



SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY

2026-2027
COURSE CATALOG



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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dear STA Middle School Families,

I am pleased to introduce the 2026-2027 Middle School Course Catalog. This catalog reflects our commitment to providing engaging, rigorous, and diverse learning opportunities that support every student's growth and interests. Middle School at Saint Thomas Academy marks a new milestone in your son's educational journey. Often, it is the first time he is exposed to the challenges and opportunities a departmentalized approach to scheduling brings forth. It is also a time of immense growth. I think you will find that the program of study provides a challenging and engaging academic program that emphasizes the four pillars of college-prep, Catholic, leadership and all-male. We also make sure to have fun while learning!

Middle School courses are designed to cultivate the essential components of an excellent education - critical thinking, creativity, communication, collaboration and character. This program of studies has been designed to help students and their parents plan an academic schedule that stimulates curiosity and motivates students to explore new areas of learning through elective courses. During the middle school years, students have their first opportunity to select courses based on both interests and abilities. Current teachers, advisors, and counselors are available to make recommendations and guide course placement and elective choices. Our learners have proven themselves to rise to the challenges of the curricular program, emerging as confident, articulate, young men who are prepared for our Upper School.

I encourage you and your son(s) to carefully review this year's Course Catalog and to familiarize yourself with Saint Thomas's academic policies. As our Vice President, John Bueth shared with our Upper School families, indeed, our students are expected to meet certain academic standards; understanding and following these criteria is the first step toward getting the most out of a Saint Thomas Academy education. Thank you for taking time to review these pages and for entrusting us with your son's educational journey. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have questions.

Warmly,

Michelle Mechtel
Director of Middle School



OUR MISSION

“The excellence of an institution is found in the class of students it sends forth each year to fight the battles of life.”

- Archbishop John Ireland, Founder of Saint Thomas Academy

It is our mission to help each student discover and develop his potential talents and abilities by providing an excellent college- preparatory education that instills qualities of everlasting value: leadership, a sense of brotherhood, a strong moral compass, self-confidence, a faith guided by the Catholic tradition, and an awareness of the importance of service to others.

COURSE SELECTION INFORMATION

COURSE SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR 2026-2027

To ensure that we have an accurate and efficient registration process we ask that:

- Parents and students review this book, taking time to discuss next year’s plans.
- Students review course selections with their current instructors and in advisory. Class time will be provided to make sure students receive advice about the most appropriate selections for next year.
- Students complete the online course selection process by a deadline determined by the Director of Middle School.
- Note, as a college prep school, all students are encouraged to carry a full schedule.

COURSE REGISTRATION PROCESS

Upon completion of student course selections in early April, the Registrar will plot course enrollments for the coming year based on student demand. This process ends when Cadets receive their course schedules mid summer.

COURSE AVAILABILITY AND PLACEMENT

In order to maximize our instructional resources, the Academy is faced with a few constraints in terms of class scheduling. Please observe that:

- A course may be canceled if enrollment is insufficient.
- There is no guarantee that students will be able to fit all desired courses into their schedule.
- The Director of Middle School, in consultation with department chairs, reserves the right to place students based on demonstrative aptitude.
- Departments may set minimum and maximum enrollment limits for any course or any class section of a course. Enrollment limits are subject to approval by the Middle School Director.

CORE ACADEMIC GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Middle School students who matriculate at STA the first semester of their sixth-grade year enroll in a total of 32 classes across six semesters. These core requirements are:

- English: 6 semesters (3 years)
- Fine Arts: 3 semesters (1.5 years)
- Physical Education/Health: 6 semesters (3 years)
- Mathematics: 6 semesters (3 years)
- Science: 6 semesters (3 years)
- Social Studies: 6 semesters (3 years)
- Theology: 6 semesters (3 years)
- World Language: 4 semesters (2 years)

***Middle School students will also take a variety of electives equivalent to 6 semesters, as schedule dictates.*



ENGLISH

The English program at Saint Thomas Academy provides students with the opportunity to develop increasing mastery of skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing. Middle School classes emphasize language skills necessary for successful study in high school and at the college level. The department believes that individuals who understand and can use language effectively will enjoy more fulfilling lives.

The English Department provides students the tools to:

- Read with understanding and critical insight.
- Express ideas clearly in a variety of written forms.
- Develop skills necessary for effective oral communication.
- Analyze and evaluate the significance of ideas.
- Conduct and present scholarly research.
- Hone critical thinking skills.

ENGLISH 6 - Grade Level: 6

This course stresses general language skills. Formal comprehension, grammar, vocabulary, research, and public speaking instruction are introduced. Expository and creative writing assignments focus on the composition of paragraphs and short multi-paragraph pieces meeting various benchmarks of organization and writing skills. Students are encouraged to develop a love of reading through frequent independent reading time and projects.

ENGLISH 7 - Grade Level: 7

This course builds upon the general language skills developed in sixth grade English. It continues to integrate a study of grammar and vocabulary in connection to composition, speech and literature. Writing assignments expand to various types of essays, research presentations, and creative works such as poetry and short stories.

ENGLISH 8 - Grade Level: 8

This course expands on the advancing writing and language skills explored in seventh grade English. It continues to build on established grammar and vocabulary study in conjunction with composition, speech, and literature. Both creative and expository writing build on previously established skills.

FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

VISUAL ARTS - *The art program is designed to give students a working knowledge of the tools and language of the visual arts so that they are able to think effectively, work creatively, and know firsthand the artistic experience. The offerings of the program are varied and aim to meet the individual needs of the student at any level of development and from any background of artistic experience.*

MUSIC - *The music program at Saint Thomas Academy is designed to promote and direct musical growth, help members become proficient on their chosen instruments or with their voices, and provide a creative outlet for musical talent. The music department also serves as a support group for the Academy at athletic events, liturgies, parades, and concerts where the general public is invited.*

MIDDLE SCHOOL FINE ARTS I – Grade Level: 6-8

Middle School Fine Arts I is an introductory course designed to introduce the elements and principles of design through the introduction of various art mediums and ways of working. Students will engage in the creative process to make original works of art. Student projects are paced in a scope and sequence to learn how to create, respond, and present their work as well as make connections to other disciplines. A variety of media and techniques create an active learning experience. Class graded A-F.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FINE ARTS II – Grade Level: 6-8

Prerequisite(s): Middle School Fine Arts I.

Middle School Fine Arts II builds on the knowledge and skills learned in Middle School Fine Arts I. Students will experiment and make projects with a wider variety of media and deepen their engagement in the creative process using the knowledge of the elements and principles of art.. Projects increase in complexity and students are given additional freedom to incorporate their ideas in their original works of art. Class graded A-F.

MIDDLE SCHOOL INTRO TO CERAMICS - Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite(s): Middle School Fine Arts I and II.

Intro to Ceramics introduces students to a wide variety of ceramics techniques; emphasis placed on the fundamental techniques of ceramics; wheel throwing, glazing, and hand-building. Students will create original works of art that will show basic understanding of techniques taught in class. Students will create a wide range of forms, from vessels to sculptures. Introduction to the elements and principles of 3-Dimensional Design.

This course leads into the upper school curriculum: Ceramics I-III. Class graded A-F.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DIGITAL ARTS I – Grade Level: 6-8

Middle School Digital Arts I introduces students to utilizing computer technology to produce artistic images. Students will learn computer illustration techniques, image manipulation, and graphic design principles. As students are introduced to the various fields in the digital arts, they will learn and apply the fundamentals of design with computer applications (Adobe Creative Suite). By the end of this course, students will have an introductory knowledge of Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop. Class graded A-F.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DIGITAL ARTS II – Grade Level: 6-8

Prerequisite(s): Middle School Digital Arts I.

Middle School Digital Arts II builds on knowledge and skills gained in MS Digital Arts I. Students will continue to apply the fundamentals of design while furthering their technical skills in the Adobe Creative Suite Programs. This course introduces students to the basics of motion media (film, video, and animation) and builds on their previous work in Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop. Class graded A-F.

BEGINNING BAND - Grade Level: 6-8

Students without any previous band experience may register for beginning band to learn to play a wind or percussion instrument. Students will learn the basics of playing an instrument and learn to play in an ensemble. Students who make enough progress may have an opportunity to move into Intermediate Band 2nd semester. Instrument selection can be completed with the Band Director before the beginning of the school year. Class graded A-F.

INTERMEDIATE BAND - Grade Level: 6-8

Prerequisite(s): Beginning Band or previous experience.

Band at Saint Thomas Academy is open to any student with at least one year of experience playing a wind or percussion instrument. The band rehearses 2-3 times per week in preparation for concerts and other school and community functions. Band is a great way to become more proficient on a musical instrument and to enjoy the participation and teamwork of ensemble playing. Class graded A-F.

INTRO TO MUSIC - Grade Level: 6-8

The INTRO TO MUSIC class introduces students to the amazing world of music. Students will explore, create and experience a variety of fun music activities in class such as: Learn the basics about West African drumming, participate in rhythm game challenges, create music videos and iMovies, learn about form in music so you can compose a hit song, sing with your classmates, and take an acting lesson from a pro. Class graded A-F.

SCHOOL OF ROCK EXPLORATION - Grade Level: 6-8

The School of Rock Class offers each student a chance to discover their own talent and create music in different ways, while exploring music from around the world. This course begins with West African Circle Drumming. We have amazing djembe drums in all sizes, enough for everyone to use! Next, we learn about Boom Whackers. These are musical tubes that have different pitches. Students learn how to create and compose music with them. This is a favorite activity, thanks to the world famous, “Blue Man Group”, who started playing with much larger tubes. Students also create music videos, work with iMovie, sing and participate in at least one concert during the semester. Students experience the value of working together as a team, while creating and exploring the world of music. Class graded A- F.

M.S. PIANO: BEGINNING – Grade Level: 6-8

Class Notes: This course is limited to 6 students per section.

Beginning piano is an entry-level fine arts elective course for those students who want to learn and develop their individual playing skills, gain a deep understanding of music, and experience the joy of independent playing. Throughout the course students will learn to read music with an approach that is easy to understand, study basic music theory, discover the world of music at your fingertips such as classical, folk, pop, jazz, blues, and spirituals. Students will work individually and play and perform in groups to master the techniques of playing. Formal and Informal assessments will be part of the course, (quizzes, tests, performance-based rubrics, and class participation. STA will provide electric Yamaha pianos and the piano course books for students. Class graded A-F.

M.S. PIANO: BEGINNING LEVEL TWO - Grade Level: 6-8

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of MS Piano: Beginning course or previous experience.

Class Notes: This course is limited to 6 students per section.

This fine arts elective course is for those students who want to further develop their individual playing skills, gain a deeper understanding of music, and experience the joy of independent playing. Throughout the course students will continue to develop their knowledge of reading music and playing all styles of music. Creativity is always encouraged for students who want to explore composing their own music. Students will work individually and also play together in small groups. Formal and informal assessments will be part of the course, (performance-based rubrics, quizzes, tests and class recitals. Class graded A- F.

MATHEMATICS

The mathematics program at Saint Thomas Academy is designed to challenge students with an enriched curriculum and to make appropriate courses available to all students.

It is our objective that the students:

- Become proficient at basic arithmetic and algebra skills.
- Develop the ability to solve both routine and non-routine problems using a variety of strategies.
- Become familiar with the use of mathematical tools, such as compasses, protractors, and calculators. Grade level refers to the year(s) students typically take the course. Students with varying math backgrounds may take a course during different years.

FOUNDATIONS OF MATHEMATICS - Grade Level: 6

This course is the introduction to algebraic concepts with a strong emphasis placed on computations with fractions, decimals, and percents. Students will engage in an in-depth study of number theory, positive rational number computation, two and three-dimensional geometry and measurement, probability and statistics, and apply this learning to solve real world mathematical problems. This course prepares students to be mathematically literate, as well as prepare them for future math courses.

PRE-ALGEBRA - Grade Level: 6-8

This course is the foundation for algebraic concepts. Students will engage in an in-depth study of equations and expressions, similarity, proportional reasoning, integers, measures of center and data variability, and apply this learning to solve real-world mathematical problems. This course prepares students to be mathematically literate, as well as prepare them for future math courses.

ALGEBRA I LINEAR - Grade Level: 7-8

Prerequisite(s): Instructor placement.

Algebra I – Linear topics include the structure of the real number system, the use of algebraic symbols; a study of first degree equations and graphs; systems of first-degree equations; introduction to exponents and square roots.

ALGEBRA I QUADRATIC - Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Algebra 1 - Linear or Instructor placement.

Algebra I – Quadratic reviews structure of the real number system, algebraic symbols, and first-degree equations; it then moves quickly into the study of all aspects surrounding second degree equations and graphs; expanded systems of first degree equations; factoring second- degree functions and the quadratic formula; exponents and square roots; rational functions.

ACCELERATED ALGEBRA - Grade Level: 6-8

Prerequisite(s): Instructor placement and entrance exam score.

Advanced Algebra I deals with the structure of the real number system, the use of algebraic symbols, a study of first and second-degree equations and graphs, systems of first-degree equations, as well as factoring, square roots, and the quadratic formula. Some uses of a graphing calculator are explored.

GEOMETRY - Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite(s): Accelerated Algebra.

This course first establishes the tools of geometry: methods of reasoning, construction, the coordinate plane, and types of measurement. Subsequently, it focuses on properties and applications of lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, similarity, right triangle trigonometry, circles, and transformations.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Health and Physical Education – Required each semester of Saint Thomas Academy Middle School enrollment.

Health topics for discussion in Middle School will include:

- Understanding emotional behavior swings and dealing with new stressors.
- Awareness of unhealthy substances and conveying the impact of substance abuse.
- Nutritional guidelines for food and beverages that promote a healthy life-style.

A Satisfactory (A-F) grade is recorded for successful completion of this Fit and Fun requirement. Project-based learning and formative assessments will be used to evaluate Middle School Physical Education, health and wellness learning.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH 6 (FITNESS & FUNDAMENTALS) – Grade Level: 6

6th Grade FITNESS and FUNDAMENTALS will focus on developing personal motor skills and be introduced to strategies and concepts of playground games and activities. As a support to their social development, students will analyze the influence of family, peers and their culture including personal character development in the context of their personal health behaviors. Class graded A-F.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH 7 (FITNESS & FUNDAMENTALS) - Grade Level: 7

7th Grade FITNESS and FUNDAMENTALS, is a course designed to be taught to Middle School students in grade 7, that provides a foundation for developing an awareness of their personal lives and how it is connected to the world.. The course enlarges the traditional Physical Education-only approach and incorporates personal skill development, social awareness, interpersonal relationships and develops a healthy lifestyle involving nutrition and their anatomy. It includes life-long physical activities and responsibilities. Being fit, physically, socially and mentally is the goal of the course. Class graded A-F.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH 8 (FITNESS & FUNDAMENTALS) – Grade Level: 8

8th grade FITNESS and FUNDAMENTALS will focus on developing personal motor skills and be introduced to strategies and concepts of playground games and activities. As a support to their social development, students will include social media and technology in the context of their personal health behaviors and develop a grounded and considerate use to all things technology based. Class graded A-F.

SCIENCE

The Middle School science program at Saint Thomas Academy is designed to develop the skills students will need for success in the high school science program.

It is our intent that our students will:

- Be able to intelligently react to the role of science and technology in their lives and be able to make valid decisions in this area.
- Begin to value the potential they may possess as far as a career in science might be concerned.
- Understand the methods of science to enable them to become more effective learners.
- Be more sensitive to the global implications of our life-styles.

EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCE 6 - Grade Level: 6

Topics covered in this class involve the earth and its place in the universe. Students begin to develop laboratory and study skills, and analytical skills. Specific areas covered include rocks and minerals, changes of earth's surface, global water, weather and climate, the solar system and the universe.

LIFE SCIENCE 7 - Grade Level: 7

Topics covered in this course are cellular structure, classification of living organisms, an overview of the domains and kingdoms, human anatomy, physiology, genetics, and ecology. All of this material is presented in an introductory manner, and emphasis is placed on developing learning, laboratory, and organizational skills.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE 8 - Grade Level: 8

Eighth grade Physical Science introduces students to physics and chemistry in order to explore relationships between matter and energy. Laboratory activities teach skills such as measuring, recording data, interpreting information, and using evidence to make conclusions as well as extend scientific reasoning and inquiry skills.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE ELECTIVES

INTRODUCTION TO 2D AND 3D DESIGN – Grade Level: 7-8

This class is designed to give students an introduction to two-dimensional and three-dimensional design with the use of the Innovation Center's computers and fabrication equipment. Students will be introduced to the engineering cycle and how it is used to design, fabricate, and test prototypes. Students will learn how to use Coral Draw to make their own vinyl decals and laser engraved/cut parts. The 3D printers will be used by students to fabricate parts that they design with CAD (computer aided design) programs TinkerCAD and Fusion 360. Students will leave the elective with a better idea of how the Innovation Center can be utilized for future projects during middle and high school. Class graded A-F.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PRE-ENGINEERING – Grade Level: 7-8

Prerequisite(s): Must have completed Introduction to 2D and 3D Design with instructor approval.

The Middle School Pre-Engineering elective is meant for students who would like to learn how to use a parametric design program to create projects and parts with precision. Students would follow the same SolidProfessor course that the upper school students use to learn the OnShape computer aided design (CAD) program. Projects would supplement the design component as students create working prototypes using 3D printers, laser cutter, and waterjet machines. This course would prepare students for all Upper School engineering co-curriculars. Students must be motivated and able to work independently. Class graded A-F.

LEGO DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND CODING - Grade Level: 6-8

In this course participants will work to solve open-ended problem-solving activities in a context that makes it fun and engaging to learn using science, technology, architecture, engineering, mathematics, and coding. These concepts are combined with soft skills, such as creative thinking, problem solving, teamwork, and communication following a design engineering process. Class graded A-F.

STEM CHALLENGE - Grade Level: 6-8

In this course students will compete against each other to have the best performing design in several build competitions. Students will be expected to go through the engineering design process and keep an engineering notebook. Examples include designing and building a bridge to hold the most weight, an air pressure rocket that will safely eject a parachuting egg, and a trebuchet to hit a target. Students are encouraged to bring in outside supplies. A grade of A-F will be earned based on an engineering notebook, presentations, and results of class competitions. Students will be expected to safely handle tools such as a saw, drill or X-ACTO knife. Class graded A-F.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Social Studies Department at Saint Thomas Academy designs its courses to provide a learning environment that promotes academic excellence and recognizes the uniqueness of each individual student.

It is the objective of the Social Studies Department that the students will:

- Acquire geographical skills and be able to identify geographically major areas of the world.
- Acquire the ability to connect the past and the present by applying methods of historical research; use a variety of sources to demonstrate cause and effect relationships in history.
- Acquire basic economic literacy of U.S. economic institutions in order to effectively pursue citizenship responsibilities and to enhance personal economic decision-making.
- Acquire basic political literacy to enable students to effectively participate in the U.S. democratic process.
- Understand controversial issues and develop thinking skills through the use of position papers and position statement analysis on tests and in debates.
- Develop a multicultural awareness and sensitivity, recognizing that our judgments about people of different cultures are usually shaped and influenced by the standards and values of the culture in which we live.
- Develop the competency to acquire, organize, evaluate, and report information for the purposes of solving problems and clarifying issues.
- Emphasize study skills throughout the year in 6th-8th grades.

MINNESOTA HISTORY - Grade Level: 6

This course is designed for the student to gain insight and understanding of Minnesota from its physical features 12,000 years ago to its current role in today's world. The student will examine themes involving indigenous people, war, industry, economies, industrialization, the common good, equality and social change through the lens of Minnesota while understanding how their learning applies to the United States and the world. Current events are integrated into the course.

GEOGRAPHY - Grade Level: 7

Geography tries to make sense of the world around us. It helps us understand how people, places, and environments came to be and how they affect each other. In this class, we ask, "where is something?" Why is it there? How did it get there? How does it affect the natural environment in this area? Every world region is examined, including Canada and the USA, Latin America, Europe and Russia, Africa, Southwest and Central Asia, South and East Asia, and Oceania. Each unit seeks to answer an essential question that tackles a challenging social issue. There is a strong emphasis on working with maps and other related social studies skills.

U.S. HISTORY - Grade Level: 8

This course is designed to investigate the growth of the United States from its origins through the end of the Cold War. Students will analyze the economic, political, and social changes in American life that have come to shape what we call the American heritage. Students will learn how to examine, interpret, and evaluate past events with the goal of understanding their own place in the world. Students will develop skills in geography, historical writing, and data analysis.

SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES

INTRODUCTION TO SPEECH AND DEBATE – Grade Level: 7-8

This elective will help students learn to communicate their ideas to the world around them. Students will develop the habits of confident public speakers, learning tips and techniques for establishing a solid stance, making eye contact with the audience, and eliminating distracting filler words. These skills will then be applied to structured debates, which will teach students how to research and organize information and think on their feet. Topics will range from fun informal storytelling to current events of national importance. Class graded A-F.

CHESS, QUIZ BOWL, AND GAMES OF STRATEGY – Grade Level: 6-8

This class will instruct students in using skills such as logic, reasoning, visualization, planning and mental agility. The student will be able to learn the key tactical concepts, patterns, calculation, as well as strategic planning and thinking through games of strategy popular throughout the world. This class is for both total beginners, and players that want to advance their laying abilities. Students are expected to put into practice the concept that both winning and losing serve as important experiences of transition to more accomplished gameplay. The quiz bowl aspect of this class is separate from the after-school co-curricular activity. Students learn the rules of competition, form teams, and compete in friendly matches. Assessment will be based on knowledge of the rules and strategies, sportsmanship, classroom behavior and effort. Class graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) and is not calculated into a student's GPA.

MN SPORTS HISTORY - Grade Level: 7-8

This class looks at the history of professional sports in Minnesota, examining various professional sports teams that have called the state home. Some of the sports covered would include baseball, football, hockey & basketball.. Students will learn about the rules of the game, the growth of professional leagues in Minnesota like MLB, NFL, NHL and the NBA to name a few. Finally, students will play the sport in a gym class setting. Class graded A-F.

THEOLOGY

The mission of Saint Thomas Academy is to create Christian leaders. The Theology Department is an integral element in this educational process. As a department, we stress the moral dimension of leadership. We strive to help young men be capable, just, compassionate, and forthright citizens. In assisting students in their faith formation, we seek to develop a spirituality that encourages young men to desire personal holiness as well as to become servant leaders who welcome and care for each other. It is our hope that each student will come to know the mystery of God's abiding presence and the depth of God's love for all. It is our goal as a department to develop educated and informed Catholics who seek to be knowledgeable in their faith, who are willing to embrace the challenges of Christianity in the new millennium, and who are ready to work for the Church's social mission of justice and peace.

The following is a list of general curriculum objectives which identify what will be covered within the Theology Department curriculum:

- Students will possess basic Biblical interpretation skills and demonstrate a reverence for and appreciation of God's word found in sacred Scripture.
- Students will understand the basic teachings of the Church as articulated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (i.e., sacraments, creed, Ten Commandments, beatitudes, spiritual/corporal works of mercy, virtues, precepts of Church).
- Students will understand their obligation to act morally and ethically as responsible Christians according to the dictates of a well informed and formed conscience.
- Students will know and understand the Church's teaching pertaining to sexual morality and respect for life in all forms.
- Students will have a basic understanding of the history and theology of the Church.
- Students will have a knowledge and appreciation of contemporary religious and spiritual leaders.
- Students will be able to understand the nature of liturgy and prayer and the movement from liturgy and prayer to service.
- Students will explore Christ's invitation to discipleship and the call to personal holiness by exploring those lifestyles that are compatible with this common Christian vocation.
- Students will know the key principles of Catholic social teaching and will be able to identify these as central and essential elements of their faith.

- Students will learn to respect the diversity of religious traditions.
- Students will develop reflective and critical thinking skills; moral and creative imaging skills; and prayer and dialogical skills, which allow them to research and identify, assess and evaluate, discern, judge, and determine action in light of Gospel values and Church teaching.

FAITH IN GOD AND GOD'S CALL - Grade Level: 6

This course is designed for sixth graders and has as its primary focus the history and message of God in the Old Testament of the Sacred Scriptures. Students are encouraged to study God's call to us, God's saving action, God's invitation, God's reminder to do God's will, and God's promise of Everlasting Life. Students study the Old Testament and take part in weekly discussions of the Scripture's doctrine and morality. All students take part in the planning and celebration of prayer through prayer services and liturgies. Students also participate in Middle School service projects and will experience an annual retreat.

FAITH IN JESUS - Grade Level: 7

This course is designed for seventh graders and has as its primary focus is the person, history, and message of Jesus Christ. Students are encouraged to study the life and times of Jesus and adapt His message to their daily lives. Students study the Gospels and take part in discussions of the Scripture's doctrine and morality. All students take part in the planning and celebration of prayer through prayer services and liturgies. Students also participate in Middle School service projects and will experience an annual retreat.

FAITH IN THE CHURCH - Grade Level: 8

This course is designed for eighth graders and focuses on the story of the first Church. The first semester of the course serves as an introductory analysis of the Catholic Church from the Pentecost to the 21st century. The second semester is divided into several components: prayer, parish life, Christian art and music, and an introduction to social justice issues. Students will discuss life issues as adolescent members of the global church, as well as members of a local parish of faith community. Students also participate in Middle School service projects and attend a retreat.

WORLD LANGUAGE

Our language program is designed to challenge students with Chinese, French, Latin, and Spanish classes. At the upper school level, we offer Honors or AP for many of these courses.

The goals of our department are to teach effective communication, language proficiency, and cultural understanding. To successfully communicate in a world language, it is important to understand the relevance of diversity and culture and appreciate the global society we truly live in. At Saint Thomas Academy, our teachers are dedicated to creating high-quality, student-centered learning environments that prepare our boys to excel in college.

Through the study of world languages, students will:

- Gain skills that enable them to communicate orally and in writing with speakers of another language.
- Develop a greater understanding of people across national boundaries by giving them insight into the ways of life and ways of thinking of the people who speak the language they are learning.
- Expand their understanding of how language functions, including their own language.
- Learn to read with comprehension so that they may keep up with current writing, research, and information in the studied language.
- Develop critical thinking skills by understanding perspectives, exchanging opinions, and presenting ideas.
- Be prepared to think and interact in a global community.
- Be inspired and prepared to study a world language and culture in college.

Note: Placement is determined by exam scores, satisfactory completion of a lower-level course, and/or teacher recommendation. A student whose native language is other than English is encouraged to study a third language in the World Language Department.

Based on student interest and demonstrated proficiency, higher-level language courses are available. Please refer to the Upper School Course Description Book for more information.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHINESE 1A - Grade Level: 6-7

Students begin to learn Mandarin Chinese and systematically simplified characters. Besides learning the four linguistic skills; listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will also develop their intercultural competencies. At this introductory level, students will learn to carry out simple conversations in Chinese on topics that include greetings, name, age, nationality, school, grade, family, addresses, dates, school items, and food. They will be able to memorize 80 basic characters in writing and 100 different characters in reading.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHINESE 1B - Grade Level: 7-8

Prerequisite(s): Must pass Chinese 1A or equivalent with instructor approval.

Students culminate their Level 1A knowledge of the language and culture of China using everyday Mandarin Chinese in the classroom. They will continue developing conversational competence in terms of color, clothes, appearance, animals, sports, transportation, direction, shopping, weather, and learning languages. They will continue to master the vocabulary and grammar introduced in their readings. Students are expected to expand their vocabulary to 100 characters in writing and 120 characters in reading at this level. Students who successfully pass this level are ready for Upper School Chinese II.

CHINESE I - Grade Level: 8

Class Notes: This course does not count towards the Upper School World Language graduation requirement when taken in the Middle School.

Students learn to understand, speak, read, and write Mandarin Chinese. By the end of the year, students will be able to hold brief conversations about their families, friends, and daily life activities. Students will also become familiar with Chinese culture and history. This course is intended for students who have had little or no previous exposure to the Chinese language. This is an Upper School level course.

CHINESE II - Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite(s): Must pass Chinese 1A and 1B or equivalent with instructor approval.

Class Notes: This course does not count towards the Upper School World Language graduation requirement when taken in the Middle School.

In Chinese II, students will continue to learn phonetic sounds and phonemic awareness using literature and skill-building activities. Students will expand their vocabulary and understanding of Chinese syntax and participate in activities designed to refine listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. In Chinese II, students will strengthen their understanding of Chinese culture through authentic Chinese songs, online reading materials, and projects.

EXPLORATION OF CLASSICAL LANGUAGES - Grade Level: 6-7

This course introduces the world of the ancient Romans and the Latin language. Students will master the pronunciation, morphology (word formation), vocabulary (including English derivatives), and basic grammatical structure of Latin. Various written and oral assessments will culminate in a creative artifact project. Students will have the opportunity to take the Introduction to Latin level of the National Latin Exam. In the second semester, students will get a general introduction to the world and language of Classical Athens. As they master the alphabet and read adapted selections from Aesop and New Testament Greek, they will learn basic vocabulary and grammar.

LATIN IB - Grade Level: 7-8

Prerequisite(s): Must pass Exploration of Classical Languages or equivalent with instructor approval.

This course is for students who have taken a Latin introductory course. Students have the opportunity to develop stronger foundational skills before advancing to the more rigorous Latin 2. Prerequisites include knowledge of basic vocabulary and grammar, including declension of nouns and conjugation of verbs. In Latin IB, students will reinforce their basic knowledge of ancient Roman culture and history as they build vocabulary and comprehension skills. The main textbook is Cambridge Latin Course Unit 2. Latin 1B students will take the Latin I level of the National Latin Exam.

FRENCH IA - Grade Level: 6-7

The study of topics involving greetings, introductions, likes and dislikes, school life and family life are the core of this year's curriculum. Students will participate in a variety of learning activities to increase their level of speaking, writing, reading and listening. Students will be introduced to the French speaking world through culture lessons that highlight the many countries around the globe that have French as an official or business language.

FRENCH IB - GRADE LEVEL: 7-8

Prerequisite(s): Must pass French 1A or equivalent with instructor approval.

In this course, students will continue their introduction to the French speaking world as they strengthen their speaking, writing, reading and listening skills. Students taking French IB are expected to have mastered basic vocabulary and phrases such as numbers, telling time, date, weather description, family, pastimes, food, and likes/dislikes. Topics to explore include daily life, shopping, travel and French culture in North Africa.

FRENCH 1 - Grade Level: 8

Class Notes: This course does not count towards the Upper School World Language graduation requirement when taken in the Middle School.

This is an Upper School level course for those 8th graders who are new to learning French. The study of topics will be greetings, pleasantries, likes and dislikes, school life, family life, sports and activities, weather and seasons, and food. Students will participate in a variety of learning activities to increase their level of speaking, writing, reading and listening. Students will be introduced to the cultures of France and the countries of the French speaking world.

LATIN I – Grade Level: 8

Class Notes: This course does not count towards the Upper School World Language graduation requirement when taken in the Middle School.

This course is an introduction to the world of the ancient Romans and to the Latin language. Students will master the pronunciation, morphology (word-formation), vocabulary (including English derivatives), and basic grammatical structure of Latin. The main textbook for the course, Wheelock's Latin, will be supplemented with a range of readings about Roman history, culture and mythology. A variety of written and oral assessments will culminate in a creative artifact project. Students will have the opportunity to take the Introduction to Latin level of the National Latin Exam.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPANISH IA – Grade Level: 6-7

This course introduces the skills of communication (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) in Spanish. It also attempts to instill in students an understanding of persons belonging to social, cultural, and ethnic groups different from their own. This course is for students with very little or no experience studying Spanish. The course begins with the very basics; alphabet, numbers, colors, greetings, calendar, etc. It then moves into conversational Spanish and grammatical practices; noun/ adjective/verb agreement, verb conjugations, etc.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPANISH IB - Grade Level: 7-8

Prerequisite(s): Must pass Spanish 1A or equivalent with instructor approval.

This course is for students who have studied Spanish but need to develop stronger foundational skills before advancing to a more rigorous Spanish 2. Prerequisites include strong study skills as well as knowledge of basic vocabulary and communicative functions such as numbers, telling time, date, weather description, family, pastimes, food, and likes/dislikes. Students should know regular present tense verb conjugations and should be able to speak and write in simple sentences in Spanish. Students should be familiar with comprehension strategies and have a basic level of comprehension of written and spoken Spanish. In Spanish IB, students will reinforce their basic knowledge of Spanish communicative skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking while continuing to develop new vocabulary and grammatical concepts. Previously learned vocabulary and grammatical structures will also be reinforced.

SPANISH I - Grade Level: 8

Class Notes: This course does not count towards the Upper School World Language graduation requirement when taken in the Middle School.

This course introduces the communication skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) in Spanish. It also attempts to instill in students an understanding and appreciation of persons belonging to social, cultural, and ethnic groups different from their own. This course is for students with little or no experience studying Spanish. This is an Upper School-level course.

SPANISH II - Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Spanish IA and IB or Spanish I or its equivalent with a grade of C or higher. Students earning below a C in Spanish I or its equivalent may satisfy the prerequisite with instructor approval or by scoring 85% or higher on the Spanish I proficiency Exam.

Class Notes: This course does not count towards the Upper School World Language graduation requirement when taken in the Middle School.

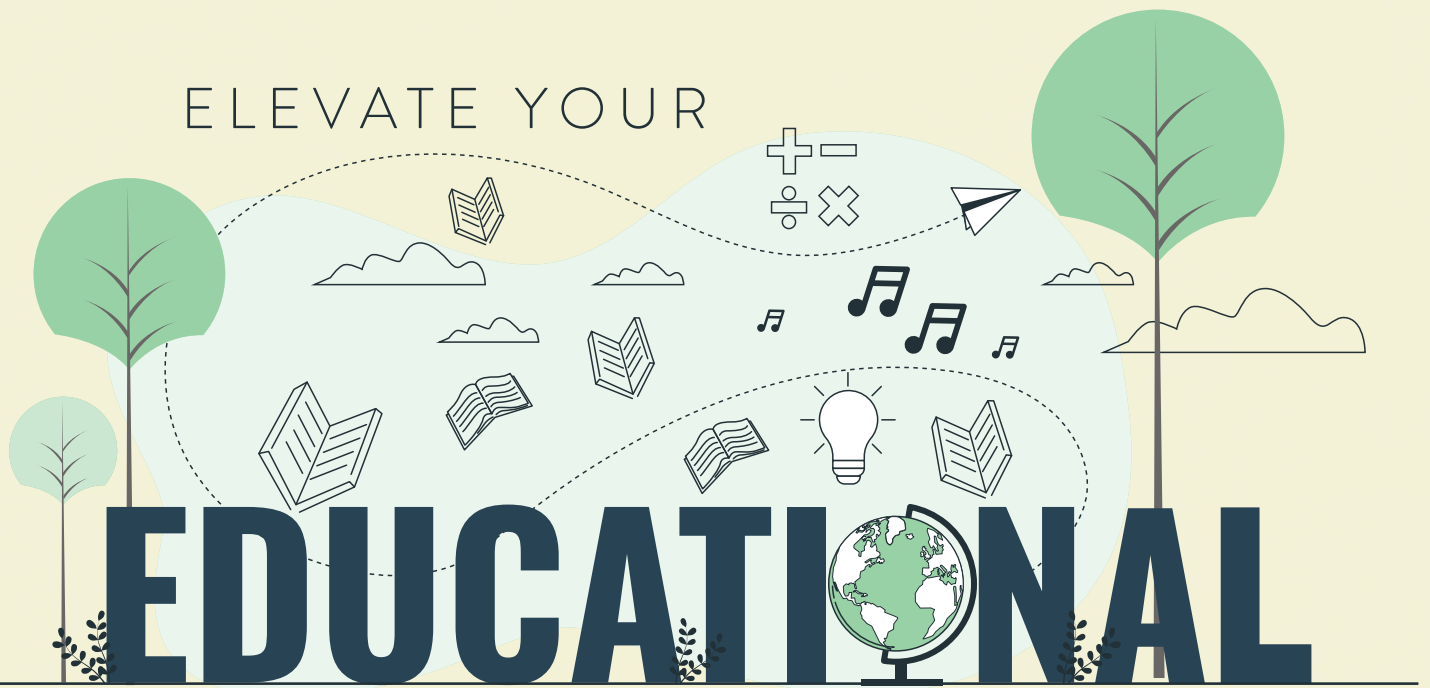
This course offers the opportunity to continue developing and deepening the skills of communication (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) in Spanish, to investigate and experience the richness of cultures, and to continue forming those study skills that help students become lifelong learners. There is an increased emphasis on grammatical skills at this level. This is an Upper School level course.



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PRAYER OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

GRANT, O MERCIFUL GOD,
THAT I MAY ARDENTLY DESIRE,
PRUDENTLY EXAMINE,
TRUTHFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE,
AND PERFECTLY ACCOMPLISH
WHAT IS PLEASING TO THEE
FOR THE PRAISE
AND GLORY OF THY NAME.
AMEN.

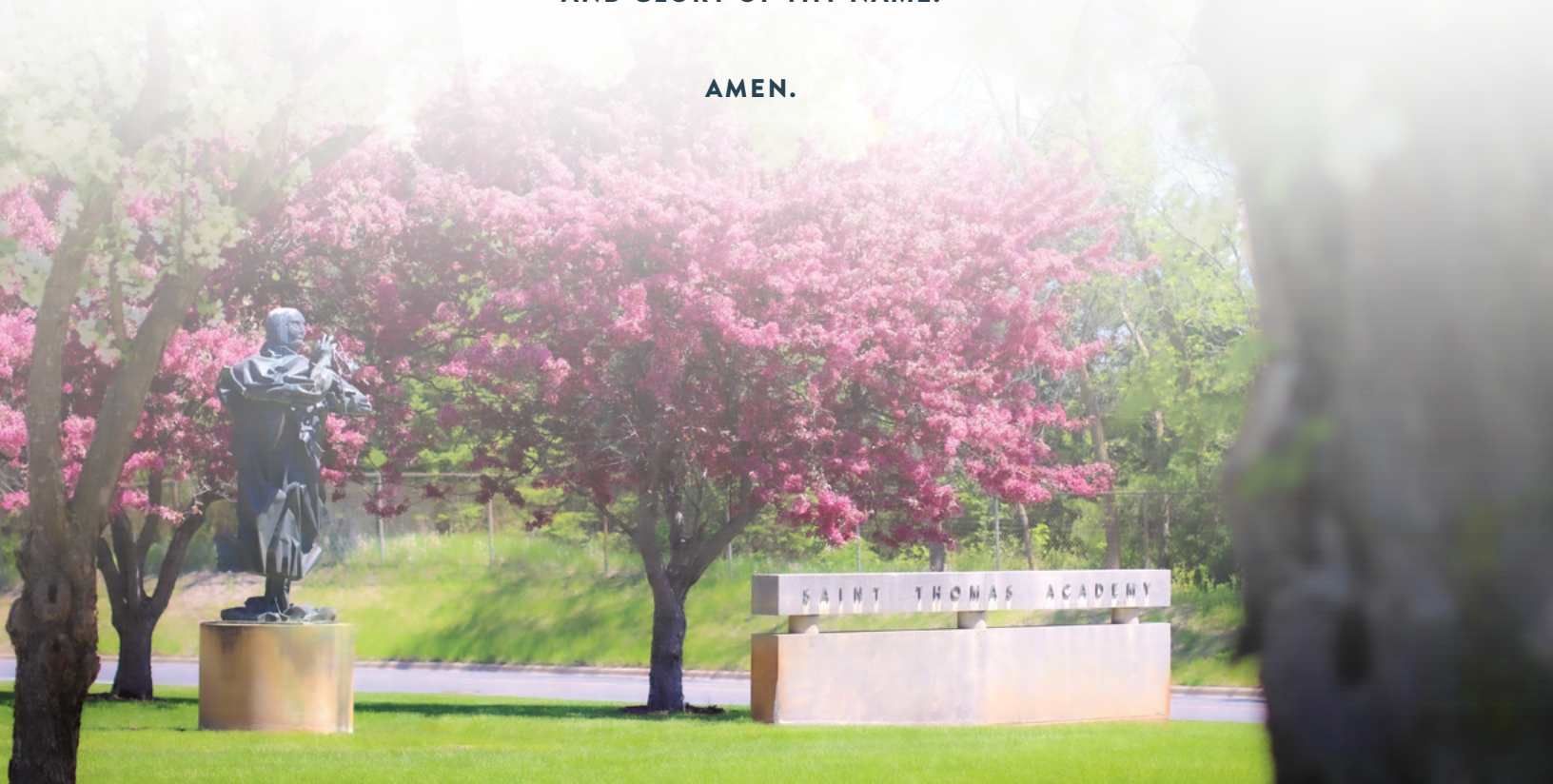




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WORLD LANGUAGE

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Dear Upper School Families,

The astronomer and astrophysicist Carl Sagan famously described experience and reason as providing the human experience with a “candle in the dark.” Following the rich tradition of Western humanism, Sagan viewed rationalism (reason as source) and empiricism (experience as source) as both necessary for knowledge, much like a candle requires both wax (experience) and a wick (reason).

Like a “candle in the dark,” our curriculum provides distinctive opportunities for reasoned inquiry, self-discipline, and intellectual initiative, qualities which we at the Academy consider essential for leading a meaningful life. At Saint Thomas Academy, we are committed not only to helping young men discover and develop their talents and interests, but also to cultivating an environment that encourages risk-taking, learning from missteps, and growth into confident, capable leaders. For us, education is a process, an experience, and a journey.

To this end, it is with great pride that I present the Upper School Academic Catalog for the 2026–2027 academic year. I would also like to highlight several initiatives that provide experiences essential for success at the Academy and beyond.

- **Dual Enrollment:** Dual enrollment allows high school students to take college-level courses and earn both high school and college credit without leaving campus. Alongside Advanced Placement (AP), dual enrollment through Saint Louis University’s 1818 Advanced College Credit Program and Saint Mary’s University’s Program for Advanced College Credit (PACC) enables your son to maximize college credits earned and transferable upon graduation. For more information, please contact Mr. Casey Erickson, Director of College Counseling, at cerickson@cadets.com. Dual enrollment and AP eligibility are noted in each course description.
- **Summer Prep:** Summer Prep offers equivalent Saint Thomas Academy coursework in an 8-week summer term, allowing students to advance in math and world languages while remaining intellectually engaged over the summer. For details, please visit cadets.com/summerprep.
- **World Languages:** In addition to Spanish, Chinese, and French, we are excited to offer Latin as a new option, allowing cadets to explore classical languages as part of our Catholic faith tradition and in the spirit of our patron, St. Thomas Aquinas.
- **May Term:** We are excited to offer May Term next year for junior students. The spring semester will conclude with AP exams, after which students will transition into high-quality, experiential learning opportunities during the final weeks of school. Enrollment information will be shared with students in the fall. For additional details, please contact Mr. David O’Connell at doconnell@cadets.com.

Our commitment to providing an exceptional education - a candle in the dark - remains unwavering. We believe that these enhancements to our program of study will further empower your son to explore his passions, excel in his studies, and grow into a thoughtful, capable leader.

Sincerely,
John Buethe '05
Vice President





OUR MISSION

“The excellence of an institution is found in the class of students it sends forth each year to fight the battles of life.”

- Archbishop John Ireland, Founder of Saint Thomas Academy

It is the mission of our program of study to help each student discover and develop his potential talents and abilities by providing an excellent college-preparatory education that instills qualities of everlasting value: leadership, a sense of brotherhood, a strong moral compass, self-confidence, a faith guided by the Catholic tradition, and an awareness of the importance of service to others.

COURSE SELECTION INFORMATION

COURSE SELECTION PROCEDURES

To ensure that we have an accurate and efficient registration process we ask that:

- Parents and students review this book, taking time to discuss next year's plans.
- Students review course selections with their current instructors and in Advisory. Time will be provided during the school day to make sure students receive registration advising.
- Students note course prerequisites, and, if necessary, appeal to the appropriate department chair for approval.
- Students complete the online course selection process by a deadline determined by the Vice President.

Note, as a college prep school, all students are required to carry a full schedule unless otherwise approved by Academic Administration.



COURSE REGISTRATION PROCESS

Upon completion of the student course selection process, the Registrar will plot course enrollments for the coming year based on student need. Cadets receive their course schedules mid-summer and have 16 school days into the Fall semester to make changes to their fall schedule and 16 days into the Spring semester to make changes to their spring schedule.

COURSE AVAILABILITY AND PLACEMENT

In order to maximize our instructional resources, the Academy is faced with a few constraints in terms of class scheduling. Please observe that:

- A course may be canceled if enrollment is insufficient.
- Students may need to forgo certain course opportunities to pursue others.
- The Vice President, in consultation with department chairs, reserves the right to place students based on their course history and demonstrated aptitude.
- Departments may set minimum and maximum enrollment limits for any course or any class section of a course. Lab based courses have a maximum enrollment of 24 students. Overrides are subject to approval by the Vice President.

CORE ACADEMIC GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Upper School students who matriculate at STA as freshmen enroll in a total of 64 classes across eight semesters. 53 of these courses are core classes required for graduation and 11 are elective.

These core requirements are:

- English: 8 semesters (4 years)
- Fine Arts: 1 semester (0.5 years)
- Physical Education/Health: 1 semester (0.5 years)
- Military Leadership: 8 semesters (4 years)**
- Mathematics: A minimum of 6 semesters (3 years) and successful completion of Intermediate Algebra II, at a minimum.*
- Science: A minimum of 6 semesters (3 years)*
- Social Studies: 8 semesters (4 years) and successful completion of the Senior Speech Independent Study.
- Theology: 8 semesters (4 years) and successful completion of 70 hours of community service.**
- World Language: A minimum of 6 semesters (3 years) and successful completion of one level III language.*

**Most selective colleges expect four years of math, science, and world language.*

***The 8-semester theology and military leadership requirement is waived for transfer students. Instead, transfer students satisfy the theology and military leadership requirement by successfully completing these classes each semester that they are enrolled at the Academy.*

ENGAGED LEARNING GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to fulfilling their academic graduation requirements, students must complete the following engaged learning requirements:

- Write and deliver a senior speech to the student body and school community at Formation and successfully complete the Senior Speech Independent Study.
- Complete 70 hours of community service moderated by the STA service-learning program.
- Complete at least one application to a four-year college or university.
- Maintain continuous enrollment and successful completion of Advisory.
- Successfully complete May Term coursework.

Complete academic policies and procedures are iterated in the Upper School Handbook.

<https://www.cadets.com/parents/parent-portal/handbooks>



ENGLISH

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT = 8 SEMESTERS (4 YEARS)

	9	10	11	12
CORE	College Prep English 9	College Prep English 10	American Literature & Composition Or Honors American Studies: English Or AP English Language / Critical Reading & Writing	Two Senior Choice-Based English Core Courses: • <i>Crime Fiction</i> • <i>Film and Literature</i> • <i>The Hero's Journey</i> • <i>Science Fiction</i> Or AP English Literature & Composition
ELECTIVE	Language Lab	Creative Writing Language Lab Words of the Wild	Creative Writing Language Lab Minnesota Authors Words of the Wild Writing for the Screen & Stage	Creative Writing Language Lab Minnesota Authors Words of the Wild Writing for the Screen & Stage

ENGLISH PROGRAMMATIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

Focusing on student-centered approaches, the English program at Saint Thomas Academy provides students with the opportunity to develop mastery of skills in reading, writing, and speaking. Grade nine emphasizes language skills necessary for successful study at the Academy while courses in grades ten through twelve increasingly prepare students for successful study at the college level. The department believes that individuals who understand and can use language effectively will enjoy more fulfilling lives.

The English Department provides students the tools to:

- Read with understanding and critical insight.
- Express ideas clearly in a variety of written forms.
- Develop skills necessary for effective oral communication.
- Analyze and evaluate the significance of ideas.
- Conduct and present scholarly research.
- Hone critical thinking skills.

ENGLISH CORE REQUIREMENTS

COLLEGE PREP ENGLISH 9 - Grade Level: 9

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills the freshman English graduation requirement.

In this course, students develop the skills to thrive in a rigorous college-preparatory environment. Instruction centers on a variety of literary forms including drama, poetry, and both short and long fiction. Through a critical lens, students learn to comprehend the complex and subtle ideas present in the assigned reading. Students also use acquired vocabulary and grammar mechanics to articulate their understanding through thoughtfully constructed analytical essays, personal reflections, creative projects, and oral presentations.

COLLEGE PREP ENGLISH 10 - Grade Level: 10

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of College Prep English 9.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills the sophomore English graduation requirement.

This class builds on the foundations of College Prep English 9. Students will have the opportunity to study a wide range of literary genres and authors from around the world, with a focus on short stories, drama, poetry, and novels. The diversity of voices and experiences contained within these works exposes students to experiences and perspectives that differ from their own, ultimately building respect and empathy for others. Regular grammar and vocabulary lessons will challenge students to hone their English skills through a targeted progression that will prepare them for college-level writing. Finally, major assessments such as thesis-driven papers, multimedia projects, creative writing and self-reflection will give students the opportunity to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways.

AMERICAN LITERATURE & COMPOSITION - Grade Level: 11

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of College Prep English 10.

Class notes: This two-semester course may be used to fulfill the junior English graduation requirement.

This course offers a survey of American literature that is organized chronologically, moving from Colonial literature to Modern and Post-modern literature. Major authors, significant literary movements, and diverse perspectives are highlighted. Composition and speech are integrated with the reading program, and students do a variety of writing, from informal reading responses and journaling to formal literary analysis and creative writing. Writing focuses include proofreading for grammatical and mechanical perfection, development of ideas, and revision techniques.

HONORS AMERICAN STUDIES: ENGLISH - Grade Level: 11

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite(s): A cumulative GPA of a 3.0 or higher with a B+ or higher in College Prep English 10 and with approval by the College Prep English 10 instructor. In rare cases, rising sophomores with a CogAT verbal score of 115 or higher; solid A grades for the Quarter 1, Quarter 2, and Semester 1 Exam periods; and the recommendation of their 9th grade English teacher may be considered for this course. Recommended rising sophomores must sit for and excel on a timed writing sample and pass an interview with the Honors American Studies: English teacher.

Corequisite(s): Honors American Studies: History; Honors Mixed Media (Fine Arts).

Class notes: This two-semester course is part of an interdisciplinary triad marrying three two-semester courses across three disciplines: Honors American Studies: English (English), Honors American Studies: History (Social Studies), and Mixed Media (Fine Arts). Taken together, these courses may be used to satisfy the following graduation requirements: the junior English requirement, the junior Social Studies requirement, and the Fine Arts requirement. The Fine Arts component is embedded and therefore does not take the spot of an additional elective. This course may be equivalent to St. Louis University's ENGL 2850 Nation, Identity, and Literature.

Bob Dylan, Maya Lin, Louis Armstrong, Jackie Robinson, Joe Louis, Dr. Seuss, Aretha Franklin. Writers, artists, musicians, and athletes have been just as important to shaping America as politicians and business owners. American Studies connects important movements and events in American history with literature, art, and popular culture. Instructors place emphasis on critical thinking, encouraging students to see connections within and between eras in American history. Art history and the creation of art projects are important parts of the course. All three strands of the class—English, History, and Art—will focus on four major themes of American culture: liberty, mobility, prosperity, and security.

Our study of American literature will center on the historical context, culture, arts, and humanities of specific periods of American history. For example, while studying the Civil Rights Movement, we'll read Lorraine Hansberry's play *A Raisin in the Sun*, and while learning about the Vietnam War, we'll read stories from Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*. As in other junior English courses, major writers, significant literary movements, and multicultural perspectives are highlighted. Student writing ranges from informal journal entries to formal literary analysis to research projects. Discussion, individual and small group presentations, projects, tests, and both creative and analytical work provide a means for student expression and proof of mastery of the material covered.

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION – Grade Level: 11

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of College Prep English 10 with a grade of A- or better and approval by the College Prep English 10 instructor AND the AP English Language instructor. In rare cases, rising sophomores with a CogAT verbal score of 120 or higher; solid A grades for the Quarter 1, Quarter 2, and Semester 1 Exam periods; and the recommendation of their 9th grade English teacher may be considered for this course. Recommended rising sophomores must sit for and excel on a timed writing sample and pass an interview with the AP English Language and Composition teacher.

Class notes: This two-semester course may be used to fulfill the junior English graduation requirement. This course is equivalent to St. Louis University's ENGL 1500 The Process of Composition and ENGL 1900 Advanced Strategies for Rhetoric and Research. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

This course is ideal for students seeking the challenge of a year-long college-level literary analysis course that combines the study of fiction and non-fiction texts. During the first semester, students will explore American and world writers, crafting textual interpretations of their work in preparation for 12th Grade AP English Literature. In the second semester, the curriculum shifts to the examination of classic non-fiction, closely studying rhetorical strategies and devices, persuasive argument, research, and source analysis in preparation for the AP English Language and Composition Exam. Assignments in this class center on analytical papers, a research paper, a personal essay, writing workshops, Socratic seminars, and a variety of oral lessons and presentations. The writing growth plan includes an emphasis on using the small group workshop model to develop critically interpretive thesis statements, a persuasive line of reasoning, a variety of argumentative strategies, and the development of rhetorical devices. After completing this course, students should be well equipped to critically interpret a broad spectrum of literature, to develop rhetorically sophisticated thesis-driven essays, and to pair thoughtful analysis with polished, expressive, and structurally varied sentences.

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION – Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Grade of A- or better in AP English Language and Composition or Honors American Studies: English and instructor's approval. Students who have successfully completed American Literature & Composition with an 'A' grade may apply to enroll in AP English Literature & Composition with instructor's approval.

Class notes: This two-semester course may be used to fulfill the senior English graduation requirement. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam. The primary emphasis in AP English Literature is to provide students with the rigorous

academic experiences of a college English course while preparing them for the AP English Literature and Composition Exam. This course is equivalent to St. Louis University's ENGL 2250 Conflict, Social Justice, and Literature and ENGL 2450 Nature, Ecology, and Literature.

Students who excel on the exam may receive college credit or placement in advanced levels of college English. Students read and discuss novels, poems, plays, and philosophical essays to hone their literary insight and develop higher-level writing skills. Formal papers prepare students for college writing; timed essays and multiple-choice tests provide them with extensive exposure to the types of questions encountered on the AP Exam. Students will have extensive outside reading and are expected to be able to comprehend difficult texts on their own. It is not unusual for AP English students to read 30 pages of a novel in one night, and sometimes entire novels are assigned for reading outside of class by a certain date. In addition, students will write frequently, with a long formal paper, several in-class essays, and several short pieces each quarter, along with presentations and other projects. Daily preparation for class and participation in class discussion is also required.

SENIOR CHOICE-BASED ENGLISH CORE COURSES

Students who successfully complete two of the following semester-based English core courses fulfill their senior English graduation requirement.

ENGLISH 12: CRIME FICTION – Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of American Literature & Composition, AP English Language and Composition, or Honors American Studies: English.

Class notes: This semester-based course may be used to partially fulfill the senior English graduation requirement.

Missing persons, institutional corruption, that one last big score. These are the realms of the detectives, criminals, and private eyes who navigate both sides of the law. Having long fascinated popular culture, the crime novel is uniquely positioned to address many significant problems and issues of contemporary society while still offering crackerjack mysteries and sizzling drama. From the earliest examples of Poe and Conan Doyle, through the hard-boiled stylings of Hammett and Chandler, to contemporary writers like George Pelecanos and Vince Flynn, crime fiction perfectly marries exciting narratives, indelible characters, psychological struggles, and social commentary.

ENGLISH 12: FILM & LITERATURE – Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of American Literature & Composition, AP English Language and Composition, or Honors American Studies: English.

Class notes: This semester-based course may be used to partially fulfill the senior English graduation requirement.

From their inception to *Inception*, films have captivated audiences for over a century, creating a multi-medium art form that combines narrative, staged performance, and cinematic imagery into a dynamic visual text open to multiple critical readings. With an emphasis on critical reading, this course pairs the critical study of novels, novellas, and short stories such as Peter Benchley's *Jaws*, Ken Kesey's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Stephen King's *Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption*, Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, and Edgar Allan Poe's "*The Fall of the House of Usher*" with their cinematic adaptations, exploring that complex textual relationship through seminar discussions, oral presentations, and analytical essay compositions. Beyond this exploration, students learn film theory, visual analysis, essential film vocabulary, cinematography, videography, and film editing, applying this knowledge to the development of adapted screenplays and to the production of their own short films. By the end of this course, students will not only have read and viewed classic literature and landmark films but also will have cultivated their own talents as story creators and film critics.

ENGLISH 12: THE HERO'S JOURNEY – Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of American Literature & Composition, AP English Language and Composition, or Honors American Studies: English.

Class notes: This semester-based course may be used to partially fulfill the senior English graduation requirement.

A hero leaves the common world into one of unexplored supernatural wonder, encounters various opposing forces, bests them in a decisive, personal victory, and returns home triumphant. This is the traditional hero's journey, what Joseph Campbell called the monomyth, and from Tolkien to George Lucas, Homer to Han Solo, it offers a unique window into our modern understanding of heroism, villainy, leadership, and even the concept of story itself. This course will explore Campbell's traditional hero's journey, applying it to novels, short stories, poems, and films, opening new avenues of appreciation and understanding. The course will cover material from Ancient Greek myths, to classic novels, to films, allowing students to see heroic patterns in stories and in their own lives.

ENGLISH 12: SCIENCE FICTION – Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of American Literature & Composition, AP English Language and Composition, or Honors American Studies: English.

Class notes: This semester-based course may be used to partially fulfill the senior English graduation requirement.

Imagine a great ballroom where rocket pilots, child-generals, and aliens waltz together across the dance floor. In the Science Fiction genre, these implausible pairings in unlikely places are routinely the clay for fascinating stories set in imaginary worlds. And while traditional critics of this genre may look at this unusual and unlikely story-telling material and call it unrealistic, in this course, we will explore the galactic and the fantastic in the words and spirit of the great Sci-Fi Ursula K. Le Guin, who referred to her colleagues as “realists of the greater reality.” Incorporating a variety of short stories and novels, we will explore the “greater real” and investigate the timeless device of exploring our own world and experience through the lens of “a galaxy far, far away.”

ENGLISH ELECTIVES

The following, semester-based courses may be taken as electives. They cannot be used to fulfill the English Department's core graduation requirements.

CREATIVE WRITING - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: Semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the English Department's core requirements.

The class is conducted as a writer's workshop wherein students share their writings and work towards a polished portfolio of their best work. Students actively write for the purposes of creating finished works, including but not limited to poetry, short stories, essays, memoirs, and drama. Models of good writing and varied literary selections provide inspiration for those pieces.

LANGUAGE LAB - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None. Preference given to students with a penchant for language and those seeking language support.

Class notes: Semester-based elective. Course size limited to 8 total students. Semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the English Department's core requirements.

Interested in honing your craft as a writer, reader, or orator? Wish to produce high-quality writing for your other classes? Want to submit a creative piece to the literary journal? Looking to craft the perfect senior speech? Join this semester based language lab! In this course, you will receive personalized instruction on your verbal communication skills including to the written and spoken work. With limited spots available, this intentionally limited course will give you the one-on-one attention needed to upgrade your skills and separate you from the crowd!

WORDS OF THE WILD:

OUTDOOR & ADVENTURE LITERATURE - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: Semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the English Department's core requirements.

From the foundational musings of Thoreau and Emerson to the real-life adventures of Ernest Shackleton and Alexander Supertramp, this course dives headfirst into stories of adventure, courage, and survival in the face of the natural world. Learning will begin in the classroom and extend into the natural world as students will not simply read about the wonders of the wilderness but experience those wonders themselves through outdoor activity-based learning.

WRITING FOR THE SCREEN & STAGE - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: Semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the English Department's core requirements.

Students in this class will be introduced to the art of script writing. They will study significant modern and historical scripts and performances to inspire their own work. Working both individually and in groups, students will brainstorm, outline, and create their own scripts designed for the stage or screen.

MINNESOTA AUTHORS - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: Semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the English Department's core requirements.

This elective course will explore literature written by Minnesota writers. Students will read classic and contemporary works of poetry, novels, short stories, and non-fiction from authors such as Sinclair Lewis, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Louise Erdrich, Kao Kalia Yang, and Marlon James. A focus on Minnesota history will allow students to understand the backdrop and context of the great "homegrown" literature that has emerged from the Land of 10,000 Lakes!



FINE ARTS

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT = 1 SEMESTER

FINE ARTS PROGRAMMATIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through music and visual arts, the Saint Thomas Academy Fine Arts Department promotes creativity, problem solving, critical thinking, and knowledge by cultivating the students' artistic faculties. By the end of their fine arts experience, students will be able to:

- Use foundational knowledge and skills while responding to, creating, and presenting artistic work.
- Generate and develop original artistic ideas.
- Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for performance and artwork.
- Make artistic choices to convey meaning through performance and artwork.
- Evaluate artistic work.
- Integrate knowledge and personal experiences while responding to, creating, and presenting artistic work.

In the visual arts, students:

- Demonstrate proficiency in the techniques, skills, and concepts used to convey ideas.
- Apply both abstract reasoning and emotional intuitive responses during the art experience.
- Convey ideas through multiple stage techniques and mixed media processes.
- Make knowledgeable aesthetic value judgments based on personal work, the work of other students, and artists of the past and present.
- Understand the relationship between art and society and learn to respect the expressions of others.

Through music, students:

- Become proficient at their chosen instruments and/or with their voices.
- Become familiar with different historical styles and composers of music through the performance of balanced repertoires.
- Learn what it is like to be a part of a large group, all working towards the same goal, where the efforts of any one individuals are considered essential to achieving that goal.
- Prepare and motivate students to continue singing or playing their instruments beyond high school.

FINE ARTS CORE REQUIREMENTS

Students fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement by successfully completing any one of the following Visual Arts, Digital Arts, Art History, or Music courses.

VISUAL ARTS

CERAMICS I - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This semester-based course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement.

An introduction to ceramics, focusing mainly on hand-building techniques (pinch, slab, and coil). The focus of this course is on sculpture (both functional and decorative) and an introduction to throwing cylinders, bowls, and cups on the pottery wheel. Proper safety, cleaning, and participation are part of the final grades.

CERAMICS II - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Ceramics I.

Class notes: None.

Students will further their skills in ceramics, using the hand-building and throwing techniques learned in Ceramics I. Expectations for Ceramics II are much higher, as students will be expected to work more independently to explore concepts and building techniques. Proper safety, cleaning, and participation are part of the final grades.

CERAMICS III - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Ceramics I and II.

Class notes: None.

Students will further develop their skills in ceramics, using the construction methods they have learned in the previous ceramics courses. They will be expected to work more independently to develop their own concepts and ideas. These projects will be approved by their instructor. A higher level of work ethic and craftsmanship will be expected and pursued. Additional firing and glazing methods will be explored. Students will be encouraged to enter their artwork in at least one regional or national juried exhibition. Proper safety and cleaning are part of the grade.

DRAWING I & PAINTING I - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This semester-based course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement.

This course is an introduction to drawing and painting techniques with an emphasis on drawing from observation and learning basic painting techniques. Students will learn and engage in the creative process to create and present original works of art in a variety of media including charcoal, pastel, pencil/graphite, watercolor on paper, and acrylic paint on stretched canvas.

DRAWING II & PAINTING II - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Drawing I & Painting I.

Class notes: None.

Using the skills developed in Drawing and Painting I, students will continue to make and present original works of art. Students will enhance their skills and challenge themselves in the creative process. Students will more fully learn how to respond and connect their knowledge of techniques to their growing knowledge and exploration of culture. Students will have more independence in the art studio to create in the mediums and with the methods of their choice.

INTRODUCTION TO STUDIO ARTS - Grade Level: 9-10

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This semester-based course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement.

This course is an introduction to studio arts with an emphasis on learning and applying the elements and principles of design. Students will work with various mediums and learn how to engage in the creative process to create and present original works of art. Students learn how to evaluate art and engage in the process of critique by studying works of art and artists. Sample units include, drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and a craft-based project.

SCULPTURE - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This semester-based course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement.

This course will focus on building three dimensional objects/sculptures using mixed media materials; including chicken wire, papiermâché, plaster gauze, cardboard, plaster, clay, wood and found objects. This is a great course to develop critical thinking, and creative problem-solving skills.

HONORS AMERICAN STUDIES: MIXED MEDIA - Grade Level: 11

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite(s): None.

Corequisite(s): Honors American Studies: English; Honors American Studies: History.

Class notes: This course is part of an interdisciplinary triad marrying three two-semester courses across three disciplines – Honors American Studies: English (English), Honors American Studies: History (Social Studies), and Mixed Media (Fine Arts). Taken together, these courses may be used to satisfy the following graduation requirements: the junior English requirement, the junior Social Studies graduation requirement, and the Fine Arts requirement. The Fine Arts component is embedded and therefore does not take the spot of an additional elective. It also satisfies one semester of the Fine/Applied Arts & Design Leadership Pathway elective requirement.

Mixed Media is a craft-based art course intended for students who are interested in the creative process in a hands-on way. Students will learn about the art and craft of various cultures while creating unique works of art. Students will explore the processes of making materials such as paper and ink from organic matter. Students will learn different mediums and studio techniques in metal, glass, and fiber. Related projects and techniques will include metal embossing, stained glass, copper enameling, Pewter/bronze casting, paper making, fiber and textile techniques.

AP ART AND DESIGN - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Drawing & Painting I or instructor approval

Class notes: This is a portfolio based course. Portfolios will be submitted and graded on a scale of 1-5 for this course. There is not an AP exam.

The AP Art and Design course encourages students to develop their artistic skills through independent exploration and a sustained investigation process. Students will create a portfolio that showcases their personal style, technical proficiency, and conceptual depth across various media and techniques in 2D. The course emphasizes critical thinking, creative problem-solving, and the development of a cohesive body of work, with regular feedback through critiques and discussions. Instead of a traditional AP exam, students will submit their portfolio for College Board evaluation at the end of the course.

DIGITAL ARTS

COMPUTER GRAPHICS - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This semester-based course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement.

This course provides students with the opportunity to develop an understanding of the power, precision, creative inspiration, and control of computer graphics. Graphic design pushes the boundaries of digital imaging and is a must for students pursuing careers in marketing, business, journalism, PR work, design, advertising, illustration, web design, and video game design. Students will develop foundational skills in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator CC.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY I - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This semester-based course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement.

Students will learn the basics of digital SLR camera operation and photo creation. Students expand their skills in creating photographs while exploring various experimental photographic techniques, including long exposure, sequence, and cinemagraph photography. This course will introduce students to editing in Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom. Registrants of this course are encouraged to have access to a DSLR camera with manual light and speed adjustments.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY II - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Digital Photography I.

Class notes: None.

This course is designed to help the student who has basic technical and aesthetic knowledge to further his understanding of the principles and techniques of photography. In-class critiques will provide feedback on students' work. Students will explore advanced concepts relating to contemporary artistic and photographic practice, with special emphasis placed on portfolio development. Students should expect to provide their own DSLR camera.

CADET VISION – Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Computer Graphics or Digital Photography I.

Class notes: Cadet Vision Intermediate and Advanced also offered upon completion of the course and instructor approval.

Cadet Vision will provide students with the opportunity to further develop their skills in the digital field of cinematography. This course will also cover a wide variety of topics such as how to advertise/market a product or service, how to read digital media and how digital media affects our everyday life. We will be creating commercials and sports hype videos to better understand the tools and techniques used by professionals. Students will be given the opportunity to explore the depths of Adobe Premiere Pro, iMovie and After Effects to edit and complete their masterpiece.

DIGITAL ARTS CAPSTONE – Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Digital Photography II.

Class notes: None.

Digital Arts Capstone is designed for students entering their third or fourth year of Digital Arts classes. Students will gain a deeper understanding of how to creatively brainstorm and develop conceptually strong ideas. Students will choose areas of focus within the field of Digital Arts and will work closely with the instructor to customize ambitious, independently tailored projects for each quarter that build on the students' specific interests.

FILM & VIDEO PRODUCTION - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Computer Graphics or Digital Photography I.

Class notes: None.

This computer graphics and video editing course will provide students with the opportunity to further develop their skills in the digital field. We will use the Adobe Creative Suite with an emphasis on Premiere Pro and additional work in Photoshop, Illustrator, and After Effects. Students will complete projects with the use of cameras, lighting, and the green screen. They will be able to dive into the depths of digital video editing while uncovering new techniques and ways to view film along the Way.

AP ART HISTORY – Grade Level: 11-12

Weight 1.2

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This two-semester course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement.

This class will explore humankind's cultural heritage and significant ideas that have contributed to it and its effect upon our lives today. We will also examine art, music, literature, theatre, religion, history, and philosophy as a total product, which collectively represents the thoughts, attitudes, and ideas of humankind. The course will survey artworks and examine art as a reflection of society.

MUSIC

MUSIC HISTORY – Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This semester-based course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement.

The Music History course explores how humankind and our society interact with music as an artform. The course will emphasize the formation and evolution of Western music through the Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Modern periods, with additional examination of world music through the lens of ethnomusicology. Topics will include notation, chant, vocal music, instrumental music including strings, winds, and percussion, musical recording, and electronic music.

GUITAR: BEGINNING – Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This semester-based course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement. School-owned guitars are available for use during class time and to check-out for at-home practice.

Beginning Guitar is an entry-level fine arts elective course for those students interested in gaining knowledge and skills related to acoustic guitar. Students will learn the parts of the guitar, chord progressions, scales, strumming patterns, accompaniment figures and arpeggios. By the end of the semester, students should be able to play and accompany basic folk and rock songs in their own student-led ensembles.

PIANO: BEGINNING – Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This semester-based course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement. STA will provide electric pianos for Students.

Beginning piano is an entry-level fine arts elective course for those students who want to learn and develop their individual playing skills, gain a deep understanding of music, and experience the joy of independent playing. Students will learn to read music with an approach that is easy to understand, study basic music theory, discover classical, folk, pop, jazz, blues, and spiritual musical genres. Students will work individually and play and perform in groups to master the techniques of playing.

PIANO: EARLY INTERMEDIATE – Grade Level: 9-12**Weight: 1.0****Prerequisite(s):** Successful completion of Piano: Beginning.**Class notes:** This semester-based course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts requirement. STA will provide electric pianos for students.

This course is for those students who want to further develop their individual playing skills, gain a deeper understanding of music, and experience the joy of independent playing. Throughout the course students will learn to read music with an approach that is easy to understand, study basic music theory, discover classical, folk, pop, jazz, blues, and spiritual musical genres. Students will work individually and play and perform in groups to master the techniques of playing.

STA CHOIR – Grade Level: 9-12**Weight: 1.0****Prerequisite(s):** None.**Class notes:** This two-semester course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement.

The STA Choir program is open to any student who is interested in singing and wants to be part of a musical ensemble that builds on trust and teamwork. During the course students will develop an understanding and appreciation of the richness of other cultures, and the connections music brings to people. Students will learn how to sing with proper vocal technique and gain confidence in their own singing skills. The focus of the choir is to enhance the musical, creative and expressive qualities of every student through rehearsals and performance. The choir has four main concerts throughout the school year and sings at community and sports events. The choir also collaborates with other VISTA performing groups and has participated in music educational tours nationally and internationally.

HONORS STA CHOIR – Grade Level: 9-12**Weight: 1.1****Prerequisite(s):** At least two years choral experience or previously completed Honors Choir.**Class notes:** This two-semester course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement.

The Honors Choir Course is offered to musically dedicated juniors and seniors who have made a significant leadership contribution to the choir and achieved the highest level of artistry. Students who have completed two or three years in the STA choral program and wish to participate in the Honors choir, must first get approval from the director.

VISTA CONCERT/MILITARY BAND - Grade Level: 9-12**Weight: 1.0****Prerequisite(s):** At least one year of experience playing a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument.**Class notes:** This yearlong course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement. Attendance at a limited number of rehearsals and performances outside the school day are expected of all members, including the August marching band camp.

The VISTA Concert Band/STA Military Band is open to any students with prior band experience. The band presents three formal concerts annually and performs at military ceremonies, athletic and community events. In addition to furthering personal growth as individual musicians, emphasis is placed on creating a unified musical expression by the entire ensemble through large group rehearsals, sectionals, and chamber music.

HONORS VISTA CONCERT/HONORS MILITARY BAND - Grade Level: 9-12**Weight: 1.1****Prerequisite(s):** Two years experience playing a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument or previous completion of band. Instructor approval.**Class notes:** This yearlong course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement. Attendance at a limited number of rehearsals and performances outside the school day are expected of all members, including the August marching band camp.

The Honors VISTA Concert Band/STA Military Band is open to students who demonstrate advanced acuity with their new instrument. The band presents three formal concerts annually and performs at military ceremonies, athletic and community events. In addition to furthering personal growth as individual musicians, emphasis is placed on creating a unified musical expression by the entire ensemble through large group rehearsals, sectionals, and chamber music.

VISTA JAZZ BAND - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Instructor approval. Satisfactory completion of audition in May for the following academic year.

Participation is limited to traditional jazz instruments: saxophones, trumpets, trombones, and rhythm section (bass, guitar, piano, drum set).

Class notes: This two-semester course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement. VISTA Jazz Band grades are Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) and are not calculated into a student's GPA.

This course is open to students from both STA and Visitation. Students who perform on saxophone, trumpet or trombone must be concurrently enrolled in either Vista Concert Band course. The VISTA Jazz Band meets two times weekly before school for full ensemble and sectional rehearsals. Students will study, prepare, and perform jazz music from a wide variety of genres and historical periods. VISTA Jazz will appear at a variety of formal and informal performances and other school and community events both on and off campus.

VISTA STRING ORCHESTRA - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Two years experience playing a string instrument.

Class notes: This two-semester course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement.

This course is held at Visitation.

The Vista Orchestra includes string players in grades 9 – 12 from Visitation and Saint Thomas Academy. Musicians interested in this class must play the violin, viola, cello, or bass, and have at least two years of playing experience. String Orchestra is an elective that meets as a regular class in the school day schedule. The string Orchestra curriculum focuses not only on developing musical skills, but also on developing an understanding and appreciation of music through the study, rehearsal, and performance of concert repertoire. The string orchestra participates in numerous concerts and special events throughout the school year.

AP MUSIC THEORY – Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Completion of at least one semester of Band, Choir, Piano, or Guitar.

Class notes: This two-semester course may be used to fulfill the Fine Arts Core requirement. AP students are expected to take the AP Exam.

The AP Music Theory course will explore the foundations of music composition, to include identifying pitch, intervals, chords, scales, meter, rhythm, and other musical concepts in written and performed music. Music and styles throughout the course will include the Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Modern periods.





HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT = 1 SEMESTER

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMATIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

HEALTH

The general objectives of health education include instilling in the students:

- An appreciation of current health issues.
- An awareness and understanding of social situations and relationships.
- An understanding of body systems and illness.
- An understanding of the correlation between lifestyle and wellness.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The general objectives of the physical education department include instilling in the students:

- An appreciation, understanding and application of physical fitness.
- An appreciation and understanding of lifetime sports and activities.
- An appreciation and understanding of team sports and leadership.
- An introduction to a variety of activities, some of which they would not normally have exposure to.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION CORE REQUIREMENTS

Students satisfy core requirement by successfully completing Health & Physical Education

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION - Grade Level: 9

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This semester-based course fulfills the Health and Physical Education graduation requirement. To successfully participate in this course, students will need a Saint Thomas Academy gym uniform, available for purchase at the Cadet Maker Bookstore, a padlock, a swimsuit, sandals, and a towel.

The health component of this course is designed to include current topics as well as information related to body systems, nutrition, anatomy, and personal wellness.

The physical education component of this course enhances both the physical and social development for all students. By providing guidance, instruction and experiences that help young men make informed choices about their fitness and wellbeing, students are challenged to reach their full physical, emotional, and social potential.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION ELECTIVES

ADVANCED HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Satisfactory completion of Health and Physical Education.

Class notes: This is a semester-based course. Advanced Health grades are Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) and are not calculated into a students GPA.

With an individualized approach, the activities of Advanced Physical Education are age-appropriate and designed to allow students to concentrate on life-long skills and activities that will enhance their development as healthy members of society beyond Saint Thomas Academy. Involving the aspects of physiology and life science, students will develop a deeper understanding of why and how they can live healthy lives.

STRENGTH TRAINING I - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Satisfactory completion of Health and Physical Education.

Class notes: This is a semester-based, independent study course. Strength Training grades are Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) and are not calculated into a students GPA.

This course is designed to train students individually, providing preparation, exercise and recovery procedures for complete strength training. Students will follow a specific regimen increasing general health in the Fitness Center. They will learn to exert and resist force, develop muscle strength and endurance. Using body weight, free weights, plyometrics, speed exercises and resistance bands, students will advance their overall fitness.

STRENGTH TRAINING II - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Strength Training I.

Class notes: This is a semester-based, independent study course. Strength Training II grades are Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) and are not calculated into a students GPA.

An extension or further developmental progress opportunity from Strength Training I. Students will progress utilizing the principles and practices of Strength Training I. Student-specific, personal interest-driven or sport-related strength training will guide how this class is designed for each student.

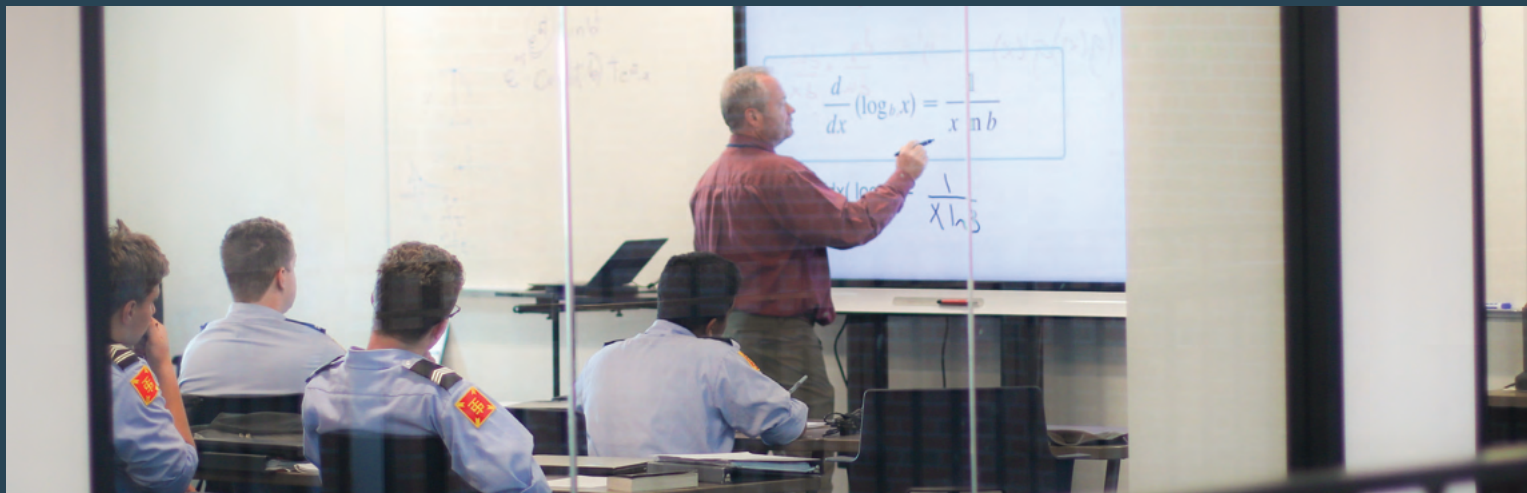
MEN IN THE ARENA - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This is a semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the Health and Physical Education core requirement.

This course aims to foster holistic personal development by exploring key topics such as strength, vulnerability, courage, emotional resilience, empathy, and mental health. Through engaging discussions and activities, students will develop a deeper understanding of themselves, cultivating self-awareness and emotional intelligence. The curriculum addresses crucial issues like anxiety, depression, isolation, loneliness, and suicide, fostering an open environment where boys can share their experiences and support one another. Emphasizing the importance of effective communication, the course equips students with valuable interpersonal skills and emphasizes the willingness to seek help when needed. This course will also touch on the messaging men receive in modern media, and how this media is used to form our masculine identities. By the end of the course, students will have gained the tools necessary for navigating the complexities of adolescence with resilience, empathy, and a strong sense of self.



MATHEMATICS

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT = 6 SEMESTERS (3 YEARS)
and successful completion of Intermediate Algebra II, at a minimum

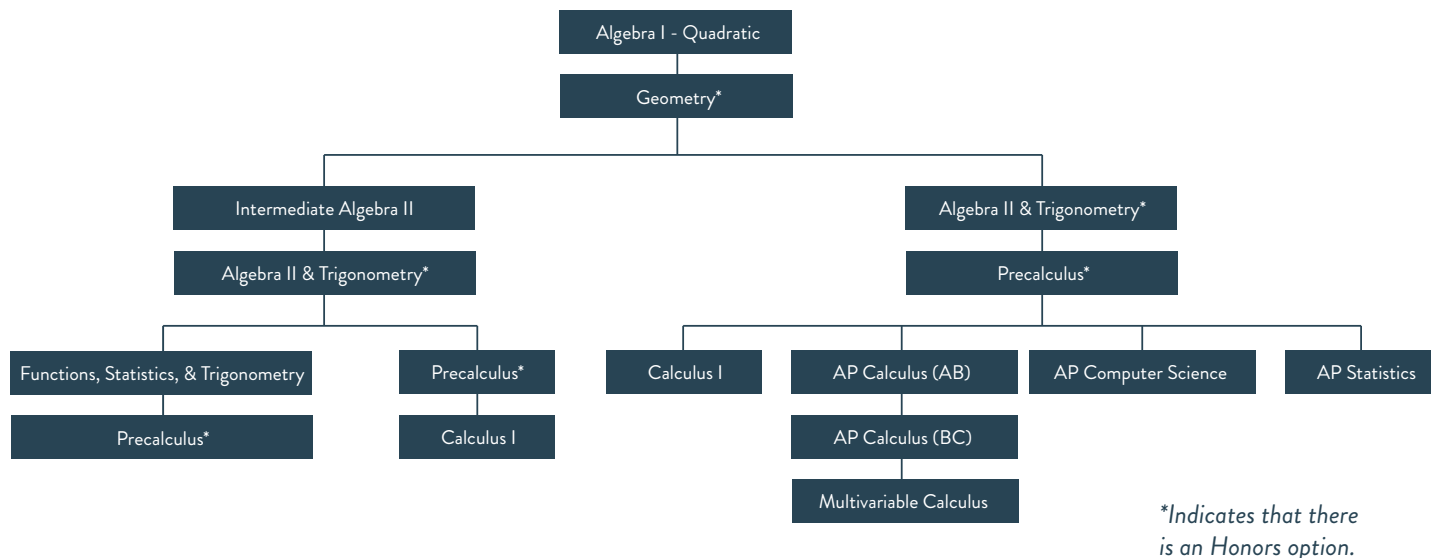
CORE

ELECTIVE

	9	10	11	12
	Algebra I – Quadratic Or Geometry Or Honors Geometry Or Intermediate Algebra II Or Algebra II/Trigonometry Or Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry	Geometry Or Honors Geometry Or Intermediate Algebra II Or Algebra II/Trigonometry Or Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry Or Precalculus Or Honors Precalculus	Intermediate Algebra II Or Algebra II/Trigonometry Or Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry Or Functions, Statistics, & Trigonometry Or Precalculus Or Honors Precalculus Or Calculus I Or AP Calculus (AB) Or AP Calculus (BC) Or Honors Precalculus Or Calculus I Or AP Calculus (AB) Or AP Computer Science Or AP Statistics	Functions, Statistics, & Trigonometry Or Precalculus Or Honors Precalculus Or Calculus I Or AP Calculus (AB) Or AP Calculus (BC) Or Multivariable Calculus Or AP Computer Science Or AP Statistics

Introduction to Statistics	Introduction to Statistics	Introduction to Statistics	Introduction to Statistics
	Introduction to Accounting	Introduction to Accounting	Introduction to Accounting

MATH PROGRESSION FLOW CHART



MATH PROGRAMMATIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

The mathematics program at Saint Thomas Academy is designed to challenge students with an enriched curriculum and to make appropriate courses available to all students. It is our objective that the students will:

- Become proficient at basic arithmetic, algebra, and analytical thinking skills.
- Develop the ability to solve both routine and non-routine problems using a variety of strategies.
- Become familiar with the use of mathematical tools, such as compasses, protractors, calculators, and mathematical computer software.

MATH CORE REQUIREMENTS

ALGEBRA I – QUADRATIC - Grade Level: 9

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Algebra I - Linear or equivalent.

Class notes: This two-semester course satisfies one year of the Academy’s three-year math graduation requirement.

Algebra I – Quadratic reviews structure of the real number system, algebraic symbols, and first-degree equations. It then moves quickly into the study of all aspects surrounding second degree equations and graphs, expanded systems of first degree equations, factoring second-degree functions and the quadratic formula and exponents and square roots.

GEOMETRY - Grade Level: 9-10

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Satisfactory completion of Algebra I – Quadratic or by math placement.

Class notes: This two-semester course satisfies one year of the Academy’s three-year math graduation requirement.

This course first establishes the tools of geometry: methods of reasoning, the coordinate plane, and types of measurement. Subsequently, it focuses on properties and applications of lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, similarity, right triangle trigonometry, circles, and transformations.

HONORS GEOMETRY - Grade Level: 9-10

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite(s): Grade of A in Honors Algebra I or by math placement.

Class notes: This two-semester course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement.

This course covers all the topics in the regular geometry course. This program will move at a quicker pace than the regular section and will incorporate enrichment activities to study the topic more in depth.

INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA II - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): For students who have completed Geometry but do not meet the prerequisite for Algebra II/Trigonometry.

Class notes: This two-semester course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement. To graduate, students must successfully complete this level of math at a minimum.

This course is designed for those students who need a review of Algebra I as they transition to Algebra II. The Algebra II topics include quadratic, polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions.

ALGEBRA II/TRIGONOMETRY - Grade Level: 9-11

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Geometry or Intermediate Algebra II or by math placement. Successful completion is defined as a grade of C- or higher.

Class notes: This two-semester course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement.

Algebra II/Trigonometry includes an in-depth study of the topics taught in Algebra I and Geometry. Additional topics include quadratic, polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, logarithmic functions, data analysis, and the unit circle as the basis for trigonometric functions.

HONORS ALGEBRA II/TRIGONOMETRY - Grade Level: 9-11

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite(s): A grade of a B- or higher in Honors Geometry or an A in Geometry or by math placement.

Class notes: This two-semester course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement.

Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry is a rigorous in-depth study of functions. A solid foundation in Algebra is essential. Some areas of study include polynomial, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Rational expressions, data analysis, and trigonometry is also explored.

PRECALCULUS - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): A grade of a C- or higher in Algebra II/Trigonometry or completion of Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry.

Class notes: This two-semester course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement.

The purpose of this course is to prepare students for a successful experience in Calculus. Topics include number systems, polynomial, exponential, rational, and logarithmic functions, as well as sequences and series. Trigonometry is developed on the basis of the unit circle, periodic functions, trigonometric identities and proofs.

HONORS PRECALCULUS - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite(s): A grade of a B- or higher in Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry or an A in Algebra II/Trigonometry.

Class notes: This two-semester course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement.

Honors Precalculus is a course designed for students who plan to take Calculus AB or BC. Students will complete an in depth analysis of topics, which include functions and their graphs, analytic trigonometry, linear systems and matrices, sequences and series, limits, and the introduction of Calculus.

FUNCTIONS, STATISTICS AND TRIGONOMETRY - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Algebra II/Trigonometry.

Class notes: This two-semester course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement.

This course is designed for the students who completed the Algebra II class. The trigonometry topics include right triangle trigonometry, the introduction of the unit circle and analytical trigonometry. The statistics topics include basic statistical analysis, regression, and the introduction of probability.

CALCULUS I - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Precalculus or Honors Precalculus. Successful completion is defined as a grade of C- or higher.

Class notes: This two-semester course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement. Calculus I covers the major topics of differential and integral calculus. Applications include related rates, areas, volumes, rectilinear motion, and graphing with the use of the first and second derivatives.

AP CALCULUS (AB) - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Precalculus with an A- or higher and instructor permission or successful completion of Honors Precalculus with a B or higher or instructor permission.

Class notes: This two-semester course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement. Students should expect to spend 2-4 hours a week reading and completing assignments. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

Calculus (AB) covers the major topics of differential and integral calculus. Applications include related rates, areas, volumes, rectilinear motion, and graphing with the use of the first and second derivatives. All topics that are part of the AB curriculum of the Advanced Placement Program are included.

AP COMPUTER SCIENCE - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Algebra 2/Trigonometry and B or better in current math course. Successful completion is defined as a grade of C- or higher.

Class notes: This two-semester course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement. Students should expect to spend 5-8 hours a week reading, completing assignments, and on programming projects. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

Advanced Placement Computer Science (A) is a study of the Java programming language, emphasizing the object oriented approach. Students will study computer systems, objects and primitive data, programming statements, flow of control, writing and enhancing classes, arrays, inheritance, and recursion.

AP STATISTICS - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Precalculus and A- or better in current math course. Successful completion is defined as a grade of C- or higher.

Class notes: This two-semester course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement. Students should expect to spend 2-4 hours a week reading and completing assignments. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

The statistics course encompasses four major units: exploring and analyzing data, producing data through samples and experiments, understanding probability and simulation models, and drawing conclusions about population through inference. This is not the typical math class. Each topic is directly connected to the real-world through collecting data, experiments, investigations, and simulations. This course focuses on communication and interpretation of mathematics, and writing is critical.

AP CALCULUS (BC) - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of AP Calculus (AB) with instructor permission. Successful completion is defined as a grade of C- or higher.

Class notes: This two-semester course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement. Students should expect to spend 2-4 hours a week reading and completing assignments. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

AP Calculus (BC) covers the more advanced topics of differential and integral calculus. Applications include related rates, differential approximation, areas, volumes, arc length, and polar coordinates. The course concludes with units on infinite series, including Taylor series and differential equations. All topics that are part of the BC curriculum of the Advanced Placement Program are included.

MULTIVARIABLE CALCULUS (CALCULUS III) - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of AP Calculus (BC) with instructor permission.

Class notes: This two-semester course satisfies one year of the Academy's three-year math graduation requirement. Multivariable calculus is not an AP course.

This course is designed for the students who completed AP Calculus BC. The course will transition to three-dimensional coordinate systems. Topics of study include Vector functions, Partial Derivatives, Multiple Integrals and Line integrals, Stokes and Greens Theorems.

MATH ELECTIVES

INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICS – Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Corequisite(s): Algebra II/Trigonometry or higher-level math course.

Class notes: None.

The analysis, understanding, and application of statistics is required by virtually all courses of study and job fields. This elective will introduce you to the basics of statistics and explore sampling, statistical variables, charting, experiments, and other topics. Any student who plans to continue their studies after graduating from STA should take this class in preparation for a future statistics course.

INTRODUCTION TO ACCOUNTING - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: None.

This course is an introduction to a college accounting course. Students will learn the basics of accounting, which includes, using T accounts, the general ledger and general journal. Other skills that students will learn are, how to close entries, learning about sales and accounts receivable and purchases and accounts payable. Guest speakers will come in and share their experience as accountants in a non-profit organization, and accounting firms.

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MILITARY LEADERSHIP

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT = 8 SEMESTERS (4 YEARS)*

**Transfer students meet the graduation requirement as long as they maintain continuous enrollment and successful completion of Military Leadership.*

MILITARY LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMATIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

The mission of Saint Thomas Academy Leadership program is to develop life skills through participation as a Cadet in the Saint Thomas Academy Corps of Cadets structure and military program. These skills include:

- Leader Attributes & Skills
- Team Building & Teamwork
- Decision-making
- Goal Setting
- Public Speaking / Briefings
- Punctuality and Time Management
- Standards enforcement
- Respect (for Authority) and each other
- Citizenship and Patriotism
- Etiquette and Protocol
- Military Customs, Traditions, and Courtesies
- Proficiency in Marksmanship
- Cadet Staff Planning
- Followership
- Problem analysis
- Mentorship/Counseling
- Self-discipline
- Appearance and bearing (presence)
- Selfless-Service
- Character Development/Moral Compass
- Chivalry
- Drill and Ceremony
- CPR/ Life-Saving Skills
- Knowledgeable in American Military History

MILITARY LEADERSHIP CORE REQUIREMENTS

MILITARY LEADERSHIP - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: Military Leadership is required every semester a student is enrolled at the Academy. Military Leadership coursework is conducted in a combined grade level (9th through 12th grades) “platoon model”, where upperclassmen mentor their younger peers and set an example for them to follow.

The Military Leadership course provides each cadet with a military structure, defined roles, responsibilities, and affords a variety of leadership opportunities that teach ethical decision-making. The platoon model of instruction uses a clear set of incentives, and offers recognition for exceptional performances. Conversely, there are consequences when standards are not met. Cadets learn to follow instructions before being promoted into leadership roles. Through this process, a cadet learns that he is both individually responsible and accountable to his fellow cadets for his actions.

Subjects include an introduction to and history of the STA Corps of Cadets; drill and ceremonies; uniform and personal appearance; military customs, traditions, and courtesies; physical fitness; rifle marksmanship; planning and goal setting; ethical decision making; leadership theory, strategies, and responsibilities; mentorship; performance counseling; marksmanship; life-savings skills; American military history; and public speaking.

ADVANCED MILITARY LEADERSHIP - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Instructor approval.

Class notes: This course may be used to substitute for a student’s senior Military Leadership core requirement. Advanced Military Leadership is designed for seniors assigned to the highest levels of leadership within the Corps of Cadets.

Advanced leaders are responsible for the planning, organizing, coordinating, and executing all activities and ceremonial events within the Corps of Cadets. In addition, they manage the cadet awards program, merit/demerit system, promotions, public affairs, technology, operations, and logistics for the Corps of Cadets. Cadets are assigned as Company First Sergeants, Executive Officers, Company Commanders, Brigade Staff Officers, Battalion Commanders, Command Sergeants Majors, and the Cadet Colonel.





SCIENCES

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT = 6 SEMESTERS (3 YEARS)

CORE

ELECTIVE

	9	10	11	12
CORE	Biology Or Honors Biology	Chemistry Or Honors Chemistry	AP Biology Or AP Chemistry Or Environmental Science Or AP Environmental Science	AP Physics C: Mechanics Or Physics OR AP Physics I Or AP Biology Or AP Chemistry Or Environmental Science Or AP Environmental Science
ELECTIVE		Introduction to Engineering Anatomy & Physiology Biomedical Ethics Land Management Zoology	Anatomy & Physiology Biomedical Ethics Land Management Zoology Astronomy (Spring) Entomology I (Fall) Forensic Science	Anatomy & Physiology Biomedical Ethics Land Management Zoology Astronomy (Spring) Entomology I (Fall) Forensic Science Engineering Capstone

SCIENCE PROGRAMMATIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

The science program at Saint Thomas Academy prepares students for college science courses. We offer sequences for students who are interested in science or engineering programs in college and for those who may not intend to take advanced science courses in college. Students study fundamental scientific principles, theories, and mathematical relationships, and learn scientific reasoning across all grade levels through STEAM related applications and through inquiry based laboratory investigations.

It is our intent that students will:

- Understand the role of science and technology in their lives.
- Use scientific methods to analyze and solve problems.
- Make valid and ethical decisions about scientific issues.
- Become sensitive to the global implications of life-style choices.
- Evaluate their potential for careers in science.

SCIENCE CORE REQUIREMENTS

BIOLOGY - Grade Level: 9

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills the freshman science graduation requirement.

This course introduces students to the fundamental concepts of biology including cellular biology, genetics, microbiology, animal and plant biology, and evolution. Introductory laboratory skills are developed with emphasis on collection, observation, and interpretation of data.

HONORS BIOLOGY - Grade Level: 9

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite(s): Minimum composite score of 125 of the STA entrance exams, an eighth grade science grade of at least an A- in semester 1, and passing score on science placement exam with instructor approval.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills the freshman science graduation requirement.

This course focuses on cellular biology, genetics, microbiology, zoology, evolution, and ecology. College-level pedagogy is stressed, as is development of analytical skills in a concentrated laboratory program.

CHEMISTRY - Grade Level: 10

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Biology or Honors Biology.

Corequisite(s): Algebra I - Quadratic or higher Math course.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills the sophomore science graduation requirement.

This course focuses on scientific measurement, chemical nomenclature, atomic theory, molar relationships, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, gasses, solutions, acids and bases, and properties of elements and compounds. Mathematical problem-solving and a quantitative and qualitative approach toward laboratory investigation are stressed.

HONORS CHEMISTRY - Grade Level: 10

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite(s): A grade of A in Biology 1st Semester or B+ in Honors Biology 1st semester.

Corequisites: Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills the sophomore science graduation requirement.

This course introduces students to scientific measurements, chemical nomenclature, atomic theory, molar relationships, stoichiometry, thermodynamics, theories of solutions, acids, bases, equilibriums, properties of elements and compounds and their structural deviations, a study of laws governing the behavior of matter, and organic chemistry. A mathematical approach to problem solving and a quantitative and qualitative approach toward laboratory investigation are stressed.

AP BIOLOGY - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Cumulative GPA of 3.4, Biology and Chemistry.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills the third and final science graduation requirement. All AP students are expected to take the AP Exam.

This course is comparable to an introductory, upper-level freshman college biology course. The course is intended for highly motivated students able to learn at a college level with a college text. Students should expect 2-4 hours of homework a week, which will include reading and taking notes on the textbook, independent research, lab reports and other group work. AP Biology requires summer reading with an assessment the first week of school.

AP CHEMISTRY – Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Cumulative GPA of 3.4, Biology A- in Chemistry or B+ in Honors Chemistry.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills the third and final science graduation requirement. Students will complete a summer homework assignment prior to the start of the year. A graphing calculator is required. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

This college-level course prepares students for the Advanced Placement Exam. Topics include atomic structure, intermolecular forces, and bonding, chemical reactions, kinetics, thermodynamics, and chemical equilibrium. Descriptive chemistry is covered in depth and lab experiments reinforce the principles. In addition to traditional content, students will develop skills on six science practices: concept explanation, visual representation, questioning and methods, representing and describing data, data analysis and statistics, and science argumentation from evidence. Students will engage in several laboratory investigations to implement the science practices.

The successful AP Chemistry student will read assigned texts, participate in class discussions, work on problem-solving skills, conduct scientific investigations, and be prepared to write using scientific language. The AP Chemistry framework specifies what students must know, be able to do, and understand, with a focus on the four big ideas that encompass core principles, theories, and processes of the study of Chemistry. The framework also encourages instruction that prepares students for advanced work in STEM majors.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Biology and Chemistry.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills the third and final science graduation requirement. Students will be required to drive to collection sites.

This course covers five areas of environmental concern: ecology principles, human population and resources, environmental quality and pollution, environment and society, and sustainability. In addition to text reading and assessments, students will perform lab work, water quality testing, and various larger projects.

AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Cumulative GPA of 3.4, Biology and Chemistry.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills the third and final science graduation requirement. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam. Students will be required to drive to collection sites.

This course covers five areas of environmental concern: ecological principles, human population and resources, environmental quality and pollution, environment and society, and sustainability. In addition to text reading and assessments, students will perform lab work; water quality testing and present results to the Mendota Heights City Council. Students should expect a reading load of 2-4 hours per week throughout most of the year. AP Environmental Science requires summer reading with an assessment the first week of school.

PHYSICS - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Geometry, Biology and Chemistry.

Corequisites: Algebra II/Trigonometry or higher Math course.

Class notes: None.

Physics expands upon the concepts introduced in Physical Science to help students understand the physical world around them. The course follows a traditional physics curriculum beginning with mechanics and kinematics with an emphasis on Newton's Laws of Motion. Students then continue on to learn about energy, waves, sound, and optics. They learn to apply the above concepts to the world around them through demonstrations, application problems and labs. Physics is a math based science class, requiring algebraic skills to solve equations.

AP PHYSICS I - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Cumulative GPA of 3.4 or higher; successful completion of Geometry.

Corequisites: Algebra II/Trigonometry or higher Math course.

Class notes: All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course. Students cultivate their understanding of physics through inquiry-based investigations as they explore these topics: kinematics, dynamics, circular motion and gravitation, energy, momentum, simple harmonic motion, and torque and rotational motion.

AP PHYSICS C: MECHANICS - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Cumulative GPA of 3.4 or higher; successful completion of Calculus I.

Corequisites: Calculus AB AP or higher Math course.

Class notes: All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

Mechanics, students will expand their understanding of the world around them by developing models of physical phenomena through inquiry-based investigations. This course is designed to be a thorough introduction to mechanics as seen in a calculus based, first semester physics course at the university level. We will explore and solve problems in topics like kinematics, forces, energy, momentum, and rotational motion.

SCIENCE ELECTIVES

INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING – Grade Level: 10-11

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Corequisite(s): Honors Chemistry.

Class notes: Semester-based elective, and may not be used to fulfill the Science Department's core requirements. Meant for students interested in pursuing engineering as a profession. This course is recommended as an interdisciplinary elective for the Fine/Applied Arts & Design Leadership Pathway.

This course introduces students to CAD design, precision measurement, physics principles, and invention, challenging students to use creativity and research to solve problems that have more than one correct answer. The class promotes hands-on learning as students are introduced to the engineering design process, tackling increasingly complex projects that demonstrate their mastery of the material.

ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY – Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Biology.

Class notes: Semester-based elective, and may not be used to fulfill the Science Department's core requirements.

This course uses case studies, computer simulations, virtual labs, dissections, and diagnostic equipment to teach the integration of form and function of human organ systems. Human diseases and disorders, their treatments will be examined through a variety of modeling activities.

BIOMEDICAL ETHICS – Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Biology.

Class notes: Semester-based elective and may not be used to fulfill the Science Department's core requirements.

This course focuses on developing students' critical faculties as they learn to engage with ethically challenging real-world scenarios in the biomedical fields. Topics will include, but not be limited to, various practices such as: informed consent, drug development and regulation, designer genetics, end-of-life care, and neuroethics. This course requires strong written and verbal argumentation skills.

LAND MANAGEMENT - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Biology.

Class notes: Semester-based elective, and may not be used to fulfill the Science Department's core requirements.

This course offers a unique opportunity for students to explore the natural beauty of Saint Thomas Academy's campus while learning how to create, maintain, and sustain native landscapes. Students enrolled in this course will be outside almost every day, in the fall and spring actively improving the campus. In the winter, there will be emphasis on botany and hydroponics. This course is recommended for anyone who has a love for the outdoors, looking to improve the environment around them.

ZOOLOGY – Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Biology.

Class notes: Semester-based elective, and may not be used to fulfill the Science Department's core requirements.

In this course participants will learn about the animal kingdom, starting with simple animals and working up the evolutionary tree to the more complex animals. Students will have several dissecting labs throughout the course. Other labs will explore animal behavior, animal ecology, evolution, and genetics.

ASTRONOMY – Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: Semester-based elective offered in the spring, and may not be used to fulfill the Science Department's core requirements.

Over the course of the semester, students will dive into the physics behind the life cycle of stars. We will look at light waves and the electromagnetic spectrum to better understand how we know what we know about deep space, even though we have never traveled much farther than the edge of our solar system. We will also examine the mythologies of ancient cultures to see how astronomy shaped their way of understanding the world around them.

ENTOMOLOGY – Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Biology and Chemistry.

Class notes: Semester-based elective offered in the fall and may not be used to fulfill the Science Department's core requirements. Students will be required to drive to collection sites.

In this course, participants will focus on the location, collection, preservation, identification, and classification/organization of insect specimens into professional, high-quality displays. Insects will be collected on campus and from local nature preserves, lakes, ponds, and wooded areas. The course will first focus on collection and preservation of insects, before turning to the identification, classification, and organization of insects into orders and families for presentation.

FORENSIC SCIENCE – Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Biology and Chemistry.

Class notes: Semester-based elective, and may not be used to fulfill the Science Department's core requirements.

In this course, students focus on the application of scientific concepts and laboratory techniques currently used in the field of DNA technology and forensics. Content will be delivered through hands-on methods and lab investigations, using methods from several disciplines of science including biology, anatomy and physiology, chemistry, and physics. Labs include crime scene and evidence collection, time of death analysis, fingerprint analysis, blood spatter analysis, as well as biotechnology techniques such as DNA extraction, gel electrophoresis, and PCR. Students with an interest in science and/or law enforcement will benefit from the application of foundational knowledge gained in their previous science courses in a hands-on method. The course will focus on practicing lab techniques used in the field of forensic science as well as the development and application of critical thinking skills required to analyze data and reach evidence-based conclusions.

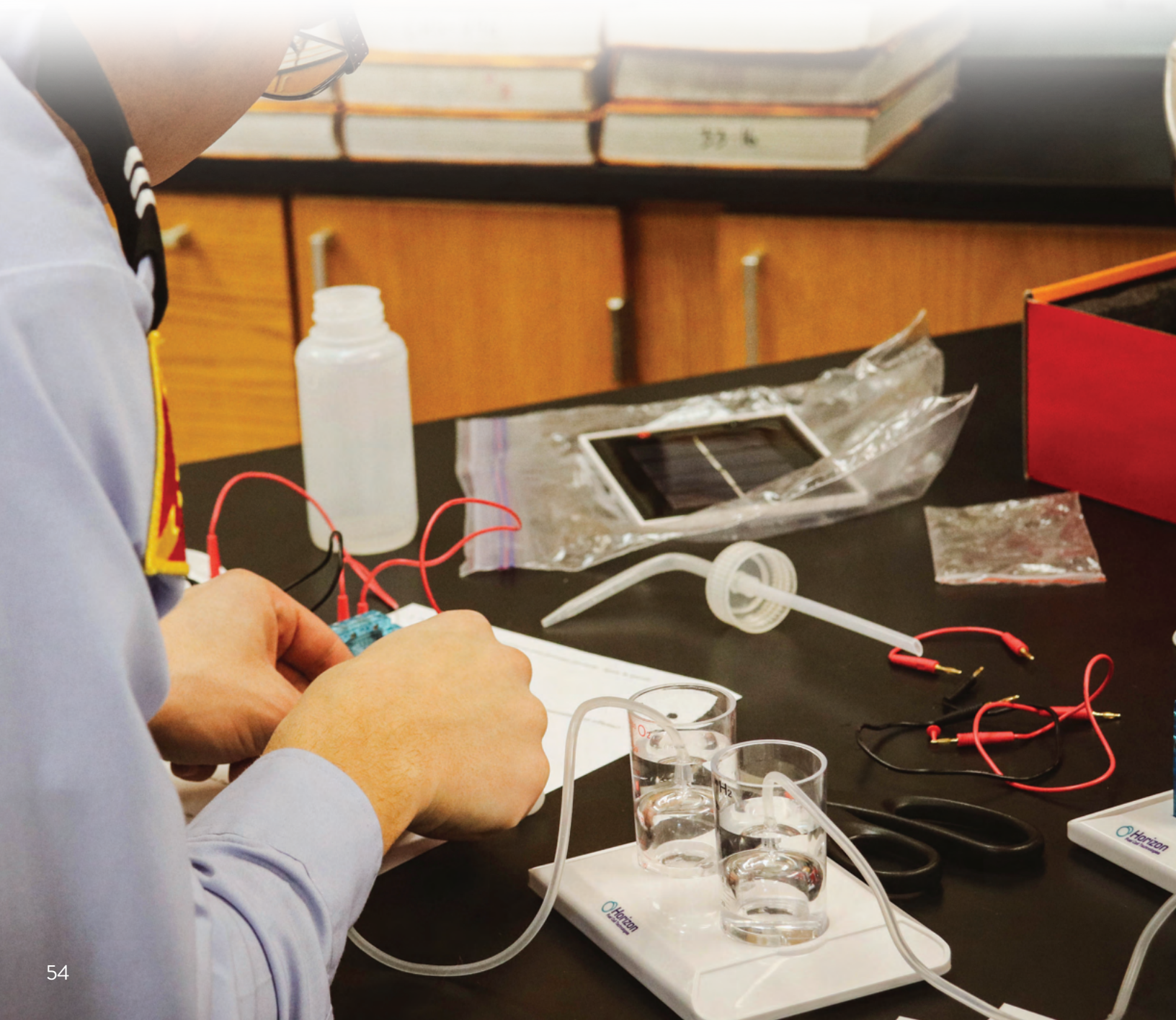
ENGINEERING CAPSTONE – Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Calculus I or higher Math course.

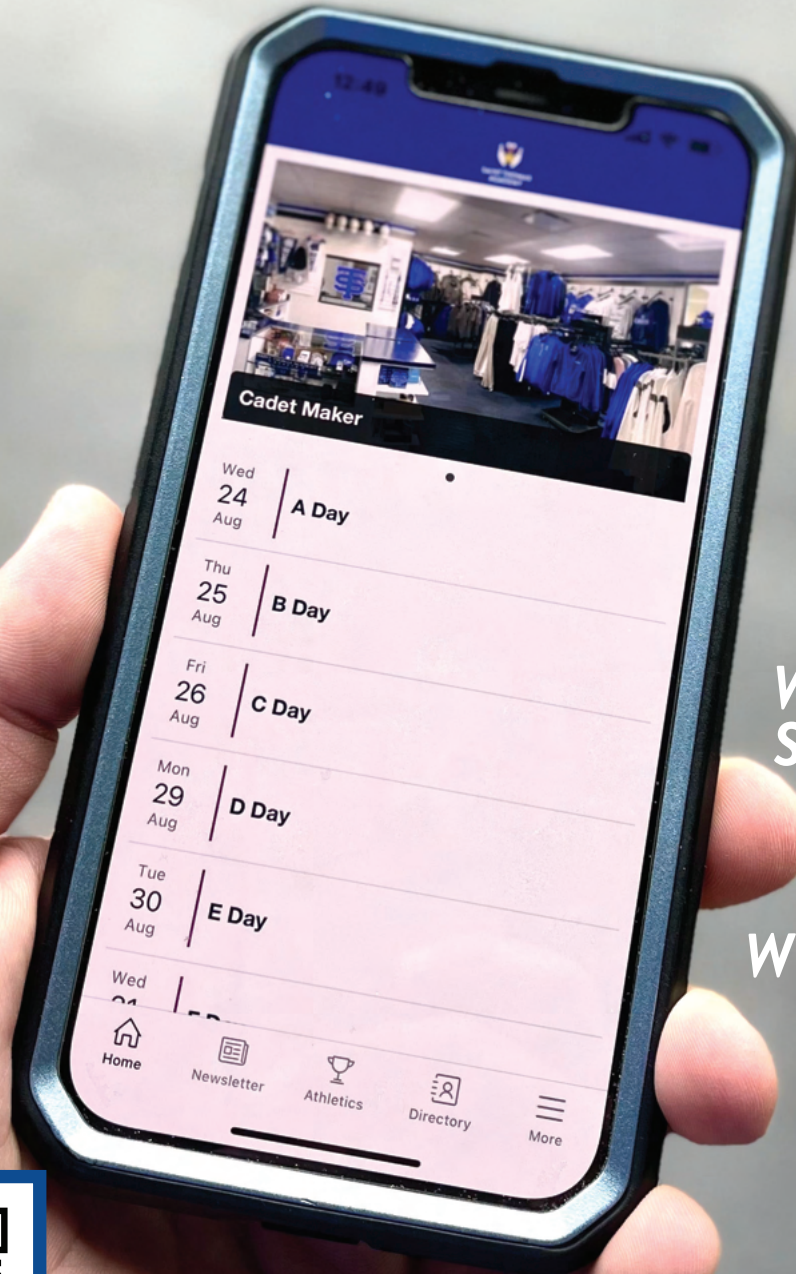
Class notes: Semester-based elective, and may not be used to fulfill the Science Department's core requirements.

This course provides students the opportunity to use the Engineering Cycle to research, design, create and test a project of their choosing. Students will be paired with outside mentors as needed. The course provides an overview of basic engineering skills, lab safety, use of equipment, and computer aided design software. Students will be evaluated by a mid-semester review and an end-of semester presentation of their working prototype/project. This course is recommended for highly motivated students who can work independently.



SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY APP

ALL THINGS STA AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!



**WHAT'S FOR
LUNCH?**

**WHO HAS THEIR
SENIOR SPEECH
TODAY?**

**WHAT ROTATION
DAY IS IT?**



ANDROID



IPHONE 55



SOCIAL STUDIES

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT = 8 SEMESTERS (4 YEARS) AND SENIOR SPEECH

CORE

9

Civics: US
AND
Global Perspectives-
A World of Ideas

10

AP World History
or two of the following:

The Ancient World
(3000 BCE to 476 CE)

World of Empires
(330 CE to 1453 CE)

The Making of the
Modern World

Modern Era Since 1900

11

U.S. History
OR
Honors American Studies:
History
OR
AP U.S. History

12

Senior Speech and two of the
following:
• AP Microeconomics
• AP Macroeconomics
• AP US Government & Politics
• AP Comparative Government
OR
Economics and one of the
following:
• Psychology
• AP Psychology
• Sociology
• Current Events
• Arguing with Purpose:
Model UN

ELECTIVE

9	10	11	12
<p>The Irish Experience: The History and Culture of Ireland</p>	<p>AP Human Geography</p> <p>Arguing with Purpose: Model UN</p> <p>Crime & Justice</p> <p>Farm to Feast: History of Food in America</p> <p>The Irish Experience: The History and Culture of Ireland</p> <p>SELL IT! An Introduction to Marketing</p> <p>The Second World War</p> <p>Any of the world history courses beyond the core requirement.</p>	<p>AP Human Geography</p> <p>AP Psychology</p> <p>Arguing with Purpose: Model UN</p> <p>Boxing, Race & American Culture</p> <p>Crime & Justice</p> <p>Current Events</p> <p>Farm to Feast: History of Food in America</p> <p>Introduction to Futurism</p> <p>The Irish Experience: The History and Culture of Ireland</p> <p>Psychology</p> <p>SELL IT! An Introduction to Marketing</p> <p>The Second World War</p> <p>Sociology</p> <p>Any of the world history courses beyond the core requirement.</p>	<p>AP Human Geography</p> <p>AP Psychology</p> <p>Boxing, Race & American Culture</p> <p>Crime & Justice</p> <p>Current Events</p> <p>Farm to Feast: History of Food in America</p> <p>Introduction to Futurism</p> <p>The Irish Experience: The History and Culture of Ireland</p> <p>Personal Finance & Stock Market Investing (Cadet Fund)</p> <p>Psychology</p> <p>SELL IT! An Introduction to Marketing</p> <p>The Second World War</p> <p>Sociology</p> <p>Any of the world history courses beyond the core requirement.</p>

SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAMMATIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Social Studies Department at Saint Thomas Academy provides a challenging learning environment that promotes academic excellence and recognizes the unique abilities of each student. The Social Studies Department expects each student to:

- Develop the ability to connect the past and the present by applying methods of historical research and to use a variety of sources to demonstrate caused relationships in history.
- Acquire geographical skills and to understand and apply the main themes of geographic analysis.
- Acquire economic literacy and apply it to U.S. and world economic institutions in order to be an effective citizen and to enhance personal economic decision-making.
- Acquire political literacy in order to be able to participate effectively in the U.S. democratic process.
- Be able to evaluate controversial issues and apply this knowledge through debates and other methods of presentation (written, verbal, multimedia).
- Develop a multicultural awareness and sensitivity, recognizing that judgments about people of different cultures are usually shaped and influenced by the standards and values of the culture in which one lives.
- Develop the competency to acquire, organize, evaluate, and report information for the purposes of solving problems and clarifying issues.

SOCIAL STUDIES CORE REQUIREMENTS

CIVICS: UNITED STATES - Grade Level: 9

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: Students take this required one-semester in the semester opposite Global Perspectives. Satisfactory completion of this course fulfills partially the freshman Social Studies graduation requirement.

This course will serve as an introduction to the high school social studies experience. The class will focus on Civics but will also explore elements of other disciplines within social studies. Topics and skills covered will include application of the Constitution and democratic principles in our past and current political climate, the role of federal, state, and local governments, discussion of important social issues, current events in historical context, critical thinking, and media literacy.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES: A WORLD OF IDEAS - Grade Level: 9

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: Students take this required one-semester course in the semester opposite of Civics: United States. Satisfactory completion of this course fulfills partially the freshman Social Studies graduation requirement.

This course will build on the Civics: United States course and examine the interconnections between nations. The class will examine different government types, economic systems, and religions in an effort to understand differences and similarities that create conflict and cooperation. Students will study patterns of migration, population, and industrialization as well as global environmental topics to create a framework for a fundamental understanding of what it means to be a U.S. citizen within a broader global context.

AP WORLD HISTORY - Grade Level: 10

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): 3.5 cumulative GPA or recommendation by 9th grade Civics instructor.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills the sophomore Social Studies graduation requirement. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

AP World History is a challenging college-level course that requires students to achieve mastery of the broad historical developments that punctuated and drove the march of history from around the year 1200 CE to the present. In order to achieve mastery, students must be prepared to read and write extensively about world history and acquire and internalize knowledge of historical concepts, events, and movements. They will also analyze the roles of individual men and women who played significant roles in shaping global history during the last eight hundred years.

SOPHOMORE CHOICE-BASED SOCIAL STUDIES CORE COURSES

Students who successfully complete two of the following semester-based Social Studies core courses fulfill their sophomore Social Studies graduation requirement. Juniors and Seniors may take these courses as an elective.

THE ANCIENT WORLD (3000 BCE to 476 CE) - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Civics: US and Global Perspectives.

Class notes: This is a semester-based course offered in the fall and may be used to fulfill partially the sophomore Social Studies graduation requirement.

This course will explore why and where early civilizations developed, compare their political and economic systems, and examine the cultural, religious, and technological advances of ancient civilizations. Ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Persia, Greece, Rome, India and China will be covered. Topics include the rise of cities and empires, cultural and social structures, the evolution of technology, the development of communication, the importance of agriculture, the evolving conduct of warfare, and the emergence of intellectual and religious thought. Students will examine important themes and trends that affected more than one civilization and provide a crucial overview of cultures and meetings between Cultures.

WORLD OF EMPIRES (330 CE to 1453 CE) - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Civics: US and Global Perspectives.

Class notes: This is a semester-based course offered in the spring and may be used to fulfill partially the sophomore Social Studies graduation requirement.

This course will study world history during the rise and fall of the Byzantine Empire. We will cover the Islamic world, the Byzantine Empire, Medieval Europe, China, Africa, the Mongols, India and the Americas. Students will use primary historical sources to explore how power shifted, trade expanded, technology developed, economies grew, empires rose and fell and ordinary people lived around the world during this important period in history.

THE MAKING OF THE MODERN WORLD - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Civics: US and Global Perspectives.

Class notes: This is a semester-based course offered in the fall and may be used to fulfill partially the sophomore Social Studies graduation requirement.

This course will study World History from the Age of Discovery (about 1450) to the start of the 20th Century. The Reformation, the Age of Discovery, the transatlantic slave trade, the rise of absolute monarchs, the “Gunpowder Empires,” the Enlightenment, the Atlantic revolutions, the Industrial revolution and imperialism will be covered. Students will use primary historical sources to illustrate the advances in art, science and technology and the debates over rights, liberties, and the role of government.

MODERN ERA SINCE 1900 - Grade Level: 10-12**Weight: 1.0****Prerequisite(s):** Civics: US and Global Perspectives.**Class notes:** This is a semester-based course offered in the spring and may be used to fulfill partially the sophomore Social Studies graduation requirement.

This course will survey the great events of the 20th and 21st centuries from a variety of perspectives, considering how nationalism, race, power and privilege influence the way we see and describe the past. Topics will include World War I, the rise of communist nations, global depressions, World War II, the Cold War, and the rise of globalism. Students will use primary historical sources, including audio and visual recordings, to draw conclusions about the consequences of wars, changing borders, developing technologies and economic exchanges.

UNITED STATES HISTORY - Grade Level: 11**Weight: 1.0****Prerequisite(s):** Civics: US and Global Perspectives.**Class notes:** This two-semester course fulfills the junior Social Studies graduation requirement.

U.S. History is a two-semester survey course beginning with the pre-Revolutionary period and ending with the Reagan era. Students will explore the forces and individuals that played key roles in the development of the U.S. and examine the causes of the main events in American history.

HONORS AMERICAN STUDIES: HISTORY - Grade Level: 11**Weight: 1.1****Prerequisite(s):** AP World History with a grade of B+ or higher and instructor approval.**Corequisite(s):** Honors American Studies: English; Mixed Media (Fine Arts).**Class notes:** This course is part of an interdisciplinary triad marrying three two-semester courses across three disciplines: Honors American Studies: English (English); Honors American Studies: History (Social Studies); Mixed Media (Fine Arts). Taken together, these courses may be used to satisfy the following graduation requirements: the junior English requirement, the junior Social Studies graduation requirement, and the Fine Arts requirement. The Fine Arts component is embedded and therefore does not take the spot of an additional elective. In rare cases, rising sophomores with a CogAT verbal score of 115 or higher; solid A grades for the Quarter 1, Quarter 2, and Semester 1 Exam periods; and the recommendation of their 9th grade English teacher may be considered for this course. Recommended rising sophomores must sit for and excel on a timed writing sample and pass an interview with the Honors American Studies: History teacher.

Bob Dylan, Maya Lin, Louis Armstrong, Jackie Robinson, Joe Louis, Dr. Seuss, Aretha Franklin. Writers, artists, musicians, and athletes have been just as important to shaping America as politicians and business owners. American Studies connects important movements and events in American history with literature, art, and popular culture. Instructors place emphasis on critical thinking, encouraging students to see connections within and between eras in American history. Art history and the creation of art projects are an important part of the course. All three strands of the class—English, History, and Art—will focus on four major themes of American culture: liberty, mobility, prosperity, and security. The history component of American Studies: History will focus on key events and social movements such as the War for Independence, the Civil War, the wars of the 20th century from an American point of view, the reform movements of the 19th and 20th centuries, and the Civil Rights movements of the 20th century. We will examine how these major events and day-to-day life inspired works of art and literature. Reading assignments will focus on primary sources from each era.

AP UNITED STATES HISTORY - Grade Level: 11

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): 3.5 cumulative GPA or sophomore instructor approval.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills the junior Social Studies graduation requirement. AP U.S. History will require approximately 5-7 hours per week of reading and homework, with somewhat more required when preparing for major tests and projects. This course is equivalent to St. Louis University's HIST 1600, History of the United States of America to 1865 and HIST 1610, History of the United States since 1865. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

This course is a college-level survey of U.S. History. Students will combine secondary texts and primary sources to analyze the cause and effect relationships between people, events, and circumstances from the era of colonization to the present.

AP ECONOMICS (MICRO) - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): 3.6 cumulative GPA or instructor approval.

Class notes: This semester-based course may be used to partially fulfill the senior Social Studies graduation requirement. This course is equivalent to Saint Mary's University's EC261 Principles of Microeconomics. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam. This course is a college-level introduction to microeconomics.

Topics include supply and demand, production and market structure, and factor markets. Students must be responsible for knowing the lecture material and be able to work on the material about 2 hours outside of class time per week.

AP ECONOMICS (MACRO) - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): 3.6 cumulative GPA or instructor approval.

Class notes: This semester-based course may be used to partially fulfill the senior Social Studies graduation requirement. This course is equivalent to Saint Mary's University's EC262 Principles of Macroeconomics. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

This course is a college-level introduction to macroeconomics. Topics include inflation, unemployment, taxation, and money supply. Students must be responsible for knowing the lecture material and be able to work on the material about 2 hours outside of class time per week.

AP U.S. GOVERNMENT & POLITICS - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): 3.5 cumulative GPA or junior instructor approval.

Class notes: This semester-based course may be used to fulfill partially the senior Social Studies graduation requirement. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

This course provides a college-level introduction to political theory and political science. Units include: Foundations of American Democracy, Interactions Among Branches of Government, Civil Liberties and Civil Rights, American Political Ideologies and Beliefs, and Political Participation. Special projects focus on lawmaking, major court cases, and political action. AP Government will require approximately 3 hours per week of reading and homework, with somewhat more required when preparing for major tests and projects.

AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT & POLITICS – Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): 3.5 cumulative GPA or junior instructor approval.

Class notes: This semester-based course may be used to fulfill partially the senior Social Studies graduation requirement. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

AP Comparative Government and Politics introduces students to the rich diversity of political life outside the United States. The course uses a comparative approach to examine the political structures; policies; and political, economic, and social challenges of six selected countries: China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom. Students will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments.

SENIOR SPEECH INDEPENDENT STUDY - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 0.5

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This is an independent study course, fulfilling the Senior Speech graduation requirement. All seniors are automatically registered for this course.

The Senior Speech Independent Study prepares students to present their senior speech. Students will work with their advisor and the senior speech advisor to select a topic, draft and revise their speech, and practice it prior to presenting it at Formation.

ECONOMICS - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This is a semester-based course and may be used to fulfill partially the senior Social Studies graduation requirement. It is required of all seniors who are not enrolled in AP Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, U.S. Government & Politics, and/or Comparative Government & Politics.

This course is designed to introduce the principles of economics for students who are not in AP Economics. Topics covered will include supply and demand, behavior of households and businesses, competition and monopoly, inflation, unemployment, government regulation of the economy and the components of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

ARGUING WITH PURPOSE: MODEL UN - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This is a semester-based course open to all Upper School students that may be used to fulfill a semester of the senior social studies core requirement. It is an elective for freshmen, sophomores and juniors. Participation in Model UN is a requirement of the course.

Winning an argument requires more than simply being louder than your opponents. It requires understanding, preparation, and skill. Students in this course will master these as they participate in both interscholastic debate and Model UN. Students will research for debates on important issues of world politics today as well as the enduring morel questions. Participation Model UN is requirement for successful completion of the course. Students are not required to enroll in this course to be on the Model UN team, but this will serve as an important practice time.

PSYCHOLOGY - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This is a semester-based course and may be used to fulfill partially the Social Studies graduation requirement.

This course is an in-depth study of the processes involved in the operation of the human mind and emotions. The areas of study include the development of cognitive processes, theories of personalities and human development, sensation and perception, emotions and motivation, and psychological disorders.

AP PSYCHOLOGY - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): Satisfactory completion either of Biology or Honors Biology and either Chemistry or Honors Chemistry. 3.4 GPA with instructor approval.

Class notes: This two-semester course may be used in partial fulfillment of the Social Studies graduation requirement. To satisfy the graduation requirement, students who complete AP Psychology must complete an additional semester-based or two-semester senior core course. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

This course explores the ideas, theories, and methods of the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Students examine the concepts of psychology through reading and discussion, and analyze data from psychological research studies.

SOCIOLOGY - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This is a semester-based course and may be used to fulfill partially the Social Studies graduation requirement.

Sociology is the scientific study of society, which focuses on the social interactions of people in today's diverse world. It provides students with a comprehensive study of the basic concepts, principles, and practices of sociology. This course helps students gain a new understanding of human behavior and cultural relationships that apply in everyday life. Looking at the world through the sociologist's point of view can be an exciting adventure.

CURRENT EVENTS - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): AP World History or two sophomore choice-based social studies core courses.

Class notes: This is a semester-based course and may be used to fulfill partially the Social Studies graduation requirement.

Current Events is a student-driven media literacy course with a fluid, spontaneous subject matter. The curriculum will be determined by the events that are happening at any given time in the broader world. The class will be able to quickly pivot its focus in real time as world events happen – no two course offerings will be the same. These raw, communal explorations of topics of immediate interest also serve as vehicles for students to develop stronger reading, writing, presentation, and leadership skills. This is a class designed for the student who likes to explore on their own and make connections across subject matters.

SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES

THE IRISH EXPERIENCE:

THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF IRELAND - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This is a semester-based elective course and cannot be used to fulfill the Social Studies graduation requirement.

This course explores the influential history and culture of Ireland. Through song, literature, film and historical sources, students explore the tumultuous history of this remarkable land and learn how its unshakable people endured centuries of struggle with determination, wisdom and wit. From the conversion of the Irish by St. Patrick through its occupation by the English to the devastating Potato Famine and the decades of conflict that followed Irish independence, this course will be a 1500-year journey traversing this unique land.

FROM FARM TO FEAST:

THE HISTORY OF FOOD IN AMERICA – Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This is a semester-based elective course and cannot be used to fulfill the Social Studies graduation requirement.

This course will examine how the ways Americans produce, market, and consume food has interacted with changes in American society. Class activities and student projects will investigate changes in farming, the development of restaurant culture, the expansion of ethnic cuisines, and the way food and eating is advertised. Students will be encouraged to evaluate their own experiences in the broader context of American food culture.

INTRODUCTION TO FUTURISM - Grade Level 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: Semester-based elective. May not be used to fulfill the Social Studies graduation requirements.

Discover the skills and insights used by professional futurists to anticipate and shape the future. Adapted from the renowned Futures Studies program at the University of Houston, this engaging course introduces practical tools for navigating a rapidly changing and uncertain world. Students will explore three essential perspectives on the future: what is likely to happen, what could happen instead, and what they want to happen. Through dynamic in-class activities and reflective exercises, learners will develop critical and creative thinking skills, culminating in a student-led public project on a future-focused topic of their choice. Futures Wise equips students to envision possibilities, challenge assumptions, and take charge of their futures with confidence and purpose.

SELL IT! AN INTRODUCTION TO MARKETING – Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This is a semester-based elective course and cannot be used to fulfill the Social Studies graduation requirement.

This course will cover a range of topics related to business but will emphasize marketing. Students will research and complete a marketing plan and will use Microsoft Excel and PowerPoint to present their proposal. Guests with expertise will present to the class. Students will improve their computer graphics skills during the creation of marketing promotions.

THE SECOND WORLD WAR – Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This is a semester-based elective course and cannot be used to fulfill the Social Studies graduation requirement.

The course is structured as a hybrid seminar designed to explore World War II from a wide variety of perspectives. Students will be asked to participate in discussions, interactive simulations, and even gaming to develop knowledge and understanding of the war's origins and impact from both theaters of the conflict. Students will also have input on the types of activities and topics to be investigated. Development of college level thinking skills is a core component to the class.

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY – Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): 3.5 cumulative GPA and/or recommendation by the previous Social Studies instructor.

Class notes: This is a two-semester elective course and cannot be used to fulfill the Social Studies graduation requirement. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

AP Human Geography introduces students to the spatial world around them as well as and its influences on human interaction and the environment, introducing students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice.

BOXING, RACE, AND THE UNITED STATES - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This is a semester-based elective course and cannot be used to fulfill the Social Studies graduation requirement.

This course will use sport, with a particular emphasis on boxing, to explore into the challenging issues of race and diversity in the United States, history, and culture. Students will be expected to participate in the discussion of critical and controversial issues with an open mind, while also learning the art of boxing in an environment that meets the participant's level of comfort. The end goal of the course is threefold: to establish cultural awareness, to build student confidence in discussing difficult issues such as race in our history, and to learn how to box without looking like a newborn giraffe.

CRIME & JUSTICE - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This is a semester-based elective course and cannot be used to fulfill the Social Studies graduation requirement.

This course is designed for students who are considering majoring in sociology, behavioral science, social work, political science, or law enforcement. Students discuss crime and justice from a Catholic perspective. Topics include Catholic Social Doctrine, drug and alcohol abuse, racial profiling, prison reform, prison ministry, the history of crime and punishment in the modern age, mercy and forgiveness, victim's rights, crime scene investigation, interrogation techniques and crime trends and statistics. The course utilizes community experts on various topics and includes several field experiences.

PERSONAL FINANCE

& STOCK MARKET INVESTING (Cadet Fund) - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This is a semester-based elective course and cannot be used to fulfill the Social Studies graduation requirement.

Students will learn the basics of personal finance and investing and manage a real stock market portfolio. Students will use Microsoft Excel to complete these tasks and will use additional programs to lay out their information and findings. Professional experts on this topic will present to the class. As a capstone, students will prepare for and participate in the state competition sponsored by the MCEE, the Finance Decathlon.



THEOLOGY

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT = 8 SEMESTERS (4 YEARS)
OF COURSEWORK AND 70 HOURS OF SERVICE*

** Transfer students meet the Theology core requirement as long as they maintain continuous enrollment and successful completion of Theology.*

	9	10	11	12
CORE	Scripture	Morality & Church History	World Religions & God Talk	Senior Service Project And Advanced Morality Or Campus Ministry Or Honors Advanced Morality
	Seven Catholic Saints	Seven Catholic Saints	Seven Catholic Saints	Seven Catholic Saints
ELECTIVE	An Experience of The Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius	An Experience of The Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius The Great Movies: Defending Our Catholic Faith in the Modern World	An Experience of The Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius The Great Movies: Defending Our Catholic Faith in the Modern World The Confessions of St. Augustine	An Experience of The Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius The Great Movies: Defending Our Catholic Faith in the Modern World The Confessions of St. Augustine

THEOLOGY PROGRAMMATIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

The mission of Saint Thomas Academy is to create Christian leaders. The Theology Department is an integral element in this educational process. By stressing the moral dimension of leadership, we strive to help young men be capable, just, compassionate, and forthright citizens. In assisting students in their faith formation, we seek to develop a spirituality which encourages young men to desire personal holiness as well as to become servant leaders who welcome and care for each other.

It is our hope that each student will come to know the mystery of God's abiding presence and the depth of God's love for all. Our goal is to develop educated and informed Catholics who seek to be knowledgeable in their faith, who are willing to embrace the challenges of Christianity in the new millennium, and who are ready to work for the Church's social mission and justice and peace. The student will:

- Demonstrate basic Biblical interpretation skills, reverence, and appreciation of Sacred Scripture.
- Understand the basic teachings of the Church as articulated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (i.e. sacraments, creed, Ten Commandments, beatitudes, virtues, precepts of the Church, etc.)
- Understand their obligation to act morally as responsible Christians with well-informed and formed consciences.
- Have a basic understanding and appreciation of the history and theology of the Church, diversity of religious traditions, and of contemporary spiritual leaders.
- Understand liturgy and prayer and their movement towards service.
- Explore Christ's invitation to discipleship and personal holiness by exploring those lifestyles compatible with the Christian vocation.
- Know the key principles of Catholic social teaching, especially principles regarding respect for life and sexual morality.
- Develop reflective, critical thinking skills; moral, creative imaging skills and prayer and dialogical skills which allow the students to research and identify, assess, evaluate, discern, judge, and determine action considering Gospel values and Church teaching.

THEOLOGY CORE REQUIREMENTS

SCRIPTURE- Grade Level: 9

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills the freshmen Theology core requirement.

This survey course imparts a knowledge and love of Scripture. Students study the nature of Divine Revelation and learn how to appreciate the complex development of Scripture as it was passed down through oral tradition, set in written text, and made part of the canon. In keeping with Catholic tradition, students learn basic literary, structural, and historical methodological skills for Biblical interpretation. Students learn how to examine and clarify the meaning of Scripture; they also are encouraged to hear, in their reading of Scripture, the living word of God and reflectively seek to understand how God's word applies to their daily lives. This course also fosters students' moral and spiritual growth through the study of religious and spiritual leaders, examining how they responded in faith to contemporary issues and problems of their day. This course devotes itself to a study of the Old Testament in the first semester and the New Testament in the second Semester.

MORALITY - Grade Level: 10

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This one-semester course partially fulfills the sophomore Theology core requirement.

This Fall semester course covers the fundamentals of Christian morality. Students study the concepts of objective and subjective truth, conscience formation, sin and grace, legal and moral authority, the Ten Commandments, the moral precepts of the Church, sexual morality and the Gospel call to justice and peace.

CHURCH HISTORY - Grade Level: 10

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This one-semester course partially fulfills the sophomore Theology core requirement.

During the Spring semester, students complete a historical survey of the Catholic Church's history, starting at Pentecost. The course covers the development of the early Christian community, the formation of the creeds, Church councils, evolution of worship, evangelism, and major historical events in Church history, including the Reformation period, Vatican II, and the contemporary Church.

WORLD RELIGIONS- Grade Level: 11**Weight: 1.0****Prerequisite(s):** None.**Class notes:** This one-semester course partially fulfills the junior Theology core requirement. This course is equivalent to St. Louis University's THEO 2710 Religions of the World.

During the Fall semester, students learn about the seven dimensions of religion that are common to all religions. This course is an introduction to the study of religion that prepares students to better understand religion and religious lives through entanglements of global movements and personal identities. It attends to religious literacy and critique through studies of histories, teachings, and practices, as well as the cultural and social contexts of religion. Topics of inquiry include indigenous traditions, Hinduism, Sikhi, Buddhism, Jainism, Confucianism, Daoism, Shintoism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and African diasporic religions. Students acquire a general understanding and respect for each religion studied and the people who practice it, along with presenting perspectives by which to understand and appreciate one's own religion more fully.

GOD TALK - Grade Level: 11**Weight: 1.0****Prerequisite(s):** None.**Class notes:** This one-semester course partially fulfills the junior Theology core requirement. This course is equivalent to St. Louis University's THEO 1600 God Talk.

This Spring semester course centers around the genre of historical and autobiographical narrative as a way of getting at the ultimate questions at the heart of theology and religion. In dialogue with Jewish and Christian scripture, as well as classic and contemporary spiritual autobiographies written from within the Christian tradition and beyond, students will wrestle with the nature of faith; the nature, existence, and personhood of God; the nature and the ends of creation and human life; evil and salvation; and other matters of ultimate concern. Through the medium of narrative, this course aims to stimulate engagement with and reflection on the kinds of questions that matter most to the arc of a human life. Study of the seven sacraments will help students learn of God's abiding presence in the human person and the invitation to grow morally and spiritually.

SENIOR ADVANCED MORALITY CORE CHOICE COURSES

To graduate, students must successfully complete one of the following Advanced Morality courses.

ADVANCED MORALITY - Grade Level: 12**Weight: 1.0****Prerequisite(s):** None.**Class notes:** This two-semester course may be used to fulfill the senior Theology core requirement.

This seminar course will challenge students to study theology and justice at a deeper level. This course includes class presentations. Students will reflect on the life and teachings of Jesus and on the tradition of the Church in learning about and discussing a wide variety of current moral issues such as sexuality, medical ethics, abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia, poverty, and discrimination. Participation will be required and graded, and emphasis will be on the discussion of these issues.

CAMPUS MINISTRY - Grade Level: 12**Weight: 1.0****Prerequisite(s):** Instructor approval based on application and interview.**Class notes:** This two-semester course may be used to fulfill the senior Theology core requirement. It also satisfies one of the Public Service Pathway elective requirements.

Campus Ministry connects academic learning with real-life application of Catholic values and principles. Grounded in the theological exploration of the social justice issues that each person must confront in daily living, this one-year course is a hands-on experience with an academic examination of the Catholic Church's teachings on social morality. The Campus Ministers are responsible for planning and implementing the Academy's outreach efforts to the poor, the vulnerable, the

“at-risk,” the immigrant, and all those who live on the margins of society. Additionally, the Campus Ministers help shape the spiritual character and identity of Saint Thomas Academy by planning and leading all Middle School retreats offered to our students, planning, and helping to lead our various prayer services and Masses and creating special liturgies for pivotal times in the school year.

HONORS ADVANCED MORALITY - Grade Level: 12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): At least a 3.0 cumulative GPA with at least a 3.3 GPA in Theology coursework and instructor approval.

Class notes: This two-semester course may be used to fulfill the senior Theology core requirement. This course is equivalent to Saint Mary’s University’s TH260 Foundations in Catholic Theology.

Students have the option of earning college credit (3 cr.) through the Saint Mary’s University (MN) P.A.C.C. program, where Advanced Morality Honors is equivalent to TH260 Foundations in Catholic Theology. This seminar course will challenge students to study theology and justice at a deeper level. Advanced Morality is an honors course taught at the college level. Post-secondary credit is offered through St. Mary’s University with 3 college credits earned through P.A.C.C. (Program for Advanced College Credit), and course expectations will reflect this standard. This course includes class presentations. Students will reflect on the life and teachings of Jesus and on the tradition of the Church in learning about and discussing a wide variety of current moral issues such as sexuality, medical ethics, abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia, poverty, and discrimination. Participation will be required and graded, a paper will be required, and emphasis will be on the discussion of these issues.

SENIOR SERVICE HOUR GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

Saint Thomas Academy invites students to cultivate a vital and relevant spirituality through service, reflection, and prayer. The school’s goal is to empower students by encouraging them to become servant-leaders who respect others and work for justice and peace. Since this dimension of a student’s development is an integral part of its mission, the Academy has a graduation requirement of 70 service hours, 40 of which are completed outside of school. The remaining 30 hours are completed during the final week of a student’s senior year, when they are placed in one of thirty religious, educational, health, or social service agencies.

THEOLOGY ELECTIVES

AN EXPERIENCE OF THE

SPIRITUAL EXERCISES OF SAINT IGNATIUS – Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This semester-based elective cannot be used to fulfill the Theology core requirements.

Would you enjoy some spiritual rest and meditation during the school day? This course will provide a way for the student to experience an Ignatian retreat. Within that retreat the student can expect to learn how to pray the Examen of Conscience and to use that examen to enrich their own spiritual lives. The student can expect to move through the weeks of the spiritual exercises, experiencing the love of God as well as our own sinfulness. We will pray with the life of Jesus and get to know Christ better through this and through walking through his passion and resurrection as well. Throughout this retreat we will learn how to use contemplative prayer and meditation and use them to help us in our relationship with God. There is an expectation that students will spend time each day in prayer and that they will journal about those prayer experiences. The student will be expected to share about their prayer experiences within the group.

THE CONFESSIONS OF ST. AUGUSTINE - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This semester-based elective cannot be used to fulfill the Theology core requirements.

Universally hailed as a groundbreaking masterpiece, St. Augustine's Confessions is among the most beloved classics of Christian literature. At once autobiography and spiritual odyssey, philosophical primer and theological treatise, ardent meditation and poignant prayer, the Bishop of Hippo's narrative is a wide-ranging exploration of some of the greatest questions of human existence. In this course, students will gain appreciation for Augustine's captivating prose, while exploring the many philosophical & theological themes found therein—such as the doctrine of creation, the mystery of evil, the Good News of redemption in Christ and the wonder of being created in the Image of God.

SEVEN CATHOLIC SAINTS – Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This semester-based elective cannot be used to fulfill the Theology core requirements.

This course focuses on students developing their knowledge and understanding of the lives and work of 7 of the “heavy hitters” of Catholic Saints (St. Athanasius, St. Augustine of Hippo, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Therese of Lisieux, Thomas A Kempis, St. Theresa of Calcutta, and St. John Paul II). This course will deepen the understanding of the Catholic faith for Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Forms of learning will primarily include reading, writing about and discussing how young men can live in imitation of these absolute beauties as they proceed in life. Topics will include, but not limited to: Hagiography, The Liturgical Year, Mariology, Vocations, Methods of Prayer, and Virtues.

THE GREAT MOVIES: DEFENDING OUR

CATHOLIC FAITH IN THE MODERN WORLD – Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This semester-based elective cannot be used to fulfill the Theology core requirements.

The Matrix (1999), Minority Report (2002), Ex-Machina (2014). These are the great movies of our era. These are some of the movies we will be watching in this course. In our modern world you encounter radically different ideas about the world—how it works, what its source is, what's possible in it, what it means to be human, what its purpose is, etc. In this course we are going to look at the movies that have shaped the cultural mind of our world today and analyze them through the lens of what they presuppose about the dignity of the human person and the things we can (or ought) to place our hope in. They all reject the notion that we, as humans, are made to the image and likeness of God. And they all say something about what we ought to put our hope in (or not put our hope in) in this life, and it's not God. We will watch these great movies, reflect on them, appreciate them, pick them apart, and have discussions about them in reference to what the Catholic faith teaches about the dignity of the human person and the theology of hope. The mission of this course is to build students equipped to fight valiantly for Christ and our Catholic church in the modern world.





WORLD LANGUAGE

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT = 3 YEARS AND
SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A LEVEL III LANGUAGE

CORE
NEEDS INSTRUCTOR APPROVAL
AND PLACEMENT TESTING FOR LEVELS II AND HIGHER

ELECTIVE

9

Chinese I-II
Or
French I-III
Or
Spanish I-III
Or
Latin I

10

Chinese I-IV
Or
Honors Chinese IV
Or
French I-V
Or
Honors French IV-V
Or
Spanish I-V
Or
Honors Spanish IV-V
Or
Latin II
Or
Latin III

11

Chinese I-IV
Or
Honors Chinese IV
Or
AP Chinese Language &
Culture
Or
French I-V
Or
Honors French IV-V
Or
Spanish I-V
Or
Honors Spanish IV-V
Or
AP Spanish Language &
Culture
Or
AP Spanish Literature &
Culture
Or
Latin II
Or
Latin III

12

Chinese I-IV
Or
Honors Chinese IV
Or
AP Chinese Language &
Culture
Or
French I-V
Or
Honors French IV-V
Or
Spanish I-V
Or
Honors Spanish IV-V
Or
AP Spanish Language &
Culture
Or
AP Spanish Literature &
Culture
Or
Latin III

Beginning Classical
Greek

Beginning Classical
Greek

Beginning Classical
Greek

The Rhetoric of Leadership

The Rhetoric of Leadership

The World Language program provides a multi-lingual, multicultural learning environment and an excellent curriculum in Chinese, French, Latin, and Spanish help our students to become 21st-century learners and global citizens. The students build up their language skills in the classroom and have the opportunity to communicate with the global community through our well-developed technology resources.

The globalization of our world puts culture at the heart of our curriculum. Diversity and Global Citizenship are integrated into our classes.

In World Language Studies, the Advanced Placement course is the culminating course at Saint Thomas Academy.

Note: Exam scores, satisfactory completion of a lower-level course, and placement tests determine placement. A student whose native language is other than English is encouraged to study another language in the World Language Department.

CHINESE

CHINESE I - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the core requirements of the World Languages.

Students learn to understand, speak, read, and write Mandarin Chinese. By the end of the year, students will be able to hold brief conversations about their families, friends, and daily life activities. Students will also become familiar with Chinese culture and history. This course is intended for students who have had little or no previous exposure to the Chinese language.

CHINESE II - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Chinese I or its equivalent or instructor permission.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the core requirements of the World Languages.

In Chinese II, students will continue to learn phonetic sounds and phonemic awareness using literature and skill-building activities. Students will expand their vocabulary and understanding of Chinese syntax and participate in activities designed to refine listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. In Chinese II, students will strengthen their understanding of Chinese culture through authentic Chinese songs, online reading materials, and projects.

CHINESE III - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Chinese II or its equivalent or instructor permission.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the core requirements of the World Languages.

This course continues the aims of Chinese II in emphasizing vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing, and conversation. Reading, writing, and speaking skills are intensified. Cultural studies include Chinese art, music, and holiday celebrations. Chinese poems are introduced.

CHINESE IV - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Chinese III or its equivalent or instructor permission.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the core requirements of the World Languages.

Chinese IV focuses on integrating the five skills of listening, speaking, reading, cultural competency, and writing. Students will use a rich vocabulary, accurate and more advanced grammar structures, and appropriate cultural understanding to demonstrate proficiency in all manners of communication. In this course, students will read from China's rich collection of folk stories and write compositions on a variety of topics. They will role-play and discuss current events in Use multimedia to further develop more complex listening comprehension and speaking skills in China.

HONORS CHINESE IV - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite(s): A grade of B or higher in Chinese III or its equivalent or instructor permission.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the core requirements of the World Languages.

This course is considered a Pre-Advanced Placement Language course. In addition to the standard Chinese IV coursework, the emphasis of this class is Chinese for literature and conversation. The students will read works of Chinese authors and continue to strengthen their skills in oral presentation and discussion on various topics. Composition and literature assignments will allow review of sentence structure and grammar and strengthen the student's Chinese writing skills.

AP CHINESE - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisite(s): With the instructor's permission, at least a B+ grade in Honors Chinese IV or Honors Chinese V.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the world language core requirements. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

This course is a continuation of Level 4. It aims to prepare students for the AP Chinese exam and focuses on improving speaking and writing on more abstract societal topics. This course aims to help students reach the ACTFL proficiency scale at the mid-advanced level. Students will gain a deeper understanding of Chinese culture and how it both shapes and is shaped by the world. This course comprises six thematic units that help students achieve higher language proficiency and gain more profound cultural knowledge. The six units are family and community; Chinese customs and celebrations; Chinese art and creativity; technology and its impact on daily life; contemporary life related to education, media, and travel; and global relationship with China.

FRENCH

FRENCH I - Grade Level: 9-10

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the core requirements of the World Languages.

French I is an introduction to the French language and culture. The fundamentals of French pronunciation, grammar, and culture are presented through a balanced development of all four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will be able to speak about themselves, their interests and hobbies, families, and homes. Culture will be presented through a Francophone country research project.

FRENCH II - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of French I or its equivalent or instructor permission.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the core requirements of the World Languages.

French II provides students with the opportunity to develop communication skills across the four modalities further: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will continue to develop their understanding of the Francophone culture through readings and projects. There is an increased emphasis on grammatical skills at this level.

FRENCH III - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of French II or its equivalent or instructor permission.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the core requirements of the World Languages.

In French III, students continue to develop a strong foundation for the study of language and culture. Students will continue to build and hone their speaking skills through continued grammar and vocabulary acquisition. Readings and

discussions about people, places, and traditions from the francophone world will help build cultural competence. Authentic short stories, poems, autobiographies, and legends will build and develop reading fluency.

FRENCH IV - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of French III or its equivalent or instructor permission.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the core requirements of the World Languages.

This course allows students to engage in conversation and comprehend another person's dialogue without much repetition. Topics go beyond basic needs, including personal and family affairs, current events, school, work, etc. Comprehension of past, present, and future events will be the focus of readings and presentations. Cultural competencies will continue to develop through authentic sources.

HONORS FRENCH IV - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite(s): A grade of B or higher in French III or its equivalent or instructor permission.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the core requirements of the World Languages.

This course is for those students who wish to continue to improve their skills in the French language. This course allows students to engage in conversation and comprehend another person's dialogue without much repetition. Topics go beyond basic needs, including personal and family affairs, current events, school, work, etc. Students can comprehend descriptions and narration referring to past, present, or future events.

FRENCH V - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of French IV or Honors French IV or an equivalent or instructor permission.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the core requirements of the World Languages.

Development of oral proficiency and classroom conversation are central to this course. This course will also engage students in reading comprehension to enhance topic-based discussions. Authentic texts are used to achieve this goal. Postsecondary preparation is part of this course.

HONORS FRENCH V - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite(s): A B or higher in Honors French IV or an equivalent or instructor permission.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the core requirements of the World Languages.

This course allows students to engage in conversation and comprehend another person's dialogue without much repetition. The curriculum will include current events that challenge the skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will learn to present opinions on the current event topics succinctly and effectively. Post-secondary preparation is part of this course.

LATIN

LATIN I - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the core requirements of the World Languages.

This course introduces the world and language of ancient Rome. Students will master the pronunciation, morphology (word formation), vocabulary (including English derivatives), and basic grammatical structure of Latin. The leading textbook for the course, Wheelock's Latin, will be supplemented with a range of readings about Roman history, culture, and mythology. Various written and oral assessments will culminate in a creative artifact project. Students will have the opportunity to take the National Latin Exam at the Latin I level.

LATIN II - Grade Level 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Latin I or Exploration of Classical Languages.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the core requirements of the World Languages.

This course is an intermediate Latin course. Students will build on the vocabulary and grammar of the first year of Latin and develop strategies for reading and translating original Roman literature. While they continue the lessons in Wheelock's Latin, students will delve more deeply into the history of Rome in the first centuries, when the republic fell apart and the empire began. Various written and oral assessments will include Latin prose composition and research on a specific historical figure. Students will have the opportunity to take the Latin II level of the National Latin Exam.

LATIN III - Grade Level 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Latin II or instructor approval.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the core requirements of the World Languages.

This course is a continuation of Latin II and is designed to prepare students for advanced-level Latin courses. Students will build on the vocabulary and grammar acquired in the first two years and strengthen their skills in translating original Roman literature. As we complete the lessons in Wheelock's Latin, students will read selections of Vergil's Aeneid and Caesar's Gallic Wars. Various written and oral assessments will include Latin prose composition, poetry recitation and independent study. Students will have the opportunity to take the Latin III level of the National Latin Exam.

SPANISH

SPANISH I - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the core requirements of the World Languages.

Introduces students to the culture and language of the Spanish-speaking world in five units. The students practice listening, speaking, reading, and writing meaningfully, effectively, and creatively using Spanish for real-life purposes. Students are also exposed to snapshots of culture in every lesson and compare and contrast cultures, customs, and languages. Students learn words or grammatical structures in context to see what they can do with the language and how well they can do it.

SPANISH II - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Spanish I (or its equivalent) with a grade of C or higher. Students earning below a C in Spanish I (or its equivalent) may satisfy the prerequisite with instructor approval or by scoring 85% or higher on the Spanish I proficiency exam.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the core requirements of the World Languages.

Begins with a thorough review of core Spanish I content. Students integrate context, and personal experience, combining products, perspectives, and practices. Through extended reading, writing, listening, speaking, and cultural exploration in scaffolded progression, students also communicate about contemporary topics such as health and nutrition, history, community, and fine art.

SPANISH III - Grade Level: 9-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Spanish II or its equivalent or instructor permission.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the core requirements of the World Languages.

Students continue to develop the linguistics skills initiated in previous Spanish courses. Students will extensively review previously discussed concepts and learn additional vocabulary sequences and advanced grammar, strengthening

the foundation in all four linguistics modes: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will also build cultural competence through regular exploration of the Spanish-speaking world.

SPANISH IV - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Spanish III or its equivalent or instructor permission.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the core requirements of the World Languages.

This course reviews and expands upon the content from the first three courses as students go on to master more advanced skills. Transports students on exciting journeys through the diverse Spanish-speaking world. The blend of culture, instruction, and interaction enables and motivates students to succeed as individuals, in pairs, and in groups. They are placed in situations where they have to use the Spanish language in a variety of activities.

HONORS SPANISH IV - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite(s): A grade of B+ or higher in Spanish III or its equivalent or instructor permission.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the core requirements of the World Languages.

This is a course for those students who wish to continue their mastery of the Spanish language. Students will continue the study of Spanish grammatical structures, further building the foundation of reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills while continuing to develop an awareness of Hispanic culture. Students are expected to demonstrate their own proficiency via impromptu and prepared presentations. Native literature is studied.

SPANISH V - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of Spanish IV or its equivalent or instructor permission.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the core requirements of the World Languages.

This is a course for those students who wish to continue their mastery of the Spanish language. Grammar is reviewed; however, the majority of the class time is spent building listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills while developing awareness of Hispanic culture. Students are expected to demonstrate their own proficiency via impromptu and prepared presentations. Native literature is studied. The specific focus will be communication skills. The goal is to communicate confidently and comfortably on many different topics, both informal and formal.

HONORS SPANISH V - Grade Level: 10-12

Weight: 1.1

Prerequisite(s): A grade of B+ or higher in Honors Spanish IV or an equivalent or instructor permission.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the core requirements of the World Languages.

This theme-based course is designed to lay the foundation for future AP or college-level Spanish success. Students will read literature, analyze movies and different types of stories, novellas, etc., write analytically, and converse in Spanish is based on themes similar to those found in the AP curriculum; this includes identity, the environment, traveling, employment, and aesthetics, among others.

AP SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisites: With the instructor's permission, at least a B+ grade in Honors Spanish IV or Honors Spanish V.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the world language core requirements. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

The Advanced Placement Spanish Language and Culture course is a rigorous college-level course taught exclusively in Spanish requires students to improve their proficiency across three communicative modes (interpretive, interpersonal, and

presentational). The course focuses on the integration of authentic resources, including online print, audio, and traditional print resources that include literature, essays, magazines, and newspaper articles. Students communicate using rich, advanced vocabulary and linguistic structures as they build proficiency in communication toward the ability to understand spoken Spanish in various contexts, such as authentic conversations, lectures, oral presentations, radio, and television; the development of a Spanish vocabulary sufficient for reading and writing and the ability to express oneself coherently, resourcefully, and with reasonable fluency and accuracy both in written and spoken Spanish, using strategies for distinct audiences.

AP SPANISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.2

Prerequisites: Successful completion of AP Spanish Language and Culture.

Class notes: This two-semester course fulfills one of the world language core requirements. All AP students are expected to take the AP exam.

The AP Spanish Literature and Culture course uses a thematic approach to introduce students to representative texts (short stories, novels, plays, and essays) from Peninsular Spanish, Latin American, and U.S. Hispanic Literature. Literature is explored within the contexts of its time and place, and students gain insights into the many voices, historical periods, and cultures represented in the required readings and other texts. The course also includes a strong focus on cultural, artistic, and linguistic connections and comparisons through the exploration of various media (art, music, film, articles, and literary criticism).

WORLD LANGUAGE ELECTIVES

BEGINNING CLASSICAL GREEK - Grade Level 10-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): None.

Class notes: This is a semester-based elective and may not be used to fulfill the World Language graduation requirement.

This is an introductory course in Classical Greek. Starting with the alphabet and a brief overview of historical and cultural context, students will proceed through the grammar of this ancient language in a pace that allows for mastery of concepts. While the primary focus will be on the Attic dialect of ancient Athens (the Greek of Aesop, Plato, Aristotle, Lysias), students will also read selections from other texts, including the New Testament.

THE RHETORIC OF LEADERSHIP - Grade Level: 11-12

Weight: 1.0

Prerequisite(s): College Prep English 10.

Class notes: This is a semester-based elective and may not be used to fulfill the World Language graduation requirement.

The Rhetoric of Leadership is a seminar course on the structure and function of language as applied in arguments that have stood for two thousand years. After an introduction to the political and social context of classical Athens and late republican Rome, students will read, analyze, and discuss a selection of excerpts from ancient court cases and dialogues. Questions to be considered: How exactly did Callicles lose the dialectical debate in Plato's Gorgias? How did Caesar win over both troops and senators? Why is Cicero's speech in support of the command of Gnaeus Pompeius still the guide to excellent leadership? How did Marcus Aurelius express his idea of statesmanship? Grades will be based primarily on participation in dialectical discussions and on student speeches.



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