed to introduce students on a conceptual level to a variety of topics in classical physics. Topics to be discussed include kinematics, momentum, energy conservation, electricity, magnetism, thermal physics, and optics. Qualitative analysis of physical situations will be the primary mode of problem solving, with some mathematical work. Hands-on demonstrations and lab activities are an integral part of the course. **PREREQUISITES:** Completion of Chemistry or Topics in Chemistry and departmental approval required.

341 Physics | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

This is a first-year physics course designed to introduce students to a variety of topics in classical and modern physics, including kinematics, energy, momentum, gravity, thermodynamics, waves, electrostatics, magnetostatics, circuitry, and atomic and nuclear physics. This course is math intensive, with an emphasis on problem solving techniques. Hands-on demonstrations and lab activities are an integral part of the course. **PREREQUISITES:** Grade of "C" or better in Chemistry or Honors Chemistry and concurrent enrollment in 231 Algebra II or higher.

342 Honors Anatomy and Physiology | Grade 12 | 1 credit

Anatomy & Physiology expands upon the knowledge learned in general biology with specific emphasis on the structure and function of the human body. The course reviews anatomical terminology, cellular processes and tissue classification. Further topics include gross and microscopic anatomy of the systems, including integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, circulatory, lymphatic, digestive and urinary systems. Labs will parallel what is covered in the lecture through the use of models, dissections, slides, and skeletal materials. In an effort to enhance this active learning the course will focus to a great extent on laboratory

work. Dissection of not only a representative mammal, but preserved organs and tissues of humans will be a vital part of the course. **PREREQUISITES:** Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry (A in general level course or B in honors course); Departmental approval required. Enrollment preference is given to seniors.

345 AP Physics C - Mechanics | Grade 12 | 1 credit

AP Physics C Mechanics is a college-level course that follows the Advanced Placement syllabus. The College Board determines the curriculum for this course. The course covers the initial sequence of topics which students would encounter in engineering formation, and therefore includes a substantial math component, including calculus. Strong emphasis is placed on developing the analytical skills required to formulate general solutions to groups of problems. The subject matter of the course is principally mechanics. The course is intended to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement exam. The course includes an intensive lab component. **PREREQUISITES:** Successful completion of Biology, Chemistry and Physics (A in general level course or B in honors course); Completion of or concurrent enrollment in calculus or higher; Departmental approval required.

349 AP Physics 1 | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

The College Board determines the syllabus for AP Physics 1. AP Physics 1 is a college-level course that explores and applies topics in Classical Mechanics, including Measurement and Uncertainty, Kinematics in One and Two Dimensions, Dynamics, Circular Motion and Universal Gravitation, Work and Energy, Linear Momentum, Simple Harmonic Motion, Torque and Rotation, and Fluids. A strong background in Algebra and Trigonometry are essential for solving problems in AP Physics 1. There will be several demonstrations and laboratories throughout the course. AP Physics 1 can be a first or second year course. Students are expected to take the AP Physics 1 exam in May. **PREREQUISITES:** Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry (A in general level course or B in honors course); Departmental approval required; Precalculus; Grade of B or B+ in Physics.

350 AP Chemistry | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

AP Chemistry is a college-level course that follows the Advanced Placement syllabus. The College Board determines the curriculum for this course. Students will be engaged in an intensive systematic study of the laws and concepts of chemistry, with considerable emphasis on quantitative aspects. Topics covered in detail include atomic theory and structure, chemical bonding, chemical transformations and equations, periodic trends of the elements, states of matter, solutions and reaction types, stoichiometry, equilibrium, kinetics, thermodynamics and electrochemistry. The course is intended to prepare students for the Advanced Placement exam. Advanced laboratory analysis is an essential part of the course. Students are expected to take the AP Chemistry exam. **PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry (A in general level course or B in honors course); completion of or concurrent enrollment in Pre-Calculus. Departmental approval required.

351 Astronomy | Grade 12 | 1 credit

The universe encompasses all of space, time, matter, and energy. Astronomy is the study of the universe and its evolution. Students will learn about the basic features of the universe, the solar system, stars and stellar evolution, galaxies, cosmology, and the methods by which scientists study matter and radiation to draw conclusions about astronomical objects and events. The course covers current and popular topics such as black holes, the expansion of the universe, and the search for extraterrestrial life. While the course is mostly qualitative, students will need to call upon basic arithmetic, algebra, and physics skills. This course incorporates an “outside enrichment” component where student must complete one off-campus enrichment activity of their own (teacher-approved) choosing per quarter. Activities such as visits to museums, local planetariums, star-gazing events, astronomy club meetings, or other astronomy-related events meet this experiential requirement. **PREREQUISITE:** Completion or concurrent enrollment in Physics or Topics in Physics.

355 AP Biology | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

AP Biology is a college level course that follows the Advanced Placement syllabus. The College Board determines the curriculum for this course. AP Biology prepares students to meet many of the objectives of a college general biology course. We begin with an intensive exploration of the biochemistry of cells: their structures, energy storage and use, and their many control mechanisms. Students will then investigate cell division, sexual reproduction, and classical and modern genetics, with an emphasis on applications of biotechnology. Second semester preparation for the AP exam will include a review of evolution, taxonomy, the structures and functions of living organisms, and their ecological relationships. Intensive labs from the AP Biology curriculum will supplement material covered in class. Students are expected to take the AP Biology exam. **PREREQUISITES:** Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry (A in general level course or B in honors course); Departmental approval required.

356 Marine Biology | Grade 12 | 1 credit

The goal of this course is to enhance our fascination with marine life while providing a rigorous introduction to marine biology as a science. This course will have a global perspective to emphasize the world's oceans and seas as an integrated system. Major themes covered include basic science as applied to the marine environment, organismal diversity and ecology, the physical and biological challenges imposed on organisms by the environment, the interaction of humans with marine environments and the importance of conservation. **PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of 3 credits in science.

365 AP Environmental Science | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

AP Environmental Science is a college-level course that follows the Advanced Placement syllabus. The College Board determines the curriculum for this course. This course is an interdisciplinary approach to scientific research and environmental studies, including biology, chemistry, and physics, as well as the integration of social studies and mathematics. The course is designed to apply basic ecology, chemistry, and geology to understanding the environmental impacts of human activities. This is an intensive course which will require students to design and implement experiments about the natural world. In addition to lab requirements for the class, students will also explore the cultural and social impacts humans have on the environment. Topics treated in detail include soils and geological processes, ecosystem and

community structure and function, population dynamics, food and energy resources, water and air pollution, environmental politics, and sustainability. Opportunities are given for students to conduct experiments in the field. The course also examines economic, social, and political aspects to environmental problems. The course is intended to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement exam. Students are expected to take the AP Environmental Science exam. **PREREQUISITES:** Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry (A in general level course or B in honors course); Departmental approval required.

368 Engineering & Robotics | Grades 10, 11, & 12 | .5 credit

In this science course, students will engage in technological/engineering design-based projects with an emphasis on engineering, robotics, physical sciences, and entrepreneurship in which they will be introduced to foundational principles of mechanical and electrical engineering, computer science, digital marketing, and fundraising. Students will learn a number of design applications and software including but not limited to SOLIDWORKS (CAD), OnShape (CAD), and Easel by Inventables for X-Carve (CNC machining). They will solve real world problems through Java coding in the Visual Studio Code editor. Students will have the opportunity to work with faculty members and mentors in industry on collaborative projects related to the international FIRST Robotics Competition where they can put into practice these learned skills and principles. In addition to exploring new topics and the relationships between various content areas, this course is intended to provide students with an opportunity to function as a creative member of a design team and to develop skills relevant to problem solving, critical thinking, and innovation. **PREREQUISITE:** Cocurricular membership on the Robotics team and departmental approval.

371 Forensic Science | Grade 12 | 1 credit

In this engaging one-semester course, students will explore the principles and techniques used by forensic scientists to solve crimes. Through hands-on investigations, case studies, and interactive labs, students will learn to analyze evidence, apply scientific reasoning, and understand the role of forensic science in the criminal justice system. Topics covered include fingerprint analysis, DNA profiling, blood spatter analysis, crime scene investigation, toxicology, and the examination of trace evidence. Emphasis will be placed on critical thinking, collaboration, and the ethical considerations of forensic investigations. This course provides a strong foundation for students interested in careers in law enforcement, forensic science, criminal justice, or related fields.

Social Studies

Students are required to complete three credits in the social studies. Human Geography (419), World History and Geography (424) or AP World History (447) and United States History (431) or AP US History (435) are required in the 9th, 10th, and 11th grade respectively. The College Board sets the curriculum for each Advanced Placement (AP) course and approves each AP course syllabus.

419 Human Geography | Grade 9 | 1 credit

This comprehensive course provides students with an in-depth exploration of human geography, combining systematic study with a focus on the interaction between human societies and their environments. Drawing on spatial concepts and landscape analysis, students examine the patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of the Earth's surface. Topics covered include: physical geography, population, cultural patterns and processes, political organization of space, agriculture and rural land use, industrialization and economic development, and cities and urban land use.

424 World History and Geography | Grade 10 | 1 credit

World History and Geography is a required course that continues the story of world history from 1450 C.E. when the civilizations around the globe began to interact. Students will examine the historical events of world history as well as the social, political, cultural, economic, scientific and technological developments that transformed the common human experience from the positive and negative effects of European exploration and colonization to the rise of independent nation states in the 20th Century. Students will continue strengthen their historical and writing skills.

431 United States History | Grade 11 | 1 credit

United States History is a comprehensive survey course that emphasizes the foundations of the United States government before delving into the examination of American history from Reconstruction to the present day. Students will explore the political, cultural, social, and economic effects of significant historical events, with a particular focus on the history of social movements, minority groups, and their struggles to create a more democratic society. The course is designed to enhance students' historical research and writing skills, providing them with a nuanced understanding of the historical forces that have shaped the nation.

435 AP United States History | Grade 11 | 1 credit

AP United States History examines American history from approximately 1491 to the present. The course is constructed both chronologically and thematically, which requires students to reason historically about continuity and change over time and to make comparisons among historical events in different times and places. Students will strengthen historical thinking skills, analyze primary and other sources of evidence, reach conclusions, and write persuasive essays. **PREREQUISITES:** Minimum of an "A" average in a full-year World History and Geography or a "B" average in AP World History and completion of a summer assignment or departmental approval.

441 United States Government | Grades 11 &12 | 1 credit

United States Government begins with the basic definitions and structures of government and then shifts focus to America’s unique form of government embodied in the U.S. Constitution. Students will further explore the principles of limited government, separation of powers, checks and balances and federalism through an in-depth study of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government. Students will also examine the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and the role of individuals, interest groups, political parties and the news media in the democratic process through both historic and current events. **PREREQUISITE:** Completion of World History and Geography or AP World History.

445 AP U.S. Government & Politics | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

AP United States Government and Politics introduces students to key political ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the government and political culture of the United States. The course examines concepts and themes including limited government, the separation of powers, checks and balances, judicial review and federalism. Students will study the political process, political behavior, interpret relevant data, critically analyze political theories and develop evidence-based arguments. **PREREQUISITES:** - **PREREQUISITES:** Concurrent or previous enrollment in U.S. History; a “B+” in previous full-year core social studies course or a “B” average in AP level core class, and completion of the summer project or departmental approval.

446 AP European History | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

AP European History focuses on cultural, economic, political, and social developments in Europe from the 15th to early 21st Century. These focus areas provide context for understanding the development of contemporary institutions, the role of continuity and change in present-day society and politics, the evolution of current forms of artistic expression and intellectual discourse. Skills include: an understanding of the key events and principal themes in modern European history, an ability to trace thematically linked historical developments through several chronological periods, an ability to analyze historical evidence and interpretation, and an ability to express these concepts in writing. **PREREQUISITES:** Previous or concurrent enrollment in US History; A “B+” in previous core Social Studies course or “B” in previous AP-level core class; completion of the summer project; or departmental approval.

447 AP World History | Grade 10 | 1 credit

AP World History is a college level exploration of world history from 1200 AD. Students will develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians including analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments and making historical comparisons. The course is organized chronologically with a focus on the recurring themes of interaction between cultures and nation states, the development of political and economic systems, the transformation of social structures as well as interaction between humans and the environment. **PREREQUISITES:** An “A” average in full-year Human Geography, a “B+” in their previous English course (“B” in Honors), completion of the summer project or departmental approval.

460 Introduction to Psychology | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behavior. This course is designed to increase students' understanding of psychology as a social science. Students will study the biological structures of the brain and nervous system as well as the topics of learning, cognition, development, motivation, personality, and other concepts central to the study of psychology. Additionally, the applications of psychology to everyday life will be discussed.

461 Introduction to Sociology | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

Sociology is a year-long course that centers on the fundamental concepts, ideas, and perspectives of sociology—the study of the social lives of individuals, groups, and society. Throughout the course, students will explore theories and themes related to gender, family, race, culture, societal norms, and social change. The primary focus is on understanding how human relationships contribute to the creation and definition of a society. By engaging with these topics and actively participating in class discussions, students will develop the ability to connect their real-life experiences with the principles studied in sociology. **PREREQUISITES:** Completion of or concurrent enrollment in World History and Geography or AP World History.

462 Justice in Modern American History | Grades 10, 11, & 12 | 1 credit

This elective thematically explores how marginalized Americans achieved greater social equality in the last 100 years. By studying changes in the law, sports and presidential initiatives, students will appreciate the changes made in American society and consider other areas in which the country needs to grow to align itself with its ideals. Students will utilize a wide variety of sources to explore the course content—including but not limited to film, podcasts, news reporting, documents, speeches, primary sources, Supreme Court decisions, biographies, memoirs and case studies. Students will hone their writing and analytical skills and gain a healthy respect for the roles integrity, character and leadership play in any endeavor. **PREREQUISITES:** Completion of or concurrent enrollment in World History and Geography or AP World History.

464 AP African American Studies | Grade 12 | 1 credit

This interdisciplinary course examines the diversity of African American experiences through direct encounters with varied sources. Students explore key topics that extend from early African kingdoms to the ongoing challenges and achievements of the contemporary moment. Given the interdisciplinary character of African American Studies, students in the course will develop skills across multiple fields, with an emphasis on developing historical, literary, visual, and data analysis skills. This course foregrounds a study of the diversity of Black communities in the United States within the broader context of Africa and the African diaspora. **PREREQUISITES:** Completion of or concurrent enrollment in US History, a “B+” in previous core Social Studies course or “B” in previous AP-level core class; completion of summer project, or departmental approval.

465 AP Psychology | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

The AP Psychology course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the psychologists and the studies that have shaped the field, students will explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with such topics as the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and cognition, motivation, developmental psychology, testing and individual differences, treatment of abnormal behavior, and social psychology. Throughout the course, students will employ psychological research methods, including ethical considerations, as they utilize the scientific method, analyze bias, evaluate claims and evidence, and effectively communicate ideas. **PREREQUISITES:** Minimum of an “A” in previous core Social Studies course or “B” in previous AP-level core class; completion of the summer project; or departmental approval.

466 AP Macroeconomics | Grades 11 & 12 | .5 credit

This is a college-level course that complies with College Board guidelines and is the equivalent of an introductory-level university course in Macroeconomics. The purpose of the AP Macroeconomics course is to provide students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. The focus of the course is on the study of a country's national income and how price-level is determined through supply and demand and government policies. Students will also focus on economic performance measures like indexes and GDP, the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international economics such as foreign exchange and international trade. All students will take the Advanced Placement exam at the end of the year. **PREREQUISITES:** Completion of the summer project, minimum of a “B+” in previous core Social Studies course, or minimum of a “B” in previous core AP-level Social Studies course. Completion of or concurrent enrollment in 231 Algebra 2.

467 AP Microeconomics | Grades 11 & 12 | .5 credit

This is a college-level course that introduces students to the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual economic decision-makers. The course also develops students' familiarity with the operation of product and factor markets, distributions of income, market failure, and the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. Students learn to use graphs, charts, and data to analyze, describe, and explain economic concepts. **PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of AP Macroeconomics.

468 AP Art History | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

The AP Art History course is equivalent to a two-semester introductory college course that explores topics such as the nature of art, art making, and responses to art. By investigating a specific image set of 250 works of art characterized by diverse artistic traditions from prehistory to the present, the course fosters in-depth holistic understanding of the history of art from a global perspective. Students will be active participants in the global art world, engaging with its forms and content, as they experience, research, discuss, read, and write about art, artists, art making, and responses to and interpretations of art. Students will consider influential forces like patronage, politics, class, belief, gender, and ethnicity in their analysis of art forms and examine the styles, techniques, themes, and chronology from varied perspectives. **PREREQUISITE:** Departmental approval and completion of a summer assignment.

470 Introduction to Economics | Grades 10, 11, & 12 | 1 credit

This course introduces students to the vocabulary and principles of economics focusing on the economic decision-making of people, businesses, and nations. Students learn the law of supply and demand and examine how buyers and sellers influence of price and availability of products. Students also analyze the government's role in shaping economic policies that serve national interests. The course introduces students to business management, with a focus on the role of entrepreneurship as a driver of innovation and economic growth. Students learn the various types of American business structures and how businesses create revenue and finance operations. Students will have the opportunity to apply lessons learned in the classroom by creating their own business plans. This course concludes with an introduction to personal finance topics, including saving, investing, budgeting, debt, and taxes. Students must have good algebraic skills for some economic models and graphs. **PREREQUISITE:** Algebra I.

477 Entrepreneurship and Innovation | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

This course will be a study of entrepreneurship and innovation. Students will understand the sources and methods in which businesses and organizations are founded and grow. Foundational topics include industry structure, utilizing Porter's Five Forces model, basic financial analysis including the time-value of money, Drucker's 7 Sources of Innovation, other management methods, and overall marketing strategy. The class will have speakers from various areas of industry and business disciplines, as well as field trips to businesses, incubators, and other entrepreneurial organizations. Students enrolled in this class will have preference if applying to the school's student-led investment club.

482 Journalism | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

This course is designed to equip students with the essential skills needed to navigate the digital landscape critically. With a focus on news literacy, students will delve into the characteristics of credible information, honing their ability to distinguish reliable sources and avoid falling prey to falsehoods, especially prevalent on social media platforms. The course explores how freedom of the press serves as a vital check on government power and as a catalyst for societal change. Additionally, students will learn the basics of media ethics and the responsibilities inherent in maintaining an independent press. Students will have dedicated time to work on the school student newspaper. This hands-on experience will allow students to apply the principles learned in class. **PREREQUISITES:** Completion of or concurrent enrollment in World History and Geography or AP World History.

479 A People's History of DC | Grades 10, 11, 12 | .5 credit

This course explores Washington, D.C. not just as the nation's capital, but as a living city shaped by the people who call it home. Students will examine how the District has served as the stage for pivotal national events: presidential inaugurations, landmark legislation, movements for justice; while also uncovering the local narratives that rarely make the textbook. The course emphasizes the experiences of D.C. residents across time, highlighting communities whose voices have been overlooked or marginalized in traditional historical accounts. Through inquiry-driven lessons, neighborhood case studies, and analysis of primary sources, students will investigate how local and national histories intersect in the District. As members of the

DMV community themselves, students will develop a deeper appreciation for the city's social, cultural, and political significance, as well as lifelong skills in civic engagement, research, and critical thinking. **COREQUISITE:** Students must take America at 250

480 America at 250 | Grades 10, 11, 12 | .5 credit

Timed to coincide with the nation's 2026 semiquincentennial, this course examines how Americans have chosen to remember their past. Students will explore contested memory, the stories we commemorate, and the transformative technologies that have shaped the country since its founding. Women's history is a central lens, with emphasis on how women experienced and influenced competing American visions and why their contributions have often been overlooked. Through project-based learning and historical thinking skills, students will consider questions such as: What do we commemorate and why? How have technological revolutions reshaped American life? And have we truly "remembered the ladies" 250 years later? **COREQUISITE:** Students must take Gender Studies or A People's History of D.C.

481 Gender Studies | Grades 10, 11, 12 | .5 credit

This semester-long elective examines how gender shapes and is shaped by social, cultural, political, economic and historical factors in the United States and around the world. Students will explore the construction of gender roles and the ways power, identity, and representation intersect across time and place. Through case studies, media analysis, and contemporary issues, students will investigate how gender influences institutions such as education, law, work, family, and popular culture. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, respectful dialogue, and evaluating how expanding understandings of gender can lead to a more equitable society.

642 Military History | Grade 11 | 1 credit

This course will examine military structures throughout history. The course focuses on the interaction of the military institutions with politics, technology, and the development of national identities. Certain aspects, such as guerilla warfare, nuclear weapons, and the military industrial complex in general will be featured. The class will be conducted in seminar format. Outside reading and research will be required. **PREREQUISITE:** Concurrent enrollment in Cadet Corps.

643 Foreign Affairs | Grade 12 | 1 credit

This course will stress American military, political, and diplomatic involvement in the world since the 1930s. The course will include World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, Vietnam, Reagan's military actions, and U.S. involvement in the United Nations and the Middle East. Current events will be discussed on a regular basis. **PREREQUISITE:** Concurrent enrollment in Cadet Corps.

Modern and Classical Languages

St. John's requires that each student take a minimum of two consecutive years of study in a specific modern or classical language. We further encourage students to select additional electives of modern or classical language for personal enrichment and to meet more stringent requirements listed for admission to an ever-increasing number of colleges and universities. Many students who enroll at St. John's have had prior exposure to Latin, French, or Spanish either because it is spoken at home, or they took language classes in elementary school. The Modern & Classical Language department requires that all such students take a placement test to determine correct entry level. To meet the two-year minimum for modern language, any student who has native proficiency must fulfill the requirement either in classes of a different language or in the Heritage Spanish courses.

501 Latin I | Grade 9 | 1 credit

Latin is your gateway to the ancient world! This dynamic course combines engaging stories, vivid illustrations, and modern ties to bring Latin to life. Students will dive into the adventures of ancient Rome, from epic myths to everyday life, as they build a solid foundation in Latin grammar and vocabulary. With interactive exercises and cultural insights, students will not only master the language but also gain a deeper appreciation for the rich history and traditions of Rome. This course promises an exciting journey into the language that shaped Western civilization.

510 Latin II | Grades 9 & 10 | 1 credit

Level II propels a student's Latin journey to new heights with captivating stories and advanced language skills. Building on the foundation from Level I, this course immerses students in more complex narratives and historical contexts, offering a deeper dive into Roman life, literature, and legendary figures. With its engaging texts, interactive exercises, and cultural explorations, students unravel the nuances of Latin grammar and expand vocabulary while discovering the thrilling tales and significant events that shaped ancient Rome. **PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of Latin I and department approval. Incoming freshmen may place into this level based on scores from the SJC placement test.

511 French I | Grades 9, 10 & 11 | 1 credit

This Level 1 language course provides students with the fundamentals of language including basic vocabulary, verb conjugations, and practice in the use of common expressions. Emphasis is placed on conversation, recitation, and dialogue in the target language. Students will develop proficiency and basic audio-lingual skills through the four modes of language: speaking, reading, listening, and writing. Students will also be introduced to their first readings in French.

512 French II | All Grades | 1 credit

In this course students will learn a wider vocabulary, have much more oral practice, and use more of the verb tenses. Daily assignments will include reading and writing exercises. Class instruction and student responses will be increasingly conducted in the target language.

The curriculum also includes a wider selection of readings. **PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of French 1 and department approval. Incoming freshmen may place into this level based on scores from the SJC placement test.

513 French III | All Grades | 1 credit

Students will acquire a greater proficiency in basic language skills. Emphasis is based on higher levels of vocabulary, advanced grammar, and common idiomatic expressions. The study of literature and culture is also stressed. **PREREQUISITE:** “B” average or better in French 2, and department approval. Incoming freshmen may place into this level based on scores from the SJC placement test.

514 Honors French IV | Grades 10, 11 & 12 | 1 credit

Students develop a high level of proficiency in the French language as they continue to strengthen all modes of language development. The course emphasizes higher levels of vocabulary, advanced grammatical structures, and overall fluency. Additionally, students will read various Francophone short stories and novels. The curriculum also helps prepare students for the capstone AP level course. **PREREQUISITE:** “B” average or better in French III and department approval.

515 Latin III | All Grades | 1 credit

Students continue to develop more advanced translation skills in this course as they strengthen their reading and listening skills and are introduced to more complex grammar through various texts. Students’ thorough retention of vocabulary and grammar from the first two years of study helps to make this course particularly fruitful and enjoyable; however, previous grammar is also reviewed and practiced at length throughout the year. Students may read excerpts from Latin prose and poetic authors including Pliny the Younger, Ovid, Caesar, Vergil, Cicero, Horace, and Tacitus. Students will also read a selection of thematic Latin novellas on Roman history and architecture. Students are encouraged to produce textually accurate, but natural translations, as they strive to communicate ideas, not merely words. Throughout the year, students continue to closely study the roots of words while expanding their Latin and English vocabularies. **PREREQUISITE:** “B” average or higher in Latin II, department approval and successful completion of the summer project.

516 AP French | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

The curriculum and syllabus for this course is determined by The College Board. The course, conducted solely in French, focuses on exploring six themes of the French language and culture as determined by the College Board. Students will encounter a myriad of authentic written, audio, and video texts that will help them prepare for the AP exam at the end of the year. **PREREQUISITE:** “B” average or better in Honors French IV, department approval and successful completion of the summer project.

517 Honors Latin IV | Grades 10, 11 & 12 | 1 credit

This course marks the transition of a student’s study of Latin at the high school level to its study at the collegiate level. While reading and translating portions of acclaimed literary works, students broaden their reading proficiency and deepen their appreciation of the interdisciplinary nature of classical studies. Additionally, there is an emphasis on reading and translating original Roman

writing, especially that of Catullus, as well as neo-Latin novellas. **PREREQUISITE:** “B” average or higher in Latin III, department approval and successful completion of the summer project.

518 AP Latin | Grades 10, 11, & 12 | 1 credit

This course will further students’ knowledge of and appreciation for the Latin language while preparing them for success on the AP Exam. Students will improve their grammar, vocabulary, and fluency through the reading of extensive selections from two major works of ancient Roman literature, Vergil’s Aeneid and Pliny the Younger’s Letters. Additional selections in both poetry (1,328 words) and prose (1,429 words) will help to give a full impression of the breadth of material represented by classical Latin literature. **PREREQUISITE:** “B” average or higher in Honors Latin IV, department approval and successful completion of the summer project.

541 Spanish I | Grades 9, 10, & 11 | 1 credit

This Level 1 language course provides students with the fundamentals of language including basic vocabulary, simple sentence construction, and the use of common expressions. Emphasis is placed on conversation, recitation, and dialog in the target language. Daily students develop skills through the four modes of language: speaking, reading, listening, and writing. Students will also be introduced to their first readings in Spanish.

542 Spanish II | All Grades | 1 credit

In this course, students will improve their proficiency in the target language. They will develop skills to comprehend spoken and written Spanish while also exploring different cultures in the Spanish-speaking world. Assignments will include reading and writing exercises. Class instruction and student responses will be increasingly conducted in the Spanish. The curriculum also includes a wide selection of readings. **PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of Spanish I and department approval. Incoming freshmen may be placed into this level based on their SJC placement test scores.

543 Spanish III | All Grades | 1 credit

Spanish 3 is a course designed for students to continue learning the language and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. It includes further development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in Spanish with practice on the grammatical components of the language. It provides further study of essential vocabulary that can be useful in the Spanish language. Students will conclude their study of Spanish at St. John’s upon completion of this course. **PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of Spanish II.

545 Honors Spanish IV | Grades 10, 11, & 12 | 1 credit

This Pre-AP Spanish course is designed to equip students with the skills to communicate confidently and effectively across a variety of real-world contexts. Emphasis is placed on the use of advanced vocabulary and grammatical structures. The course prioritizes fluency in all four key areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will engage with authentic materials from Spanish-speaking cultures. **PREREQUISITE:** “B” average or higher in Spanish III Honors or Spanish 2 Heritage Honors, departmental approval and successful completion of the summer project.

546 AP Spanish | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

AP Spanish emphasizes communication through the exploration of culture and language using contemporary and historical contexts. This course is geared toward preparing students for the AP Spanish Language & Culture exam via three modes of communication: interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational. Students will read and analyze selected texts, as well as undertake a total grammatical review in order to prepare for the exam. **PREREQUISITE:** “B+” or better in Honors Spanish IV or Honors Readings in Spanish, department approval, and successful completion of the summer project.

551 Spanish IH (Heritage Spanish) Native Speakers of Spanish | Grades 9 & 10 | 1 credit

This course is designed for those who either speak Spanish at home or have been in Spanish-language immersion schools. This separate track of language development will provide instruction and aid in the development of the following skills: understanding and using correctly the parts of speech and the different verb tenses, along with the formation, sequencing, and use of the various language structures. Similarities and differences between Spanish and English are stressed in order to provide students with the knowledge to comparatively analyze both languages. This class is taught 100% in Spanish. **PREREQUISITE:** Open only to students who are pre-approved on the basis of required SJC placement test.

552 Honors Spanish IIIH | Grades 9 & 10 | 1 credit

This year-long course focuses on the development of multilingual and multicultural literacies, and four major types of competencies: linguistic, communicative, cultural, and metalinguistic. Emphasis will be on learning to use Spanish as an academic and professional language and studying Hispanic cultures in the United States. Students who successfully complete the course will continue their Spanish language studies in Honors Readings in Spanish or Honors Spanish IV. **PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of Spanish I Heritage, departmental approval and successful completion of the summer project.

558 Honors Readings in Spanish | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

Designed for students who have a proficiency in Spanish, this course will enable students to become familiar with the literary style and the major literary movements found in the works of some outstanding modern Latin American and Spanish authors. Students will also learn to do text analysis and study literary themes. **PREREQUISITE:** “B” average or better in Honors Spanish IV or AP Spanish and department approval.

559 Honors Spanish 3 | All Grades | 1 credit

Students will acquire a greater proficiency in basic language skills. Emphasis is based on higher vocabulary, advanced grammar, and common idiomatic expressions. The study of literature and culture is also stressed. Students will read basic novels as a class and independently. **PREREQUISITE:** “B” average or better in Spanish II, and department approval. Incoming freshmen may place into this level based on scores from the SJC placement test.

Cadets Corps Leadership Program

The four pillars of the Cadet Corps Leadership Program—leadership, cadet culture, character, and health and wellness—are designed to engage and develop the whole person. This comprehensive approach helps cadets achieve balance and depth in their overall development, allowing them to become more effective leaders. Our curriculum provides students with a strong foundation in the principles and concepts of leadership. More importantly, the program provides cadets the opportunity to put those lessons into practice through Cadet Corps activities – allowing them an opportunity to develop their leadership skills. Knowledge and experience are further enhanced through mentorship by experienced faculty, peers and experts in the field, and cadets receive the time and space necessary to develop along their leadership journeys.

612 Leadership & Citizenship | Grade 9 | 1 credit

This introductory course is the foundation for all further instruction. Cadets learn the objectives of the Cadets Corps, the fundamentals of drill and ceremony, the obligations of citizenship, career and goal setting, leadership principles, communication skills, the dynamics of interpersonal and group interaction, basic first aid and map reading, physical fitness and health, and basic marksmanship. Most instruction incorporates practical application. Cadets may also compete for the Presidential Physical Fitness Badge. As freshmen, cadets are not placed in leadership positions, but learn to follow directives and contribute to group success.

613 Advanced Leadership & Citizenship | Grade 10 | 1 credit

This course develops basic leadership and management techniques. Advanced instruction in first aid and life saving techniques is presented. Cadets learn the basic principles of planning a project and make presentations to the class on selected subjects. As sophomores, cadets are staff members and junior leaders at the squad and platoon level, experiencing personal growth through the actual application of leadership. They are responsible for teaching freshmen cadets drill and ceremonies, and other basic subjects.

642 Military History | Grade 11 | 1 credit

This course will examine military structures throughout history. The course focuses on the interaction of the military institutions with politics, technology, and the development of national identities. Certain aspects, such as guerilla warfare, nuclear weapons, and the military industrial complex in general will be featured. The class will be conducted in seminar format. Outside reading and research will be required.

643 Foreign Affairs | Grade 12 | 1 credit

This course will stress American military, political, and diplomatic involvement in the world since the 1930s. The course will include World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, Vietnam, Reagan's military actions, and U.S. involvement in the United Nations and the Middle East. Current events will be discussed on a regular basis.

General Studies

The courses in this area are offered as electives to round out the educational opportunities offered at St. John's.

700 Physical Education | Grade 9 | .5 credit

This course is designed to meet both the present and the future physical needs of students through their participation in activities which will develop fitness, coordination, and sportsmanship. Students will participate in team sports, individual sports, and complete a physical fitness testing program.

701 Physical Education Sport | Grades 9 & 10 | .5 credit

This course is designed to meet both the present and the future physical needs of students through their participation in three specific sports (soccer, basketball, and lacrosse), which will develop fitness, coordination, and sportsmanship. Students will learn the skills, techniques, and knowledge of the three sports.

702 Introduction to Sports Medicine | Grades 10, 11, & 12 | .5 credit

This course will cover basic human anatomy and physiology and how they relate to tissue injury and healing. Class lectures will emphasize the recognition, management and prevention of athletic related injuries as it pertains to the field of athletic training. Other sports medicine topics are discussed. Hands-on experiences will include rehabilitative concepts and taping techniques in the athletic training room.

708 Fundamentals of Performance Training | Grades 10, 11, & 12 | .5 credit

This course will introduce the fundamentals of performance training, including individual weight training and conditioning programming to improve the five components of physical performance: cardiovascular fitness, flexibility, muscular endurance, body composition, and overall strength. This will be done through structured training programs involving multi-joint movements, interval and circuit training, plyometrics, and linear and multi-directional agility exercises. Students will also be educated in pre-rehabilitation, and recovery training for optimal performance.

709 Advanced Performance Training | Grades 10, 11, & 12 | .5 credit

This course expands upon Fundamentals of Performance Training. It gives the student the opportunity to further their studies and have a more comprehensive understanding of all principles of strength and conditioning. **PREREQUISITE:** Grade of "B" in Fundamentals of Performance Training.

712 Fundamentals of Health and General Nutrition | Grades 9, 10, &11 | .5 credit

This course is designed to introduce the student to basic concepts of general nutrition. Through interactive resources students learn to identify the relationship between nutrients, food components, and human health. This course aims to empower students to follow healthy eating practices. Furthermore, it aims to teach positive skills so students have all the tools to accomplish their nutrition goals. With the incorporation of team projects and activities, students learn to read nutrition labels, analyze food components, and structure a basic nutrition plan.

713 Sports and Performance Nutrition | Grades 10, 11 & 12 | .5 credit

This course is an advanced class and continuation of the Fundamentals of Health and General Nutrition. The content of the course aims to introduce the student to principles of sports nutrition and performance. Class lectures will emphasize the selection of healthy food choices to optimize sports performance, the importance of hydration before, during, and after exercise, and recovery nutrition. In conjunction with the Athletic Department, students will actively participate in game-day sports nutrition operations (football in the fall, basketball in the winter/spring). Students will also learn basic knowledge of sports supplements and ergogenic aids, safety, and efficacy among youth athletes. **PREREQUISITE:** Grade of “B” in Fundamentals of Health and General Nutrition.

Computer Science

All computer courses are offered as electives to round out the educational opportunities at St. John’s.

751 Concepts in Technology | All Grades | 1 credit

This course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to computer science through interactive, hands-on assignments, labs, and simulations. Students will explore foundational topics across four key areas: computer basics, programming fundamentals & the role of AI, networking & cloud computing, and cybersecurity essentials. Students who show a strong interest in the course are encouraged to participate in the student-led Computer Science Club, where teams are formed around shared interests and projects.

752 Introduction to 3D Printing | Grades 10–12 | .5 credit

Explore the exciting world of digital design and fabrication in this hands-on course. Students will engage in interactive projects and collaborative design challenges that encourage critical thinking and problem-solving. The course introduces the fundamentals of 3D printing technology and provides practical experience using TinkerCAD, a user-friendly online platform for 3D modeling. Students will learn the basics of computer-aided design (CAD) while developing skills to create, manipulate, and refine 3D models. From conceptualizing ideas to producing tangible objects, learners will gain a complete understanding of the design process and the opportunity to bring their creations to life.

754 3D Models and Extended Realities | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

This course introduces students to the core concepts behind extended realities (XR) and the creation of 3D digital models. Students will explore tools such as A-Frame and Blender to design interactive virtual environments and build custom 3D assets. Depending on the focus of the year, we may dive deeply into one XR platform or survey multiple ways to create immersive experiences. Students will learn foundational 3D modeling techniques and how to integrate their models into extended-reality projects. **PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of Concepts in Technology.

757 Web Design | Grades 10–12 | 1 credit

This course introduces students to the foundation of modern web design and development. Through guided lessons, hands-on labs, and web-based projects, students will learn how to build and publish their own websites using HTML, CSS, and introductory scripting. Emphasis is placed on site structure, visual design, layout, accessibility, and effective use of text, graphics, and images. Students will also explore common web tools and industry-standard practices for organizing content and creating user-friendly pages. **PREREQUISITE:** None, but Concepts in Technology is recommended.

762 Application Development for Mobile Devices | Grades 10–12 | .5 credit

This course introduces students to the principles of mobile app design, usability, and software development with a focus on creating applications for iPads and other mobile devices. Using React Native, students will build a series of projects that reflect current trends and innovations in mobile technology. Along the way, they will develop transferable programming skills and gain experience with concepts common across many modern languages and frameworks. **PREREQUISITE:** None, but Concepts in Technology is recommended.

768 AP Computer Science Java | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

This College Board–approved course focuses on the foundational principles of computer science through the development of Java programs that solve real problems. Students learn to design, implement, test, and refine programs with an emphasis on clarity, adaptability, and reusability. Throughout the course, programming serves as the framework for exploring key topics such as algorithm development and analysis, object-oriented design, fundamental data structures, and standard algorithms and their applications. Students will also gain a practical understanding of computer systems—both hardware and software—and learn to use technology responsibly and ethically. AP CSA is intended for students seeking a rigorous, college-level introduction to computer science and prepares them for the AP exam in May. **PREREQUISITES:** Successful completion of Introduction to Programming and successful completion or concurrent enrollment in Algebra 2 and departmental approval.

769 Introduction to Programming | Grades 10, 11 & 12 | 1 credit

This course provides students with a foundational understanding of computer programming and computational problem-solving. Students will learn how to design, implement, and test algorithms while developing programs that are readable, well-structured, and efficient. Through hands-on practice and guided projects, the course emphasizes clear documentation, logical thinking, and strategies that apply across multiple programming languages and platforms. Introduction to Programming serves as the primary preparation for AP Computer Science A

(Java) and is recommended for students interested in building strong core coding skills before advancing to more rigorous computer science coursework. **PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of Concepts in Technology and departmental approval.

Capstone Advanced Computing | Grade 12 | 1 credit

This independent study provides students with real-world experience by supporting technology needs across the school community. Students serve as IT helpdesk specialists, assisting both staff and peers with hardware, software, and network issues. In addition to practical support, students select an industry-recognized computing or IT certification to pursue, gaining specialized knowledge and credentials that prepare them for post-secondary education or professional opportunities. Emphasis is placed on troubleshooting, communication, professionalism, and technical proficiency, creating a bridge between classroom learning and career readiness. **PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of AP CSA and approval from the IT & Computer Science Departments.

Visual Arts

The Visual Arts Department offers students a chance to learn artistic skills and techniques in a studio-based classroom environment. Students are encouraged to develop and discover their own artistic voice under the guidance of professional staff.

800 Foundations in Art | Grades 9–11 | 1 credit

This is an introductory studio art class that introduces students to the elements of art through drawing, painting, two-dimensional and three-dimensional design. Emphasis is placed on skill building through a variety of media including paint, clay, collage, and drawing materials. Assignments will build sequentially from basic skill building to an emphasis on individual expression. This course is the prerequisite to all other art classes in the St. John's curriculum.

801 Design | Grades 10–12 | 1 credit

This course will offer a broad introduction to the principles of design, visual communication, and creative problem-solving. Students will gain a greater understanding and appreciation for design by exploring two-dimensional and three-dimensional art through painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, digital art, and sculpture/ceramics. **PREREQUISITE:** Foundations in Art

802 Drawing and Painting | Grades 10–12 | 1 credit

This course emphasizes drawing and painting skills. Students will explore different types of media, techniques and subject matter. The fundamentals of composition using elements and principles of design will be used from life and imagination. Students will also have the opportunity to explore and develop their own personal voice through more independent projects. **PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of Foundations in Art.

803 Introduction to Ceramics and Sculpture | Grades 10–12 | 1 credit

This studio art course is an introduction into the 3D world. Students will experiment with clay, cardboard, plaster, and recycled materials to better understand how to interact with 3D art. The course goal is to acclimate students to proper ceramics studio practice. This includes learning how to properly store, handle, build, and throw with clay. Students will be exposed to historic and contemporary artists through a wide range of traditional and non-traditional materials including clay, fiber, paper, and found objects. Students will leave this class prepared to step into 3D Portfolio Preparation and showcase their own artistic voice. **PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of Foundations in Art.

804 2D Design Portfolio Preparation | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

This advanced two-dimensional design class will prepare students for taking AP Art or for college level art programs. Students will create work on the iPad as well as by hand. During the fall semester, students create artwork based on teacher assignments. During the spring semester, students create a body of work based on their own theme/idea and using the media of their choice. **PREREQUISITES:** To enroll, students must satisfy a prerequisite of two (2) years of previous study in art during high school with a minimum of a “B+” average and department approval.

805 Drawing Portfolio Preparation | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

This is an advanced level drawing class designed to prepare students for taking AP Drawing Portfolio or for college level art programs. During the fall semester, students create artwork based on teacher assignments. During the spring semester, students create a body of work based on their own theme/idea and using the media of their choice. **PREREQUISITES:** To enroll, students must satisfy a prerequisite of two (2) years of previous study in art during high school with a minimum of a “B+” average and department approval.

806 3D Design Portfolio Preparation | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

This is an advanced course for serious ceramics and sculpture students designed to prepare them for taking AP 3D Design. 3D design is the broader term, which incorporates sculpture (using any material), functional ceramics as well as sculptural ceramics. During the fall semester, students create artwork based on teacher assignments (both in clay and other sculpture media). During the spring semester, students create work based on their own theme/idea and material(s) of their choice. **PREREQUISITES:** To enroll, students must satisfy a prerequisite of two (2) years of previous study in art during high school with a minimum of a “B+” average and department approval.

810 Digital Arts | Grades 10–12 | 1 credit

This course will introduce students to digital apps and their application in art making. The course will guide students through digital portraiture, painting, graphic design, and animation. Students will combine visual arts with non-visual elements such as sound, video, and motion graphics. Students will learn to merge multiple approaches within a single artwork. Students will be able to transfer skills from other mediums to the digital world allowing them to enhance their art making. This course focuses on literacy in the digital art world and how to stay proficient in an ever evolving medium. **PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of

814 AP 3D Art and Design | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

This course provides serious art students the opportunity to prepare an AP 3D Design portfolio in accordance with the requirements for the College Board. 3D Design is the broader term, which incorporates sculpture (using any material), functional ceramics as well as sculptural ceramics. Throughout the year, students create a body of work based on their own theme/idea and material(s) of their choice, guided by the teacher and based on the College Board requirements. **PREREQUISITE:** To enroll, students must satisfy a prerequisite of two (2) years of previous study in art during high school with a minimum of a “B+” average and department approval.

816 AP 2D Design Portfolio | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

This course provides students with the opportunity to prepare a 2D design portfolio in accordance with the course description provided by the College Board. The course also focuses on demonstrating mastery over the elements and principles of design. Students will develop a portfolio of work that demonstrates quality, concentration and breadth. Students will be expected to work independently both inside and outside of the classroom. The primary goal of the course is to give students the opportunity to work at the college level. **PREREQUISITE:** To enroll, students must satisfy a prerequisite of two years of previous study in art during high school with a minimum of a “B+” average and department approval.

817 AP Drawing | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

This course gives serious art students the opportunity to prepare a drawing portfolio in accordance with the course description provided by the College Board. In contrast to the 2-D Design course, the Drawing Portfolio focuses specifically on skill with drawing. Students will develop a portfolio of work that demonstrates quality, concentration and breadth. Students will be expected to work independently both inside and outside of the classroom. The primary goal of the course is to give students the opportunity to work at the college level. **PREREQUISITE:** To enroll, students must satisfy a prerequisite of two years of previous study in art during high school with a minimum of a “B+” average and department approval.

468 AP Art History | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

The AP Art History course is equivalent to a two-semester introductory college course that explores topics such as the nature of art, art making, and responses to art. By investigating a specific image set of 250 works of art characterized by diverse artistic traditions from prehistory to the present, the course fosters in-depth holistic understanding of the history of art from a global perspective. Students will be active participants in the global art world, engaging with its forms and content, as they experience, research, discuss, read, and write about art, artists, art making, and responses to and interpretations of art. Students will consider influential forces like patronage, politics, class, belief, gender, and ethnicity in their analysis of art forms and examine the styles, techniques, themes, and chronology from varied perspectives. **PREREQUISITE:** Departmental approval and completion of a summer assignment.

Performing Arts

821 Beginning Band | All Grades | 1 credit

This course is intended for students of brass and woodwind instruments (no percussion) who have little or no previous training in instrumental music. While prior experience in music reading can be helpful, it is not a prerequisite for this course. This class meets daily during regular class times. Students may provide their own instruments with approval of the instructor. There is no fee involved.

822 Concert Band | All Grades | 1 credit

Concert Band is a performing group of the Instrumental Music Department. At least one major concert is given each semester. Concert Band is open to students who have had prior band experience but have not yet progressed to an advanced level on their instruments. This class meets daily during regular class times. There is no fee involved. **PREREQUISITE:** An audition is required for placement.

823 Symphonic Band | All Grades | 1 credit

Symphonic Band is a performing group of the Instrumental Music Department. At least one major concert is given each semester. Symphonic Band is open to students who are at an advanced level of performance on their instruments. This class meets daily during regular class times. There is no fee involved. **PREREQUISITE:** An audition is required for placement and department approval.

824 Wind Ensemble | All Grades | 1 credit

Wind Ensemble is the premiere performing ensemble of the Instrumental Music Department. At least one major concert is given each semester, as well as programs for school activities and civic functions. Wind Ensemble is open to students who are at the most advanced levels of performance on their instruments. This class meets daily during regular class times. There is no fee involved. **PREREQUISITE:** An audition is required for placement and department approval.

825 String Ensemble | All Grades | 1 credit

This ensemble is designed for students who have prior experience playing violin, viola, cello, and bass. At least one major concert is given each semester, as well as programs for school activities. This class meets daily during regular class times. There is no fee involved. **PREREQUISITE:** An audition is required for placement and department approval.

826 Percussion Ensemble | All Grades | 1 credit

This course is intended for intermediate and advanced percussion students who wish to continue with their percussion studies without being in one of the performing bands. Students will work on improving all areas of percussion such as snare, mallets, and timpani. Students will be required to have their own sticks and mallets. This class meets daily during regular class times. There is no fee involved. **PREREQUISITE:** An audition is required for placement and department approval.

827 Music Theory and Digital Audio Production | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

Would you like to learn more about how music works? This course is an elective for students with music reading experience, who are interested in understanding the fundamentals of music theory, composition, and digital audio production. Students will not only learn the advanced elements of music theory such as ear training, chord structure, rhythm, meter, key signatures, scales and part-writing, but also be introduced to music production and the science and technology behind it. **PREREQUISITE:** Open to all students who have a general knowledge of reading music.

829 Beginning Strings | All Grades | 1 credit

This course is intended for students interested in learning to play a string instrument who have little or no experience with strings or instrumental music. While prior experience in music reading can be helpful, it is not a prerequisite for this course. This class meets daily during regular class times. Students may provide their own string instrument with the approval of the instructor. There is no fee involved.

852 SJC Chorus | All Grades | 1 credit

This entry performance ensemble, for all Freshman and ANY new singer at St. John's, focuses on introducing vocal pedagogy to each individual singer while reinforcing choral basics and multiple-part harmonization. Novice singers new to an ensemble thrive in this setting! Scholarship recipients or singers with more experience are given opportunities for leadership and help to establish a strong performance community.

856 Concert Choir (Intermediate Chorus) | All Grades | 1 credit

This secondary performance level is designated for returning singers in 10th-12th grade and **does not require an audition**; however, students should take SJC Chorus as a prerequisite course prior to registering for this class. Each year, students expand their choral music repertoire, improve vocal technique and range, and advance their music literacy and sight-reading skills.

857 Vocal Resonance (Advanced Vocal Studies) | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

This **auditioned** ensemble of approximately 15 voices is our most advanced course offering for vocalists. The purpose of this class is to prepare students to pursue vocal performing arts at the collegiate level. Students must successfully audition in May to register for this course for the following school year. Placement is assigned based on specific rubric score results. Instructional emphasis is placed on part independence, the development of superior vocal technique, advanced sight reading and theory application, and four to eight-part harmonization.

863 Intro to Dance | Grades 9, 10, 11 | 1 credit

In this course, students will learn how to explore and develop their ideas from inspiration to implementation through movement. Students will apply compositional tools, critical thinking, and creative problem-solving skills to shape their ideas into movement-based works of art. Throughout the course, students will build creative processes that can be employed in the future across various subject matters. Students will share their creative process through physical, verbal, and written presentations. This class is ideal for students who want to be catapulted outside their comfort zones, dive boldly into their creativity, and expand their understanding of art. Note: This is a movement-based class that utilizes various dance techniques/aesthetics such as jazz, hip-hop, and contemporary. Students do not need to have prior dance experience.

861 Dance I | Grades 10, 11, 12 | 1 credit

Dance 1 builds on foundations learned in the Introduction to Dance course and is designed for beginner to advanced beginner students. This course focuses on understanding physical, historical, and cultural fundamentals in modern, jazz, hip-hop, and ballet. Additionally, students will explore their artistic perspectives in dance through improvisation and choreography to enhance their understanding of dance techniques learned. **NOTE:** Introduction to Dance is NOT a prerequisite. However, 1-2 years of experience in related movement disciplines (i.e., gymnastics, cheerleading) or organized sports (i.e., soccer, football) is preferred.

864 Acting I | Grades 9, 10 | 1 credit

In this course, students will learn and practice the foundational skills of acting and theatre. Students will explore fundamentals of acting like movement, voice, and character building. They will learn about basic script analysis (how to take words on a page and turn them into a compelling performance), improv, as well as the basic philosophies of various acting techniques such as Meisner and Viewpoints.

Benilde Program

The Benilde Program provides both course load restructuring and daily instructional support to students with diagnosed learning differences. Students fully participate in the complete St. John's experience: academically, cocurricularly, and spiritually. The program teaches students to identify and utilize their strengths in order to improve overall academic performance. Students enroll in a daily instructional Benilde period. Class sizes are significantly smaller and instruction in multisensory strategies improves reading, grammar, writing, and study skills across the curriculum. Complimentary content from student course work is used to practice and rehearse techniques to strengthen memory, make connections for long-term retrieval easier, and streamline study habits. Additionally, students are taught to balance their cognitive load and save valuable energy, time, and resources through instruction using educational and organizational iPad apps. The Benilde curriculum integrates instructional technology to improve executive functioning, comprehension, and self-esteem. Most Benilde students postpone studying a foreign language until 10th grade.

780 Benilde I | Grade 9 | No credit

Freshmen Benilde students receive direct instruction in multisensory strategies to improve reading, grammar, writing, and study skills across the curriculum. The 9th-grade Benilde curriculum also integrates complementary instructional technology. Educational and organizational apps are used to improve reading comprehension, language organization, time management, and test-taking skills. Students are taught a variety of techniques to strengthen memory and retrieval. Additional academic support is available to students after school three days a week during homework club. Regular practice and rehearsal in self-advocacy skills are strongly emphasized.

790 Benilde II | Grade 10 | No credit

Benilde sophomores focus on perfecting their skills in reading, grammar, writing, and study skills across the curriculum. The 10th-grade Benilde curriculum also includes direct instruction in elaborating and expanding the student's ability to read and write more fluidly while integrating standardized test practice. Additionally, students are taught to implement weekly conferencing, collaboration, and peer-to-peer study, which helps students to utilize the techniques learned in 9th grade while also taking greater ownership of their learning. Continued use of educational and organization apps improves reading comprehension, language organization, time management, and test-taking skills. Additional academic support is available to students after school three days a week during homework club. Students regularly practice and rehearse self-advocacy skills.

791 Benilde III | Grade 11 | No credit

Benilde juniors assume greater responsibility in organization, management, and completion of their classroom projects and assignments. Direct instruction to improve reading, writing, grammar, and study skills continues in 11th grade; students focus on in-depth analysis of content, understanding different types of writing, and standardized test taking for the SAT and ACT exams. Educational and organizational apps are used to improve test-taking skills and techniques to strengthen memory and retrieval. Additional academic support is available

to students after school three days a week during homework club. Students regularly practice and rehearse self-advocacy skills, formulate goals, and write action plans. Additionally, students begin to explore college options and identify areas of interest and support services available beyond St. John's.

791 Benilde IV | Grade 12 | No credit

Benilde seniors strive to develop their independence and responsibility. Direct instruction to improve college essay writing, content reading, and test taking continues. The 12th-grade Benilde curriculum provides support and guidance in completion of the senior thesis. Educational and organizational apps are used to improve test-taking skills and practice techniques to strengthen memory and retrieval. Additional academic support is available to students after school three days a week during homework club. Students are taught to formulate goals and objectives and refine their action plans. Similarly, Benilde students have assistance navigating the college process and writing transitional goals using interest and career inventories to help students plan for their future success.

De La Salle Scholars Program

The De La Salle Scholars Program is a four-year program that provides opportunities for in-depth study, small group discussion, and interdisciplinary, independent, and experimental learning. The following is a typical course of study for a typical St. John's De La Salle Scholar:

Grade 9

Honors Scripture
Honors English
Honors Mathematics
Honors Biology
Human Geography
Foreign Language
Elective

Grade 10

Jesus and Church
Honors American Literature
Honors Mathematics
Honors Chemistry
AP World History
Foreign Language
Elective

Juniors and seniors must enroll in a minimum of four (4) AP or Honors courses. Juniors must take three consecutive years of the same foreign language. Seniors will be enrolled in Contemporary Thought and Political Issues. Seniors will also enroll in Scholars Senior Seminar, where they will complete an independent study project.

798 Honors Contemporary Thoughts and Political Issues | Grade 12 | 1 credit

This Honors Seminar is required for all seniors in the De La Salle Scholars Program. Students will examine a variety of modern social issues through the lens of politics, where idealism and realism collide. In a democracy, great ideas alone are rarely enough to solve a problem. Using the Socratic method, debate and a variety of writing techniques, students will develop a broader concern for the world around them and the rhetorical skills necessary to change the world.

Entrepreneurial Center for Innovation and Social Impact

Students have the opportunity to learn skills in the areas of leadership of self and others, effective communication, innovative processes, social entrepreneurship, and an understanding of business management, marketing, and economics. Students will be exposed to these topics over the course of their four years at St. John's. They will also have access to expert speakers and presenters as well as field experiences. Students involved in this program will learn that the main goal of innovation is to improve the human condition. Graduates from this program will combine this innovative spirit with compassion, personal responsibility and service to others.

Leadership Curriculum | Grade 9 | No credit

Students will encounter several experiences through the school year that revolve around understanding themselves, their strengths, and understanding personal responsibility. The freshman seminar series, facilitated through the mission and ministry department, endeavors to grow these skills and others. These seminars occur each month during the school year. In addition, freshmen will take part in the Day of Leadership, during which leaders in their field present students with various topics. Lastly, the distinguished alumni speaker series, an annual event, features an alumnus who presents to the freshmen about specific traits of leadership and innovation.

Start-Up Experience (optional) | Grade 10 | No Credit

Sophomores may choose to undertake this optional experience during which they spend an overnight working with a facilitator who guides them through the process of self-understanding, business and marketing, and the foundational aspects of entrepreneurship.

Junior Year Christian Service Reflection | Grade 11 | No Credit

During the Junior year, students will complete 20 hours of Christian Service in one location as a component to their reflection about their service, they will use the pastoral circle and design thinking process to better understand the experience and its roots and causes, connect with stakeholders, and ideate on ways to find effective solutions to the challenges they encounter. In this exercise, special focus will be paid to an understanding of social entrepreneurship.

470 Introduction to Economics | Grades 10, 11, & 12 | 1 credit

This course introduces students to the vocabulary and principles of micro and macroeconomics in theory and in practice. Students will also study the role of economics in government policy and in theories of business management. In addition, topics such as business ethics, international and domestic economic environment, communication, marketing, financial management, and entrepreneurship will be covered. Students will use the design thinking process and other innovative critical thinking skills to consider business initiatives, economic and market trends, and the concept of creating value in goods and services as well as service to others. Students must have good algebraic skills for some economic models and graphs.

PREREQUISITE: Successful completion of Algebra 1.

477 Entrepreneurship and Innovation | Grade 12 | 1 credit

This course will be a study of entrepreneurship and innovation. Students will understand the sources and methods in which businesses and organizations are founded and grow. Foundational topics include industry structure, utilizing Porter’s Five Forces model, basic financial analysis including the time-value of money, Drucker’s 7 Sources of Innovation, other management methods, and overall marketing strategy. The class will have speakers from various areas of industry and business disciplines, as well as field trips to businesses, incubators, and other entrepreneurial organizations. Students enrolled in this class will have preference if applying to the school’s student-led investment club.

832 AP Intro to Business & Personal Finance | Grades 11 & 12 | 1 credit

This introductory college-level course introduces students to the core disciplines of business—entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, accounting, and management—through real-world applications, case studies, and project-based learning. Students also master the National Standards for Personal Financial Education, developing practical skills in budgeting, saving, credit, investing, and long-term financial planning. They complete a Business Canvas Project to apply core business concepts and refine an early-stage venture idea. The course culminates in a Financial Advisor Project, where students create personalized financial recommendations for a fictional household navigating goals such as college costs, homeownership, and retirement. Designed to mirror both a one-semester college business course and a one-semester personal finance course, this class builds confident decision-makers equipped with essential financial and business literacy. **PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of Algebra I

833 Entrepreneurship & Innovation Capstone | Grade 12 | 1 credit

This advanced course immerses students in the mindset of real entrepreneurs and challenges them to think critically and creatively through unconventional activities and thought experiments. Through hands-on simulations, role-playing scenarios, case studies, and exclusive guest speakers, students learn to break traditional patterns and develop strong entrepreneurial instincts as innovative problem-solvers. In the second half of the course, they apply these skills to an independent venture project—identifying a real-world problem, conducting research, building a full business plan, and presenting their solution in a Shark Tank-style pitch competition.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL: THE HISTORY

One of the oldest schools administered by the De La Salle Christian Brothers in the United States, St. John's was established in 1851 by Brother John of Mary, F.S.C., and two other Brothers who came to Washington from the faculty of Calvert Hall College in Baltimore. The school was opened in St. Matthew's Parish, 15th and H Streets.

In 1866, the school was moved for two years to Carroll Hall at 10th and G Streets. The Brothers returned to St. Matthew's parish in 1868, when Father Charles White opened a new and larger school named St. Matthew's Institute at the corner of 16th and L Streets.

The Brothers expanded the school once again when they purchased the estate of General Montgomery C. Meigs at 1225 Vermont Avenue and began construction of a school building in August, 1878. At first the school was known as St. John's Institute, then as St. John's Collegiate Institute, and finally in 1887, it was incorporated by the District of Columbia as St. John's College, empowered to grant both the Bachelor and Master of Arts Degrees along with secondary school diplomas. The first Bachelor's Degrees were conferred on six young men on June 24, 1892.

Largely through the efforts of Brother E. Alfred, F.S.C., the Cadet Corps was organized for the U.S. Army by Major J. Dapray in 1915. Through the years, the Cadet Regiment has won recognition as an outstanding JROTC Unit.

In 1921, the Board of Trustees decided to discontinue the collegiate programs and devote the school entirely to secondary education. However, the school conducted a School of Commerce and Finance at 13th Street and Massachusetts Avenue for some years after.

While St. John's College was continued at Vermont Avenue, the Brothers purchased a property bounded by Rock Creek Park on Military Road to house the freshman classes and provide athletic fields. Later, as the Vermont Avenue buildings became less useful, the decision was made to move the whole school to the Military Road site. The new St. John's College opened its doors in September, 1959, and it is this chapter in the school's history that continues to the present day.

In 1991, St. John's started a new tradition by admitting young women to the institution for the first time in its 140-year history. In the same year the JROTC program became an optional choice.



St. John's Institute, 1225 Vermont Avenue



ST. JOHN'S

COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL | Est 1851

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