Course Bulletin 2026-2027

At Our Lady of Good Counsel, a Catholic high school sponsored by the Xaverian Brothers, we inspire our students to excel, serve, and love.

The Good Counsel Way: Academic Culture in the Xaverian Tradition

At Our Lady of Good Counsel High School, our classroom environment nurtures academic, social, and spiritual growth, shaped by our Catholic and Xaverian commitment to fostering a sense of community through enduring personal relationships. We create an environment where every student feels seen and supported and is empowered to respect and support others. We strive to meet students where they are, embracing their unique journeys, and helping them realize their fullest potential.

By cultivating an inquiry-based learning atmosphere that invites critical thinking, problem-solving, and creative expression, we build classrooms where students are able to recognize that each individual is uniquely created with a purpose and that their gifts are meant to be shared with others. In such classrooms, students engage in lively discussions that promote intellectual curiosity, supported by hands-on, experiential learning opportunities. We create spaces where collaboration is not just encouraged but expected, fostering a sense of belonging and partnership among peers.

In the rigor of our academic expectations and the support we offer students, we demonstrate our core belief that every student can grow. Students are held to high standards by faculty and encouraged to hold themselves to equally high standards, ensuring they are supported as they develop the critical thinking, time management, and problem-solving skills that will prepare them for the demands of college. Students learn to take ownership of their education and their membership in a vibrant community of learners, becoming engaged and intellectual risk-takers who can navigate complexities and engage with ideas deeply.

We are committed to ensuring that our curriculum, instruction, and assessments are structured to meet the diverse needs of all learners. The curriculum is student-centered, built to engage their interests and provide learning opportunities inside and outside of the classroom. We recognize the importance of real-world connections and inclusive content, helping students feel that their learning is meaningful and broadly relevant. Active learning is at the heart of our approach, fostering cooperation, critical thinking, and social skills. Our assessments are not just evaluative but formative, aimed at developing a growth mindset.

Our academic culture helps students see themselves as capable of continuous improvement. When asked to reflect on their academic experiences, students should recall engaging, thought-provoking, and challenging lessons—experiences that have prepared them for life beyond Good Counsel. They should feel that their teachers have invested in their success and that they are part of a community where they belong, are valued, and can grow in their gifts.

Through our commitment to education, rooted in Catholic and Xaverian values, we balance the demands of a rigorous academic program with a deep commitment to developing the whole person - mind, body, and spirit - reflected in the strength of our campus ministry and retreat programs. Graduates of Good Counsel are people of good character with a sense of purpose, grounded in a principled, creative, and academically curious mindset that enables them to thrive in a complex world.

Our Lady of Good Counsel High School
General Graduation Requirements 2026-2027

Department	Credits Required	Notes/Exceptions
Religion	**4**	*** Rising Seniors or Juniors may fulfill their fourth Religion credit by completing Catholic Social Teaching and Service Learning in the summer preceding their junior OR senior year. Seniors will have priority. (*on a space-available basis*).**
English	**4**	
World Languages	**3 (*of same language*)**	***Ryken Program students may take LCC followed by 2 years of a World Language.**
Mathematics	**4**	
Science	**3** ****Biology, Chemistry, and Physics are required.***	***Students enrolled in the STEM program must complete two additional years of science beyond the STEM curriculum.** ***IB Diploma Program Students are exempt from Physics.**
Social Studies	**3**	****World History and U.S. History are required.***
Fine Arts	**1**	
Physical Education	**1.5** ****Fitness and Health is required.***	*** Participation in a full-season sport during 10th or 11th grade exempts students 0.50 PE credit, reducing the total PE requirement to 1.0 credit.** **This policy does not apply to team managers.**
Computer Studies	**1**	***STEM and IB Diploma Program Students are exempt from Computer Studies**

Important Notes:

- Students must enroll in a minimum of **7 credits each year** and earn at least **28 total credits** to graduate.
- Seniors enrolled in **3 or more AP/IB classes** may enroll in **6 credits**, provided they meet all departmental graduation requirements and will have earned **28 credits** by graduation. Taking less than 7 credits should be thoughtfully considered and families are encouraged to discuss this decision with their College Counselor.

Religion

Office : Room 108

1010 - Freshman Religion/R **1.00 Credit**

The study and practice of religion is introduced by learning the basics of Catholicism and a general knowledge and appreciation of the Hebrew Scriptures. Through their study of the Bible, students will encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. In the course, they will learn about the Bible, authored by God through Inspiration, and its value to people throughout the world. They will learn how to read the Bible, study the "theology of the human person", and study the liturgy.

Placement Considerations: **Ryken Program Director approval**

1011 - Freshman Religion **1.00 Credit**

The study and practice of religion is introduced by learning the basics of Catholicism and a general knowledge and appreciation of the Hebrew Scriptures. Through their study of the Bible, students will encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. In the course, they will learn about the Bible, authored by God through Inspiration, and its value to people throughout the world. They will learn how to read the Bible, study the "theology of the human person", and study the liturgy.

1012 - Honors Freshman Religion **1.00 Credit**

The study and practice of religion is introduced by learning the basics of Catholicism and through a general knowledge and appreciation of the Hebrew Scriptures. Through their study of the Bible, students will encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. In the course, they will learn about the Bible, authored by God through Inspiration, and its value to people throughout the world. They will learn how to read the Bible, study the "theology of the human person", and study the liturgy. Honors students will be asked to demonstrate reading comprehension, writing skills, and organizational abilities appropriate for advanced study.

Placement Considerations: **Studies Office and Religion department placement**

1020 - Sophomore Religion/R **1.00 Credit**

This course introduces students to the concept and belief that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ of faith. Students are immersed in the world of the New Testament to discover how the Gospels and Epistles form the core of Christian life. Students will examine the identity of the Church and the seven sacraments, and will study a variety of sources investigating the way in which the Church interacts with society, both historically and in modern times.

Placement Considerations: **Ryken Program Director approval**

1021 - Sophomore Religion **1.00 Credit**

This course introduces students to the concept and belief that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ of faith. Students are immersed in the world of the New Testament to discover how the Gospels and Epistles form the core of Christian life. Students will examine the identity of the Church and the seven sacraments, and will study a variety of sources investigating the way in which the Church interacts with society, both historically and in modern times.

1022 - Honors Sophomore Religion **1.00 Credit**

This course introduces students to the concept and belief that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ of faith. Students are immersed in the world of the New Testament to discover how the Gospels and Epistles form the core of Christian life. Students will examine the identity of the Church and the seven sacraments, and will study a variety of sources investigating the way in which the Church interacts with society, both historically and in modern times. Honors students will be asked to demonstrate reading comprehension, writing skills, and organizational abilities appropriate for advanced study and use of primary sources in lieu of a textbook.

Placement Considerations: **Religion department approval**

1033 - World Religions **1.00 Credit**

This junior year course defines religion as a distinctly human experience that has specific characteristics. Students will study the occurrence of revelation and faith responses within different cultures. Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Judaism, and Islam are studied in the spirit of interreligious dialogue. Christianity, with a special emphasis on morality, completes this study of major world religions.

1034 - IB World Religions I **1.00 Credit**

This junior year course explores the basic characteristics of religion across traditions and cultures. Placing each tradition in dialogue with Catholic Christianity, students explore religious ritual and practice, historical perspectives, scriptural narratives, spirituality, communal organization, and central concepts of humanity and divinity. The course entails intensive independent work, including homework, reading, writing, and vocabulary assignments. Students will be asked to demonstrate reading comprehension, writing skills, and organizational abilities appropriate for advanced study and use of primary sources in lieu of a textbook.

Placement Considerations: **Religion department approval**

1044 - IB World Religions II **1.00 Credit**

This course builds upon the concepts explored in Part I. Students will explore two religious traditions in depth with a central focus on the basic principles governing contemporary religious belief and ethical practice. Five religious traditions will be reviewed in preparation for the IB exam. Students are expected to take the IB World Religions SL exam in May (examination fee required) or complete a school based final exam.

Placement Considerations:

- **Successful completion of IB World Religions I**
- **Religion department approval**

1101 - Catholic Social Teaching **0.50 Credit**

This first semester course is an application of Catholicism's social teaching regarding specific issues encountered in the world. Students focus on Christian morality in the context of the human person as an individual moral agent living according to the Gospel. Treating issues of human relationships, the peaceful transformation of human attitudes and social justice, the course informs students' minds, challenges their attitudes, and attempts to provide them with a framework for encountering the world beyond high school in a faith-filled, meaningful way. This course will be taken in conjunction with a second semester Religion elective.

Placement Considerations: **Required for standard 12th grade course of study**

1111 - Bioethics **0.50 Credit**

This second semester course will introduce the students to major bioethical issues in our world today. As technology continues to change our world, students will learn how this technology has impacted medical research and practice on both human & non-human life. Through a case-study approach, students will consider the central topics. Students will gain a deeper understanding of ethical models used to grapple with the question "What ought I do?" when faced with technologies that can change the very nature of the human person when and if these technologies are made available in the near and not too distant future. At the end of the semester students will look at current legislation and legal issues that surround the use of various biotechnology in the USA (and world).

Placement Considerations: **Open to all 12th grade students**

1141 - Contemplation, Prayer, and Meditation **0.50 Credit**

In this second-semester course, seniors will engage the Xaverian charism by developing a personal "contemplative stance in the world" and build skills and practices to support them as they prepare to transition from OLGCHS. Utilizing the wisdom from the Catholic mystics through modern contemplatives, students will learn the value of "unplugging" and deepening their connection to God. By delving more deeply into the contemplative traditions and their diverse spiritualities, students will discover ways to develop a personal practice of prayer and build resilience amid the many challenges of their lives. In this course, students will explore prayer and meditation through a combination of readings, guided meditations, and reflection. By the end of the course, students will have identified and developed a personal practice of prayer, meditation, and reflection in order to live more fully in their life.

Placement Considerations: **Open to all 12th grade students**

1143 - Money and Morality **0.50 Credit**

In this second semester course, students will be empowered to make informed, ethical choices about finances that are rooted in Catholic values. Students will explore how money, work, and environmental stewardship are connected to human dignity, solidarity, and the common good. Through reading, reflection, inquiry, writing, and real-world application, they will develop both moral insight and practical skills for living an ethical life beyond high school.

Placement Considerations: **Open to all 12th grade students**

1145 - American Catholic History **0.50 Credit**

This course explores the development and influence of the Catholic Church in the United States from the colonial period to the present day. Students will examine the religious, social, political, and cultural contributions of Catholics in American society, with attention to key events such as the arrival of Catholic immigrants, the rise of Catholic education and institutions, responses to anti-Catholicism, and the role of Catholic leaders in major historical movements. Students will engage with primary sources and the American History Classroom to identify the distinct features of American Catholicism as shaped by milestone events and impactful leaders.

Placement considerations: **Open to all 12th grade students**

English

Office : Room 314

2010 - English 9/R: Foundations of Literature I
1.00 Credit

The Ryken English 9 courses examine how authors explore the process of coming of age in literature. These texts introduce students to young people learning to navigate the struggles and triumphs of the winding path to identity. The English 9 course at all levels is designed to introduce students to foundational principles of written and oral communication, the conceptual framework used to study literature at OLGCHS, and the types of assessments used to evaluate that study. Additionally, freshmen write on a wide range of subjects across fiction and nonfiction genres as they practice and refine language arts skills through discussion, revision, and sustained engagement with classic and contemporary mentor texts. Students read a range of literary works such as William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*, as well as other classic and contemporary texts aligned with the course's thematic and skill-based objectives. The course uses varied instructional strategies to meet the needs of diverse learners, ensuring access to the curriculum while upholding high academic standards.

Placement Considerations**: Ryken Program Director approval**

2011 - English 9: Foundations of Literature I **1.00 Credit**

The English 9 courses examine how authors explore the process of coming of age in literature. These texts introduce students to young people learning to navigate the struggles and triumphs of the winding path to identity. The English 9 course at all levels is designed to introduce students to foundational principles of written and oral communication, the conceptual framework used to study literature at Good Counsel, and the types of assessments used to evaluate that study. Students will work towards mastery of sentence and paragraph structure as they develop the necessary skills to analyze language as both a utility and an art form. Students read a range of literary works such as William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Julie Otsuka's *When the Emperor Was Divine*, and Sandra Cisneros's *The House on Mango Street*, as well as other classic and contemporary texts aligned with the course's thematic and skill-based objectives.

2012 - Honors English 9: Foundations of Literature I **1.00 Credit**

The Honors English 9 courses examine how authors explore the process of coming of age in literature. These texts introduce students to young people learning to navigate the struggles and triumphs of the winding path to identity. The English 9 course at all levels is designed to introduce students to foundational principles of written and oral communication, the conceptual framework used to study literature at Good Counsel, and the types of assessments used to evaluate that study. Students will work towards mastery of sentence and paragraph structure as they develop the necessary skills to analyze language as both a utility and an art form. Students read a range of literary works such as William Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, and August Wilson's *Fences*, as well as other classic and contemporary texts aligned with the course's thematic and skill-based objectives. Honors students progress through the curriculum at an accelerated pace and engage with additional literary texts.

Placement Considerations: **Studies Office and English department placement**

2020 - English 10/R: Foundations of Literature II **1.00 Credit**

During sophomore year, students will explore the ways in which characters are caught between the past and present and how this tension shapes their identities, values, choices, relationships, and sense of belonging. The English 10 course expands on and develops the basic principles of analysis and communication skills established in English 9. Students continue to develop their composition skills with higher levels of complexity in language, structure, and analysis. Students read a range of literary works such as F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, Safia Elhillo's *Home is Not a Country*, John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, as well as other classic and contemporary texts aligned with the course's thematic and skill-based objectives.The course uses varied instructional strategies to meet the needs of diverse learners, ensuring access to the curriculum while upholding high academic standards.

Placement Considerations**: Ryken Program Director approval**

2021 - English 10: Foundations of Literature II **1.00 Credit**

During sophomore year, students will explore the ways in which characters are caught between the past and present and how this tension shapes their identities, values, choices, relationships, and sense of belonging. The English 10 course expands on and develops the basic principles of analysis and communication skills established in English 9. Students continue to develop their composition skills with higher levels of complexity in language, structure, and analysis. Students read a range of literary works such as F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, Safia Elhillo's *Home is Not a Country*, John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, as well as other classic and contemporary texts aligned with the course's thematic and skill-based objectives.

2022 - Honors English 10: Foundations of Literature II **1.00 Credit**

During sophomore year, students will explore the ways in which characters are caught between the past and present and how this tension shapes their identities, values, choices, relationships, and sense of belonging. The English 10 course expands on and develops the basic principles of analysis and communication skills established in English 9. Students continue to develop their composition skills with higher levels of complexity in language, structure, and analysis. Students read a range of literary works such as F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, Safia Elhillo's *Home is Not a Country*, Frederick Douglass's *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, as well as other classic and contemporary texts aligned with the course's thematic and skill-based objectives. Honors students progress through the curriculum at an accelerated pace and engage with additional literary texts.

Placement Considerations: **English department approval**

2033 - IB Language & Literature I SL/R **1.00 Credit**

This junior year course asks how language shapes meaning and influences how we understand ourselves and the societies we live in? Students explore this question across texts ranging from novels and plays to films, advertisements, and social media, developing the analytical, speaking, and writing skills essential to IB Language and Literature. As the first year of a two-year sequence, the course builds on skills developed in earlier grades in preparation for the IB Language and Literature internal and external assessments taken in senior year. Students study a range of literary and non-literary works such as Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis*, Banana Yoshimoto's *Kitchen*, Nike's "Find Your Greatness" advertising campaign, selected songs studied as poetry, and other classic and contemporary texts. Varied instructional approaches support diverse learners while maintaining rigorous academic expectations.

Placement Considerations: **Ryken Program Director approval**

2037 - IB Language & Literature I SL **1.00 Credit**

This junior year course asks how language shapes meaning and influences how we understand ourselves and the societies we live in? Students explore this question across texts ranging from novels and plays to films, advertisements, and social media, developing the analytical, speaking, and writing skills essential to IB Language and Literature. As the first year of a two-year sequence, the course builds on skills developed in earlier grades in preparation for the IB Language and Literature internal and external assessments taken in senior year. Students study a range of literary and non-literary works such as Satrapi's *Persepolis*, George Orwell's *1984*, Nike's "Find Your Greatness" advertising campaign, selected songs studied as poetry, and other classic and contemporary texts. Varied instructional approaches support diverse learners while maintaining rigorous academic expectations.

2035 - IB Language & Literature I HL **1.00 Credit**

As the first year of a two year sequence, the junior year IB Language and Literature I course continues to cultivate students' critical study and interpretation of language through a wide range of text types. Students will explore and reflect on the ways in which language is used in not only traditional literary texts (prose, poetry, nonfiction, drama) but also in non-literary texts (advertisements, blogs, film/television, websites, photographs, podcasts, and social media). With this dual focus, students learn about the complex and dynamic nature of language and how form, structure, and style are used to achieve a particular effect. Additionally, students consider how historical, cultural, and social contexts influence how texts are written and received. Most importantly, this course requires students to develop and strengthen their oral and written communication skills in preparation for the IB Language and Literature internal and external assessments. Students are expected to take the IB HL exam in May of their senior year (examination fee required). During Year 1, students will engage in an accelerated study of texts and complete the external assessment– the HL Essay. Students study a range of literary and non-literary works such as William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, as well as various collections of photographs, film posters, and Banksy street art.

Placement Considerations: **English department approval**

2036 - AP/IB World Literature & Composition I HL **1.00 Credit**

This junior year course is the first in a two-year sequence designed based on the central tenets of both the IB English Language A: Literature and AP English Literature and Composition courses. Students will focus on developing mastery of critical thinking, reading, and writing through an intensive study of literature – both translated works and those originally written in English. Students will learn to read and write on the college level by examining how authorial choices shape literary meaning in a variety of texts. This course is the first half of a two-year-long preparation for the AP English Literature and Composition exam and the IB English Language A: Literature exam administered in May of the students' senior year; it also results in the completion of the first major assessment required for the IB Diploma (Internal Assessment – Individual Oral). Students read a range of literary works such as Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*, Jean Paul Sartre's *No Exit*, Banana Yoshimoto's *Kitchen*, George Orwell's *1984*, Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, as well as other classic and contemporary texts aligned with the course's thematic and skill-based objectives.

Placement Considerations: **English department approval**

2041 - English 12: Constructions of Freedom in Literature **1.00 Credit**

Students will continue to strengthen their critical thinking and analytical skills by examining different constructs of freedom in literature. Students will read a variety of literary genres, reflecting a diverse range of cultural and historical perspectives. Additionally, students will continue to develop and hone their communication skills through verbal and written expression. Students read a range of literary works such as Ken Kesey's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Tommy Orange's *There There*, William Shakespeare's *Othello*, poetry by Elizabeth Bishop, James Blake, Gwendylon Brooks, Eavan Boland, Anne Sexton, John Lennon & Paul McCartney, and Grace Nichols, as well as other classic and contemporary texts aligned with the course's thematic and skill-based objectives.

2043 - AP Language **1.00 Credit**

The AP English Language and Composition course aligns with an introductory, college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Throughout the course, students develop a personal style by making appropriate choices in grammar, structure, tone, and content. Additionally, students study non-fiction texts, including images, from a variety of disciplines and historical periods. Students are expected to take the AP English Language and Composition exam in May (examination fee required). Students read a range of nonfiction speeches and essays such as Frederick Douglass's "What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?", Abraham Lincoln's "Second Inaugural Address," James Baldwin's "A Talk to Teachers," Ronald Reagan's "Tear Down This Wall," Chimamanda Ngozi Adichi's "We Should All Be Feminists," Sonia Sotomayor's "A Latina Judge's Voice," as well as other classic and contemporary texts aligned with the course's thematic and skill-based objectives. Students are expected to take the AP English Language and Composition exam in May (examination fee required) or complete a school based final exam.

Placement Considerations: **Open to 12th grade students with English department approval**

2046 - AP/IB World Literature & Composition II HL **1.00 Credit**

This course completes the two-year sequence of college-level English work in the International Baccalaureate Program and prepares students for the AP Literature and Composition exam in the spring. Students will engage in a detailed study of the novel, poetry, and drama, exploring the means by which authors convey truths about the human experience. Students will work to master the skills involved in critical analysis, logical organization, and precise writing. Students read a range of literary works such as Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, Colson Whitehead's *The Nickel Boys*, William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, poetry by Eavan Boland and Joy Harjo, Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*, as well as other classic and contemporary texts aligned with the course's thematic and skill-based objectives. Students are expected to take the AP English Literature & Composition or IB Literature HL exam in May (examination fee required) or complete a school based final exam.

Placement Considerations: **English department approval**

2045- IB Language & Literature II HL **1.00 Credit**

This is the second year of a two year sequence, the IB Language and Literature course continues to cultivate students' critical study and interpretation of language through a wide range of text types. Students will explore and reflect on the ways in which language is used in not only traditional literary texts (prose, poetry, nonfiction, drama) but also in non-literary texts (advertisements, blogs, film/television, websites, photographs, podcasts, and social media). With this dual focus, students learn about the complex and dynamic nature of language and how form, structure, and style are used to achieve a particular effect. Additionally, students consider how historical, cultural, and social contexts influence how texts are written and received. Students study a range of literary and non-literary works such as Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go*, Dante Alighieri's *Inferno*, Sophocles's *Oedipus*, *Stranger Things* Season 1, various advertising campaigns, and Bill Waterson's *Calvin and Hobb's* comics, as well as various other supplementary literary and non-literary texts. During the fall semester, students will complete the internal assessment– the Individual Oral. Students are expected to take the IB Language and Literature HL Paper 1 and Paper 2 exams in May (examination fee required) or complete a school based final exam.

Placement Considerations: **English department approval**

2051- GC Story Lab I: The Poetry Project **.50 Credit**

In this semester elective course, students explore poetry as a way of thinking, questioning, and making meaning. Students examine the ways in which writers transform aspects of identity and the lived experience into poetry. Through close reading, experimentation with various styles and forms, and workshop-style writing, students examine the origins of poems while developing their own voices as writers. The semester ends with a published anthology and poetry showcase, treating student work not as an exercise, but as art worth sharing. This course is an elective and does not count toward the four-credit English graduation requirement.

Placement considerations**: Open to 11th and 12th grade students**

2052- GC Story Lab II: The Podcast Project **.50 Credit**

The Podcast Project is a hands-on English elective that turns students into storytellers, researchers, and producers. As a class, students will develop a central research question that is rooted in our local community. Then, students will research, investigate, and answer their research question through a multi-episode podcast series. Collectively, students will be responsible for all aspects of the podcast's development from research to writing and recording to sound design, editing, and promotion. The course treats student work as real production and culminates with the public release of a student-produced podcast series. This course is an elective and does not count toward the four-credit English graduation requirement.

Placement considerations: **Open to 11th and 12th grade students**

World Languages

Office : Room 106

3010 - World Languages, Communication, & Cultures **1.00 Credit**

This course introduces students to several foreign languages and areas of the world. Through examination of the many manners in which people communicate and act worldwide, students will gain a greater appreciation of the dynamics involving Latin, Greek, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Hebrew, Esperanto, and Asian languages. Students will increase their knowledge of the structures and richness of their own English language, and learn how to study a foreign language in general. Oral reports, web-based resources, guest speakers, films, field trips to local restaurants, and small introductory units to sounds and basic vocabulary expressions will allow students in the Ryken Program to complete one level of Good Counsel's foreign language requirement before choosing a two-year sequence in French, Latin, or Spanish. Students who are not in the Ryken Program may elect this course, with the understanding that they will need to complete three additional credits in one language to satisfy Good Counsel's graduation requirement.

Placement Considerations:

- **Ryken Program Director approval**
- **Open to students in all grade levels**
- **Does not fulfill the language requirement for non-Ryken Program Students**

3110 - Spanish I/R **1.00 Credit**

In the Spanish I (Ryken) class, students begin to learn to communicate orally and in written form about daily life. Emphasis is on vocabulary development, simple grammatical structures, and the basic culture of the people. Students are encouraged to use the language beyond the school setting and stay informed of current events in countries where the target language is spoken.

Placement Considerations: **Ryken Program Director approval**

3111 - Spanish I **1.00 Credit**

This course introduces the foundations of language learning and continues to build upon any prior exposure to the target language.

3112 - Honors Spanish I **1.00 Credit**

This accelerated course introduces the foundations of the language and continues to build upon prior exposure to language learning. Honors students are asked to demonstrate reading comprehension, writing, and organizational skills appropriate for advanced study.

Placement Considerations:

- **World Languages department approval**
- **Placement Test required**

3120 - Spanish II/R **1.00 Credit**

This second-year introductory course is designed to help students continue with their development of skills necessary to communicate orally and in writing, and to understand the written and spoken language that they began in Spanish I Ryken. The emphasis is on vocabulary development and the acquisition of additional simple grammatical structures. Students communicate about relevant, real-world topics that affect them on a daily basis in common settings and theme areas such as family, home, and community. The students will also explore various Hispanic cultures from different perspectives such as geography, history, cultural traditions, art, music, and daily life.

Placement Considerations: **Ryken Program Director approval**

3121 - Spanish II **1.00 Credit**

This course builds upon the foundations of Spanish I. Students will also learn new grammar concepts and vocabulary related to various themes. In this course, students will be required to apply their knowledge of vocabulary and grammatical structures to improve listening and reading comprehension skills and to communicate in both oral and written formats.

Placement Considerations: **Successful completion of Spanish I**

3122 - Honors Spanish II **1.00 Credit**

This accelerated course builds upon the foundations of Honors Spanish I and expands upon the grammar learned in the preceding course. In addition, this course focuses on building the students' knowledge of vocabulary related to various themes. Students will be required to apply their knowledge of vocabulary and grammatical forms to improve their listening and reading comprehension skills, and to communicate in both oral and written formats. Special emphasis is placed on communicating in the target language in writing and speaking. Honors students are asked to demonstrate reading comprehension, writing, and organizational skills appropriate for advanced study.

Placement Considerations: **Successful completion of Honors Spanish I and/or World Languages department approval**

3131 - Spanish III **1.00 Credit**

This course builds upon the structures learned in Spanish II. Emphasis is on oral evaluation, written composition, reading and listening comprehension.

Placement Considerations: **Successful completion of Spanish II**

3134 - IB Spanish III **1.00 Credit**

This accelerated course builds upon the structures learned in Honors Spanish II and is conducted almost exclusively in the target language. Emphasis is on oral evaluation, written composition, reading and listening comprehension. The students will engage with more complex verb constructions. This course is the culmination of the two-year requirement for IB Spanish Ab Initio SL and the first year of the two-year requirement for IB Spanish B SL. Eligible students may sit for the IB Spanish Ab Initio exam in May (examination fee required).

Placement Considerations: **Successful completion of Honors Spanish II and/or World Languages department approval**

3141 - Spanish IV **1.00 Credit**

This course builds upon the structures learned in Spanish III and is conducted almost exclusively in the target language. Emphasis is on oral evaluation, written composition, reading and listening comprehension.

Placement Considerations: **Successful completion of Spanish III**

3144 - IB Spanish IV **1.00 Credit**

This advanced course-is taught predominantly in Spanish. Students read, analyze, and discuss topics of culture and the IB themes of identity, experience, social organizations, human ingenuity, and sharing the planet through various text types and media. Students will examine a wide range of grammatical structures and idioms. Evaluation will include oral reports, written compositions and exams, and grammatical exercises. This course is the culmination of the two-year requirement for IB Spanish SL and the first year of the two-year requirement for IB Spanish HL. Eligible students may sit for the IB Spanish SL exam in May (examination fee required).

Placement Considerations: **Successful completion of IB Spanish III and/or World Languages department approval**

3153 - AP Spanish V **1.00 Credit**

In preparation for the Advanced Placement Spanish Language and Culture exam, students will experience exercises in advanced structures, vocabulary, speaking and writing, as well as engage with and create authentic literary and media texts. Students are expected to take the AP Spanish Language exam in May (examination fee required).

Placement Considerations: **Successful completion of IB Spanish IV and/or World Languages department approval**

3196 - IB Advanced Spanish Seminar **1.00 Credit**

This course focuses on themes of identity, experiences, aesthetics, human ingenuity, social organization, and sharing the planet . Studies include literary and non-literary texts from a variety of Spanish-speaking countries, including film, visual art, and nonfiction works on diverse topics. Students will process, analyze, and evaluate information from written and oral sources through their own writings, presentations, and projects. In May, students are expected to take the IB Spanish HL or SL exam or a course-based final exam (examination fee required).

Placement Considerations: **Successful completion of IB Spanish IV and/or World Languages department approval**

3211 - French I **1.00 Credit**

This course introduces the foundations of language learning and continues to build upon any prior exposure to the target language.

3212 - Honors French I **1.00 Credit**

This accelerated-course introduces the foundations of the language and continues to build upon prior exposure to language learning. Honors students are asked to demonstrate reading comprehension, writing and organizational skills appropriate for advanced study.

Placement Considerations:

- **World Languages department approval**
- **Placement Test required**

3221 - French II **1.00 Credit**

This course builds upon the foundations of French I. Students will also learn new grammar concepts and vocabulary related to various themes. In this course, students will be required to apply their knowledge of vocabulary and grammatical structures to improve listening and reading comprehension skills and to communicate in both oral and written formats.

Placement Considerations: **Successful completion of French I**

3222 - Honors French II **1.00 Credit**

This accelerated course builds upon the foundations of Honors French I and expands upon the grammar learned in the preceding course. In addition, this course focuses on building the students' knowledge of vocabulary related to various themes. Students will be required to apply their knowledge of vocabulary and grammatical forms to improve their listening and reading comprehension skills, and to communicate in both oral and written formats. Special emphasis is placed on communicating in the target language in writing and speaking. Honors students are asked to demonstrate reading comprehension, writing, and organizational skills appropriate for advanced study.

Placement Considerations: **Successful Completion of Honors French I and/or World Languages department approval**

3231 - French III **1.00 Credit**

This course builds upon the structures learned in French II. Emphasis is on oral evaluation, written composition, reading and listening comprehension.

Placement Considerations: **Successful completion of French II**

3234 - IB French III **1.00 Credit**

This accelerated course builds upon the structures learned in Honors French II and is conducted almost exclusively in the target language. Emphasis is on oral evaluation, written composition, reading, and listening comprehension. The students will engage with more complex verb constructions. This course is the culmination of the two-year requirement for IB French Ab Initio SL and the first year of the two-year requirement for IB French B SL. Eligible students may sit for the IB French Ab Initio exam in May (examination fee required).

Placement Considerations: **Successful completion of Honors French II and/or World Languages department approval**

3244 - IB French IV **1.00 Credit**

This advanced course is - is taught predominantly in French. Students read, analyze, and discuss topics of culture and the IB themes of identity, experiences, social organization, human ingenuity, and sharing the planet through various text types and media. Students will examine a wide range of grammatical structures and idioms. Evaluation will include oral reports, written compositions and exams, and grammatical exercises. This course is the culmination of the two-year requirement for IB French SL and the first year of the two-year requirement for IB French HL. Eligible students may sit for the IB French SL exam in May (examination fee required).

Placement Considerations: **Successful completion of IB French III and/or World Languages department approval**

3296 - IB Advanced French Seminar **1.00 Credit**

This course focuses on themes of Beauty and Aesthetics, Science and Technology, Families and Communities, Global Challenges, Contemporary Life, and Personal and Public IdentitiesThis course is only taught in French. Studies include literary and non-literary texts from a variety of French-speaking countries, including film, visual art, and nonfiction works on diverse topics. Students will process, analyze, and evaluate information from written and oral sources through their own writings, presentations, and projects. In May, students must take the IB French HL or SL exam, or the AP French Language and Culture exam in May (examination fee required) or a course-based final exam.

Placement Considerations:**Successful completion of IB French IV and/or World Languages department approval**

3322 - Honors Latin II **1.00 Credit**

In addition to the objectives of the standard Latin II course, students will understand and translate more uses of the subjunctive in subordinate clauses. They will also encounter and understand an expanded array of constructions of the cases. In addition to mythological stories, we will also read selections, in Latin, from Eutropius's History, Cornelius Nepos's Biographies, or Julius Caesar's Gallic War. Students should take this course if they are interested in studying Latin in the IB program or taking AP Latin their junior or senior year.

Placement Considerations: **Successful completion of Honors Latin I and/or World Languages department approval**

3332 - Honors Latin III **1.00 Credit**

Students will develop and expand their working Latin vocabulary. They will complete their study of grammar and syntax, including examination of most uses of the subjunctive in subordinate clauses and understanding of periphrastic constructions. Mostly, students will exercise and improve their reading and translation skills. We will read stories, in Latin, about mythological characters. We will also read, in Latin, selections from Eutropius's History, Cornelius Nepos's Biographies, Catullus's poems, or Ovid's Metamorphoses. Finally, students will expand their understanding of Roman history and culture.

Placement Considerations: **Successful Completion of Honors Latin II and/or World Languages department approval**

3336 - AP/IB SL Latin III **1.00 Credit**

This course prepares students for the AP Latin exam and the IB Latin SL external assessments, to be taken at the end of the AP/IB SL Latin IV courses. Guided by the AP and IB curricula, we will read and analyze extensive selections, in Latin, from authors such as Julius Caesar, Sallust, Cicero, Vergil, Propertius, Tibullus, Ovid, Livy, Pliny the Younger, Juvenal, Martial, and Jerome. Students taking the IB course will research a topic of their choice in Roman history, literature, or culture and complete the internal assessment in Latin SL by the end of the year. Students in both the AP/IB courses will further develop their understanding of Roman history and culture.

Placement Considerations: **World Languages department approval**

3346 - AP/IB Latin IV **1.00 Credit**

This course completes the AP/IB SL sequence in Latin. Students taking the AP course will take the AP exam in Latin at the end of the year; students taking the IB course will take the external assessments in Latin SL at the end of the year. We will continue to read and analyze extensive selections, in Latin, from authors on the AP and IB reading lists. Students in both courses will read and analyze significant passages from Vergil's Aeneid. Portions of the Aeneid that we don't read in Latin we will read in English. We will explore what this epic tells us about Romans' understanding of their role as inheritors of the Greek tradition and civilizers of the uncivilized at the beginning of the long pax Romana. Students are expected to take the AP Latin Exam or the IB Latin SL Exam, (examination fee required) or a course-based final exam.

Placement Considerations: **World Languages department approval**

I3011- ELL I **1.00 Credit**

ELL I is a language acquisition course, focusing on the development of English language skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening with a primary focus on speaking and academic writing. Students will practice cultural presentations, debate, speeches, and other public speaking skills. This class is also a writing workshop, focusing on research and the writing process. Students will learn how to utilize the library, online databases, and other resources to help develop academic writing skills across various disciplines. Students will use some of this class time to get feedback on writing assignments for other subjects.

Placement Considerations: **Open to students in the International Students Program**

I3021- ELL II **1.00 Credit**

ELL II is a language acquisition course, focusing on the development of English language skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening with a primary focus on reading comprehension, academic presentations, and public speaking skills. Students will develop intercultural communication skills, build confidence when using English, understand the use of English in a wide range of texts and social interactions, and make cultural, social, and personal connections through language. Students will also be introduced to many concepts that are included in the IB English B curriculum.

Placement Considerations: **Open to students in the International Students Program**

I3034 - IB Language B HL/SL Year 1 **1.00 Credit**

The IB English B course focuses on language acquisition and the development of language skills. This course focuses on developing, enhancing, and practicing English skills. These language skills are developed through the study and use of a variety of written and spoken materials. These materials are chosen to enable students to increase language skills, develop self-awareness, value multicultural perspectives, and foster international mindedness.

Placement Considerations: **Open to students in the International Students Program**

I3044 - IB Language B HL/SL Year 2 **1.00 Credit**

The IB English B course continues to focus on language acquisition and the development of language skills. This course focuses on developing, enhancing, and practicing English skills. These language skills are developed through the study and use of a variety of written and spoken materials. These materials are chosen to enable students to increase language skills, develop self-awareness, value multicultural perspectives, and foster international mindedness and precise writing. Diploma Candidates in the IB Program will complete all required assessments. Students must sit for the IB Exam or take a course based final exam.

Placement Considerations: **Open to students in the International Students Program**

Mathematics

Office : Room 208

4010 - Algebra I/R **1.50 Credits**

This freshman course covers properties of real numbers, evaluating expressions with real numbers and variables, linear equations, simplifying and factoring polynomials, quadratic functions, data collection and probability, rules for exponents, simplifying rational and radical expressions, and solving simple inequalities. This course earns 1.50 credits of Math due to mandatory completion of the Summer Ryken math course and scheduled small group instruction during the Freshman school year.

Placement Considerations:

- **Ryken Program Director approval**
- **Completion of OLGCHS's Ryken Math Course (summer preceding enrollment)**

4011 - Algebra I **1.00 Credit**

This freshman course covers evaluating expressions, data analysis and probability, properties of the real number system, operations with real numbers and variables, linear equations and inequalities, operations with polynomials, factoring polynomials, simplifying rational algebraic expressions, quadratic functions, and evaluating radical expressions. Problem-solving is emphasized throughout the course. Students in this course will be considered for the honors math program as sophomores.

4013 - Honors Accelerated Algebra I **1.00 Credit**

This is a rigorous Algebra I course designed for students pursuing advanced math. Students study probability and statistics, linear equations and inequalities, absolute value functions, polynomial operations, quadratic functions, and operations with exponents and radicals. Emphasis is placed on applying algebraic skills to real-life problems and the development of problem solving and critical thinking skills.

Placement Considerations: **Mathematics department approval**

4020 - Geometry/R **1.00 Credit**

This course covers angle and line relationships, parallel lines and planes, congruent and similar polygons, right triangles, right triangle trigonometry, circles, interior and exterior angles in polygons, quadrilaterals, perimeter and area of plane figures, and area and volume of solids. Students demonstrate their knowledge through algebraic application of theorems and postulates. Students receive preparation for the PSAT, SAT, and ACT exams.

Placement Considerations: **Ryken Program Director approval**

4021 - Geometry **1.00 Credit**

Over the course of the year, students study angle and line relationships, parallel lines and planes, congruent and similar polygons, right triangles, right triangle trigonometry, circles, interior and exterior angles in polygons, quadrilaterals, perimeter and area of plane figures, and area and volume of solids. Students demonstrate mastery through algebraic application of theorems and postulates. Students receive preparation for the PSAT, SAT, and ACT exams.

Placement Considerations: **Successful completion of Algebra I**

4022 - Honors Geometry **1.00 Credit**

This is a rigorous course designed for students with superior mathematical ability. This course covers angle and line relationships, parallel lines and planes, congruent and similar polygons, classification of quadrilaterals, right triangles, right triangle trigonometry, analytic trigonometry, circles, perimeter and area of plane figures, area and volume of solids, logic, and sets. Students master these geometric concepts through extensive proof methods, algebraic applications, and geometric constructions. Students receive preparation for the PSAT, SAT, and ACT exams.

Placement Considerations: **Mathematics department approval**

4030 - Algebra II/R **1.00 Credit**

This course expands upon the topics studied in Algebra I. Function terminology and notation, along with polynomial functions, are covered with an emphasis on linear and quadratic functions, specifically. Students are introduced to exponential, logarithmic, rational, and radical functions, as well as both sequences and series.

Placement Considerations: **Ryken Program Director approval**

4031 - Algebra II **1.00 Credit**

This course covers complex numbers and a variety of relations and functions to include quadratic, polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, rational, and radical functions. Students build upon and expand the knowledge gained in Algebra I. Problem solving and graphing are emphasized. Students also receive preparation for the PSAT, SAT, and ACT exams.

Placement Considerations: **Successful completion of Geometry**

4032 - Honors Algebra II **1.00 Credit**

Students continue to approach mathematical concepts from a more theoretical perspective than in non-honors courses. This course covers relations and functions, solving equations and inequalities, quadratic functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, complex numbers, rational and irrational functions, polynomial functions, and matrices. Problem-solving and graphing processes are emphasized. Students receive preparation for the SAT and ACT exams.

Placement Considerations: **Mathematics department approval**

4041 - Precalculus **1.00 Credit**

This course introduces students to the topics and skills necessary for both their initial and ongoing studies of mathematics in college. This course focuses on the elements of polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions from algebraic and geometric perspectives. The course also exposes students to the initial concepts of probability.

Placement Considerations: **Successful completion of Algebra II**

4050 - Precalculus Concepts/R **1.00 Credit**

This course is designed to introduce students to advanced concepts in precalculus, while reviewing concepts covered previously in the Ryken math track. The course includes probability and statistics, trigonometry, linear functions, quadratic functions and relations, exponents, rational functions, and polynomials.

Placement Considerations: **Ryken Program Director approval**

4133 - AP Precalculus **1.00 Credit**

This course is designed to prepare students for their first course in analysis by developing procedural and symbolic fluency, assimilation of multiple representations, clear mathematical communication, and theoretical reasoning. Topics include polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric, and polar functions. Functions involving parameters, vectors, and matrices will also be included. Students are expected to take the AP Precalculus exam in May (examination fee required) or a school based final exam.

Placement Considerations: **Mathematics department approval**

4063 - AP Calculus AB **1.00 Credit**

This is a college-level course designed to prepare students to take the AP Calculus (AB level) examination in May. Students study limits of functions (including transcendental functions), continuity, the definition of the derivative, derivatives of functions, application of the derivative, the definite and indefinite integral, and applications of the integral. Since an emphasis will be placed on both algebraic and graphical analysis of functions, use of a graphing calculator is required. This is considered year one of the IB HL Math course.

Placement Considerations: **Mathematics department approval**

4073 - AP Calculus BC **1.00 Credit**

This is a college-level course designed to prepare students to take the AP Calculus (BC level) examination in May. Topics covered include those from AP Calculus (AB) as well as polar coordinates, vectors, parametrically-defined functions, infinite series and elementary differential equations. Taylor polynomials and slope fields are also studied. This is a required portion of year two of the IB HL Math course.

Placement Considerations: **Mathematics department approval**

4074 - IB Math SL: Algebra and Trigonometry **1.00 Credit**

This first year IB Mathematics course develops a strong foundation in algebraic reasoning, functions, geometry, and trigonometry. Students will spend time exploring number patterns with Arithmetics and Geometric Sequences and Series. They will learn about a variety of functions, including higher order polynomial functions, logarithms, and rational functions. They will conduct a thorough study of trigonometry from both geometric and periodic viewpoints. Students explore mathematical relations through symbolic manipulation, modeling, and problem solving while strengthening their ability to think logically and communicate mathematically. Topics include: number and algebra, functions and their transformations, and geometry and trigonometry. Emphasis is placed on algebraic fluency, the use of technology for visualization, and real world applications. Students who successfully complete this course will be prepared for IB Math SL: Calculus and Statistics

Placement Considerations: **Mathematics department approval**

4084 - IB Math SL: Calculus and Statistics **1.00 Credit**

This second year IB Mathematics course builds on the concepts from IB Algebra and Trigonometry. Students apply mathematical reasoning to data analysis, probability, and the study of change through calculus. Students will also investigate both Normal and Binomial distributions to begin developing a deeper understanding of probability. They also complete the IB Internal Assessment (IA) - an independent mathematical exploration of a topic of personal interest. Topics Include: statistics, probability, and differential and integral calculus. The course emphasizes modeling, interpretation of data, and connecting mathematics to real world contents. Requirement: Students are expected to sit for the IB Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches SL exam in May (examination fee required) or take a school based exam. .

Placement considerations:

- **Completion of IB Math SL: Algebra and Trigonometry and/or Honors Algebra II or AP PreCalculus**
- **Mathematics department approval**

4094 - IB Math HL: Advanced Calculus and Statistics **1.00 Credit**

This accelerated IB Mathematics course is designed for students who have successfully completed AP PreCalculus and AP Calculus AB and wish to pursue the highest level of mathematical study in the IB program. Building on a foundation of differential and integral calculus, the course emphasizes abstract reasoning, proof, and advanced applications of mathematics. Topics include: advanced functions, sequences and series, trigonometric identities and modeling, differential equations, and vectors. Students also explore probability distributions, statistical inference, and mathematical modeling and real-world and theoretical contexts. This course emphasizes both conceptual understanding and analytic rigor, with frequent use of technology for modeling and exploration. Each student completes an IB Internal Assessment (IA) - an independent mathematical investigation demonstrating depth and creativity.

Placement Considerations: **Mathematics department approval**

4101 - Financial Math **0.50 Credit**

Students will examine a variety of financial topics including earning money, banking, credit and loans, housing, transportation, taxes, budgeting, investments and retirement, and travel and vacation cost calculation. This course is an elective and does not count toward the four-credit Math graduation requirement.

Placement Considerations: **Open to 11th and 12th grade students**

4103 - AP Statistics **1.00 Credit**

This course is designed to offer a modern introduction to statistics that is equivalent to an introductory college course. Students explore patterns in data and build models using basic probability concepts, many of which follow the normal (bell curve) distribution. Students learn how to use these models to perform inference about a population at large. Considerable attention is paid to the critical concepts of sampling and experimental design using practical, real-world scenarios and events. Students are expected to take the AP Statistics exam in May (examination fee required) or a school based final exam.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 11th and 12th grade students**
- **Mathematics department approval**
- **May be taken as a terminal Math course by any student who has successfully completed Precalculus or AP Precalculus.**
- **May be taken as an elective course for any student currently enrolled in Precalculus or above**

4111 - Introduction to Data Science **0.50 Credit**

This course introduces students to data science, the use of data analytics to extract meaning and insight from the ever-growing volume of data that surrounds us. In the past decade, the principles of data science have grown beyond the fields of mathematics and computer science to almost every field imaginable. Data science courses at the collegiate level continue to expand with each passing year, and an introduction during the high school years offers many advantages. Students will see data science come to life through hands-on exercises using practical and real world examples. The course will rely upon the use of R Studio, one of the most popular data science platforms. The curriculum builds upon basic Algebra I mathematical skills and while it is helpful, no prior computer programming knowledge is required. This course is an elective and does not count toward the four-credit Math graduation requirement.

Placement Considerations: **Open to 11th and 12th grade students**

Science

Office : Room 214

5010 - Biology/R **1.00 Credit**

The Ryken Biology course begins with mastery of scientific investigation, where students learn how to analyze and evaluate experimental data. Major topics in the first semester involve studies of the cell, membrane transport, DNA structure, replication, and protein synthesis. The second semester shall include topics in cellular division, genetics, photosynthesis, cellular respiration, and chemistry for biology. This course will offer a hands-on approach to learning and involves a wide variety of laboratory experiences throughout the year. The unified goal of this course is for students to gain an understanding of current advances made in the field of biology, and to apply these concepts through their daily activities.

Placement Considerations: **Ryken Program Director approval**

5011 - Biology **1.00 Credit**

This course will begin by introducing students to the nature of scientific thinking and investigation. Further topics of study include: ecology, biochemistry, cell physiology, cellular energetics, cellular division, biodiversity, classification, and genetics. Students will participate in a large variety of laboratory experiences and projects. Technology will be incorporated often to support learning. Current biological issues will be investigated and their implications on society will be discussed. The goal of this course is for students to gain an understanding of how biology plays a role in everyday life, in addition to all of the advances and current issues being discussed in the Biological sciences within and outside of the classroom.

5012 - Honors Biology **1.00 Credit**

This course is intended for incoming freshmen who are embarking on an honors-level, AP or IB course of study. A primary focus of this class is developing the scientific methodology skills necessary for success in any level of science at Good Counsel. It is designed to cover units common to both IB Biology and AP Biology including scientific methodology and statistics, organic chemistry, cellular and molecular biology, genetics, biotechnology, evolution, classification and human anatomy and physiology. Extensive laboratory work will be completed for each unit.

Placement Considerations: **Studies Office and Science department placement**

5013 - AP Biology **1.00 Credit**

The AP Biology curriculum is based upon major topics found in many entry-level collegiate biology programs, and covers the following topics: ecology, biochemistry, molecular genetics, classical genetics, evolution, population genetics, speciation, biotechnology and bioengineering. This course also includes development of laboratory skills and lab experiences in all major content topics. Students are expected to take the AP Biology exam in May (examination fee required) or sit for a school based final exam

Placement Considerations:

- **Successful completion of Biology**
- **Science department approval**

5014 - IB Biology SL **1.00 Credit**

The IB Standard Level (SL) Biology class is designed for students in the IB diploma program. IB diploma candidates taking this course for their SL science credit will take the IB SL Biology exam in May (examination fee required). IB diploma candidates can also take this as year 1 of IB HL Biology. This course will cover the IB SL curriculum covering topics including cellular and molecular biology, genetics, ecology, evolution, biodiversity, and human anatomy and physiology. A major component of this course includes the investigation of topics through inquiry-based labs with the expectation that lab reports are written in an AP/IB standardized format. Extensive lab work will lead to the skills necessary to complete an individualized research project. Students must sit for the IB Exam or take a course based final exam.

Placement Considerations: **Science department approval**

5015 - IB Biology HL **1.00 Credit**

The IB Higher Level (HL) Biology class requires the successful completion of IB Biology SL. The HL course requires students to increase their knowledge and understanding of Biology and provides a solid foundation for further study at university level. Similar to IB SL Biology, the study of life is examined with unifying themes: Form and function, Unity and diversity, Continuity and change, and Interaction and interdependence. The syllabus content follows four levels of biological organization: molecules, cells, organisms, and ecosystems. HL content is conceptually more demanding and explored in greater depth. Students must sit for the IB Exam or take a course based final exam.

Placement Considerations:

- **Successful completion of IB Biology SL**
- **Science department approval**

5020 - Chemistry/R **1.00 Credit**

This laboratory course covers the major topics in general chemistry, including the scientific method, scientific measurement, organization of the periodic table, stoichiometry, phases of matter, atomic theory, chemical formulas and chemical reactions and the mole. Lab experience supplements the course, which emphasizes problem-solving techniques and the fundamental principles of chemistry. Emphasis is placed on repetition and varied presentation to ensure understanding.

Placement Considerations: **Ryken Program Director approval**

5021 - Chemistry **1.00 Credit**

This course provides students with instruction on the basic concepts of chemistry and chemical problem-solving techniques. Topics include scientific measurement, experimental design, properties and changes of matter, atomic theory, electromagnetic radiation, the periodic table, chemical bonding, chemical reactions, the mole, and stoichiometry. Lab experience supplements the course, which emphasizes problem-solving techniques and the fundamental principles of chemistry. After completion of this course, students will have the foundational knowledge to move on to IB Chemistry SL with teacher approval.

5022 - Honors Chemistry **1.00 Credit**

The Honors Chemistry course examines the fundamentals of chemistry. It is intended to further prepare students for an AP or IB program of study in the sciences. Major topics include experimental design, measurement and data-processing, atomic structure, periodicity, chemical bonding, chemical reactions and equations, organic chemistry, and quantitative chemistry, including stoichiometry, thermochemistry, energetics and states of matter, solutions, kinetics, equilibrium, and acids and bases. A major component of this course includes the investigation of topics through inquiry-based labs with the expectation that lab reports are prepared in an AP/IB standardized format.

Placement Considerations: **Science department approval**

5023 - AP Chemistry **1.00 Credit**

The AP Chemistry course is equivalent to a first year college general chemistry course. The students attain an in-depth understanding of the fundamentals of chemistry and competence in dealing with chemical problems. This course emphasizes chemical calculations, mathematical formulation of principles, and laboratory work designed to enhance the quantitative relationships within the course. Students are expected to take the AP Chemistry exam in May (examination fee required), or take a school based final exam.

Placement Considerations: **Science department approval**

5024 - IB Chemistry SL **1.00 Credit**

This course follows the IB SL Chemistry curriculum with topics including atomic structure, stoichiometry, chemical bonding, periodic table trends, kinetics, energetics, thermochemistry, equilibrium, and types of reactions, with emphasis on the relationship between the structure of matter and molecules and the resulting reactivity. A major component of this course includes the investigation of topics within a global context through inquiry-based labs to develop the skills necessary to complete an individualized research project and prepare students for further study of pure and applied sciences in higher education. Students are expected to sit for the IB Chemistry SL exam [examination fee required] or take a school based final exam. Participation in the IB Diploma Program is not a requirement for registration.

Placement Considerations:

- **Successful completion of Chemistry**
- **Science department approval**

5030 - Physics/R **1.00 Credit**

Students in Ryken Physics will study the fundamental laws of nature underlying all branches of science. The topics covered include kinematics (motion), dynamics (force, momentum, energy), gravity, electricity, magnetism, wave motion, sound, and light. A conceptual, hands-on approach will be emphasized. Students will be expected to apply and manipulate basic algebraic equations, master problem-solving skills, draw and interpret simple vector diagrams, and interpret graphs. Students will participate in hands-on science laboratory experiences where they will learn experimental measurement skills, data collection procedures, data analysis skills, and various laboratory techniques.

Placement Considerations: **Ryken Program Director approval required**

5031 - Physics **1.00 Credit**

Students in Physics will study the fundamental laws of nature underlying all branches of science. Topics covered include kinematics (motion), dynamics (force, momentum, energy), gravity, and electricity. A conceptual, hands-on approach will be employed where students will be expected to apply and manipulate algebraic equations, master problem-solving skills, construct and interpret graphs, draw and interpret vector diagrams, utilize basic trigonometry in solving problems, and learn experimental measurement and data collection procedures, as well as basic experimental design techniques.

5032 - Honors Physics **1.00 Credit**

Students will study the fundamental laws of nature underlying all branches of science. Topics covered include kinematics (motion), dynamics (force, momentum, energy), circular motion and gravity (in the universe), and wave motion (water/sound/light), with cosmology and electricity as possible additional topics. Students will be expected to apply and manipulate algebraic equations, master problem-solving skills, construct and interpret graphs, draw and interpret vector diagrams, utilize basic trigonometry in solving problems, and learn experimental measurement and data collection procedures, as well as basic experimental design techniques.

Placement Considerations: **Science department approval**

5035 - IB Physics HL (Year 2) **1.00 Credit**

IB Physics HL (Year 2) is an extension of the AP/IB Physics (Year 1) course and is designed as the second year of upper level physics. Topics of study include fields (gravitational, electric. magnetic), electromagnetism, quantum/atomic/nuclear physics, thermal physics, and fluid dynamics. Extensive lab work will be conducted using IB Physics expectations and standards. Additionally, all students will design and conduct an independent research project (IA) as part of the class requirements. IB Physics HL (Year 2) prepares students for either the IB HL or IB SL Physics Exam, as well as the AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism exam. Students are expected to take an IB or AP exam in May (examination fee required) or take a school based final exam.

Placement Considerations:

- **Successful completion of AP/IB Physics (Year 1)**
- **Concurrent enrollment in AP Calculus AB or higher**
- **Science department approval**

5036 - AP/IB Physics (Year 1) **1.00 Credit**

In AP/IB Physics (Year 1), students will study kinematics, dynamics, circular motion and gravity (in the universe), rotational mechanics, and wave mechanics. Extensive lab work will be conducted using IB Physics expectations and standards. Course content is directed towards students who wish to study engineering, physics, or similar more technical fields in college and who are very comfortable with algebra, trigonometry, and graphing, as well as higher-level technical abstract reasoning. AP/IB Physics (Year 1) prepares students for IB Physics HL (Year 2). Students are expected to take the AP Physics 1 or AP Physics C: Mechanics exams. Students are expected to take an AP exam in may (examination fee required) or sit for a course-based final exam.

Placement Considerations:

- **Science department approval**
- **Concurrent enrollment in AP Precalculus or IB Math: Calculus and Statistics or higher**

5043 - AP Environmental Science **1.00 Credit**

Environmental science is an interdisciplinary subject which embraces a wide variety of topics from different areas of study. The goal of this laboratory-based AP Environmental Science course is to provide students with the scientific principles and concepts required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems, and to examine solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. Major topics discussed will be ecology, populations, agriculture, energy sources, pollution, and climate change. Indoor and outdoor labs will supplement the content learned. Students are expected to take the AP exam [examination fee required] or sit for a course-based final exam.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 11th and 12th grade students**
- **Science department approval**

5064 - IB Sports Exercise Science **1.00 Credit**

This IB course explores the underpinnings of physical performance and provides the opportunity to apply these principles. The course incorporates the traditional disciplines of Anatomy and Physiology, Biomechanics, Psychology, and Nutrition, which are studied in the context of sport, exercise, and health. Students will carry out practical (experimental) investigations in both laboratory and field settings. This will provide an opportunity to acquire the knowledge and understanding necessary to apply scientific principles and critically analyze human performance. Where relevant, the course will address issues of international dimension and ethics by considering sport, exercise and health relative to the individual and in a global context. Students are expected to take the IB exam or sit for a course based final exam. An examination fee is required.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 11th and 12th grade students**
- **Science department approval**

5071 - Anatomy and Physiology **1.00 Credit**

This course will cover traditional topics in an introductory Anatomy and Physiology course. Emphasis will be placed on the relationships between structure and function at each organizational level from the cell through the organ systems. Major organ systems will be studied. In addition, the study of the cause, diagnosis, and treatment of disease will complement anatomical and physiological studies.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 11th and 12th grade students**
- **Completion of both Biology and Chemistry**

5081 - Forensic Science **0.50 Credit**

This semester course includes the application of the scientific method to forensic analysis, procedures and principles of crime scene investigation with hands-on labs, and analysis of fictional crime scenarios. Case studies and current events will be explored. Emphasis will be placed on the methods that link suspect, victim, and crime scene. Laboratory exercises will include fingerprinting, handwriting analysis, blood typing, hair and fiber examination, and DNA analysis.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 11th and 12th grade students**
- **Completion of both Biology and Chemistry**

5091 - Zoology **0.50 Credit**

Zoology is a semester course that provides the student with a survey of invertebrate and vertebrate animals. Students will study the diversity of Kingdom Animalia by studying anatomy, physiology, interrelationships, distributions and habitats, taxonomic relationships, life processes, and survival mechanisms. This course will expand beyond content to include tastings of various cuisines alongside a generous partnership with SAGE and the research of local and national economics connections with a specific focus on the State of Maryland's cultural and economic dependence on animals.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 11th and 12th grade students**
- **Completion of both Biology and Chemistry**

5101 - Applications of Engineering Design (AED) **0.50 Credit**

This semester course focuses on the development of problem solving and design skills, as students work through a variety of real-world problems. Emphasis is placed on the use of creative problem solving and computational thinking to develop solutions using Computer Aided Design (CAD), modeling, prototyping, 3D printing, and basic engineering computing concepts. This collaborative class combines both hands-on and digital processes and skills, to engage students as they approach complex scenarios. Additionally, this course will expose students to a variety of potential career pathways in design, project management, and engineering. Strong math skills are required.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 11th and 12th grade students**
- **Enrollment in Good Counsel's 4-Year STEM Program is <u>not</u> required**

5102 - Architecture **0.50 Credit**

This course will acquaint students with general Architectural concepts such as architectural house styles, interior design, reading floor plans, house construction, and model building. Emphasis is placed on the use of creative design and problem solving strategies utilizing sketching techniques, 3D modeling using Computer Aided Design (CAD), modeling building, mathematics, and spreadsheets. This collaborative class combines both digital processes and hands-on skills to engage students as they analyze complex scenarios. Additionally, this course will expose students to a variety of potential career pathways in architecture, design, and engineering. This course will work well with Applications of Engineering and Design (5101).

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 11th and 12th grade students**
- **Enrollment in Good Counsel's 4-Year STEM Program is <u>not</u> required**

STEM

Office : Room 214

5110 - Intro to Engineering Design (IED) **1.00 Credit**

This PLTW class is an elective course offered to pre-selected incoming freshmen. In this course, students use 3D-modeling design software to help them design solutions to proposed problems. Students will learn how to document their work and communicate solutions to peers and members of the professional community. The major focus of the IED course is to expose students to the design process, research and analysis, teamwork, communication methods, global and human impacts, engineering standards, and technical documentation.

Placement Considerations:

- **Acceptance into the PLTW engineering program**

5120 - Principles of Engineering (POE) **1.00 Credit**

This PLTW class is a second-year STEM class offered to students who have successfully completed the IED class. This engineering survey course exposes students to some of the major concepts encountered in a post-secondary engineering course of study. Students have an opportunity to investigate engineering and high-tech careers, and to develop skills and understanding of course concepts. Students solve engineering design problems by employing engineering and scientific concepts. They develop problem-solving skills and apply their knowledge of research and design to create solutions to various challenges. Students also learn how to document their work and communicate their solutions to peers and members of the professional community.

Placement Considerations:

- **Students accepted into the PLTW engineering program**
- **Successful completion of IED**

5130 - Aerospace Engineering (AE) **1.00 Credit**

This PLTW class is a third-year STEM class offered only to students who have successfully completed the POE and IED classes. Aerospace Engineering is the study of the engineering discipline which develops new technologies for use in aviation, defense systems, and space exploration. The course explores the evolution of flight, flight fundamentals, navigation and control, aerospace materials, propulsion, space travel, orbital mechanics, ergonomics, remotely operated systems, and related careers. In addition, the course presents alternative applications for aerospace engineering concepts. Utilizing the activity-project-problem-based (APPB) teaching and learning pedagogy, students will analyze, design, and build aerospace systems. While implementing these designs, students will hone their interpersonal skills, creativity, and application of the design process. Students apply knowledge gained throughout the course in a final multimedia project encompassing their vision for future professional accomplishments.

Placement Considerations:

- **Successful completion of the IED and POE engineering courses**
- **Open to 11th and 12th grade students only**

5131 - Civil Engineering and Architecture (CEA) **1.00 Credit**

This PLTW class is a third-year STEM class offered only to students who have successfully completed the POE and IED classes. The major focus of this course is completing long-term projects that involve the development of property sites. As students learn about various aspects of civil engineering and architecture, they apply what they learn to the design and development of a property. The course provides teachers and students freedom to develop the property as a simulation or for students to model the experiences that civil engineers and architects face. Students work in teams, exploring hands-on activities and projects to learn the characteristics of civil engineering and architecture. In addition, students use 3D design software to help them design solutions to solve major course projects. Students learn about documenting their project, solving problems, and communicating their solutions to their peers and members of the professional community of civil engineering and architecture.

Placement Considerations:

- **Successful completion of the IED and POE engineering courses**
- **Open to 11th and 12th grade students**
- **Open to 10th grade students who have successfully completed IED and POE**

5150 - Capstone PLTW **1.00 Credit**

The knowledge and skills students acquire throughout PLTW Engineering come together in Capstone as they identify an issue, then research, design, and test a solution, ultimately presenting their solution to a panel of engineers. Students apply the professional skills they have developed to document a design process to standards, demonstrating they are ready to take on any post-secondary program or career.

Placement Considerations:

- **Successful completion of the IED, POE, and AE or CE engineering courses**

Social Studies

Office : Room 308

6010 - World History/R **1.00 Credit**

This survey course uses a thematic approach to the study of Global History. Students will cover information from Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas using the following themes: economic systems; social structures; cultural characteristics; diplomatic interactions; environment and geography; and politics, power and government structures. Students will also be exposed to some of the historical thinking skills emphasized in the AP and IB classes including: compare and contrast; document interpretation; contextualization, and cause and effect. In addition, support is given to students in the development of note-taking, outlining, and other organizational skills through the use of traditional and technological resources. The course attempts to accommodate the needs of each student and his/her learning style while building on individual strengths. Attention is given to the skills necessary for success in higher-level courses and in college.

Placement Considerations: **Ryken Program Director approval**

6011 - World History **1.00 Credit**

This survey course uses a thematic approach to the study of Global History. Students will cover information from Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas using the following themes: economic systems; social structures; cultural characteristics; diplomatic interactions; environment and geography; and politics, power and government structures. Students will also be exposed to some of the historical thinking skills emphasized in the AP and IB classes including: compare and contrast; document interpretation; contextualization; and finally, cause and effect.

6012 - Honors World History **1.00 Credit**

The nature of this World History course requires a more global approach to history and asks students to look for patterns in and between time periods and geographic regions. Students will cover content from Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas using a thematic approach. Themes include: creation, expansion and interaction of economic systems; development of social structures; development of ideas, beliefs and cultures; interaction between regions, countries and continents; environment and geography; and politics, power and government. Students will also be exposed to the historical thinking skills emphasized in AP and IB classes including: compare and contrast; document interpretation; contextualization; continuities and changes; and cause and effect.

Placement Considerations: **Studies Office and Social Studies department placement**

6014 - IB 20th Century World History **1.00 Credit**

This course deals with twentieth-century world history topics including causes of war, the rise and rule of authoritarian regimes, international organizations, and the Cold War. Students are encouraged to analyze multiple perspectives and utilize historical thinking skills such as source analysis, cause and effect, compare and contrast, historiography, and significance to develop in-depth analysis on the topics above. Students will conduct, research, and write their own historical investigation on a topic of their choice from any era of history. Students are prepared to take the IB History SL exam in May, however those who took AP European History are eligible to sit for the IB History HL exam. Students are expected to take either IB History exam in May (examination fee required) or sit for a school based final exam.

Placement Considerations:

- **Social Studies department approval**
- **The course will no longer run after the 2026-2027 school year due to IB curriculum change**

6020 - U.S. History/R **1.00 Credit**

This course, covering United States history from pre-Columbian times to the present, provides a comprehensive understanding of the major events, individuals, and ideas that have shaped the American identity. Students will use a variety of primary and secondary source materials to develop a thorough understanding of the American past and its impact on the 21st century. Students will also examine the history of the United States through the following themes: economic systems, social structures, cultural characteristics, diplomatic interactions, environment and geography, and politics, power and government structures. Moreover, students will use their historical knowledge to analyze and critically think about the evolution of today's most pressing political and social issues. In addition, support is given to students in the development of note-taking, outlining, and other organizational skills through the use of traditional and technological resources. The course attempts to accommodate the needs of each student and his/her learning style while building on individual strengths. Attention is given to skills necessary for success in higher-level courses and in college.

Placement Considerations:

- **Ryken Program Director approval**
- **Successful completion of World History/R**

6021 - U.S. History **1.00 Credit**

This course, covering United States history from pre-Columbian times to the present, provides a comprehensive understanding of the major events, individuals, and ideas that have shaped the American identity. Students will use a variety of primary and secondary source materials to develop a thorough understanding of the American past and its impact on the 21st century. Students will also examine the history of the United States through the following themes: economic systems; social structures; cultural characteristics; diplomatic interactions; environment and geography; and politics, power and government structures. Moreover, students will use their historical knowledge to analyze and critically think about the evolution of today's most pressing political and social issues. Students will be introduced to skills necessary for higher-level AP/IB level courses. Attention is given to the refinement of note-taking and study skills necessary for success in higher-level courses.

6022 - Honors U.S. History **1.00 Credit**

This course, covering United States history from pre-Columbian times to the present, provides a comprehensive understanding of the major events, individuals, and ideas that have shaped the American identity. Students will use a variety of primary and secondary source materials to develop a thorough understanding of the American past and its impact on the 21st century. Students will also examine the history of the United States through the following themes: economic systems; social structures; cultural characteristics; diplomatic interactions; environment and geography; and politics, power and government structures. Moreover, students will use their historical knowledge to analyze and critically think about the evolution of today's most pressing political and social issues. The Honors Pre-AP/IB level hones skills needed in the Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Programs. It emphasizes advanced higher level thinking skills, substantial depth of knowledge, and significant core reading.

Placement Considerations: **Social Studies department approval**

6023 - AP U.S. History **1.00 Credit**

This college level course's primary goal is a comprehensive and critical understanding of the major events, individuals, and ideas that have shaped the American identity. The course's primary emphasis will be on the political, social, economic, diplomatic, geographic and cultural developments in the United States between the pre-Columbian era and the present. Skill based emphasis includes: primary and secondary source document/data analysis; interpretation and synthesis; chronological reasoning (including historical causation, patterns of continuity and change, and periodization); comparison and contextualization; advanced essay writing skills; and higher level historical investigation in historiography. Students are expected to take the AP US History exam in May (examination fee required) or take a school based final exam.

Placement Considerations: **Social Studies department approval**

6031 - U.S. Government & Politics **0.50 Credit**

This semester course examines the basic ideas conveyed in the U.S. Constitution and how these principles have shaped the national government. Special emphasis is given to the protection of the basic liberties of individuals; the political process, especially elections, which determine who will hold power; the major powers of the legislative, executive and judicial branches; and the goals and methods of the civil rights movement. Students will be required to use the internet to analyze and interpret visual materials such as tables, charts, maps and editorial cartoons. Students will also engage in research projects on current issues.

Placement Considerations:**Open to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students**

6033 - AP U.S. Government **1.00 Credit**

This course presents a critical perspective on the national political and governmental system of the United States. The institutions, beliefs, and significant groups that make up the political and governmental process receive special attention. Thus, the course examines how the political system has evolved and currently operates as well as the interplay among legislative, executive, and judicial branches in making policy. Students will take and review previous AP exams before taking the AP exam in May. Starting in 2018, the AP exam will consist of 70 multiple choice questions (70 minutes) and five free response questions (100 minutes). Besides assessing mastery of the course content, this exam requires students to analyze and interpret material such as tables, charts, graphs, and editorial cartoons. Students are expected to take the AP US Government exam in May (examination fee required) or take a school based final exam.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 11th and 12th grade students with Social Studies department approval**
- **Runs in ODD school years (2026-2027)**

6041 - Contemporary American Politics **0.50 Credit**

This semester course will explore current and recent historical trends in society and politics contained in the last half century. Students will apply and evaluate developments in law, politics, social trends, history, as well as international and foreign policy issues and conflicts. Substantive and verifiable evidence from multiple sources and perspectives will be utilized to take deeper dives into America's recent past and make connections to the present. Students who take this course will leave with relevant background knowledge which will allow them to better understand current political situations and challenges.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 11th and 12th grade students**
- **Social Studies department approval**

6043 - AP European History **1.00 Credit**

This is a comprehensive, in-depth, thematic study of European history from 1450 to the present within which students develop skills in analyzing historical sources and formulating arguments using contextualization, comparison, causation, and understanding of continuity and change over time. It requires college-level analysis of major themes in European history including interaction of Europe and the world, poverty and prosperity, objective knowledge and subjective visions, states and other institutions of power, the individual and society, and national and European identity. The course starts with the Renaissance, progresses with the changes brought by the Reformation, through the building of centralized nations and challenges to the authority of these due to the Enlightenment, focuses on the impacts of the Industrial Revolution on a new and participatory political landscape, ultimately culminating in the triumphs and tragedies of the 20th century and its lasting impact. Students are expected to take the AP European History Exam in May (examination fee required) or take a school based final exam.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 11th and 12th grade students**
- **Social Studies department approval**

6044 - IB History I **1.00 Credit**

This course introduces students to the methods and scope of historical inquiry, emphasizing critical thinking, analysis, and interpretation through the study of major global themes and case studies. Students learn to evaluate historical sources in context, apply relevant knowledge to interpret evidence, and synthesize diverse perspectives to craft well-reasoned, evidence-based arguments. Coursework culminates in a guided research paper demonstrating mastery of these skills. This course serves as year 1 of the IB History II HL course which will be offered beginning in the 2026-2027 school year.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 11th and 12th grade students**
- **Social Studies department approval**

6053 - AP Human Geography **1.00 Credit**

The purpose of the AP Human Geography course is to introduce students to the systematic study of the patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding as well as the use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human social organization and its environmental consequences. This course will also focus on the methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice. Students are expected to take the AP Human Geography exam in May (examination fee required) or take a school based final exam.

Placement Considerations:

- **Studies Office and Social Studies department placement for 9th grade students**
- **Open to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students with Social Studies department approval**

6121 - American History at the Crossroads I **0.50 Credit**

This semester course is an examination of the origins and evolution of popular music (predominantly Rock and Roll) and its impact on the social, political, intellectual, and cultural history of the United States. Music has been influenced by major events in American history and it has also fostered change at important moments in our history. Rock and Roll is an American invention that evolved from the different musical genres created in our country and it continues to impact generation after generation of listeners. We will explore the often-overlooked intersections of music and history. Part 1 will examine Early American musical influences up to the mid-1960s and the impact of the Beatles and Bob Dylan.

Placement Considerations: **Open to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students**

6131 - American History at the Crossroads II **0.50 Credit**

This semester course is an examination of the origins and evolution of popular music (predominantly Rock and Roll) and its impact on the social, political, intellectual, and cultural history of the United States. Music has been influenced by major events in American history and it has also fostered change at important moments in our history. Rock and Roll is an American invention that evolved from the different musical genres created in our country and it continues to impact generation after generation of listeners. We will explore the often-overlooked intersections of music and history. Part 2 will examine the "British Invasion" and turbulence of the 1960s up to the year 2000 in music history.

Placement Considerations: **Open to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students**

6151 - Introduction to Economics **0.50 Credit**

This semester course provides basic literacy in the fundamentals of economics. The course will concentrate on topics such as free enterprise, supply and demand, market structures, business organizations, money and banking, measures and theories of economic performance, taxes and government spending, as well as basic accounting methods. Projects and assignments are based on knowledge of basic economic principles as well as the application of these principles to current issues and problems in the aforementioned areas.

Placement Considerations: **Open to 10th, 11th, & 12th grade students**

6155 - IB Economics II HL **1.00 Credit**

This course strictly follows the IB course requirements for Higher-Level IB Economics. The syllabus is a blend of both micro and macro-economic principles as they apply to a single country or to a particular economic system. The focus of the course is on the world economy. Emphasis is placed on a study of economic principles and an application of these principles through a mandated internal assessment activity of constructing four portfolio assignments during the year. International and generic economic problems and issues common to all nations are analyzed and discussed from global international perspectives. Students are expected to take the IB HL Economics exam in May (examination fee required), or sit for a school based final.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 12th grade students**
- **Social Studies department approval**
- **Successful completion of AP Macroeconomics/IB Economics HL (Year 1)**

6156 - AP Macroeconomics/ IB Economics I HL **1.00 Credit**

This college level course will prepare students to take the AP Macroeconomics examination in May, and also introduces the base topics for the International Baccalaureate examination for Economics HL (Higher Level) to be taken by IB Candidates the following year. Following an introduction to the basic elements of economics, students will study supply and demand and market failure. Students will then study macroeconomics, which includes the study of national economic performance, such as gross domestic product (GDP), inflation, and unemployment. The course recognizes the global nature of economics, examining the impact of international trade and finance on national economies. Students are expected to take the AP Macroeconomics exam in May (examination fee required), or take a school based final exam.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 11th and 12th grade students**
- **Social Studies department approval**

6161 - Introduction to Psychology **0.50 Credit**

This semester course will cover topics traditionally considered essential for a basic foundation in psychology. The course will examine the history of psychology as well as the research methods utilized in the social sciences. After an examination of these concepts, students will utilize this knowledge when exploring the biological bases of behavior, learning principles and strategies, psychological disorders and their treatments, development from infancy through old age, states of consciousness, social psychology, socialization, deviance and conformity, social change, and social inequalities. Additionally, the course will utilize new psychological research from current periodicals. These studies, along with the application of these concepts, will allow for the application of social-scientific principles to real-life situations, allowing for students to better understand individual and group behaviors in their own lives.

Placement Considerations: **Open to 10th, 11th, & 12th grade students**

6165 - IB Psychology II HL **1.00 Credit**

The IB approach to teaching psychology includes the study of the history of psychology and its research methods, a study of the biological, cognitive, and sociocultural perspectives in psychological theory and a review of abnormal psychology and human relationships. Students also participate in an experimental segment of study in which students demonstrate the acquisition of knowledge and skills required for experimental design, data collection, data analysis, and interpretation. Students will undertake a replication of a published study, or a modified original study, presenting results systematically in a written lab report using descriptive and inferential statistics to support their research. Students are prepared to take the IB Psychology SL exam in May, however those who took AP/IB Psychology HL are eligible to sit for the IB Psychology HL exam. Students are expected to take one of the IB Psychology exams in May (examination fee required), or take a school based final exam.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 12th grade students**
- **Social Studies department approval**
- **Successful completion of AP/IB Psychology (Year 1)**

6166 - AP/IB Psychology I HL **1.00 Credit**

This course will explore, not only topics traditionally considered essential for a comprehensive understanding of basic psychology, but will also engage students in improving their decision making, mental health, and personal relationships. Emphasis will also include examination and practice of psychology's research methodologies. Topics will include an exploration of biological influences on thinking and behaviors, memory, conditioning, problem solving, intelligence, health and positivity, social learning, personality, social situations, attributions and attitudes, development throughout the lifespan, sensations and perceptions, emotions, motivations, and finally, psychological disorders and treatments. In addition, students will uncover new psychological studies from professional researchers as well as in-depth examinations into classic studies that form the foundations of psychological science. This course emphasizes psychology as a social science as well as the application of psychological facts and principles to real life situations. Students are expected to take the AP exam in May and the IB HL exam the following year if seeking the IB Diploma (examination fee required).

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 11th and 12th grade students**
- **Social Studies department approval**

6171 - Introduction to Sociology **0.50 Credit**

This semester course will cover topics traditionally considered essential for a basic foundation in sociology. The course will examine the history of sociology as well as the research methods utilized in the social sciences. After an examination of these concepts, students will utilize this knowledge when exploring the socialization of humans to their societies, the concepts of deviance and conformity, theories on collective behavior, forces that impact social change in society, as well as the issue of social inequalities. Additionally, the course will access new sociological research from current periodicals. These studies, along with the application of these concepts, will allow for the application of social scientific principles to real-life situations, allowing for students to better understand individual and group behaviors in their own lives.

Placement Considerations: **Open to 10th, 11th, & 12th grade students**

6183 - AP Comparative Government **1.00 Credit**

This year-long course introduces students to the rich diversity of political life outside the United States. The comparative approach examines the governmental structures, policies, and political, economic, and social challenges of six selected countries: Great Britain, Russia, China, Iran, Mexico, and Nigeria. Moreover, students examine how effectively these six governments react to similar problems and apply key concepts, such as legitimacy, sovereignty, political socialization, ideology, democracy, revolution, nation and state to the core countries. Reports include comparing and evaluating specific leaders and their policies. Finally, the course uses videos, recent news articles, and visuals such as editorial cartoons, maps, graphs and charts to enhance student understanding of course topics. Students will practice previous AP exams before taking the AP Exam in May. Any student not taking the AP Exam is required to take a course-based final exam (examination fee required). Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 11th and 12th grade students**
- **Social Studies department approval**
- **Runs in EVEN school years (2027-2028)**

6311 - Latin American Studies **0.50 Credit**

This semester course provides a broad exploration of Latin America from the pre-colonial era to today, tracing major historical turning points and the region's evolving social, political, cultural, and economic landscapes. Students examine themes such as colonialism, independence, nation-building, social movements, cultural identities, and contemporary regional challenges through discussions of globalization, and patterns of migration, including the experiences of Latin American communities in the United States. Students will engage in historical analysis, current events, and case studies to gain a deeper understanding of the forces shaping Latin America.

Placement Considerations: **Open to 10th, 11th, & 12th grade students**

6411 - African & African-American Studies **0.50 Credit**

This semester course includes an examination of the history and cultures of Africa and the African Diaspora in Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, and North, South, and Central America. This class will include units on pre-Colonial civilizations, the slave trade, the institution of slavery, the nature of "African" and "Black Studies," identity and culture in the Diaspora, European Imperialism, the movement to independence and Civil Rights, and challenges facing those affected by the Diaspora.

Placement Considerations: **Open to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students**

6413 - AP African American Studies **1.00 Credit**

AP African American Studies is a multidisciplinary course that examines the diversity of African American experiences through direct encounters with authentic and varied sources. The course focuses on four thematic units that move across the instructional year chronologically, providing students opportunities to delve into key topics that extend from the medieval kingdoms of West Africa to the ongoing challenges and achievements of the contemporary moment. Students in the AP course will develop skills across multiple disciplines, with an emphasis on historical, literary, visual, and data analysis skills. This new course foregrounds a study of the diversity of Black communities in the United States while considering the broader context of Africa and the African diaspora. Students are expected to take the AP African American Studies exam in May (examination fee required), or take a school based final exam.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 11th and 12th grade students**
- **Social Studies department approval**

Fine Arts

Office : Room 117

7011 - Graphic Art **0.50 Credit**

Students will study graphic art in order to develop solutions to two-dimensional problems. Basic skills in drawing and painting will be developed as the principles of design are investigated. Making use of traditional materials, projects will focus on the use of shape and color as they relate to the industries of branding, advertising, and illustration. Note: This course does not fulfill the prerequisites for upper-level visual arts courses.

Placement Considerations: **Recommended for 9th and 10th grade students; open to all grade levels**

7021 - Art Fundamentals **1.00 Credit**

Students investigate the basic elements of art and principles of design through a series of problem-solving processes. Students improve their technical skills while exploring a variety of media. Equal emphasis is given to both process and product. Basic components of each unit are: art history, studio production, art criticism, and aesthetics. Students are challenged to produce creative two and three-dimensional artworks which reflect critical thinking skills.

Placement Considerations: **Open to 9th and 10th grade students only**

7042 - Honors Drawing **1.00 Credit**

Students develop creative solutions for two-dimensional problems, which incorporate a variety of techniques and materials directly related to the comprehensive study of drawing. Students are challenged to develop their aesthetic awareness through careful observation, extensive experimentation, and creative presentation in a series of problem-solving processes. Specific emphasis is given to personal and group assessment of portfolio work in order to promote critical thinking. Students integrate artistic production with critical analyses as they relate the material to cultural, historical, and social contexts.

Placement Considerations:

- **Successful completion of Art Fundamentals**
- **Fine Arts department approval**

7052 - Honors Painting **1.00 Credit**

Students develop creative solutions for two-dimensional problems that incorporate a variety of techniques and materials directly related to the comprehensive study of painting. Students are challenged to develop their aesthetic awareness through careful observation, extensive experimentation, and creative presentation in a series of problem-solving processes. Specific emphasis is given to personal and group assessment of portfolio work in order to promote critical thinking. Students integrate artistic production with critical analysis as they relate materials to cultural, historical, and social contexts.

Placement Considerations:

- **Successful completion of Art Fundamentals**
- **Fine Arts department approval**
- **Runs every ODD school year (2026-2027)**

7062 - Honors Ceramics & Sculpture **1.00 Credit**

Students develop solutions for three-dimensional problems that incorporate a variety of techniques and materials directly related to the comprehensive study of ceramics and sculpture. Students are challenged to develop their aesthetic awareness through careful observation, extensive experimentation, and creative presentation in a series of problem-solving processes. Students work with a broad range of materials in an effort to enhance skill development. Specific emphasis is given to personal and group assessment of portfolio work in order to promote critical thinking. Students integrate artistic production with critical analysis as they relate materials to cultural, historical, or social contexts.

Placement Considerations:

- **Successful completion of Art Fundamentals**
- **Fine Arts department approval**
- **Runs every EVEN school year (2027-2028)**

7073 - AP Studio Art **1.00 Credit**

AP Studio Art is intended for the serious visual art student who is looking to develop a strong personal portfolio that demonstrates a variety of technical skills and ideas. Students will creatively and systematically investigate formal and conceptual issues. This course is recommended but not required to be taken both junior and senior years. Students enrolled in AP Studio Art are expected to submit their portfolios to the AP Program at the end of the course.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 11th and 12th grade students**
- **Fine Arts department approval**

7074 - IB Studio Art SL/HL **1.00 Credit**

IB Studio Art is an inquiry-based course that introduces students to the processes of artistic investigation, creation, and reflection central to the IB Visual Arts curriculum. Students explore a wide range of media, techniques, and artistic traditions while developing technical skills, creative thinking, and personal expression. Emphasis is placed on the creative process such as researching ideas, experimenting with materials, documenting thinking in a visual journal, and reflecting on artistic choices. Students examine how art communicates meaning across cultures and contexts, learning to analyze both their own work and the work of others. Through sustained practice, critique, and reflection, students build confidence as artists while developing the critical, creative, and reflective skills that prepare them for future coursework and the IB approach to learning. In order to submit portfolio work to the IB, students must take this course for two years.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 11th and 12th grade students**
- **Fine Arts department approval**

7111 - How to Listen to Music **0.50 Credit**

This semester course is designed to give students an understanding of the basic elements of music. This includes addressing listening skills, musical styles, music criticism, film music, music videos, and cultural aspects of music.

Placement Considerations: **Recommended for 9th and 10th grade students; open to all grade levels**

7151 - Symphonic Band **1.00 Credit**

This course is for students who are continuing to develop their skills as musicians and performers on a wind instrument. Novice level percussionists are included in this ensemble. Challenging materials will require members to devote time to practice on a daily basis. Active participation in all rehearsals and concerts will be included as a significant part of the grade for the course. Students should have a minimum of two years of experience to participate in this group and/or the approval of the director.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to students in all grades**
- **A minimum of two years of experience required and/or the approval of the director**

7162 - Honors Wind Ensemble **1.00 Credit**

The Wind Ensemble is composed of Our Lady of Good Counsel's most accomplished instrumental musicians. Consisting of wind and percussion instruments, the group is open to students only through audition and/or the approval of the Director. Participants are expected to devote themselves to excellence in performance and a high degree of commitment to practice and personal musical growth. In addition to preparing for performing concerts, students will explore a broad collection of music-related topics that support the development of general musicianship. Active participation in all scheduled events is considered an essential part of the course content. Students who enroll in this course are required to participate in the annual music trip. Opportunities exist for fundraising to defer the cost.

Placement Considerations: **Audition and/or Fine Arts department approval**

7181 - String Ensemble **1.00 Credit**

This course is for students who are continuing to develop their skills as musicians and performers on a string instrument. Challenging materials will require members to devote time to practice on a daily basis. Active participation in all rehearsals and concerts will be included as a significant part of the grade for the course. Students should have a minimum of two years of experience to participate in this group and/or the approval of the director.

7141 - Marching Band **0.25 Credit**

The Marching Band is an ensemble of student-musicians who perform at varsity football games throughout the season. Membership in the Marching Band is open to all musicians as well as the dancers who comprise the majorette line. Because of the nature of the course, rehearsals and performances take place outside of school hours, including August pre-season rehearsals, after-school practices during football season, and scheduled games. This class does not fulfill the Fine Arts requirement for graduation and is graded on a Pass/Fail basis.

Placement Considerations: **Audition and/or Fine Arts department approval**

7131 - Pep Band **0.25 Credit**

The Pep Band is an ensemble of student-musicians that perform at various sporting events throughout January and February. Membership in Pep Band is open to all musicians. The unique nature of the course requires that all rehearsals and performances be scheduled outside of school time, which includes rehearsals before basketball season begins and up to ten games. This class does not fulfill the Fine Arts requirement for graduation and is graded on a Pass/Fail basis.

Placement Considerations: **Audition and/or Fine Arts department approval**

7171 - Jazz Ensemble **1.00 Credit**

Students will rehearse and perform a wide variety of jazz ensemble arrangements to develop skills unique to the jazz idiom. Improvisation and interpretation skills are studied. Students will be required to actively participate in rehearsals and performances scheduled outside of the regular school day.

Placement Considerations: **Audition and/or Fine Arts department approval**

7241 - Concert Choir **1.00 Credit**

This course is grounded in the development of secure vocal technique and building a fundamental level of music literacy. Students study and perform music from the choral repertoire. The unique challenges faced by the adolescent singer will be addressed. Up to six rehearsals and/or performances may be scheduled each quarter outside of school time. Attendance is a component of the grade.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to all grade levels**
- **Interview and Fine Arts department approval**

7252 - Honors Choral Music **1.00 Credit**

This middle-level choir will sing SATB and SAB literature. Members are required to participate in all rehearsals and performances. The repertoire will include a variety of musical styles from Classical music and Spirituals to Pop and Gospel. Students will be expected to dedicate themselves to the development of musicianship and performing skills. Active participation in all scheduled events is considered an essential part of the course content. Students who enroll in this course are required to participate in the annual music trip. Opportunities exist for fundraising to defer the cost.

Placement Considerations: **Audition and/or Fine Arts department approval**

7262 - Honors Chamber Choir **1.00 Credit**

As the premier choir in the school, this choir will perform advanced SATB literature. Chamber Choir participants are required to participate in more rehearsals and performances than students in other choirs. The repertoire will include a variety of musical styles from Classical Chamber music and Spirituals to Pop and Jazz. Students will be expected to dedicate themselves to the highest level of musicianship and performing skills. Membership will be open to a limited number of students based on the recommendation of the conductor. Juniors and seniors who have previous experience in another ensemble will be encouraged to audition. Younger students may be allowed to audition at the director's discretion. Students who enroll in this course are required to participate in the annual music trip. Opportunities exist for fundraising to defer the cost.

Placement Considerations: **Audition and/or Fine Arts department approval**

7321 - Introduction to Theatre **0.50 Credit**

This semester course is designed to provide students with a fast-paced introduction to the world of theatre. In addition to the basics of performance and design, students will understand theatre's importance throughout history and in our own time and culture. The class will also focus on theatre's many applicable skills, including self-awareness, personal reflection, confidence in public speaking, and collaboration. The course will culminate with students collaborating as an ensemble to write, design, and perform a short play.

Placement Considerations: **Open to all grade levels**

7334 - IB Theatre I **1.00 Credit**

IB Theatre students experience the art of theatre by participating in all aspects of the theatrical experience in very personal ways. In this year of the course, students will research, read, and analyze plays, develop conceptual interpretations for a production, and envision and design technical elements. Additionally, students will explore and practice the knowledge and skills needed to collaboratively create a devised theatre piece.

Placement Considerations:

- **Fine Arts department approval**
- **Runs every ODD school year (2026-2027)**
- **Open to 11th and 12th grade students**

7341 - Stage Craft I **0.50 Credit**

In this course, students experience first hand the technical aspects of theatre construction and creation. Topics covered include the construction of sets and scenery, sewing costumes, building and creating a prop, scenic painting, purpose of sound in theatre and how to properly use light on stage.

Placement Considerations: **Open to all grade levels**

7343 - Stage Craft II **0.50 Credit**

This course takes students behind the scenes of the entertainment industry to explore advanced design and technical elements of theater production. Students will build on their previous skills from Stage Craft 1 through hands-on work in lighting, set construction, costuming, and props. Emphasis is placed on creativity, collaboration, and real-world production experience. This includes designing and building advanced pieces for the fall play and spring musical, design and application of lighting, costume creation, and specialty props.

Placement Considerations:

- **Successful completion of Stage Craft I**
- **Fine Arts department approval**

7344 - IB Theatre II **1.00 Credit**

IB Theatre students experience the art of theatre by participating in all aspects of the theatrical experience in very personal ways. In this year of the course, students will research, practically explore and present on global cultural traditions. Additionally, they will create and perform a solo performance project based on the research and exploration of an important theatrical theorist.

Placement Considerations:

- **Fine Arts department approval**
- **Runs every EVEN school year (2027-2028)**
- **Open to 11th and 12th grade students**

7362 - Advanced Theatre Topics A - Playwriting **1.00 Credit**

This course provides students with the imaginative development and the practical skills necessary to write a play. Students will learn the process of the playwright, the structure of a play, method of writing quality materials, and the skills necessary to successfully write a one-act play. In addition to a strong focus on the development of new work, students will glean inspiration from reading plays from a variety of genres and time periods. The course covers methods and techniques of dramatic writing, script analysis, character development, and content choice. At the end of the course, students will have written multiple plays of varying lengths, culminating with the creation of their very own ten to twenty page one-act play.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students**
- **Fine Arts department approval required**
- **Runs in the 2026-2027 school year**

7363 - Advanced Theatre Topics B - Directing and Devising **1.00 Credit**

In this course, students will explore how to select a text, approach it, analyze it, and prepare it for production. They will learn how to cast and work with actors and various acting styles in their work. Additionally, students will practice the collaborative art of devising and creating a new piece of theatre collaboratively. Other topics include production team collaboration, design cooperation, staging, and creating an environment in which the world of the play becomes alive for actors and audience alike.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students**
- **Fine Arts department approval required**
- **Runs in the 2027-2028 school year**

7364 - Advanced Theatre Topics C - Acting for the Stage **1.00 Credit**

This course is intended for students who want to focus on developing high-level acting skills that extend beyond those covered in Introduction to Theatre. Students will explore a variety of acting roles through monologue and scene work. The curriculum will cover both classical and contemporary theatre work as students explore physical movement, voice technique, and character development.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students**
- **Fine Arts department approval required**
- **Runs in the 2028-2029 school year**

7421 - Dance 101: Agility Balance and Strength **0.50 Credit**

This semester course is intended for any student who wants to focus on enhancing and refining athletic performance through techniques and training in dance. No dance experience is required. Agility, flexibility, footwork, balance, and endurance are all specifically addressed in this beginner course. A student taking this course will improve upon his or her ability to perform on the athletic field. Students will be expected to wear loose fitting athletic wear and will not be required to perform in dance performances. Assessments will include technique quizzes, choreography assessments, and collaborative projects. Pair with another fine arts half-credit course to complete the Fine Arts requirement. Can be used to fulfill the 0.5 credit PE requirement after 8011 - Fitness and Health. Can be used for Fine Arts OR PE credit, NOT both.

Placement Considerations: **Open to students in all grade levels and levels of experience**

7451 - Classical Dance Technique **0.50 Credit**

This Level 1 semester course expands on the knowledge explored in Dance 101: Agility, Balance, and Strength. Students in this course will be introduced to techniques integral to the foundations of ballet, jazz, tap, and contemporary dance. Students will explore turnout, point and flex, eppaulemént, port de bras, barre and centre work. Students will build a physical and literal vocabulary of essential dance steps and develop the ability to perform choreography as well as discuss it clearly and coherently. Assessments will include technique quizzes, choreography assessments, and collaborative projects. This course includes various performance opportunities and rehearsals throughout the school year.

Placement Considerations: **Fine Arts department approval required**

7471 - Advanced Jazz Dance **1.00 Credit**

Advanced Jazz Dance is a level 2 dance course that builds upon the skills mastered in Dance 101: Agility, Balance, & Strength and Classical Dance Technique. The course includes an introductory experience in movement vocabulary that explores the evolution of jazz, both as a dance form and as an element of self-expression. Students will explore Contemporary, Broadway style, and Street jazz, focusing more intensely on travel steps, advanced turns, leaps, and floor work. Students will also learn several group pieces that will emphasize different styles of jazz, demonstrating the wide range of styles included in this genre. Assessments will include technique quizzes, choreography assessments, collaborative projects, and a solo piece. This course requires some after school rehearsals and participation in the dance concert and tech week rehearsals.

Placement Considerations:

- **Fine Arts department approval required**
- **Runs every EVEN school year (2027-2028)**

7481 - Advanced Modern Dance **1.00 Credit**

Advanced Modern Dance is a Level 2 dance course that builds upon the skills learned in Dance 101: Agility, Balance, & Strength and Classical Dance Technique. Students will learn the fundamentals of modern dance technique and vocabulary through the exploration of methods by notable choreographers in this genre. Contract/release and fall/recovery will be explored to understand the full mobility of the spine, as well as the use of breath to initiate movement and expression. Assessments will include technique quizzes, choreography assessments, collaborative projects, and a solo piece. This course requires some after school rehearsals and participation in the dance concert and tech week rehearsals.

Placement Considerations:

- **Fine Arts department approval required**
- **Runs every ODD school year (2026-2027)**

7492 - Honors Choreography **1.00 Credit**

Students in this course will utilize their dance experience from the Advanced level courses to take a deeper dive into exploring and creating choreography. Students will study Laban effort actions, viewpoints, and improvisation as a means to create original choreography for both solo and group work that will be presented at the Winter GC Dance Concert, the Spring exhibition, and will potentially be submitted for a local choreographer's festival. Pre-requisites: Completion of Advanced Modern or Jazz.

Placement Considerations:

- **Successful completion of Advanced Jazz Dance or Advanced Modern Dance**
- **Fine Arts department approval required**

Physical Education

Office : Room 144-A

8011 - Fitness & Health **1.00 Credit**

This fitness oriented course that is required for all students, incorporates the five components of fitness into each lesson. Workouts focus on muscular strength and endurance, cardiovascular endurance, and flexibility. Activities often include jogging, free weights, and static and dynamic stretching, with additional exercise styles such as HIIT, EMOM, and Yoga also introduced. The course also covers health topics in a traditional classroom setting, including the fundamentals of fitness, nutrition, drugs, mental health, refusal skills/consent, and infectious diseases.

Placement Considerations:

- **Introductory course**
- **P.E. uniform required**

8012 - Health II **0.50 Credit**

This course introduces new topics as well as takes a "deeper dive" into topics presented in Fitness & Health. Lessons are relevant to students as they progress into young adulthood. Topics include Nutrition & Consumerism, Mental Health Challenges, Exercise & Longevity Science, Legal & Illicit Drugs and Addictive Behaviors, Infectious Diseases, Healthcare, Digital Intelligence and Dependency, and Healthy Relationships, Stress Management. This class will fulfill the PE upperclass graduation requirement OR provide elective credit if your graduation requirement has been completed.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students**
- **Successful completion of Fitness and Health**

8022 - Yoga I **0.50 Credit**

This semester course will teach specific practices of Yoga and their corresponding postures and sequences. Lessons will include the historical backgrounds of the different types of Yoga and their specific health benefits. Emphasis will be placed upon learning relaxation techniques, how to reduce stress, boost well-being, and finding balance, strength and focus in the body, mind, and spirit.

Placement Considerations:

- **P.E. uniform required**
- **Open to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students**

8023 - Yoga II **0.50 Credit**

This semester course is a continuation of Yoga I to provide the opportunity for students to continue their wellness journey within the class day. The class would offer an increased intensity and consistency of practice while taking a more critical review of the many aspects of yoga and its benefits. Curriculum includes a deeper dive into Chakras, nutrition, and stress management as well as some new material such as a Karma project, study of Patanjali's Sutras, and aromatherapy.

Placement Considerations:

- **P.E. department approval**
- **P.E. uniform required**
- **Open to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students**

8031 - Team Sports **0.50 Credit**

This semester course focuses on basketball, volleyball, soccer, Ultimate Frisbee, floor hockey, STXball, and flag football. Students will be expected to learn rules, participate in skill drills, demonstrate advanced knowledge of the game, participate in game competitions, and play using strong teamwork skills and positive sportsmanship.

Placement Considerations:

- **P.E. uniform required**
- **Open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade students**

8041 - Strength & Conditioning I **0.50 Credit**

This semester course is designed to improve athletic performance. It emphasizes proper warm-up and lifting/spotting techniques. A three-cycle program that focuses upon core lifts will be followed.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students**
- **P.E. uniform required**

8042 - Strength & Conditioning II **0.50 Credit**

This semester course is geared to student-athletes motivated to reach a high level of athletic performance. This class is designed to continue and advance the program initiated in Strength & Conditioning I.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students**
- **P.E. uniform required**

8043 - Strength & Conditioning III **0.50 Credit**

This semester course is geared to junior and senior student-athletes motivated to reach a high level of athletic performance. This class is designed to advance the program initiated in Strength & Conditioning II.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 11th, and 12th grade students**
- **P.E. uniform required**

8044 - Olympic Weightlifting **0.50 Credit**

This semester course teaches Olympic weightlifting techniques, including cleans, clean and jerks, snatches, and push presses. Students will learn proper form and advanced skills, preparing them for competition. The course focuses on improving strength, explosiveness, body mechanics, spatial awareness, and stabilization. Olympic lifting is neurologically demanding, requiring quick-twitch muscle movements, which enhances reaction time, recovery, and cardiovascular fitness. It will also help improve all five areas of fitness: body composition, flexibility, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and cardiorespiratory endurance. This class is ideal for those looking to boost their lifting skills, confidence, and overall athletic performance.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students**
- **P.E. uniform required**
- **P.E. department approval required**

8071 - Athletic Training **0.50 Credit**

This semester course is designed as an introduction to the duties and functions of the certified athletic trainer and the relationship of the athletic trainer to other health care professionals. Class emphasis will focus on the prevention, recognition, immediate care, and rehabilitation of athletic injuries. Curriculum includes mandatory observation hours in the athletic training facility and hands-on learning during class time.

Placement Considerations: **Open to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students**

Computer Studies

Office : Room 336

9011- Computer Concepts & Applications **1.00 Credit**

This course explores today's ever-changing world of technology. Students learn about the latest machines, devices, applications and websites, as well as the companies and geniuses that created them. Students build on their technology skills through instruction of advanced features of Microsoft Office products and other internet-based emerging technologies and applications. Students also develop research techniques and skills so they can take advantage of the 21st-century information flowing all around them. The course also introduces additional software programs (Photoshop, Dreamweaver, etc.) and technologies (digital cameras, video, etc.) to create interactive projects. Throughout the course, students will evaluate the impact of technology on society and identify the social and ethical issues required for responsible digital citizenship.

Placement Considerations: **Open to all grade levels, but priority given to 9th and 10th grade students**

9051 - Video Design & Production **1.00 Credit**

This course is a year-long, project-based course that develops career and communication skills in digital video production using Adobe tools. The course will focus on developing the following skills: video production, video editing, design, research, and communication. Students learn storytelling, capturing and editing video and audio, and finalizing content for DVD, web, or digital videotape. Students are required to supply their own external storage device.

Placement Considerations: **Open to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students, but priority given to 11th and 12th grade students**

9061 - Adobe Creative Cloud **1.00 Credit**

This course will introduce students to the Adobe suite of products. Students will work with a variety of products including Photoshop, and Illustrator, and more depending on student interest. The purpose of this class is to show students the potential of working with different creative software applications and have fun exploring their own creativity and imagination. Photoshop is a software program used to create and manipulate images and digital photographs. Illustrator is a vector graphics editor for advanced design. This course will allow students the flexibility to customize their learning experience by product and develop specific skills that interest them.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students, but priority given to upperclassmen**
- **Basic computer skills (Windows, Word, PowerPoint, etc.) required**

9071 - Intro to Website Design **0.50 Credit**

This semester class will introduce the student to the HTML and CSS programming languages and their use in creating web-based applications. Students will learn the structure of an HTML page, how graphics and text are manipulated within a web page, and how style sheets influence the look and feel of a web page experience. The student is expected to construct a website of their own design as a course project over the semester. This is a first semester course.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to all grade levels**
- **Runs every EVEN school year (2027-2028)**

9081 - Introduction to Databases **0.50 Credit**

This semester class will introduce the student to the concepts of relational and physical databases. Using SQL, the student will learn to define a database and execute queries against it in order to return meaningful data. Topics will include data dictionaries, database management, and how data mining is performed. Work is performed using the Microsoft Access software package running on a Windows platform. The student is expected to construct a database as a course project over the semester. This is a second semester course.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to all grade levels**
- **Runs every EVEN school year (2027-2028)**

9091 - Introduction to Video Game Design **0.50 Credit**

This is a semester introduction to programming course and runs in odd years. This class introduces students to the mechanics and implementation of a computer or console based interactive video game. Students begin with game theory, learning about cascades, dominos, paths, and objectives. A hands-on approach is used implementing the details of the game's design. Students are expected to complete a semester project using an integrated development environment to construct a video game. Students taking this class should be proficient in the non-programming use of a Windows based computer.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to all grade levels**
- **Runs every ODD school year (2026-2027)**

9101 - Introduction to Cyber Security **0.50 Credit**

This is a non-programming semester course and runs in odd years. It introduces the student to the mechanics and implementation of cybersecurity. Discussions cover technical, ethical, and legal aspects. Technical topics will include asset security and risk management; computer, network, and communication policies; and, identity and access management. Ethical topics include rights of access and ability versus capability. Legal topics overview copyright infringement, massive encryption, and access liability.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to all grade levels**
- **Runs every ODD school year (2026-2027)**

9102 - AI Literacy: Real-World and Ethical Decision Making **0.50 Credit**

Explore artificial intelligence through hands-on use of tools like ChatGPT, DALL-E, and Teachable Machine. Students learn foundational concepts including machine learning and large language models, develop data literacy and prompt engineering skills, and critically evaluate AI outputs while examining ethical issues including algorithmic bias, privacy, and responsible use. This course emphasizes practical applications and ethical decision-making in AI-powered tools students encounter daily, preparing them for responsible AI use in academic, workplace, and personal contexts. No programming experience required.

Placement Considerations: **Open to students in all grade levels**

9111 - Programming One **1.00 Credit**

Designed for students with and without prior programming experience, an entry level course in software development. Starting with understanding the roles played by software and hardware, the student will be introduced to such computing fundamentals as how to program a machine to make a decision, and how an idea becomes a workable program. Programming will be in the C/C++ languages and much of the course will be spent learning a programming language and creating program code.

Placement Considerations: **Open to all grade levels**

9134 - IB Digital Society **1.00 Credit**

This is a class that would appeal not just to someone interested in computers but also a student who is interested in the latest news about technology and the impact on society. The class is a mix of technology lessons along with discussions about current topics involving social media use, driverless cars, nation state cyber attacks, the use of deep fakes and more. Understanding how technology causes changes in, how people express themselves, how power is acquired or diminished, social and ethical questions are just a few ways this class will challenge you. We will look at the effects of technology on culture, the economy, the environment, health, politics and more. This course integrates current events and topics into the curriculum.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to ALL 11th and 12th grade students (Ryken with Ryken Director approval)**
- **Computer Studies department approval**

9211 - Yearbook I **1.00 Credit**

The objective of this class is to publish a one-hundred eighty-four page yearbook and a twenty-four page supplement using online technology. The course utilizes numerous programs including Word, Adobe Indesign, Online Creation, Yeartech, and indexing software. Students will learn copywriting, caption writing, digital imaging and photography.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 11th and 12th grade students**
- **Computer Studies department approval**

9212 - Honors Yearbook II **1.00 Credit**

The Honors Yearbook class will be composed of experienced student-editors who have successfully completed the Yearbook I course. Students will build on the reporting, photography, graphic design, and writing skills learned in Yearbook I. Students are responsible for drafting the theme and templates for our upcoming publication. They will assign and manage staff pages. They will manage the selling of senior ads. Editors are also expected to attend at least one yearbook workshop or conference provided by our yearbook publishing company.

Placement Considerations:

- **Open to 12th grade students**
- **Successful completion of Yearbook I**
- **Computer Studies department approval**

9144- IB Computer Science I **1.00 Credit**

This IB Standard Level (SL) Computer Science course is for students who want to explore the world of computing. You'll learn how computers work, how to solve problems using algorithms, and how to create your own programs. The course covers topics like programming, data structures, system fundamentals, and the societal impacts of technology. Hands-on projects and labs will help you build real-world skills, and you'll complete an individual project to show what you've learned. Students in this course may take the IB SL Computer Science exam in May or the course serves as the first year of the IB Computer Science HL course. (exam fee required) or a course-based final exam.

Placement Considerations: **Open 11th and 12th grade students**

Electives

10014 - IB Theory of Knowledge I **1.00 Credit**

This two-year course considers knowledge from a multi-disciplinary perspective. The objectives of Theory of Knowledge (TOK) reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the IB Program by examining mathematics, language, logic, and methodologies of disciplines from the sciences and the humanities. Conducted as an extended conversation, TOK engages students to explore their own perceptions, reasoning skills, language skills, and intuition. After examining a series of coordinating questions and readings, students must think, write, present, and discuss Ways of Knowing and Areas of Knowledge from both an academic and a personal perspective. During year one, students are introduced to the Ways of Knowing (perception, language, reason, and emotion), and build their inquiry base by investigating the roles of language and thought in knowledge, and the requirements of logical rigor for knowledge. Significant time will be dedicated to guiding students through the externally-assessed Extended Essay (EE) on a research topic and Creativity-Action-Service (CAS), both central Diploma Program requirements.

Placement Considerations: **Required of all juniors in the IB Diploma Program**

10024 - IB Theory of Knowledge II **1.00 Credit**

Year two examines the origin of, and relationships between, Areas of Knowledge (mathematics, natural and human sciences, and history), and subsequently explores value judgments and knowledge, focusing on moral, political, and aesthetic judgments. The final topic investigates the differences among belief, certainty, opinion, faith, knowledge, culture, truth, and evidence, and how they connect or link to the Ways of Knowing and the Areas (or disciplines) of Knowledge. The three major deliverables required for year two are: completion of the Extended Essay initiated in year one (an externally assessed 1,200-1,600 word essay on an IBO-prescribed title that demonstrates the student's TOK thinking skills by analyzing and linking cultural products of the Ways of Knowing), and a 10-minute individual (or 30 minute group) internally assessed in-class presentation that addresses a real-life situation or contemporary problem with a view to demonstrating the student's understanding of knowledge at work in the world. Students will also be afforded specified time to finalize their Extended Essays and document CAS hours initiated in year one. During both years students will also be guided through IB course selection, examination registration, internal assessments, and, when feasible, will be provided time to work together on assignments from other IB courses.

Placement Considerations: **Required of all seniors in the IB Diploma Program**

14111 - Accounting **1.00 Credit**

This course is designed to help students understand the basic principles of accounting. Emphasis is placed on analysis of and the recording of business transactions, journal entries, general ledger, worksheets, preparing and interpreting financial statements, accounting systems, banking and payroll activities, basic types of business ownership, and an accounting career-orientation. Special emphasis will be given to the ethics and responsibilities of accountants. The course will also cover concepts in the area of personal finance.

Placement Considerations: **Open to 12th grade students only**