



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY COURSE CATALOG

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THE NDA MISSION

Notre Dame Academy is a dynamic, independent, Catholic school for girls in grades 7-12 sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Welcoming girls of all faiths, the Academy provides transformational experiences that "teach them what they need to know for life." Our graduates are confident women who are lifelong learners, spiritual seekers, and compassionate global citizens.

Notre Dame Academy is an all-girls Catholic school for grades 7 through 12 — and a community where young women are formed to lead, serve, and leave their mark on the world.

We believe academic excellence and personal courage belong together. Our students are challenged to ask hard questions, pursue ideas with rigor, and see the world through perspectives that expand their understanding. Learning here is not passive. It is purposeful.

Every student at Notre Dame Academy is surrounded by teachers who know her, a community that believes in her, and a faith tradition that calls her to something greater than herself. In this Christ-centered environment, she learns to advocate for her needs, claim her voice, and carry herself with the confidence that comes from knowing who she is and what she is capable of.



THE NDA MISSION

We are guided by the words of our foundress, St. Julie Billiart: “*Teach them what they need to know for life.*” For more than 75 years, that charge has shaped everything we do. Our faculty is committed to helping each young woman uncover her gifts — not just to succeed in college, but to live a life of meaning, contribution, and service.

The courses in this catalog are more than academic offerings. They are invitations — to grow, to discover, and to become the kind of woman who leads with both strength and grace.



THE NDA MISSION

A Notre Dame Academy graduate is a young woman who has been shaped — intellectually, spiritually, and personally — to lead a life of purpose and impact.

- She thinks critically and independently. She collects, evaluates, and synthesizes information with rigor, applies knowledge across disciplines, and constructs well-reasoned arguments and original ideas.
- She communicates with clarity and conviction — in writing, in speaking, and through multiple modes of expression. She knows how to make her voice heard and how to make it matter.
- She is creatively and aesthetically alive. She brings curiosity and sensibility to the world around her, seeing beyond the surface and finding meaning in what others might overlook.
- She is technologically fluent, navigating and applying information across a range of digital platforms with confidence and discernment.
- She is a collaborator and a leader. She contributes to diverse teams with initiative, empathy, and a genuine commitment to shared success.
- She is an engaged citizen. She takes an active, positive role in her community — not because she is required to, but because she understands that her gifts are meant to be given.
- She acts with integrity. When faced with difficult choices, she selects the ethical path — and she does so with courage, not just compliance.

THE NDA MISSION



- She is globally aware. She respects, understands, and genuinely appreciates the cultural differences that make our world richer, and she affirms the dignity and worth of every person she encounters.
- She takes care of herself — physically, emotionally, and spiritually — because she understands that caring for herself is part of caring for others.
- She owns her choices. She accepts personal responsibility for her actions and understands that the woman she is becoming is, in large part, the woman she is choosing to be.

THE HALLMARKS



The Notre Dame de Namur Learning Community Hallmarks describe what it means — truly and essentially — to be a Notre Dame school. They are the living expression of our values, our spirituality, and our shared mission.

These Hallmarks were born from a question that the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and their co-workers asked together: What makes our school a Notre Dame school? It is a question worth sitting with. In exploring it collaboratively, the Sisters and their learning communities gave shape to something enduring — a set of statements that are not static declarations but living commitments, ones that grow and deepen with the times while remaining rooted in the spirituality and mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

The Hallmarks are not a checklist. They are an invitation to honest reflection. Each learning community is called, on a regular basis, to look in the mirror — to examine where it is, where it is growing, and where it is being called to go. This ongoing cycle of reflection, action, and renewed reflection gives the Hallmarks their power. They provide values-based direction not just for what a Notre Dame community does, but for who it is becoming.

In this way, the Hallmarks are both a foundation and a challenge — anchoring us in a tradition that stretches back generations while calling us forward into the fullness of our mission.

THE HALLMARKS

At Notre Dame Academy, the Hallmarks of the Notre Dame de Namur community are not simply words on a page — they are a shared way of life. Every member of our community, faculty, staff, students, and families alike, is called to understand them, embrace them, and bring them to life in the everyday.

HALLMARK ONE:

We Proclaim By Our Lives Even More Than By Our Words That God Is Good.

HALLMARK TWO:

We Honor The Dignity And Sacredness Of Each Person.

HALLMARK THREE:

We Educate For And Act On Behalf Of Justice, Peace, and care for all creation.

HALLMARK FOUR:

We Commit Ourselves To Community Service.

HALLMARK FIVE:

We Embrace The Gift Of Diversity.

HALLMARK SIX:

We Create Community Among Those With Whom We Work And With Those We Serve.

HALLMARK SEVEN:

We Develop Holistic Learning Communities Which Educate For Life.



ACADEMICS AT NDA

At Notre Dame Academy, an all-girls' Catholic school for grades 7-12, we place a strong emphasis on women's empowerment and academic excellence. Our mission is to challenge students and prepare them for their future roles as servant leaders. We inspire young women to embrace lifelong learning by asking questions, nurturing their curiosity, and exploring subjects through diverse perspectives.

Every day, our students are encouraged to harness the abundant resources available to them, including dedicated teachers who offer daily support and enthusiastic peer tutors. In our Christ-centered community, students are empowered to advocate for their academic and personal needs with confidence and respect.

Reflecting on St. Julie Billiart's guidance, "*Teach them what they need to know for life,*" our faculty is committed to helping each student uncover their unique gifts and prepare them for the myriad opportunities that await beyond high school. This aligns with our school's 75-year mission of equipping students with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in all aspects of life.



COURSE REGISTRATION

Course registration at Notre Dame Academy is a collaborative process — one that brings together the voices of students, families, teachers, and counselors to ensure every young woman finds her coursework engaging, challenging, and meaningful. Our faculty review and refine academic offerings each year, working alongside academic leadership and staying attuned to the demands of college and career pathways, so that what students study remains rigorous, relevant, and alive.

Students follow these steps to complete their course registration:

1. Review the NDA Course Catalog with your family and explore the offerings associated with your grade level.
2. Complete the NDA Course Interest Form to submit your course selections for the coming year.
3. If you are interested in advanced coursework — Advanced Honors, Pre-AP, or AP — complete the student portion of the Advanced Coursework Readiness Rubric.
4. Meet with your School Counselor to discuss your selections, ask questions, and address any concerns.



ACADEMIC SCHEDULING



At Notre Dame Academy, the master schedule is an expression of our mission in action. It is designed to support the intellectual, spiritual, and personal formation of each student while balancing the needs of the entire community.

All scheduling decisions are guided by the following principles:

Mission Alignment

We prioritize structures that support whole-person formation, including time for spiritual development, reflection, community, and the development of confident, purpose-driven young women.

Equity of Access

We are committed to ensuring that all students have access to rigorous and enriching academic opportunities. The schedule is designed to minimize barriers and support growth across all levels.

Appropriate Challenge

Students are placed in courses that reflect their readiness and potential, with clear and flexible pathways between Honors, Advanced Honors, and AP/Pre-AP. Our goal is right-fit challenge that promotes growth without undue stress.



(Academic Scheduling, cont.)

Student Wellbeing

We design schedules with attention to balance, pacing, and the overall student experience, recognizing the importance of managing academic demands alongside extracurricular and personal commitments.

Faculty Sustainability

We build schedules that support effective teaching by maintaining balanced workloads and allowing time for preparation, collaboration, and student support.

Family Clarity & Predictability

We strive for transparency and consistency in scheduling processes, providing families with clear expectations and minimizing avoidable disruptions.

Student Voice

Student voice is central to the scheduling process at NDA. Our goal is to build a challenging, relevant, and inspiring set of offerings for every student enrolled.

(Academic Scheduling, cont.)

These principles guide all scheduling decisions. While individual requests cannot always be accommodated, every effort is made to ensure that each student's program reflects both her needs and the mission of the Notre Dame Academy.

All student course requests will fuel the creation of their academic schedule. Where conflicts arise between a student's requests and the needs of their schedule, the student and family will be notified by a member of the NDA team to discuss the changes needed.

While some classes serve as core academic requirements in students' college-preparatory education, many classes are deemed elective and are designed to foster students' intellectual interests and growth. Access to elective courses grows with each year of high school, leaving Seniors with the highest volume of choice in their academic schedule.

As a rule, upperclassmen are offered first selection in all elective offerings at NDA. Once an academic class is filled, students may be placed on a waitlist pending potential course withdrawals. Additional opportunities will be provided to students who land on elective course waitlists, in the event that their request to enroll in their preferred course cannot be honored.



ACTIVITY BLOCK

Each school day, Notre Dame Academy sets aside time between morning classes and lunch for something equally important: community. Activity Block is a dedicated space for clubs, events, and extracurricular pursuits — an opportunity for students to explore their interests, deepen their connections, and engage in the kind of learning that happens beyond the classroom.

At the start of each academic year, a full schedule of offerings is shared and registration opens, giving students the chance to select the sessions that speak to them. Wednesday Activity Blocks are reserved for school-wide gatherings that build community spirit, invite meaningful conversation, and bring the full NDA family together.

Students with an idea for a new club or organization are encouraged to bring it to life. Our counselors are ready to help — just ask for the New Student Organization registration form and take the first step toward building something that matters.



ARTS ROTATION

The Arts are central to the educational foundation of Notre Dame Academy. Through the arts, our students foster confidence, explore and magnify their voice, and foster empathy and relational understanding. The benefits of the arts on adolescent learning and development are apparent and well researched. This is why students in Grades 7-10 participate in NDA's Arts Rotation program.

The Arts Rotation consists of quarterly commitments to each of the four arts offered at Notre Dame Academy: visual art, music, theater, and dance.

The following courses are part of NDA's Arts Rotation curriculum:

Gr. 7 Arts Rotation:

Intro to Theater
Intro to Dance
Intro to Music
Intro to Color

Gr. 9 Arts Rotation:

Theater Foundations
Dance Exploration
20th Century Pop Music
Elements of Art

Gr. 8 Arts Rotation:

Improvisation in Theater
Dance Foundations
Intro to Music Technology
Intro to Form and Value

Gr. 10 Arts Rotation:

Theater Exploration
Dance Performance
The World of Music
Watercolor Exploration



GRADE-LEVEL SEMINAR

Notre Dame Academy offers three grade-level seminars, required courses for students in grades 7, 8, and 12. Each seminar is designed with the whole student in mind — building the skills, knowledge, and self-awareness she will need to thrive at NDA and carry with her long after graduation.

Read on for course descriptions for each of the three seminars offered at Notre Dame Academy:

Tightened the language, removed the redundancy, and gave the transition line a slightly more inviting feel. Let me know if you'd like

Gr. 7 Seminar:

MIDDLE SCHOOL FOUNDATIONS

Led by the SJD Counselor, this required course supports seventh graders as they navigate the transition to middle school — academically, socially, and emotionally. Through interactive lessons, self-assessments, and open dialogue, students explore topics including goal-setting, growth mindset, time management, healthy relationships, stress management, and self-awareness. The course culminates in a series of self-exploration activities designed to deepen each student's sense of identity and begin shaping her vision for high school, college, and beyond. Throughout, the emphasis is on building the advocacy, decision-making, and resiliency skills that will carry her forward as a confident, compassionate young woman.



GRADE-LEVEL SEMINAR

Gr. 8 Seminar: FOUNDATIONS OF LEADERSHIP

Designed to support students as they step into leadership within the middle school while preparing thoughtfully for the transition to high school, this course helps students develop greater self-awareness, confidence, and social understanding. The course explores topics such as identity and self-advocacy, navigating friendships and peer dynamics, responsible decision-making, digital citizenship, and managing academic expectations. Students also begin to build the habits and mindset needed for success in high school, including organization, goal-setting, and resilience. Grounded in the school's mission, the seminar encourages students to lead with integrity, support one another, and grow into thoughtful, capable members of the community.

Gr. 12 Seminar: HOW TO LIVE A GOOD LIFE

Senior Seminar is designed to prepare students for life beyond NDA, inviting them to reflect on what it means to live with purpose, integrity, and joy. Through discussion, writing, and real-world application, students explore essential questions around happiness, morality, identity, and relationships, while also examining topics such as vocation and calling, ethical decision-making, leadership and service, financial responsibility, well-being, and life in a digital world. As they prepare to graduate, students are challenged to articulate a vision for their lives rooted in meaning, responsibility, and a commitment to something larger than themselves.



LOVE-IN-ACTION



Love in Action is Notre Dame Academy's signature service program, rooted in the conviction that faith is most fully lived when it is given away in service to others.

Integrated into the religion curriculum during junior and senior year, the program requires students to complete 60 hours of service annually at an approved site, accompanied by journal reflections, participation in ministry, and both self and supervisor evaluation — all oriented around the essential question of how each student is called to serve others and live out Christ's love in the world.

More than a graduation requirement, Love in Action is a formative experience that prepares young women to leave Notre Dame Academy not only educated, but genuinely committed to a life of compassion, solidarity, and service.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS



NDA proudly presents three Academic Certificate Programs designed for students devoted to deep study in the arts, social studies, or science. Graduating Seniors who fulfill the program's requirements receive certificates and graduation chords, marking a distinguished academic journey.

These certificates symbolize outstanding dedication and are among the highest honors an NDA student can achieve, reflecting our commitment to lifelong learning and service.

At NDA, we offer the following Certificate Programs:

- **Salisbury Arts Certificate**
- **STEM Excellence Certificate**
- **Global Perspectives Certificate**

Explore further to discover detailed descriptions of each program and the performance tasks required to achieve them.

SALISBURY ARTS CERTIFICATE

MISSION

The mission of this certificate is to recognize students who have dedicated themselves to a challenging high school arts curriculum and real-world experiences that will prepare them for entrance into prestigious Arts colleges and universities. It is also intended to heighten student art experiences in order to prepare for careers and to build more skilled consumers of Visual and Performing Arts.

NDA recognizes the importance of the Arts by requiring all ninth graders to participate in the dedicated rotation of Art, Drama, Dance, and Music. Tenth graders are required to participate in the semester-long class of Arts and Music in Society.

LEARNER OUTCOMES:

Visual Art: By completing 9th grade arts rotation and two Visual Arts electives, students will be prepared to enter an advanced college Art program.

Music: By completing 9th grade arts rotation, two Music electives and a minimum of at least 2 years of participation in school music programs, students will be prepared to enter an advanced college Music program.

Dance: By completing 9th grade arts rotation and at least two years of participation in the school dance program, as well as studio dance instruction, students will be prepared to enter an advanced college Dance program.

Theatre: By completing 9th grade arts rotation and two Theatre arts electives and at least two years of participation in the school Theatre program, students will be prepared to enter an advanced college Theatre program.

Multi-disciplinary: By completing 9th grade arts rotation and two arts electives and at least two years of participation

SALISBURY ARTS CERTIFICATE

(Learner Outcomes, cont.)

in the school arts programs, students will be prepared as more skilled and educated consumers of the arts and to enter an advanced college arts program.

REQUIREMENTS

Music Requirements

- Two music electives with a minimum grade of B in each class.
- In addition to the Music electives students should participate minimally junior and senior years in the school music program which include:
 - Jazz Ensemble
 - Instrumental Ensemble
 - Chamber Chorale
 - Glee Club
 - Guitar Ensemble
 - Percussion Ensemble
 - Private music instruction

Visual Arts Requirements

- Two Arts electives with a minimum grade of B.
- All visual arts students must be involved with the school Arts club for a minimum of two years including junior and senior years.

Dance Requirements

- Three years of participation in NDA Dance Ensemble.
- Additional off-campus studio experiences.

Theatre Requirements

- Two theatre electives with a minimum grade of B in each class.
- In addition to the Theatre electives students should participate minimally junior and senior years in the school theatre program which include:
 - Annual School Musical
 - Fall Play
 - Drama Club
 - Drama Competitions

Multi-Disciplinary Requirements

- Two electives from Music, Visual Art or Theatre with a minimum grade of B in each class.
- In addition to the above Academic electives students should participate minimally junior and senior years in at least two of the school Arts programs which are mentioned above.

SALISBURY ARTS CERTIFICATE

General Program Requirements

- Students must maintain a cumulative overall GPA of 3.0.
- Students must be in good standing prior to graduation in order to achieve the Arts certificate.
- Students must be involved with an Arts related Club or activity either through NDA or an off-campus resource for at least two years.

Art Experience Requirements

1. Job Shadow and interview with a professional in concentrated field, eg. professional artist, musician, dancer, actor or director;

2. Attendance and participation in the NDA Salisbury Night for both junior and senior years;

3. Complete a minimum of two additional experiences from the following list:

- Research Project/Independent Study in an Arts field
- Summer Internship (Students must provide Supervisor feedback in addition to a short summary of the experience and what was learned).
- Volunteer for a local arts organization (Students must provide Supervisor feedback in addition to a short summary of the experience and what was learned).
- Participation in NDA Spring Vacation concert tour (only offered once every three years).
- Arts Day Performance and Exhibition
- Drama Competitions
- Art All State
- Central District Music
- All State Music
- Community Theatre performances
- Boston Globe Student Arts Awards
- Slam competitions
- Arts classes at local institutions such as Worcester Art Museum, Hanover Theatre, Worcester Center for Crafts, ARTSWorcester
- Other Arts experiences as approved

SALISBURY ARTS CERTIFICATE

(Art Experience Requirements, cont.)

4. Complete a Capstone Portfolio and presentation to the Salisbury Arts committee.

**Transfer students accepted into the Certificate Program will be determined by the Salisbury Arts Certificate Committee*

TIMELINE

Letter of intent for the Salisbury Arts Certificate Program must be completed by October 15th of the students junior year.

All applicants will be interviewed by the Salisbury Certificate Committee.



STEM CERTIFICATE

MISSION

The Notre Dame Academy STEM Excellence Certificate acknowledges students for their achievements and involvement in STEM-related activities. This certificate recognizes students who have dedicated themselves to a challenging high school curriculum and real-world experiences that will prepare them to enter college and lay the groundwork for careers in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics in a changing society. Opportunities to work with experts in the field and current technology both within the school and the community will be an essential part of the program and prove invaluable as students complete their capstone projects.

The backbone of this certificate is utilizing the teaching methodology of problem-based learning (PBL). This is a teaching method in which complex real-world problems are used as the vehicle to promote student learning of concepts and principles as opposed to solely the direct presentation of facts and concepts. In addition to course content, PBL can promote the development of critical thinking skills, problem-solving abilities, and communication skills. It can also provide opportunities for working in groups, finding and evaluating research materials, and it fosters life-long learning goals for students.

LEARNER OUTCOMES

Science: By completing four full years of scientific study, students will be prepared to enter an advanced college science program.

Technology: By completing courses in technology, students will develop a deeper understanding of different computer systems and their software applications to be able to use industry-related equipment to design and build 3-D objects, model buildings, or robots.

Engineering: By learning and applying the Engineering Design Process in their STEM courses, students will be able to identify a problem, create a solution, and test it.

STEM CERTIFICATE

(Learner Outcomes, cont.)

Mathematics: By completing four years of core mathematics courses, students will be able to enter Calculus I or Calculus II in first-year college programs.

REQUIREMENTS

Science Requirements

- Four full years of science with a minimum grade of B+ in each class

Technology/Engineering Requirements

- Completion of Introduction to Engineering or Exploration in Engineering course(s). *(This requirement will begin the class of 2024.)*

Math Requirements

- Four years of math including the completion of Pre-calculus, Advanced
- Pre-calculus, or AP Calculus or higher with a minimum grade of B+

General Program Requirements

- Students must maintain a cumulative overall GPA of 3.0
- Students must be in good standing prior to graduation in order to achieve the STEM certificate
- Students must be involved with a STEM-related Club or activity either through NDA or an off-campus resource for three years

STEM Experience Requirements

1. Job Shadow and interview with a scientist, engineer, dentist, physician, or similar professional in the area of science, mathematics, or technology (2-hour minimum), to be approved by the STEM Coordinator.

2. Attendance and participation in the NDA STEM night for both junior and senior years.

3. All students must complete a minimum of three additional

STEM CERTIFICATE

(STEM Experience Requirements, cont.)

STEM experiences from the following list:

*Students must complete a **minimum** of **one** of the following:*

- Research Project/Independent Study in a STEM field
- Summer Internship (Students must provide Supervisor feedback in addition to a short summary of the experience and what was learned)
- Volunteer in a lab (Students must provide Supervisor feedback in addition to a short summary of the experience and what was learned)

*Students must complete a **minimum** of **two** additional experiences:*

- Two STEM Events (Students must provide proof of attendance in the form of a ticket stub/receipt in addition to a short summary of the events attended and what was learned at each). Please note these two events count as one STEM experience met
- Participation in NDA Science Club Spring Vacation Trip (offered once every three years)
- Participate in a National Essay Contest or Competitions with a focus on a global theme
- Attendance and assistance at a WISE related event through NDA
- Another project approved by the STEM Academic Coordinator

4. A Capstone Portfolio and presentation to the STEM committee.

**Transfer students accepted into the Certificate Program will be determined by the STEM Certificate Committee.*

TIMELINE

Letter of intent for the STEM Excellence Certificate program must be completed by January 15th of their sophomore year.

All applicants will be interviewed by the STEM Committee.

GPS CERTIFICATE

MISSION

The Notre Dame Academy Global Perspective Studies (GPS) Certificate is designed to help NDA students prepare for their role in the global community. In the spirit of Notre Dame Academy, St. Julie Billiart, and the Sisters of Notre Dame, this certificate program challenges our students to become both linguistically and culturally fluent through a challenging high school curriculum, cultural connections, and real-world experiences to prepare them to enter college and become aware of the challenges of our constantly evolving world.

LEARNER OUTCOMES

Language: By completing two years of required high school language courses of Spanish or French as well as two additional full years of the same language, students will be prepared to enter an advanced college language program.

Multi-Disciplinary: By completing 10th grade World Literature and World History and 12th grade World Religions, students will be able to reflect on the international focus of these courses.

Culture: By completing additional cultural experiences, students will develop a deeper understanding of different customs and traditions which will enable them to think from a global perspective.

Real-World: By traveling with purpose, either service oriented or educational, students will be able to witness and experience different societies first-hand.

REQUIREMENTS

Language Requirements

- Three consecutive years of high school Spanish or French with a minimum grade average of a B+ (as of 2026)

GPS CERTIFICATE

(Requirements, cont.)

Multi-Disciplinary Requirements

- Completion of World Literature, World History, and World Religions courses with a minimum grade average of a B+
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Connections Requirement

- Completion of one connection with other Notre Dame schools around the world through venues such as NDVS or online service projects or tours

Overall Requirements

- Students must maintain a cumulative overall GPA of 3.0
- Students must be in good standing prior to graduation in order to achieve the GPS certificate
- Students must be involved with a Language Club for two (2) years as well as another club with an International focus for one year

Experience Requirements

1. Job Shadow and interview with a professor, lawyer, diplomat, translator, or similar professional in the area of global affairs and/or languages (2-hour minimum) to be approved by the GPS coordinator.
2. Attendance and participation in the NDA International night or concert for both junior and senior years.
3. Students must complete a minimum of two (2) additional GPS experiences from the following list:
 - Research Project/Independent Study in an International field.
 - Summer Internship (Students must provide Supervisor feedback in addition to a short summary of the experience and what was learned.)
 - Participate in a National Essay Contest or Competitions with a focus on a global theme.
 - 2 Cultural Events (Students must provide proof of attendance in the form of a ticket stub/receipt. In addition to a short summary of the events attended and what was learned.) Must do both cultural events and this only counts as one GPS experience met.

GPS CERTIFICATE

(Requirements, cont.)

- Educational international travel of four days or more with either NDA, vetted outside organizations, or family members.
- Serve at a volunteer site locally or abroad that has a global focus and is pre-approved by the GPS Advisor/Academic Coordinator.
- Other projects approved by the GPS Advisor/Academic Coordinator.

4. During senior year all students **MUST** complete a Capstone Portfolio and give a presentation to the GPS Advisor/Academic Coordinator, other faculty members, and guests.

**Transfer students accepted into the Certificate Program will be determined by the GPS Advisor/Academic Coordinator.*

TIMELINE

Letter of intent for the GPS Excellence Certificate program must be completed by all sophomores in the spring, with the specific date set forth by the GPS Advisor/Academic Coordinator.





COLLEGE COUNSELING

At Notre Dame Academy, the work of preparing for college begins long before senior year. From the moment a student arrives, she is supported in building the habits, self-knowledge, and academic foundation that will carry her toward the future she is working to shape.

St. Julie Division (Gr. 7-8)

In their first years at NDA, students begin developing a meaningful understanding of academic achievement, integrity, and work ethic — and start thinking, with intention, about the high school experience ahead. Through guided reflection, they begin defining what they want to accomplish and why it matters to them.

Freshman and Sophomore Years

In grades 9 and 10, students work closely with their counselor to build college literacy — understanding the role of GPA, exploring courses and activities that align with their interests, and finding their footing in the wider life of the school through sports, clubs, service, and leadership. Students in these years also take the PSAT (PSAT 9 and PSAT 10, respectively), building familiarity with the exam and strengthening their performance over time.

Junior Year

Junior year marks a significant shift in the college preparation process. Students begin working directly with NDA's College Counselor to explore colleges that align with their academic strengths, personal interests, and career aspirations. Throughout the fall, admissions representatives from dozens of colleges and universities visit NDA, giving juniors the opportunity for direct, meaningful conversations with the schools on their lists.

Families are active partners in this process. Parents and guardians receive regular updates on the key dimensions of college admissions — interpreting GPA, timing college visits, and knowing the right questions to ask during interviews and campus tours.

By the close of junior year, every college-bound student will have established her Common App account, received personalized guidance on how to use the summer productively, and completed a polished draft of her college essay — shaped by the feedback of both her ELA teacher and College Counselor.





Senior Year

Senior year is where the work of four years comes together. Students meet frequently one-on-one with the College Counselor, receiving detailed, personalized feedback on their essays, Common App, college choices, and emerging career direction. In the fall, all NDA seniors attend the annual college fair — where more than 150 colleges and universities are represented — and continue meeting with admissions representatives who visit campus throughout the season.

Families remain central to the process. Parents and guardians are invited to attend webinars on life after acceptance, gaining the tools to interpret award letters and navigate the realities of financing a college education.



GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to earn their diploma from Notre Dame Academy, all students must achieve the following academic standards:

- **A minimum of 24 credits** acquired, with an average of 60 or above to ensure passing standing
- **4 high school credits in Theology** (with exceptions granted to transfer students without prior religious education)
- **4 high school credits in English Language Arts**
- **4 high school credits in Mathematics**, with required completion of Algebra 2
- **3 high school credits in lab-based Science**
- **3 high school credits in Social Studies**, with the requirement of U.S. History
- **2 high school credits in World Languages**, including a minimum of two consecutive years of one language
- **2 high school credits in the Arts**
- **0.5 high school credit in Physical Education**
- Passing completion of **Love in Action** service project
- Passing completion of **Senior Project** requirement

In addition, all NDA students must remain in good behavioral standing and uphold a consistent record of attendance to ensure their successful completion of each academic year.

Graduation eligibility is subject to the review of the Head of School, Principal, and Director of Student Life.

COURSE OF STUDY

The Course of Study at Notre Dame Academy reflects our commitment to academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, and the formation of young women prepared for lives of purpose and service. Rooted in our Catholic mission, the curriculum is designed to challenge and support students at every stage of their development — offering a balance of foundational coursework, opportunities for exploration, and pathways for advanced study.

As students move through grades 7–12, they are encouraged to take increasing ownership of their learning, make thoughtful academic choices, and pursue their interests with growing confidence and ambition. The pages that follow outline the academic program, graduation requirements, and course offerings that together shape the NDA educational experience.



COURSE OF STUDY

GRADE 7

- **ELA (1 credit):** *Foundations in Literature & Learning (H, AH)*
- **ART (1 credit):** *Arts Rotation (H)*
- **MATH (1 credit):** *Pre-Algebra (H, AH)*
- **SCIENCE (1 credit):** *Integrated Science: Life, Environmental, and Physical Sciences (H, AH)*
- **SOCIAL STUDIES (1 credit):** *World Geography & Cultures (H, AH)*
- **THEOLOGY (1 credit):** *Discovering Our Faith as Disciples of Jesus (H)*
- **WORLD LANGUAGES (1 credit)**
 - *Latin for Learning (H)*
 - *Introductory Spanish 1A (H)*
 - *Exploring French 1A (H)*
- **INTERDISCIPLINARY (1 credit)**
 - *Middle School Foundations (H)*
 - *Physical Education & Wellness (H)*

COURSE OF STUDY

GRADE 8

- **ELA (1 credit):** *Foundations in Literature & Language (H, AH)*
- **ART (1 credit):** *Arts Rotation (H)*
- **MATH (1 credit):**
 - *Foundations of Algebra 1 (H)*
 - *Algebra 1 (AH)*
- **SCIENCE (1 credit):** *Integrated Science: Physical, Life, Earth, & Space Sciences (H, AH)*
- **SOCIAL STUDIES (1 credit):** *Foundations of American Government (H, AH)*
- **THEOLOGY (1 credit):** *Discovering Our Faith as Members of the Church (H)*
- **WORLD LANGUAGES (1 credit)**
 - *Introductory Spanish 1B (H)*
 - *Exploring French 1B (H)*
- **INTERDISCIPLINARY (1 credit)**
 - *Foundations of Leadership (H)*
 - *Physical Education & Wellness (H)*

COURSE OF STUDY

GRADE 9

- **ELA (1 credit):** *Literary Genres (H, AH)*
- **ART (1 credit):** *Arts Rotation (H)*
- **MATH (1 credit)**
 - *Algebra 1 (H, AH)*
 - *Algebra 2 (AH)*
- **SCIENCE (1 credit)**
 - *Biology (H, AH)*
 - *Pre-AP Biology*
- **SOCIAL STUDIES (1 credit)**
 - *World History: The Rise and Fall of Civilizations (H, AH)*
 - *AP Human Geography*
- **THEOLOGY (1 credit):** *Scripture Studies (H)*
- **WORLD LANGUAGES (1 credit)**
 - *Spanish 1 (H) or Spanish 2 (H)*
 - *French 1 (H) or French 2 (H)*
- **INTERDISCIPLINARY (1 credit):** *AP Seminar*

COURSE OF STUDY

GRADE 10

- **ELA (1 credit):** *World Literature (H, AH)*
- **ART (1 credit):** *Arts Rotation (H)*
- **MATH (1 credit)**
 - *Geometry (H, AH)*
 - *Geometry / Trigonometry (AH)*
- **SCIENCE (1 credit)**
 - *Chemistry (H, AH)*
 - *AP Chemistry*
- **SOCIAL STUDIES (1 credit)**
 - *Modern World History (H, AH)*
 - *AP World History*
- **THEOLOGY (1 credit):** *Christian Morality (H)*
- **WORLD LANGUAGES (1 credit)**
 - *Spanish 2 (H) or Spanish 3 (AH)*
 - *French 2 (H) or French 3 (AH)*
- **INTERDISCIPLINARY (1 credit)**
 - *Women's Wellness (H)*
 - *Physical Education (H)*

COURSE OF STUDY

GRADE 11

- **ELA (1 credit)**
 - *American Literature (H, AH)*
 - *AP English Language and Composition*
- **MATH (1 credit)**
 - *Algebra 2 (H, AH)*
 - *Pre-calculus (AH) or AP Pre-calculus*
 - *Statistics (H) or AP Statistics*
- **SCIENCE (1 credit)**
 - *Microbiology (AH)*
 - *Exploration in Engineering (AH)*
 - *Anatomy & Physiology (AH)*
 - *Environmental Science (H)*
- **SOCIAL STUDIES (1 credit)**
 - *US History (H, AH)*
 - *AP US History*
- **THEOLOGY (1 credit):** *Christian Morality (H)*
- **INTERDISCIPLINARY (0.5 credit):** *Financial Literacy (H)*

COURSE OF STUDY

GRADE 12

- **ELA (1 credit)**
 - *British Literature (H, AH)*
 - *AP English Language and Composition*
 - *AP English Literature and Composition*
- **MATH (1 credit)**
 - *Pre-calculus (AH) or AP Pre-calculus*
 - *Statistics (H) or AP Statistics*
 - *Calculus (AH) or AP Calculus*
- **THEOLOGY (1 credit):** *Christian Morality(H)*
- **INTERDISCIPLINARY (0.5 credit):** *Senior Seminar: “How to Live a Good Life” (H)*



ACADEMIC LEVELING



Academic levels define the rigor, scope, and pacing of coursework across Notre Dame Academy's curriculum. Each level is designed to meet students where they are while stretching them toward the demands of collegiate academics.

NDA offers the following course levels:

Advanced Placement (AP) A college-level course that prepares students for the College Board AP exam in the subject area.

Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) An academically advanced course developed by the College Board to build the foundational skills — critical thinking, analysis, and evidence-based writing — that prepare students for the rigor of future AP coursework.

Advanced Honors (AH) Students move at an accelerated pace, explore material in significant depth, and are expected to engage in a high level of independent work, including homework.

Honors (H) Students engage with a challenging curriculum at a measured pace, developing the ability to grasp abstract concepts and work independently, with appropriate scaffolding and support.

Students interested in advanced-level coursework — including Advanced Honors, Pre-AP, and AP — will be assessed using **NDA's Advanced Course Readiness Framework**.

The framework assesses students holistically across three domains: academic readiness, as evaluated by their teachers; developmental readiness, as evaluated by their school counselor; and interest and motivation, as reflected by the student and her family.

Students who meet the established criteria will be enrolled in their requested advanced courses. Students who are not yet ready for advanced coursework will work with their counselor to develop a clear path to readiness — ensuring that access to advanced study remains an achievable goal in the near term.

It is important to note that academic readiness is not a measure of a student's intellectual ability or scholarly potential. It is a snapshot of her current developmental, relational, and motivational capacities — a starting point, not a ceiling.

A copy of NDA's **Advanced Course Readiness Framework can be found here.**

Notre Dame Academy is committed to challenging every student to achieve her best — while honoring her need for balance and holistic well-being. Course loads that compromise a student's health or development are not recommended. Students who wish to take on a high volume of advanced courses, or to enroll beyond their assessed readiness, will be asked to submit a document acknowledging that their selections differ from the recommendations of their counselors and academic team.





DUAL-ENROLLMENT

Juniors and seniors in good academic, behavioral, and attendance standing have the opportunity to enroll in one Assumption University course per semester, earning both college and high school credit concurrently — at no additional tuition cost to their families. Students are responsible for any course-related fees and materials designated by their instructor.

Participants are expected to provide their own transportation and follow the Assumption University academic calendar, attending class even when NDA is not in session.

The program is open to juniors and seniors with a minimum GPA of 3.0 and the endorsement of their teachers and school counselor.



VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL

Notre Dame Academy offers select courses through Virtual High School (VHS) for juniors and seniors seeking coursework that falls outside NDA's traditional offerings — whether due to scheduling constraints or teacher availability.

Students who enroll in VHS courses are expected to be strong candidates for distance learning: self-directed, dependable, and genuinely motivated to engage with an online format. During the school day, VHS students are assigned a designated time and place to work, supervised by their school counselor. Completed courses appear on the student's official transcript.

COURSE OFFERINGS

ST. JULIE DIVISION

(2026-2027)

ARTS

- Intro to Theater
- Improvisation in Theater
- Intro to Dance
- Dance Foundations
- Intro to Music
- Intro to Music Technology
- Intro to Color
- Intro to Form and Value

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

- Foundations in Literature and Learning
- Foundations in Literature and Language
- Middle School Critical Literacy Intervention

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

- Middle School Foundations
- Physical Education

MATHEMATICS

- Pre-Algebra
- Foundations of Algebra
- Algebra 1
- Middle School Math Reasoning Intervention

SOCIAL STUDIES

- World Geography and Cultures
- Foundations of American Government

SCIENCE

- Integrated Science: Life, Environmental, and Physical Sciences
- Integrated Science: Physical, Life, & Earth and Space Sciences

THEOLOGY

- Discovering Our Faith as Disciples of Jesus
- Discovering Our Faith as Members of the Church

WORLD LANGUAGES

- Discovering Spanish 1A
- Foundations of Spanish IB
- Exploring French 1A
- Traveling in French 1B
- Latin for Learning 1A
- Latin for Learning 1B

COURSE OFFERINGS

HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION

(2026-2027)

ARTS

- Theater Foundations
- Theater Exploration
- Theater Performance
- Musical Theater
- Dance Exploration and Performance
- Ballet
- Modern Dance
- 20th Century Popular Music
- The World of Music
- Musical Expression
- Music Theory
- Elements of Art
- Watercolor Exploration
- Advanced Visual Art
- Graphic Design

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

- Literary Genres
- World Literature
- American Literature
- Women Writers
- Women’s Voices Unbound
- British Literature
- AP English Language and Composition
- AP English Literature and Composition
- High School Critical Literacy Intervention

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

- AP Seminar
- Marketing
- Physical Education
- Lifetime Fitness
- Team Sports
- Athletic Leadership
- Freshman Enrichment
- How to Live a Good Life

MATHEMATICS

- Algebra 1
- Algebra 2
- Geometry
- Geometry / Trigonometry
- Financial Literacy
- Statistics
- AP Statistics
- Pre-calculus
- AP Pre-calculus
- Calculus
- AP Calculus
- High School Math Reasoning Intervention

COURSE OFFERINGS

HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION

(2026-2027)

SCIENCE

- Biology
- Pre-AP Biology
- Chemistry
- AP Chemistry
- Women's Wellness
- Microbiology
- Exploration in Engineering
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Physics
- Environmental Science

SOCIAL STUDIES

- World History: The Rise and Fall of Civilizations
- AP Human Geography
- Modern World History
- AP World History: Modern
- US History
- AP US History
- AP US Government and Politics
- Psychology
- AP Psychology
- Genocide & the Development of Human Rights
- Modern International Criminal Law

THEOLOGY

- Scripture Studies
- Christian Morality
- The Church in History
- World Religions
- Social Justice
- Love-in-Action

WORLD LANGUAGES

- Spanish 1
- Spanish 2
- Spanish 3 - Elevating Communication & Culture
- Spanish 4 - Advanced Communication
- Spanish 5 - Mastering Communication
- French 1 - Introducing French
- French 2 - Navigating French
- French 3 - Communicating in French
- French 4 - Interacting in French
- French 5 - Mastering French

THE ARTS



The Arts Department at Notre Dame Academy is committed to fostering creativity, confidence, and personal expression. Students are inspired to explore beyond their comfort zones, embracing their identities through artistic study and appreciation, using artistic skills and training as life tools.

Objectives across all Arts courses include unlocking individual creativity, enhancing concentration and focus, valuing risk-taking, and understanding the world through diverse artistic media.

INTRO TO THEATER

Honors - Required, Gr. 7

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of acting in a safe, supportive, and collaborative environment — one that prizes creative risk-taking, mutual acceptance, and the kind of ensemble spirit that makes theater come alive. Through exercises, games, and scene work, students build confidence while developing the verbal and physical presentation skills that serve them both on stage and far beyond it. The course culminates in a performance of scenes or a short play, giving students the experience of bringing their work to an audience and discovering firsthand what it means to tell a story together. (Arts Rotation; 0.25 credit)

IMPROVISATION IN THEATER

Honors - Required, Gr. 8

This course introduces students to the art and craft of theatrical improvisation, teaching the foundational skills needed to create scenes spontaneously, collaboratively, and with genuine presence. Through improv games and exercises built around core principles — teamwork, trust, association, and the essential "yes, and" — students develop confidence, quick thinking, and the kind of deep listening that makes both great improv and great conversation possible. Along the way, the course draws meaningful parallels between the rules of improv and the rhythms of everyday life, inviting students to discover that the skills of a skilled improviser and those of a thoughtful, engaged human being are not so different after all. (Arts Rotation; 0.25 credit)

THEATER FOUNDATIONS

Honors - Required, Gr. 9

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of theater, developing core performance skills — including vocal projection, physical presence, memorization, and public speaking — through a progression of technique-building work grounded in real stage practice. A central thread of the course is an exploration of Shakespeare: his life, his world, and his language, as students learn to analyze, decode, and ultimately memorize and perform a Shakespearean sonnet. The experience of bringing Shakespeare's words to life offers students not only a window into one of history's greatest theatrical minds, but a genuine test of the confidence and craft they are building throughout the course. (Arts Rotation; 0.25 credit)

THEATER EXPLORATIONS

Honors - Required, Gr. 10

*Building on the foundations established in Theater Foundations, this course deepens students' performance skills through increasingly ambitious and personal work. Students read and perform scenes from a full play while also exploring the art of the monologue — studying theatrical examples, developing memorization techniques, and ultimately writing and performing a monologue of their own. Throughout, the course sharpens vocal communication, critical thinking, and the collaborative instincts that define strong ensemble work, inviting students to take greater creative ownership of their craft and their voice. (**Arts Rotation; 0.25 credit**)*

THEATER PERFORMANCE

Honors - Elective, Gr. 11-12

*Theater Performance is an advanced course designed for students ready to commit seriously to the craft of acting, building on prior theatrical experience through an immersive focus on the skills, techniques, and artistic sensibilities that define accomplished performers. Students work across a range of performance styles — monologue, scene work, and improvisation — while also engaging with the technical and analytical dimensions of theater, learning to both create and critically evaluate dramatic work. A distinctive element of the course is its expectation that students attend and critique two live theater performances, developing the eye and vocabulary of a thoughtful audience member alongside their work as performers. Note: Theater Performance and Musical Theater are offered on alternating years; Theater Performance will be offered in SY26–27. (**Full-year course; 1 credit**)*

MUSICAL THEATER

Honors - Elective, Gr. 11-12

This course offers an engaging introduction to the American musical — its history, its many styles and forms, and its remarkable capacity to reflect the values, tensions, and dreams of the society that produced it. Through films, recordings, librettos, and musical scores, students explore the full creative ecosystem of musical theater, from composers and lyricists to directors, choreographers, and designers, while developing their own skills as musical theater artists in singing, dancing, and acting. The course culminates in the creation and presentation of an original musical

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MUSICAL THEATER (cont.)

*written collaboratively in class, and students also learn the practical realities of the profession — including the audition process, the performance resume, and the audition binder. Note: Theater Performance and Musical Theater are offered on alternating years; Theater Performance will be the elective offered in SY26–27. (**Full-year course; 1 credit**)*

INTRO TO DANCE (PT. 1)

Honors - Required, Gr. 7

*This course introduces students to the fundamentals of dance, providing foundational training in movement technique, terminology, and body awareness across a variety of styles and forms. Students develop coordination, musicality, and physical confidence while building the vocabulary and technical foundation that supports growth in any dance discipline. Welcoming students of all experience levels, the course creates an inclusive and encouraging studio environment where curiosity and a willingness to move are the only prerequisites. (**Arts Rotation; 0.25 credit**)*

INTRO TO DANCE (PT. 2)

Honors - Required, Gr. 8

*This course builds on the foundation established in Intro to Dance, inviting students to deepen their technical skills and expand their movement vocabulary across a broader range of styles and forms. With greater emphasis on musicality, performance quality, and artistic intention, students are challenged to move with increased precision, expression, and confidence. The course continues to foster a supportive and inclusive studio environment while raising expectations — asking students to bring greater independence and creative investment to their growth as dancers. (**Arts Rotation; 0.25 credit**)*

DANCE FOUNDATIONS

Honors - Required, Gr. 9

This course introduces students to the foundations of dance through the disciplined lens of ballet, developing technical precision, proper alignment, posture, and the foundational vocabulary that underlies so many dance forms. Students build strength, coordination, and body awareness through structured barre and center work, while also exploring the expressive

(cont.)

DANCE FOUNDATIONS (cont.)

possibilities of contemporary and lyrical movement — styles that invite greater freedom, individuality, and emotional depth.

Together, these three disciplines offer students a rich and well-rounded introduction to dance, balancing the rigor of classical technique with the artistry and fluidity of more modern forms.

(Arts Rotation; 0.25 credit)

DANCE EXPLORATION AND PERFORMANCE

Honors - Required, Gr. 10

This advanced course is designed for students ready to pursue dance with serious intention, placing a strong emphasis on technical precision, strength, and the mastery of complex choreography across multiple styles and forms. Students refine their artistry and performance quality through rigorous technique work, rehearsal, and the kind of sustained practice that transforms skill into expression. With an eye toward theatrical dance performance, the course prepares students to bring full commitment — physically, artistically, and collaboratively — to the stage, making it an ideal pathway for those who aspire to perform at the highest level of their high school dance experience.

(Arts Rotation; 0.25 credit)

MODERN DANCE

Honors - Elective, Gr. 9-12

*In this semester-long modern dance course, students explore the foundational principles of contemporary movement — including breath, weight, dynamics, and spatial awareness — through guided technique, improvisation, and choreographic study. Drawing on the legacies of pioneers like Martha Graham, José Limón, and Lester Horton, students develop both physical literacy and artistic voice as they learn to express ideas and emotion through the body. The course culminates in a shared performance experience that celebrates individual growth and the power of collective creative work. ***(Half-year course; 0.5 credit)****

BALLET

Honors - Elective, Gr. 9-12

This semester-long ballet course introduces students to the discipline, vocabulary, and artistry of classical dance through foundational barre and center work, covering alignment,

(cont.)

BALLET (cont.)

*musicality, and the essential elements of technique. Students develop strength, coordination, and body awareness while gaining an appreciation for ballet's rich history and its enduring influence on the broader world of dance. (**Half-year course; 0.5 credit**)*

INTRO TO MUSIC

Honors - Required, Gr. 7

*This course introduces students to the building blocks of music — rhythm, scales, melody, and harmony — through an engaging, hands-on approach that makes music literacy accessible and enjoyable for students at every experience level. Using our keyboard lab, students develop foundational piano skills and work through a core repertoire, with opportunities to pursue additional pieces suited to their individual level and interests. Percussion instruments, including Boomwhacker melody tubes, round out the experience, giving students a varied and playful introduction to the world of music-making. (**Arts Rotation; 0.25 credit**)*

INTRO TO MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

Honors - Required, Gr. 8

*This course introduces students to the exciting intersection of music and technology, exploring foundational concepts such as MIDI, sequencing, and digital audio through hands-on work with tools like Chrome Music Lab and BandLab. Students develop creative and technical skills as they build original song projects, learning to think like both musicians and producers as they shape sound into intentional, expressive compositions. The course culminates in a capstone project in which students compose and produce an original soundtrack for a short animated film — a creative challenge that brings together everything they have learned and invites them to tell a story through music. (**Arts Rotation; 0.25 credit**)*

20TH CENTURY POPULAR MUSIC

Honors - Required, Gr. 9

This course traces the rich and restless history of music across the twentieth century, examining how technological innovations — from sound recording and radio to electric amplification — fundamentally transformed the way people created, shared, and experienced music. Students explore the deep connections between

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20TH CENTURY POPULAR MUSIC (cont.)

historical forces and artistic expression, investigating how events such as the World Wars, the Great Depression, and the Civil Rights Movement shaped songwriting, musicianship, and the evolution of entire genres. The course culminates in a student-created slideshow presentation highlighting a self-selected decade from the 20th century, inviting each student to become the expert on a particular moment in music history and share what made it resonate. (Arts Rotation; 0.25 credit)

THE WORLD OF MUSIC

Honors - Required, Gr. 10

This survey course takes students on a wide-ranging journey through the musical traditions of cultures across the globe, beginning with the classical and folk traditions of Western Europe before expanding outward to explore the rich musical heritages of Africa, Asia, Indigenous American and Australian peoples, and the vibrant fusion traditions of South America. Students develop an appreciation for the extraordinary diversity of human musical expression while also discovering the surprising connections — in rhythm, structure, and spirit — that link traditions separated by vast distances and centuries of history. The course invites students to listen more deeply and more openly, cultivating a global musical literacy that broadens both their artistic sensibility and their understanding of the world. (Arts Rotation; 0.25 credit)

MUSICAL EXPRESSION

Honors - Elective, Gr. 9-12

This general music course explores how music functions as a language — a powerful means of expressing ideas, emotions, and cultural identity across time and place. Students build a working understanding of Western musical notation and develop their musical literacy through a survey of diverse styles and traditions, including the music of cultures from around the world. The course is grounded in active music-making, with performance assignments on instruments of each student's choosing, inviting personal engagement with the material and a firsthand appreciation for what it means to communicate through sound. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

MUSIC THEORY

Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 11-12

This course offers a rigorous and focused study of Western music theory, guiding students through the foundational principles that underlie harmony, composition, and musical analysis. Students develop fluency in four-part writing, dictation, and sight singing while building a deep understanding of the circle of fifths, Roman numeral chord analysis, non-chord tone identification, and the structure of musical cadences. Equal parts intellectual and aural, the course trains students to both hear and understand music with greater precision and depth — developing skills that are essential for any serious musician pursuing advanced study in the field.

(Full-year course; 1 credit)

INTRO TO COLOR

Honors - Required, Gr. 7

This introductory course immerses students in the study of color — its theory, its relationships, and its extraordinary expressive potential — through a focused exploration of the color wheel, color mixing, and the ways colors interact and influence one another.

*Working primarily in two-dimensional media, students develop technical proficiency with colored pencils, crayon, and oil pastels while deepening their understanding of how color functions as both a structural and emotional element in works of art. The course balances disciplined skill-building with genuine creative exploration, inviting students to see color not just as a property of objects, but as a language all its own. **(Arts Rotation; 0.25 credit)***

INTRO TO FORM & VALUE

Honors - Required, Gr. 8

*This introductory course invites students into the foundational artistic challenges of form and value, developing their ability to render three-dimensional space and volume on a two-dimensional surface with confidence and precision. Working primarily in graphite and charcoal, students explore the full range of light and shadow, learning to use value as a tool for creating depth, dimension, and visual drama. The course builds essential observational and technical skills that underpin virtually every discipline in the visual arts, training students to truly see — and to translate what they see into expressive, compelling work. **(Arts Rotation; 0.25 credit)***

ELEMENTS OF ART

Honors - Required, Gr. 9

This course offers a comprehensive introduction to the seven elements of art — color, form, value, space, texture, shape, and line — guiding students through an exploration of what each element contributes individually and how they work together to create meaning, balance, and visual impact in a work of art.

Students engage with a variety of artistic media, developing both technical skill and a more fluent visual vocabulary as they learn to analyze existing works and make intentional choices in their own.

*The course builds the foundational literacy that every aspiring artist needs, cultivating in students a deeper and more confident way of seeing the world around them. (**Arts Rotation; 0.25 credit**)*

WATERCOLOR EXPLORATION

Honors - Required, Gr. 10

This course invites students into the luminous and unpredictable world of watercolor, developing technical skill and artistic confidence through a series of guided prompts and exercises designed to explore the full range of what the medium can do.

*Students learn foundational watercolor techniques — from washes and layering to wet-on-wet and controlled detail work — while also discovering their own personal artistic voice and learning to embrace the spontaneity and flow that make watercolor unlike any other medium. Equal parts discipline and discovery, the course encourages students to see the unexpected not as a mistake, but as an invitation to create something they couldn't have planned. (**Arts Rotation; 0.25 credit**)*

ADVANCED VISUAL ART

Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 11-12

Designed for students with a strong foundation in visual art, this course challenges juniors and seniors to deepen their technical practice and develop a more personal, conceptual approach to artmaking. Working across self-selected and instructor-guided media, students produce a cohesive body of work that reflects individual artistic vision and growth. The course is ideal

*preparation for AP Studio Art, college portfolios, or any student ready to work with greater independence and ambition. (**Half-year course; 0.5 credit**)*

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 11-12

This course introduces juniors and seniors to the principles and practices of graphic design, exploring how typography, color, composition, and imagery work together to communicate ideas visually. Using industry-standard digital tools, students complete real-world inspired projects — from branding and layout to digital illustration — building both technical proficiency and a designer's eye. The course is an ideal entry point for students interested in careers or further study in design, media, and the visual arts.
(Half-year course; 0.5 credit)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS



Our English program beautifully aligns with our mission, blending classic and modern literature to meet students' needs. Over four years, students explore texts of increasing complexity, covering 3,000 years of global literature. This curriculum enriches their understanding of diverse cultures, history, and literary techniques, fostering personal growth and lively classroom discussions.

Writing development is central to our program. Freshmen start with journaling and essays, sophomores move to analytical writing, juniors undertake research papers and presentations, and seniors create a 10-page analysis presented publicly. From the beginning, students develop strong grammar, usage, and MLA skills, preparing them for life's journey with academic excellence, character, and community service.

ENGLISH FOUNDATIONS IN LITERATURE & LEARNING

Honors, Advanced Honors - Required, Gr. 7

This course builds the foundational skills of clear, effective written communication, guiding students through the essentials of sentence structure, paragraphing, and the writing strategies that make ideas readable, organized, and persuasive. Students develop their ability to read actively and respond thoughtfully — processing complex questions and crafting responses with precision and confidence — while grammar and vocabulary instruction are woven throughout the curriculum to reinforce and deepen their command of language. The course is designed to give students a strong and versatile foundation in writing and communication that will serve them across every discipline and well beyond the classroom. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

ENGLISH FOUNDATIONS IN LITERATURE & LANGUAGE

Honors, Advanced Honors - Required, Gr. 8

Building on the literary foundations established in 7th grade, this course deepens students' engagement with grammar, vocabulary, and writing strategy while expanding the variety, complexity, and ambition of their written work. Students are challenged to develop and defend ideas with greater sophistication — both on the page and in conversation — cultivating the verbal and written communication skills that define confident, articulate thinkers. The course also looks ahead deliberately, strengthening the analytical and literary skill sets that will prepare students for the genre-focused study they will encounter in 9th grade English. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

LITERARY GENRES

Honors, Advanced Honors - Required, Gr. 9

*This English course strengthens students' analytical thinking, reading comprehension, and writing skills through an exploration of literary genres — including classic literature, short stories, and poetry — anchored by texts such as *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Odyssey*, and *My Ántonia*. Students develop essential skills in literary analysis, evidence-based argumentation, and MLA formatting while examining how authors use literary elements such as theme, character development, and purpose to convey deeper meaning. Guided by the question of how great literature speaks to enduring human experience, the course invites students to demonstrate their understanding both through structured analytical writing and creative visual expression. (Full-year course; 1 credit)*

WORLD LITERATURE

Honors, Advanced Honors - Required, Gr. 10

*World Literature Honors deepens students' critical reading and expository writing skills while broadening their literary horizons through a thematic and comparative exploration of voices, stories, and perspectives from around the globe. Engaging with essays, novels, short stories, and poetry drawn from a diverse range of cultures and countries, students develop a genuine appreciation for multicultural literature and their own emerging identity as global citizens. Close reading is central to the course — practiced through annotation, journaling, and rich class discussion — while the writing curriculum guides students through the full writing process, from thesis development and outlining to the effective use of textual evidence, culminating in a polished five-paragraph essay. Independent reading and both individual and collaborative projects round out a course designed to challenge students intellectually and connect them to the wider human story. (**Full-year course; 1 credit**)*

AMERICAN LITERATURE

Honors, Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 11

*This course traces the major writers, literary periods, and genres of American literature through a combined chronological and thematic lens, introducing students to the diverse subjects, ideas, and styles that have defined the American literary tradition across poetry, fiction, short stories, and nonfiction. Students engage with texts through close reading, annotation, and discussion, developing the historical and literary context needed to analyze literature with growing sophistication — including more complex thesis statements, nuanced arguments, and confident analytical writing. The course builds toward the composition and presentation of a formal literary analysis paper, while independent reading and individual and collaborative projects deepen engagement and invite students to bring their own perspective to the American story. (**Full-year course; 1 credit**)*

WOMEN WRITERS

Honors - Elective, Gr. 11

This semester course invites senior students to locate themselves within the long and vital tradition of women who write — exploring a diverse range of women writers from across the globe whose work has shaped and expanded the female literary voice in

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WOMEN WRITERS (cont.)

Honors - Elective, Gr. 11

lasting ways. Beginning with a personal "Autobiography as a Writer," students move through a variety of genres and writing assignments, using anchor texts by women as models for finding their own voice, style, and creative instincts. The course builds deliberately toward the college essay, ensuring that by the time students sit down to write about themselves for an audience that matters, they have already done the deeper work of knowing who they are as writers and what they have to say. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

WOMEN'S VOICES UNBOUND

Honors - Elective, Gr. 11, 12

Drawing on the work of women writers across cultures and generations, this course invites students to read analytically and write with increasing confidence and authenticity. Texts explore themes of identity, resilience, justice, and self-expression, grounding students in a literary tradition of women who used language to navigate their lives and shape the world around them. Through creative and analytical writing, workshop, and structured peer feedback, students develop a stronger, more assured voice — learning to take risks on the page, respond to their own ideas with rigor, and revise with intention. The course culminates in a portfolio of original work that reflects each student's growth as a writer and her deepening understanding of language as a tool for meaning-making and change. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

BRITISH LITERATURE

Honors, Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 12

This course offers a comparative and thematic journey through the major writers and genres of British literature, drawing on a broad range of styles, periods, and perspectives to explore essential questions — among them, who the British are, how they have shaped the literary tradition, and why Shakespeare continues to matter. Students refine the art of close reading, developing greater depth, precision, and confidence in their analytical and critical writing as they engage with texts that have defined and challenged the English-speaking world for centuries. Individual and collaborative projects invite students to apply their literary comprehension and interpretive skills in diverse and creative ways. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION WITH AMERICAN LITERATURE

Advanced Placement - Elective, Gr. 11

*AP English Language and Composition is a rigorous, college-level course designed for highly motivated students who bring strong independent reading skills, a mature written voice, and the work ethic to meet the demands of serious academic study. Centered on American nonfiction and the art of rhetoric, the course trains students to read like writers and write like readers — examining how skilled authors construct arguments, deploy evidence, and make deliberate stylistic choices in service of their purpose and audience. Students develop sophisticated analytical and compositional skills across a range of writing modes, exploring rhetorical situations, claims and reasoning, organization, and style, all while building toward the AP English Language and Composition exam in May. (**Full-year course; 1 credit**)*

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION WITH BRITISH LITERATURE

Advanced Placement - Elective, Gr. 12

*AP English Literature and Composition is a rigorous, college-level course designed for highly motivated students who bring independent reading habits, a mature written voice, and the commitment to meet the demands of serious literary study. Building on and beyond the work of British Literature Honors and Advanced Honors, the course immerses students in the close reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature — exploring how writers use character, setting, structure, perspective, and figurative language to create meaning, provoke thought, and offer the particular pleasure that only great literature can. Students develop sophisticated analytical and compositional skills through sustained engagement with complex texts, cultivating the depth of literary understanding and the precision of expression that the AP English Literature exam — required in May — demands. (**Full-year course; 1 credit**)*

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES



The Interdisciplinary Studies Department at Notre Dame Academy is dedicated to nurturing students' understanding of learning's interconnected nature and inspiring students to grow intellectually, morally, and physically.

Offering a diverse array of courses, the department encourages students to explore and integrate knowledge across disciplines, fostering critical thinking and creativity. Electives play a key role by aligning with students' evolving interests and faculty expertise, allowing students to tailor their education to personal goals and passions. This dynamic curriculum ensures personalized, meaningful educational experiences that prepare students for future academic and professional endeavors.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FOUNDATIONS

Honors - Required, Gr. 7

*Led by the middle school counselor, this required course supports 7th grade students in developing the academic skills and social-emotional competencies needed to thrive during one of the most significant transitions of their young lives. Through interactive lessons, self-assessments, and meaningful dialogue, students explore a range of topics — including goal-setting, growth mindset, time management, healthy relationships, stress management, and digital citizenship — that equip them to navigate middle school with confidence and self-awareness. The course culminates in a series of self-exploration activities designed to deepen students' understanding of themselves, strengthen their self-esteem, and begin shaping their vision for high school, college, and beyond — empowering each young woman to advocate for herself, make responsible decisions, and meet the challenges ahead with resilience and purpose. (**Half-year course; 0.5 credit**)*

FOUNDATIONS OF LEADERSHIP

Honors - Required, Gr. 8

*Led by the middle school counselor, this required course supports 8th grade students as they step into leadership within the middle school and begin preparing thoughtfully for the transition to high school. Through exploration of topics such as identity, self-advocacy, peer dynamics, responsible decision-making, digital citizenship, and academic resilience, students develop the self-awareness, confidence, and social understanding needed to navigate this pivotal year with intention and maturity. Grounded in the school's mission, the course encourages students to lead with integrity, support one another, and cultivate the habits of mind — organization, goal-setting, and perseverance — that will carry them successfully into the next chapter of their education and their lives. (**Half-year course; 0.5 credit**)*

HOW TO LIVE A GOOD LIFE

Honors - Required, Gr. 12

Senior Seminar is a capstone course designed to prepare students for life beyond Notre Dame Academy, inviting them to reflect deeply on what it means to live with purpose, integrity, and joy. Through discussion, writing, and real-world application, students wrestle with essential questions about happiness, identity, morality, and relationships while exploring practical and

(cont.)

HOW TO LIVE A GOOD LIFE (cont.)

examining topics such as vocation and calling, ethical decision-making, leadership and service, financial responsibility, well-being, and life in a digital world. As they prepare to graduate, students are challenged to articulate a vision for their lives rooted in meaning, responsibility, and a commitment to something larger than themselves. (Half-year course; 0.5 credit)

7th GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND WELLNESS

Honors - Required, Gr. 7

This course builds foundational fitness skills and personal wellness habits, engaging students in a range of activities — including team sports, individual fitness training, and cooperative games — designed to develop strength, endurance, flexibility, and coordination alongside the teamwork and sportsmanship that make physical activity a shared experience. In the wellness component, students explore nutrition, personal health, stress management, and goal-setting, developing a broader understanding of what it means to care for themselves as whole persons. Guided throughout by the essential question of what makes us well, the course lays the groundwork for a lifetime of intentional, informed, and joyful engagement with health and fitness. (Half-year course; 0.5 credit)

8th GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND WELLNESS

Honors - Required, Gr. 8

Building on the foundation established in 7th grade, this course invites students to take greater ownership of their personal fitness and overall wellness through more advanced activities — including team and individual sports, fitness circuits, and lifetime activities — with an increased focus on skill development, strategy, and measurable performance improvement. The wellness component deepens students' understanding of mental health, healthy relationships, and the long-term impact of lifestyle choices, equipping them to make informed and responsible decisions about their own well-being. Students set, monitor, and reflect on personal fitness goals throughout the course, graduating from it with the habits, self-awareness, and motivation to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle independently. (Half-year course; 0.5 credit)

HIGH SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND WELLNESS

Honors - Required, Gr. 10

*This course places students at the center of their own fitness journey, emphasizing personal choice, goal-driven improvement, and the development of the leadership and self-assessment skills that define a truly independent approach to lifelong wellness. Through lifetime sports, fitness planning, and recreational activities, students design and implement individualized fitness plans tailored to their own goals and interests, bringing greater autonomy and accountability to their physical development than in previous years. The wellness component explores advanced topics — including nutrition, healthy relationships, personal safety, and stress and time management — through the lens of broader questions about how society and culture shape our well-being and how strong social connections and teamwork can sustain us on the path to a healthy, balanced life. (**Half-year course; 0.5 credit**)*

LIFETIME FITNESS

Honors - Elective, Gr. 11-12

*This semester-long elective is designed to help students discover and develop skills in physical activities they can enjoy for a lifetime — whether individually, with a partner, or in small groups. Through units that may include pickleball, yoga, golf, weightlifting, dance, and more, students set personal goals, practice self-assessment, and build confidence across a wide range of pursuits suited to all ability levels. The course emphasizes not just physical skill, but the habits of mind and body that support lasting wellness, stress management, and an active, balanced life well beyond the school setting. (**Half-year course; 0.5 credit**)*

TEAM SPORTS

Honors - Elective, Gr. 11-12

*This semester-long elective immerses students in a range of competitive team sports — including soccer, lacrosse, basketball, flag football, volleyball, and hockey — with an emphasis on skill development, game strategy, and high-level gameplay. Through a mix of teacher- and student-led instruction, students take an active role in their learning while building the communication, collaboration, and sportsmanship that define effective teammates. The course challenges students to bring their individual best in service of a shared goal, developing both athletic ability and the competitive character that carries beyond the playing field. (**Half-year course; 0.5 credit**)*

ATHLETIC LEADERSHIP

Honors - Elective, Gr. 11-12

in physical education, coaching, exercise science, or physical therapy, offering a foundational blend of physical activity, academic exploration, and real-world application. Students develop practical skills in fitness training, sport instruction, and movement analysis while exploring key concepts such as anatomy and physiology, injury prevention, and coaching strategies — with opportunities for peer teaching and hands-on leadership experience. The course invites students to think seriously about what it means to promote health and movement in others, laying the groundwork for future study and careers in the broader field of human performance and wellness. (Half-year course; 0.5 credit)

AP SEMINAR

Advanced Placement - Required, Gr. 9

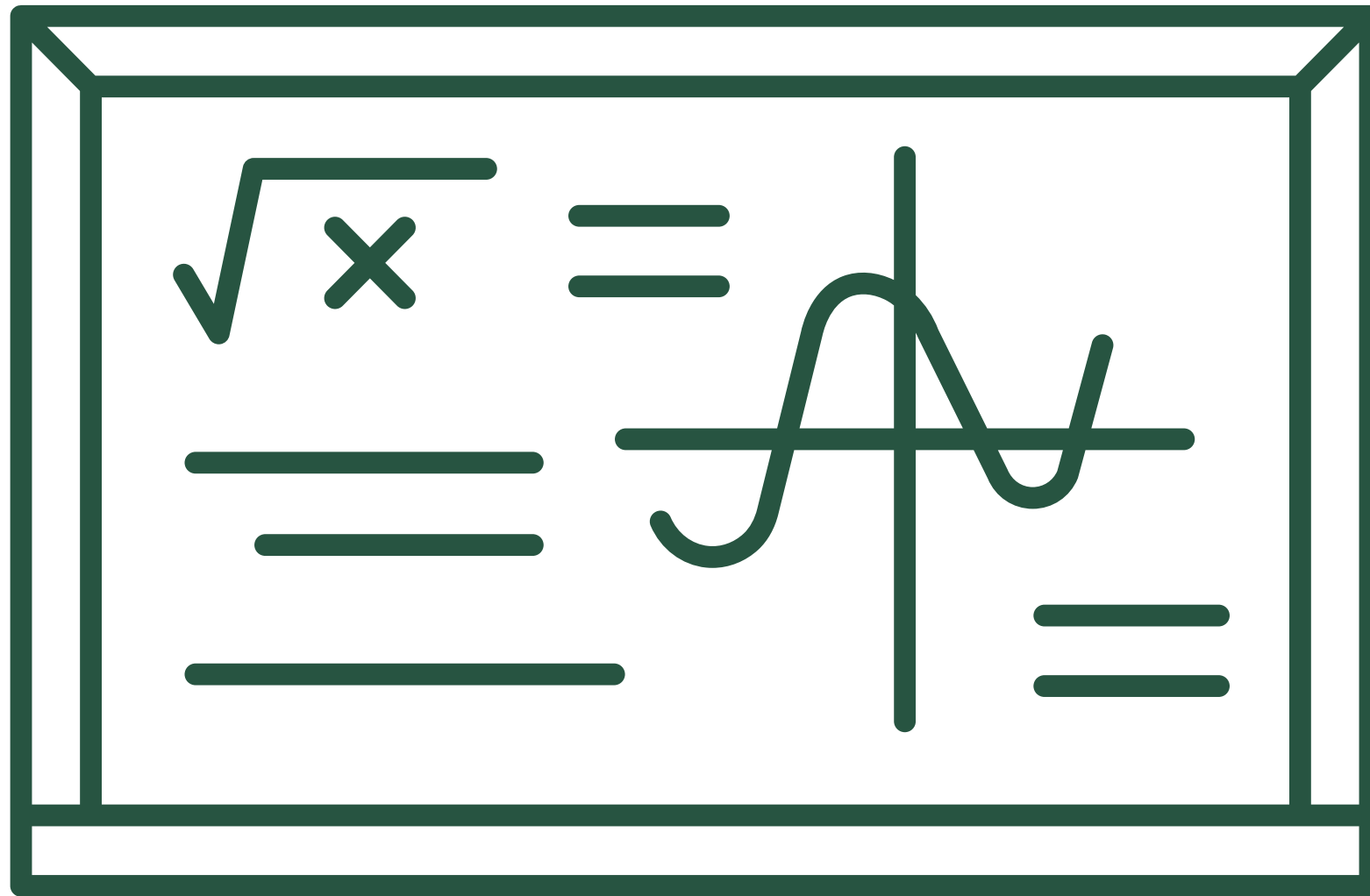
AP Seminar is an inquiry-based course that challenges students to investigate complex academic and real-world issues through multiple perspectives, developing the critical thinking, research, and communication skills that define rigorous collegiate work. Students analyze a range of sources — from articles and research studies to speeches and multimedia — learning to evaluate credibility, construct evidence-based arguments, and present their findings with clarity in both written and oral formats. In a 9th grade context, the course serves as an accessible and engaging introduction to AP-level thinking, laying a strong foundation for future advanced coursework including the full AP Seminar and AP Research sequence. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

MARKETING

Honors - Elective, Gr. 11-12

This semester course introduces students to the fundamental principles of marketing — including target marketing, pricing, product design, and promotion — while exploring the vital role that color, graphics, and visual identity play in building a compelling brand. Through case studies, presentations, guest speakers, and hands-on projects, students gain both theoretical grounding and practical experience, developing the analytical and creative skills needed to understand how businesses connect with consumers and bring products to life in a competitive marketplace. (Half-year course; 0.5 credit)

MATHEMATICS



The Mathematics Department provides a comprehensive program designed to strengthen students' cognitive and computational abilities, while preparing them for future college-level mathematics and logic-based courses.

Algebraic fluency and confidence vary from student to student, and so the Math Department frequently assesses students' readiness to ensure they're on the right path to math success.

Our teaching embraces the school's mission and fosters lifelong learning, supporting academic excellence and character growth for every NDA student.

PRE-ALGEBRA

Honors, Advanced Honors - Required, Gr. 7

This course bridges the transition from arithmetic to algebra, building on students' existing mathematical foundation while guiding them toward a more abstract and flexible understanding of algebraic thinking. Topics include integers, solving equations and inequalities, operations with rational numbers, decimals, ratios, proportions, percentages, and geometric constructions and scale drawings — all approached in a way that develops both procedural fluency and conceptual depth. The course is designed to give students the confidence and mathematical maturity they need to move successfully into formal algebra and the coursework that follows. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

FOUNDATIONS OF ALGEBRA

Honors - Elective, Gr. 8

This course prepares students for Algebra 1 by developing both conceptual understanding and procedural fluency across a range of foundational topics, including rational numbers, expressions, equations, and functions, alongside introductory work in geometry, statistics, and probability. Throughout, the emphasis is placed not just on computation, but on problem-solving, mathematical reasoning, and the ability to apply mathematical thinking to real-world situations. The course is designed to ensure that students arrive at Algebra 1 with the skills, habits of mind, and confidence to succeed. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

ALGEBRA 1 FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 8

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

This course develops students' understanding of linear, quadratic, and exponential relationships, guiding them through the solving of equations and inequalities and the analysis of linear, quadratic, exponential, and radical functions with increasing depth and fluency. Students learn to model real-world situations using algebraic methods and to move fluidly between multiple representations — graphs, tables, equations, and verbal descriptions — building the mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills that define strong algebraic thinkers. The course prepares students for success in Geometry and the higher-level mathematics that follows, ensuring they leave with both the conceptual foundation and the analytical confidence to take on more complex mathematical challenges. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

ALGEBRA 1

Honors, Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 9

*This course offers a comprehensive study of the fundamentals of algebra, guiding students through essential topics including operations with signed numbers, solving equations in one variable, graphing and analyzing linear equations, an introduction to functions, exponents and scientific notation, and systems of linear equations. Throughout, special emphasis is placed on problem-solving and the deliberate building of a strong skills foundation — ensuring that students develop not just procedural fluency, but the mathematical reasoning and confidence that will support their success in geometry, advanced algebra, and beyond. (**Full-year course; 1 credit**)*

ADVANCED ALGEBRA 2

Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 9

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 for Middle School

*This course is designed for first-year students who have demonstrated strong mastery of Pre-Algebra and Algebra 1, opening with an accelerated review of prerequisite topics before moving into a focused study of graphing functions and solving quadratic equations. Students also explore polynomial and radical functions, complex numbers, and an introduction to trigonometry, with technology and real-world application problems woven throughout to ground abstract concepts in meaningful context. A TI-84 graphing calculator is required, and serves as an integral tool for investigation, analysis, and problem-solving across the course. (**Full-year course; 1 credit**)*

GEOMETRY

Honors, Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 10

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

*This course develops students' capacity for deductive reasoning and precise mathematical thinking through the study of geometric proof and real-world problem-solving across a rich range of topics — including lines, angles, triangles, polygons, quadrilaterals, circles, coordinate geometry, and the measurement of area and volume. Students learn to apply theorems with rigor and creativity, while algebraic concepts are integrated throughout to reinforce and deepen their broader mathematical foundation. The course challenges students to see the elegant logic that underlies the geometric world, with a TI-84 graphing calculator serving as a required tool for analysis. (**Full-year course; 1 credit**)*

GEOMETRY / TRIGONOMETRY

Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 10

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

*This accelerated course offers an in-depth study of the full geometry curriculum alongside a meaningful introduction to trigonometry, developing students' deductive reasoning and critical thinking through rigorous proof-writing and sophisticated problem-solving. Geometry topics span lines, angles, triangles, polygons, quadrilaterals, circles, coordinate geometry, and the measurement of area and volume, with students applying theorems to increasingly complex situations throughout. The trigonometry component introduces trigonometric functions and ratios and angle relationships, extending students' mathematical toolkit and laying the groundwork for advanced study — all supported by a required TI-84 graphing calculator as an essential tool for exploration and analysis. (**Full-year course; 1 credit**)*

ALGEBRA 2

Honors - Elective, Gr. 11

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 & Geometry

*This course is designed for students who have demonstrated strong mastery of Algebra 1 and Geometry, opening with an accelerated review of prerequisite topics before moving into a focused study of graphing functions and solving quadratic equations. Students also explore polynomial and radical functions, complex numbers, and trigonometry, with technology and real-world application problems integrated throughout to connect abstract concepts to meaningful contexts. A TI-84 graphing calculator is required and serves as an essential tool for investigation, analysis, and problem-solving across the course. (**Full-year course; 1 credit**)*

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Honors - Required, Gr. 11; Elective, Gr. 12 (SY26-27 only)

This course applies mathematical reasoning to the real-world financial decisions students will face as they move toward independence, developing practical skills in budgeting, saving, investing, and personal financial planning. Students explore the mechanics of checking accounts, spending logs, loans, interest, and repayment, developing a clear-eyed understanding of the long-term impact of borrowing and financial decision-making. A major component of the course is taxation, where students learn to interpret key financial documents — including W-2s and 1099s —

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FINANCIAL LITERACY (cont.)

Honors - Required, Gr. 11; Elective, Gr. 12 (SY26-27 only)

and gain hands-on experience completing a Form 1040 and navigating deductions and tax credits, leaving the course with the knowledge and confidence to manage their financial lives with skill and intention. (Half-year course for Gr. 11; 0.5 credit / Full-year course for Gr. 12; 1 credit)

STATISTICS

Honors - Elective, Gr. 11-12

Prerequisite: Algebra 2

This full-year course invites students into the world of statistics through hands-on experiments, projects, and real-world applications that bring data to life in meaningful and relevant ways. Students explore a comprehensive range of topics — including data classification, graphical representation, measures of central tendency, probability, normal distribution and Z-scores, hypothesis testing, and correlation and Chi-Square tests — developing both the technical fluency and the analytical mindset needed to interpret and draw conclusions from data with confidence. A TI-84 graphing calculator is required and serves as an essential tool throughout the course. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

AP STATISTICS

Advanced Placement - Elective, Gr. 11-12

Prerequisite: Algebra 2 AH

AP Statistics is a rigorous, full-year course that prepares students for the AP exam through deep engagement with statistical concepts and their real-world applications, covering data classification and representation, measures of central tendency, probability, normal distribution and Z-scores, hypothesis testing, and correlation and Chi-Square tests. Students develop the core competencies central to statistical practice — data analysis, selection of appropriate statistical methods, probability and simulation, and statistical argumentation — building both the technical fluency and the disciplined reasoning that the AP exam demands. A TI-84 graphing calculator is required and serves as an essential tool for investigation and analysis throughout the course. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

PRE-CALCULUS

Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 11-12

Prerequisite: Algebra 2 AH

*This course opens with a sophisticated algebraic study of functions and their graphs before moving into a thorough exploration of trigonometry — including the verification of identities — that forms the heart of the second half of the year. Students also encounter logarithms, sequences and series, and an introduction to the concept of limits, building the mathematical depth and fluency that serious calculus study demands. Designed for students who intend to pursue calculus in their senior year, the course is both a rigorous capstone of their algebraic preparation and a confident step toward the mathematics that lies ahead, with a TI-84 graphing calculator required throughout. (**Full-year course; 1 credit**)*

AP PRE-CALCULUS

Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 11-12

Prerequisite: Algebra 2 AH

*AP Pre-calculus is a rigorous, college-level course centered on the study of functions as tools for modeling dynamic, real-world phenomena — developing students' understanding across a broad spectrum of function types foundational for careers in mathematics, physics, biology, health science, social science, and data science. The course moves through polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions, building both procedural fluency and conceptual depth as students learn to analyze, represent, and model relationships through multiple mathematical lenses. Designed to serve as a coherent capstone experience as much as a preparation for future coursework, AP Pre-calculus prepares students for the AP exam while ensuring they leave with the mathematical maturity and analytical confidence to succeed in calculus and beyond, with a TI-84 graphing calculator required throughout. (**Full-year course; 1 credit**)*

CALCULUS

Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 12

Prerequisite: Pre-calculus AH or AP Pre-calculus

This course mirrors the content of AP Calculus — covering limits, differentiation, and integration through a modeling approach that emphasizes graphical, numerical, and symbolic problem-solving — while offering students the depth and rigor of calculus study without the specific preparation and expectations of the AP exam.

CALCULUS (cont.)

A graphing calculator is required, and students are expected to develop fluency both with and without technological support, building the mathematical maturity that serious calculus demands. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

AP CALCULUS AB

Advanced Placement - Elective, Gr. 12

Prerequisite: Pre-calculus AH or AP Pre-calculus

AP Calculus AB is an exceptionally rigorous, college-level course covering all topics outlined in the College Board's Calculus AB curriculum, including limits, differentiation, and integration, explored through graphical, numerical, and symbolic approaches to problem-solving. Designed for students who have excelled in Pre-calculus and are ready to meet the full demands of an introductory college mathematics course, the course prepares students to take the AP exam in May and requires both consistent use of a graphing calculator and demonstrated fluency without one. A mandatory summer assignment and weekly AP review packets are integral components of the course, setting the tone for the level of commitment and discipline the work requires. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

SCIENCE



The Science Department offers an enriching program designed to enlighten students about the world around them and how it connects to various scientific fields.

We aim to guide students in making thoughtful and responsible decisions — intellectually, socially, physically, emotionally, and ethically — both personally and within their communities. Our thoughtfully crafted curriculum ensures a seamless journey of learning and growth, fostering scientific literacy, critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and environmental responsibility in every student.

INTEGRATED SCIENCE: LIFE, ENVIRONMENTAL, & PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Honors, Advanced Honors - Required, Gr. 7

In this full-year course, 7th grade students explore the interconnected systems and cycles that shape the natural world, building on prior knowledge of structure, function, and relationships across scientific disciplines. Topics span life science — including cell systems, human body systems, reproduction and growth, and ecosystems — as well as physics concepts such as waves, electromagnetic radiation, and electricity and magnetism, with an emphasis on understanding how these systems interact. The course culminates in a traditional science fair that develops students' research, data collection, and analytical skills, laying the groundwork for a deeper study of cause and effect in 8th grade. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

INTEGRATED SCIENCE: PHYSICAL, LIFE, & EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCES

Honors, Advanced Honors - Required, Gr. 8

Building on the foundation established in 7th grade, this full-year course challenges 8th grade students to apply abstract thinking to explain the causes of complex natural phenomena and designed processes — developing their ability to identify patterns, make predictions, and reason about systems that cannot always be directly observed. Topics move across physical, life, and earth sciences, encompassing atoms and chemical reactions, forces and motion, genetics and natural selection, earth history, climate, and astronomy. The course culminates in an invention and engineering fair that introduces the engineering design process, asking students to apply scientific thinking to real-world problem-solving through design drawings and process modeling. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

BIOLOGY

Honors, Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 9

This introductory Biology course provides students with a comprehensive foundation in the life sciences, guiding them through the chemistry of life, cellular processes, biomolecules, enzymes, photosynthesis, cell respiration, mitosis and meiosis, genetics, and DNA and protein synthesis — with an emphasis on understanding how molecular processes connect to the larger systems that sustain living organisms. Students develop essential scientific skills through hands-on laboratory work, specimen study,

(cont.)

BIOLOGY (cont.)

and structured inquiry, learning to conduct investigations, analyze data, write laboratory reports, and apply biological concepts to real-world situations. Guided by questions about how cells sustain life, how genetics drives inheritance, and how scientific methods deepen our understanding of living systems, the course builds the conceptual foundation and investigative habits that prepare students for advanced study in the sciences.

PRE-AP BIOLOGY

Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 9

*This rigorous Pre-AP Biology course offers an in-depth exploration of the life sciences, moving at an accelerated pace through the chemistry of life, cellular processes, biomolecules, enzymes, photosynthesis, cell respiration, mitosis and meiosis, genetics, and DNA and protein synthesis — with a consistent emphasis on understanding how molecular mechanisms scale to the complex systems that define living organisms. Students engage in extensive laboratory work and specimen analysis, developing the advanced skills of independent experimental design, formal scientific writing, sophisticated data interpretation, and technology-assisted research that define serious scientific inquiry. The course sets high expectations for independence, analytical thinking, and mastery of challenging material, preparing students to bring both the knowledge and the intellectual habits of mind needed for success in AP and advanced science coursework. (**Full-year course; 1 credit**)*

CHEMISTRY

Honors, Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 10

Prerequisite: Biology or Pre-AP Biology and Algebra 1

This introductory Chemistry course guides students through the major topics of the discipline — including properties of matter, atomic theory, elements, ionic and covalent bonding, compounds, solutions, chemical reactions and stoichiometry, enthalpy, gases, and acid-base interactions — with a consistent emphasis on mathematical analysis and quantitative reasoning. Regular laboratory sessions develop students' analytical skills and proficiency with scientific equipment, with proper lab technique, safety protocols, and measurement practices introduced early in the course to maximize meaningful time in the lab. Throughout,

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CHEMISTRY (cont.)

students make use of technology for data collection and analysis, and the course treats data analysis, research and citation, concise scientific writing, and evidence-based inference as essential and integrated components of a rigorous scientific education. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

AP CHEMISTRY

Advanced Placement - Elective, Gr. 10-11

Prerequisite: Algebra 2

AP Chemistry is a rigorous, college-level course designed for highly motivated students ready to engage deeply with the fundamental principles that govern matter and chemical reactions, covering key topics including atomic structure, intermolecular forces, chemical bonding, thermodynamics, kinetics, equilibrium, acids and bases, and electrochemistry. The course places a strong emphasis on inquiry-based learning, with laboratory work as a central and sustained component — students design and conduct experiments, analyze data, perform error analysis, and communicate their findings with the precision and clarity that serious scientific work demands. Aligned with the College Board AP Chemistry curriculum, the course carries the full expectations of an introductory college science course and may include opportunities for independent research or original lab design, preparing students to take the AP exam and to thrive in advanced scientific study beyond NDA. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

MICROBIOLOGY

Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 11-12

Prerequisite: Biology, Chemistry

This year-long elective for juniors and seniors examines the fascinating and often surprising roles that microorganisms play in our world — exploring how bacteria and viruses cause disease, how the immune system responds and adapts, and how microbes can be harnessed in ways that benefit human health. Students engage with foundational biochemistry, the science of vaccine development, and the ethical questions that arise at the intersection of microbiology and modern medicine, bringing both scientific rigor and moral thoughtfulness to some of the most pressing topics in contemporary biology. The course features an active laboratory component in which students work with techniques such as PCR, gel

(cont.)

MICROBIOLOGY (cont.)

electrophoresis, and Gram staining, while also developing proper laboratory notebook and research practices — culminating in an independent research project that invites students to pursue a question of genuine scientific interest. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

EXPLORATION IN ENGINEERING

Honors - Elective, Gr. 11-12

This full-year, project-based course introduces students to the four main branches of engineering, dedicating each quarter to a distinct discipline and the specialized skills, methods, and mindset it requires. Through a series of hands-on design and build projects, students experience the work of engineers firsthand — learning to identify problems, develop solutions, and bring ideas to life through collaboration, creative thinking, and effective communication. The course places as much emphasis on the process as the product, developing the teamwork, shared problem-solving, and professional communication skills that define successful engineers in any field. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 11-12

Prerequisite: Biology, Chemistry

This upper-level elective offers a comprehensive study of the human body, guided throughout by the principle that form dictates function — exploring how each of the body's organ systems is exquisitely structured to do what it does, and how disruptions to that structure can lead to disease. Students move through a rich range of content encompassing cellular and molecular biology, tissues, and all major organ systems, including the skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, cardiovascular, respiratory, digestive, urinary, integumentary, lymphatic, immune, and reproductive systems, consistently connecting anatomical structure to physiological function and real-world health applications. Through traditional labs, simulations, specimen studies, and a required fetal pig dissection, students develop the scientific reasoning, research skills, and collaborative habits of mind that advanced scientific study demands — engaging actively with the material and taking genuine ownership of their learning both inside and outside the classroom. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

PHYSICS

Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 11-12

Prerequisite: Pre-calculus or concurrent enrollment in Pre-calculus

*This advanced course offers a rigorous, mathematically grounded exploration of the physical world, covering kinematics, Newton's laws, energy and momentum, waves and sound, electricity and magnetism, and an introduction to modern physics. Students build quantitative reasoning and problem-solving skills, moving between conceptual understanding and mathematical analysis to model, predict, and explain physical phenomena. Regular laboratory investigations ground abstract principles in hands-on experimentation, developing skills in data collection, analysis, and scientific communication — preparing students for AP Physics or college-level science. (**Full-year course; 1 credit**)*

AP PHYSICS 1

Advanced Placement - Elective, Gr. 11-12

Prerequisite: Pre-calculus or concurrent enrollment in Pre-calculus

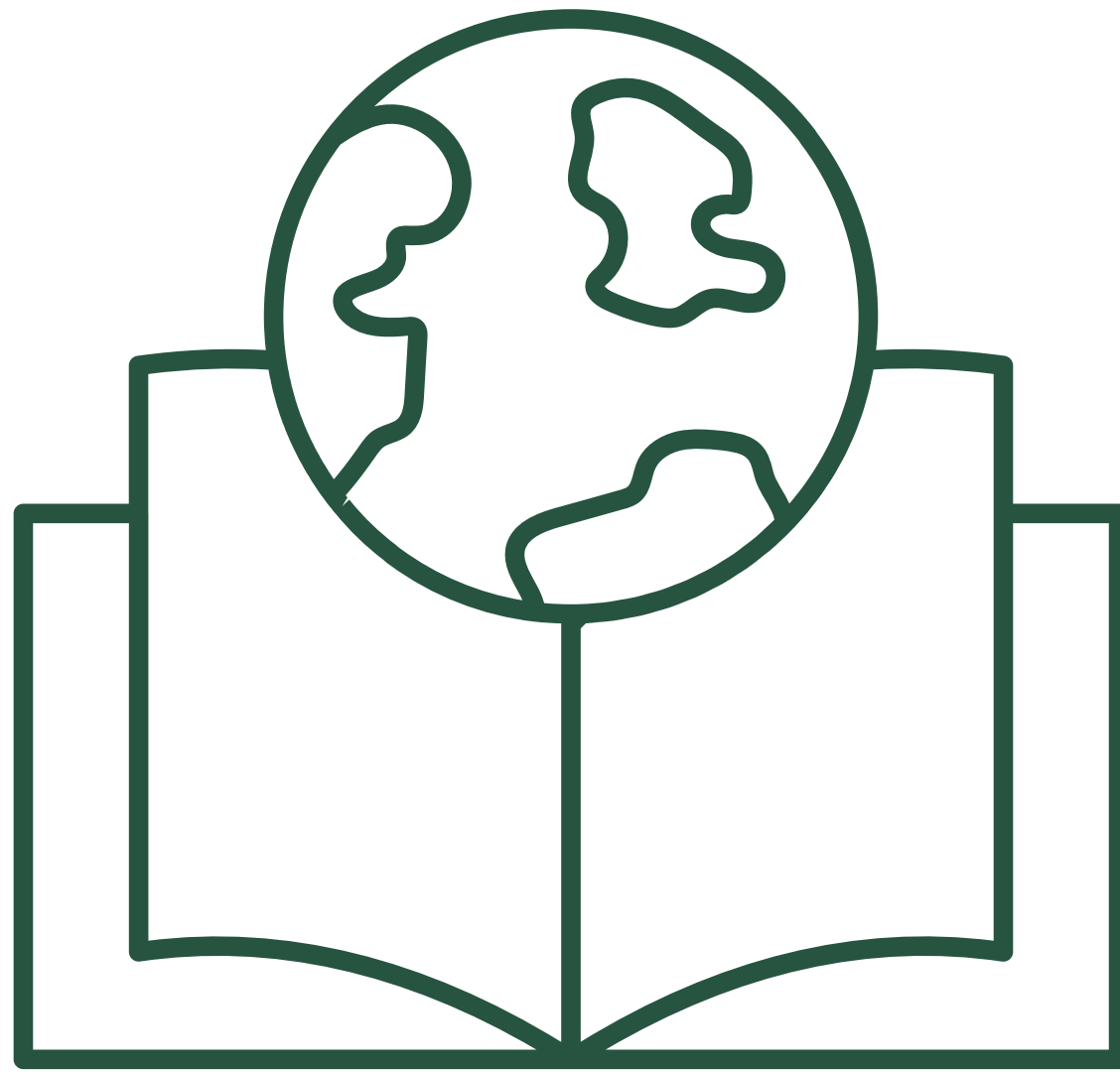
*AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based, college-level course covering kinematics, dynamics, energy, momentum, rotational motion, oscillations, and waves. Students develop conceptual understanding and analytical skills through classroom study and inquiry-based laboratory work, learning to design experiments, analyze data, and construct evidence-based arguments. The course carries the full expectations of a first-semester college physics course — requiring strong algebraic reasoning and a commitment to AP exam preparation — and is an ideal choice for students ready to think and work like physicists. (**Full-year; 1 credit**)*

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Honors - Elective, Gr. 11-12

*Environmental Science is an interdisciplinary course that explores the natural systems of the Earth and the complex relationships between humans and the environment. Students examine core topics including ecosystems and biodiversity, earth systems and resources, land and water use, energy production and consumption, and environmental policy and sustainability. Through classroom study and hands-on laboratory and field investigations, students develop scientific reasoning and data analysis skills while building the critical awareness needed to evaluate environmental issues and engage as informed citizens. (**Full-year; 1 credit**)*

SOCIAL STUDIES



The Social Studies Department at NDA provides a comprehensive program that aligns with our school's educational values and commitment to excellence. Students engage with the history and cultures of the world, from ancient civilizations to contemporary U.S. government and politics. The selection of electives is diverse, reflecting both student interests and faculty expertise.

All courses offered have been designed to enhance students' understanding of history while simultaneously developing their critical thinking, writing, and research skills. Our teaching methods are consistently updated to incorporate new technologies and resources, fostering academic excellence and lifelong learning within a framework grounded in faith and values.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY AND CULTURES

Honors, Advanced Honors - Required, Gr. 7

*This course introduces students to the essential tools and concepts of world geography, developing their ability to analyze maps, graphs, charts, and data as windows into how people and the natural world interact with and shape one another. Students build a working knowledge of the world's physical features, regions, and countries alongside foundational content in culture, economics, government, and religion — including an introduction to the five major world religions, key economic systems, and major forms of government. Guided by the question of how geography influences human experience, students develop the critical thinking and visual literacy skills needed to read, interpret, and create meaningful representations of our complex, interconnected world. (**Full-year course; 1 credit**)*

FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Honors, Advanced Honors - Required, Gr. 8

*This course traces the historical and philosophical roots of American government, guiding students from the early civilizations of ancient West Asia through the democratic ideals of Athens and the republican traditions of Rome — and forward through the Renaissance and Enlightenment thinkers whose ideas shaped the Founding Fathers' vision for the United States. Students develop a rich understanding of how core principles of governance, civic responsibility, and citizenship have evolved and endured across centuries and cultures. The course invites students to think critically about what it means to be a good citizen and how the ideals at the heart of American democracy connect to a much longer story of human self-governance. (**Full-year course; 1 credit**)*

WORLD HISTORY: THE RISE & FALL OF CIVILIZATIONS

Honors, Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 9

This course traces the arc of human civilization from its earliest origins through AD 1200, taking students across the classical worlds of Greece and Rome, the Byzantine and Islamic empires, the civilizations of Africa, Asia, and the Americas, and into medieval Europe. Along the way, students develop essential historical and geographic thinking skills — evaluating evidence, analyzing primary and secondary sources, and constructing well-reasoned arguments — while exploring the patterns, belief

(cont.)

WORLD HISTORY: THE RISE & FALL ... (cont.)

systems, and interactions that connect human societies across time and place. Guided by enduring questions about how civilizations rise and fall and what we can learn from the past, the course also strengthens reading comprehension, study skills, and the habits of mind that prepare students for World History II Honors in 10th grade. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Advanced Placement - Elective, Gr. 9

This course introduces students to the systematic study of how human beings understand, use, and reshape the Earth's surface — exploring the spatial patterns, geographic processes, and socioeconomic forces that together explain why the world looks and functions the way it does. Drawing on the framework of the National Geography Standards, students examine the relationship between human activity and the environment, analyzing how decisions made at the local, regional, and global level carry real consequences for landscapes and communities alike. Along the way, students develop the tools and methods of geographic inquiry — including map analysis, data interpretation, and landscape reading — building a foundation of spatial thinking and global awareness that prepares them for broader historical and cultural study. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

MODERN WORLD HISTORY

Honors, Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 10

This course traces the sweep of world history from AD 1200 to the present, guiding students through pivotal turning points — from the Mongol and Moorish invasions of Europe and the Age of Exploration, through the revolutions and independence movements that remade the political map, to the major conflicts of the 20th century and their enduring consequences. Students examine history through multiple lenses, including politics, diplomacy, economics, culture, and intellectual life, developing a nuanced understanding of how ideas and events ripple across time and borders.

Throughout, the course places a strong emphasis on critical thinking — drawing conclusions from data, analyzing primary sources, and crafting well-supported argumentative and persuasive essays that prepare students for advanced historical study. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

AP WORLD HISTORY: MODERN

Advanced Placement - Elective, Gr. 10

AP World History: Modern is a rigorous, college-level course that examines significant events, individuals, and movements from AD 1200 to the present through six organizing themes — Humans and the Environment, Cultural Developments and Interactions, Governance, Economic Systems, Social Interactions and Organization, and Technology and Innovation. Students develop the disciplinary practices and historical reasoning skills central to the AP framework, working with college-level texts and a range of primary and secondary sources to construct, analyze, and evaluate historical arguments. The course carries the full expectations of an introductory college class, including independent reading, sustained out-of-class work, and a commitment to preparing for the AP exam — making it an ideal choice for students ready to engage history with depth, rigor, and intellectual seriousness. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

US HISTORY

Honors, Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 11

This course traces the chronological development of the United States from European colonization through the present day, moving through the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and America's major conflicts of the 20th century before turning to the political and cultural forces shaping the nation in the 21st. Students examine the personalities, ideas, and social and economic currents that have defined American history, building factual knowledge alongside the critical skills needed to analyze data, interpret primary sources, and construct well-reasoned arguments. Throughout the course, students practice these skills through essay writing, source analysis, and research presentations — developing the habits of historical thinking that carry into advanced study and civic life. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

AP US HISTORY

Advanced Placement - Elective, Gr. 11

AP U.S. History is a rigorous, college-level course that examines the full arc of American history through seven organizing themes — American and National Identity; Politics and Power; Work, Exchange, and Technology; Culture and Society; Migration and Settlement; Geography and the Environment; and America in the World — developing both deep content knowledge and the

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AP US HISTORY (cont.)

Advanced Placement - Elective, Gr. 11

disciplinary practices central to historical thinking. Students work with college-level texts and a range of primary and secondary sources, building the skills to analyze, interpret, and construct sophisticated historical arguments aligned with the expectations of the AP exam. Like all AP courses, this one carries the full demands of an introductory college class, including independent reading, substantial out-of-class work, and a commitment to serious, sustained engagement with the American story in all its complexity. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

AP US GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Advanced Placement - Elective, Gr. 12

AP U.S. Government and Politics is a rigorous, college-level course that examines the foundations and functions of American democracy through five organizing units — Foundations of American Democracy, Interactions Among Branches of Government, Civil Liberties and Civil Rights, American Political Ideologies and Beliefs, and Political Participation — developing both substantive knowledge and the analytical skills needed to think critically about how power operates in the United States. Students engage with college-level texts, primary sources, and real-world political cases, building the capacity to interpret, argue, and evaluate the forces that shape American governance and civic life. The course carries the full expectations of an introductory college class and a commitment to preparing for the AP exam — and notably, no prior AP coursework is required, making it an accessible entry point for any student ready to engage seriously with the study of American government. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

PSYCHOLOGY

Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 11-12

This course introduces students to the scientific study of human behavior and mental processes, exploring key topics such as brain function, development, learning, memory, personality, psychological disorders, and social behavior through the lens of Psychology in Everyday Life by Myers and DeWall. Guided by questions about how biological, psychological, and social forces shape the way we think and act, students develop critical thinking skills by analyzing research, evaluating evidence, and applying

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PSYCHOLOGY (cont.)

psychological concepts to real-world situations. The course offers both intellectual rigor and personal relevance — inviting students to deepen their understanding of themselves and the people around them while building a foundation for further study in the behavioral and social sciences. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

AP PSYCHOLOGY

Advanced Placement - Elective, Gr. 11-12

AP Psychology is a rigorous, college-level course that introduces students to the scientific study of human behavior and mental processes, exploring major content areas including biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning, memory, cognition, development, personality, psychological disorders, and social psychology. Students develop the research literacy and critical thinking skills central to the discipline — analyzing studies, evaluating evidence, and applying psychological frameworks to real-world situations — while building the conceptual fluency needed to succeed on the AP exam. The course is as personally engaging as it is academically demanding, inviting students to see themselves and the world around them through a more curious, analytical, and compassionate lens. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

GENOCIDE & THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 11-12

This course offers a searching introduction to the history of genocide and human rights, tracing a series of pivotal events — from the Trail of Tears and the Circassian Genocide to the Armenian Genocide and beyond — while examining the legal, philosophical, and historical foundations that gave rise to the idea of universal human rights. Students engage closely with landmark documents such as the Magna Carta, the United States Bill of Rights, the Declaration of the Rights of Man, and the First Geneva Convention, developing a nuanced understanding of how international frameworks for protecting human dignity were built — and why they ultimately proved insufficient to prevent the atrocities of World War II. Through weekly readings, discussions, and debates, students are challenged to think critically about the gap between humanitarian ideals and historical reality, and what that gap demands of us as engaged citizens of the world. (Half-year course; 0.5 credit)

MODERN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW

Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 11-12

*This course opens with a close examination of the atrocities of World War II — with particular emphasis on the Holocaust — and traces how those events catalyzed the creation of the United Nations and the international human rights frameworks that followed, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Students analyze how the UN, its specialized agencies, treaty bodies, and NGOs work to uphold human rights globally, alongside the development of international criminal tribunals established to prosecute genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. The course concludes with a critical evaluation of the current system of international justice — including the role of the International Criminal Court — asking students to weigh its effectiveness, its limitations, and what genuine accountability demands in a complex and imperfect world. Weekly readings, discussions, and debates deepen engagement with the material and prepare students to think and speak with both clarity and conviction about some of the most consequential questions of our time. (**Half-year course; 0.5 credit**)*

THEOLOGY



Our Religious Studies Department offers a program that blends faith and academic excellence. Rooted in Scripture and the Catholic Church's traditions, it supports the School's mission and caters to students' diverse learning needs. Courses encourage students to deepen their faith.

We employ diverse teaching methods, continually updated with new technologies, contemporary scholarship, and collaborative experiences.

The Love-in-Action Community Service Program for juniors and seniors enriches the curriculum through meaningful community outreach. Our program also includes seasonal Liturgical celebrations and an annual retreat.

DISCOVERING OUR FAITH AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS

Honors - Required, Gr. 7

*This course centers on the person of Jesus — his life, ministry, and invitation to discipleship — guiding students through foundational questions of faith such as who God is, how God reveals himself to us, and what it means to follow Jesus as he is portrayed in the Gospels. Students develop practical skills in navigating Scripture, learning to locate and interpret biblical passages while exploring how the teachings and practices of the Catholic Church speak to their personal values, choices, and relationships today. The course also introduces students to St. Julie Billiart and the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, whose lives of courageous faith and service form the spiritual foundation upon which Notre Dame Academy was built and continues to grow. (**Full-year course; 1 credit**)*

DISCOVERING OUR FAITH AS MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

Honors - Required, Gr. 8

*This course centers on the Living Church as the Body of Christ, inviting students into a deeper exploration of what it means to live faithfully as members of a community rooted in something larger than themselves. Guided by questions about how we nourish our faith, draw strength from our ancestors in the Church, and respond to God's call in a changing world, students examine the origins and development of the Catholic Church while exploring how its foundational beliefs and practices shape us as compassionate, thoughtful, and mission-driven people. Students continue to grow in their ability to navigate and interpret Scripture, and the course deepens their study of St. Julie Billiart and the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur — women whose spirit of universality and courageous love remain a living presence at the heart of Notre Dame Academy. (**Full-year course; 1 credit**)*

SCRIPTURE STUDIES

Honors - Required, Gr. 9

This course invites students into the sweep of salvation history, tracing God's unfolding plan for humanity from Genesis through the Acts of the Apostles and the missionary work of Saint Paul. Students examine key biblical figures and their lasting influence on faith and culture, with particular attention to the often-overlooked role of women in Scripture, while deepening their fluency with the foundational elements of Catholic identity — including traditional

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SCRIPTURE STUDIES (cont.)

prayers, the lives of the Saints, and the rhythms of the Liturgical Year. The course also continues students' growing understanding of the charism of St. Julie Billiart and the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, connecting the story of salvation to the living mission that defines Notre Dame Academy today. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

CHRISTIAN MORALITY

Honors - Required, Gr. 10

This course invites students to understand the moral life not as a set of rules, but as a response to God's love — asking the fundamental question of what kind of people we are called to become and how our choices shape ourselves and the world around us. Through dialogue, critical analysis, and close attention to the moral teaching of Jesus Christ, students explore foundational ethical concepts such as conscience, discernment, sin, grace, and virtue, developing a richer understanding of their own decision-making and the sources of moral wisdom that guide it. The course culminates in the application of these principles to current ethical issues and serves as meaningful preparation for Notre Dame Academy's Love in Action program — connecting the call to love with the call to serve. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

THE CHURCH IN HISTORY

Honors Required, Gr. 11

This course traces the history of the Catholic Church from its founding by Jesus Christ to the present day, exploring how the Church has endured across centuries as a living community shaped by both divine guidance and human struggle. Key themes include the work of the Holy Spirit, God's faithfulness amid failure, the ongoing relationship between the Church and society, corruption and reform, the development of doctrine, and the challenges facing the Church today. Drawing on a rich array of sources — visual art, music, architecture, primary texts, and guest speakers — the course brings Church history to life, inviting students to understand the past not as distant fact but as a living story they are themselves a part of. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

WORLD RELIGIONS

Honors - Required, Gr. 12

*This senior semester course takes up the Church's call to grow in tolerance, understanding, and fellowship with people of all backgrounds, guiding students through an exploration of the world's major religious traditions in search of an answer to a fundamental question: how can understanding other faiths deepen our own and foster greater respect for the global human family? Students examine key concepts including the human condition, religious anthropology, the nature of religion, ecumenism, and the search for ultimate meaning — all within the context of a Catholic Christian worldview that encourages both rootedness in one's own faith and genuine openness to the faith of others. The course invites students to move beyond tolerance toward something richer — a curiosity and reverence for the many ways human beings have sought to encounter the sacred. (**Half-year course; 0.5 credit**)*

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Honors - Required, Gr. 12

*This senior semester course deepens students' understanding of the Christian call to build God's Kingdom of justice and peace, asking how we are called to live out the Gospel through service, solidarity, and action in today's world. Using the Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching as a guiding framework, students draw on Scripture — from Genesis and the prophets through the teachings of Jesus — while examining the lives and legacies of transformative social justice leaders including Dorothy Stang SNDdeN, Saint Francis of Assisi, Martin Luther King Jr., Dorothy Day, and Saint Oscar Romero. The course invites students to see justice not as an abstract ideal but as a lived vocation, challenging them to reflect on their own responsibility to uphold human dignity, practice solidarity, and carry the Gospel into the world as they prepare to graduate and take their place in it. (**Half-year course; 0.5 credit**)*

WORLD LANGUAGES



The NDA World Language Department, featuring our French, Spanish, and Latin programs, aims to empower students to embrace and celebrate languages beyond English, fostering a deep appreciation for diverse cultures. Through mastering the art of reading, writing, and speaking in another language, and by gaining insight into other cultures, our students are prepared to thrive in the multilingual and interconnected world of the twenty-first century.

While two years of French or Spanish are required for graduation, we wholeheartedly encourage students to continue their language journey in their junior and senior years, nurturing their commitment to becoming true citizens of the world.

DISCOVERING SPANISH 1A

Honors - Elective, Gr. 7

*This introductory course invites students into the pleasure of learning Spanish, building foundational communication skills and cultural awareness through an emphasis on real-world language use across speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students develop essential vocabulary and grammatical structures needed to communicate at the novice level, while exploring the rich connections between Spanish and English and gaining insight into the histories, traditions, and cultural practices of the diverse Spanish-speaking world. Guided by questions about how language shapes and reflects culture — and why fluency in another language is an increasingly valuable asset in today's interconnected world — the course lays a strong and engaging foundation for a lifelong journey with the Spanish language. (**Half-year course; 0.5 credit**)*

DISCOVERING SPANISH 1B

Honors - Elective, Gr. 8

*Building on the foundation established in Spanish 1A, this course deepens students' ability to communicate in Spanish at the Novice High level — moving from memorized language toward more independent expression across speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students expand their vocabulary and grammatical knowledge while engaging in more sustained conversations, expressing personal preferences, and describing familiar topics with growing confidence and fluency. Cultural exploration remains central to the course, with an increased emphasis on comparison and real-world application as students continue to examine the histories, traditions, and perspectives of Spanish-speaking communities around the globe — developing both the linguistic skills and the cross-cultural understanding that make language learning a gateway to a wider world. (**Half-year course; 0.5 credit**)*

SPANISH 1

Honors - Elective, Gr. 9

This course introduces students to the Spanish language through meaningful, real-world communication and an exploration of the diverse cultures, histories, and traditions of the Spanish-speaking world. Students build foundational vocabulary and grammatical structures needed to communicate at the Novice level, working across listening, speaking, reading, and writing while drawing on

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SPANISH 1 (cont.)

*the connections between Spanish and English — including cognates and shared language patterns — to support understanding and build confidence. Guided by questions about how language reflects culture and why fluency in another language opens doors in today's world, the course invites students to begin creating with language at a basic level, laying the groundwork for a rewarding and lasting journey with Spanish. (**Full-year course; 1 credit**)*

SPANISH 2

Honors - Elective, Gr. 9-10

*Building on the foundational skills of Spanish 1, this course deepens students' ability to communicate with greater independence and spontaneity — moving from memorized language toward the confident, original expression of ideas in connected sentences across speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students expand their vocabulary and grammatical knowledge, including refinement of the present tense, an introduction to past tenses, and increasingly complex sentence structures, while continuing to draw on the patterns and connections between Spanish and English that support both comprehension and language production. Authentic cultural products, practices, and perspectives from diverse Spanish-speaking communities remain central to the course, grounding students' growing proficiency in the real-world contexts that make language learning both meaningful and lasting. (**Full-year course; 1 credit**)*

SPANISH 3

Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 10-11

*Building on the skills developed in Spanish 1 and 2, this course strengthens students' proficiency through a focused study of advanced grammatical structures and thematic vocabulary, with an emphasis on accurate, contextually appropriate language use across speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students engage with authentic Spanish-language materials that reflect the richness and diversity of the Spanish-speaking world, developing the ability to interpret meaning, analyze cultural perspectives, and communicate with increasing sophistication and confidence. The course invites students to see Spanish not only as a skill to be refined, but as a living language that connects them to local and global communities — and as a lens through which to deepen their understanding of their own language and culture as well. (**Full-year course; 1 credit**)*

SPANISH 4

Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 11-12

This course challenges students to communicate with greater accuracy, sophistication, and confidence in Spanish, building on prior study through an exploration of complex grammatical structures, expanded vocabulary, and authentic Spanish-language texts and media. Using an interactive, communicative approach centered on contemporary and meaningful themes, students develop the ability to express complex ideas clearly across speaking, listening, reading, and writing — while deepening their understanding of the cultural values and perspectives that shape how Spanish is used in the real world. The course invites students to engage with the Spanish-speaking world not just as language learners, but as informed, critically thinking participants ready to connect meaningfully with local, national, and global communities. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

SPANISH 5

Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 12

This course continues to advance students' proficiency and accuracy in Spanish, deepening the skills developed in previous levels through engagement with complex grammatical structures and authentic Spanish-language materials across speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Interactive, communicative activities provide sustained opportunities to express ideas with sophistication, analyze meaning in real-world texts and media, and refine language use across a variety of contexts and audiences. Throughout, cultural understanding remains central — inviting students to examine how language choices reflect the values and perspectives of Spanish-speaking communities and to consider how their growing fluency positions them to participate meaningfully in an interconnected world. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

FRENCH 1A

Honors - Elective, Gr. 7

This introductory course welcomes students to the French language and the rich, diverse world of Francophone culture — from France and Québec to communities across Africa and beyond. Through authentic materials including images, videos, short texts, and projects, students develop foundational communication skills across speaking, listening, reading, and writing, exploring topics such as identity, school life, and family while examining how

(cont.)

FRENCH 1B

Honors - Elective, Gr. 8

Building on the foundations of French 1A, this course expands students' ability to communicate in French while deepening their engagement with the global Francophone world — drawing on authentic materials such as menus, advertisements, blogs, maps, and short videos to explore the cultural practices, products, and perspectives of diverse regions including France, Rwanda, and Togo. Through thematic units spanning food, leisure, weather, shopping, and community life, students develop the vocabulary and communicative skills to express opinions, make plans, navigate real-life situations, and discuss how geography, environment, and culture shape daily habits and traditions across Francophone communities. The course continues to ground language learning in cultural curiosity, inviting students to see French as a living tool for understanding and engaging with a wide and varied world. (Half-year course; 0.5 credit)

FRENCH 1

Honors - Elective, Gr. 9

This full-year introductory course offers a comprehensive welcome to the French language and the rich, diverse world of Francophone culture, guiding students through a carefully sequenced progression of thematic units — from identity and school life through food, leisure, shopping, and community — that build communicative skill and cultural understanding simultaneously. Using the EntreCultures® curriculum and authentic resources including videos, images, menus, advertisements, and short texts, students develop proficiency across speaking, listening, reading, and writing while exploring how French is spoken and lived across regions as varied as France, Québec, Algeria, Rwanda, and Togo. By examining how cultural practices — from greetings and meal traditions to school systems and daily routines — reflect the values and perspectives of diverse Francophone communities, students come to see French not simply as a subject to be studied, but as a living language that opens doors to a wider and more connected world. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

FRENCH 2

Honors - Elective, Gr. 9-10

Building on the foundations of French 1, this course expands students' ability to communicate with greater independence and

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FRENCH 2 (cont.)

depth, moving from basic expression toward more sustained conversation, nuanced opinion, and the confident navigation of real-world situations. Using the EntreCultures® curriculum and authentic resources including articles, videos, interviews, and cultural texts, students explore themes such as school life, food and traditions, community involvement, city life, health and well-being, and travel — while examining how these aspects of daily life reflect the values and perspectives of Francophone communities across La Réunion, Belgium, Québec, Paris, Dijon, and Cameroon. The course challenges students to describe past experiences, engage in extended conversations, and compare cultural practices with increasing sophistication, deepening both their linguistic proficiency and their sense of themselves as engaged participants in a diverse and interconnected Francophone world. (Full-year course; 1 credit).

FRENCH 3

Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 10-11

French 3 develops students' fluency, accuracy, and cultural understanding through an increasingly sophisticated engagement with the Francophone world, moving beyond foundational communication toward the kind of nuanced expression and analytical thinking that define advanced language learners. Using the EntreCultures® curriculum and authentic resources such as articles, podcasts, interviews, literature excerpts, and multimedia texts, students investigate rich and relevant themes — including identity and self-expression, relationships, social issues, the environment, and global challenges — examining how language and culture intersect to shape the way people communicate, make meaning, and engage with the world around them. Students develop the ability to narrate and describe events across multiple time frames, support opinions with detail and evidence, interpret complex texts and media, and participate in extended, substantive conversations — building the proficiency and cross-cultural perspective that prepare them for advanced study of the French language. (Full-year course; 1 credit)

FRENCH 4

Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 11-12

French 4 challenges students to communicate with increased fluency, precision, and cultural depth, building on the skills of

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FRENCH 4 (cont.)

*French 3 through critical engagement with the diverse voices, texts, and perspectives of the global Francophone world. Using the EntreCultures® curriculum and authentic materials including articles, interviews, podcasts, films, and literary excerpts, students investigate substantive themes — among them identity, social relationships, education, the environment, and contemporary global issues — analyzing how language is used to express opinions, construct arguments, and narrate across multiple time frames with growing accuracy and sophistication. The course places particular emphasis on extended discussion and debate, intercultural reflection, and the interpretation of complex authentic texts and media, preparing students to engage with the French-speaking world not simply as language users, but as thoughtful, culturally informed global citizens. (**Full-year course; 1 credit**)*

FRENCH 5

Advanced Honors - Elective, Gr. 12

*French 5 represents the highest level of French language study at Notre Dame Academy, inviting students to engage with the Francophone world with the confidence, accuracy, and cultural sophistication of advanced learners. Through complex and authentic materials — including literature, films, podcasts, essays, and current events — students explore substantive themes such as identity, cultural diversity, global challenges, ethics, innovation, and social change, developing the ability to analyze perspectives, construct and defend well-reasoned arguments, and participate in sustained, meaningful discourse about the issues shaping Francophone communities worldwide. The course challenges students to move beyond proficiency toward genuine fluency — thinking, speaking, reading, and writing in French with the depth, nuance, and intercultural awareness that mark a truly accomplished language learner. (**Full-year course; 1 credit**)*

LATIN 1A - LATIN FOR LEARNING

Honors - Required, Gr. 7

This introductory course welcomes students to the Latin language and the fascinating world of classical antiquity, building foundational skills in reading and understanding Latin while developing an appreciation for the enduring influence of the ancient world on language, culture, and ideas. Students study

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LATIN 1A - LATIN FOR LEARNING (cont.)

*Latin grammar and syntax with care and precision, discovering along the way how Latin forms the backbone of the Romance languages and continues to shape English through roots and derivatives — deepening their understanding of every language they speak or study. Topics in classical mythology, Roman culture, and ancient history enrich the linguistic work and weave meaningful connections to students' coursework in history, English, and the arts, grounding the study of Latin in a rich and living cultural inheritance. (**Half-year course; 0.5 credit**)*

