CARDINAL
O'HARA
HIGH SCHOOL

2026-2027

Introduction

Course selection is a responsibility that requires time, patience, understanding, and contemplation. Involve your parents/guardians, and guidance counselor in your decision-making process. Current and previous teachers are good sources of advice since they have witnessed the scholastic performance of the student first hand. Teachers of courses being considered know the academic demands of these courses and the level of performance expected of their students.

After you have had time to review the course offerings and seek the necessary counseling, you will be asked to complete your course selection on Power School with a counselor. Choose your courses for the next year on PowerSchool, print the selection sheet and then both the student and a parent/guardian sign the paper. This course selection sheet must be returned to the Academic Affairs Office by the required date mentioned on Power School and through announcements.

For some courses, certain requirements/prerequisites have been stated. These were agreed upon by the department involved and must be met before you apply for the course. Approval from the Department Chairperson is required for any exception to these prerequisites.

Once your course selection has been made, it will be difficult to alter. You will be expected to complete each course during the upcoming year. Course changes may only be made with an exceptionally valid reason, **no course may be dropped after the first full week of school**, and all courses must be passed to move to the next grade level. Please be aware that teachers of courses may change so be sure to select courses based on academic interests, graduation needs and future aspirations, not on teachers. Read this catalog carefully and make the best of your education and your future at Cardinal O'Hara High School.

For those of you who are planning on playing sports in Division I & II colleges, you need to check with the Guidance Office to make sure your choices are NCAA approved.

Included in this Academic Catalog are the courses we expect to offer for the 2026-2027 school year. Staffing changes or insufficient enrollment may force the cancellation of some courses.

CURRICULUM POLICY

Curriculum policy at Cardinal O'Hara High School is developed in the context of the school's philosophy and objectives, regulations of the Department of Education of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and directives of the Secondary School System of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Academic requirements can be summarized as follows:

Freshmen	required to earn at least **7** credits, including both major and minor courses.
Sophomores	required to earn at least **7** credits, including both major and minor courses.
Juniors	required to earn at least **6** credits, but encouraged to take **7** credits.
Seniors	required to earn at least **6** credits, but encouraged to take **7** credits.

A minimum of 26 credits is required for graduation.

Theology	four credits
English	four credits
Mathematics*	three credits (inc. Algebra 2 & Geometry)
Science*	three credits (inc. Biology & Chemistry)
Social Studies	three credits (World, Gov, & US)
World Language	two credits of the same language
P.E./Health*	one credit
Electives*	four and a half credits
STREAM	one half credit
Financial Literacy*	one half credit
Students must take ONE of the following:	one credit

- A fourth year of Math
- A fourth year of Science
- A third consecutive year of a World Language

***** It may be necessary to choose 5 electives in order to attain 26 credits required for graduation.

***** Physical Education/Health must be fulfilled before graduation.

PLACEMENT OF FRESHMEN

At the time of registration, each incoming freshman has an opportunity to indicate a desire to enroll in Art Class, Vocal Music Class or in Band Class, and to indicate any foreign language preference. Theology, English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, World Languages, and STREAM (*Related Arts and Informational Technology*) are all required courses for freshmen. If a freshman is in the full-time Art (*applies to 9th grade students who received an Art Scholarship from O'Hara*), Vocal Music, or Band program, the STREAM requirement is waived. 9th grade students who received a Performance Scholarship from O'Hara are given preference when rostered for Vocal Music Class, Art Class or Band Class.

The basis for our tracking begins with the ***entrance test, seventh grade final marks***, the ***eighth grade semester marks***, and the local percentile results of the ***Terra Nova*** test administered in the spring to all seventh-graders in our parish schools. Attendance and discipline records, IEP/GIEP/504 documentation, and elementary teacher feedback regarding student ability and effort, are also seriously considered. Each academic department at O'Hara weighs these marks and scores to develop an index intended to determine the appropriate academic level for the student in that department.

For example, the English Department emphasizes the reading mark and level, and the English and spelling marks from seventh and eighth grades, as well as the **Terra Nova** scores showing reading vocabulary and comprehension, language mechanics and expression, spelling and study skills. The mathematics department puts greater emphasis on the school mathematics marks and the **Terra Nova** scores showing math computation, concepts and applications. Thus a student's English index might differ significantly from math index, so the tracks for those two subjects could be different.

COURSE SELECTION FOR UPPER CLASS STUDENTS

Freshmen, sophomores and juniors begin the course selection process for the following year in the late winter. The course selection availabilities are the required courses and electives recommended by the school in light of the student's academic performance to date. For example, the English course listed will be in the track recommended by the teacher, and the electives listed will be based on the courses already taken by the student. The actual course selection will take place with a counselor/advisor in the Counseling Center. The counselor will input the selections online using PowerSchool. When the online course selection is complete, the counselor will print the course selection page for the student. The student and parent will complete the registration process **by signing** the completed online registration and **returning** it to the Academic Affairs Office by the specified date of March 14. **Be sure to number the electives and alternate electives in order of preference on the printed form.** Students will be rostered for classes in the order in which the signed forms are submitted.

Parents should make sure that they are involved in this process. Course selection meetings with the counselors will begin on Tuesday, February 17. The deadline for course registration will be **March 6**. Students who register after the deadline often lose opportunities to take courses, since in rostering for courses, priority is given to those who registered on time and whose tuition is up-to-date. All registration forms will be dated upon their receipt after financial obligations are confirmed to be satisfied.

All students will select seven (7) courses for the coming school year and two to four (2-4) alternates in case of conflict. Students should select the same or lower level science class as their math class. Students who choose CP Algebra II or CP Geometry but Honors Biology or Honors Chemistry would be moved to CP Biology or CP Chemistry instead. Some classes require a placement test or application. Please be sure to read the course descriptions for information regarding testing/application requirements.

Theology Department

"In the beginning . . . darkness covered the abyss" Genesis 1:1-2

"In the beginning was the Word . . . The light shines on in darkness" John 1:1, "Happy the man who heeds the prophetic message of this book" Revelation 22:7

PHILOSOPHY OF THE THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The constant striving of our shared endeavor as a department is "to inspire students with the spirit of Christ"; to nurture the "gifts and talents of each student" entrusted into our care; and to direct all students, with the ready assistance of divine grace and the promptings of the guiding Holy Spirit, towards active involvement in transforming the world into God's Kingdom.

As a faculty of committed Roman Catholics, we invite our students to join us in proclaiming our identity as a community of baptized Christians, who have been redeemed by Christ Jesus, and charged throughout life to worship and to serve God.

We seek, above all, to motivate our students to respond positively and dynamically to the manifold revelations of God throughout history; we seek to practice, together with our students, the spirituality of the Cross and Resurrection, as the basis of our Christian hope and human striving unto Eternity; we identify ourselves openly as disciples of Jesus Christ, who both invites and moves us to make gospel values the foundation for our ideals, and the source of our continual joy on earth, and the motivations for our every action.

With the hope of God's grace, we shall share together in our chosen apostolate, and we shall strengthen one another in our common witness to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

OBJECTIVES FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The above statement of our philosophy and goals leads to certain concrete objectives. The purpose of Religious Education at Cardinal O'Hara High School is the common endeavor of its teachers:

- to form our students after the "Way" of Jesus Christ.
- to teach courses generated within the framework of the Revised Secondary Curriculum Guidelines of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.
- to educate students in the Roman Catholic faith with the hope that they become persons of prayer and sacramental observance, loving their Church, knowing its history, and welcoming the good news in its Book, the Bible, the written Word of God's self-revelation.
- to help students to discover their own unique and special dignity as Christian persons, in relation to themselves, to others, and to God.
- to draw students to specifically Christian morality, to a system of values which regulate personal conduct, and by which human behavior may be evaluated in terms of right and wrong, in accord with informed conscience.
- to develop the idea of Christian vocation: its expression in marriage, priesthood, religious life, and the single state.
- to show students how religious faith, and how beliefs grounded in convictions, arising from the truths of Revelation, can be integrated into their lives and bring about fulfillment, both in their search for meaning in life and for true, even eventual eternal, happiness.

OH9111	**Theology** I	1.00 cr.	Honors	Gr. 9	2 semesters
OH9121	**Theology** I	1.00 cr.	College Prep	Gr. 9	2 semesters

Theology I consists of Introduction to the Catholic Faith and The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture

This course helps students understand the Sacred Scriptures. The Bible is the word of God where they will encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. Students learn about the Bible, its development and content, and how God is its author. Students focus on the Old Testament and finish with the Gospels, where they grow to know and love Jesus Christ more personally.

Who Is Jesus Christ?

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. In this course students will understand that Jesus Christ is the ultimate Revelation to us from God. In learning about who he is, the students will also learn who he calls them to be.

OH9161	**CSP Theology I: Old Testament**	1.00 cr.	Honors	Gr. 10	2 semesters

See description under Chesterton Scholars Program

OH9211	**Theology II**	1.00 cr.	Honors	Gr. 10	2 semesters
OH9221	**Theology II**	1.00 cr.	College Prep	Gr. 10	2 semesters

Theology II consists of The Mission of Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the Church.

The Mission of Jesus Christ (The Paschal Mystery)

This course helps students understand all that God has done for humanity through his Son, Jesus Christ. God has planned, from all eternity, for human beings to share everlasting happiness with him. This is accomplished only through redemption in Christ. Students inquire about the meaning of being a disciple of Christ.

Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the Church

This course helps students understand that they encounter the living Jesus Christ in and through the Church. The Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles. It is sustained by him through the Holy Spirit. The Church is the living Body of Christ. Students explore the Church as a mystery which has both human and divine elements.

OH9261	**CSP Theology II: New Testament**	1.00 cr.	Honors	Gr. 10	2 semesters

See description under Chesterton Scholars Program

Junior Offerings

OH9311	**Theology III**	1.00 cr.	Honors	Gr. 11	2 semesters
OH9321	**Theology III**	1.00 cr.	College Prep	Gr. 11	2 semesters

Theology III consists of Sacraments as Privileged Encounters with Jesus Christ and Life in Jesus Christ as described below.

Sacraments as Privileged Encounters with Jesus Christ

This course helps students understand that they can meet Christ today in and through the sacraments. Students examine each sacrament in detail so as to learn how they may encounter Christ throughout life.

Life in Jesus Christ

This course helps students understand the moral life. Only in Christ can human beings discover the fullness of life. Disciples of Christ are guided by moral concepts and precepts of Christ and his Church. Students probe these moral teachings and reflect upon their implications.

OH9361 **CSP Theology III: Doctrine & Sacraments** 1.00 cr. Track 5 Gr. 11 2 semesters
See description under Chesterton Scholars Program

OH9441 **Faith in Action I** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 11/12 2 semesters
This Faith in Action I course (formerly titled Discipleship) is for students who want to do more for Christ, who want to sustain their prayer and sacramental lives, and who want to become the Christ-like leaders our society needs. In addition to the Honors Theology III curriculum, students will learn the moral concepts and precepts that govern discipleship while investigating and engaging in practical ministry experiences at school and in the larger church. Specifically, students in this course will be responsible for planning and executing retreats for the school and wider community, prayer services, Masses, service initiatives, and other special events throughout the school year.

Faith in Action I also incorporates the CEDE Curriculum from Catholic University of America's Busch School of Business. The CEDE Curriculum provides a framework for vocational discernment and building a culture of vocation among the students as they discover their unique and unrepeatable calling from God for their lives. There is an opportunity for students who complete the 12 CEDE modules and their deliverables from the CEDE Curriculum in the Faith in Action I and II courses to obtain 3 credits from Catholic University of America for their work.
Prerequisite: 85 in Theology II & application via Google Form with essay

Senior Offerings

Seniors have the option to choose from the following courses for Senior Year Theology.

OH9411 **Theology IV** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 12 2 semesters
OH9421 **Theology IV** 1.00 cr. College Prep Gr. 12 2 semesters
Living as a Disciple of Jesus Christ in Society: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the Church's social teaching. In this course, students are to learn how Christ's concern for others, especially the poor and needy, is present today in the Church's social teaching and mission.

Responding to the Call of Jesus Christ: The purpose of this course is to help students to understand the vocations of life: how Christ calls us to live. In this course, students should learn how all vocations are similar and how they differ. The course should be structured around married life, single life, priestly life, and consecrated life. Students should learn what it means to live life for the benefit of others and the value in considering a vocation in service to the Christian community.

OH9512 **Medical Ethics/Vocations** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 12 2 semesters
Medical Ethics: One semester of the course is designed to introduce students to Medical Ethics from the point of view of Catholic Morality. Students will review Catholic Moral Principles and apply them to various issues in medical ethics. Challenges related to life, death and moral decision-making are discussed. Since many of these issues are still evolving, students will apply Catholic Moral principles to bioethics as presented in current events.

Responding to the Call of Jesus Christ: The purpose of this course is to help students to understand the vocations of life: how Christ calls us to live. In this course, students should learn how all vocations are similar and how they differ. The course should be structured around married life, single life, priestly life, and consecrated life. Students should learn what it means to live life for the benefit of others and the value in considering a vocation in service to the Christian community.
Prerequisite: 85 in Theology III & application via Google Form with essay; Course space is limited. *Medical Careers students are encouraged to apply and will be priority rostered in this course.*

OH9441 **Faith in Action II** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 12 2 semesters
This Faith in Action II course (formerly titled Peer Ministry) is for students who want to do more for Christ, who want to sustain their prayer and sacramental lives, and who want to become the Christ-like leaders our society needs. In addition to the Honors Theology IV curriculum, students will learn the moral concepts and precepts that govern discipleship while investigating and engaging in practical ministry experiences at school and in the larger church. Specifically, students in this course will be responsible for planning and executing retreats for the school and wider community, prayer services, Masses, service initiatives, and other special events throughout the school year.

Faith in Action II also incorporates the CEDE Curriculum from Catholic University of America's Busch School of Business. The CEDE Curriculum provides a framework for vocational discernment and building a culture of vocation among the students as they discover their unique and unrepeatable calling from God for their lives. There is an opportunity for students who complete the 12 CEDE modules and their deliverables from the CEDE Curriculum in the Faith in Action I and II courses to obtain 3 credits from Catholic University of America for their work.
Prerequisite: 85 in Theology III

OH9461 **CSP Theology IV: Morality & Prayer** 1.00 cr. Track 5 Gr. 12 2 semesters
See description under Chesterton Scholars Program

Electives

OH9611 **Religion, Sports and Spirituality** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 12 2 semesters

This course will introduce the student to the unique relationship between religion, sports, and spirituality. Topics will focus on, but will not be limited to, the history of religion and sports, sports as a religion, athletes as role models, the role of symbolism and ritual, and how spirituality can have a positive effect on an athlete. We will also place an emphasis on how the Salesian Seven and Salesian Spirituality can influence an athlete both on the playing field and in their personal life, learning how to succeed in every aspect of life. This course will focus on being a teammate, and the importance of helping others, whether on the court or in life. Students will be expected to understand the historical and important relationship between sports and religion, and how to apply the necessary tools to apply their beliefs to both the athletic fields and life in order to succeed. **This course does not replace Theology IV.**
Prerequisite: 85 in Theology III & application via Google Form with essay

OH9471 **Philosophy I: Introduction to Philosophy & The Ancient World** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 11 2 semesters
Philosophy I builds upon the literature introduced during grades 9 and 10 and invites students to join the millennia long tradition in the search for truth. In Semester 1, students discover how the pre-Socratic philosophers were the first to look at the world in a philosophical way—searching for the ultimate truth or cause of things. This search was continued by the greatest of the Greek philosophers – Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Through an introduction and exploration of these philosophers, students begin to formulate a response to the fundamental questions of human life, and beyond. In Semester 2, students delve more deeply into Plato and Aristotle, who both set the stage for not only Roman and Medieval culture, but all of Western civilization. They end the year with an overview of logic and rhetoric, and apply those skills to their writing. This course lays the foundation for students to be not only critical thinkers, but lovers of wisdom and searchers for Truth. CSP students are encouraged to take this course if possible.

English Department

To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark. --Victor Hugo
Let me live, love and say it well in good sentences. --Sylvia Plath

The goal of the English Department is to light a fire in the minds of our students and teach them how to express what is inside well. We recognize the changing face of communication and strive to embrace the new, while never abandoning the classic. As language is at the core of all education, the study of how to decode it, utilize it and present it is fundamental to success in learning. To this end, the Department is committed to providing our students with the opportunity to read various types of text, from literary to informational, to write in an array of formats and to demonstrate a command of the language through presentations incorporating speaking, inquiry, and reflection

Sequence of Literary Study:

- **Grade 9** Critical Reading, Writing, and Speaking supported through selections in Genre Literature and informational text
- **Grade 10** Critical Reading, Writing, and Speaking supported through various selections in World and British Literature and informational text
- **Grade 11** Critical Reading, Writing, and Speaking supported through various selections in American Literature and informational text
- **Grade 12** Critical Reading, Writing, and Speaking supported through selections in British and contemporary American Literature and informational text.

NORMAL SEQUENCE OF ENGLISH COURSES

	9th Grade	**10th Grade**	**11th Grade**	**12th Grade**
Advanced Placement	N/A	N/A	AP Language	AP Literature
Honors	English 1	English 2	English 3	English 4
College Prep	English 1	English 2	English 3	English 4
Academic	English 1	CP English 2	CP English 3	CP English 4
Chesterton Scholars	Ancient Lit	Medieval Lit	Renaissance Lit	Modern Lit

OH1111 **English Language Arts I** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 9 2 semesters
OH1121 **English Language Arts I** 1.00 cr. College Prep Gr. 9 2 semesters
OH1131 **English Language Arts I** 1.00 cr. Academic Gr. 9 2 semesters
English Language Arts I is a required course for all ninth grade students. Based on the Common Core Standards, this course provides students with the skills and knowledge to become critical readers and writers by analyzing key ideas and details, craft and structure, and the integration of knowledge and ideas in literature and informational text. This course is based in genre studies.

Students will develop their writing skills by examining text types and purposes and by writing arguments, explanatory/informational texts, and narratives. Using the full writing process, students will learn how to produce and distribute quality writing using technology's capacity to produce, publish, and share writing products. Students will conduct short research projects and will participate in a range of collaborative discussions integrating multiple sources of information. This course will

advance students' knowledge of the conventions of standard English and will strengthen vocabulary acquisition and use. Particular attention is paid to preparation for the PSAT verbal and writing sections.
Pacing of instruction, selections of appropriate pieces and assessment varies according to track placement. NCAA approved course.

OH1171 **CSP Literature – Ancient** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 9 2 semesters
See description under Chesterton Scholars Program. **NCAA approved course.**

OH1211 **English Language Arts II** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 10 2 semesters
OH1221 **English Language Arts II** 1.00 cr. College Prep Gr. 10 2 semesters
English Language Arts II is a required course for all tenth grade students. Based on the Common Core Standards, this course provides students with the skills and knowledge to become advanced critical readers and writers by analyzing multiple themes, interpretations, and details, craft and structure, and the integration of knowledge and ideas in literature and informational text. This course continues the genre studies of ELA I.

Reinforcing and expanding the writing objectives of the freshman year, this course will develop the student's writing skills by examining text types and purposes and by writing arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts. Students will write explanatory/informational texts to examine and convey complex ideas, and will write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events. Students will learn how to produce and distribute quality writing using technology's capacity to produce, publish, and share writing collaborative discussions and presentations integrating multiple sources of information. This course will further advance students' knowledge of the conventions of standard English and will strengthen vocabulary acquisition and use. Particular attention is paid to preparation for the PSAT verbal and writing sections.

Exceptional students may be recommended for Advanced Placement English Language & Composition.
Pacing of instruction, selections of appropriate pieces and assessment vary according to track placement. NCAA approved course. Track placement is determined by the classroom teacher in consultation with the department chair and the administration. Factors considered include class average (a minimum grade of 92 would be expected for a move to honors), RENAISSANCE STAR testing mastery.

OH1271 **CSP Literature – Early Medieval** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 10 2 semesters
See description under Chesterton Scholars Program. **NCAA approved course.**

OH1311 **English Language Arts III** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 11 2 semesters
OH1321 **English Language Arts III** 1.00 cr. College Prep Gr. 11 2 semesters
English Language Arts III is a required course for all eleventh grade students. Based on the Common Core Standards, this course provides students with the skill and knowledge to become critical readers and writers by analyzing key ideas and details, craft and structure, and the integration of knowledge and ideas in literature and informational text. This course utilizes American literature studies.

This course will develop the students' writing skills by examining text types and purposes and by writing arguments, explanatory/informational texts and narratives.

Students will learn how to produce and distribute quality writing using technology's capacity to produce, publish and share writing projects. Students will conduct short research projects and will participate in a range of collaborative discussions integrating multiple sources of information. This course will advance students' knowledge of the conventions of standard English and will strengthen vocabulary acquisition and use. A major research paper done in the Modern Language Association (MLA) style is required. Particular attention is paid to preparation for the SAT verbal and writing sections.

Exceptional students may be recommended for Advanced Placement English Literature & Composition.
Pacing of instruction, selection of appropriate pieces and assessment varies according to track placement. NCAA approved course. Track placement is determined by the classroom teacher in consultation with the department chair and the administration. Factors considered include class average (a minimum grade of 92 would be expected for a move to honors), RENAISSANCE STAR testing mastery.

OH1371 **CSP Literature – Renaissance** 1.00 cr. Track 5 Gr. 11 2 semesters
See description under Chesterton Scholars Program. **NCAA approved course.**

OH1411 **English Language Arts IV** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr.12 2 semesters
OH1421 **English Language Arts IV** 1.00 cr. College Prep Gr.12 2 semesters
English Language Arts IV is a required course for all twelfth grade students. Based on the Common Core Standards, this course provides students with the skills and knowledge to become advanced critical readers and writers by analyzing multiple themes,

interpretations and details, craft and structure, and the integration of knowledge and ideas in literature and informational text. This course utilizes British and contemporary studies.

Reinforcing and expanding the writing objectives of the junior year, this course will develop the students' writing skills by examining text types and purposes and by writing arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts. Students will write explanatory/informational texts to examine and convey complex ideas, and will write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events. Students will learn how to produce and distribute quality writing using technology's capacity to produce, publish, and share writing products. Students will conduct sustained research projects and will participate in a range of collaborative discussions and presentations integrating multiple sources of information. This course will further advance students' knowledge of the conventions of standard English and will strengthen vocabulary acquisition and use. A major research paper done in the American Psychological Association (APA) style is required. **Pacing of instruction, selection of appropriate pieces and assessment varies according to track placement. NCAA approved course. Track placement is determined by the classroom teacher in consultation with the department chair and the administration. Factors considered include class average (a minimum grade of 92 would be expected for a move to honors), RENAISSANCE STAR testing mastery.**

OH1351 **AP English Language** 1.00 cr. AP Gr. 11 2 semesters
The AP English Language and Composition course requires students to become skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts and skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their reading and their writing should make students aware of interactions among a writer's purposes, reader expectations, and an author's propositional content, as well as the genre conventions and the resources of language that contribute to effectiveness in writing. At the heart of an AP English Language and Composition course is the reading of various texts. While writing represents a significant component of this course, the core skill required is the ability to read well. In reading another writer's work, students must be able to ask fundamental questions about composition and the answers to these questions inform students' own composition processes as they learn to read like writers and write like readers. This class replaces ELA III. **Students enrolled in this course MUST take the Advanced Placement Examination on its scheduled date in May and pay the College Board fee (approximately $100) for the exam or receive a course failure. Students must also register with Widener University and pay the associated course fee ($200). NCAA approved course.**
Pre-requisite: Students MUST have the recommendation of their Honors ELA II teacher and successfully pass a qualifying test established by the English Department. **Students interested in this class must sign up for and take the qualifying test on January 13, 2026. Please sign up using this link.**
NB: Students will earn 3 college credits from Widener University for a fee of $200. These credits are transferable to other colleges and universities based on the policies of the receiving school.

OH1451 **AP English Literature** 1.00 cr. AP Gr.12 2 semesters
AP English Literature is an intensive program for those who want to learn how to read, think, and write critically in preparation for college studies. Students enrolled in AP English Literature take the College Board AP English Literature exam which, with a successful score, can earn college credits, qualify students for their college's honors program, or qualify students for certain college course waivers. To prepare for college and for the AP exams, students write several essays and/or complete research projects, and also read several novels, plays, short stories, and poems selected by the AP English Literature teacher. This class replaces ELA IV. **Students enrolled in this course MUST take the Advanced Placement Examination on its scheduled date in May and pay the College Board fee *(approximately $100)* for the exam or receive a course failure. Students must also register with Widener University and pay the associated course fee ($200). NCAA approved course.**
Pre-requisite: Students MUST have the recommendation of their Honors ELA III teacher and successfully pass a qualifying test established by the English Department. **Students interested in this class must sign up for and take the qualifying test on January 13, 2026. Please sign up using this link.**

NB: Students will earn 3 college credits from Widener University for a fee of $200. These credits are transferable to other colleges and universities based on the policies of the receiving school.

OH1491 **CSP Literature – Modern** 1.00 cr. Track 5 Gr. 12 2 semesters
See description under Chesterton Scholars Program. **NCAA approved course.**

ELA Electives

OH1461 **Creative Writing** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 11/12 2 semesters
Not being offered for the 2026-2027 school year. This year-long class will concentrate on the various genres of creative writing such as poetry and short story. They will be required to write several compositions each quarter, share work with the class and participate in peer revision. **This class does not replace the ELA III or IV requirements.**
Prerequisite: Students must submit a piece of creative writing by January 20th and have the recommendation of their current ELA teacher.

OH1471 **Digital and Print Media** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 11/12 2 semesters
Not being offered for the 2026-2027 school year. In this course, students will be exposed to the principles of journalism and the different ways we receive information in the twenty-first century including through broadcast television, newspapers, and digital media.

Students will gain skills in one or more of the following areas: page design, advance publishing techniques, copywriting, editing, and photography while producing a creative, innovative yearbook that records school memories and events. Additionally, students will learn how to write articles, and captions, conduct interviews, and write creatively for different audiences. Assessment methods will include daily writing and grammar assignments, photography pieces, a graphic design project, articles, and elements relating to the construction of the yearbook. **This DOES NOT replace the ELA class requirement.**
Prerequisite: Students must have an 85 or higher in their ELA class, have the recommendation of their current ELA teacher and submit a writing sample by January 20.

OH1511 **Women Writers** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 11/12 2 semesters
Not being offered for the 2026-2027 school year. This course examines literature written by women in various genres and from different cultures and time periods. Students will read works from many authors and will discuss, analyze and write about the works/themes. Students should expect to be assigned and complete independent readings as part of this course. **This class does not replace the ELA III or IV requirements.**
Prerequisite: Students will be expected to have a 90 average and the recommendation of their current ELA teacher.
An application questionnaire will also be required.

OH1521 **Multi-Cultural Literature** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 11/12 2 semesters
This course explores the intricate relationship between literature and the cultural, historical, and social contexts in which it is produced. Through a diverse selection of texts—from classic novels and poetry to contemporary essays and multimedia works—students will analyze how cultural narratives shape and are shaped by literary forms. Students will engage in critical discussions, drawing connections between literary works and real-world issues, while also honing their analytical writing and research skills. **This class does not replace the ELA III or IV requirements.**
Prerequisite: Students will be expected to have a 90 average and the recommendation of their current ELA teacher. An application questionnaire will also be required by January 20th.

OH1541 **Public Speaking** 1.00 cr. CP Gr. 11/12 2 semesters
Not being offered for the 2026-2027 school year. Students will demonstrate an understanding and application of the techniques used in formal public speaking including listening skills, speech preparation, and research methods. Activities involve preparing speeches to inform, entertain and persuade as well as panel discussions and oral interpretation of literature. This course is designed for college-bound student communication skills. **This class does not replace the ELA III or IV requirements.**

OH1531 **Theatre & Performing Arts** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 11/12 2 semesters
Not being offered for the 2026-2027 school year. This course is designed for all students who have a desire to study theatre production either as actors, technicians, or stage crew. All aspects of production will be taught giving the student a complete overview and first-hand experience in theater roles both on and behind the stage. Classes consist of scene study (acting), vocal production (singing), and movement (basic dance and movement techniques). Students will also learn improvisation and writing. A one-act show will be performed at the culmination of the course. **This class does not replace the ELA III or IV requirements.**

NOTE: All students regardless of date of admission **MUST** fulfill the Cardinal O'Hara summer reading requirement.

Mathematics Department

PHILOSOPHY, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
OF THE MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

In accordance with the philosophy of Cardinal O'Hara High School, the Mathematics Department "professes its mission to be one of preparing students for a fullness of life" by encouraging the student "to bring to maturity his gifts and talents" with a special emphasis on the development of his reasoning capabilities.

The goals and instructional objectives of the Math Department are such that, through the math program and student's experiences in the math classroom, the student

1. will learn to value mathematics
2. will become confident in his own ability
3. will become a mathematical problem solver
4. will learn to communicate mathematically
5. will grow to appreciate, respect and value his own gifts and talents and those of others
6. will become a truth seeker and, consequently, a seeker of God Who is Ultimate Truth.

INTRODUCTION

A solid four-year, College Prep math program is available for all students. All students are required to take three years of math; all are encouraged to take four years of math.

Mathematics courses are taught on levels reflecting the differences in ability and learning rate of students. Ninth grade students are placed in track levels by means of a selection formula which includes seventh and eighth grade marks and standardized test scores. Eighth grade teachers review the student's placement and may recommend a change of track. O'Hara math teachers will request a track change for a student who seems to be misplaced. If a student and/or parents have requested a change to a lower track, the student and/or parents may not request placement in a higher track for the following school year.

The Mathematics Department reserves the right to deny admission to a course when the applicant has not met the published prerequisites. The department also reserves the right to cancel a course if an insufficient number of students have enrolled.

An eighth-grade student who has completed a full year of Algebra I in a Diocesan Honors Program or in a public/private school may be considered for enrollment in Course 331. Recommendation of Algebra I teacher as well as an outstanding proficiency on an Algebra Placement test are required.

Because of the sequential nature of mathematics, a student must achieve a degree of proficiency in a course before taking the next course. Teacher recommendation is the most important factor considered when placing a student in the next course. Approval by the Department Chair is required when a student requests a track that the present teacher has not recommended.

Honors
This is a challenging program meant for highly motivated students. The courses are geared to prepare students to major in mathematics and related fields.

College Prep
This is a College Preparatory program for above average and motivated students. The mathematics courses are geared to prepare students for college programs requiring the study of mathematics.

Academic
This program offers the student a fundamental high school mathematics sequence from algebra through trigonometry. Students successfully completing the program are prepared to study college algebra or a similar course.

Advanced Placement
This is an advanced placement course for superior students. It is a challenging program preparing students to be successful in an AP examination.

- Most courses require the purchase of a Mathematics Workbook.
- A graphing calculator is required for all mathematics courses. (ex. TI-84 plus)

RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE OF MATHEMATICS COURSES

	9th Grade	**10th Grade**	**11th Grade**	**12th Grade**
Advanced Placement (AP)	Honors Algebra II	Pre-Calculus Honors Honors Geometry	AP Calculus AB AP Statistics	AP Calculus BC
Honors	Algebra I Algebra II	Algebra II Geometry	Geometry Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus
College Prep	Algebra 1	Algebra II	Geometry	Honors Pre-Calc Algebra 3/Trig
Academic	Algebra 1	Algebra II	CP Geometry	CP Algebra 3/Trig

OH3111	**Algebra 1**	1.00 cr.	Honors	Gr. 9	2 semesters
OH3121	**Algebra 1**	1.00 cr.	College Prep	Gr. 9	2 semesters
OH3131	**Algebra 1**	1.00 cr.	Academic	Gr. 9	2 semesters

Based on the Common Core Standards, students enrolled in Algebra 1 will examine structure in equations, and will create equations that describe numbers or relationships. Students will reason with equations and inequalities abstractly and quantitatively, will solve systems of equations and will represent and solve equations and inequalities graphically. Students will construct viable arguments for their reasoning and critique the reasoning of others. **NCAA approved course.**

OH3311 **Algebra 2** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 10 2 semesters
OH3321 **Algebra 2** 1.00 cr. College Prep Gr. 10 2 semesters
OH3331 **Algebra 2** 1.00 cr. Academic Gr. 11 2 semesters
Based on the Common Core Standards, students enrolled in Algebra II will interpret and build functions, will perform arithmetic with polynomials and rational functions, will analyze functions using various representations and will construct and compare linear and exponential models and solve problems. Students will reason abstractly and quantitatively, will construct viable arguments and critique reasoning of others and will use appropriate tools of mathematics. The pace and depth of content depend on track level. **NCAA approved course.**
Prerequisite for Honors: Successful completion of Algebra 1 with an average of 93+, recommendation of teacher, and approval of the department chair.

OH3211 **Geometry** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 11 2 semesters
OH3221 **Geometry** 1.00 cr. College Prep Gr. 11 2 semesters
Based on the Common core Standards, students enrolled in Geometry will experiment with transformations in the plane, will prove geometric theorems and will make geometric constructions. Students will understand similarity, right triangles and trigonometric rations. Students will understand and apply theorems about circles, will express geometric properties with equations, and will use geometric measurement and dimension to solve problems. Students will reason abstractly and quantitatively and will construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others. The pace and depth of content depend on track level. **NCAA approved course.**
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra II, recommendation of teacher, and approval of the department chair.
Prerequisite for Honors: Successful completion of Algebra 2 CP with an average of 93+, recommendation of teacher, and approval of the department chair.

OH3411 **Pre-Calculus** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 11-12 2 semesters
OH3421 **Pre-Calculus** 1.00 cr. College Prep Gr. 12 2 semesters
Students will reason abstractly and quantitatively about the interdependence of logarithmic, exponential and trigonometric graphs and functions, and discrete mathematics and the underpinnings of calculus. Students will be able to apply said functions to real world applications, and construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others. The pace and depth of content depend on track level. **NCAA approved course.**
Prerequisite: CP or Honors Geometry and Algebra II with 90 or above in each, and approval of the department chair.

OH3441 **Algebra 3/Trigonometry** 1.00 cr. College Prep Gr. 12 2 semesters
This course is designed for students who have learned the basic skills of Algebra I and II and who know the basic concepts of Geometry. This course is designed to build on this knowledge from previous courses. This course covers the following topics: relations and functions, radical expressions, linear systems, topics of analytic geometry and coordinate geometry, if possible logarithmic and exponential equations, right triangles, oblique triangles, trigonometric and circular functions, identities and equations. **NCAA approved course.**

3451 **AP Calculus AB** 1.00 cr. AP Gr. 11-12 2 semesters
This course includes the study of functions and limits, the derivative and its application, integration, applications of the definite integral, transcendental functions, methods of integration, and a study of plane and analytic geometry using calculus. Students achieving success in this course will have mastered the entire AB syllabus for advanced placement in college. **All AP Calculus AB students MUST take the Advanced Placement Examination on its scheduled date in May and pay the College Board fee (approximately $100) for the exam or receive a course failure. All underclass students in AP Calculus AB must take AP Calculus BC in the next academic year.**
Prerequisite: Honors Pre-Calculus; All prospective students must have recommendation of Honors Pre-Calculus teacher and **interview** with the Department Chair and AP Calculus Teacher.

3851 **AP Calculus BC** 1.00 cr. AP Gr. 12 2 semesters
This course covers: a review of limits, differentiation and applications, integration and applications, differential equations, logarithmic and exponential functions, Trigonometric and Inverse Trigonometric functions, integration techniques, infinite series, parametric and polar equations. **All AP Calculus BC students MUST take the Advanced Placement Examination on its scheduled date in May and pay the College Board fee (approximately $100) for the exam or receive a course failure.**
Prerequisite: AP Calculus AB. Must be approved by Department Chair and Teacher.

3951 **AP Statistics** 1.00 cr. AP Gr. 11-12 2 semesters
The topics include: exploratory analysis, planning a study, probability, and statistical inference. **All AP Statistics students MUST take the Advanced Placement Examination on its scheduled date in May and pay the College Board fee (approximately $100) for the exam or receive a course failure.**
Prerequisites: Successful completion of Geometry and Algebra II and either successful completion of (juniors) or concurrent enrollment in (seniors) Pre-Calculus; Recommendation of present Math Teacher, successful completion of the AP Statistics qualifying test and approval by Department Chair. **Students interested in this class must sign up for and take the qualifying test on January 14, 2026. Please sign up using this link.**

OH3961 **Statistics** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 11-12 2 semesters
The topics include: exploratory analysis, planning a study, probability, and statistical inference. Students in this course DO NOT take the AP examination. **NCAA approved course.**
Prerequisites: Geometry and Algebra II; 88 in present Math Course and written recommendation of present Math Teacher and approval by Department Chair.

Physical Education and Health Department

Physical Education is one phase of schoolwork that lends itself to the development of character and fair play. Opportunities to give, to take, and to cooperate with one another are numerous. Classes provide the ideal setting for developing the Christian values of fair play and cooperation regardless of ability level.

Health education gives the students an opportunity to realize their responsibility to make their lives meaningful by respecting their mind and body as a precious gift from God.

The basic goal of Health Education is to give the student a basic knowledge of health related problems and try to equip the student with the resources to cope with these problems not only now but in their adult lives as well.

OH8322 **Physical Education/Health** 1.00 cr. College Prep Gr. 10 2 semesters
Physical Education semester: This co-ed course provides the principles and application of sport and fitness. Classes involve warm-up activities, instructional time, and practice time. Lifelong sports and activities are taught as well as team sports and individual sports with a great emphasis on personal fitness.
Health semester: Physical fitness, nutrition, emotional behavior, drugs, tobacco, alcohol, communicable and chronic disease, and human reproduction are the topics covered by lecture and discussion.
Both semesters are required for graduation.

OH8311 **Personal Fitness and Nutrition** 1.0 cr. Honors Gr. 11-12 2 semesters
Principles and Applications of Fitness and Nutrition combine the Personal Fitness and Nutrition classes into one comprehensive and effective course. This elective gives students the opportunity to learn fitness concepts and conditioning techniques used for obtaining optimal physical fitness. Students will benefit from comprehensive callisthenic/weight training and cardio-respiratory endurance activities. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of strength training, aerobic training, and overall fitness training and conditioning. Also, this course presents the major concepts in nutrition including the body's use of food nutrients and diet planning throughout the life cycle while placing special emphasis on the application of nutrition principles in everyday life by exploring the health consequences of nutrition practices.
Pre-requisite: Recommendation of PE teacher or chair is required. Contact Mr. Rodzewich at crodzewich@cohs.com if you are not currently in PE class.

OH6531 **Sports Medicine** 1.0 cr. College Prep Gr. 11-12 2 semesters
This course provides an opportunity for the study and application of the components of sports medicine including but not limited to: sports medicine related careers, organizational and administrative considerations, prevention of athletic injuries, recognition, evaluation, and immediate care of athletic injuries, rehabilitation and management skills, emergency procedures, nutrition, sports psychology, human anatomy and physiology, therapeutic modalities, and therapeutic exercise.
Pre-requisite: Recommendation of PE teacher or chair is required. Contact Mr. Rodzewich at crodzewich@cohs.com if you are not currently in PE class.

OH8421 **Basic Biomechanics** 1.0 cr. College Prep Gr. 11-12 2 semesters
Not being offered for the 2026-2027 school year. The course provides an overview of musculoskeletal anatomy, the mechanical properties and structural behavior of biological tissues, and biodynamics. Specific course topics will include structure and function relationships in tissues and organs; application of stress and strain analysis to biological tissues; analysis of forces in human function and movement; energy and power in human activity.
Pre-requisite: Recommendation of PE teacher or chair is required. Contact Mr. Rodzewich at crodzewich@cohs.com if you are not currently in PE class.

Science Department

"Where the telescope ends, the microscope begins. Which has the grander view?" V. Hugo

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Cardinal O'Hara Science Department provides a sound foundation in scientific fact and theory. An understanding of scientific concepts is encouraged through discussion of current topics in science, laboratory work and research experience. Our goal is to take the students' natural curiosity and give them the tools to understand their world.

Each student must complete three science courses during his/her four years at Cardinal O'Hara. Students are encouraged to complete four years of science. Science classes should be taken at the same level as the student's math class. Students taking CP math courses should take CP science courses, especially for Chemistry and Biology. Students taking honors math classes should take honors science but may choose to take CP science classes.

The first Science course is Environmental Science for Freshmen. The second Science course taken during the sophomore year will be Biology and the third Science course is Chemistry. Qualified students are also welcome to take AP Biology during their junior year and AP Biology, AP Chemistry or AP Environmental Science during their senior year. All qualified, serious students are encouraged to enroll in Science electives in both their junior and senior year.

The number of science electives may vary from year to year depending upon staffing assignments and availability for that particular school year. Acceptance into any science course is dependent upon previous science grades and the approval of the Department Chairperson.

The science electives are: AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental, AP Computer Science Principles, AP Computer Science A , Honors Anatomy and Physiology, Physics, CP Environmental Science and Human Anatomy, or CP Pathology.

The Science Department emphasizes a sound, sequential approach to science education. Any student wishing to take a science elective must have successfully completed previous required science courses. If a student changes tracks, this could affect the sequence of courses.

AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental, AP Computer Science Principles, and AP Computer Science A are highly selective college-level, fast-paced courses and are taught in such a way as to prepare students to successfully take the Advanced Placement Examination. Because of the advanced nature of these courses both students and parents should be prepared for grades reflective of increased academic rigor with college-level material, pacing and college-level academic rigor.

Acceptance into any science course at any level is dependent upon previous science grades and the approval of the science chair. Lower than average academic performance or irresponsible behavior in basic science courses will adversely affect a student's acceptance into any science course beyond the current year. **Students who wish to take honors science classes must be in honors math classes as well.**

Tracking into science courses follows criteria, which are explained to students each year at course selection time. Past performance does affect a student's selection into his or her next science course.

Any student who does not attain a minimum grade of 75 in his or her current science course is liable to be moved into a lower track in the following academic year. Students with grades above 95 may be considered for a move to a higher track. The department chair must approve any track change. Because achievement in science is dependent upon the skill level in math, the Science Department recommends that the math track be at the same level or a higher level than the science track, especially during the junior and senior year

RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE OF SCIENCE COURSES

	9th Grade	**10th Grade**	**11th Grade**	**12th Grade**
AP	Honors Biology	Honors Chemistry	AP Biology	AP Biology
			AP Computer Sci. Princ.	AP Chemistry
			AP Environmental Sci.	AP Computer Sci A
				AP Environmental Sci.

Honors	Environmental Science Or Biology/Algebra II	Biology	Chemistry	Physics Anatomy/Physiology
College Prep	Environmental Science	Biology	Chemistry	Forensic Science Pathology Astronomy
Academic	Environmental Science			

Science Course Descriptions

OH4111 **Environmental Science** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 9 2 semesters
OH4121 **Environmental Science** 1.00 cr. College Prep Gr. 9 2 semesters
OH4131 **Environmental Science** 1.00 cr. Academic Gr. 9 2 semesters
Environmental Science is a multidisciplinary course that draws from other sciences, including: biology, ecology, geology, meteorology and Earth sciences. This course has been designed to give students an introduction to science and engineering practices that will help achieve practical goals. Such goals include the conservation and protection of natural resources on local, state and global levels through environmental education and research. The topics covered throughout the course will give students a deeper understanding of the connection between humans and our environment. Both laboratory work and projects will be an important part of the course as students investigate solutions to making long lasting improvements to the world around us. **NCAA approved course.**
Requirement: Must take Honors Math with Honors Science

OH4211 **Biology** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 10 2 semesters
OH4221 **Biology** 1.00 cr. College Prep Gr. 10 2 semesters
This general biology course investigates life from a cellular and molecular point of view. The biological themes include: evolution, diversity, genetics, organisms and their interaction with the environment, behavior, structure and function, regulation, science as inquiry, historical concepts, science and society. Fundamental principles and concepts of the life sciences are presented. Laboratory work is an integral part of this course. **NCAA approved course.**
Prerequisites: Environmental Science or completion of Algebra I; must take Honors Math with Honors Science.

OH4311 **Chemistry** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 11 2 semesters
OH4321 **Chemistry** 1.00 cr. College Prep Gr. 11 2 semesters
This is an introductory course in theories and concepts of modern chemistry. Topics will be presented to increase awareness and understanding of the role of chemistry in everyday life and environmental issues. The course emphasizes the atomic and molecular structure, changes and properties of matter, trends in the periodic table, chemical bonding, stoichiometry, properties of gases, solutions, reaction rates and equilibrium, acid-base reactions, and chemical thermodynamics. The laboratory work will develop students reasoning power, the ability to apply chemical principles, as well as acquaint students with chemical laboratory techniques. **NCAA approved course.**
Prerequisite: Biology; must take Honors Math with Honors Science.

OH4621 **Pathology** 1.00 cr. College Prep Gr. 11-12 2 semesters
This course will not be offered for the 2026-2027 school year. This course is intended for students interested in studying diseases. Introduction to pathology will give an overview of many diseases, conditions and disorders facing society today. Topics include but are not limited to cancer, cardiovascular, infectious, congenital, and autoimmune disease. **NCAA approved course.**
Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry

OH4411 **Physics** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 11-12 2 semesters
This program presents an in-depth first course in physics for the science and math oriented superior student. It is a process-oriented and a laboratory intensive course. It is of particular interest to those who are planning careers in medicine, engineering, architecture, technology and earth sciences as well as the natural sciences. This course is algebra-based. The concepts include: Newtonian mechanics, dynamics, fluid mechanics, waves, electricity, and light. Laboratory work is an important part of this course. **NCAA approved course.**
Prerequisites: Biology
Prerequisite or co-requisite: Pre-calculus and Chemistry plus math & science GPA of 85 or above

OH4811 **Anatomy and Physiology** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 11-12 2 semesters
Anatomy and Physiology is a course designed for accomplished students, especially to those intended to major in nursing, pre-med programs, or another biological science in college. It will present an overview of the structure and function of human body systems and the intricacies of the interdependency of these systems at an advanced pace. Dissection is a requirement of the lab for the course. The curriculum includes active student participation in dissections of preserved singular and full mammalian specimens to include the following: rat, fetal pig, bovine eye, sheep or bovine heart, sheep brain, and cat. **NCAA approved course.**
Prerequisites: Biology

Prerequisite: Chemistry and science GPA of 95 or above for those who took CP science classes or 90 or above for those who took honors science classes
Co-requisite: Students wishing to take chemistry and anatomy in the same year must have a 90 or higher in Honors Biology or a 95 or higher in CP Biology and approval from the department chair to be eligible.

OH4751 **AP Biology** 1.00 cr. AP Gr. 11 or 12 2 semesters
This course is intended for the seriously motivated students who intend to major in a science discipline in college. The course outline may be found in the Advanced Placement Biology Guide as published by the College Entrance Examination Board. Topics include: evolution, cellular processes, energy and communication, genetics, information transfer, ecology, and interactions. **Students taking AP Biology are required to take lab two days per week during their lunch period. Students enrolled in this course MUST take the Advanced Placement Examination on its scheduled date in May and pay the College Board fee (approximately $100) for the exam. NCAA approved course.**
Prerequisite: Honors Biology and Honors Chemistry; If not Honors, Science GPA of 90 and request from the Science Chair; Students MUST have the recommendation of their science teacher and successfully pass a qualifying test established by the Science Department. **Students interested in this class must sign up for and take the qualifying test on January 15, 2026. Please sign up using this link.**

OH4351 **AP Chemistry** 1.00 cr. AP Gr. 12 2 semesters
This course will not be offered for the 2026-2027 school year. AP Chemistry is designed to build upon and extend the foundation already established in the first year of chemistry. The topics covered will include: matter and measurement, atoms, molecules and ions, stoichiometry, aqueous reactions and solution stoichiometry, thermochemistry, electronic structure of atoms, basic concepts of bonding, molecular geometry, gases, intermolecular forces, properties of solutions, chemical kinetics, chemical equilibrium, acid-base equilibria, entropy, and introduction to organic chemistry. Laboratory experiments are incorporated into the course as required by the College Board. **Students taking AP Chemistry are required to take lab two days per week during their lunch period. Students enrolled in this course MUST take the Advanced Placement Examination on its scheduled date in May and pay the College Board fee (approximately $100) for the exam. NCAA approved course.**
Prerequisite: Chemistry and Biology; Students MUST have the recommendation of their science teacher and successfully pass a qualifying test established by the Science Department.

OH4761 **AP Computer Science Principles** 1.00 cr. AP Gr. 10-12 2 semesters
AP Computer Science Principles introduces students to the breadth of the field of computer science. In this course, students will learn to design and evaluate solutions and to apply computer science to solve problems through the development of algorithms and programs. They will incorporate abstraction into programs and use data to discover new knowledge. Students will 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. AP Computer Science Principles is equivalent to a first-semester, college-level breadth course in computer science. **Students enrolled in this course MUST take the Advanced Placement Examination on its scheduled date in May and pay the College Board fee (approximately $100) for the exam. Students must also register with Widener University and pay the associated course fee ($200). NCAA approved course. Juniors taking this class must take AP Computer Science A class senior year.**
Prerequisite: Chemistry and Biology; 85 or above in math and science; Students MUST have the recommendation of their science teacher and successfully pass a qualifying test established by the Science Department. **Students interested in this class must sign up for and take the qualifying test on January 15, 2026. Please sign up using this link.**

OH4851 **AP Computer Science A** 1.00 cr. AP Gr. 11-12 2 semesters
AP Computer Science A is an introductory college-level computer science course. Students cultivate their understanding of coding through analyzing, writing, and testing code as they explore concepts like modularity, variables, and control structures. **Students enrolled in this course MUST take the Advanced Placement Examination on its scheduled date in May and pay the College Board fee (approximately $100) for the exam. NCAA approved course. Students interested in this class must sign up for and take the qualifying test on January 15, 2026. Please sign up using this link.**

OH4771 **AP Environmental Science** 1.00 cr. AP Gr. 12 2 semesters
The AP Environmental Science course is designed to engage students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships within the natural world. The course requires that students identify and analyze natural and human-made environmental problems, evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. Environmental science is interdisciplinary, embracing topics from geology, biology, environmental studies, environmental science, chemistry, and geography. The AP Environmental Science course is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester, introductory college course in environmental science. **Students taking AP Environmental Science may be required to take lab two days per week during their lunch period. Students enrolled in this course MUST take the Advanced Placement Examination on its scheduled date in May and pay the College Board fee (approximately $100) for the exam. NCAA approved course.**
Prerequisite: Students MUST have the recommendation of their science teacher and successfully pass a qualifying test established by the Science Department. **Students interested in this class must sign up for and take the qualifying test on January 15, 2026. Please sign up using this link.**

OH4141 **Forensic Science** 1.00 cr. CP Gr. 11-12 2 semesters

The focus of the course is to acknowledge the tremendous impact that the advances in science have had on criminal investigation. This course will cover the application of natural sciences to fingerprinting, hair and fiber analysis, blood spatter, anthropology, tool and weapon imprints, teeth and lip prints and handwriting analysis as tools to solve crimes. The course will emphasize inquiry-based learning and problem solving.
Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry

OH4421 **Astronomy** 1.00 cr. CP Gr. 11-12 2 semesters
This survey course is intended for students seeking to continue their science education following the Environmental Science, Biology, and Chemistry sequence in a non-ap format. Topics will be chosen from the following by the instructor: Observing the Sky, History of Astronomy, Orbits and Gravity, Earth, Moon, and Sky Relationships, Radiation and Spectra, Astronomical Instruments, The Solar System and Planets, Comets and Asteroids, The Sun, Birth, life, and Death of Stars, Black Holes, and Galaxies. This course will use concepts from Physics; however, this material is covered in the course. Frequent at home sky observations are required as part of lab activities.
Prerequisites: Chemistry and Geometry with a minimum grade of 85 or approval of the Science Chair/Course Instructor.

Social Studies Department

"Know thyself. . ." "Virtue is its own reward . . ."
"We the People . . ." "A new nation conceived in Liberty . . ."
"An iron curtain has descended . . ." "I have a dream . . ."

The Social Studies Department offers a curriculum involving the study of one year of World History, one year of US Government, and one year of US History. The curriculum fulfills the requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Education and those of the Office of Catholic Education of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia; it is also a requirement for graduation. Additional elective courses are offered to augment these basic studies. As a Catholic educational institution we have noted the words of the Second Vatican Council which teach that:

> *Different styles of life and multiple scales of values arise from the diverse manner of using things, of laboring, of expressing oneself, of practicing religion, of forming customs, of establishing laws and juridical institutions, of cultivating the sciences, the arts and beauty. Thus the customs handed down to us form the patrimony proper to each human community. It is also in this way that there is formed the definite historical milieu which enfolds the man of every nation and age and from which he draws the values which permit him to promote civilization.*
>
> - Decree on the Church and the Modern World

It is therefore the hope of this department to confront our students, through a one-year study of Western civilization, with their cultural roots and, by the simultaneous examination of non-Western societies, to give them an appreciation of the richness existing in diversity. Through their study of American History and government, it is hoped that our students are encouraged to become enlightened, responsible and articulate Christian citizens of this Republic.

RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE OF SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES

	9th Grade	**10th Grade**	**11th Grade**	**12th Grade**
Advanced Placement	Honors WH	AP Gov.	AP US Hist.	AP Psych AP African American History
Honors	World His.	Gov/Const. Hist	US Hist.	Psych/Soc Military History Women in History
College Prep	World His.	Gov/Const. Hist	US Hist.	Psych/Soc Criminal Justice Military History Women in History

World History: Required of all freshmen
Government & Constitutional History: Required of all sophomores
United States History: Required of all juniors

Advanced Placement: AP courses in Government and Politics, United States History, African American History, and Psychology are available for students who demonstrate exceptional ability. This must be approved by the department chairperson/teacher if

necessary. Students in the AP program take the test provided by *Educational Testing Service* and can receive college credit and/or advanced status depending on the grade achieved. Students in the AP program are required to take the AP Exam in May or he/she will receive a failure for the year unless he/she has the approval of the department chairperson.

TRACK PLACEMENT

The Social Studies Department's prerequisites for track change:

1) If a teacher requests that a student be placed in a lower track, he/she will be placed if there is room.

   If a teacher requests that a student be placed in a higher track, he/she will be placed if there is room in the course. Students will be considered only with an average of 90 or higher.

2) If a student and/or parent requests a higher track, he/she must have at least a 90 average to qualify. If there is room in a course, then he/she will be placed. The student and/or parents may not request to go to a lower track in succeeding school years.

3) If a student and/or parent requests a lower track and it is approved by the department chairperson, then the student may not go up in track in succeeding years.

OH2111	**World History**	1.00 cr.	Honors	Gr. 9	2 semesters
OH2121	**World History**	1.00 cr.	College Prep	Gr. 9	2 semesters

This course will be a global approach to world history which examines key themes in human history in greater depth instead of focusing on a list of factual events which must be covered. Themes such as human interaction, power, movement, state building, cultural development and sharing, creation and maintaining of political and economic systems and conflict will be examined, as they unfold in specific periods of time listed below. The specific content will be chosen that best supports a deepened understanding of each theme. Essential learning will be the focus of content included in the curriculum and teachers will be encouraged to make strong connections between thematic ideas throughout the entire year. **NCAA approved course.**

Overview of Periods:

1. Technological & Environmental Transformations (Prehistory-600 BC)
2. Organization & Reorganization of Human Societies (600 BC-600 BE)
3. Regional & Trans regional Interactions (600 BE-1450)
4. Global Interactions (1450-1750)
5. Industrialization & Global Integration (1750-1900)
6. Accelerating Global Change & Realignments (1900-present)

OH2211	**Government and Constitutional History**	1.00 cr.	Honors	Gr. 10	2 semesters
OH2221	**Government and Constitutional History**	1.00 cr.	College Prep	Gr. 10	2 semesters

This course will lay the foundations of the American government system while also examining major historical events in U.S. history that were shaped by the three branches of our federated American system. **NCAA approved course.**

Overview of topics:

1. Foundations of American Government
2. The Six Basic Principles Found in the Constitution
3. American Democracy and Citizenship
4. Branches of the National Government
5. Pennsylvania Government and Citizenship

OH2251	**AP Government and Politics**	1.00 cr.	AP	Gr. 10	2 semesters

Students successfully completing this course will:

1. know important facts, concepts, and theories pertaining to US government and politics
2. understand typical patterns of political processes and behavior and their consequences
3. be able to analyze and interpret basic data relevant to US government and politics
4. be able to critically analyze relevant theories and concepts, apply them appropriately, and develop their connections across the curriculum

N.B: Any student who takes the AP Government and Politics course must take the exam in May and pay the College Board fee (approximately $100) for the exam or receive a course failure. NCAA approved course.

Prerequisites: Students must have at least a 90 average for the year in Honors Thematic World History (OH2111), must have the recommendation of their current Honors Thematic World History teacher, and successfully complete an entrance test that will be established by the Social Studies Department. **Students interested in this class must sign up for and take the qualifying test on January 13, 2026. Please sign up using this link.**

OH2351	**AP United States History**	1.00 cr.	AP	Gr. 11	2 semesters

This course offers the student an introductory college level survey of American History with particular emphasis on lectures, class discussion, essay writing and independent study and research. Due to the volume of information covered in this course, this course begins in June. The students will cover the first 5 chapters of the textbook using workbook pages. They will be assigned a book to read. The book changes from year to year. There will be a take-home test covering Chapters 1-5. It is mandatory for all students in this course to take the AP American History Exam in May. Failure to take the AP Exam in May will result in a failure for the year unless the student has the approval of the department chairperson.

N.B: Any student who takes the AP History course must take the exam in May and pay the College Board fee (approximately $100) for the exam or receive a course failure. NCAA approved course.

Prerequisites: Students must have at least a 90 average for the year in Honors Government and Constitutional History (OH2211), must have the recommendation of their current Honors Government and Constitutional History teacher, and successfully complete an entrance test that will be established by the Social Studies Department. Students who are in AP Government must have at least a 90 average for the year in AP Government, must have the recommendation of their current AP Government teacher and successfully complete an entrance test that will be established by the Social Studies Department. **Students interested in this class must sign up for and take the qualifying test on January 12, 2026. Please sign up using this link.**

OH2311 **U. S. History** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 11 2 semesters

This course will focus on the emerging modern American nation from post-Civil War industrialization to the present time. It offers a survey of major constitutional, political, economic and social developments from a historical perspective. Topics covered will include the Industrial Revolution, Capitalism, Big Business, Reform Activities, Depression, Civil Rights, Government Institutions, and Foreign Policy. Critical thinking and writing skills will be developed based on in-class work, outside readings, and an examination of current issues. **NCAA approved course.**

OH2321 **U. S. History** 1.00 cr. College Prep Gr. 11 2 semesters

This course is essentially the same as course #231 with a lesser emphasis in selected areas and an appropriate adjustment in the nature of assignments, evaluation procedures, etc. **NCAA approved course.**

OH2451 **AP Psychology** 1.00 cr. AP Gr. 12 2 semesters

An introductory college level course in psychology. The course is designed to assess understanding of the fundamentals of psychology within the following areas: methods, approaches and history of psychology; the biological basis of behavior; sensation and perception; states of consciousness; learning; cognition; motivation and emotion; developmental psychology; personality; testing and individual differences; abnormal psychology; the treatment of psychological disorders; and social psychology. Students take the AP College Board Exam in May. Failure to take the AP Exam in May will result in a failure for the year unless the student has the approval of the department chairperson. **NCAA approved course.**

N.B: Any student who takes the AP Psychology course must take the exam in May and pay the College Board fee (approximately $100) for the exam or receive a course failure. Students who took Psychology Honors or CP are not able to take this course.

Prerequisites: Students must have at least a 90 average for the year in Honors U. S. History (OH2311), must have the recommendation of their current Honors US History teacher, and successfully complete an entrance test that will be established by the Social Studies Department. Students who are in AP US History must have at least a 90 average for the year, must have the recommendation of their current AP US History teacher, and successfully complete an entrance test that will be established by the Social Studies Department. **Students interested in this class must sign up for and take the qualifying test on January 12, 2026. Please sign up using this link.**

OH2402 **Psychology/Sociology** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 12 2 semesters total
OH2422 **Psychology/Sociology** 1.00 cr. College Prep Gr. 12 2 semesters total

This elective consists of one semester course in Psychology and one semester course in Sociology. Each semester is graded separately but both semesters must be taken. The main focus of this course is a study of human behavior and how individuals are affected by the society in which they live. Included are explanations of emotional and personality development, as well as the interactions, adjustments, and restrictions of humans as they function in society. **NCAA approved course.**

Psychology/Sociology CP will not be offered for the 2026-2027 school year.

Students who are in Honors in junior year will be given priority. If any students in College Prep wish to sign up for this course, he/she must make the request of the current teacher and the department chairperson within one week of the course assembly. Students will be accepted based on their grades on the 1st semester and 3rd quarter report card.

Prerequisite: *Grade 11 students must be approved by the Department Chair and must also take US History concurrently.*

OH2512 **Criminal Justice** 1.00 cr. College Prep Gr. 11-12 2 semesters total

This course will be designed to prepare students to assume a productive role in modern society and for the field of criminal justice. Topics include an introduction to law, the legal system, criminal justice crimes, courts, the history of forensics, topics in current society, professional roles, observational skills, crime scene investigation techniques, evidence collection, chain of evidence/custody preservation, and courtroom presentation. This course was formerly known as Street Law/Forensics. **NCAA approved course.**

Prerequisite: *Grade 11 students must be approved by the Department Chair and must also take US History concurrently. Preference is given to seniors when scheduling.*

OH2751 **AP African American Studies.** 1.00 cr. AP Gr. 11-12 2 semesters
Not being offered for the 2026-2027 school year.
Drawing from the expertise and experience of college faculty and teachers across the country, the course is designed to offer high school students an evidence-based introduction to African American studies. The interdisciplinary course reaches into a variety of fields—literature, the arts and humanities, political science, geography, and science—to explore the vital contributions and experiences of African Americans. College Board has approved O'Hara to be one of sixty schools across the U.S. to pilot this course. **NCAA approved course.**
N.B: Any student who takes the AP African American Studies course must take the exam in May and pay the College Board fee (approximately $100) for the exam or receive a course failure.
Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, at least a 90 for the year in the current Social Studies course, and successfully complete an entrance test established by the Social Studies Department. **Students interested in this class must sign up for and take the qualifying test on January 12, 2026. Please sign up using this link.**

OH2611 **Military History** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 11-12 2 semesters
Military history will study conflict in history and its impact on the societies, cultures and economies of those affected, as well as the resulting changes to local and international relationships. This elective course will examine the military history of the United States as well as other nations, focusing mostly, but not solely, on events from 1500 CE (Common Era / Anno Domini) to the twenty-first century. The course will examine weapons, tactics, units, armies, navies, and the socio-economic, political, and cultural reasons behind the battles and wars. More than that, however, this course will try to emphasize the individual soldier, marine, sailor, and airman and the effect that it had upon their life.
Prerequisite: Grade 11 students must be approved by the Department Chair and must also take US History concurrently. Preference is given to seniors when scheduling.

OH2731 **Women in History** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 11-12 2 semesters
This course will examine the trends in women's political, social, and cultural history. Students in this course will analyze the contributions of women throughout history to the fields of politics, science, medicine, literature, art, social movements, religion, and many other topics. Students will be assessed through a variety of methods and should have strong writing and reading comprehension skills prior to taking this course.
Prerequisite: Grade 11 students must be approved by the Department Chair and must also take US History concurrently. Preference is given to seniors when scheduling.

World Languages Department

INTRODUCTION

The World Languages Department of Cardinal O'Hara High School recognizes that the primary function of modern language learning is to communicate, first through listening and speaking, and then through writing and reading.

A concomitant objective of language instruction is to develop in the students an understanding and appreciation of other cultures and their people. It is important to note that learning a world language is a cumulative effort. Consistent attendance and performance are necessary throughout the school year.

PROGRAMS

Four Year Programs: Spanish
Two Year Program: Italian

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The World Languages Department requires that all students taking a World Language take two consecutive years of the same language. It is essential for students to study at least two years of any one language to become minimally proficient in that language.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE

The World Language Department strongly encourages all students who intend to pursue further education to prepare to meet college requirements by continuing their study of world languages beyond the second year.

SEQUENCE OF LANGUAGE COURSES

Course	9th grade	10th grade	11th grade	12th grade
Previous language experience:	Spanish II	Spanish III	AP Spanish	
No/limited language experience	Spanish I Italian I	Spanish II Italian II	Spanish III	AP Spanish

OH5171 **Spanish I** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 9-12 2 semesters
This introductory course for the gifted, college-bound student emphasizes the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing at an accelerated pace. With the aid of listening exercises by native speakers, students are challenged in both listening and written comprehension. Students are expected to initiate complete thoughts on their own, both orally and in writing, within a limited vocabulary. **NCAA approved course.**

OH5181 **Spanish I** 1.00 cr. College Prep Gr. 9-12 2 semesters
This introductory course for the average student is similar to that of the honors course, although the challenge and intensity are somewhat modified. Practice in pronunciation drills, speech patterns, and simple grammatical sentences is stressed, with the use of a basic vocabulary. Listening exercises that accompany the text are employed to supplement each lesson. Glimpses into the life and customs of Spanish-speaking peoples are gained principally through the text and audio-visual materials. **NCAA approved course.**

OH5271 **Spanish II** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 10-12 2 semesters
This is a second level course designed for the student who has demonstrated superior ability in the first year course. While continuing to develop reading and writing skills more emphasis is placed on listening and speaking skills at this level. This quick paced course encourages the conversational use of the target language including correct idiomatic usage and also expands the student's knowledge of grammar and culture. **NCAA approved course.**
Prerequisite: 88 in OH5171 Spanish I Honors and with recommendation of Spanish I teacher; 95 in OH5181 Spanish I CP OR teacher recommendation and department chair approval

OH5281 **Spanish II** 1.00 cr. College Prep Gr. 10-12 2 semesters
This intermediate Spanish course is for the average student. It further develops the four basic skills which were initiated during the first year of Spanish study. The scope of vocabulary is enlarged and more complicated structural patterns are introduced. Students are exposed to the Hispanic/Latino culture through special projects. **NCAA approved course.**

OH5371 **Spanish III** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 11 2 semesters
This course is for students who have demonstrated superior ability in Spanish I and II. It is also a preparation for any student who will take the AP or Spanish IV course in the future. Taught completely in Spanish, this intensified course aims at refining and strengthening the communication skills. Extensive exposure to authentic Spanish materials helps the students to better understand the Spanish-speaking people and their culture. **NCAA approved course.**
Prerequisite: 85 cumulative average in Spanish II Honors OR teacher recommendation AND chairperson approval; 90 cumulative average in Spanish II CP OR teacher recommendation and department chair approval

OH5381 **Spanish III** 1.00 cr. College Prep Gr.10-12 2 semesters
Not being offered for the 2026-2027 school year. This course is designed for the average student. All classes are taught in Spanish with an emphasis on the development of listening and speaking skills. Grammatical structures are supplemented and reinforced by exercises leading to a gradual expansion of creative writing skills. Selected lessons, projects, and readings further expose the student to authentic Hispanic culture. **NCAA approved course.**
Prerequisite: 80 cumulative average in Spanish II Honors OR teacher recommendation AND department chairperson approval; 85 cumulative average in Spanish II CP OR teacher recommendation AND department chairperson approval

5471 **Spanish IV** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 11-12 2 semesters
Not being offered for the 2026-2027 school year. This course is the necessary culmination of language study for serious college-bound students. Oral fluency and command of structures are refined by stressing basic idioms, semantic nuances, and colloquialisms. A survey of social history, including discussions of significant authors and artists, is an integral element of the course. A mature appreciation of Spanish culture is stimulated by various teacher generated activities, by using videos, and by student research.
Prerequisite: 85 cumulative average in Spanish III.

OH5851 **AP Spanish Language and Culture** 1.00 cr. AP Gr. 11-12 2 semesters
Not being offered for the 2026-2027 school year. The AP Spanish Language and Culture class revolves around the development of six overarching course themes: global challenges; beauty and aesthetics; science and technology; contemporary life; families and communities; personal and public identities. These themes are analyzed through the lens of the Spanish-speaking world. Students are introduced to the perspectives, practices, and products of Spanish speakers throughout the world, and use these as a point of comparison to the perspectives, practices, and products of their communities. The course stresses critical thinking, analysis, and real-world communication skills using the Spanish language. AP Spanish Language and Culture seeks to expand and refine students' language skills through the study of culture. Students further develop the interpersonal, presentational, interpretive modes of communication. The course culminates in students taking the AP Spanish Language and Culture exam in May. Summer work is required. **Any student who takes this course must take the exam on its scheduled date in May and pay the College Board fee (approximately $100) for the exam or receive a failure. NCAA approved course.**

Prerequisite: Three years of Honors Spanish, an average of 90 in each year, and an interview with the World Languages Department.

OH5571 **Italian I** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 9-12 2 semesters
Not being offered for the 2026-2027 school year. This class is designed for gifted, college bound students. It exposes them to the fundamentals of the Italian language and to the history, art, music, and contemporary life of the Italian people. The emphasis of the course is on enabling students to acquire the necessary skills to speak, write, read proficiently and understand the Italian language at its basic level. Lessons, assessments, homework assignments, and projects are designed to adequately challenge an Honors-level class. **NCAA approved course.**

OH5671 **Italian II** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 10-12 2 semesters
Not being offered for the 2026-2027 school year. The second year of Italian focuses on the review and expansion of Italian grammar and vocabulary as well as written and oral proficiency of the language. Emphasis is placed also on exposing the students to Italian art, history, literature, and culture. Moreover, this course is designed for pupils who have demonstrated superior ability in the first year course. **NCAA approved course.**
Prerequisite: Completion of OH5571 Italian I

Business Computer Information Technology Department

The ultimate goal of the Business Computer Information Technology Department is to assist the student in attaining the marketable skills and knowledge needed to function in a technological society, and to achieve a solid foundation for those interested in majoring in business in college and eventually entering the business world.

Emphasis is placed on developing positive attitudes and values resulting in Christian men and women who will be capable of making ethical decisions and becoming responsible members of society.

OH6111 **STREAM/Financial Literacy** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 9 2 Semesters
One semester will be devoted to STREAM and the other to Financial Literacy. STREAM is an integrated introductory course designed to expose students to a variety of topics and skills, including but not limited to, technology, organizational, study, communication, social-emotional, design and problem solving, enhanced by the themes of STREAM (science, technology, religion, engineering, arts and mathematics). Students will develop efficient research skills, practice responsible internet safety, create formal documents in MLA, and come to an understanding of digital citizenship. This course will introduce students to the role of the arts in helping to shape and develop one's place in society which may include activities in studio art, ceramics, graphic design, music history, vocal performance, music technology, and drama amongst others. The goal is to develop both an appreciation of the arts and the potential therapeutic effects that art has for the individual and an understanding of the value of a well-rounded education. One semester of the course will be devoted to financial literacy and will cover earning, saving, spending, investing, and managing risk. This course fulfills the graduation requirement and prepares students with essential life skills for future financial independence through the development of practical financial management skills.

OH6421 **Entrepreneurship and Marketing** 1.00 cr. College Prep Gr. 11-12 2 semesters
This semester course will focus successfully on the skills it takes to run a business. Topics like operating cost, needs vs. wants, branding and marketing, persuasive & public speaking would be emphasized. Google would be used to facilitate a collaborative approach to building a marketing plan.

OH6311 **Accounting** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 11 - 12 2 semesters
This **accelerated** course will provide students with the opportunity to learn the role of accounting in today's business environment, and realize the value of the proper accounting practices and ethics. In addition, the course will prepare them for an introductory accounting class in college. Instruction will focus on the accounting cycle for both a sole proprietorship and a partnership culminating with the students keeping a set of books for a complete accounting period. This course is designed to prepare students who plan to major in Business or Accounting.

OH6321 **Accounting** 1.00 cr. College Prep Gr. 11-12 2 semesters
Not being offered for the 2026-2027 school year. This introductory course will provide students with the opportunity to learn the role of accounting in today's business environment, and realize the value of proper accounting in today's business environment, realize the value of proper accounting practices and ethics, and to prepare them for an introductory accounting class in college. Instruction will focus on the accounting cycle for both a sole proprietorship and a partnership culminating with the students keeping a set of books for a complete accounting period.

OH6611 **Finance** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 12 2 semesters
This advanced course is designed for students to acquire the knowledge, skills and processes required to make sound financial decisions and manage their own personal finances. Students will engage in critical thinking, problem solving and decision-making in topics including but not limited to budgeting, credit, saving and investing, risk protection, banking, taxes, and financial planning. Throughout the course students will use the internet for access to the latest information on personal finance topics and financial

products. Students will gain an understanding and appreciation for the economic environment in which they live, by introducing them to business concepts, as well. The forms of business ownership and operations of a business plus the impact of financial literacy on their daily life will be discussed. Honors Finance will prepare students for work and life through career planning, money management, and independent living techniques. This course is designed for students interested in majoring in finance in college and interested in career; such as financial analysts, tax consultants and controllers. This course fulfills the financial literacy requirement for graduation. **Note: Cannot take with AP Business with Personal Finance.**

OH6512 **Intro to Business/Sports Management** 1.00 cr. College Prep Gr. 11 and 12 2 semesters
This course is broken into two semesters. One semester is Introduction to Business, which introduces students to the world of business and prepares them for the economic roles of consumer, worker, and citizen. Students will gain valuable information and skills that will help prepare them for their future careers. The other semester is Sports Management. The goal of this course is for students to acquire the knowledge and skills to understand the basic management functions of planning, organizing, implementing and controlling, their interrelationships and the organization's competitive niche in the field of sports management.

OH6721 **Economics** 1.00 cr. College Prep Gr. 11 and 12 2 semesters
Not being offered for the 2026-2027 school year. Economics is the study of how individuals, firms, and organizational structures make economic decisions. This course focuses on the study of economic problems and the methods by which societies solve them. Characteristics of the market economy of the United States and its function in the world and methods of applying economics to one's life will be explored. Topics include problems of scarcity, productivity, economic institution and incentives, supply and demand. Macro and micro economics measures and business economic cycles will be examined. Exploring the topic of finance on a wider scale, this section of the course covers important investing concepts such as: buying stocks, the latest trends of the Dow Jones and S&P 500, building wealth through compound interest, dividends, and the 11 sectors of the Market. Interactive investing games and academic competitions are incorporated into this course.

OH6971 **AP Business with Personal Finance** 1.0 cr. AP Gr. 12 2 semesters
This course includes two essential components—business skills and professional and leadership skills—that are critical to the deep understanding and application of business and personal finance content. Students should develop and use these skills throughout the course. **Students enrolled in this course MUST take the Advanced Placement Examination on its scheduled date in May and pay the College Board fee (approximately $100) for the exam or receive a course failure. Students interested in this class must sign up for and take the qualifying test on January 14, 2026. Please sign up using this link. Note: Cannot take with Personal Finance Honors.**
Prerequisite: 85+ in Honors ELA or 93+ in CP ELA and 85+ in Honors Math or 93+ in CP Math

Fine Arts Department

The Fine Arts Department offers courses in art, music, and vocal music. It includes theory, application, and performance in all levels of art, instrumental music and vocal music. The goal is to help develop and understanding and appreciation for the cultural areas, while developing discipline in a concentrated area of study. Students will learn how to creatively solve problems, think critically and conceptually, and develop strong skills in their chosen discipline. The Fine Arts are where all subject areas intersect and offer a complete, well-rounded education.

OH7111 **Studio Art** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 9 -12 2 Semesters
Students will learn the foundations of drawing, design, and composition. They will study various artists and cultures that demonstrate these elements. They will explore a variety of media and techniques. Projects will include basic drawing, design, color theory, basic painting, illustration, collage, and assemblage. Grades are based on class and home projects, class performance, participation, skill development, and semester assessments. This course may be taken all four years.
Prerequisite: *9th graders by receipt of O'Hara scholarship only*

OH7511 **Band** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 9-12 2 semesters
This course is for the advanced music student. It will refine instrumental technique, music reading skills, and musical interpretation through continued weekly lessons, advanced concert literature, and daily concert/marching band rehearsals. Participation in all rehearsals, concerts, and Band Camp is required. Each student in this course is required to audition for All-Catholic Band. A research paper on a specified composer or performer is also required. This course may be taken all four years. **Students are admitted to this course solely upon recommendation by the Director of Bands. Please see Mr. Norton for approval.**

OH7611 **Vocal Music** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 9-12 2 semesters
Intro to Vocal Music is a course that gives students the opportunity to begin the study of proper vocal technique and vocal singing. Students will also receive basic music theory training including the understanding of the staff, rhythms, tempos and dynamics. Each student will be evaluated weekly on his/her own daily participation and attendance at all designated performances. Student assessments will include music-based projects, quizzes, and summative assessments on course content. This course may be taken all four years.

Chesterton Scholars Program (CSP)

The goal of the Chesterton Scholars Program at Cardinal O'Hara is to provide students an advanced honors educational opportunity through a rigorous classical curriculum. True to the mission of Cardinal O'Hara, the Chesterton Scholars Program aims to create an environment where

students encounter Christ and experience his love, so they can, in turn, share His love with others. Students have the opportunity to experience an integrated life, a life of faith lived out in community. The Chesterton Scholars Program approaches education in a particular way to meet this aim:

> **An Incarnational Environment.** The central truth of our faith is the central truth of the Chesterton education. From history to theology to math and science, the Incarnation is the central mystery we explore across the entire curriculum.
>
> **A Focus on Truth, Beauty, and Goodness**. Classical education can be described as the cultivation of wisdom and virtue through meditation on the good, the true, and the beautiful. Our classical curriculum combines a broad, liberal arts education with a strong emphasis on the development of Christian virtues and an appreciation of beauty.
>
> **Rediscovering the Lost Tools of Learning.** Education should be about becoming a more fluent reader, a more eloquent writer, a better communicator. Our curriculum is centered on skills seemingly forgotten in our modern society - reading, writing, oral presentations, and the development of critical reasoning skills through the study of logic and philosophy.
>
> **The Socratic Seminar**. Learning happens in the shared discovery of ideas. The Socratic seminar is perhaps the oldest educational tool and the most highly regarded educational format. Through this method, a teacher imparts knowledge through directed questions and guided dialogue, bringing ideas and knowledge to life.

The Chesterton Scholars Program allows O'Hara students to experience a fully integrated, classical curriculum. This advanced program offers the opportunity to explore and learn by reading primary texts, engage in seminar discussion, and participate in rigorous writing and critical thinking exercises. Students in the program take the CSP designated course in English and Theology for that academic year. At any point students can opt out of the program or elect to replace an CSP course with an AP course. All Chesterton classes have the CSP designation in the course catalog. Students must apply and be admitted into the Chesterton Scholars Program in order to take the CSP classes.

For purposes of GPA calculation, CSP Modern Literature, CSP Renaissance, CSP Theology, and CSP Theology classes are weighted at the highest available weighting, which is track 5, the same as AP classes. The other CSP classes are honors courses. **Please note that students are limited to four (4) track 5 classes per year.**

Students wishing to participate in the Chesterton Scholars Program must apply for admission. Please contact the program director, Ms. McDermott, for more information.

Neumann University will award up to 6 credits to students who take the Chesterton Scholars Program as long as they take sophomore Theology and a Literature course and matriculate at Neumann University.

Franciscan Advantage Program: Students enrolled in the Chesterton Scholars Program have the opportunity to receive college credit for their course work. Through a collaboration with the Franciscan University of Steubenville, CSP juniors and seniors have the opportunity to earn significant credit towards their college educations by taking the CSP theology and philosophy courses that are aligned with Franciscan University's curriculum and successfully completing college-level examinations. This credit is transferable to most universities.

Starting in 2023-2024, students enrolling in this program, known as Franciscan Advantage, can earn at least 12 college credits at a significantly reduced cost. They also receive an automatic $2000 annual scholarship if they attend Franciscan University and a $2500 annual scholarship to Christendom College and Benedictine College. The opportunity for college credit in Latin, Literature, Math, and Science might also be available this year for CSP students. Please contact Ms. McDermott with any questions about these opportunities.

About the CSP Philosophy Program

Philosophy, "the love of wisdom," exercises the brain while it elevates the soul. The ability to understand abstract concepts leads to clear and systematic thinking in all things. We use philosophy to connect the humanities, and with all areas of study. We study the development of philosophy from its classical, ancient roots focusing on Plato and Aristotle, through its encounter with the early Church, its christening by St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas, and into the prevailing philosophies of the modern era.
Philosophy courses are introduced to students during junior and senior year, and build upon the literature of the ancient world from their freshmen and sophomore years. Classes are taught through a combination of lecture and Socratic discussion. Material is presented in a roughly chronological and historically relevant sequence to integrate what CSP students learn in literature and theology.

CSP Curriculum Sequence
Literature, Theology, & Philosophy

OH1171 **CSP Literature – Ancient World: Greece & Rome** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 9 2 semesters
The literature of ancient Greece and Rome has so captivated and shaped culture that it is impossible to imagine Western Civilization without it. In this course, students are introduced to the perennial questions of the human condition through the works of Homer, Virgil, and Greek dramatists. Questions of honor, virtue, love, longing, and happiness are put forward as students are challenged to enter the conversation in the search for truth. In this Socratic method style course, students learn how to interact with ideas different from their own, distinguish between opinion and proof, and analyze texts according to sound logical principles. Ultimately, this course teaches students that the works that remain most relevant are also those that speak most deeply to our human condition.
Texts Studied: Edith Hamilton's Greek Mythology, Homer: *Iliad & Odyssey,* Virgil: *Aeneid*, Sophocles: *Antigone*

OH9161 **CSP Theology I: Sacred Scripture & Tradition: The Old Testament** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 9 2 semesters

Theology 9 introduces students to theology, "the study of God," as it is revealed to us in both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. This study of God begins an organic presentation of the Catholic faith. Beginning with an overview of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, this course also studies the Old Testament in the light of Christ crucified and risen. It seeks to form a biblical worldview and introduce students to the reality of God's divine plan throughout salvation history. From this position, then, we are able to begin erecting a beautiful edifice for further theological inquiry as students continue to study Sacred Scripture, Moral theology, the Fathers of the Church, Magisterial documents, and the many great theologians of history.

OH1271 **CSP Literature - Medieval** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 10 2 semesters
This course dives deep into Early Medieval literature, which illustrates the great Christian synthesis between Mediterranean and Northern European culture. In this course, students are exposed to the progression of Christian culture through provoking narratives. In this Socratic Method style course, students dive into *Beowulf*, *The Confessions of St. Augustine*, *Le Morte d'Arthur*, *The Canterbury Tales*, and *The Ballad of the White Horse*, which lead to discussions about our human frailty, the path towards conversion and redemption, and our place in this world. Whether battling against seemingly insurmountable obstacles or exploring the deepest depths of the human heart, this course is sure to thrill as it provides fresh insights in the condition of man and the nature of God. Throughout the year, students will also analyze, discuss, and memorize between 5-10 poems, giving them further ways of understanding the world and man's relationship with God.
Texts Studied: St. Augustine, *Confessions, Beowulf, The Canterbury Tales, Le Morte d'Arthur*

OH9261 **CSP Theology II: New Testament** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 10 2 semesters
The truth of the Incarnation is one of the central tenets of our faith and the center of our human history. Just as all of history led up to the moment of God-assuming-humanity, so also all of history since the Incarnation is impacted by this one moment. This central mystery of the faith is the theme of Sophomore year. Having studied the Old Testament scriptures, students now transition into the New Testament and the life of Jesus and His Apostles. Special emphasis is given to the four Gospels, which are the heart of all the Scriptures and the principal source for the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. Along with the emphasis of the four Gospels, the Eucharist is given special attention in this biblical study of theology. Students are encouraged to draw connections between themes and events in Sacred Scripture and our own day. It is hoped that by learning to truly encounter God in Word and Sacrament students will be transformed into "other Christs" and share the salvific message of the Gospel with all they meet.

OH1371 **CSP Literature - High Middle Ages to Renaissance** 1.00 cr. Track 5 Gr. 11 2 semesters
High Middle Ages and Renaissance literature include some of the richest and most illuminating works of Western civilization. These writings take their rightful place in the organic development of Western literature and represent a period in human history where faith and daily life were beautifully integrated. Beginning with Dante's *Divine Comedy*, which has been described as a cathedral in words, students are led through the beautifully intricate and insightful works of William Shakespeare, Robert Bolt, and Miguel de Cervantes. Great masterpieces in themselves, these works explore countless themes such as the realization of sin, the nature of God's mercy, and humanity's longing for the Truth and union with God. These great works have an enduring value as reflective of man's pursuit for God.
Texts Studied: Dante, *Inferno,* Dante, *Purgatorio,* Dante, *Paradiso,* Bolt, *A Man for All Seasons*

OH9261 **CSP Theology III: Catechism I: Creed & Sacraments** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 11 2 semesters
The study of the deposit of faith is essential to the Christian life. This faith, which is presented as an organic synthesis in the Catechism, is built upon four pillars. The Junior year course aims at a thorough understanding and internalization of the first two pillars: the Profession of Faith and the Sacraments. Building upon the solid basis of Scripture from Freshman and Sophomore year, and incorporating primary texts from some of the greatest minds in history such as St. Thomas Aquinas and Pope St. Clement of Rome, this course examines what we believe and how we worship.

OH9471 **Philosophy I: Introduction to Philosophy & The Ancient World** 1.00 cr. Honors Gr. 11 2 semesters
*See Course Description Below. CSP students are encouraged to take this course if possible.

OH1491 **CSP Literature - Modern** 1.00 cr. Track 5 Gr. 12 2 semesters
Modern literature chronicles the emergence of a post-Christian world. This world was born in the humanism and skepticism that emerged during the Renaissance and grew through periods of revolution and turmoil. Therefore, it is not surprising that the works studied in this course such as Frankenstein, Brave New World, and The Brothers Karamazov wrestle with themes of dystopia, science and religion, class structure, and the disharmony of faith and reason. Literature in this period portrays a culture in turmoil, but it also witnesses humanity's longing for something greater than the self. The works studied in this course are a testament to the fact that regardless of how far we stray or how convoluted our ideas about the world become, we cannot escape something deep within us that yearns for what is True, Good, and Beautiful. In the final analysis, modern literature teaches us that no matter how hard modern man tries he cannot deny his creator without denying oneself.
Texts Studied: Shelley's *Frankenstein,* Dickens' *Great Expectations/A Tale of Two Cities,* Dostoevsky's *Crime & Punishment/Brothers Karamazov,* Huxley's *Brave New World*

OH9461 **CSP Theology IV: Catechism II: Life in Christ & Christian Prayer** 1.00 cr. Track 5 Gr. 12 2 semesters
In this capstone course, students continue their exploration of Catholic theology by studying the third and fourth pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: Life in Christ and Christian Prayer. Students are challenged to put all their philosophical and reasoning skills to the test as they study the principles of moral theology and ask what it means to be made in the image of God, how freedom relates to moral decision-making, and how we form our consciences according to the truth. Students will study the Ten Commandments and wrestle with the crucial questions of our time such as what it means to be truly religious, how respect for life and marriage are essential to Christian life, and what a just social order looks like in the light of faith. Finally, students will learn about and practice the heart of the Christian life – prayer – which puts us in communion with Jesus Christ. By engaging these questions with both faith and reason, students are encouraged to see all things as part of God's revealed and loving plan for the world. Students are encouraged to think about their role in this loving plan and how God is calling them to eternal happiness with Him.

Vocational and Career Technical Courses

Delaware County Technical School (DCTS) **deadline is February 28, 2026** for the Vo-Tech Programs and **February 1, 2026**, for the Medical Careers Program. Applications past that deadline will be accepted and considered by DCTS if room is still available. Students participating in either Vo-Tech or Medical Careers are not assigned a lunch period at O'Hara. **Students must bring their own lunches and either eat when they arrive at their program or eat while traveling.** Students may not go to the cafeteria to purchase lunch if they participate in one of the DCTS programs. **Students must reside in Delaware County** in order to participate in any of the Delaware County Technical School programs, including VoTech and Medical Careers. Anyone who claims to be a resident of Delaware County and is not will be subject to a $400 fine for fraud.

OH8732 **Vo-Tech** 3.00 cr. Academic Gr. 11-12 2 semesters

Students enrolled in Vo-Tech usually take four morning classes at O'Hara and afternoon classes at the Vo-Tech school. Some programs require the reverse where students take morning classes at the Vo-Tech school and four afternoon classes at O'Hara. Bus transportation is provided by school districts. Please note that students attending DCTS programs are not rostered for a lunch period and must bring their own lunch to consume during their transit time. Additional information and Vo-Tech applications may be obtained from the Academic Office. Following is the list of courses available through the Delaware County Area Vocational Technical Schools located in Aston and Folcroft:

- Building Trades
- Carpentry
- Industrial and Residential Electricity
- Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC)
- Landscape Design and Greenhouse Operations
- Cosmetology
- Culinary Arts and Hospitality
- Early Childhood Education
- Emergency and Protective Services
- Health Occupations
- Medical Careers (see description below)
- Automotive Technology
- Collision Repair Technology
- Materials and Inventory Control
- Advertising Design & Commercial Art
- Applied Engineering Technology
- Business Administration and Technical Support
- Computer Networking Systems

Some Vo-Tech classes are now eligible for credits from Immaculata University, Widener University, or Delaware County Community College.

Immaculata University is now offering a dual enrollment program for Delaware County Technical College High School juniors and seniors enrolled in the Allied Health and other programs, enabling them to earn three college credits.
Through this program, students may take the Medical Terminology course at DCTS to earn college credits in allied health and other majors at the greatly discounted rate of $100 per credit ($300 for the course).

Widener University is now offering a dual enrollment program for Delaware County Technical College High School juniors and seniors. Through this program, students may take specific courses to earn college credits at the greatly discounted rate of $200 per credit ($600 per course). Students register for the courses through Widener and take them asynchronously. A list of courses being offered will be posted each semester along with the registration deadlines.

The Delaware County Technical High Schools entered into a dual enrollment partnership with Delaware County Community College (DCCC) for their Automotive Technology Program. Eligible students can earn up to 17 college credits in two years, or up to 8 college credits in one year, while enrolled in this unique program. Courses will be taught by DCTS instructors.

OH4926 **MEDICAL CAREERS** 2.00 cr. Track 5 Gr. 12 2 semesters

Medical Careers is a year-long DCTS course available to seniors who are interested in pursuing post-secondary education to prepare for a career in the health care industry. Curriculum is divided into three areas: Academics, Clinical Rotation, and Patient Care Skills. Students attend school at local hospitals and courses count for two Honors Science courses. Students were invited to the information session at O'Hara where DCTS reviewed the program and application process. Applications are available on the DCTS website and are due prior to February 1. DCTS determines who is accepted into the program and those decisions are usually released in May. Students who attend medical careers must provide their own transportation. Busing will not be available for this program. **Medical Careers students must have their own transportation to and from the program.**

Academic Information

COURSE CHANGES
All courses and programs for the academic year are selected by the student and approved by parents during the Course Selection Period. For this reason, courses (including electives) are not changed, added or dropped in September or at any time during the Academic School Year. In exceptional cases and for valid reasons the Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs permits limited roster changes until the Friday of the first week of school. The steps in the roster change process are meant to ensure that the change is really in the student's best interest, that individual class size and total teacher load are not compromised, and that a "domino effect" is not produced involving course changes or program changes in subjects other than the one requested. Therefore, requests for the following reasons are unacceptable:

- ✓ Dissatisfaction with a course/teacher/schedule
- ✓ Poor or undesired grades in a course
- ✓ Change of mind
- ✓ Desire for early dismissal/accommodation of a work schedule
- ✓ Desire for a different lunch or study period

Students may see a guidance to change their course requests prior to June 9 but the signed course selection form must be returned to Academic Affairs prior to June 9 in order for the change to be in effect. Starting June 9, in order to request a schedule change, the student and parents must fill out the course change application form found on the Academics page of the O'Hara website and submit it along with $50 in cash or check by the published deadline to the Academic Affairs Office. Roster change requests will not be honored after Friday, September 11.

Disclaimer
The Administration of Cardinal O'Hara High School reserves the right to cancel any courses due to lack of enrollment for that course or lack of teacher for that course. The administration also reserves the right to merge two program offerings into one, if insufficient numbers of students enroll for a course or if qualified personnel are not available for the next school year.

GRADING
The highest report card grade that may be given is 100; the lowest passing grade is 70; and the lowest failing grade is 60.

The **quarter grade** is determined by the teacher and, depending on the academic discipline, may include major tests, quizzes, term papers, homework, classroom participation, portfolio assessment, group/individual projects or a major project. At least three major assessments or major project must be included in the quarter grade; these major marks should be distributed over the quarter and returned to the student in a timely fashion so that the student is aware of his or her progress. Teachers are to update Parent Portal, (PowerSchool) at least every five days in order for parents/students to be aware of progress.

The **semester grade** is calculated by adding 50% of each quarterly grade. The **final grade** is calculated by taking 45% of each semester grade and 10% of the final assessment grade. This determines whether the student has passed or failed the course. Only the first semester grade and the final grade appear on the permanent record. The first and third quarter grades are meant to be progress reports to the students and their parents.

REPORT CARDS
Student academic reports are processed by our administrative computer system. In addition to the grades, the report cards provide an opportunity for teacher comments; they also contain the students' absences, lateness, and the conduct grade. Report cards are distributed three times during the school year on the day assigned by the Academic Office; final reports are mailed to the parents at the end of June.

Only the first semester grade and the final grade in June appear on the students' permanent record card, which becomes their transcript. The record of absence and lateness is also part of the permanent record; the conduct grade is not.

HONOR ROLL
The Honor Roll is determined by general average, and is independent of the placement (Honors, College Prep or Academic) of the courses which the student is taking. Partial credited courses are counted as such in this calculation. Honors are calculated on a quarterly basis; they do not include semester grades or semester assessments. General averages are not rounded up to meet the following criteria:

1st Honors	**93.0** with no grade below 90
2nd Honors	**88.0** with no grade below 85

FAILURE WARNINGS
Any student who is in danger of failing for the semester, third quarter or for the entire school year must receive a failure warning notice before the close of the marking period; suggested dates are noted on the school calendar. A failure warning may be issued later in the marking period if the student's academic performance changes dramatically. Although instructors are not obligated to issue failure warning notices during the first quarter, progress reports are issued throughout the year to keep parents aware of scholastic progress. Parents should check PowerSchool regularly, which provides daily, weekly or monthly reports on the student's progress.

Students who fail three subjects at the end of the school year are subject to dismissal. Ninth grade students with five failures at the end of the first semester are liable for dismissal, as are upperclassmen with four failures at the end of the first semester.

Academic Placement
The academic system is designed to have students in classes according to ability and achievement. It is possible for a student to be in different levels for different subjects. The following levels are offered at O'Hara: Advanced Placement, Honors, College Preparatory and Academic.

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses
Advanced Placement, or AP, refers to college- level courses taught according to The College Board Advanced Placement Program and/or to courses designed to prepare students for College Board AP Tests. Success in AP courses can be an important factor in admission to colleges and universities. Successful performance on AP tests (a score of 3, 4, or 5 on a five-point scale) may lead to college credit and/or advanced placement in college. For further information on policies for granting of AP credit, consult the catalogs of specific colleges and universities. AP courses receive appropriate weight in the Grade Point Average (GPA). **Please note that students are limited to four (4) track 5 classes per year.**

Honors (H) Courses
Honors courses are those which are taught at a high school level but which, like AP courses, provide the greatest challenge and the best preparation for admission to and success at highly selective colleges. Honors level courses receive appropriate weight when the Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated.

College Prep (CP) Courses
CP courses are for above average students. These courses prepare the student for admission into a university.

Academic Classes
Academic classes are for students who need more academic support in a subject. The availability of these courses is limited and only offered during the freshman and sophomore years.

Elective Courses
These courses fall outside core course requirements, but are required to meet graduation requirements. Students must choose electives that satisfy graduation requirements and must pass these electives to graduate.

Prerequisite
A prerequisite is a course that a student must complete in order to qualify for entry into another course.

NCAA Eligible
These courses meet requirements necessary for college-bound student athletes enrolling full time at an NCAA Division I college or university.

Required Courses
Required courses are specific courses that must be taken by all students to satisfy graduation requirements.

Semester
A semester is half a school year and includes two marking periods. Semester 1 begins in September and ends in late January. Semester 2 ends in June.

RANK IN CLASS
Rank-in-class considers the level of each course. In the track system all subjects are divided into tracks or levels which place different interpretations on the grade received for a given course. It is an attempt to show greater justice to students who select difficult subjects and also, an attempt to encourage other students to earn a higher grade.

Tracking enables classes to be taught on the basis of difficulty of subject matter and the ability of the students taking the subject. The grade is meant to indicate whether or not a student is working to his or her level and it is independent of the track; thus students in Academic can make the Honor Roll just as easily as students in Honors.

Rank-in-class, however, is determined by an Adjusted Quality Point average which gives greater weight to the more difficult courses in the advanced tracks. The student who ranks first in the class has the highest Adjusted Quality Point Average. The weighting is accomplished by assigning quality points to each mark according to the track of the course, as detailed in the accompanying **Quality Points Table.** The **Quality Points Table** is used to calculate quality points and rank. Current and cumulative rank in class appears **only** on the semester report card.

Quality Point Table				
Grade	**AP/5**	**Honors**	**CP**	**Academic**
100	54	48	44	40
99	53	47	43	39
98	52	46	42	38
97	51	45	41	37
96	50	44	40	36
95	49	43	39	35
94	48	42	38	34
93	47	41	37	33
92	46	40	36	32
91	45	39	35	31
90	44	38	34	30
89	43	37	33	29
88	42	36	32	28
87	41	35	31	27
86	40	34	30	26
85	39	33	29	25
84	38	32	28	24
83	37	31	27	23
82	36	30	26	22
81	35	29	25	21
80	34	28	24	20
79	33	27	23	19
78	32	26	22	18
77	31	25	21	17
76	30	24	20	16
75	29	23	19	15
74	28	22	18	14
73	27	21	17	13
72	26	20	16	12
71	25	19	15	11
70	24	18	14	10
69	23	17	13	9
68	22	16	12	8
67	21	15	11	7
66	20	14	10	6
65	19	13	9	5
64	18	12	8	4
63	17	11	7	3
62	16	10	6	2
61	15	9	5	1
60	14	8	4	0

GRADE CONVERSION

Transcripts of students who transfer to Cardinal O'Hara High School are reviewed and subject to grade conversion following Archdiocesan guidelines for academic standing using the quality point table and the following conversions table:

A+ = 99	C+ = 79
A = 96	C = 76
A- = 93	C- = 73
B+ = 89	D+ = 72

B = 86	D = 71
B- = 83	D- = 70
	F = 65

This conversion table is also used for any class that uses an alpha grade system, including Diocesan Scholars.

GPA

The weighted GPA will be calculated based on the final grade per course using the weighted scale below. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia uses a weighted 4.0 scale for calculating GPAs. Each course receives a GPA value and then the average GPA of all courses is calculated. The GPA will be reported on the transcript. Semester-long and quarter-long courses will be counted into the GPA.

Grade	Unweighted	AP/5	Honors	CP	Academic
100	4.00	5.00	4.50	4.25	4.00
99	4.00	5.00	4.50	4.25	4.00
98	4.00	5.00	4.50	4.25	4.00
97	4.00	5.00	4.50	4.25	4.00
96	4.00	5.00	4.50	4.25	4.00
95	4.00	5.00	4.50	4.25	4.00
94	4.00	5.00	4.50	4.25	4.00
93	4.00	5.00	4.50	4.25	4.00
92	3.70	4.70	4.20	3.95	3.70
91	3.70	4.70	4.20	3.95	3.70
90	3.70	4.70	4.20	3.95	3.70
89	3.30	4.30	3.80	3.55	3.30
88	3.30	4.30	3.80	3.55	3.30
87	3.30	4.30	3.80	3.55	3.30
86	3.00	4.00	3.50	3.25	3.00
85	3.00	4.00	3.50	3.25	3.00
84	3.00	4.00	3.50	3.25	3.00
83	3.00	4.00	3.50	3.25	3.00
82	2.70	3.70	3.20	2.95	2.70
81	2.70	3.70	3.20	2.95	2.70
80	2.70	3.70	3.20	2.95	2.70
79	2.30	3.30	2.80	2.55	2.30
78	2.30	3.30	2.80	2.55	2.30
77	2.30	3.30	2.80	2.55	2.30
76	2.00	3.00	2.50	2.25	2.00
75	2.00	3.00	2.50	2.25	2.00
74	2.00	3.00	2.50	2.25	2.00
73	2.00	3.00	2.50	2.25	2.00
72	1.00	2.00	1.50	1.25	1.00
71	1.00	2.00	1.50	1.25	1.00
70	1.00	2.00	1.50	1.25	1.00
69	0	0	0	0	0
68	0	0	0	0	0

67	0	0	0	0	0
66	0	0	0	0	0
65	0	0	0	0	0

Some colleges and scholarships request the unweighted GPA, which is on a 4.0 scale. The following unweighted GPA scale is used to determine the GPA on an unweighted 4.0 scale. Each course receives a GPA value and then the average GPA of all courses is calculated. The GPA will be reported on the transcript. Semester-long and quarter-long courses will be counted into the GPA.

Grade	GPA
100	4.0
99	4.0
98	4.0
97	4.0
96	3.7
95	3.7
94	3.7
93	3.4
92	3.4
91	3.4
90	3.1
89	3.1
88	3.1
87	2.8
86	2.8
85	2.8
84	2.5
83	2.5

Grade	GPA
82	2.5
81	2.2
80	2.2
79	2.2
78	1.9
77	1.9
76	1.9
75	1.6
74	1.6
73	1.6
72	1.3
71	1.3
70	1.3
69	0
68	0
67	0
66	0
65	0

ACADEMIC PROBATION

Although students are encouraged to participate in the activities program of the school, great care should be exercised so that the degree of participation in these activities does not have a harmful effect upon their academic progress. Students who fail to receive a passing grade in two or more subjects will be placed on academic probation. Students who are on Academic Probation are ineligible to participate in any sport or activity during the next quarter. This is a total ban from all practices, work sessions, meetings, any club activities, dances, proms, and other events.

SUMMER SCHOOL POLICIES

Archdiocesan policy stipulates that seniors with failures for the school year do not participate in the graduation exercises. Seniors with any failures for the year must successfully make up those failures in ***Diocesan Summer School*** in order to receive the diploma; this applies even if the failure was in an elective course.

Underclassmen with any failures for the year must successfully make up those failures in ***Diocesan Summer School*** in order to return to O'Hara the following September. Students with excessive absences do not successfully complete the school year until they make up the time they have missed in ***Discipline Summer School***. According to the policy of the Secondary School System, "secondary school students who have missed 22 or more days without a medical note must attend a Discipline Summer School at their school. Any student who fails to attend this week may not return to any Archdiocesan School in the fall."

Diocesan Summer School is held on-line through www.Educere.net. Summer school registration for summer school takes place when the school year ends. There is a registration fee and an additional fee for each subject (approximately $500); these fees must be paid at the time of registration. Students must successfully complete each summer school course within the time allotted (*usually by the first week of August)* to be retained at O'Hara. Upon successful completion of the course, student transcripts will be updated according to the following scale:

- A grade of 70 will be applied for any earned summer school grade of 70-84.

- A grade of 75 will be applied for any earned summer school grade of 85-100.
- A grade below 70 will result in a failure; student may not return to O'Hara.

DIOCESAN SCHOLARS

Twelve Catholic colleges in the Philadelphia area in cooperation with the Secondary School System of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia sponsor the **Diocesan Scholars Program**. The top thirty juniors are invited to interview for the program during January/February of their senior year. The O'Hara students selected take four courses at Cardinal O'Hara and two college courses each semester during their senior year. There is no college tuition for these courses, but students receive both high school and college credit. ***Diocesan Scholars*** must supply their own transportation between the high school and the college, and maintain at least a **B** average.

DUAL ENROLLMENT- Opportunities to gain college credit:

Delaware County Community College: COHS partners with Delaware Community College in offering our students the chance to take classes at a discounted rate and to gain college credit. Students become eligible by completing a Delaware County Community College Dual Enrollment Application and tests college ready on the Placement Test. The Placement Test may be waived with these qualifying SAT/ACT scores:

English/Reading = **SAT Verbal: 500 or ACT Verbal: 18**
Math = **SAT Math: 500 or ACT Math: 20**

Delaware County Community College Assessment Services comes to Cardinal O'Hara and administers the test at no cost. All students who have handed in a completed Dual Enrollment Application are added to the list. If a student qualifies for admission the Delaware County Community College Dual Enrollment staff will come to Cardinal O'Hara for registration and assistance in choosing courses with the student.

Students must take at least enough classes at O'Hara to qualify for graduation without the dual enrollment and must take a minimum of six credits at O'Hara. Cardinal O'Hara High School does permit early dismissal for dual enrollment. Parents of students who have an exam at college during a school day should send a note in advance stating the time and reason in order to be excused for the exam.

All applications, tuition, transportation, and other costs are the sole responsibility of the student and family. O'Hara High School bears no financial responsibility for any cost of dual enrollment.

Widener University: COHS has partnered with Widener University to offer college credits. Currently students taking AP Literature will also register for the course at Widener University and pay the much-discounted rate of $200 for 3 college credits for the class, which will be transferable to any school.

Neumann University: COHS partners with Neumann University to offer opportunities for college credits. Neumann professors will come to campus to teach college classes for Neumann credit when 20 or more students express interest in a particular class. Neumann University also awards students matriculating to their school 3 college credits for the CSP Theology II class and 3 college credits for one of the CSP Literature classes.

TESTING SCHEDULE

To allow students to prepare adequately for tests and to avoid multiple tests on the same day, the Testing Schedule is followed for major tests. A major test extends over most of the class period and reviews extensive subject matter. The schedule is given by number days; an alternate testing day for the department is given in italics. Quizzes may be given at the discretion of the teacher.

Day 1 Theology, Fine Arts, English
Day 2 World Language, BCIT, Math
Day 3 Science, Social Studies, PE/Health
Day 4 English, Theology, Fine Arts
Day 5 Math, World Language, BCIT
Day 6 Social Studies, Science, PE/Health

PREPARATION FOR A PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE

1. Be aware of what a teacher's expectation level is for this class. Most teachers give a course profile out on "Back to School Night" held in September.

2. Check Power School frequently and sign up with your parent account to access your child's progress.
3. Power school will show all test, quiz, written homework, class or group assignment, class work, lab, notebook and project grades.
4. Ask your child if they understand how the teacher determines a quarter grade. Check your student's grades and assignments on Power School to see if the information is up to date.
5. Nothing a teacher tells you at a conference should come as a surprise to you. Please attend the conference with your son/daughter.

At the Conference

1. Ask the teacher if all your child's assignments have been completed and handed in on time.
2. Compare information with the teacher about the grades for tests, quizzes and so forth.
3. Ask the teacher exactly how the quarter grade was determined.
4. Make sure all your questions are answered before you leave the conference - bring a list of questions with you if necessary.
5. You are encouraged to bring your child to the conference especially if your child is not doing well in a particular subject.

Remember: Parent-Teacher Conferences are an opportunity for an exchange of information between parent and teacher to benefit the student