



Course Catalog

CRISTO REY JESUIT SEATTLE HIGH SCHOOL

2026 - 2027

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*Igniting minds and spirits
for college and career.*

Welcome



Dear Students and Families,

High school is an exciting milestone. Over four years, you will grow academically, professionally, spiritually, and personally in ways you may not yet imagine. High school is more than just classes, grades, and activities—it is a time to discover who you are, whose you are, and how you can use your gifts to make a difference in the world.

At Cristo Rey Jesuit Seattle, every student is known, valued, and loved. Through rigorous academics, our Corporate Work Study Program, faith formation, athletics, clubs, and service opportunities, you will develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to succeed in college and beyond. You will be challenged to think critically, work hard, and embrace new experiences, all while being supported by a community that believes deeply in your potential.

We often tell students that high school and college preparation are journeys of discovery. Along the way, you will learn more about your strengths, your passions, and the person God is calling you to become. You will have opportunities to explore new interests, take risks, overcome challenges, and build meaningful relationships.

As St. Catherine of Siena reminds us, “Be who God meant you to be, and you will set the world on fire.” We believe that each of you has unique gifts and talents, and we are committed to helping you develop them so that you can lead a life of faith, purpose, and service.

I look forward to making it an unforgettable experience together.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr. Nadia Guy".

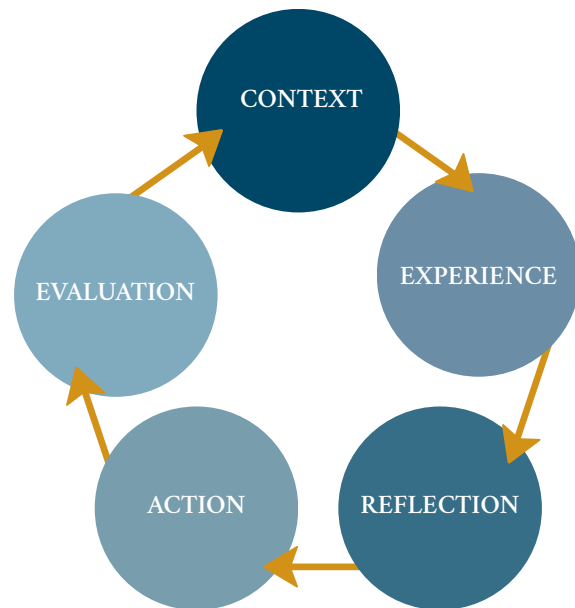
Dr. Nadia Despenza Guy
Principal

Our Philosophy

CRJS emphasizes not only the subject matter but, more importantly, the process by which one comes to know and understand. The learning process is the central focus. Rather than passively receiving information and predefined explanations, students actively engage in learning what they want and need to know. Teachers guide students in the art of learning how to learn while acknowledging the sociopolitical context around race and language, and recognizing their own bias and privilege to disrupt the status quo.

Ignatian Pedagogy

Ignatian education goes beyond academics. It's a teacher-student partnership that fosters lifelong learning while inspiring students to use their unique talents to create positive change by helping others.



CONTEXT

Learning connected to real-life situations becomes more meaningful. Teachers consider students' experiences, relevant cultural teachings, and current events to guide content.

EXPERIENCE

Teachers encourage students to do more than remember information. They guide them to think critically and apply what they have learned in real-world settings, including the workplace.

REFLECTION

Teachers help students think deeply about what they have learned. They challenge students to ask themselves who they are and how they relate to others.

ACTION

For St. Ignatius, love is shown through actions, not words. Action is the result of a change of heart. Through reflection, students make the truth their own and learn to serve others.

EVALUATION

Teachers evaluate the whole person as students grow and develop. Evaluation methods include assessments, reflections, written work, and discussions.

Program of Studies



SELECTION & SCHEDULING

- Not all courses may be available each year.
- For a course to be offered, a minimum number of students must request it.
- The regular rotating daily schedule consists of seven periods.
- Due to scheduling constraints, students may not always receive their first-choice courses, and we are unable to accommodate teacher requests.

HONORS & ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

- Honors-level courses have established prerequisites and are only open to students who meet these criteria, including specific skills and performance levels.
- Honors-level courses include more extensive content and a heavier workload, distinguishing them from regular college-preparatory courses in the same subject.
- Advanced Placement courses prepare students for an examination designed by the College Board and are considered college-level courses that may be eligible for college credit.
- College in the High School courses allow students to earn college credit while completing high school graduation requirements. Students will see these on their transcripts as Dual Enrollment classes.
- Students enrolled in Honors or Advanced Placement courses commit to the full year. Students in Advanced Placement courses must take the AP exam in May and are responsible for associated fees.
- Students interested in Honors or Advanced Placement courses must meet the requirements during the course request process each spring semester.
- Some courses may require summer preparation.

College Success

Our four-year program helps students and families through their journey to college.



CRJS is focused on preparing students for college academics and getting them excited about attending college. Our faculty and staff are trained to understand college admissions, navigate the financial assistance process, and help students identify the best college fit. We want the journey to be personal and meaningful, not just about getting accepted. Following the principles of Ignatian discernment, or thoughtful decision-making, students are regularly challenged to reflect on what they want for their college experience. They research, dream, and set goals step by step.

The 9th-grade year focuses on learning how to navigate high school life, building friendships, getting involved in activities, and succeeding in class. Sophomore year focuses on exploring and investigating a variety of colleges while learning about admissions expectations and standards. By junior year, students begin identifying colleges that match their specific strengths and values. Senior year is when students apply and make decisions about their future.

Throughout this four-year journey, we provide students and families with guidance and a clear framework to make the college admissions process understandable, intentional, and grounded in each student's goals.

COLLEGE PLANNING BY YEAR

9th Grade

- College info night
- College counselor assigned by May
- Diagnostic SAT

10th Grade

- College info night
- Diagnostic SAT
- Standardized testing info night
- College counseling advisory meeting
- Individual 11th grade course scheduling

11th Grade

- College info night
- Diagnostic SAT
- Standardized testing info night
- Introductory individual college meetings
- College counseling class
- Family college meetings

12th Grade

- College info night
- College counseling class
- University Partners application workshop
- Ongoing individual meetings, application and essay review, and strategy sessions

Graduation Requirements



Cristo Rey Jesuit Seattle's graduation requirements *exceed* Washington State's.

SUBJECT	CREDITS	CRJS REQUIREMENTS	WASHINGTON STATE REQUIREMENTS
ENGLISH	4.0	4 years	4 years = 4 credits
SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY	3.0	3 years	3 years = 3 credits
MATHEMATICS	4.0	4 years	3 years = 3 credits
SCIENCE	4.0	4 years*	3 years = 3 credits
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	4.0	4 years	0 years
ARTS	2.0	2 years	2 years = 2 credits
HEALTH/EXERCISE SCIENCE	2.0	2 years	2 years = 2 credits
COLLEGE + CAREER READINESS	2.0	2 years	0 years
WORLD LANGUAGE	2.0	2 years**	2 years = 2 credits
CORPORATE WORK STUDY PROGRAM	4.0	4 years	0 years
ELECTIVES	2.0	2 years	4 years = 4 credits

1 semester = 0.5 credit | 1 year = 1.0 credit

*Includes one lab science

**3 years recommended

***CRJS students earn elective credit in religious studies and other courses



4-Year Sequence

	9th Grade	10th Grade
ENGLISH	English 1	English 2 AP Seminar
SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY	Geography	Modern World History
MATHEMATICS	Algebra 1 Honors Geometry	Geometry Honors Algebra 2/Trigonometry
SCIENCE	Biology Honors Biology	Environmental Science AP Environmental Science
WORLD LANGUAGES	Spanish 1 Honors Spanish 2 Amharic 1	Spanish 1 Honors Spanish 2 Amharic 1
PE HEALTH & WELLNESS	Health PE or Wellness Classes CRJS Athletics Independent PE Credits	Health PE or Wellness Classes CRJS Athletics Independent PE Credits
FINE & PERFORMING ARTS	Courses include visual arts, music, and drama	Courses include visual arts, music, and drama
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	Foundations of Faith	Christology
COLLEGE & CAREER	Job Placement Corporate Work Study Class	Job Placement Corporate Work Study Class

	11th Grade	12th Grade
ENGLISH	English 3 AP Language & Composition	Creative Writing AP English Literature & Composition English 4
SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY	AP US History US History	Economics AP African American Studies AP History
MATHEMATICS	AP Precalculus Dual Enrollment Precalculus	AP Calculus AB or Calculus AP Computer Science Principles Intro to Stats & Probability
SCIENCE	AP Biology Chemistry	AP Computer Science Principles Chemistry or Honors Chemistry AP Biology Bio Ethics (A+B)
WORLD LANGUAGES	Spanish 2 Honors Spanish 3 Amharic 1	AP Spanish Literature
PE HEALTH & WELLNESS	Health PE or Wellness Classes CRJS Athletics Independent PE Credits	Health PE or Wellness Classes CRJS Athletics Independent PE Credits
FINE & PERFORMING ARTS	Courses include visual arts, music, and drama	Courses include visual arts, music, and drama
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	World Religions Morality	Ethics
COLLEGE & CAREER	Job Placement Career & College Counseling	Job Placement Career & College Counseling

Course Descriptions

Courses are organized by academic department and generally follow a progression from foundational to advanced levels.

ENGLISH

English 1

1.0 credit

What are your values, and how can you activate them in your daily life? How do you know if you are living with integrity? How can you walk the talk of your beliefs? In Introduction to Literature, students clarify their personal values while learning to read and write at the high school level. Through daily discussions, students develop and refine skills in close reading, active listening, and respectful discourse. In addition to writing critical essays and creative pieces that analyze literary works, students gain proficiency in crafting AI-generated prompts to support their writing process. Each unit invites students to reflect on their relationship to specific values such as courage, justice, citizenship, faith, truth, love, and self-advocacy. Texts may include *1984* by George Orwell, *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon, and various poems and short stories, including “What You Pawn I Will Redeem” by Sherman Alexie.

English 2

1.0 credit

Explore stories about characters who struggle to do the right thing while facing external challenges and managing strong emotions. To better understand these situations, students closely analyze key moments in the texts when characters must make difficult decisions. Through this study, students deepen their understanding of human behavior, the relationship between emotions and thought, and what it means to make ethical choices. This process also encourages reflection on their own decision-making. In writing, students strengthen their critical thinking skills and learn to express ideas clearly, building on skills developed in earlier grades. They focus on constructing strong arguments in persuasive essays and grow more confident in forming and explaining their own interpretations. Continued attention to grammar and style supports stronger writing and helps students experiment with new ways to communicate ideas. Readings include a variety of voices and perspectives, such as *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley, *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare, and selected short stories and poems.

English 3

1.0 credit

America is a vast place, but an even larger idea. James Baldwin once remarked that it is “larger, more various, more beautiful, and more terrible than anything anyone has ever said about it.” In this course, students explore how American writers have attempted to capture that complexity through literature that reflects, celebrates, and challenges the nation’s ideals and contradictions. Through classic and contemporary novels, essays, poetry, and drama, students examine themes such as identity, freedom, equality, belonging, and the American Dream while considering the tensions between opportunity and injustice, individualism and community, and aspiration and reality. Organized chronologically, the course traces the development of American literature alongside major moments in American history, helping students understand how social, political, and cultural forces shape the stories Americans tell about themselves. Through close reading, discussion, analytical writing, and research, students will strengthen their critical thinking, communication, and argumentation skills while exploring essential questions such as “What does it mean to be American?” How does literature shape society? How can writing help us understand and reimagine the American experience?

AP English Language & Composition

1.0 credit

Often called AP Lang, this course develops students’ skills in rhetorical analysis, argumentation, and composition. Students read a wide range of nonfiction texts and learn to analyze how purpose, audience, and context shape arguments. The course emphasizes crafting claims, supporting them with evidence, explaining reasoning, organizing ideas logically, and refining style.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Geography

1.0 credit

Our geography course offers students a transformative learning experience that fosters global awareness and critical thinking. Through a blend of theoretical concepts and practical applications, students explore the interconnected realms of geography, economics, politics, and culture. They analyze case studies such as lithium production in Bolivia to understand geography's influence on regional dynamics. Students also examine Indigenous cultural regions and the development of early civilizations in the Americas to gain insight into human-environment interactions. Additional exploration includes the adaptive strategies of Indigenous communities and the transformative role of women micro entrepreneurs in Africa. This immersive approach helps students see the world through a geographer's lens. It equips them with a holistic understanding of geography and the skills needed to navigate a complex global landscape.

Modern World History

1.0 credit

This course develops students' understanding of world history from approximately 1300 to the present. Students analyze historical evidence and identify significant trends to understand major global developments. Through the study of people, events, and ideas, students explore how societies have thought, behaved, and interacted over time. Emphasis is placed on recognizing patterns of change and continuity across global, interregional, and regional contexts.

US History

1.0 credit

This course is organized thematically around essential historical issues: American ideals, power, and rights; capitalism; equality; foreign policy; and immigration. It does not attempt to tell a comprehensive, chronological story of United States history; rather, it offers points for reflection on what it means to be an American and what one needs to know about the past to understand the present. In every unit, students ask who is “We” in “We the People.” Who is included and who is excluded? What does it mean to be an American, and how has this evolved over three centuries? Students learn how to navigate the past, become more responsible citizens, and strive for that more perfect, yet never finished, Union. This approach highlights continuity and change over time, encouraging students to make connections between past events and contemporary issues and to reflect on how these moments in time have helped shape our American story and identity.

AP US History

1.0 credit

AP U.S. History (APUSH) gives students a college-level understanding of American history, covering the period from pre-Columbian societies to contemporary times (c. 1491 CE to the present) while developing skills to think and write like historians. Students examine political, economic, social, cultural, and intellectual developments, exploring themes such as American and national identity, work and technology, migration and settlement, politics and power, geography and the environment, America in the world, and social structures. Students taking this class will take the AP test. Students earning a 3 or higher can earn college credits.

MATHEMATICS

Algebra 1

1.0 credit

Algebra 1 is a foundational mathematics course that introduces students to algebraic concepts and problem-solving. Students will develop skills in working with variables, expressions, equations, and inequalities. Topics include linear equations and functions, systems of equations, exponents, polynomials, and introductory quadratic functions. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, real-world applications, and the ability to analyze and interpret mathematical relationships.

Honors Geometry

1.0 credit

Honors Geometry is a rigorous, accelerated mathematics course that extends concepts from Algebra 1 while developing advanced skills in geometric reasoning and formal proof. Students will investigate relationships among points, lines, angles, triangles, and other geometric figures using both synthetic and coordinate approaches. Topics include congruence and similarity, geometric transformations, right triangle trigonometry, circles, area and volume, and geometric constructions. This honors-level course emphasizes logical reasoning, precision, and mathematical communication. Students are expected to justify solutions through formal proofs and engage in higher-level problem-solving at a faster pace. Strong algebraic skills and attention to detail are essential for success.

Geometry

1.0 credit

This course presents concepts of Euclidean geometry as relevant to daily life, career development, and future study of mathematics. The course applies engineering, measurement, visualization, inductive and deductive logic, and proof to the study of triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, and solids. Students analyze concepts of similarity, congruence, and isometric transformations of figures. Emphasis is placed on right triangles and on the area and volume of plane and solid figures, as well as on algebraic strategies for solving geometric problems, including coordinate representations and vectors. Trigonometry of right triangles is introduced, and techniques of coordinate geometry are developed. Algebraic representation and deductive analysis of geometric relationships are emphasized throughout the course.

Honors Algebra 2/Trigonometry

1.0 credit

Introduced in Algebra I, it prepares students for higher-level mathematics. Key topics include the analysis and application of various functions such as linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, radical, and basic trigonometric functions. Additional topics include polynomial and rational expressions, binomial expansions, radical operations, irrational and imaginary numbers, exponents, and essential trigonometric formulas. Students develop the ability to graph these functions both manually and using graphing utilities. Emphasis is placed on mathematical modeling, solving complex word problems, and interpreting data through statistical methods. Through these applications, students strengthen their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Required materials include a TI Nspire CX graphing calculator.

AP Precalculus

1.0 credit

AP Precalculus is a college-level mathematics course aligned with the College Board Advanced Placement framework, designed to prepare students for success in calculus and other advanced STEM fields. AP Precalculus integrates algebra, geometry, and mathematical functions to prepare students for college-level mathematics and science courses. The course emphasizes modeling real-world scenarios, analyzing functions, and exploring problems through multiple representations, including symbolic, graphical, and numerical forms. Students develop skills in procedural and symbolic fluency, communication and reasoning, and translating mathematical information between representations.

Dual Enrollment Precalculus

1.0 credit

Dual Enrollment Precalculus is a college-level course offered in partnership with Central Washington University, allowing students to earn both high school and university credit. This course introduces the study of trigonometric functions using both right-triangle and circular-function approaches. Trigonometric graphs and identities are examined as tools for solving trigonometric equations. The progression of skills taught in algebra and geometry is continued with topics including polynomial, exponential, rational, and logarithmic functions. Graphing techniques of translations, reflections, and scale changes are studied with respect to fundamental functions. The goal of this course is to prepare students for first-year college-level work in mathematics.

SCIENCE

Biology

1.0 credit

This course applies scientific concepts related to the living environment while tracing the historical evolution of scientific ideas. Focusing on seven key concepts, including the distinctions between living and non-living entities, genetic inheritance, species evolution, the continuity of life, dynamic equilibrium in sustaining life, and the interdependence of plants, animals, and their environment, the curriculum integrates a minimum of 1200 minutes of hands-on laboratory experiences. Through practical lab sessions and required lab reports, students reinforce theoretical knowledge beyond traditional classroom instruction while developing analytical and experimental skills.

By studying the historical development of scientific theories and engaging with contemporary applications, students learn to understand, evaluate, and apply scientific principles.

Honors Biology

1.0 credit

The Honors program is distinguished by its accelerated pace, depth of understanding, and rigorous evaluation methods. Students enrolled in Honors Biology should expect an increased workload, including additional projects, extensive reading, writing assignments, and guided independent studies. The advanced curriculum emphasizes conceptually challenging laboratory experiences that require synthesis of course content and foster a scientific mindset by encouraging students to question, hypothesize, and systematically seek answers. Attendance on designated lab days is essential, as these sessions are central to the course and difficult to replicate if missed, underscoring the importance of hands-on learning in understanding scientific principles.

Environmental Science

1.0 credit

Environmental Science is designed to engage students in exploring the intricate relationships among the natural world, human societies, and the impacts of human activities on the environment. Through hands-on experiments, field studies, and collaborative projects, students develop a deep understanding of environmental issues and cultivate the critical thinking skills necessary to address them. This course aims to instill a sense of responsibility and environmental stewardship in students, fostering a lifelong commitment to sustainable practices. It is similar to the curriculum for AP Environmental Science, but will be taught at the standard high school pace. Students who take this class will still be eligible to take AP Environmental Science in future years.

AP Environmental Science

1.0 credit

AP Environmental Science (APES) is an interdisciplinary, inquiry-based course that is equivalent to a one-semester introductory college-level environmental science course. Students investigate the relationships between natural systems and human activities through scientific inquiry, data analysis, field investigations, and laboratory experiences. The course explores ecological principles, biodiversity, population dynamics, natural resource management, energy use, pollution, and climate change. Students learn to identify and analyze environmental problems, evaluate risks, and examine sustainable solutions while developing critical-thinking and scientific-reasoning skills. AP Environmental Science prepares students for the AP Exam and empowers them to become informed stewards of the environment and responsible global citizens.

AP Biology

1.0 credit

AP Biology is a college-level course that provides an in-depth study of living systems and their interactions. Students explore core topics including cellular structure and function, genetics, evolution, ecology, and biological systems. The course emphasizes inquiry-based learning, data analysis, and laboratory investigations that develop scientific reasoning and experimental design skills. Students analyze biological concepts through real-world applications and build a strong foundation in critical thinking and problem-solving. Students will complete rigorous coursework and the AP exam in the spring.

Chemistry

1.0 credit

This course includes lecture, discussion, and integrated laboratory experiments designed to introduce students to the nature of matter. The major topics presented are nomenclature, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, atomic structure, periodicity, bonding, molecular geometry, phases of matter, equilibrium, thermodynamics, and acid–base chemistry. The course presents abstract concepts and emphasizes quantitative problem-solving skills. Analytical thinking, more than memorization, is the key to success in the course.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Spanish 1

1.0 credit

Spanish 1 is designed for students with little or no prior background in the language. During this course, students are introduced to the Spanish language as well as the cultures and communities where it is spoken. Over the course of the year, students begin to acquire and develop proficiency in the four primary language skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Spanish 2

1.0 credit

Spanish 2 builds on foundational language skills and further develops students' ability to communicate in Spanish. Students expand their vocabulary and deepen their understanding of grammar, including past tenses, reflexive verbs, and more complex sentence structures. The course emphasizes listening, speaking, reading, and writing through interactive activities and real-world contexts. Students explore cultural perspectives, practices, and products from Spanish-speaking communities to strengthen both language proficiency and intercultural understanding. Students are expected to participate in class actively and consistently practice communication skills to build confidence and fluency.

Honors Spanish 2

1.0 credit

Honors Spanish for Heritage Speakers is designed for students who have prior exposure to Spanish in the home or community. The course builds on existing language skills to develop literacy, grammar, and formal communication in Spanish. Students strengthen their reading and writing skills while expanding their vocabulary and refining their grammar, including verb conjugation, sentence structure, and orthography. The course emphasizes clear communication in academic Spanish and introduces cultural and literary perspectives from the Spanish-speaking world.

Honors Spanish 3

1.0 credit

Honors Spanish 3 for Heritage Speakers continues to develop advanced literacy and communication skills for students with a Spanish-speaking background. The course focuses on refining grammar and expanding expressive abilities in formal speaking and writing. Students engage in a deeper study of complex grammatical structures, including multiple verb tenses, advanced syntax, and academic vocabulary. Emphasis is placed on critical reading, analytical writing, and discussion of cultural, historical, and literary topics from diverse Spanish-speaking communities.

Amharic 1

1.0 credit

Amharic 1 introduces students to the fundamentals of the Amharic language, including basic vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. Students learn the Ge'ez (Fidel) script and develop foundational skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The course emphasizes everyday communication through guided practice, interactive activities, and real-world contexts. Students also explore the cultural traditions, history, and perspectives of Ethiopia and Amharic-speaking communities.

PE HEALTH & WELLNESS

Health

0.5 credit

Health is a one-semester course that equips students with the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions that support personal and community well-being. Rooted in a Jesuit tradition of cura personalis (care for the whole person), the course addresses physical, mental, emotional, and social health through topics such as nutrition, substance use prevention, human development, and healthy relationships. Students are encouraged to reflect on their values, practice responsible decision-making, and grow in their ability to care for themselves and others. Through discussion, reflection, and real-world application, the course promotes habits that support lifelong wellness and responsible citizenship in service of the common good. This course fulfills the Washington State graduation requirement of 0.5 credits (one semester) of Health.

PE or Wellness Classes

0.5 credit per semester-long class

Physical Education and Wellness courses at Cristo Rey Jesuit provide students with opportunities to develop lifelong habits of health and well-being in a supportive and engaging environment. Rooted in cura personalis (care for the whole person), these courses emphasize physical fitness, mental wellness, personal responsibility, and respect for others. Students may earn Physical Education credit through a variety of CRJS-offered classes that promote active and balanced lifestyles. Sample course offerings have included:

- Yoga
- Martial Arts
- Running Club
- Ping Pong
- Fitness Conditioning
- Recreational Sports and Team Activities

Course offerings may vary by semester based on student interest and school programming.

CRJS Athletics

0.5 credit

Cristo Rey Jesuit recognizes the value of athletic participation as an important component of student wellness, discipline, and personal growth. Student-athletes may earn Physical Education credit through participation in CRJS athletics, supporting the school's commitment to cura personalis (care for the whole person). Students are eligible to earn 0.5 Physical Education credit for each full season of participation on a CRJS athletic team. Students are expected to demonstrate consistent attendance, active participation, and good standing with team and school expectations to receive credit.

Independent PE Credits

0.5 credit

Independent PE Credit allows students to earn PE credit through approved physical activity completed outside of the traditional CRJS school day. Rooted in cura personalis (care for the whole person), this option supports students in developing lifelong habits of health, wellness, and personal responsibility. Students may earn credit through participation in structured programs, such as community classes, sports teams, or fitness programs, or through consistent independent activities, including walking, running, or gym workouts. All activities must demonstrate regular engagement and contribute to the student's overall physical fitness and well-being. Students who are unsure whether an activity qualifies may consult with the Academic Dean for prior approval. To earn 0.5 PE credit, students must complete 75 hours of documented physical activity.

FINE & PERFORMING ARTS/ELECTIVES

Art & General Elective Courses

0.5 credit

Art and general elective courses at Cristo Rey Jesuit provide students with opportunities to explore creativity, personal interests, and new areas of learning in a supportive and engaging environment.

Students may earn Arts or Elective credit through a variety of CRJS-offered classes that promote creative expression, skill development, and enrichment beyond core academic subjects. Sample course offerings have included:

- Art & Lit Mag
- Chess
- Choir
- Dance
- Photography
- Theater
- Violin, *in partnership with Key to Change*

Course offerings may vary by semester based on student interest and school programming. Through active participation and reflection, students develop confidence, creativity, and a deeper understanding of their gifts, preparing them to contribute meaningfully to their communities.

Independent Art Credits

0.5 credit

Independent Art Credit allows students to earn art credit through approved physical activity completed outside of the traditional CRJS school day.

Students may earn credit through participation in structured programs, such as community classes, performance groups, or individual lessons. All activities must demonstrate regular engagement and contribute to the student's growth in artistic skill and expression.

Students who are unsure whether an activity qualifies may consult with the Academic Dean for prior approval. To earn credit, students must complete 75 hours of documented physical activity to receive 0.5 Art credit.

Choir

0.5 credits

Choir is a one-semester course that introduces students to vocal performance and ensemble singing in a collaborative setting. Students develop healthy vocal technique, breath support, tone production, and pitch accuracy while learning to read music and interpret a variety of choral repertoire across styles and cultures. Through regular rehearsal and performance opportunities, students build confidence, listening skills, and the ability to blend and harmonize within an ensemble. No prior singing experience is required; the course is designed to support students at all levels while fostering musical growth, discipline, and appreciation for choral music.

Photography

0.5 credits

Photography is a one-semester course that introduces students to the fundamentals of digital photography using Digital Photography Complete Course as the core text, as shared in the textbook by Roger De La Rosa, SJ. Students learn essential skills, including camera operation, exposure, composition, lighting, and basic photo editing using industry-standard tools such as Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom. Through hands-on projects, students develop technical proficiency with DSLR cameras while exploring photography as a form of artistic expression and visual storytelling. By the end of the course, students will produce a portfolio of original work demonstrating their understanding of photographic techniques and creative vision.

Violin I

0.5 credits

Violin I is a one-semester introductory course for students with little to no prior experience, providing a foundation in violin technique, music reading, and ensemble performance. Students develop skills in posture, bowing, intonation, and rhythm while learning to play simple repertoire in a supportive group setting. Instruction is provided in partnership with Key to Change, a Seattle-based nonprofit dedicated to expanding access to high-quality music education for students from historically underserved communities; their instructors bring professional expertise and a focus on creativity, discipline, and personal growth through music. No prior musical experience is required.

Violin II

0.5 credits

Violin II is a one-semester course designed for students who have completed beginning violin or have equivalent experience, building on foundational skills to develop greater technical proficiency and musical expression. Students refine posture, bow control, intonation, and music reading while expanding their repertoire and exploring more complex rhythms and ensemble pieces. Instruction is provided in partnership with Key to Change, a Seattle-based nonprofit committed to expanding access to high-quality music education; their instructors bring professional expertise and a focus on discipline, creativity, and student growth. Students will strengthen their ability to perform independently and collaboratively in an intermediate ensemble setting.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Foundations of Faith

1.0 credit

Ninth-grade students attend CRJS from a wide variety of educational backgrounds and with varying degrees of religious education. Foundations of Faith provides all students with the vocabulary and foundational knowledge needed to succeed in their religious studies.

Foundations of Faith helps students understand the Catholic Christian experience of God's presence in all aspects of creation and human life. Students explore both the Old and New Testaments, emphasizing contextual interpretation to uncover religious truths and examine how those truths shape belief and practice. Students reflect on their personal faith through themes such as the goodness of creation, the need for community, what it means to be made in the image and likeness of God, and covenant. With this foundation, students connect Jesus' command to love one another with the Hebrew prophets' understanding of justice. Throughout the course, students reflect on the role of narrative in understanding their own identities within ongoing Salvation History. Students complete 20 hours of Christian Service as part of the CRJS graduation requirement.

Christology

1.0 credit

This 10th-grade religion course explores the person of Jesus Christ, or Christology, through the lens of various Christian traditions by examining how different denominations understand and interpret his life, teachings, and significance. Students engage deeply with the New Testament by analyzing key texts that form the foundation of Christian belief while learning historical, literary, and theological approaches to scripture.

The course also introduces major world religions, fostering interfaith understanding through comparisons of core beliefs, practices, and perspectives on the divine. In addition to Christian perspectives, students examine how non-Christian traditions view Jesus and engage with broader spiritual and philosophical questions. Through discussion, research, and reflection, students gain a deeper understanding of their own faith and the diverse religious landscape of the global community.

World Religions

0.5 credit

Students will explore how major world religions seek to answer the enduring questions of the human condition: What does it mean to be human? What is the purpose of life? How do we understand suffering, meaning, and ultimate reality? The course begins with *Nostra Aetate* (1965), the Second Vatican Council's call to dialogue and mutual understanding among peoples of all faiths. Grounded in the Catholic intellectual tradition, students will encounter a variety of religious traditions on their own terms while developing the habits of respectful inquiry and thoughtful comparison. Through the lens of religious literacy, students will deepen their understanding of their own beliefs and learn to engage others with clarity, humility, and charity.

Morality

0.5 credits

Building on prior study of the New Testament and world religions, students will examine the foundations of Christian moral thought and its connection to the pursuit of human flourishing. Central to the course is the relationship between happiness, virtue, and the formation of a well-lived life. Drawing from Scripture, the Catholic moral tradition, and key philosophical voices both ancient and modern, the course introduces major ethical frameworks, including virtue ethics, natural law, and duty-based approaches. They will apply these perspectives to contemporary moral questions, developing the ability to reason carefully, consider multiple viewpoints, and articulate well-formed judgments. Through case studies and discussion, the course aims to form students who can approach moral decision-making with wisdom, integrity, and a commitment to the common good.

CORPORATE WORK STUDY PROGRAM

Preparedness for the Modern Workplace (*Job Placement*)

1.0 credit

The Corporate Work Study Program (CWSP) is a cornerstone of the Cristo Rey educational model, integrating academic learning with professional work experience. Students are placed in entry-level positions with corporate and community partners, where they work one full day each week and rotate on Fridays throughout the academic year.

Through their work placements and a weekly supplemental skills class, students develop professional competencies such as communication, teamwork, time management, and workplace responsibility. Students gain real-world experience in a variety of industries while contributing to the cost of their education.

The program fosters personal growth, responsibility, and a commitment to excellence. Students will represent themselves, their families, and the Cristo Rey community with professionalism and integrity while building skills that prepare them for college and future careers.

College Counseling

0.5 credits

Students will begin to work even more closely with college counseling at this point, including our College Counseling course, which continues into senior year. During this class, we will continue searching for institutions that align with a student's strengths, values, and preferences. Developing a college list and initiating the application process become key focuses during this stage. Junior year is when students will begin meeting with our college representatives on campus, as we will welcome over 100 colleges and universities from across the nation and around the world to meet in person with our juniors and seniors.



CRISTO REY JESUIT

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