

PRINCIPIA SCHOOL

2026–2027

Upper School Course Catalog

PRINCIPIA UPPER SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG

Based on solid academics and student-centered inquiry, our selection of courses demonstrates the fundamental goals behind Principia's educational philosophy:

- Provide a relevant, applicable future-ready education.
- Develop creative, collaborative, entrepreneurial, and ethical problem-solvers who are able to adapt their skills, knowledge, and understanding to changing opportunities and challenges.
- Cultivate individuals of character who are committed to thinking fearlessly, living selflessly, and using their education for the betterment of humanity.

The firm academic and spiritual foundation established by Principia's Upper School program prepares graduates to succeed in college and beyond.

"Principia extends its opportunities to those prepared to take advantage of the experience. All community members are expected to show their desire and readiness to be at Principia through sincere engagement and successful accomplishment" (Principia Policy 18). In addition, Principia determines admission without regard to race, color, gender, sexual orientation, or national origin.

2026–2027

Principia Upper School Course Catalog

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PRINCIPIA SCHOOL

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Notice: Principia Upper School reserves the right, as necessary, to change, alter, or withdraw courses at any time; to change fees, regulations, and requirements affecting graduation and curricula; and/or to change any other regulations affecting the student body. Not all courses may be offered every semester.

General Information

Imagine a place where opportunity is everywhere, and students are seen as limitless. At Principia, we believe every student has everything they need to excel in the classroom, on the sports field, up on stage, and out in the community. We simply help uncover their boundless potential.

Established in 1898, Principia School is an independent co-educational college preparatory school located in Town and Country, Missouri, west of St. Louis. Known for our innovative educational programs, Principia also has a unique advantage, being affiliated with Principia College in Elsah, IL. Founded on the teachings of Christian Science, we are guided by our core value of LOVE. We welcome students of diverse faiths who are eager to grow spiritually, academically, and in character.

Here, students become critical and creative thinkers who can address challenges through effective problem-solving. Our 360-acre campus also offers a unique educational experience with beautiful indoor and outdoor learning spaces as well as state-of-the-art athletic facilities and fields.

Principia is fully accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS).

A BRIEF HISTORY

In the late 1800s, young mother and dedicated Christian Scientist Mary Kimball Morgan was concerned about the moral and spiritual dimensions of education for her two sons. In addition to basic practical education, she wanted an educational environment that would foster sound moral values and spiritual growth. Finding no school that met these criteria, she began to teach the two youngsters herself in 1897.

As other Christian Scientists learned of the informal school and its goals, they asked if Morgan would teach their children, too. Soon she had to move from the loft of her St. Louis carriage house to a two-room store and, a few years later, into much larger premises. In 1906, Principia graduated its first high school class. In 1910, it added a junior college—one of the first in the nation. And in 1934, Principia's new four-year liberal arts college in Elsah, Illinois, graduated its first class.

Principia today comprises two modern campuses enrolling about 800 students, including international students from over 35 countries. The inspiration that led Morgan to establish Principia and to dedicate more than 50 years of her life to its orderly expansion has resulted in a lasting legacy for generations of former, current, and future Principians.

Detailed historical background can be found in *Education at The Principia*, a compilation of Morgan's talks and writings, and *As the Sowing*, a history of Principia's first 50 years, authored by former Dean of Principia College, Dr. Edwin S. Leonard, Jr.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

A Principia Upper School education is designed to help students develop applicable, transferable skills and competencies that they can effectively use in taking on the opportunities and challenges of the future.

Recognizing the unique demands of this globalized, high-tech world, Principia has established key learning outcomes. At the School, we expect students to:

- Demonstrate depth and breadth of knowledge and understanding
- Demonstrate critical and creative thinking
- Demonstrate effective communication and collaboration
- Be intentional learners
- Be engaged global community members
- Be principled citizens and leaders with strong moral character and integrity
- Be courageous and innovative change-makers

Our teaching approach leans on the ARTI-ful (authentic, relevant, transferable, impactful) and Education for Sustainability pedagogies, captured in the Understanding by Design® curricular planning framework "to keep abreast of educational progress and changing world conditions" (Principia Policy 11). We are committed to preparing children to be the leaders of tomorrow—clear, vigorous, fearless, compassionate, unselfish thinkers and doers who are ready to put their education to use for the greater good. We do this by fostering opportunities to practice creative, collaborative, and entrepreneurial problem-solving.

Our core value of **LOVE**, paired with its core attributes: **L**imitless potential; **O**vercoming obstacles; **V**aluing God, ourselves, and others; **E**mbracing excellence—are the foundation of all we do, strengthening individuals and unifying our school community.

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

The core curriculum creates the foundation of our Upper School program. Our Signature Experiences build and strengthen that program and offer peak opportunities to develop deeper focus in each year of Upper School classes, activities, and programs that strengthen students' learning and skill development. These real-world experiences allow for the transfer of skills and knowledge beyond the classroom, where students can tackle challenges and contribute to the betterment of humanity. These experiences include Outward Bound Character Trips/Leadership Retreat, tenth-grade internships, Experiential Education Week, college tours, senior projects, Impact Challenge, and more.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE-BASED CHARACTER EDUCATION

Alongside educational excellence, Principia emphasizes the development of ethical, principled individuals. Our approach to developing the whole person—the intellectual, spiritual, social, physical, and moral aspects of each student—is supported through a range of activities and opportunities:

- Each week begins with a Monday morning chapel. Speakers include faculty, staff, guests, as well as students, who share inspirational, healing messages. Students are encouraged to work with these themes throughout the week.
- Regular meetings address aspects of character or other topics of interest to the student body.

Graduation Requirements

- Guest speakers are invited to campus to speak on a range of moral, spiritual, and leadership issues relevant to youth.
- A system of Crews (small, single-grade groups of 6-12 students) and Houses (four larger, multi-grade groupings) offer numerous avenues for students to develop a sense of belonging by getting involved and taking on leadership roles and responsibilities.
- Our Spiritual Life Director offers support for students and families in our community, as well as leads various faith-focused activities across all levels to nurture spiritual growth and development.

SCHOOL COUNSELING

The School Counseling office consists of a full-time certified school counselor, supporting student academic and social/emotional development, and a full-time college counselor, supporting college and career development. Integrated seamlessly into the academic schedule, our counselors devote 45-minutes every week to each grade level, prioritizing the enhancement of these vital areas. All students work with both counselors, ensuring personalized support and guidance throughout their educational journey and post-secondary plans.

SUPPORT SERVICES

We have a number of resources available to support students' academic success. Each level (9–12) has their own Grade-Level Guardian for students to access and review their progress and get additional support. Conference period is also available twice a week during which students can get one-on-one help from teachers. The Learning Engagement Center (LEC) is another resource available to students for additional help with classwork from certified math, English, and writing specialists.

EXPERIENTIAL TRAVEL AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS

We kick off the year with a week of outdoor expeditions designed to develop teamwork, cooperation, leadership, and character. Freshmen and juniors participate in outdoor programs such as canoeing in Minnesota and sailing in Maine; sophomores take a trip of discovery to Boston for a deeper dive into Christian Science history, American history as well as a day-long program of team building challenges; seniors combine outdoor challenges with sessions on leadership and service during Senior Retreat in Michigan.

The Upper School offers several curriculum-based trips such as a Bible Class trip to Greece, advanced language study for Spanish and Mandarin Chinese, and Field and Natural History field work in Yellowstone National Park. Two optional service trips are offered as well—a trip to build a home in the Dominican Republic that is open to sophomore students, and the Simunye Project, a service trip to South Africa that is offered to junior and senior students.

Seniors have the option to apply to participate in a Senior Project, an independent project completed outside the typical school setting. Students propose and create a project that will allow them to learn through exploration and experience while earning 0.25 credits in the spring. The project culminates in a two-week capstone experience.

All students will participate in various service projects throughout the school year through House-led service opportunities. Two Prin Giving Days, one in the fall and one in the spring, are days dedicated for student service projects. Though not required, additional service partnership hours are encouraged and will be captured on the student's transcript.

Principia sponsors a number of other programs that broaden our students' cultural and arts experiences, including concerts, campus lectures, off-campus arts offerings in the greater St. Louis area, involvement in a Broadway-style musical production each winter, as well as art exhibitions and competitions.

COURSE LOAD

All students are supported and expected to perform to high standards. They enroll in at least six classes each semester. Typically, full-year courses earn 1 credit per year; semester courses earn 0.5 credits per semester. Four activity/athletic/PE credits are required for graduation. Students enroll in at least one team sport per year.

We expect all Upper School students to maintain at least a 2.8 GPA during their four years in order to remain in good standing.

To continue from semester to semester, students must demonstrate consistent effort in line with Principia's Policy 18:

> "Principia extends its opportunities to those prepared to take advantage of the experience. All community members are expected to show their desire and readiness to be at Principia through sincere engagement and successful accomplishment."

Progress reports are accessible to parents and students online, via the School Portal. Conference time with teachers is available throughout each week, and the expectation is that students will use this time for tutoring, support, clarification, and extension. Students may be required to attend an after-school conference(s) with LEC specialists if they are not meeting academic standards or missing work.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO GRADUATE

English: 4 credits

Mathematics: 3 credits (Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II required)

Science: 3 credits (Biology and Chemistry required)

Social Studies: 3.5 credits (Social Studies 9, World History, U.S. History, and U.S. Government required)

World Languages: 2 credits (two consecutive years of Spanish or Chinese) taken during grades 9–12

Arts: 2.5 credits (any combination of Visual, Media, and Performing Arts)

Bible Seminar: 0.5 credits (See details on page 11)

Personal Finance: 0.5 credits

Additional Elective Credits: Five (5) additional elective credits

Graduation Requirements

are required. They may include any course after minimum requirements have been met

Total credits needed for graduation: 24 Academic credits and 4 Activity/Athletics/PE credits are required over four years (see page 19 for details)

Note: Upper School credit may be granted for courses taken at the eighth-grade level or lower at the discretion of the principal.

PREPARING FOR A COMPETITIVE COLLEGE

The strong, successful completion of Principia Upper School's minimum graduation requirements is an acceptable record for many public and private colleges and universities. However, for highly competitive institutions, a student should take as many advanced-level courses as possible. In addition to the required 4 credits in English, we recommend distributing the other courses as follows:

Mathematics: at least 4 credits; 5 or more if possible

Science: at least 4 credits

Social Studies: at least 3 credits; 4 for focus area

World Languages: at least 4 credits in the same language; if two languages, 2 credits in each

Arts: at least 2.5 credits; more for a focus area

MISSOURI STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION (MSHSAA) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Below are the academic eligibility requirements as established by MSHSAA:

> "You must have earned, the preceding semester of attendance, a minimum of 3.0 units of credit or have earned credit in 80% of the maximum allowable classes in which any student can be enrolled in the semester, whichever is greater, at your school. For your current semester, you must be enrolled in and regularly attending courses that offer 3.0 units of credit or 80% of the maximum allowable credits which may be earned at your school, whichever is greater."

NCAA DIVISION I COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Complete 16 core courses: 4 years of English, 3 years of math (Algebra I or higher), 2 years of natural/physical science (including one year of lab science if your high school offers it), 1 additional year of English, math or natural/physical science, 2 years of social science, 4 additional years of English, math, natural/physical science, social science, world language, comparative religion or philosophy. Important: The NCAA has additional eligibility requirements which can be found online at **principiaschool.org/ncaa.**

COLLEGE CREDIT COURSES

The Upper School offers Advanced Placement (AP) courses as well as Dual Credit (DC) courses that earn college credit. There are additional fees for the AP exam or registering for the dual credit classes.

AP classes: English Literature and Composition, English Language and Composition, Computer Science Principles, Computer Science A, Spanish Language and Culture, Statistics, Music Theory, Precalculus, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Comparative Government, and U.S. Government.

Dual credit classes: College Chemistry, Physics I, College Algebra, Precalculus, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, English Literature and Composition, English Language and Composition, Field and Natural History, Comparative Government, U.S. Foreign Policy, U.S. Government, Spanish IV, Spanish V, Mandarin Chinese IV, U.S. History, Advanced Ceramics, Intermediate Drawing, Intermediate Painting, and Advanced Art-Sustained Investigation.

A student's achievement in prerequisite courses and readiness for advanced work determines placement in an advanced course.

ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

Honor Roll: Students with a 3.7 GPA or higher are placed on the honor roll.

Cum Laude Society: Seniors with an exceptional academic record and exemplary citizenship while at Principia are eligible for election to the Cum Laude Society by a faculty committee.

National Honor Society: Students may apply to be a member of NHS after they have attended at least one year at Principia, have a cumulative 3.7 GPA, and will earn at least 15 community service hours.

Scholar Athlete: Students earn this award when they receive a 3.5 GPA the same semester they letter in a varsity sport.

Awards honoring student accomplishments in academics, music, art, dance, and athletics, are announced at a special ceremony before graduation each year.

GRADUATION

A diploma is awarded upon the satisfactory completion of academic and citizenship requirements. The granting of a diploma may be subject to administrative review (academic, social, and/or financial) by the School in any given situation. Seniors with a GPA of 3.7 or better will graduate "With Honors" or "Cum Laude," as applicable.

In order to receive a Principia School diploma, students are expected to complete all four years of high school. Even if credits are completed early, they won't be allowed to graduate early.

COLAB

Required for all freshmen and sophomores.

As Principia's Upper School responds to the needs of 21st-century learners and leaders, we've designed a unique freshmen and sophomore experience, integrating future-ready skills such as communication, collaboration, and critical thinking into a project-based curriculum. Students will receive Social Studies, English, and Science credits in classes that fall within the CoLab approach.

CoLab provides students with authentic, real-world scenarios incorporating lessons and skills learned from their core classes. The intent is to set our freshmen and sophomores up for success

in their junior and senior years at Principia, prepared with transferable skills.

Projects may include interviewing experts at companies and organizations around St. Louis, creating and marketing a vlog, creating inventory and financial plans for a new business idea, improving sustainable practices across campus, or programming a new system or app to improve student life on campus.

All classes in this catalog with an asterisk (*) indicate a class taught as part of an integrated learning environment within the ninth and tenth-grade CoLab. Course credit varies depending on the class.

A list of all courses included within CoLab:

CoLab 9
- Biology
- English I
- Social Studies 9

CoLab 10
- English II
- World History
- Integrated STEM
- Chemistry

QUESTS

Independent courses known as Quests are offered for 0.25 credits per semester and are pass/fail. Quests are co-designed classes between students and teachers and/or experts where students can pursue an area of interest—from culinary arts to rocketry and aerospace engineering to an Interact Service Club through Rotary International. Students must be approved by the teacher and the Upper School principal.

Course Descriptions

English

EAL TOPICS IN LITERATURE

Two semesters, 1 credit.

For international students and students who take English as an additional language. This class looks at the literature, grammar, spelling, vocabulary, speech, and writing necessary for academic success. Exploring the ideas of dystopia and utopia allows students to expand their creative writing and find a voice in new genres of reading. Vocabulary will be expanded by studying Latin and Greek roots, prefixes, and suffixes. Specific focus will be directed at grammatical structures that can improve writing and speech.

AMERICAN CULTURAL ENGLISH (ACE)

One semester, 0.5 credits.

Offered solely for new international students. ACE is an in-depth look at American culture. Integrating history, geography, politics, religion, and popular culture will paint a complex, dynamic picture of America—both past and present. This class serves as a starting point for students' questions about sometimes confusing and misleading American cultural norms. ACE will also focus on writing and reading practices that will support students and help them succeed academically in the American classroom.

ENGLISH I: INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE*

(Included in CoLab program)

Two semesters, 1 credit. Required of all freshmen.

In freshman English, students build foundational skills as readers and writers through guided analytical reading (focused on theme, characterization, and literary devices), structured writing, and oral communication in a collaborative setting.

ENGLISH II: WORLD LITERATURE*

(Included in CoLab program)

Two semesters, 1 credit. Required of all sophomores.

Sophomore English students build on their freshman year by honing their abilities to synthesize multiple sources in support of their thesis and considering other perspectives through counterclaims.

Upper Level-English Courses

Building on the integration skills of CoLab, the upper level (grades 11-12) English courses invite multi-disciplinary research, reading, writing, and discussion.

PERFORMANCE-BASED LITERATURE

Two semesters, 1 credit. Open to students in grades 11-12.

This course explores the dynamic interplay between classic texts, such as Shakespeare's plays, and contemporary works like *Hamilton*. Students will examine how literature transforms into compelling stage and screen performances, analyzing themes, language, and cultural impact across eras. Through close reading, critical discussions, and creative projects, participants will engage with the artistry of storytelling as it evolves through performance.

JOURNALISM AND MEDIA LITERACY

Two semesters, 1 credit. Open to students in grades 11-12.

This course is designed to help students explore the world of journalism while building the skills they need to think critically about the media they consume. Students will learn how to research, report, write, and edit articles in different journalistic styles, from hard news stories to feature pieces. Throughout the course, they will practice reading, annotating, and analyzing articles from a variety of sources, and they will learn to spot bias and understand how it shapes the news.

THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

Two semesters, 1 credit. Open to students in grades 11-12.

This course will examine how authors over time have explored justice, how the American justice system has functioned, and how individuals are tackling issues of injustice today. By studying texts, podcasts, and documentaries, students will examine how individuals grapple with defining justice and responding to injustice. Through research, writing, journal responses, and discussions, students will build an understanding of the limits and possibilities of justice in the world today.

Mathematics

Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Credit (DC)

ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION (AP/DC)
(Advanced Placement & Dual Credit)

Two semesters, 1 credit. Open to qualified students by teacher recommendation. Students may take this class for AP credit or credit from UMSL. Additional fees apply if taken for UMSL credit and for the AP test. (UMSL Courses: Fall—First Year Writing, ENGL 1100, 3 credit hours. Spring—Introduction to Literature, ENGL 1120, 3 credit hours. $438 for both classes).

In this advanced class, students interpret texts with sensitivity to the nuances of craft and creativity in expression. Students acquire skills of independent analysis and literary criticism, along with composition skills of voice, structure, and argumentation. Students undertake frequent timed-writing responses to prompts. In addition, in-depth, out-of-class writing assignments demand a high level of analysis and synthesis, at times requiring secondary-source research. This course prepares students for the Literature and Composition Advanced Placement Exam.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION (AP/DC)
(Advanced Placement & Dual Credit)

Two semesters, 1 credit. Open to qualified students by teacher recommendation. Students may take this class for AP credit or credit from UMSL. Additional fees apply if taken for UMSL credit and for the AP test. (UMSL Course: Fall—Topics in Literature, ENGL 1950, 3 credit hours. Spring—Topics in Writing, ENGL 2120, 3 credit hours. $438 for both classes).

AP Language and Composition engages students in developing the skills to become insightful and astute readers of prose writing from various periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts. Students also work to become skilled writers in a variety of forms (narrative, exploratory, expository, persuasive) on a variety of subjects. The goal of this course is to enable students to write effectively and confidently. This course prepares students for the Language and Composition Advanced Placement Exam.

English Electives

READING AND WRITING INTENSIVE
One semester, 0.5 credits. Open to grades 9-10.

This course is for CoLab students who would like an additional challenge in the areas of reading, writing, and discussion. Building skills of literary analysis, students will study literature and craft responses, engage in discussions, and develop their voices as creators and critics of literary forms.

READING AND WRITING WORKSHOP
One or two semesters, 0.5 credits per semester (does not have to be concurrent).

Reading and Writing Workshop focuses on improving student lexile level reading scores and grade level writing proficiency through daily classroom reading and writing, grade level annotation practice, and spiderweb class discussion. The course guides students in community building, writing proficiency, reading proficiency, and personal growth as an author. Through one-on-one conferencing, goal-setting, workshopping, structured responses, and guided reading, students will build confidence as readers and writers.

Mathematics

PRE-ALGEBRA
Two semesters, 1 credit.

This course builds a strong foundation for success in Algebra I by strengthening students' understanding of numbers, operations, ratios, proportional reasoning, expressions, equations, and introductory functions. Through problem-solving, mathematical modeling, and real-world applications, students develop confidence in communicating mathematical ideas while reinforcing essential computational and reasoning skills. Emphasis is placed on preparing students for the rigor of high school mathematics through consistent practice, critical thinking, and collaborative learning.

ALGEBRA I
Two semesters, 1 credit.

Core topics of beginning algebra are taught with an emphasis on functions. Simplifying algebraic expressions, solving multi-step linear equations, and solving systems of equations are important topics. In addition, students learn about quadratic functions and their graphs as well as factoring techniques and solving quadratic equations. These topics are consistently applied to real-world situations.

GEOMETRY (REGULAR, HONORS)
Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisite: Algebra I.

Concepts of Euclidean geometry, including definitions, postulates, and theorems are covered in this course. Areas of study include angles, parallel lines, triangles, congruency, similarity, polygons, circles, coordinate geometry, area, and volume. Students revisit concepts of shape and measurement and combine algebra skills with analytical thinking to prove mathematical ideas. Accuracy of the written word and visual models are emphasized.

ALGEBRA II (REGULAR, HONORS)
Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisite: Geometry.

This course develops proficiency with algebraic expressions, especially linear and quadratic forms. Powers, roots, polynomials, exponential and logarithmic functions, complex numbers, conic sections, and probability are also explored. These topics are consistently applied to real-world situations.

FUNCTIONS, STATISTICS AND TRIGONOMETRY
Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisite: Geometry and Algebra II.

Functions, Statistics, and Trigonometry (FST) is a college-preparatory mathematics course designed for students who have completed Algebra 2 and want to strengthen and apply their mathematical understanding through a more project-based approach. The course reinforces key Algebra 2 concepts—including functions, equations, exponential and logarithmic models, and algebraic reasoning—while introducing foundational topics in statistics and trigonometry. Students will explore real-world applications through investigations involving data analysis,

probability, regression, right-triangle and circular trigonometry, and mathematical modeling. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving, collaboration, communication, and using mathematics to interpret and make decisions about authentic situations.

Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Credit (DC)

COLLEGE ALGEBRA (DC)
(Dual Credit)

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisite: Algebra II. College credit is received from UMSL. Additional fees apply for UMSL credit (UMSL Course: College Algebra, MATH 1030, 3 credit hours, $219).

This course covers topics including factoring, simplifying rational functions, functions and their graphs, solving linear and nonlinear equations, polynomial functions, inverse functions, logarithms, exponentials, solutions to systems of equations using matrices, solutions to nonlinear systems of equations, and sequences. Students will also study trigonometry, including trigonometric graphs, inverse trigonometric functions, solving equations, and proving identities. This course is intended for students planning to take MATH 1800 (Analytic Geometry and Calculus I).

PRECALCULUS (AP/DC)
(Advanced Placement & Dual Credit)

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisite: Algebra II. Students may take this class for AP credit and/or credit from Principia College. Students may take the AP test for an additional fee and are eligible to receive college credit upon receiving a passing score of 3 or higher depending on the college or university's acceptance policies. Upon completion of this course, students receive credit at both the Upper School and Principia College (College course: MATH 143 Precalculus, 4 credit hours).

This course covers topics including factoring, simplifying rational functions, functions and their graphs, solving linear and nonlinear equations, polynomial functions, inverse functions, logarithms, exponentials, solutions to systems of equations using matrices, solutions to nonlinear systems of equations, and sequences. Students will also study trigonometry, including trigonometric graphs, inverse trigonometric functions, solving equations, and proving identities. This course is intended for students planning to take MATH 1800 (Analytic Geometry and Calculus I).

CALCULUS: AB (AP/DC)
(Advanced Placement & Dual Credit)

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisite: Precalculus AP/DC. Students may take this class for AP credit and/or credit from Principia College. Students may take the AP test for an additional fee and are eligible to receive college credit upon receiving a passing score of 3 or higher depending on the college or university's acceptance policies. Upon completion of this course, students receive credit at both the Upper School and Principia College (College course: MATH 181 Calculus I, 4 credit hours).

This college-level course prepares students to take the AB form of the AP Calculus exam. It provides an introduction to differential and integral calculus. Topics include limits, derivatives, related rates, the Mean-Value Theorem, Max-Min problems, the integral, the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, areas, volumes, and average values.

CALCULUS: BC (AP/DC)
(Advanced Placement & Dual Credit)

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisite: Calculus AB. Students may take this class for AP credit and/or credit from Principia College. Students may take the AP test for an additional fee and are eligible to receive college credit upon receiving a passing score of 3 or higher depending on the college or university's acceptance policies. Upon completion of this course, students receive credit at both the Upper School and Principia College (College course: MATH 182 Calculus II, 4 credit hours).

This college-level course prepares students to take the BC form of the AP Calculus exam. Topics include additional integration techniques (including integration by parts, partial fractions, and inverse trigonometric functions), differentiation and integration of polar functions, parametric equations, and vector-defined functions as well as applications of integrals, infinite series, power and Taylor series, and convergence tests.

STATISTICS (AP)
(Advanced Placement)

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisite: Algebra II. Students may take the AP test for an additional fee and are eligible to receive college credit upon receiving a passing score of 3 or higher depending on the college or university's acceptance policies.

The course will cover basic concepts and methods in probability and statistics. Topics include descriptive statistics, probabilities of events, random variables and their distributions, sampling distributions, estimation of population parameters, confidence intervals and hypothesis, testing for population means and population proportions, and chi-square tests.

COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES (AP)
(Advanced Placement)

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisite: Algebra II. Students may take the AP test for an additional fee and are eligible to receive college credit upon receiving a passing score of 3 or better.

Computer Science Principles is an introductory college-level computing course that introduces students to the breadth of the field of computer science. Students learn to design and evaluate solutions and apply computer science to solve problems through the development of algorithms and programs. They incorporate abstraction into programs and use data to discover new knowledge. Students also explain how computing innovations and computing systems—including the internet—work, explore their potential impacts, and contribute to a computing culture that is collaborative and ethical.

Science

The importance of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to everyday life can hardly be overstated. Individuals trained to observe and understand nature and the products of modern invention will be equipped to better

Science

understand the impact of technological advances, helping them to be wiser consumers and stewards of the environment.

Minimum Required Sequence—3 years of Science
Biology, Chemistry, and one additional science credit.
Recommended Sequence—4 years of Science
Biology, Chemistry, and two additional science courses.

BIOLOGY*

(Integrated in Grade 9 CoLab program)

Two semesters, 1 credit. Required for freshmen.

This course emphasizes the functionality, unity, and interrelationships of living things and follows the National Generation Science Standards for secondary life sciences. Major topics include cell structure and function, ecology, biodiversity, energy and matter cycling, genetics, heredity, and evolution. This course is required for ninth graders. Principia's 360-acre campus with myriad ecosystems offers many opportunities for field observations of migrations and natural phenomena.

ADVANCED BIOLOGY II

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry.

This advanced course explores various aspects of biological sciences, including cellular functions, animal behavior, physiology, evolutionary biology, microbiology, and/or biotechnology. Emphasizing hands-on learning, students engage in laboratory experiments, field observations, and practical applications, preparing them for further studies in biology, environmental science, and related fields. The curriculum fosters critical thinking and scientific inquiry through extensive laboratory work, research projects, and field trips. Students will develop practical skills essential for scientific research and exploration.

INTEGRATED STEM

(Integrated in Grade 10 CoLab program)

0.5 credits received in the spring during the Grade 10 CoLab program.

Integrated STEM is a project-based experience within the 10th grade CoLab. Students use tools such as coding microcontrollers and 3D design to prototype, implement, and refine solutions to real-world challenges. Emphasizing the engineering design cycle and iterative thinking, the course builds foundational technical skills while fostering creativity, collaboration, and systems-level problem solving.

STEM A

One semester, 0.5 credits.

STEM A is an introductory, immersive course designed to launch students into hands-on, application-based learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Through project-based experiences, tinkering, and iterative exploration, students develop foundational skills in design thinking, iterative design, and collaborative problem-solving while engaging in real-world applications. Emphasis is placed on building creative confidence and technical fluency in a student-centered environment. A central focus of the course is robotics and intelligent systems, where students explore coding, sensors, and autonomous algorithms to design and control responsive technologies. Students are introduced to a range of tools and technologies, including 3D design and printing and physical computing, as they begin to think and work like engineers and innovators.

STEM B

One semester, 0.5 credits. Prerequisite: STEM A.

STEM B builds on foundational skills by integrating multiple technologies into more complex systems and designs. Students deepen their understanding of coding, electronics, and 3D design and printing while engaging in projects that require systems thinking and iterative design. Emphasis is placed on mastery, precision, and innovation as students work with interconnected technologies—such as robotics, automation, and intelligent systems. This course strengthens students' ability to design, test, and refine solutions in increasingly sophisticated, real-world contexts.

ADVANCED STEM

One semester, 0.5 credits. May be taken for three semesters. Prerequisites: STEM A and B.

In Advanced STEM, students take the driver's seat of their learning through a self-guided, innovation-focused experience. Students identify and pursue real-world problems, skill building, designing and developing original solutions using engineering, technology, and entrepreneurial thinking. The course emphasizes independence, initiative, and authentic impact, with possible opportunities to collaborate with professionals, explore career pathways, and engage with external partners. Students are encouraged to promote a love of tinkering and creative problem-solving to the community and beyond to demonstrate their transferable skills and make meaningful contributions to real-world challenges.

CHEMISTRY*

(Integrated in Grade 10 CoLab program)

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisite: completion of Algebra I.

Chemistry is the study of matter and energy from a molecular point of view. Students will participate in inquiry-based laboratory experiments and comprehensive projects that provide opportunities to synthesize and transfer the chemistry they learn to the world around them. In this STEM course, students are expected to collect and interpret data, utilize the engineering design cycle, and implement collaborative learning strategies. Content includes, but is not limited to, atomic structure and the Periodic Table, chemical reactions and equations, chemical calculations and the mole, and exploring the impacts of chemistry on the world around us.

COLLEGE CHEMISTRY

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisite: completion of Algebra I.

College Chemistry is a high-school-credit chemistry course designed for students who enter after the 10th-grade Chemistry sequence or who otherwise need a standalone chemistry course for graduation or college preparation. The course includes regular laboratory investigations and emphasizes lab safety, experimental design, data collection and analysis, scientific writing, and quantitative problem solving. Taught concurrently with College Chemistry DC, the course is aligned to selected CHEM 131 topics, including atomic structure, chemical composition, stoichiometry, chemical reactions, thermochemistry, periodic

trends, bonding, molecular geometry, gases, liquids, and solids. This course does not carry Principia College credit unless the student is enrolled in the dual-credit version.

PHYSICS: ROBOTICS & ENGINEERING

One or two semesters, 0.5 credits per semester (does not have to be concurrent). Prerequisite: Algebra I.

This college-preparatory, laboratory-based physics course explores core principles of energy, electricity, motion, and systems through applied, hands-on engineering and robotics challenges. Students engage in algebra-based problem solving, quantitative reasoning, and data analysis while designing, building, programming, and testing physical systems. The course emphasizes scientific inquiry, experimental design, graphical analysis, modeling, and the engineering design process through regular laboratory investigations and collaborative projects. Students apply physics concepts to authentic, real-world challenges using robotics platforms, sensors, fabrication tools, and engineering technologies.

SUSTAINABILITY

One or two semesters, 0.5 credits per semester (does not have to be concurrent). Prerequisite: completion of Biology or permission of instructor.

This course combines principles of sustainability and ecosystem function with problem solving and strategic thinking. In these topics, students engage in sustainability initiatives at Principia while also exploring authentic local challenges of social and environmental sustainability. Students broaden their perspectives and deepen their understanding of issues by connecting with local and global leaders through field trips, labs, and discussions. At the end of the semester, students create projects that demonstrate their understanding of the sustainability topics covered in class while using creativity and problem-solving skills.

Dual Credit (DC) Courses

COLLEGE CHEMISTRY (DC)

(Dual Credit)

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisites: first-year Chemistry; Biology; successful completion of Algebra 2 (B or better, each semester); minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. Requires instructor approval. Upon completion of this course, students receive credit at both the Upper School and Principia College (College course: Fundamentals of Chemistry I, CHEM 131, 4 credit hours).

This course develops problem-solving and research skills. Topics include atomic structure, stoichiometry, bonding, gases, liquids, and solids, and includes labs. This is a rigorous class, designed for college-bound students interested in majoring in science or engineering.

FIELD AND NATURAL HISTORY (DC)

(Dual Credit)

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisites: Completion of Biology and Chemistry; minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0; instructor approval. Upon completion of this course, students receive credit at both the Upper School and Principia College. Yellowstone trip fees are $800. Trip fees subject to change. Required for course credit. Scholarships may be available to help cover trip costs. (College course: Field & Natural History, EEM 161, 4 credit hours).

This college-level course studies local plants and animals in their natural environment and in relation to humankind. The emphasis is on conservation, nature interpretation, observation, and field research skills. Natural history is explored through field exercises as well as literature. Field research is extended with a weeklong, residential program.

Yellowstone trip fees are $800. Trip fees are subject to change. Required for course credit. Scholarships may be available to help cover trip costs.

PHYSICS I (DC)

(Dual Credit)

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisites: first-year Chemistry; Biology; successful completion of Precalculus (C or better, each semester); minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. Upon completion of this course, students receive credit at both the Upper School and Missouri State University. (Missouri State University PHY 123, $300, 4 credit hours).

An introduction to physical theories covering the content areas of mechanics, fluids, sound, and thermodynamics. A knowledge of the laws of Physics will help the student better understand the world and how these laws can be used to make informed decisions to improve society.

Social Studies

The main goals of the Social Studies Department are that students 1) learn to become constructive members of a free society—understanding society and having the skills to participate in it; 2) develop a global outlook, appreciate multiple cultures and the interrelationships between them; and 3) develop the skills needed to succeed, such as listening, analysis, written communication, and presenting a position orally to an audience.

SOCIAL STUDIES 9*

(Integrated in CoLab program)

Two semesters, 1 credit. Required; designed for freshmen.

The Social Studies 9 class introduces students to a wide range of social studies disciplines, including history, current events, economics, and geography. The focus is on transferring these skills to real-world situations. Students will develop their analytical, research, writing, and presentation skills through projects that engage them with the community. Specific historical topics include immigration, how governments work, human rights, and how the world responds to genocide. Students will look at how historical events have influenced the United States in general as well as themselves and their community.

WORLD HISTORY*

(Integrated in CoLab program)

Two semesters, 1 credit. Required; designed for sophomores.

The focus is on major developments in history that have shaped the systems and values of society today. Units include

Social Studies

the Renaissance, Industrialization, Imperialism, World War I, World War II, and the Modern World. The class focuses on building students' skills in research, primary source analysis, writing, and presenting.

Students must take ONE of the following three American or U.S. History courses:

AMERICAN HISTORY

Two semesters, 1 credit.

Offered solely for new international students. This course examines United States history through the social, political, and economic forces that have shaped the nation and continue to influence it today. Students will engage in an in-depth exploration of the experiences and contributions of Indigenous Peoples and Black Americans, gaining insight into how cultures endure and adapt under oppression. Primary source analysis, discussion, debate, role-playing, and art creation help students explore and formulate views on how America came to be the county it is today.

OR

U.S. HISTORY

Two semesters, 1 credit. Required of all students, during junior or senior year. Prerequisite: World History or equivalent.

This survey course covers U.S. history from Columbus to modern times. Students explore multiple perspectives as to how the United States became the country it is today. Discussion and debate help students formulate their own views and discover how people and events reflect the context of their times. Students will examine primary and secondary sources, watch videos, and participate in class and online discussions, debates, and field trips. They will present their findings through presentations, essays, and web-based media.

OR

U.S. HISTORY (DC)
(Dual Credit)

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisite: World History or equivalent. Open to qualified juniors by application and approval of the instructor. College credit is received from UMSL. An additional fee applies for UMSL credit (UMSL Course: American Civilization 1865 to Present, HIST 1002, $219, 3 credit hours).

This course examines the history of the United States from Columbus to the present. The class starts with units covering the U.S. Constitution and the Civil War, necessary preambles to understanding many of the themes covered subsequently. Students will develop their skills and understanding through reading a college-level text as well as primary sources; persuasive writing (essays and document-based questions); and daily class discussion. Significant historical themes of this time period that will be examined include 1) the growth in the role of the federal government, particularly the executive branch; 2) growth and change of the U.S. economy; 3) U.S. engagement in international affairs; and 4) the growth of personal rights and freedoms.

Students must take ONE of the following two U.S. Government courses:

U.S. GOVERNMENT

One semester, 0.5 credits. Required for graduation. Meets Missouri's American government course requirement. Prerequisite: Senior standing or completion of a full-year course in American history.

This survey course explores the institutions, branches, and functions of federal, state, and local governments, including electoral processes. It includes an emphasis on current governmental issues, as well as a study of the principles and provisions of the Missouri and United States Constitutions. Students will be provided with opportunities to engage with current governmental issues and U.S. politics.

OR

U.S. GOVERNMENT (AP/DC)
(Advanced Placement & Dual Credit)

Two semesters, 1 credit. Meets Missouri's American government course requirement. Open to qualified students by teacher recommendation. Students may take this class for AP credit or credit from UMSL. An additional fee applies if taken for UMSL credit and for the AP test (UMSL course title: Introduction to Comparative Politics, POL SCI 1500, $219, 3 credit hours).

This college-level course examines the key concepts of the United States' governmental and political systems. Students will analyze the roles of the federal government, state governments, political parties, special interests, and individuals in the government. The class looks at founding documents like the U.S. Constitution as well as important Supreme Court cases that have shaped our current system.

Social Studies Electives

CIVIL RIGHTS

One semester, 0.5 credits.

This course explores Civil Rights in the United States from the time of the nation's founding up to the present day. Throughout the course, we will continuously explore the essential questions:

What does it mean to be on the margins of American society? How have disenfranchised groups shaped, challenged, and redefined civil rights in the U.S.? The class will take a trip to Montgomery and Birmingham to visit several Civil Rights Movement monuments.

COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT (AP/DC)
(Advanced Placement & Dual Credit)

One semester, 0.5 credits. Students may take this class for AP credit or credit from UMSL. An additional $219 fee applies if taken for UMSL credit and for the AP test. (UMSL course: Introduction to Comparative Politics, Pol Sci 1500, 3 credit hours).

AP Comparative Government and Politics explores important themes and concepts in comparative government through the lens of six core countries: the United Kingdom, Mexico, Nigeria, Iran, Russia, and China. Students will engage in thoughtful cross-country comparisons in the areas of human rights, government structure, social environment, and current events. This course

emphasizes the diversity of political life around the world and the challenges and opportunities facing states in the 21st Century. Students may earn college credit through a local university or by taking the AP Test.

CURRENT ISSUES

One semester, 0.5 credits. Prerequisite: Two years of high school social studies or approval of the instructor.

We examine topics that are in the news around the world and in the United States. Students keep abreast of national and international events through analysis of articles from a variety of print and online sources. Daily discussion allows students to understand important events occurring in our world as well as identify the issues underlying those events. Students develop a better sense of world geography and how geography affects decision-making. Other activities include research projects and short-essay writing.

ECONOMICS

One semester, 0.5 credits.

This course explores economics as a way to understand why people and societies make the choices they do in a world of scarce resources. The class emphasizes decision-making, incentives, and tradeoffs through historical examples ranging from early human societies to the modern global economy. Students will apply core ideas to personal decisions, historical case studies, and contemporary issues. By the end of this course, students will be better equipped to think critically about their own choices and those made by society.

MOCK TRIAL

One semester, 0.5 credits.

Mock Trial examines debatable cases of law (criminal or civil) that have been settled in U.S. courts. Both sides of a case are presented through evidence, witnesses, and case law. Students act as lawyers and/or witnesses, representing both sides of the case. They learn how to advocate and put forward a case for their particular side, developing presentation and argumentation skills. The witness roles, which students may select, are largely theatrical. The team competes in two rounds of competitions in mid-January and mid-February, in a real courtroom before a practicing judge. Fall semester students who compete in the spring semester competitions will receive independent study credit in addition to the fall semester credit/grade.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

One semester, 0.5 credits.

The Public Speaking class helps students become more confident and effective communicators. In this class, students learn how to create and deliver persuasive speeches. The course teaches students a wide range of skills, including understanding your audience, organizing your ideas for maximum impact, and developing a powerful closing. The class will analyze famous speeches from history and discover how those great orators convinced others. The students will present in front of a variety of authentic audiences as they develop their writing, speaking, and leadership skills.

SPEECH AND DEBATE

One semester, 0.5 credits.

Speech and Debate develops essential communication, critical thinking, and argumentation skills through competitive preparation and performance. Students explore multiple competitive options including debate formats (Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum, Congressional), public speaking (Original Oratory, Extemporaneous Speaking, Informative Speaking), and performance events (Dramatic, Humorous, Duo Interpretation). Students learn to research current events, construct logical arguments, and present ideas in a civic manner. Students compete at weekend tournaments against competitors from schools across the state and region, with opportunities for travel.

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY (DC)
(Dual Credit)

One semester, 0.5 credits. (UMSL Course title: United States Foreign Policy, POL SCI 2820, $219, 3 credit hours).

This course examines how the United States interacts with the rest of the world, from historical alliances to modern-day conflicts. Students will learn how the United States government makes decisions about trade, national security, and human rights. By studying past and present events, we will explore how United States' choices impact global stability and our lives at home.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY

One semester, 0.5 credits.

World Geography is a one-semester social studies elective for all grades that strengthens students' core geographic literacy and map skills. The course emphasizes reading and using essential map tools (compass rose, scale, legend, latitude and longitude), developing a clear mental map of continents, oceans, key countries, and major physical features, and applying geographic thinking to understand how location and environment shape human settlement, culture, and global connections.

Bible

The Bible Program is designed to give students the opportunity to explore the lasting truths of the Judeo-Christian Scriptures and how they offer comfort and guidance to earnest seekers of Truth. For students arriving at Principia their freshman year, the fall semester Bible Seminar course is a graduation requirement. Subsequent Bible classes are optional but come with exhilarating trips to learn about the events of the Bible on site during student-centered trips to Israel, Egypt, Greece, and other biblical destinations. In order to travel on a Bible trip, a full year of Bible courses is required and additional program costs come with traveling overseas.

BIBLE SEMINAR

One semester, 0.5 credits. Required for freshmen.

Students explore the Bible through a variety of lessons and activities including, but not limited to: how to study the original Greek and Hebrew texts; a multi-layered chronological survey of the entire Bible looking through the lens of the people, places, and threats against the Children of Israel; and research-based projects and presentations with a focus on the

Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount. The intended outcome of the course is to enable students to develop a knowledge and love of the Scriptures while recognizing its relevance to society today.

IN THE BEGINNING: GENESIS AND JOHN

One semester, 0.5 credits.

John begins his "spiritual Gospel" with the same three words as the first book of the Bible: "In the beginning." This course is designed to guide students in discovering for themselves why Genesis and God's spiritual creation was so vital for John's readers to grasp in order to comprehend his Gospel account of the Master metaphysician. This spring-semester course is designed to prepare students for the spring break Bible trip.

GOSPELS AND CURRENT EVENTS

One semester, 0.5 credits.

The teachings of Jesus of Nazareth transcend time and are ever relevant in guiding Christians in their daily lives. In this class, students will explore how the gospels provide answers for every challenge society is struggling with. By reading articles about current events and turning to Scripture to find guidance, the students will begin to learn how to anchor their decisions to approaching the world in the Word of God.

THE APOSTLE PAUL

One semester, 0.5 credits.

Students will be introduced to some basic Koine (common Greek). This study will aid in preparation for studying several of St. Paul's epistles. Students will analyze how Paul defines the gospel he is spreading and dig deeper into some of his more important themes such as justification, grace, faith, and the flesh versus the Spirit. The exploration of these themes will frame our essential question, "What makes a church?"

NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

One semester, 0.5 credits.

Often forgotten with the predominance of Pauline theology, the "General Epistles"—that is, the letters of James, Peter, John, and Jude—hold tremendous importance in the New Testament canon. They speak to a religion of doing and not just hearing, they focus on God's love as essential to living Christianity, and they offer hope and buoy faith in times of trial.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

One semester, 0.5 credits.

In preparation for a trip to Greece and subsequent visit to the island of Patmos, where John the Beloved wrote the book of Revelation, students will discover how the seven visions of the Apocalypse help readers understand Christ Jesus' hope for the Universal Church. Students will prepare presentations of a specific vision to be given on-site to their peers on the trip to help all begin to grasp "what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

THE EXODUS

One semester, 0.5 credits.

In the history of the Hebrew people, one event stands out above all others in demonstrating the power of God: The Exodus. Moses, the great leader of the children of Israel, took his people out of captivity and shepherded them for forty years in the wilderness. Students in this class will discover how David and the prophets continually wrote about Moses overcoming obstacles in guiding those who followed him through their journey "from sense to Soul."

KING DAVID

One semester, 0.5 credits.

Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah, the Savior of the world, would come from the lineage of the House of David. Come read the story of Israel's wish for a king, and how a humble shepherd boy would rise to power and establish the city of David in Jerusalem. David's meek beginnings do not exempt him from struggles with power however, and his downfall speaks volumes to teach us how our own struggles with lust, anger, hate, and revenge need to be overcome so our Kingdom doesn't fall.

HEBREW PROPHETS

One semester, 0.5 credits.

To understand the words and works of Jesus of Nazareth requires the student of the Bible to be well versed in the prophecies of the Hebrew Bible. This semester, students will read Isaiah, Daniel, and almost all of the "minor prophets" from the Old Testament. They will explore topics such as: "What is prophecy?" "Who can be a prophet?" "Why are prophets often rejected?" and "Has all prophecy been fulfilled?"

Performing Arts

Music

Principia's music program invites students to develop both art-istry and discipline through their study of music. Courses and ensembles build foundational skills in listening, music literacy, and technical performance while also nurturing creativity and self-expression. Students collaborate closely with peers, learning how to rehearse effectively, give and receive feedback, and work toward shared performance goals. The program emphasizes focus, cooperation, and personal responsibility—preparing students not just to be better musicians, but to be thoughtful, resilient contributors in future endeavors.

BEGINNING BAND

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisite: A love for and desire to learn music. Students choose which instrument and style of music they use to create and share their music.

Beginning Band is open to any student, regardless of prior musical experience. Students select an instrument to study and build a strong foundation in tone production, technique, and improvisation. Along the way, they explore a variety of musical genres, with opportunities to pursue styles that reflect their own interests. The course also challenges students to think critically about music's power to inspire change. Using a problem-based learning approach, students create performances that respond to real-world issues, connecting their musicianship to meaningful action and the betterment of their community.

SYMPHONIC AND JAZZ BAND

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisites: At least one year of school band experience and/or instructor approval.

The Upper School Symphonic and Jazz Bands offer experienced musicians a place to deepen their skills and share their music with the community. Students rehearse and perform in multiple ensembles—including Symphonic Band, Pep Band, Jazz Band, small groups, and solo settings—within a single class period. Instruction emphasizes advanced technique, ensemble collaboration, and stylistic interpretation across genres. Students prepare for a variety of performances, festivals, and contests, and may audition for District and State honor bands as well as solo and ensemble events.

CONCERT CHOIR

Two semesters, 1 credit.

Concert Choir is the Upper School's core vocal ensemble, open to all students regardless of prior experience. In a supportive and challenging environment, students develop healthy vocal technique, confident musicianship, and the ability to sing expressively across a wide range of styles. Instruction focuses on tone production, breath control, and vocal flexibility, helping singers grow both individually and as collaborators within the ensemble. Concert Choir performs at key school events, including the annual Family Weekend, Christmas, and Pop Concerts, as well as Upper School Chapels. Students have the opportunity to audition for regional and state Honor Choirs, and participate in Solo and Small Ensemble events such as Metro 8 and ABC Festivals. Students also give back via local community performances.

CHAMBER SINGERS

Two semesters, 1 credit.

Chamber Singers is the Upper School's premier vocal ensemble, offered as a full-year, audition-only course designed for experienced and highly motivated students seeking advanced vocal and musicianship training. Students engage deeply with a challenging and diverse repertoire, from classical to contemporary styles, while refining critical musicianship skills. Emphasis is placed on advanced sight-reading, ensemble precision, and fostering leadership and artistic independence. As ambassadors of Principia's choral program, Chamber Singers perform at major school concerts—including Family Weekend, Christmas, and Pop Concerts—as well as at special on- and off-campus events, festivals, and community engagements. Members are expected to model excellence, maintain high standards of preparation, and represent the school with integrity and professionalism.

MUSIC THEORY (AP)

(Advanced Placement)

Two semesters, 1 credit.

In AP Music Theory, you'll explore the fundamentals of music in greater depth, enhancing your ability to recognize and describe the elements that make up music. Through a combination of listening to diverse musical styles, analyzing scores, composing, and vocal exercises, you will develop essential skills in understanding how music functions. You'll study pitch, intervals, scales, keys, chords, meter, rhythm, and other key concepts, and apply them through sight-singing, notating music by ear, and completing musical works in the style of common practice. This course prepares you for the AP Music Theory exam and lays the foundation for advanced music study.

Theatre Arts

Principia's Theatre Arts program empowers students to create, collaborate, and explore their artistry through theatrical performance. Courses build concrete skills in acting, stage presence, voice, and movement, while encouraging students to think critically about story, character, and the role of theatre in society. Students create, perform, and respond to theatre in ways that foster authentic collaboration and help them develop into confident, expressive, and community-minded artists. With access to both the intimate 90-seat Black Box Theater and our main stage in Ridgway Auditorium, students experience a range of performance settings, including opportunities to share their work beyond campus.

THEATRE ARTS

Two semesters, 1 credit.

Theatre Arts introduces students to the fundamentals of theatre performance in a collaborative, hands-on environment. Students learn essential theatre terminology, acting techniques, and participate in improvisation and performance activities that build confidence and stage presence. The course explores the history of theatre, providing context for modern performance. Students create an acting résumé and have multiple opportunities to apply their skills in class projects and performances, developing as creative communicators and adaptable 21st-century performers.

ADVANCED THEATRE ARTS

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisite: Theatre Arts credit and/or instructor approval.

Students will build on their experience in Theatre Arts in a more intensive environment. They will prepare monologues appropriate for use as audition material, create professional acting résumés, and learn to speak with different dialects. They will explore different acting methods while applying those techniques in their performances for the local community and various regional and national competitions. The year will culminate with an authentic experience in new play development, highlighted by working with professionals, as they write, direct, act, produce, and ultimately publish an original one-act play.

CONCERT DANCE

One semester, 0.5 credits.

In Concert Dance, students from beginner to advanced learn terminology, a brief dance history, choreography tools, and different dance techniques including ballet, jazz, modern, contemporary, tap, and hip hop. The semester culminates in a student-choreographed performance, where dancers showcase their growing technical skills and understanding of different choreographic styles. As students explore elements such as

space, time, weight, and effort, they begin to develop their own unique movement voice while drawing inspiration from influential choreographers throughout history and connecting their work to the world today.

Visual Arts

Studio Arts

Principia's Studio Art program engages the whole student, accommodating multiple learning styles, ways of seeing, and hands-on modes of expression. Through a variety of media and strategies, students are empowered to harness their creativity in dialogue with the making process, developing and expressing their authentic voices about ideas and issues that matter to them. We work from the premise that aesthetic experiences may uniquely enhance a student's quality of life while providing practical and transferable skills applicable beyond the studio, including visual literacy, design thinking, critical and creative thinking, project management, community-mindedness, and practices of collaboration, self-awareness, self-care, and well-being. Opportunities to experience art beyond the studio are encouraged and supported through visiting artist invitations, field trips to museums and galleries, and through the submission of student artworks to juried shows and publications.

2D: FOUNDATION DRAWING

One semester, 0.5 credits.

This foundation studio art course emphasizes working from observation, experimentation, and imagination to increase student comfort and capacity to draw purposefully and creatively. Students will learn to better recognize and use essential elements of art, including line, form, value, and space, through both traditional and experimental drawing approaches and materials. Instruction is supported by demonstrations, illustrated lectures, and examples from relevant historical and contemporary artists, all of which guide students through process work and unit projects.

FOUNDATION PAINTING

One semester, 0.5 credits.

This foundation studio art course focuses on painting through observation, experimentation, and imagination. Working with ink, watercolor, and acrylic, students develop technical control and expressive range while using color theory to guide color mixing. They explore essential elements and principles of art through both traditional and experimental approaches. Class discussions, demonstrations, group critiques and examples from diverse historical and contemporary artists support process work and unit projects, with an emphasis on building confidence through practice and creative exploration.

FOUNDATION SCULPTURE

One semester, 0.5 credits.

This foundation studio art course explores the creative possibilities of moving from "flat to round." Students begin with drawing as a tool for ideation, planning, and increasingly as a form of three-dimensional expression that considers the artwork's surrounding context. As they add depth and space to their working process, students experiment with additive, subtractive, and assemblage methods using a range of traditional, alternative, and repurposed materials. Inspired by diverse historical and contemporary artists, students build visual literacy and strengthen their design process through demonstrations, course activities, process work, and unit projects within a collaborative studio environment that supports personal expression.

INTERMEDIATE DRAWING OR INTERMEDIATE DRAWING (DC)

(Dual Credit)

One semester, 0.5 credits (may be taken two times). Prerequisite: Foundation Drawing. Upon completion of this semester-long course, qualified juniors and seniors have the option to also receive college credit through UMSL for an additional fee.

This intermediate studio art class with a focus on next level drawing, builds upon foundational skills and offers students structured, choice-based opportunities to expand technical ability and creative independence. Students engage in more complex drawing projects that further develop skills in value mapping, sighting, measurement and proportion, and linear and atmospheric perspective while working with a range of drawing media. Research, experimentation, and preliminary studies support a creative process that moves toward resolved final works. Through demonstrations, critiques, discussions, and artist studies, students strengthen visual literacy, refine their artistic voice, and make intentional decisions about technique and meaning through their drawings.

INTERMEDIATE PAINTING

One semester, 0.5 credits (may be taken for two semesters). Prerequisite: Foundation Painting. Upon completion of this semester-long course, qualified juniors and seniors have the option to also receive college credit through UMSL for an additional fee.

Intermediate Painting builds on skills and approaches from Foundation Painting and offers students structured, choice-based pathways to extend their technical abilities and creative independence. Students take on more complex challenges with ink, acrylic, or watercolor, with an introduction to monoprinting and oil painting, and with the chance to employ expressive, observational and mixed-media approaches to their painting practice. Research, exploration, and experimentation support the creative process that moves from preliminary studies to resolved final works. Demonstrations, critiques, discussions, and artist studies help students increase their visual literacy, refine their creative voice, and make intentional decisions about technique, materials, and meaning in authentic ways.

ADVANCED ART

One semester, 0.5 credits (can be repeated). Open to juniors and seniors with a minimum of 2 previous visual art courses or instructor approval. Encouraged for committed juniors interested in creating an art portfolio to apply to colleges.

Advanced Art is a course for students with prior art experience who are ready for increased independence, choice, and creative exploration. Projects emerge from hands-on experimentation, process-based exercises, technical skill development, visual research, and collaborative practices. Students deepen their

understanding of the creative process while developing a personal artistic voice with greater clarity and impact through both independent and group work. The course culminates in a student-curated exhibition that showcases works-in-progress alongside resolved final pieces.

ADVANCED ART: SUSTAINED INVESTIGATION (SI)(DC) (Dual Credit)

Two semesters, 1 credit. Open to juniors and seniors with a minimum of 2 previous visual art courses or instructor approval. Encouraged for committed juniors interested in creating an art portfolio to apply to colleges; Students may take this class for college credit (UMSL course title: Special Topics in Studio Art, ST ART 2074, $219, 3 credit hours).

Advanced Art: Sustained Investigation is designed for students with prior art experience who are prepared to develop a focused and cohesive body of work centered on a self-directed theme and chosen media. While the sustained investigation will be completed primarily in the second semester, students begin shaping themes and conceptual direction during the first semester through process-based explorations, technical skill-building, lateral thinking exercises, visual research, and collaborative engagement with peers and the instructor, informed by the study of diverse historical and contemporary artists. Students gain increased fluency with the creative process, guided by the studio habits of a strong creative practice, to support independent inquiry, meaningful risk-taking, and collaborative feedback. The course culminates in a student-curated exhibition that presents both the investigative process and resolved final works to the community.

FOUNDATION CERAMICS: HANDBUILDING

One semester, 0.5 credits.

This studio art course is open to all, regardless of previous level of experience. Students will explore foundational ceramic techniques including pinch, coil, and slab techniques, as well as surface design and glazing processes. They will learn how the various properties of clay in its 6 stages influence process, structure, and construction choices. Emphasis is placed on craft, creativity, and both functional and sculptural design. Personal expression and creative growth is developed throughout the semester through process, practice, and sketchbook work, as well as through the use of the elements and principles of art.

FOUNDATION CERAMICS: THE WHEEL

One semester, 0.5 credits.

This studio art course is open to all, regardless of previous level of experience, though it is recommended that students take Foundation Ceramics: Handbuilding prior to the wheel course if possible. This course introduces students to creating pottery on the wheel. Students will explore the fundamental wheel approaches, such as centering, pulling, shaping, and trimming to create cylinders and bowls. Projects will emphasize the design process, personal expression, and community awareness. Sketchbook work and the elements and principles of art will support creative growth throughout the course.

INTERMEDIATE CERAMICS

One semester, 0.5 credits (may be taken two times). Prerequisite: Foundation Ceramics: Handbuilding; also Foundation Ceramics: The Wheel, if further work with the wheel is desired.

Intermediate Ceramics offers students structured pathways to extend their skills from handbuilding and wheel courses to best align with their interests and artistic goals. In this choice-based studio environment, students engage in scaffolded independent research, exploring personal themes and developing greater creative agency. Technical growth continues through projects that may combine construction methods and explore more challenging forms, including lidded vessels, teapots, larger-scale work, and/or figurative approaches, alongside next-level surface design and glazing techniques. Assessment emphasizes progress through critique, self-evaluation, and instructor feedback, supporting both technical development and creative growth.

ADVANCED CERAMICS + ADVANCED CERAMICS (DC) (Dual Credit)

Advanced Ceramics is open to juniors and seniors who have completed Intermediate Ceramics or equivalent experience. This course offers two options: a one-semester Advanced Ceramics course for 0.5 credits, or a year-long Advanced Ceramics DC (Dual Credit) course with increased rigor for 1.0 credit, which also provides students the opportunity to earn college credit through the UMSL (UMSL Course title: Ceramics 1, ST ART 2270, $219, 3 credit hours).

Advanced Ceramics supports students in developing ambitious, self-directed work through structured pathways that build on prior handbuilding and/or wheel experience. Students design and manage individualized projects, exploring functional or sculptural directions through advanced, larger-scale, or multi-part construction methods and sophisticated surface design and firing approaches. They work to connect the visual qualities of their pieces with the themes they wish to express, supported by ongoing research, sketchbook practice, and critique. Assessment emphasizes progress, risk-taking, and craft, and for the DC course, on the development of a cohesive body of work, as well.

Visual Communications and Media Studies

While building skills with professional, cutting-edge technologies and programs, video production equipment, or editing tools, students in Principia's Visual Communications and Media Studies courses are challenged to develop their capacity as problem solvers, visual storytellers, creative designers, and producers. Design thinking, visual literacy, and communication skills are emphasized to support the creative process within a dynamic, collaborative, project-based studio environment with real-world applications.

FOUNDATION PHOTO I

One semester, 0.5 credits.

In this foundation photography course, students explore digital photography as both an art form and a communication tool. Through skill-building and creative assignments, students learn to use composition, lighting, editing, and visual storytelling to express ideas and capture meaningful moments. They develop technical proficiency using mirrorless cameras and editing tools such as Adobe Lightroom, Photoshop, and web-based platforms. Projects explore portraiture, landscape, documentary,

and conceptual photography while introducing photography vocabulary, workflow, and digital organization. Opportunities may include contributing images to school publications, exhibitions, and community storytelling initiatives. By the end of the course, students will have a developing digital portfolio and the foundational skills needed for Intermediate Photography and/or Yearbook production.

FOUNDATION VISCOM

One semester, 0.5 credits.

Foundation Visual Communications offers the student a comprehensive base for working with the elements and principles of design using digital tools. We will use Adobe software programs (Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator) to create original art and media. Students will understand design principles by finding solutions to assignments that parallel problems solved by professional designers. Projects ranging from posters, book covers, illustrations, advertisements, logos, and original art give students opportunities to address elements of color, composition, typography, and visual communication in a dynamic and collaborative setting.

INTERMEDIATE PHOTO

One semester, 0.5 credits. Prerequisite: Foundation Photo or teacher approval.

This course builds upon foundational photography skills and challenges students to develop a stronger artistic voice and technical control. Students refine their understanding of composition, lighting, editing, and narrative while exploring photography across artistic, journalistic, and commercial contexts. Through more advanced shooting assignments, critiques, and independent projects, students experiment with studio lighting, storytelling, portraiture, and conceptual imagery. Students may contribute to school publications, exhibitions, or collaborative media projects while learning professional workflow and portfolio development practices. By the end of the course, students will produce a refined portfolio and be prepared for Advanced Photography, Advanced Visual Communications, or Yearbook leadership roles.

INTERMEDIATE VISCOM

One semester, 0.5 credits. Prerequisite: Foundation VisCom or teacher approval.

Intermediate Visual Communications expands students' skills in design thinking, digital media production, and visual storytelling. Students apply the elements and principles of design to more complex projects using Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign. Projects mirror professional design challenges and may include branding, layout design, illustration, advertising, and digital media campaigns. Students work both independently and collaboratively to develop creative solutions for authentic audiences within the school community. Emphasis is placed on creating, presenting, and conceptual thinking. Students completing this course are prepared for Advanced Visual Communications, Advanced Photography, or Yearbook leadership roles.

YEARBOOK/PRINTING AND PUBLISHING

One semester, 0.5 credits. Prerequisite: Foundation Photography, Foundation VisCom, Journalism.

This production-based course is responsible for the creation and publication of the Upper School yearbook. Students collaborate to design and produce a cohesive publication that documents the academic year, student life, athletics, arts, and community experiences. They develop skills in layout design, photography, editing, interviewing, caption writing, and publication management using Varsity E-Design and related tools. Emphasis is placed on collaboration, deadlines, storytelling, and visual consistency. Students work as a professional publication team, contributing to theme development, page design, photo coverage, and final production. The course fosters leadership, responsibility, and creative direction as students produce a lasting record of the school year, and then using their new vocabulary, design, and collaboration skills, students will work with InDesign to produce a self-published book of their own.

ADVANCED PHOTO

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisite: two semesters of Photography or teacher approval.

Advanced Photography is a portfolio-driven course for students seeking to deepen their artistic voice and technical mastery. Students pursue independent and collaborative projects while exploring advanced techniques in lighting, editing, conceptual photography, and visual storytelling. This course emphasizes professional workflow, critique, exhibition preparation, and real-world application. Students may contribute to publications, exhibitions, marketing initiatives, and community storytelling projects. Individualized instruction supports students in building a cohesive, high-quality portfolio suitable for college admission, internships, or professional exploration. Upon approval from the instructor, the course may be repeated for credit with continued portfolio development and leadership in visual media production.

ADVANCED VISCOM

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisites: two semesters of Photography I, Yearbook/Printing and Publishing, or VisCom or teacher approval.

This course advances upper class students into the realm of professional designers working with Adobe programs (Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator). Class work facilitates a deeper understanding of visual communications through the completion of independent and group projects with real-world audiences to increase familiarity with the business side of art. The range of projects include brand development, print publication management and editing, marketing/advertisements, photography, and original art providing students with opportunities to synthesize and apply their visual communication knowledge in a student-driven, experiential setting.

MEDIA, MARKETING, AND INFLUENCE

One semester, 0.5 credits.

This course explores how marketing, media, and influence shape the way ideas, products, and people compete for attention in a rapidly changing world. Using future design thinking, students will imagine and develop original products, services, or markets that could exist in the years ahead. Along the way, students will examine topics such as the attention economy, late capitalism, personal branding, and the impact of digital legacy on identity and reputation. Students will learn how individuals and

organizations persuade audiences by crafting messages across social media, video, and other communication platforms. The course culminates in the creation of a complete marketing campaign that promotes a future-focused concept while analyzing its cultural, economic, and ethical impact.

FOUNDATION MEDIA STUDIES

One semester, 0.5 credits.

Visual media shapes nearly every part of modern life. In this course, students learn how to compose cinematic imagery and how to tell powerful visual stories. Students will be trained in using state-of-the-art cameras, Final Cut Pro editing software, and will have access to high-quality audio equipment and studio spaces. This one-semester course provides a strong foundation in video production and prepares students for Intermediate & Advanced Media Studies.

INTERMEDIATE MEDIA STUDIES

One semester, 0.5 credits. Prerequisite: Foundation Media Studies or instructor approval.

In a world driven by images and information, strong visual literacy skills are essential for understanding, analyzing, and creating media. This course is designed for students interested in producing P.N.N. (Panther News Nation), Principia's student news broadcast. Students refine their media production skills while focusing on objective reporting and responsible journalism. They produce news packages and anchor a monthly broadcast, strengthening their visual literacy, journalistic skills, and public speaking ability. This course is taught alongside the Advanced Media course, creating an environment where experienced students mentor and guide newer producers.

ADVANCED MEDIA STUDIES

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisite: Intermediate Media Studies and/or instructor approval.

With guidance and support, advanced students use previously learned skills to develop projects in a direction of their choice. This includes short films or documentaries, multimedia projects, music videos, or vlogs. Skills explored include interviewing, script editing, acting and performance, cinematography, lighting, color grading and sound design. Students will also have the opportunity to work as Lead Producer for an episode of P.N.N.; helping to guide Intermediate level students and shape packages as they want, making this an ambitious and high reward challenge overall.

World Languages

Our department offers Mandarin Chinese and Spanish classes from beginning to advanced levels. Students develop proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing at all levels. Emphasis is also placed on an appreciation of the cultures, peoples, and geography of the areas studied.

Students must successfully complete two consecutive years of the same world language and are advised to begin this study as early as possible, preferably during freshman year. Students have the option to continue studying their language of choice through to the advanced level (with instructor approval), to learn another language, or to study two languages concurrently. Students showing interest and ability are strongly encouraged to continue with three or more years of study in the same language. The department offers optional language immersion trips to Spanish-speaking and Chinese-speaking countries for advanced students.

Mandarin Chinese

MANDARIN CHINESE I

Two semesters, 1 credit.

This introductory course is designed to encourage a love for the Chinese language through an integrated approach to teaching all four language skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Communicative proficiency is developed through comprehensible input strategies such as interactive storytelling, movie talks, songs, and leveled reading. Through projects, guest speakers, and exposure to authentic cultural materials, students will gain an awareness of China's unique cultural characteristics and social etiquette.

MANDARIN CHINESE II

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisite: Mandarin Chinese I or equivalent.

This novice-mid level course is for students who can understand basic Chinese and produce simple sentences. The focus is on attaining oral and written proficiency to function in daily communication situations; developing reading and writing skills for functional literacy; and learning foundational grammar for complex sentences and short-paragraph buildup. Comprehensible input strategies ensure that high-frequency words are acquired for presentation with both fluency and accuracy.

MANDARIN CHINESE III

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisite: Mandarin Chinese II or equivalent.

This novice-high to intermediate-low level course is for students who can understand Chinese and use basic words and phrases to provide information about familiar tasks, topics, and activities. The course focuses on attaining oral and written proficiency to function in daily communication situations; developing reading and writing skills for functional literacy; and learning foundational grammar for complex sentences and long-paragraph buildup. Comprehensible input strategies ensure that the highest-frequency words are acquired for presentation with both fluency and accuracy.

MANDARIN CHINESE IV (DC)

(Dual Credit)

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisite: Mandarin Chinese III or equivalent. Additional fees apply for the college credit through Saint Louis University and the Chinese immersion trip (offered every other year) (SLU course: Elementary Chinese I: Language and Culture, CHIN 1010, $275, 3 credit hours).

This intermediate to intermediate-high level course is for students who can understand and communicate about daily topics and have some reading and writing experience in Chinese. The course enhances abilities in reading narrative and descriptive texts,

writing narrative and descriptive texts of long paragraphs with some discourse connectors, conversing about personal topics in limited situations, and gaining analytical skills to understand the structure of Chinese language.

Spanish

SPANISH I

Two semesters, 1 credit.

In Spanish I, students begin to develop the four basic skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. They learn to express ideas in the present, simple future, and basic past tenses through a variety of vocabulary themes and grammar topics relevant to the students' lives. They work in a collaborative environment to create and present materials on a variety of topics as well as to learn how to speak with correct pronunciation and intonation. The students explore cultural practices, traditions, and themes in order to better understand Hispanic cultures and to develop a broader understanding of their role as global citizens.

SPANISH II

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisite: Spanish I or equivalent.

Spanish II is a novice-mid level course designed to continue developing the four basic language skills. Students express ideas in the present, past, and future using a variety of vocabulary themes and grammatical structures relevant to their lives. They build on their foundational knowledge in order to express themselves more thoroughly, both orally and in writing. Students work in a collaborative environment to create and present materials on a variety of topics, as well as to learn to speak with correct pronunciation, intonation, and increased fluency. They explore Hispanic cultures and develop a broader understanding of their role as global citizens. Students demonstrate a deeper understanding of Hispanic cultures by making comparisons and connections to cultural themes, traditions, and practices other than their own.

SPANISH III

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisite: Spanish II or equivalent.

An intermediate-low level course, Spanish III promotes communication through speaking and writing, providing opportunities to initiate and sustain extended conversations, exchange detailed information in oral and written form, and provide information with greater detail. There is an emphasis on the continued development of reading and listening comprehension skills throughout this course. Students create and present material on a variety of topics, as well as learn to speak with correct pronunciation and intonation. Additionally, students continue to develop their understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures; their significant events; and the various components that shape cultural identity throughout the world.

SPANISH IV (DC)

(Dual Credit)

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisite: Spanish III or equivalent. College credit is received from UMSL. Additional fees apply for UMSL credit and the Spanish immersion trip (UMSL Course: Fall—Spanish Language and Culture I, SPANISH 1001, 5 credit hours. Spring—Spanish Language and Culture II, SPANISH 1002, 5 credit hours. $730 for both courses).

This college-level, intermediate-mid course offers a context for the continued development of the four language skills, with increased emphasis on understanding Spanish-speaking cultures. The skill sets that apply to the exchange of written and oral information are expanded through emphasis on speaking and listening strategies that promote authentic and meaningful communication. Through short films, literature, articles, and other authentic texts, students explain the factors that influence the practices, products, and perspectives of Spanish-speaking cultures, reflect on cultural beliefs and practices of the target cultures, and compare them to their own.

SPANISH V (DC)

(Dual Credit)

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisite: Spanish IV or equivalent. College credit is received from UMSL. Additional fees apply for UMSL credit and Spain trip (UMSL Course: Spring—Spanish Language and Culture III, SPANISH 2101, $219, 3 credit hours).

This intermediate-high level course provides opportunities for students to interact and exchange information in culturally and socially authentic and/or simulated situations to demonstrate a more complete integration of language skills with a greater understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures. This course emphasizes the use of more varied and advanced vocabulary along with complex language structures (both oral and written) as well as the opportunity to produce and present creative material using the language. Through short films, Hispanic literature, and other authentic texts, students continue to develop a deeper understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures by comparing and contrasting elements that shape cultural identity in the target culture and the student's own culture. Students also produce and present a TED Talk at the end of the Academic Year as a culmination of their Spanish studies.

SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE (AP)

(Advanced Placement)

Two semesters, 1 credit. Prerequisite: Spanish IV or equivalent, or a native speaker.

This course develops advanced proficiency in Spanish through the exploration of authentic resources such as literature, essays, podcasts, news articles, and films. Students strengthen their interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational communication skills while engaging with global themes such as identity, contemporary life, or global challenges. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, making cultural comparisons, and refining both written and spoken expression in academic and real-world contexts. While open to students who have successfully completed Spanish IV, this course is designed primarily for heritage learners, who have the opportunity to explore and share their cultural heritage, celebrate their identity, and expand their language skills. In addition, students prepare for the AP Spanish Language and Culture Exam, which can earn them college credit and advanced placement, providing a strong foundation for future academic and professional pursuits.

Athletics

The Upper School athletics/activities program is designed to enable students to engage in a range of interests while ensuring that physical activity is a normal and regular part of School life, in line with our whole person approach to education.

Each season of athletics/activities earns 0.5 credits, with a total of 1 credit per year. A total of 4 credits of athletics/activities are required to graduate (8 of 12 fall, winter, or spring seasons). Students must (regardless of credits earned) participate in two of the three seasons of athletics/activities for freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior years. Students must be part of a Principia team (interscholastic sport, dance, drumline, cheer, or production) one season per school year.

The following activities receive 0.5 credits per season:

- Team sports
- Winter and Spring conditioning
- PE class
- Robotics
- Drumline
- Winter Production

INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

For boys—football, cross country, soccer, basketball, baseball, tennis, track, and wrestling.

For girls—cross country, tennis, volleyball, field hockey, lacrosse, basketball, soccer, track, swimming, and wrestling.

Note: Uniforms and equipment are provided, except for shoes, gloves, rackets, swimsuits, and shin guards.

ELIGIBILITY FOR SPORTS PARTICIPATION

Principia is a member of MSHSAA, the Missouri State High School Activities Association. MSHSAA rules govern eligibility for sports (and music) participation for Upper School/high school students and limit eligibility when students transfer between schools, are dismissed from school, and/or do not meet their own school's academic or citizenship standards. If a student transfers to or from another school, it's very important to check with Principia and the other school before deciding sports and music participation at the new school. These decisions will impact eligibility at Principia, should a student re-enroll here.

MSHSAA also requires that all athletes have on file with their school completed MSHSAA forms, including the concussion section and physical exam, prior to participation in any practices or games.

Physical Education

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

One sports season, 0.5 credits (may not be offered every semester). The course is offered both semesters, fall and spring.

In Physical Education, students are empowered with the knowledge to plan and implement personal fitness programs. Students will be competent in numerous lifetime activities to ensure the possibility of self-expression through physical activity. Units of focus will be:

- **Movement Patterns**—Uses basic movement principles to analyze performance and selected skills. Uses basic anatomical knowledge to correct movement patterns and improve physical performance.
- **Fitness**—Identify necessary fitness as a whole and what it includes. Enable students to program basic workout routines and everyday healthy-lifestyle habits. Apply basic knowledge of personal fitness to create a workout routine, nutrition plan, and sleep self-care plan.
- **Personal Health**—Identify essential healthy lifestyle habits that can be incorporated into their daily lives. Apply knowledge of healthy nutrition, including gaining a general understanding of the diets, eating patterns, and worldwide eating habits. We will also cover topics such as sleep and mindfulness.

FITNESS AND NUTRITION

One semester, 0.5 academic elective credits (may not be offered every semester).

In this course students will learn the principles of basic nutrition, kinesiology, anatomy, and physiology as they relate to weight training and personal fitness with emphasis on aerobic exercise, flexibility, and resistance training as the primary modules to achieve fitness.

STRENGTH AND FLEXIBILITY

The course is offered both semesters, fall and spring, 0.5 credits.

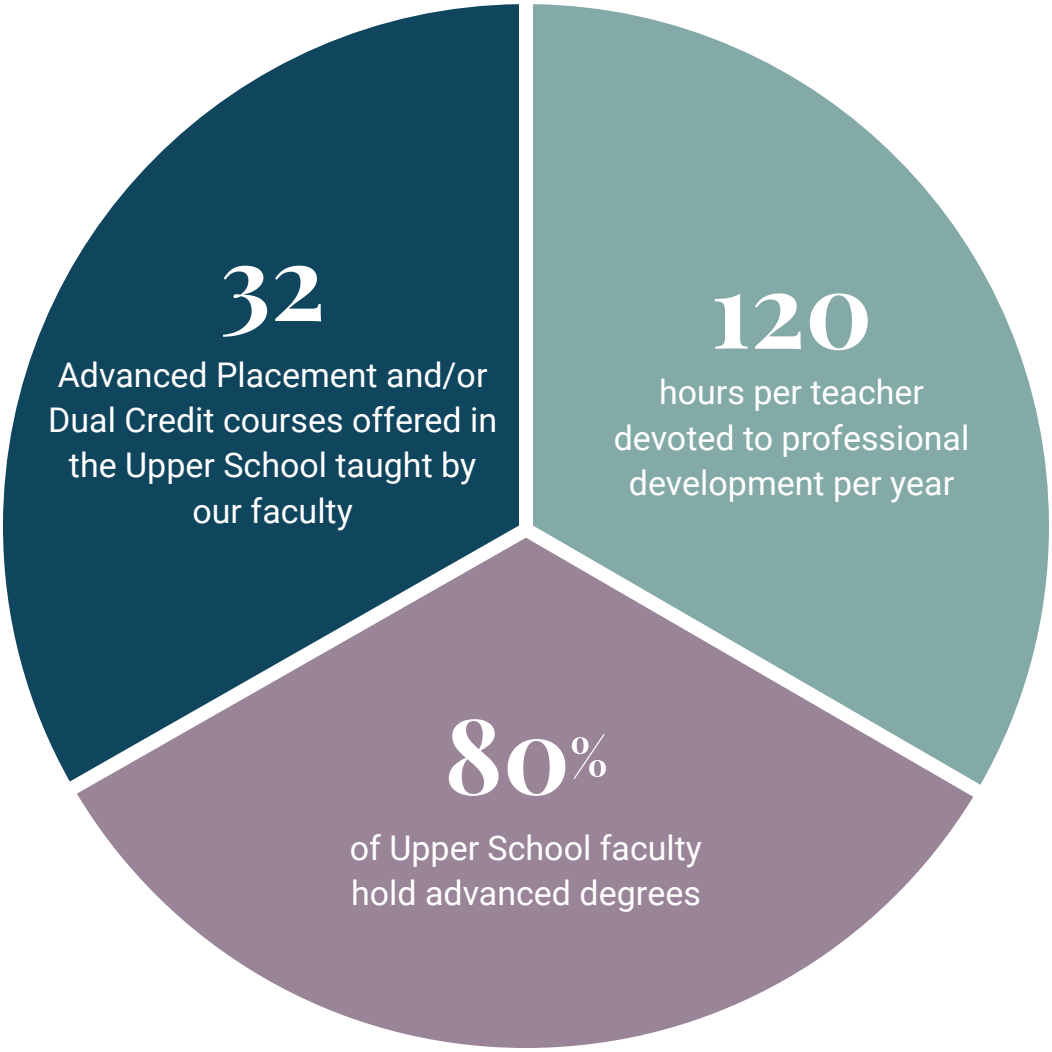
This course is designed to enhance students' physical and mental well-being through a blend of Yoga, Pilates, and strength training. This course is inclusive and emphasizes lifelong fitness habits, body awareness, and holistic nutrition principles making it ideal for students of all fitness levels and abilities. This course goes beyond the physical and seeks to create a spiritually grounded yoga experience where mindfulness, gratitude, and movement enhance spiritual consciousness.

PE: SPEED AND POWER

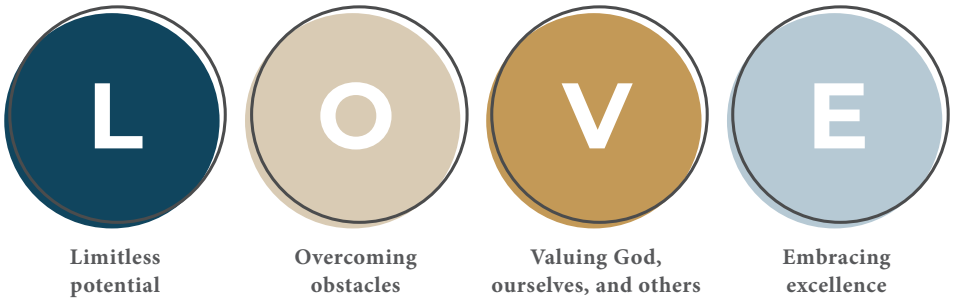
The course is offered both semesters, fall and spring, 0.5 credits. May be taken multiple times.

This is a performance-based course that builds a foundation in athletic development through safe and effective training. Students will focus on four key areas: mobility (improving movement quality and reducing injury risk), strength (building muscle and stability), power (developing explosiveness through Olympic lifts, jumps, and medicine ball training), and speed (focusing on sprint mechanics and acceleration). By integrating these elements, students will learn how to train with purpose, track progress, and apply fitness principles that support both athletic performance and lifelong health.

Principia Faculty Fast Facts



LEAD WITH



LOVE is our core value as it underpins our foundational Christian Science beliefs and our educational approach. Enveloped in a loving and supportive environment, we give students space and guidance, allowing their full potential to evolve and shine. Students begin to recognize their strengths, push beyond their comfort zone, and discover their place in the world.

By developing the whole person—spiritually, intellectually, physically, morally, and socially—students are equipped to conquer limitations and bring innovative perspectives to their experiences in college and beyond.



"Principia is dedicated to educating its students to think — and to think critically, clearly, rigorously, fearlessly, independently, compassionately, and unselfishly."

—*Education at The Principia*, Policy 6

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Lead with LOVE