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9th-12th Grade **ELECTIVE BOOKLET**



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Saint Thomas' Episcopal Course Offerings by Grade 2026- 2027

	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
English	English I Expository Writing	English II (American Literature)	English III (British Literature) or AP English Language & Composition	English IV (World Literature) or AP English IV Literature & Composition
Math	Algebraic Functions, Geometry or Geometry Advanced	Geometry or Geometry Advanced, Algebra II or Algebra Advanced	Algebra II or Algebra II Advanced, Precalculus or AP Precalculus	Precalculus, AP Precalculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC Business Calculus, College Algebra, Linear Algebra, AP Statistics
Science	Biology	Chemistry or Chemistry Advanced 2nd Science (Optional): AP Biology Physics or Physics Advanced	Physics or Physics Advanced 2nd Science (Optional): AP Biology, AP Chemistry, Anatomy & Physiology, Marine Biology, Forensics	Anatomy & Physiology, or AP Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics), Marine Biology, Forensics, College Chemistry Research
World Languages	Latin I Spanish I Mandarin I	Latin II Spanish II Mandarin II	Latin III Spanish III Mandarin III	AP Latin AP Spanish Language & Culture AP Chinese Language & Culture
World Languages <i>Completed Level I in 8th Grade</i>	Latin II Spanish II Mandarin II	Latin III Spanish III Mandarin III	AP Latin AP Spanish Language & Culture AP Chinese Language & Culture	<i>Student has completed the 3 year World Language Requirement. The student may choose to take an Advanced Topics Course.</i>
History & Civics	Western Civ. I	Western Civ. II	US History or AP US History	Government and Economics, AP Government and AP Macroeconomics (also AP Microeconomics), AP Comparative Government
Sacred Studies	Old Testament	New Testament	Apologetics	Western Philosophy

ENGLISH

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION Grade 11 | (2 semesters – 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Completion of all Required Reading books, grammar proficiency, and brief interview with AP teacher.

This course surveys major works of British literature.

Students read Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, Shakespeare's *King Lear* or *Macbeth*, John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations*, and T.S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral*. In addition, students will read, discuss, and analyze nonfiction, poetry, and film readings in conjunction with longer works of literature. Students are expected to participate in meaningful class discussions on literature and literary theory.

Students will write an argumentative research paper and a well-researched literary analysis in addition to shorter in-class essays. Writing practice, AP drills, vocabulary, and grammar are ongoing throughout the school year. Time will also be spent on writing college application essays.

AP students will read significantly more nonfiction texts than the English III class, and they will write timed essays in preparation for the national AP exam.

**Sitting for the AP Exam is required for this class.*

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION Grade 12 | (2 semesters – 1 credit)

Prerequisites: 1) completion of all Required Reading books, 2) grammar proficiency, and 3) completion of selected chapters of Plato's Republic during the summer preceding the senior year.

The AP Literature and Composition course provides an in-depth examination of several of the most influential voices of world literature. Students will write a literary research paper on *Hamlet* and will also undertake examinations of selected poems. Essay writing, grammar practice,

and vocabulary enhancement are ongoing throughout the school year.

An occasional writing lab or AP practice will be called. Writing assignments will tend to be timed assignments completed in class to better prepare students for the experience of writing timed essays during the AP exam.

Students in the AP-level literature class are expected to examine more deeply the philosophies and politics of the following works:

Inferno, Dante *Purgatorio*, Dante *Paradiso*, Dante *The Republic*, Plato *Utopia*, More *Heart of Darkness*, Conrad *The Prince*, Machiavelli *Pride and Prejudice*, Austen *Hamlet*, Shakespeare *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, Hardy *Gulliver's Travels*, Swift *Brave New World*, Huxley *Antigone*, Sophocles Various poetry selections

**Sitting for the AP Exam is required for this class.*

MYTHS, LEGENDS, AND FOLKLORE Grade 9-12 | (1 semester – 1/2 credit)

Students explore the stories that cultures around the world have used to explain life, nature, and human behavior. Through myths, legends, folktales, and epic heroes, students will examine how storytelling reflects cultural values, beliefs, and traditions. Readings may include tales from Greek, Norse, African, Asian, and Native American traditions. Students will analyze common themes such as heroism, transformation, tricksters, and the supernatural while also creating their own original myths and legends. This course strengthens reading, discussion, and creative writing skills while encouraging students to see how ancient stories still influence modern books, movies, and popular culture.

MATH

AP PRE-CALCULUS

Grades 11-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Algebra II or Algebra II Advanced

In this course, students will extend topics introduced in Algebra II and learn to manipulate and apply more advanced functions and algorithms. This course provides a mathematically sound foundation for students who intend to study Calculus. Some topics include: Relations and Functions, Exponential and Logarithmic Functions, The Trigonometric Functions, Trigonometric Identities, and Applications of Trigonometry.

AP CALCULUS AB

Grades 11-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: AP Precalculus or regular Precalculus (with a grade of 90 or better)

Calculus provides a study of differential and integral calculus at an AP level. This course will provide students who have a thorough knowledge of analytical geometry, algebra, and trigonometry the opportunity to greatly expand their mathematical knowledge and prepare for further studies in calculus, engineering, and science. The AP course covers topics in these areas, including concepts and skills of limits, derivatives, definite integrals, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus.

*Summer work may be required prior to the first day of school.

**Sitting for the AP Exam is required.*

BUSINESS CALCULUS

Grades 11-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus OR AP Pre-calculus (with a grade of 80 or better) Calculus for Business (High School - Juniors & Seniors)

This course introduces students to fundamental calculus concepts with a focus on business applications. Topics include limits, derivatives, optimization, marginal analysis, and integrals, all applied to real-world business scenarios such as cost minimization, revenue maximization, and supply and demand modeling. Students will develop problem-solving skills using both algebraic and graphical methods, with an emphasis on practical decision-making in economics, finance, and business management. The course integrates technology to analyze data and enhance comprehension.

AP CALCULUS BC

Grade 11-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: AP Calculus AB (with a grade of 90 or better) or Calculus AB (with a grade of 95 or better)

This challenging course will provide students who have a thorough knowledge of analytical geometry, algebra, and trigonometry the opportunity to greatly expand their mathematical knowledge and prepare for further studies in mathematics, science, and engineering.

AP Calculus covers the first two semesters of college-level Calculus. Most U.S. colleges and universities grant advanced placement and/or credit for one or two semesters of Calculus for certain AP Calculus exam scores. To find out a specific institution's policy, consult its catalog or website. It includes all topics in AP Calculus AB plus: polar calculus, vectors, and infinite series.

*Summer work may be required prior to the first day of school.

**Sitting for the AP Exam is required.*

MATH (CONT.)

COLLEGE ALGEBRA

Grade 12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

This course provides extensive review of high school Algebra, deepens concept understanding, and explores in detail problem-solving techniques. It applies to students who have completed at least one year of high school Algebra, and it targets learners wishing to pursue a university degree that requires mathematical skill at a non-Calculus level.

LINEAR ALGEBRA

Grades 11-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics

This course introduces students to Linear Algebra, beginning with systems of equations solved through matrix methods and Gaussian elimination. Students develop proficiency in vector operations, matrix algebra, inverses, and determinants before transitioning to the abstract study of vector spaces. Core topics include linear independence, basis, dimension, and the structure of null and column spaces. The course further explores eigenvalues, eigenvectors, and diagonalization, emphasizing their role in revealing patterns within complex data. Applications to data science are highlighted through best-fit solutions, orthogonal projections, and the Gram-Schmidt process.

AP STATISTICS

Grade 12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus (with a grade of 85 or better)

AP Statistics is a rigorous college-level course based upon the AP curriculum. The course includes topics on experimental design, data collection, statistical testing, and drawing valid conclusions based on the data. Students completing the course will be prepared for the AP Statistics Advanced Placement Examination.

**Sitting for the AP Exam is required for this class.*

SCIENCE

ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY

Grade 11-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Completion of Biology and Chemistry.

Embark on an immersive journey into the intricacies of the human body with our Human Anatomy and Physiology course. This dynamic program delves into the structure and function of major body systems, exploring how diseases impact these systems.

Course Highlights:

- **Hands-On Dissections:** Engage directly with anatomical structures through comprehensive dissection labs, providing a tangible understanding of human physiology.
- **Field Trip to The Health Museum:** Experience interactive exhibits and participate in guided dissections under expert supervision, deepening your appreciation for organ anatomy and health.
- **Interactive Learning:** Participate in lively class discussions, analyze real-world case studies, and collaborate on projects that bring theoretical concepts to life.

This course offers a comprehensive and engaging exploration of human anatomy, blending theoretical knowledge with practical experience to prepare students for future studies in health and science.

AP BIOLOGY

Grades 10-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Biology and Chemistry with an A (or concurrent enrollment in Chemistry)

AP Biology is an engaging, introductory college-level course that immerses students in the dynamic world of biological sciences. Designed to mirror a two-semester college biology sequence, this course offers an in-depth exploration of life's fundamental principles through hands-on, inquiry-based investigations. Throughout the course, students will delve into eight comprehensive units:

1. **Chemistry of Life:** Explore the molecular foundations of life, including the properties of water and the structure and function of macromolecules.
2. **Cell Structure and Function:** Examine the intricate architecture of cells and understand the roles of various organelles.
3. **Cellular Energetics:** Investigate the biochemical pathways that power life, such as photosynthesis and cellular respiration.
4. **Cell Communication and Cell Cycle:** Understand how cells communicate and regulate processes like the cell cycle.
5. **Heredity:** Learn about genetic inheritance and how genetic variation drives evolution.
6. **Gene Expression and Regulation:** Study the mechanisms that govern gene expression and regulation.
7. **Natural Selection:** Examine the forces driving evolution and how populations adapt to their environments.
8. **Ecology:** Explore interactions between organisms and their environments, focusing on energy flow and ecosystem dynamics.

A cornerstone of the AP Biology experience is its robust laboratory program, constituting at least 25% of instructional time. Students engage in hands-on, inquiry-based investigations that mirror the work of professional biologists.

**Sitting for the AP Exam is required.*

SCIENCE (CONT.)

AP CHEMISTRY

Grade 11-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Biology and Chemistry with A and Algebra II with B or better

AP Chemistry is a rigorous and challenging course that covers the chemistry and chemical principles typical of college and university general chemistry courses. Topics include chemical reactions, stoichiometry, states of matter, bonding, kinetics, thermodynamics, equilibrium and electrochemistry. Students complete 16 laboratory assignments. Students are expected to take the AP college board exam and may earn up to eight hours of college credit. Summer work is required.

**Sitting for the College Board Exam is required for this course.*

CHEMISTRY ADVANCED

Grade 10 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: A in Algebra 1 or Algebraic Functions, B in Algebra 1 Advanced, A in Biology

This course is designed for students ready to explore the principles that govern matter and its interactions at a deeper level. It goes beyond foundational concepts to examine atomic structure, chemical bonding, thermodynamics, kinetics, equilibrium, and introductory organic chemistry. Students are expected not only to apply formulas and solve complex problems, but also to analyze data, interpret experimental results, and explain the underlying mechanisms of chemical reactions. The course includes hands-on laboratory investigations, precise measurement and data analysis, and the use of scientific technology, all while emphasizing critical thinking, collaboration, and strong scientific communication skills to prepare students for college-level study in science and related fields.

COLLEGE CHEMISTRY RESEARCH

Grade 12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisites: AP Chemistry and instructor approval

This course is designed for students to generate a capstone project, which is a substantial body of work that allows the student to exhibit the depth of their knowledge and skill in chemistry. Topics beyond the scope of AP Chemistry will be presented, including an in-depth laboratory research component which will span both semesters in collaboration with a professional scientist mentor. Students are expected to present their research in a format suitable for publication. This class requires students to conduct experiments at times other than class meetings, and may require presentation of their research at a local professional conference.

PHYSICS ADVANCED

Grades 11-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: A in both current Math and Science

This course is designed for students ready to think deeply and analytically about how the physical world works. It goes beyond basic concepts to explore topics such as motion, forces, energy, momentum, and electricity and magnetism, often incorporating elements of modern physics. Students are expected not just to use formulas, but to understand and derive them, apply concepts to complex, real-world problems, and clearly explain their reasoning. The course includes hands-on labs, data analysis, and the use of technology, while emphasizing critical thinking, collaboration, and strong problem-solving skills to prepare students for college-level science and engineering.

SCIENCE (CONT.)

AP PHYSICS C: MECHANICS

Grade 12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: 11th Grade Physics with A; completed or concurrently enrolled in Calculus

The AP Physics C Classical Mechanics course is equivalent in content, depth and complexity to a one semester calculus-based physics course at the freshman college level for science and engineering majors. This course is designed to prepare the student to excel on the AP Physics C Classical Mechanics exam (a score of 4 or 5 on this exam will enable the student to place-out of the first semester college level course at most universities, including University of Texas and Texas A&M). AP Physics is an in-depth, content-intensive study of physical principles that allows students the opportunity to solve real world applied problems as well as to engage in hands-on experimentation. Units of study for the Classical Mechanics AP course include: vector mathematics, kinematics, Newton's Laws of motion in multiple dimensions, conservation laws (momentum and energy), simple harmonic motion, rotational dynamics, gravity and orbital mechanics. Students signing-up for the classical mechanics AP course are required to have an A in the 11th grade physics course (or obtain the approval of the instructor).

**Sitting for the College Board Exam is required for this course.*

SCIENCE (CONT.)

MARINE BIOLOGY

Grades 10-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Biology

Dive into the captivating world of marine biology with our Introduction to Marine Biology course. This engaging program offers a comprehensive exploration of ocean ecosystems, marine organisms, and the profound impact of human activities on the marine environment.

Course Highlights:

- **Immersive Field Trip to Moody Gardens Aquarium:** Experience marine life firsthand with a visit to the renowned Moody Gardens Aquarium. This excursion provides an up-close look at diverse marine species and ecosystems, enhancing your understanding of oceanic life.
- **Hands-On Activities and Lab Investigations:** Engage in practical, hands-on experiences that bring marine biology concepts to life. Through interactive labs and activities, you'll delve into the complexities of marine habitats, food webs, adaptations, biodiversity, and conservation efforts.
- **Interactive Case Studies:** Analyze real-world scenarios to understand the challenges facing marine environments today. These case studies will deepen your appreciation for the delicate balance within ocean ecosystems and the importance of sustainable practices.

This course is perfect for students passionate about marine science, environmental studies, or oceanography. Join us to uncover the mysteries of the ocean and discover the vital role we play in preserving its health for future generations.

FORENSIC SCIENCES

Prerequisite: Biology and Chemistry

This engaging program delves into the scientific principles and techniques used to solve crimes, offering students a hands-on experience that bridges science and criminal justice.

Course Highlights:

- **Comprehensive Crime Scene Investigation:** Learn the meticulous process of analyzing crime scenes, from securing the area to collecting and preserving evidence. Develop keen observation skills essential for any forensic expert.
- **Diverse Evidence Analysis:** Gain proficiency in examining various types of evidence, including fingerprints, bodily fluids, hairs, fibers, paint, glass, and cartridge cases. Utilize scientific methods to analyze and interpret findings, mirroring real-world forensic procedures.
- **Interdisciplinary Scientific Application:** Apply knowledge from biology, chemistry, physics, and earth sciences to forensic investigations. Understand how these disciplines converge to uncover the truth behind criminal activities.
- **Hands-On Laboratory Experience:** Engage in laboratory-based activities that simulate actual forensic analyses. Perform experiments involving fingerprinting, blood spatter analysis, and more to solidify your understanding of forensic methodologies.
- **Cultivate the ability to think critically and solve complex problems using the scientific method.**

This course is ideal for students intrigued by law enforcement, criminal justice, or careers in forensic science. By the end of the program, you'll have a profound understanding of the role science plays in solving crimes and the various career pathways within the field of forensics.

HISTORY & CIVICS

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY

Grade 11-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

AP European History is an overview of the people, events, and ideas that shaped Western Civilization from 1450 to the present. The course will introduce students to the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that played a fundamental role in shaping modern Europe. In addition to providing a basic narrative of events and movements, the goals of the course are to develop: (a) an understanding of some of the principal themes in modern European History, (b) an ability to analyze historical evidence and historical interpretation, and (c) an ability to express historical understanding in writing.

**Sitting for the AP Exam is required for this class*

AP U.S. HISTORY

Grade 11 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

This course is an introductory college-level course covering historical events in the United States from 1491 to the present day. Students analyze historical sources, learn to make connections and craft historical arguments as they explore concepts such as: American and national identity; work, exchange, and technology; geography and the environment; migration and settlement; politics and power; America in the world; American and regional culture; and social structures.

**Sitting for the AP Exam is required for this class.*

AP US GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Grade 12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: U.S. History with a grade of 90 or higher; recommendation of U.S. History instructor

This elective provides an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific case studies. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. political reality.

Required summer activities are as follows:
Book: Hardball: How Politics is Played Told by One Who Knows the Game by Chris Matthews.
See instructions in summer packets for deadlines.

**Sitting for the AP Exam is required for this class.*

AP MACROECONOMICS

Grade 11-12 | (1 semester - 1/2 credit)

Prerequisite: None (Calculus is not required for the course. All mathematical computations on the AP Exam can be done without the use of a calculator. Graphing skills, however, are imperative.)

This course is designed to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. The course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price determination, and develops familiarity with economic performance measures, economic growth, and international economics. Students will learn how a nation's economic performance is measured, with a primary emphasis in the areas of national income and price determination. Issues of international trade and future economic growth will also be studied.

**Sitting for the AP Exam is required for this class.*

HISTORY & CIVICS (CONT.)

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Grade 11-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

AP Human Geography is a yearlong course that focuses on the distribution, processes, and effects of human populations on the planet. The course provides a systematic study of human geography, including the following topics outlined in the Course Description: Nature of and Perspectives on Geography, Population and Migration, Cultural Patterns and Processes, Political Organization of Space, Agricultural and Rural Land Use, Industrialization and Economic Development, Cities and Urban Land Use. Successful students must be active participants in class discussion and debate. They must be critical thinkers and willing to explore the world from a variety of lenses. They must be able to recognize and interpret the relationships among patterns and processes at different scales of analysis and understand interconnections among places.

**Sitting for the AP Exam is required for this class.*

AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Grade 12 | (1 semester - 1/2 credit)

Prerequisite: U.S. Government

This is a college-level political science course that provides students with a concrete understanding of the scientific method behind political comparison, a well-developed sense of political theory, and a “real world” understanding of global studies through the comparative analysis of 6 different countries: Great Britain, Iran, Russia, China, Mexico and Nigeria. The course has a heavy reading load: students will use a college-level textbook, and will be required to read three full-length memoirs and several AP Briefing Papers. Students will participate in seminars, simulations, discussions, and debates to develop their understanding of each country studied. Students will learn to analyze the relationship between 1) state and society and 2) the citizen and the state, and will compare the structure of governmental institutions in different countries to learn how each structure affects society in general and individuals in particular. Upon completion of the course, students will be equipped to understand and evaluate geopolitical issues in an informed, scientific manner.

*There is required summer reading and a summer assignment for this course: *The World is Flat*, by Thomas L. Friedman.

**Sitting for the AP Exam is required for this class.*

HISTORY & CIVICS (CONT.)

AP MICROECONOMICS

Grade 11-12 | (1 semester – 1/2 credit)

Prerequisite: None (Calculus is not required for the course. All mathematical computations on the AP Exam can be done without the use of a calculator. Graphing skills, however, are imperative.)

The purpose of this course is to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision makers, both consumers and producers, within the economic system. It places primary emphasis on the nature and functions of product markets, and includes the study of factor markets and of the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. Students will gain an understanding of principles that apply to individual consumers within the larger economic system. The primary emphasis of study will be focused on product markets, factor markets, and the government's role in promoting greater competition, efficiency, and equity in the economy.

**Sitting for the AP Exam is required for this class.*

AP PSYCHOLOGY

Grade 12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

AP Psychology is an introductory course to the study of psychology, the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes.

Students will learn about the various subfields of psychology including major experimental findings, principles, and phenomena as well as the leading psychologists in these fields. The first semester will emphasize biological structures and functions. The second semester of the course will focus on experimental procedures and ethics in research in addition to developmental and social psychology.

**Sitting for the AP Exam is required for this class.*

WORLD LANGUAGES

*STE students must take three years of the same world language in Upper School.
If the student completed Level 1 in 8th grade, they would take Level 2 in 9th grade.*

CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

LATIN I

Grades 9-10 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

This is the entry level course for Latin, required for all those wishing to take Latin who have not done so at STE. The Latin Curriculum at STE has two major objectives:

- 1) To teach comprehension of the Latin language for reading purposes.
- 2) To develop from the outset an understanding of the content, style, and values of Roman civilization, with special reference to the first century AD.

The Course presents language not as an end in itself, but as a means of gaining access to literature and to the culture from which it springs. Our Latin program provides an enjoyable and carefully paced introduction to the Latin language, complemented by background information on Roman culture and civilization.

This class follows the first and second book of the Cambridge Latin Course. The first semester students will explore the Roman town of Pompeii during the 1st Century AD, shortly before the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The second semester students will venture to two totally different Roman provinces: Roman Britain and Egypt. The first year Latin curriculum provides the student with awareness that the history, mythology, and English language of Western culture have classical origins. The student learns to master the basic principles of Latin; acquires both a Latin vocabulary and an expanded English vocabulary; and focuses attention on Roman culture and lifestyles.

LATIN II

Grades 9-11 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Latin I

This is the second year Latin course offered. Latin II builds upon the concepts learned in Latin I through further development of vocabulary acquisition and reading ability. Students will continue to identify the Latin bases of words in English and other languages. By developing a strong foundation in Latin and English grammar, students will sharpen their analytical skills, improving comprehension in both languages. This course will also emphasize the influence of Roman culture on modern life and literature.

Students will develop an understanding of Latin grammar through reading about the victories, triumphs, romances, and conspiracies in the third volume of the Cambridge Latin Course. We will continue to read and translate Latin for comprehension, explore intense grammar with ease, build a working vocabulary, and explore Roman history and culture in Rome itself!

CLASSICAL LANGUAGES (CONT.)

LATIN III

Grades 10-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Latin I-II via CLC

In the first half of Unit 4 of the Cambridge Latin Course, the story reaches its climax and final denouement in and around the court of the Emperor Domitian. Students will continue to study the Latin language from a reading perspective, with more complicated sentence structure and linguistics. Students will learn grammatical features such as the present subjunctive, indirect statement, conditional clauses, and more, building towards fluency in reading original Latin! In the second half of the year, Students will read authentic Latin writing from the Roman author and magistrate, Pliny the Younger. Students will study the context of Pliny's written passages, comprehend the reasons behind his particular style of writing, and analyze the text. They will be expected to draw logical conclusions about the text, using the Latin as evidence for their assertions. This class will carry through to next year as students' study Vergil's Aeneid, gaining further Latin communication and critical analysis skills, and will culminate with the AP Exam in the following academic year, after reading both Caesar's De Bello Gallico and Vergil's Aeneid.

LATIN IV

Grades 10-12 (on-level alternative for those who don't wish to take the AP Exam) | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Latin I-III

In this non-AP Latin tracked course, students will explore reading original Latin. After Latin III, students will take either our On-Level Latin IV or AP Latin. Wrapping up the Cambridge Series, students will explore reading original Latin. There follows a selection of original texts by Roman authors (adapted where necessary), including Catullus, Ovid, Martial, Horace, Tacitus, and Vergil. In addition, there will be a myriad of engaging activities to deepen the students' appreciation of Latin poetry, and to further their understanding of the content, style, and values of Roman civilization. Students will participate in engaging activities to further deepen their reading of original Latin, but also develop from the outset an understanding of the content, style, and values of Roman civilization. As the saying goes: these stories are not good because they're old - they're old because they're good!

CLASSICAL LANGUAGES (CONT.)

AP LATIN

Grades 11-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Latin I-III

In AP Latin, students will read and translate selections of Vergil's Aeneid, a masterpiece by both classical and modern standards. Vergil's epic story and poetic techniques inspired and influenced countless artists and authors after him. We hope to convey enthusiasm and appreciation for this complex text and its political and cultural nuances to students in a way that inspires them to enjoy taking this course. Students will study the context of Vergil's written passages, comprehend the reasons behind his particular style of writing, and analyze the text. Students will draw logical conclusions about the text, using the Latin as evidence for their assertions, as they explore concepts like literary techniques, Roman values, war and empire, leadership, views of non-Romans, history and memory, and human beings and the gods.

AP Latin is equivalent to an upper-intermediate level college course in Latin focusing on the in-depth study of selections from two of the great works in Latin literature: Vergil's Aeneid and Pliny the Younger's letters (which students have read in Latin III). By the time of the AP exam in May, students will be well-prepared to tackle the various sections of the exam: multiple-choice, translation, free-response essay, and short answer.

LATIN V ADVANCED TOPICS

Grade 12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: AP Latin; Latin V

The Honors Latin Literature course is a post-AP level Latin class that offers students the opportunity to pursue their interest in Classics through both student-driven projects and class translations. Advanced Topics in Latin is a course intended for students who have completed AP Latin or On-Level Latin IV. Topics will vary based on the interests and motivations of the students. Students will identify their main interests, explore those topics, and present their discoveries to the class. The instructor will select readings based on student interests in order to tie the various topics together and to present the unifying themes of the course.

MODERN LANGUAGES

SPANISH NOTE:

Native Spanish speakers and students who have previously taken Spanish will be given a placement test to determine the best fitting course in the curriculum based on the student's proficiency. Native Spanish speakers may also be interviewed by a Spanish teacher to determine the best course of action, based on the student's level of competency.

SPANISH I

Grades 9-12 | (2 semesters – 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

This is a novice low-intermediate course. Spanish I is a beginning level class for students who have no or very little previous knowledge of Spanish. Students will need reliable access to the internet, because much of the homework will be completed on a digital platform. Students will practice all modes of communication: Interpersonal, Interpretive and Presentational. A solid grammar foundation will be constructed throughout the year. Students will be able to express themselves in both oral and written Spanish based on the contents of the learned topics.

SPANISH III

Grades 10-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Spanish II or Department Approval

This is an Intermediate Low to intermediate Mid proficiency level.

This course teaches students practical, real-life Spanish through engaging content focused on diverse Hispanic cultures, with a curriculum that builds upon intermediate-level grammar and vocabulary allowing students to confidently communicate on a wider range of topics, including social issues, careers and current events. Essential questions make up the framework of the year with in-depth activities that engage students with a diverse range of authentic texts; including videos, audios, articles, blogs, interviews, and literature gathered from Spain and Latin America.

SPANISH II

Grades 9-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Spanish I or Placement

This is a Novice Mid/Intermediate Low proficiency level.

This course uses lively and compelling content, images, and video to teach the language that learners need to succeed in and outside the classroom. The program's communicative approach focuses on functional, real-life language, while the program's guided and manageable content encourages students to begin speaking the language immediately with real-life themes, high-interest content and natural speech. The program teaches the language relevant to student's lives, focusing on the four skills needed to master a language; listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

SPANISH IV

Grades 10-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Spanish III or Department Approval

This is an Intermediate Mid/Intermediate High proficiency level.

The students in this course should be able to understand and communicate on a variety of topics with moderate complexity, making it suitable for upper-level high school students. This course focuses on advanced conversational skills, building cultural awareness through exposure to diverse Spanish-speaking regions, and teaching complex grammatical structures, preparing students for near-native fluency in real-life situations. Students are able to express themselves in Spanish based on the contents of the learned topics. A strong focus is placed on cultural and intercultural learning to help students build global awareness while developing authentic communication skills.

MODERN LANGUAGES (CONT.)

SPANISH AP LANGUAGE AND CULTURE **Grade 11-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)**

*Prerequisite: Spanish IV or Department Approval
This is an Intermediate-High to Pre-Advanced
proficiency level.*

The course is conducted entirely in Spanish, where students learn to communicate effectively across various contexts, focusing on developing their listening, reading, speaking and writing skills while also gaining a deep understanding of cultures within the Spanish-speaking world. It explores topics like family dynamics, contemporary life, social challenges, art, science and technology as well as personal identities, all primarily through authentic materials like news, articles, films, music, and literature. The course emphasizes communication (understanding and being understood by others) by applying interpersonal, interpretive and presentational skills in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies and cultural awareness. Additionally, students learn how to write and reply to an email, write a persuasive essay, participate in conversations involving various topics and deliver a well-organized oral presentation when comparing cultures.

**Sitting for the AP Exam is required for this class.*

MODERN LANGUAGES (CONT.)

CHINESE NOTE:

Native speakers and students who have previously taken Chinese will be given a placement test and/or be interviewed by the teacher to determine the best fitting course in the curriculum based on the student's proficiency.

CHINESE I

Grades 9-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

This course is offered to students who have little or no Mandarin Chinese language background. The course will provide instruction in all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). It will also cover the Chinese pinyin Romanization system, simplified character writing, and grammar. Students will learn conversational skills via situational activities and tasks in class. In addition, students will be required to use Chinese typing skills as a means of learning Chinese. We investigate thematic topics of interest such as numbers, greetings, time and dates, family members, self-introduction, hobbies, occupation, making phone calls, asking for help, making appointments, means of transport, colors, clothing, etc. Students are required to express themselves in Mandarin based on the contents of the learned topics.

CHINESE II

Grades 9-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Chinese I or placement test.

Students continue their study of the target language and its diverse culture through the use of the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will develop language competency ranging from simple expressions to complex structures. The integrated activities in class will provide students the knowledge of Chinese culture and practice in communicative skills. Students will be required to construct narrative writings, email replies and orally perform in a variety of situations. We investigate thematic topics of interest including shopping, transportations, weather, dining out, asking for directions, going to a party, seeing a doctor, accepting or turning down invitations, renting an apartment, sports, travel, etc.

MODERN LANGUAGES (CONT.)

CHINESE III

Grades 10-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Chinese II or placement test

Mandarin Chinese III will introduce more authentic materials including a wide variety of educational tools for students. Students will do more sophisticated reading and writing on various topics. Chinese idioms, proverbs, and colloquial usages will be implemented into the curriculum to enhance students' comprehension. Students are expected to reach higher levels of proficiency in terms of all language skills. We investigate thematic topics of interest including school life, dorm life, at a restaurant, shopping, choosing classes, dating, computer and internet, working part-time, education, and geography of China.

CHINESE IV

Grades 11-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Chinese III or placement test

Students continue their study of the target language and its diverse culture through the use of the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This course is focusing on constructing sophisticated writings and oral presentations on various cultural topics, in preparation for AP level. More authentic materials will be introduced to enhance students' comprehension of the language and culture. We investigate thematic topics of interest such as traditional festivals, changes in China, a trip to Chinese cities, lifestyle and health, gender equality, environment protection and energy conservation, etc.

AP CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Grades 10-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Chinese IV or Department Approval

This course aims at further development of knowledge and proficiency of Chinese language and culture. Class instruction will be in Chinese only, except for some grammar explanations. The course objectives will be aligned with National Standards for Foreign Language Learning - the five Cs (communication, culture, connections, comparisons, and communities). Class materials and activities will engage students in the exploration of various cultural issues and language learning, which also prepares students for SAT Chinese and AP Chinese exams. We investigate thematic topics of interest such as Wealth management and investing, China's history, job interview, and a foreigner's life in China.

**Sitting for the AP Exam is required for this class.*

BUSINESS & COMPUTER SCIENCES

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE & JAVA **Grades 9-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)**

Prerequisite: None

This course is an introduction to Computer Science and an introduction to Java. We start with an overview of computers and then present the basic elements of Java. The midterm grade will be partially based on a programming project. In the second half of the year we alternate computer science topics with more advanced Java elements. We conclude with Social and Ethical Issues and a final project.

* All students must be approved.

AP COMPUTER SCIENCE A **Grades 10-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)**

Prerequisite: Intro to Computer Science and Java

AP Computer Science A is equivalent to a first-semester, college-level course in computer science. This course will introduce students to fundamental topics in computer science by using the Java language. Following the indications of the College Board we will teach how to approach problem solving with computers. We will place special focus on program design strategies and methodologies, on the organization of data (data structures), on data processing (algorithms), and on algorithms analysis. Moreover, the ethical and social implications of computing will be discussed. The course will emphasize both object oriented and imperative programming to prepare the student to handle both paradigms. This class has a Lab requirement.

**Sitting for the AP Exam is required for this class.*

COMPUTER SCIENCE ALGORITHMS AND DATA 1 **Grades 11-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)**

Prerequisite: AP Computer Science and Instructor approval.

This course is designed for students seeking a rigorous, college-level experience in computer science beyond AP Computer Science. It blends theoretical foundations with hands-on, real-world applications, preparing students for the challenges of university-level computing and industry projects. Students will explore advanced topics such as: Data Structures; Algorithms Software Development; Engineering Principles Artificial Intelligence; Machine Learning Database Management; Cloud Computing Web App Development. The course is project-driven, emphasizing independent research, problem-solving, and innovation. Students will work in teams to develop software solutions, analyze real-world data sets, and create functional applications or systems. Industry tools such as Python, Java, SQL, and cloud platforms will be integrated into the coursework.

BUSINESS & COMPUTER SCIENCES (CONT.)

BUSINESS COMMUNICATION AND LEADERSHIP BASICS

Grades 11-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Instructor approval

This hands-on course provides students with practical office experience while developing essential workplace skills. Students take on key responsibilities such as filing, typing, and creating programs, and gaining firsthand knowledge of office operations. In addition to these tasks, they will work toward Google certifications, enhance their typing proficiency, and explore leadership principles through assigned readings. This course blends practical application with professional development, preparing students for future roles in business and administrative settings.

ACCOUNTING

Grades 11-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

This course provides students with a strong foundation in financial principles and business accounting practices. Students will learn essential concepts such as the accounting equation, financial statements, journal entries, bank reconciliation, and payroll accounting. Through hands-on activities and real-world applications, students will develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and organizational skills. The course also introduces basic accounting software and explores ethical considerations in financial reporting. Ideal for students interested in business, finance, or entrepreneurship, this course prepares them for further studies and careers in accounting or related fields.

AP BUSINESS PRINCIPLES/PERSONAL FINANCE

Grades 11-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

AP Business Principles and Personal Finance is a new College Board AP course that combines foundational business concepts with practical money management skills. Students learn how businesses operate—covering marketing, finance, and management—while also building personal finance skills such as budgeting, saving, investing, and credit use. The course emphasizes real-world applications through projects and case studies, preparing students for both college-level business study and everyday financial decision-making.

**Sitting for the AP Exam is required for this class.*

FINE ARTS

YEARBOOK

Grades 9-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: completed application form (even for returning staff) & at least a B average in English classes.

Calling all journalists, photographers, and designers! The STE yearbook is widely recognized as one of the top books in the country. Open to students entering 9th, 10th, or 11th grades and returning staff members entering 12th grade. Please note that Yearbook is a full credit class.

Being on the Belltower staff is a commitment not to be taken lightly. The applicant should understand that our yearbook is a student-run publication and, as such, involves many extra hours outside of school, especially near deadlines. It is important that the applicant also understands that he/she must attend a summer workshop held a few days before school starts at STE.

Although these requirements may seem demanding, being on the Belltower staff is an enjoyable experience that allows students to meet new people, to become a member of a team, to learn real life skills, to apply good business management principles and to be more involved in school activities. Research has routinely found that journalism students are the most successful freshmen in universities because of the knowledge and skills they gain from their journalism experience, no matter what degree they choose to pursue.

IMPORTANT: Both new & returning staff MUST (1) register for the class AND (2) complete and turn in the application. If you do not turn in a completed application by the deadline, you will be dropped from the class.

CREATIVE WRITING

Grades 9-12 | (1 semesters - 1/2 credit)

Prerequisite: None

Students enrolled in this class will examine various aspects of the creative process in writing fiction and poetry. Our focus will be on writing short fiction, and we will look at the different genres in today's markets. We will also learn basic elements of crafting short stories by looking at plotting, developing characters that readers will find interesting, themes, the narrative hook, and dialogue. There are contests and markets that are open to student submissions. This information will be provided for any student interested. In at least one marking period, students will try their hands at writing poetry. There will be writing assignments and exercises each marking period and students should be willing to read these in class for comments. This class is limited to 15 students.

BROADCAST JOURNALISM

Grades 9-12 | (1 semesters - 1/2 credit)

Broadcast entails producing video, sound, graphics, and animations for news broadcasts, including morning announcements. We will talk about interviewing, covering events, camera systems, microphones and audio gear, non-linear video editing, and live video streams. This class requires responsibility and dedication, but pays with press passes for reporting on events, yearly professional development trips, and a unique experience in getting to document your school.

FINE ARTS

ART I or II

Grades 9-12 | (1 semester - 1/2 credit)

Prerequisite: None

A classical introduction to the basics of art is presented to the students. Drawing, designing, painting and sculpting from “real life” gives the artist a strong foundation. Imagination and creativity are awakened by encouraging the student to experiment with a variety of techniques, processes, and media, developing a well-rounded, self-confident artist. Art history is blended with each project, spotlighting a master artist along with a contemporary artist, creating an impetus for the student to explore his environment and express himself visually with a distinctive individual style. Students anticipating the need for a college portfolio should refer to other AP classes.

ART III or IV

Grades 9-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Must submit a sketch book to the Head of Art Dept. for approval to enroll in a full credit class.

The proficient artists expand their artistic expression, and ever growing development by choosing the discipline and media that best expresses their technical expertise and artistic voice. Experimentation leads to meeting greater challenges, and attaining higher goals; students are now equipped to be lifelong artists.

CERAMICS

Grade 10-12 | (1 semester - ½ credit)

Prerequisite: Instructor Approval

The Ceramics student will synthesize the fundamental principles of art to 3-D forms: creating vessels, figurative imagery, and sculptures. Understanding the prehistoric and global interest of clay serves as inspiration to the contemporary ceramic artist. Students build a basic skill set of abilities to create with clay. Mastering each step in the process: designing, preparing the clay, modeling/sculpting, glazing and firing. Only hand building techniques are employed as the ceramic students build confidence in exploring varied methods and achieving personal goals.

FINE ARTS (CONT.)

AP ART DRAWING, AP 2-D ART & DESIGN, OR AP 3-D ART & DESIGN

Grades 11-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite:

- *In spring interview with the AP teacher for approval to register*
- *Present a portfolio of 7 college level quality pieces, and a daily sketchbook*
- *Pass a test demonstrating mastery of skills and vocabulary*
- *Mandatory attendance of a seminar during finals week where summer schedules and assignments are given*

Summer Assignment:

Develop an inquiry based question of the subject to be investigated. Create a “sustained investigation” of 8 works that reflect experimentation, and revision.

On April 1, 15 pieces must be completed accompanied by a written commentary describing the process and synectic development of each artwork.

This class is offered to students who are contemplating careers in art related fields. Students must be highly motivated, able to work independently while setting challenges for themselves that will emphasize art making as an ongoing process that exhibits informed and critical decision-making.

Students must:

- Have a willingness to devote considerable time and effort to the study of art, including a minimum of 4 hours of homework a week
- Follow a sequential curriculum that requires them to conduct an inquiry-guided investigation through practice, experimentation, and revision that is reflected in 15 works.
- Produce 5 selected works that demonstrate skillful synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas.
- Submit written responses to prompts about the materials and processes used, as well as ideas that are visually evident in their work.

FINE ARTS

CHANGE RINGING: TOWER BELLS

Grades 9-12 | (1 semester - ½ credit)

Prerequisite: Instructor approval required

In this semester-long elective, students will learn how to handle the eight bells in the tower at STE, which weigh between 248 and 791 lbs and are hung for full-circle ringing, meaning that each bell swings through a 360-degree arc under the control of a single ringer. Students will also learn the history of the art form of change-ringing, undertake field trips to the other bell towers in Houston, learn hands-on mechanical work and maintenance, and at the end of a semester be able to take part in group ringing with more advanced ringers. Strict adherence to safety policies in the tower is absolutely required, and a parental safety waiver prior to the start of classes must be signed. No musical experience is required—just a willingness to learn, listen, and work as a team! By the end of the course, students will be able to participate in ringing simple methods and understand how to build upon their skills for more advanced sequences.

THEATRE

Grades 9-12 | (1 semester - 1/2 credit)

Prerequisite: None

This class is designed to explore the many different areas of theatre including directing, acting, and technical theatre. Exposure to acting/directing will be through exercises, scene work, creative dramatics (including improv) and discussions of acting styles and teachers. Students will be exposed to technical theatre by study of the different areas of tech theatre and by preparing for school productions. Each semester will culminate with a final project. All students will be required to participate in some aspect of major school productions and the high school showcase performance. All students are encouraged to join the International Thespian Society.

TECHNICAL THEATER

Grades 9-12 | (1 semester - 1/2 credit)

Prerequisite: Instructor Approval

This class introduces students to the behind-the-scenes aspects of theater production. The course covers key elements such as lighting, sound, set design, costumes, stage management, and prop creation. Students learn to operate technical equipment, collaborate with actors and directors, and gain hands-on experience in designing and building sets and props. The class emphasizes problem-solving, creativity, teamwork, and attention to detail. Students may also work on live theater productions, applying their skills to real-world performances. By the end of the course, students develop a strong understanding of the technical aspects of theater, preparing them for roles in professional and community theater settings.

EXPERIENCES IN FILM

Grades 9-12 | (1 semester - 1/2 credit)

Prerequisite: Instructor Approval

Experiences in Film is a high school course focused on the creative and technical aspects of video production. Students will explore the essential elements of filmmaking, including scriptwriting, cinematography, lighting, sound design, editing, and directing. The course provides hands-on opportunities for students to create their own video projects, from conceptualization to final product. Students will learn how to use industry-standard equipment and software, as well as the techniques behind effective storytelling through visual media. Emphasis will be placed on collaboration, problem-solving, and the process of bringing a film idea to life. By the end of the course, students will have a well-rounded understanding of the video production process and will have developed their own portfolio of work.

FINE ARTS (CONT.)

TAPPS ONE ACT PLAY

Grades 9-12 | (1 semester - 1/2 credit)

Prerequisite: None

This is a performance-based course focused on preparing students for TAPPS One-Act Play and Speech/Debate competitions. Students will develop acting techniques, voice projection, and stage presence while also learning technical theater elements like set design, lighting, and costuming. The class emphasizes collaboration, leadership, and competition readiness through rehearsals, monologue and scene work, and public speaking. Students will refine their skills in both ensemble and individual performance categories, gaining valuable experience in all aspects of theatrical production.

CHOIR

Grades 9-12 | (2 semesters -1 credit)

Prerequisite: Students new to STE and/or choir should contact Mr. Anderson

Choir students enjoy singing and performing sacred, classical, folk, pop, and other secular music. Singers are encouraged to compete for TPSMEA Regional and All State Choirs, as well as individual and small group contests. Students learn music theory and sight reading, and are vocal leaders in the chapel service.

ORCHESTRA

Grades 9-12 | (2 Semesters - 1 Credit)

Prerequisite: Audition; Beginners accepted.

This is a performance-based course designed for high school students who play string, wind, brass, or percussion instruments. The class focuses on developing musical technique, ensemble skills, and artistic expression through rehearsals and performances. Students will explore a diverse repertoire, ranging from classical symphonic works to contemporary compositions. Emphasis is placed on sight-reading, intonation, tone quality, and musical interpretation. Orchestra members will have opportunities to perform in school concerts, community events, and competitions. music.

FINE ARTS (CONT.)

BAGPIPE

Grades 9-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Instructor approval. Beginners accepted.

Students involved in the band program will receive first-class instruction on the Great Highland bagpipe. Participation in any of the A, B, or C bands requires students to compete in pipe band competitions and perform at select school functions. Students who reach the A or B band earn the chance to perform in Scotland and to compete in the World Pipe Band Championship in Glasgow. All band members participate in the annual Sounds of Scotland.

DRUMMING

Grades 9-12 | (2 semesters -1 credit)

Prerequisite: Instructor approval. Beginners accepted.

A Scottish drumming class offers an immersive experience in the traditional rhythms and techniques of Scottish pipe band drumming. These classes focus on both snare drumming, with its crisp rudiments and dynamic rolls, and bass and tenor drumming, which add depth and flourish to the ensemble.

Students learn essential skills such as sticking techniques, reading drum scores, and synchronizing with bagpipes. Instruction often covers marches, strathspeys, reels, jigs, and hornpipes, key rhythms in Scottish music. Advanced classes may also teach flourishing (visual stick movements for tenor drummers) and competition-style drumming for pipe bands.

Scottish drumming classes cater to all levels, from beginners learning basic rudiments to advanced drummers refining their precision and performance skills. Whether for personal enjoyment, competition, or joining a pipe band, these classes provide a structured yet lively environment to master the art of Scottish percussion.

HIGHLAND DANCE

Grades 9-12 | (2 Semesters - 1 Credit)

Prerequisite: None

Highland Dance is a dynamic and physically demanding high school course that immerses students in the rich traditions of Scottish dance. This class develops strength, coordination, and endurance while teaching students the history and cultural significance of Highland dances such as the Highland Fling, Sword Dance, and Seann Triubhas. Students will refine their technique through structured practice, focusing on precision, posture, and footwork. The course also emphasizes musicality, rhythm, and performance skills, preparing students for showcases, competitions, or personal enrichment. Beyond dance, students will explore the historical and cultural roots of Highland Dance, including its connection to Scottish heritage and traditions. The course fosters discipline, perseverance, and confidence, making it an excellent choice for students interested in dance, athleticism, and cultural expression. No prior dance experience is required, though dedication and a willingness to challenge oneself physically are essential.

GENERAL ELECTIVES

TEN PILLARS OF ECONOMICS, Level 1 **Grades 10-12 | (1 semester - 1/2 credit)**

Prerequisite: None

The Ten Pillars are economic principles that address the management of resources, production, and trade as well as the role of workers, consumers, and government in a free society. These Pillars provide a framework within which to study the Free Enterprise System and its foundation on the principles of Private Property, Free Markets, and a Representative Government limited by the Rule of Law. The course analyzes the economic forces involved in the choices people make and the actions they take as they seek to provide for their material welfare through the production and exchange in the marketplace. Students learn to evaluate the economic impact of current issues and government policies on individuals, special interest groups, and the economy as a whole.

LOGIC

Grades 10-12 | (2 semesters - 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

This course has three intended goals. The first is to introduce students to contemporary symbolic logic. The second is to give students a better awareness of arguments that they will read and hear every day. And the third is to give them some of the tools they will need to test the validity of these arguments.

MOCK TRIAL

Grades 9-12 | (1 semester - 1/2 credit)

Prerequisite: None

Mock Trial is a class open to 9th - 12th grade students. Students will learn the fundamentals of trial practice and will have the opportunity to play the roles of both attorneys and witnesses in a simulated trial. It is a great way for students to gain insight on how our judicial system works and gain confidence speaking in front of others while having a lot of fun at the same time. For those students who try out for and make the Mock Trial team (listed under clubs), the competition consists of 7-10 high school students who must learn both sides of a case (Prosecution/Plaintiff and Defense) and students must play the roles of both attorneys and witnesses in a mock trial. Members work together to learn the facts of the case and create strategies for trial and then can compete in local-area meets.

This class is an excellent way for any student who wishes to improve his or her ability to analyze facts and present a compelling argument, improve public speaking skills and the ability to think on one's feet.

GENERAL ELECTIVES (CONT.)

STUDY HALL

Grades 9-12 (No credit)

Study Hall is a dedicated time for students to focus on completing homework, studying for upcoming assessments, and engaging in academic work with minimal distractions. The purpose of this class is to foster productivity, accountability, and effective time management. The teacher will actively monitor student progress, checking in regularly to ensure each student is making the most of their Study Hall period. Students are expected to arrive prepared with the materials they need and a clear plan for what they will work on. The teacher will provide guidance, help students prioritize tasks, and offer support when necessary.

To maintain a focused environment, students are not permitted to leave Study Hall to visit other teachers. This ensures that all students remain engaged in meaningful academic work for the entire period. Students must be working on homework, studying, reading an academic text, or engaging in another approved academic activity. Personal conversations, recreational screen time, and non-academic tasks are not allowed.

By structuring Study Hall with clear expectations, this class will help students develop strong study habits and maximize their academic success.

MANDATORY ATHLETIC REQUIREMENTS

P.E. CREDIT

To fulfill the Physical Education (PE) graduation requirement, students must earn one (1) PE credit, which may be obtained through the following options:

- Enrollment in a PE class
- Participation in a school sport
- Completion of a dance, piping, or drumming course

Credit Allocation:

- Sports Participation: Each full season of a school sport earns 0.5 PE credit. Once a student has fulfilled the 1-credit PE requirement, additional participation in sports will be recorded on the transcript but will not count for additional PE credit.
- Basketball Exception: Due to year-round training, students who complete one full season of basketball receive 1.0 PE credit (0.5 credit for the season and 0.5 credit for year-round training). If a student plays basketball for more than one year, their additional participation will be noted on the transcript but will not contribute additional PE credit.
- Dance, Piping, and Drumming: Students may earn PE credit by enrolling in a dance, piping, or drumming course.
- 9th & 10th Grade Requirement: Students in 9th and 10th grade who are not participating in a sport are required to take a PE class.

EXTERNAL P.E. CREDIT

Students wishing to receive PE credit for an activity outside of Saint Thomas' Episcopal School must submit an Outside PE Credit Approval Form to the Counseling Office for review. Approval requires documentation of at least 60 hours of activity per semester. For any questions regarding PE credit eligibility or transcript notation, students should consult the Counseling Office.

WEIGHT TRAINING

This is a class that focuses on developing strength, endurance, and overall fitness through the use of weightlifting exercises. The class typically includes instruction on the proper techniques for using free weights, weight machines, and bodyweight exercises. Students learn to safely and effectively perform lifts such as squats, deadlifts, bench presses, and other foundational movements. In this course, students are educated on the importance of fitness, injury prevention, and recovery practices. They also gain an understanding of how strength training benefits athletic performance, muscle development, and general health. The class may include assessments of students' personal progress in terms of strength and technique. Students are often encouraged to set goals for their physical development, track their progress, and develop individualized workout plans.

Additionally, a Weight Training class may emphasize fitness-related topics such as nutrition, cardiovascular health, and the role of exercise in mental well-being. Depending on the school's facilities, students might also participate in group workouts, fitness challenges, or personalized training programs designed to meet their specific fitness goals.

MANDATORY FINE ARTS REQUIREMENTS

Saint Thomas' Episcopal School Fine Arts Credit Policy

To fulfill the Fine Arts graduation requirement, students must earn one (1) Fine Arts credit.