

Archbishop Stepinac High School

» Course Curriculum Guide





Our Mission

As a standard-bearer in curriculum innovation, Archbishop Stepinac High School provides young men with a highly competitive academic program that leverages our blended learning platforms and project-based learning pedagogy to equip students with skills to become globally competitive.

Students are provided a diverse range of extra-curricular programs that foster diversity, as well as social, emotional and spiritual growth based on solid Roman Catholic, societal and moral values inspired by Blessed Aloysius Stepinac. It is our goal that Stepinac students will become responsible and ethical leaders in society. To this end, the faculty and staff provide them with tools needed for post-secondary success as well as instill in them the lifelong desire to lead through service.

Students are challenged to realize their full potential, in an ever-changing world, through a supportive and inspiring atmosphere which imbues a strong sense of camaraderie that is unique to the Stepinac experience.

We Believe

- A spirit of Catholicism should permeate the entire curriculum. An integral education develops the whole person –spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically.
- Developing self-discipline encourages students to take responsibility for their own learning while recognizing that diverse and unique learning styles compel Stepinac to continue to develop differentiated methods of instruction.
- Each student is an individual with unique learning styles and rates of learning. Interaction with individuals of diverse backgrounds and abilities teaches respect and appreciation for others.
- Through the opportunity to participate in diverse extracurricular activities, our students develop a sense of family.
- All students should have a safe learning environment to foster personal growth. Health and wellness provide the necessary framework for success throughout the students' academic and professional lives.

Profile of the Archbishop Stepinac Graduate at Graduation

A graduate of Archbishop Stepinac High School is a young man of integrity and compassion who understands the value of respect for others and authority.

He stands up for what is right and advocates courageously for those whose voices are unheard. With a strong educational foundation, he can analyze information, solve problems, consider diverse perspectives, and think critically about global and local issues—seeking truth and forming thoughtful, independent opinions.

Our ideal graduate embodies three core attributes: Intellectually Competent, Religious, and Committed to Personal Development. Each of these attributes reflects the values we seek to instill in our students.

INTELLECTUALLY COMPETENT

Upon graduation, an Archbishop Stepinac student demonstrates mastery in the essential academic skills needed for higher education. Beyond excelling within individual academic disciplines, he has developed interdisciplinary insights and skills that extend beyond college preparation. He values intellectual integrity and understands how to integrate the spiritual values of his education into all aspects of life. By graduation, the student:

- Is a critical thinker and communicator who applies the knowledge gained at Stepinac to make responsible choices and navigate life after high school.
- Possesses a solid foundation in all major academic disciplines.
- Has discerned a pathway for college and career.
- Can evaluate diverse viewpoints, solve complex problems, and think creatively and independently.
- Is skilled in using digital tools and technology to access, analyze, and communicate information effectively.
- Is prepared to meet the challenges of a rigorous academic environment in post-secondary education.
- Can express his ideas and opinions effectively, both orally and in writing.
- Has developed a strong work ethic, demonstrated both in and outside the classroom.

RELIGIOUS

By graduation, a Stepinac student has a foundational understanding of the major doctrines and practices of the Catholic Church and has embarked on a journey toward a personal relationship with God within a religious tradition and/or faith community. Specifically, the graduate:

- Has embraced the teachings of Jesus Christ and strives to live as His disciple.
- Has begun to form a well-developed conscience, learning to make moral decisions and accept accountability for his choices.
- Engages actively in his faith and seeks to challenge and deepen his beliefs within his community.
- Is a self-disciplined, lifelong learner in his faith, responding to God's call through acts of charity, compassion, and selflessness.
- Demonstrates the qualities of a true disciple of Christ through service and commitment to others.
- Is dedicated to upholding the principles of social justice.
- Has demonstrated leadership through acts of service to the community and school.

COMMITTED TO PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

By graduation, a Stepinac student is on a journey of personal growth, moving beyond self-interest toward intentional responsibility for his own development across emotional, intellectual, physical, social, and spiritual dimensions.

Though still evolving, the graduate:

- Respects his mind, body, and spirit.
- Demonstrates self-control and integrity consistent with his ethical beliefs.
- Values collaboration and learns from the insights and experiences of others.
- Shows respect, acceptance, and appreciation of the rich diversity of our school and world.
- Is a well-rounded individual, prepared to face emotional, spiritual, intellectual, social, and physical challenges.
- Recognizes the importance of making positive contributions to his community.
- Has developed a creative spirit and an appreciation for the arts.
- Possesses self-awareness and an understanding of the importance of his relationships with family, friends, teachers, and classmates.

This profile captures the essential qualities we aim to foster in each Archbishop Stepinac graduate, preparing him to live a life of faith, service, and purpose.

Academic Program

Each student at Archbishop Stepinac participates in a four-year college preparatory program aimed at rewarding academic excellence and encouraging increased academic effort and goal setting.

It is the goal of Archbishop Stepinac High School to challenge students of all ability levels to reach their full academic potential.

Therefore, the academic policies set forth are designed to reflect the high standards of excellence expected from each Stepinac student.

A | CURRICULUM

The courses offered at Archbishop Stepinac High School are listed in this handbook. In the second school semester, the Counseling Department, in consultation with classroom teachers, determines student placement in appropriate courses for the following school year.

B | PROGRAM CHANGES

A student who wishes to add or drop a course must have a serious academic reason. The student must obtain approval from his guidance counselor and the subject teacher. This request is then submitted to the Assistant Principal for final approval.

C | GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Each student must earn a minimum of 26 credits.

A senior who has not satisfied all academic requirements will not be allowed to graduate. This includes the successful completion of all coursework.

D | COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

Stepinac seeks to develop the whole student academically and spiritually. Therefore, service in one's local community is essential for student development. In addition, community service also enriches a student's college application and presents him with numerous scholarship opportunities.

Consequently, all students are required to accumulate 30 hours of service in their school or local community in freshman, sophomore, and junior years. In senior year, students are expected to complete 50 hours of community service. This is a graduation requirement.

It is preferred that service hours be aimed at persons and/or groups who are recognized as having real needs: the poor, elderly, or homeless. Students are also strongly encouraged to seek service opportunities through their Church and local communities. Service to the elderly must occur within a nursing home or an assisted living facility.

Any service work done for an institution or business MUST be a "non-profit" enterprise/business. No work--paid or unpaid--done for a "for-profit" business will be accepted.

No monies shall be earned for service hours.

No hours will be accepted for service done for a family member or relative.

E | ASSESSMENT

Progress reports are prepared to encourage positive work habits and ensure academic success as well as appropriate classroom behavior. Parents and students receive reports three times a year (except seniors – two times) at mid trimester.

Reports cards are distributed three times (December, March, June) a year on a trimester basis.

Grades are based on formal examinations, oral and written quizzes, participation in class discussions and activities, research papers, essays, projects, laboratory reports, and homework.

F | HOMEWORK

Homework, which consists of the study of new material, review of the day's lessons, preparation of assignments and papers, critical reading, and advanced study for exams, is vital for academic success.

G | EXAMINATIONS

If a student is absent for an exam, it is his responsibility to take a make-up exam after school or per the teacher's availability.

If a student is absent from a trimester examination, appropriate documentation (doctor's note, court summons, etc.) is necessary to schedule a make-up exam. If a student is truant on an exam day, he will receive a grade of zero.

H | ACADEMIC FAILURE POLICIES

A course failure may occur for many reasons. Failure primarily indicates a lack of comprehension. For a student to successfully complete his course of studies, he must demonstrate a satisfactory level of mastery at each level of instruction.

If a student fails any course taken, he must repeat the course in summer school (online or in person) to earn school credit. Vacation plans and student's employment responsibilities will NOT be accepted as excuses for inability to attend summer school. If the course is not offered in any area summer school, alternative plans will be made with the Office of Academic Affairs.

If a student passes the summer school course, his transcript grade is raised proportionately based on his summer school grade performance.

For lab failures: If a student passes his science course but fails the lab component, he must attend a full week of summer laboratory sessions at Stepinac to pass the course.

A student will not be re-admitted to Stepinac the following year unless he has successfully passed all summer school courses to rectify final failures in each subject.

If a student has four final failures at the end of the school year, he must withdraw from Stepinac.

I | ACADEMIC PROBATION

Students who are failing more than two classes at any given period are placed on academic probation. Students on academic probation must take corrective action to ensure an improvement in grades. Such action involves attending after school study sessions with the class teacher, participating in National Honor Society tutoring programs, and meeting with a school guidance counselor.

Students who are failing more than two courses for two consecutive quarters are encouraged, along with their parents/guardians, to meet with their guidance counselor to discuss the appropriate course of action.

J | EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND SPORTS ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Students who participate in an athletic program or extracurricular activity must be in good academic standing. If the student is failing two subjects, he will be placed on academic probation. The student may continue to participate in extracurricular and athletic activities if he is participating in the corrective action plan developed by his guidance counselor. Failure to participate in the corrective action plan will result in suspension from athletic and extracurricular activities until the student's academic status is satisfactory. Progress reports will be completed every two weeks by course teachers and guidance counselors and returned to the Director of Athletics indicating the student's academic status. If following the two-week period, there is no improvement the student remains on academic probation and is suspended from all sports and club activities.

K | HONORS PROGRAM

Participating in the school honors program is a rewarding academic challenge. A student must be truly motivated to succeed in this course of study. It requires an extraordinary amount of independent personal study. However, if the student is showing a consistent failing or below average work ethic, he will be transferred into an alternative course of study.

Students who excel academically are provided with the opportunity to enroll in The Honors Academy at the end of their freshman year. They will also be eligible to enroll in Advanced Placement courses. Taking an AP class requires the student to sit for the AP exam in May. Payment for the exam is due in the first trimester.

Finally, students with high cumulative grade point averages may register for college link courses and earn college credit while at Stepinac.

If a student shows consistent excellence in his course of study, he may (with guidance counselor and department chairperson approval) be transferred into the honors program. A student is not fixed in one program for the entire four years. There is flexibility based on each individual student's transcript.

L | GRADE WEIGHT POLICY

Students enrolled in honors courses or advanced placement courses have weighted grades. The grade weight is reflected in the student's cumulative average - NOT their individual course grade. The individual course grade reflects the student's raw score.

M | HONOR ROLL

Honor rolls recognize both academic success and good conduct. They reflect the student's standing at the end of each trimester.

First Honors

Cumulative Average of 90% or better
No individual grade lower than 85%

Second Honors

Cumulative Average between 85-89%
No individual grade lower than 80%

Also, students who exhibit a marked improvement in their course of studies will also be recognized.

N | HONOR SOCIETIES

Juniors and seniors are eligible for membership in the Archbishop Stepinac St. Thomas Moore Chapter of the National Honor Society. To be eligible for membership in the society, students must meet requirements in academics, service to school and community, leadership, and character.

Additionally, they must also apply for discipline specific honors societies in the following:

English

Social Studies (Rho Kappa)

Mathematics (Mu Alpha Theta)

Science

Computer Science

Spanish

Italian

Latin

O | FIELD TRIPS/SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

Plans for extra-curricular activities such as field trips and class trips must be submitted to the Principal for proper approval and authorization. The sponsor of the activity shall include in the plan a provision for an adequate number of chaperones and an alphabetical list of students attending the field trip. Permission slips for all students attending the trip must be filed with the Attendance Office at least 24 hours before the trip occurs.

If there is a cost associated with the event, all financial and academic obligations to the school must be fulfilled before a student is permitted to attend.

The student must secure the approval of all his teachers to attend the trip. The administration reserves the right to deny a student permission to attend school-sponsored events. Any student with excessive absences will not be permitted to attend field trips, especially those that are held during school hours. The rules of the school apply for all participating in the activity.

Dress code for all field trips is regular school uniform.

P | PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education, as a course of study, is required in each year of high school. This is a mandate of the Board of Education of the State of New York. Any student who cannot participate in Physical Education classes for medical reasons must have a doctor's note presented to the school nurse at the beginning of the school year. The doctor's note must state very clearly the reason the student must be excused from gym classes or which gym activities the student may not participate.

If a student cannot take Physical Education class for just a certain time (i.e. after illness or injury), the doctor's note must state the exact date when the student may resume gym classes.

Students must always be prepared for gym when their schedule requires. “Prepared for gym” means the student must bring with him the following:

- sneakers
- sweat socks
- the Stepinac gym uniform*
- all jewelry must be removed before gym class for safety reasons
- all valuables must be locked in a locker secured by a school - issued lock

Procedure for Grading Students in Physical Education Classes:

The Athletic Director will provide students with detailed information regarding the grading system in Physical Education. The grading is based on a Pass (P) or Fail (F) system. Factors for grading include attendance, participation, and dress code (see previous section). If a student is unprepared four or more times in a trimester, he will fail the physical education course for the quarter. If a student fails two trimesters, he must complete additional assignments to pass the course for the year. If a student fails three trimesters, he will fail the physical education course for the year.

Q | WALTER P. MAHONEY LEARNING COMMONS

The Learning Commons opens at 7:45 A.M and closes at 3:30 P.M.

R | COUNSELING SERVICES

The services of the Counseling Office of Archbishop Stepinac High School Community revolve around the development of the Stepinac student. This development involves the well-being and understanding of each student in social, spiritual, educational, vocational, and personal aspects. Students are contacted by their counselor for counseling. In addition, students may make an appointment for a conference with their counselor by obtaining a pass from the Counseling Office.

The counseling department is also responsible for the review of each student’s transcript. It is the policy of the department to report all scores for courses on a student’s transcript. Parents must contact College Board to report SAT scores. Students make use of Naviance Program for exploring college and career choices. The Counseling Department also sponsors class nights, college nights, SAT and PSAT Days.

The school identification number for college and SAT/PSAT applications is 335940.

S | TRANSFER PROCEDURE/RELEASE OF RECORDS

A student who wishes to transfer from Archbishop Stepinac will observe the following procedures:

- A letter from the parent of the transferring student must be presented to the Registrar indicating: (a) date of expected transfer; (b) school to which student is transferring; and (c) reason for transfer.
- A notice from the new school requesting the student’s records must be secured.
- Prior to release of records, the student must be in good financial standing.

T | CHANGE IN STUDENT INFORMATION

All changes or additions in student information (i.e., address, phone number, emergency contact, parent/guardian employment, death of parent/guardian, parent/guardian marital status) must be sent directly to Mrs. Toni Amato (tamato@stepinac.org). Please do not convey this information to any other school official (i.e., attendance officer or nurse). This will allow for a consistency in record keeping.

U | STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARDS

A student identification card will be distributed to every student. This card must be always carried on his person. A student is responsible for his own card and must present it whenever a member of the faculty or the administration requests it. Losses are to be reported to the Dean of Students. A fee will be assessed for any duplication of an identification card. Defacement or giving of this card to another person will result in the owner being subject to detention or suspension. A student’s I.D. card must be returned if the student transfers.

V | SCHOOL WEBSITE

Information about Archbishop Stepinac High School can be obtained by visiting our web site.

The address is <http://www.stepinac.org>.

Plus Portals can be accessed directly from the school website.

W | SCHOOL CLOSING PROCEDURES

When the school is closed or delayed due to inclement weather or other emergency, we will post that information on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. It will be announced on Cablevision News 12 - Westchester. Also, an announcement regarding Stepinac's decision will be emailed, texted, and displayed on Plus Portals main page.

If inclement weather develops during the day:

- Students who come by bus will be dismissed when their district sends the bus.
- Students who drive may leave at the discretion of administration or with parental notification.
- Only students who are registered with the Dean of Students as drivers or regular passengers may leave without adult supervision.

X | ACADEMIC POLICY

Students who engage in acts that violate academic integrity will be subject to the following consequences:

- 5 days of detention.
- A zero (0%) on the exam or assignment.
- Academic Conference.
- A note of apology to the instructor of the class.

If a student engages in multiple acts, he will be subject to suspension and then expulsion. This also includes any act of plagiarism.

Grading Policy

Major Summative Assignments including essays, projects, team projects, labs, trimester projects: Assignments will have a specific due date. Students will be allowed to submit late assignments within ONE cycle from the original due date for a maximum credit loss of one letter grade. Instead of beginning with an A, they begin with a B (88%). If they submit during the second cycle following the due date, they begin with a C (75%). At the end of the two cycles, if the assignment has not been handed in, it will receive a ZERO.

Please note that each day of the cycle, 1 through 6, counts in this grading system. Therefore, it is the student's responsibility to hand in a late assignment even if his class does not meet on the day after the assignment is due. The make-up cycle is not extended if the student is absent on any given day(s) during this make-up time.

CLASSWORK

If the student is in class and chooses not to do the classwork, he will receive a zero for not participating in the class activity. The teacher may offer late or partial credit for the assignment if it is submitted by the next class.

TESTS/QUIZZES

All missed tests and quizzes must be made up by the end of ONE cycle following the original administration of the exam. It is the student's responsibility to be present for the make-up exam date set by the teacher. If there is a conflict with the make-up date, it is the student's responsibility to set a new date amenable with the teacher. Students will receive a ZERO if the test/quiz is not made up within the ONE cycle from the original exam.

For example: Exam held on Day 5 must be made up by dismissal time of the next day 5. Please note that each day of the cycle, 1 through 6, counts in this grading system. Therefore, the student may sit for the make-up exam on a day when the class does not meet. The cycle is not extended if the student is absent on any given day(s) during this make-up period. There will also be no test corrections.

**** Please note – If a student is absent due to a field trip, they must make up the exam per the teacher's instructions on a mandated date. Students do not receive a full cycle to make up the exam.**

DAILY HOMEWORK

Daily homework will be graded for completion and effort. The determination of proper completion and effort will be at the teacher's discretion. Students will be allowed to submit late daily homework within ONE cycle from original due date for half credit. For example: Homework due on Day 3 must be made up by dismissal time of the next day 3. Please note that each day of the cycle, 1 through 6, counts in this grading system. Therefore, the student may submit homework on a day when the class does not meet. After one complete cycle the student will receive a ZERO for the missing homework. The cycle is not extended if the student is absent on any given day(s) during this make-up period.

(Students may be given an alternative assignment for partial credit at the teacher's discretion if answers to homework are given in class prior to completion of assignment.)

EXTRA CREDIT

All students in a class, regardless of academic standing, will have the opportunity to add bonus points to tests or assignments to benefit their overall grade during the trimester. These points will be given at the individual teacher's discretion through different means. There will be no extra credit assignments given on an individual basis.

EXTENDED ABSENCES

Make-up policy for assessments and assignments missed due to extended multiple absences (5 school days or more), generated by illnesses **documented by a medical professional**, will be individually determined by the Assistant Principal. If you are absent **without** a note from a medical professional, the above policies hold true. No exception will be made.



**“What is wonderful
about great literature
is that it transforms
the man who reads it
towards the condition
of the man who wrote it.**

E. M. Forster
English author

Core Courses

Literature & Composition 9

The 9th grade Literature and Composition course aims to enhance students' abilities to analyze literature and improve their writing skills. Students will read and interpret short stories, novels, poems, and plays, and write thoughtful responses. They will work on grammar, sentence structure, vocabulary, and organization, and learn to develop thesis statements, support arguments, and write persuasively. The course will also cover critical thinking, public speaking, research, literary themes, and historical contexts. By the end, students should be able to analyze and interpret texts and write clearly for different purposes and audiences.

Literature & Composition 9 Honors

The 9th grade Honors Literature and Composition course emphasizes critical thinking, analytical writing, and independent research. Students will read and analyze various literary forms, demonstrating their understanding through writing and speaking. The course focuses on advanced writing skills, including thesis development, literary analysis, and research synthesis. By the end, students will be skilled in analyzing texts, synthesizing information, and communicating ideas effectively, preparing them for future studies and careers that require strong communication skills.

American Literature

American literature is a diverse and expansive field that encompasses a wide range of works by authors from various backgrounds and experiences. A typical American literature course spans from the colonial period to the present, exploring major literary movements and significant works. Students engage with a variety of genres, including poetry, drama, and fiction, and delve into influential literary movements such as Romanticism, Realism, and Modernism. The course also examines the historical, cultural, and social contexts in which these works were created. By the end of the course, students will have developed a nuanced understanding of America's rich literary heritage and honed their skills in critical analysis and interpretation. They will gain insights into how American literature mirrors and influences the nation's culture, values, and identity.

American Literature Honors

American Literature Honors is an advanced course designed to deepen students' engagement with American literature and enhance their critical thinking, analytical, and communication skills. Students will explore major works and literary movements with a focus on cultural, historical, and social contexts. The course emphasizes sophisticated literary analysis, including close reading, theme identification, and the examination of literary techniques. They will be encouraged to think critically, participate in discussions, and develop their own interpretations. By the end of the course, students will have a thorough understanding of American literary traditions and be well-prepared for advanced study in literature and related fields.

British Literature

British literature offers a diverse exploration of English and Scottish literary traditions, spanning from the medieval period to the present day. This course immerses students in major works and movements, including poetry, drama, and fiction, while examining influential literary periods such as the Renaissance, Romanticism, and Modernism. Students will analyze texts within their historical, cultural, and social contexts and engage with broader themes like literary theory, gender, colonialism, and the relationship between literature and society. Upon completion, students will have a comprehensive understanding of British literary traditions and the skills to critically analyze and interpret diverse literary works.

British Literature Honors

British Literature Honors is an advanced course that offers a deep dive into English and Scottish literary traditions. Building on foundational British literature studies, this course encourages students to engage with major works and movements at an elevated level, emphasizing critical thinking and detailed analysis. Students will conduct close readings and interpret texts within their cultural and historical contexts, exploring how these works reflect and influence social, political, and intellectual trends. The curriculum includes a focus on broader themes such as literary theory, postcolonialism, and literature's role in society. Through rigorous analysis, class discussions, and independent argument development, students will gain a profound understanding of British literary canon and refine their skills in sophisticated literary critique, preparing them for advanced study in literature and related fields.

Advanced Placement Seminar

AP Seminar is designed to develop students' abilities in college-level research, critical thinking, and communication. As a key component of the AP Capstone program, it aims to prepare students for academic and professional success. In this course, students will engage in analyzing complex texts, crafting and presenting arguments, and conducting independent research. They will also collaborate with peers, participate in group discussions, and provide constructive feedback. The coursework includes essays, multimedia presentations, and research-based projects, focusing on information literacy and synthesis. Upon completion, students will be adept at conducting independent research, critically evaluating and synthesizing complex texts, and presenting compelling arguments. They will be well-prepared for further study and diverse professional contexts. Students in this course will be REQUIRED to take the AP Exam in May.

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition

In this introductory college-level course, students will engage with a diverse and challenging array of nonfiction prose, enhancing their understanding of rhetoric and the mechanics of language. Through in-depth reading and regular writing assignments, they will refine their skills in analyzing texts and employing language with intention and strategy. The course covers expository, analytical, personal, and argumentative works from various authors and historical periods. Students will explore essays, letters, speeches, images, and creative literature, building both their analytical and compositional skills. Additionally, the course emphasizes developing critical thinking and effective communication through various forms of writing and discussion. Participation in the AP Exam in May is REQUIRED for all students in this course.

Advanced Placement Literature & Composition

This college level course in American and British Literature primarily analyzes all genres in fiction and demands sophistication in the literature based thesis essay. Students will deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. Students will also consider a work's structure, style, and themes as well as such elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. A ten - twelve page poetry analysis and research paper must be

successfully presented to complete this course. The successful passing of a course school final is required. All candidates in this section will also take the AP English Literature and Composition Exam in the spring. An appropriate score on this exam may allow for college credit. This is determined by the college the student will attend.

AP Research

AP Research, the second course in the AP Capstone experience, allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue, or idea of individual interest. Students design, plan, and implement a yearlong investigation to address a research question. Through this inquiry, they further the skills they acquired in the AP Seminar course by learning research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information. Students reflect on their skill development, document their processes, and curate the artifacts of their scholarly work through a process and reflection portfolio. The course culminates in an academic paper (accompanied by a performance, exhibit, or product where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense.

College Literature Honors

This college level course will focus on analysis and interpretation of literary texts: poetry, drama, and prose fiction. Students will engage in advanced portfolio work, especially in British Literature, as they write analytically, with a consideration to all genres of fiction. Students will sharpen their skills in considering all genres of fiction. Students will sharpen their skills in considering various literary devices, literary themes, literary forms, and literary theory. The course also allows for a student-directed curriculum later in the year. Students will write in a variety of forms for diverse purposes and audiences, including narrative, expository, descriptive, analytic, argumentative, persuasive and other forms of creative and research. Students will also deliver oral presentations, culminating with a senior exit research project.

Elective Courses

Journalism

This course will cover both the theory and practice of journalism; survey of history, ethics, law, international news systems, and social responsibility of the press. Operations of newspapers, news magazines, radio and television news departments, and other news agencies. Impact of new media and technology on journalism, economics, and management of news organizations. The goal will be to familiarize students with the basic tenets of newspaper history and writing. Students will learn interviewing techniques, be responsible for writing a basic news story and feature story, cover news and school events, and learn editing skills. Students will write in a variety of forms for diverse purposes and audiences, including narrative, expository, descriptive, analytic, argumentative, persuasive and other forms of creative and research. Students will also deliver oral presentations, culminating with a senior exit research project.

Introduction to the Classics Honors:

The classics course explores the literature, history, mythology and culture of the classical world, with special emphasis on the Greek and Roman traditions. As such the course can be viewed as an extension of the Latin program, insofar as it rounds out the student's knowledge of antiquity by exposing him to its astounding world of art, customs and literature. In particular, students read sizable excerpts from, or entire text of, several of the great works of ancient literature, including Homer's *Odyssey*, Virgil's *Aeneid*, Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, the plays of Sophocles and Aristotle's *Poetics*, among many others. In this way the student develops a conscious, vivid sense of the classics by reading the actual materials themselves, albeit in translation. Additionally, one or more class trips to various museums (The Whitney perhaps, The Met certainly) and/or plays and films (Troy, Hannibal, Alexander; all forthcoming movies, plus Greek plays, which are constantly being performed) are planned for this course as well.

Literary New York

A study of selected literary works in which New York City and its people are the focus. Students will develop an understanding of New York City's literary and cultural history from 1800 to present day. The course will focus on New York authors, themes relevant to the lifestyle and history of New York, and expand the students' knowledge of New York's culture.

Modern Drama

The students in this class will learn to live truthfully under imaginary circumstances. The ultimate goal is to view acting as an art of experience instead of an art of performance. The course implements a strict emphasis on the psychological, sociological, and behavioral aspects of acting. Discipline and practice are the integral part in vivifying selected scenes from the domestic and the international theater. To prepare successfully, the students will be exposed to various physical techniques as provided by the legacies of Stanislavski, Adler, Meisner, and Strasberg. The course curriculum per se relies heavily on active self-analysis and self-criticism.

Creative Writing Honors

This course will offer a hands-on approach to writing creatively across three genres: fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Students will learn the fundamental literary elements that comprise each genre; read and discuss acclaimed published texts; and, ultimately, write their own creative pieces. By close-reading and identifying rhetorical devices in selected texts, students will understand the modules of effective writing - and apply them. Coursework will be peer-reviewed and workshopped in small groups. The course's prominent texts, as far as theory and technique are concerned, will include, but are not limited to, excerpts from *On Writing* by Stephen King, *Bird by Bird* by Anne Lamott, *A Swim in a Pond in the Rain* by George Saunders, and *The Elements of Style* by William Strunk, Jr. and E.B. White. Additional short stories, narrative essays, and poems from published authors will be featured as well. (Selected texts are subject to change). The coursework will primarily include students' original creative pieces based on genre; and essays based on the *Rhetorical Analysis and Style & Language* of selected texts. By the end of the course, through theory and practice, students will have the knowledge and capability to write more creatively across multiple genres.

Digital Publishing & Broadcasting

This course is designed to develop student's digital publishing skills. The course will teach students how to create school newsletters, magazines and especially concentrate on the development and publishing of the school's yearbook. Students will also produce a Stepinac news show for broadcast. Students learn basic principles of digital publishing production and develop skills that include writing copy, captions and headlines; digital photography, including photo and video editing; desktop publishing and using appropriate technology tools for media production. The creation of both digital and print copy will be explored in this course with the emphasis on creativity of design.

The Hero: Literature, Film, and Society

Heroes hold a special place in our imagination. Names such as Odysseus, Beowulf, and Queen Guinevere summon up mythic legends, while Sherlock Holmes, Dracula, and Huckleberry Finn are some of the most recognizable figures in all of literature. Meanwhile, Frodo Baggins and Harry Potter are heroes for our age and the legends of the future. This course examines heroes and heroism through the literature of different cultures and eras. The range in periods is vast: From the classical age of the Greeks to our contemporary times. How have the standards by which we measure heroism changed over time? How have they remained the same? Another aspect of the course is examining anti-heroes. One question students could consider is: What qualities of these characters earn them the label anti-heroes? We will discuss this through all forms of literature and media.

Memoir & the Graphic Novel

Students will learn critical theory through Scott McCloud's *Understanding Comics*. Students read and analyze acclaimed and exemplary texts such as *MAUS*, *PERSEPOLIS*, and *WATCHMEN*. Each text is approached through the lens of memoir to allow students to develop ideas about the elements, themes, patterns, and traditions of both the medium and genre. Throughout the semester, students plan, draft, and publish (via a Google Sites page) an original graphic memoir in the style and theme of their choice.

Film Studies

This course will introduce students to the history of film as a storytelling medium and its influence as a visual art form. Students will learn the pivotal developments of film history - from its inception, through its many transformative eras, to the modern day - and watch the movies that represent each respective era. Film Studies will include lessons on visual analysis, formal elements, different genres, and narrative structure. Students will be able to identify accurately and discuss enthusiastically what makes the medium captivating for telling stories. This course will appeal to any student who loves watching and talking about movies.

In addition to frequent film viewings, the course will examine articles and essays written by notable film critics and historians. These texts will provide the greater context of cinema's cultural significance across the globe. The coursework will primarily focus on assignments, quizzes, tests, and essays analyzing the films viewed and the articles discussed in class; as well as group projects in the spirit of collaborative visual mediums. By the end of the course, students will have gained a deeper appreciation and substantial knowledge of film's role as our most technical and awe-inspiring storytelling medium.

Introduction to Children's Literature

Students in this course will read several classics in children's literature, as well as a number of contemporary children's books. This course will explore a variety of children's literature through various genres. These genres include contemporary novel, classic novel, historical fiction, and realistic fiction, picture books, and folk and fairy tales. This course has several goals. You will become familiar with the genres listed above, but together, we'll also explore various ideas conveyed in the texts, the historical development and context of children's fiction, how novels for young readers have changed and/or stayed the same, and the intersections among language, theory, politics, ideology, and children's fiction. Most important, however, we will be examining the ideologies embedded in the texts as well as the ideologies that guide our culture, particularly in terms of children and the literature they read. We'll also be tackling several questions throughout the semester. What is children's literature? What is its purpose, how does it function, and why? Is it successful in its function? What are adult expectations of children as set forth in these texts? What might those novels say about our culture? Why study children's literature in the first place?

Introduction to Mass Media & Communications

The course examines the cultural, linguistic and institutional factors that shape even the most everyday talk or exchange of information. It also looks at the major mass media industries, including books and newspapers, TV and radio, film, advertising, and the Internet. Through readings and projects, the course introduces students to the history and evolution of the media as well as rhetorical analysis and theories used to study the media. Learning outcomes include:

- Differentiate between interpersonal versus mediated communication
- Recognize the characteristics of the mass media and the media industries
- Understand the basic principles and features of audience research
- Identify the short-term and long-term influences of the media
- Explain the importance of media in a democracy
- Apply principles of media literacy
- Identify convergence and new media technologies that have emerged in the last two decades

Sports Literature

This course will focus on the use of sports in literature. Students will read various short stories, novels and magazine/news articles, as well as write their opinions, about several themes. Themes studied will include leadership and character, current trends, rivalries, definitions of success and failure, jinxes and fate, heroes, coaching, ethics, etc.

Sports Literature allows us to reflect, analyze and celebrate the role and influence athletics plays in the lives of individuals and our society. Essential questions this course asks students to consider are: How is our culture expressed through the sports we play? How do sports define the way we see ourselves as individuals?

Documentaries: A Study of Real Life in Film

What is a documentary? How do documentaries influence and shape our opinions of the world we live in? This course will give students the opportunity to view, analyze and discuss a variety of documentaries ranging in topics. We will look at how filmmakers use fact and narrative to communicate a desired message to his or her audience. Through close analysis and discussion of the films viewed in class students will be asked to consider the objectivity and validity of the issues and events portrayed in the films as well as the film-makers' purpose in its creation. Students will also have the opportunity to create a documentary on a topic of interest. Coursework includes a research project and presentation.

Speech and Presentation

This course is an introduction to speech communication that emphasizes the practical skill of public speaking, including techniques to lessen speaker anxiety, and the use of visual aids to enhance speaker presentations. The proper use of technology to enhance speech will be emphasized. The goal is to prepare students for success in typical public speaking situations and to provide them with the basic principles of organization and research needed for effective speeches.



“If you want to
understand today,
you have to
search yesterday.

Pearl S. Buck
American novelist

Core Courses

Western Civilization

Western Civilization explores a diverse range of cultures that have significantly shaped the Western World and contemporary society. This course covers the geography, culture, military, religion, and other key elements of these influential societies. Over the year, students will delve into the historical roots and development of the modern Western World, gaining a comprehensive understanding of its origins and impact. They will also analyze how these historical cultures continue to influence current global dynamics and societal structures.

Western Civilization Honors

Western Civilization Honors offers a deeper exploration of diverse cultures that have significantly influenced the Western World and contemporary society. This advanced course delves into the geography, culture, military, and religion of these impactful civilizations. Over the year, students will not only study the origins and development of the modern Western World but also engage in critical analysis of how these historical influences shape current global issues and societal trends. The course emphasizes rigorous academic standards and encourages students to connect historical events with contemporary contexts, fostering a richer understanding of their lasting impact.

Advanced Placement Human Geography

The Advanced Placement Human Geography course examines how patterns and processes shape human understanding and the use of Earth's surface through spatial concepts and landscape analysis. Students will explore key subfields, including economic, cultural, political, and urban geography, with a focus on contemporary global issues and historical contexts like globalization and colonialism. By the end of the course, students will enhance their critical thinking, develop a multicultural perspective, and apply geographic principles to solve problems, promote global citizenship, and support environmental stewardship.

Eastern Civilization

Eastern Civilization provides students with the opportunity to explore history beyond Western borders, focusing on the cultures and religions of Eastern civilizations. In the middle of the year, the course shifts to the Founding of America and the Early Republic. Students will study various countries, examining the social, geographic, political, economic,

and religious factors that shaped their histories. By utilizing both physical and digital resources, students will develop a comprehensive understanding of these influences and the early development of America.

Eastern Civilization Honors

The Honors Eastern Civilization course offers an in-depth exploration of history beyond Western borders, focusing on the rich cultures and religions of Eastern civilizations. The curriculum emphasizes critical analysis and comparative studies, allowing students to examine the social, geographic, political, economic, and religious factors that have shaped various countries' histories. Midway through the course, the focus shifts to the Founding of America and the Early Republic, providing a comprehensive context for understanding the interplay between Eastern influences and American development. Students will engage with both physical and digital resources, fostering research and analytical skills that deepen their understanding of these complex historical narratives. This honors-level course is designed for motivated students eager to expand their global perspective and prepare for advanced studies in history and social sciences.

Advanced Placement United States History

Advanced Placement United States History offers a chronological examination of the development of American society, spanning from pre-Columbian exploration to modern times. The course is organized into three core units, which are further divided into nine distinct periods of American history. Following the College Board's updated curriculum, the class emphasizes discussion and analytical skills, requiring students to critically assess material through both written assignments and class discussions. Students will also engage in intensive study of primary and secondary sources to enhance their understanding. Participation in the AP Exam in May is mandatory for all students enrolled in the course. Success in this course not only prepares students for the AP Exam but also provides a solid foundation for further historical study.

Advanced Placement European History

Advanced Placement European History provides a chronological exploration of the development of European society, covering periods from the late Middle Ages through to modern history. The course follows a structure outlined by the College Board, which emphasizes discussion and analytical skills. Students will critically evaluate historical material through written assignments and active class discussions. Additionally, they will analyze key events, figures, and movements that have shaped

Europe's past. The curriculum includes a deep dive into various historical sources to foster a more nuanced understanding. Students are required to take the AP Exam in May, which serves as both a culmination of their studies and a gateway to advanced historical analysis. This course not only prepares students for the AP Exam but also equips them with critical thinking skills applicable in various academic and professional contexts.

Unite States History

This U.S. History course provides a comprehensive overview of American history from the founding of the United States to the present, examining key events, figures, and movements that have shaped the nation. Students will engage in lectures, discussions, and primary source analysis to explore the Civil War, the Civil Rights Movement, and contemporary issues. Emphasizing historical context and diverse perspectives, the course aims to enhance critical thinking and communication skills while fulfilling state requirements and preparing students for advanced study in the social sciences.

United States History Honors

This U.S. History Honors course provides an in-depth exploration of American history from the founding of the United States to the present, examining key events, figures, and movements that have shaped the nation. Students will engage in advanced lectures, discussions, and critical analysis of primary sources, diving deeper into the Civil War, the Civil Rights Movement, and contemporary issues. Emphasizing historical context, diverse perspectives, and historiographical debates, the course aims to enhance critical thinking and communication skills, encouraging independent research and in-depth projects. This rigorous curriculum fulfills state requirements while preparing students for advanced study in the social sciences and promoting a deeper understanding of America's complex legacy.

Advanced Placement United States Government & Politics

This college-level course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the American government, its structures, functions, and processes. Emphasizing the intersection of politics and public policy, the course examines how government decisions impact daily life for Americans. Students will explore the philosophical and historical foundations of American politics,

the roles of the three branches of government, and the influence of political institutions such as the media and political parties. Throughout the course, students will develop the analytical skills needed to engage thoughtfully with current political issues and contribute meaningfully to civic life. To demonstrate their grasp of the material, students will be REQUIRED to take the AP Exam in May.

Advanced Placement Macroeconomics

The AP Macroeconomics course aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the principles governing an entire economic system. The curriculum focuses on key concepts such as national income, price-level determination, and economic performance measures, while also exploring the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international economics. Through a combination of theoretical study and practical applications, students will develop a robust grasp of macroeconomic theory and its real-world implications. The course encourages analytical thinking about economic policies and their impacts on both domestic and global scales. To showcase their knowledge, students will be REQUIRED to take the AP Exam in May.

AP Microeconomics

The purpose of this course is to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision makers, both consumer and producers within the economic system. The course places primary emphasis on the nature and functions of product markets and includes the study of factor markets and the role of government in promoting economic efficiency and equity in the economy. At the culmination of this course, students take the AP Microeconomic Exam for college credit.

Advanced Placement World History

This college level course is designed to deepen student overview of world history through rigorous analysis and critical thinking about the world's societies, peoples, cultures, and civilizations. Comparison, change, and continuity will be explored. Major themes will be identified. New habits of mind that stimulate intellectual growth and historical literacy will be the desired result. The course will run chronologically from the year 1,000 A.D. until the present day and will require extensive independent review of 9th grade material going back to 8,000 B.C.

Globalization

This course analyzes economic globalization in a historical perspective. It evaluates the arguments of both its critics and advocates, and pays particular attention to the following three aspects: economic globalization, political globalization, and cultural globalization. We discuss different models of economic globalization and global governance with an eye towards future possibilities.

Globalization Honors

Similar to the college prep course, the Honors course is much more rigorous with greater emphasis on independent student inquiry and discovery. This course also analyzes economic globalization in a historical perspective. It evaluates the arguments of both its critics and advocates, and pays particular attention to the following three aspects: economic globalization, political globalization, and cultural globalization. We discuss different models of economic globalization and global governance with an eye towards future possibilities.

Elective Courses

Race Relations Honors

Textbooks have been able to paint with broad strokes in regards to their discussion and analysis concerning black history in America. This course will examine the defining years of race relations in America. From the Jim Crow South (1877) to the election of Barack Obama (2008) students will grapple with the often controversial, and sometimes brutal, events in U.S. history, focusing primarily on race relations in America. This class is designed to maximize student's rhetorical and critical analysis skills. Modeled after a college class, Race Relations will challenge the students to question previously held conceptions and examine history in a different way. Thus, deepening their knowledge and understanding of the United States' current social construct.

History of Rome

The history of the Roman civilization spans over 2,000 years and formed the basis of Western civilization. Understanding its social, political, and economic formations is critical to understanding the birth of our own culture. The class will focus on the various crises the Romans faced throughout its history and how the Roman system or government evolved and stretched across the Mediterranean. The class will focus on the late Republic and the Early Empire (c.250 BC to c. 300 AD) and how

Rome transitioned from a fully functioning Republic to an authoritarian Empire, as well as examining Roman culture, art, religion, society, etc. Heavy emphasis will be placed on the use of primary sources (Virgil, Cicero, Pliny the Younger, Seneca, Tacitus, Livy, et.al.) as well as the use of college level secondary sources. This class will provide students with college level curriculum as well as a college environment of discussion, research, and reading.

Latin American History:

Latin American History is an immersive journey through the rich tapestry of cultures, civilizations, and societies that have shaped the diverse and complex region of Latin America. This course offers a comprehensive exploration of the historical, social, political, economic, and cultural developments that have defined Latin America from pre-Columbian civilizations to the modern era. Students will delve into the ancient civilizations of the Aztecs, Mayans, and Incas, examining their contributions to art, science, governance, and cultural legacies. The impact of European colonization, the encounter between different cultures, and the formation of colonial societies will be analyzed in-depth, exploring the multifaceted dynamics of power, resistance, and adaptation. Through the study of primary sources, literature, art, and multimedia resources, students will engage in critical analysis, discussions, and projects to comprehend the multifaceted nature of Latin American history and its relevance to the global context. Additionally, the course will encourage students to evaluate the impacts of historical events on current affairs and to explore avenues for positive change and cross-cultural understanding.

History of Germany - From Bismarck to Hitler

The honors course will cover German history from the wars of unification that created the German nation-state to the Third Reich's political, economic, and military collapse in the spring of 1945. The course will begin by examining how Germany was uneasily forged via a surge of nationalism tempered by a governing system in which much power remained in the hands of unelected leaders (Bismarck and the Kaiser). We will then focus on Germany's stunning social and economic transformation into the most powerful industrial nation in Europe.

The second part of the course will focus on Germany's central role in the two world wars. We will cover Germany's role in the outbreak of World War I, her strategy to achieve a quick victory, increasingly tenuous economic and military position, and plans for a German-dominated Europe. We will also discuss the German Revolution, the collapse of

the Empire, and the birth of the Weimar Republic. Obviously, we must understand the failings of Weimar in order to understand the ascent of a certain Austrian-born political upstart.

The final part of the course will cover Adolf Hitler's rise to absolute power, his program for German renewal, the outbreak of World War II, and Germany's conduct in the war. This will also include an examination of Germany's strategic war aims and plans for Europe under its complete domination. We will also focus upon the question of whether Hitler's regime was a particular outgrowth of Germany's special path to modernity or if such a regime was possible in other nation-states. Finally, we will cover Germany's complete collapse in the spring of 1945 and try to understand why the German people stuck by their Führer despite the brutality of the Nazi regime and remained loyal until the bitter end.

Economics Honors: A Common Sense Guide to the Economy

Using Thomas Sowell's bestselling book *Basic Economics: A Common Sense Guide to the Economy*, this course aims to provide students with a thorough understanding of how the economy works. Unlike traditional economic courses, this class does not focus on economic jargon, equations, or graphs. Rather, it covers the general principles underlying different economic systems. Topics covered include the role of prices and markets, regulation, market and non-market economies, minimum wage laws, time and risk, government functions, and the international economy. Aside from analyzing Thomas Sowell's book, the students will collaborate with one another and the instructor to discuss how economic theory can be practically applied to present-day issues. The coursework will primarily focus on discussions, tests, essays, and group projects that promote a greater understanding of the course material. By the conclusion of the course, students will have gained a deeper understanding of how the United States and other world economies operate.

Constitutional Law Honors

This course explores our nation's founding charter and the seminal Supreme Court cases interpreting it. Using Supreme Court opinions as our guide, we will focus on the Constitution's basic structure and design, investigating the principles of judicial review, federalism, and separation of powers. After a brief refresher on the American legal and judicial system, we will begin with Chief Justice

John Marshall's foundational opinion in *Marbury v. Madison*, debating the Supreme Court's role in reviewing legislative enactments. We will next discuss the executive branch's role in foreign affairs, including what constitutional protections—if any. From there, we will explore the commerce clause; we will unravel the equal protection and due process clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment, wading into some of the Court's more controversial pronouncements. Finally, we will examine basic First Amendment principles concerning freedom of speech and religion.

Criminal Procedure Honors

The study of the rules, standards, and values that govern the procedures used in civil cases in the federal district courts of the United States. Drawing from constitutional and statutory texts, and emphasizing the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the course covers civil litigation issues including: jurisdiction, choice of law, venue, pleadings, discovery, pre-trial motions, trial through judgment, joinder of parties and claims, and finality of judgments. The course also constitutes an introduction to legal strategy and the professional responsibility of lawyers in representing their clients.

Modern Ireland

Modern Ireland will allow students to study the history of one of the largest diasporas not just in the Bronx/Westchester part of New York, but in the United States. Together, we will cover a period of history between the mid 18th century just after English plantation settlement until just after the Irish Independence movement in the early 20th century. Students will understand how social, political, and religious factors shaped what is now the shared island of the Republic and a country within the United Kingdom. A number of physical resources will help us comprehend the history and culture of this nation, as well as some digital resources such as music and film. Ireland owes so much of its culture to its music and the inclusion of film and media will be integral since the country has made great strides to modernize after being known for its conservatism for so long. Furthermore, we will have field trips to places essential to the retelling of Irish history; the Irish Hunger Memorial and American Irish Historical Society in Manhattan, and Gaelic Park in the Bronx.

History of New York

This course explores the cultural history of New York. Special attention will be given to literary and pictorial symbolizations of the state, its development and aesthetics, and the institutions and traditions of intellectual and cultural creativity. The course also examines key themes in the social history of New York: the pattern of its physical and population growth, its social structure and class relations, ethnic and racial groups, municipal government and politics, family and work life, and institutions of social welfare and public order. Focus will also be placed upon historical origins of the state.

World Cultures

Exploring World Cultures is an immersive and engaging journey through the diverse tapestry of global societies, traditions, languages, and customs that shape our interconnected world. This course aims to broaden students' perspectives by delving into the rich array of cultures across continents and exploring the multifaceted elements that define them. The curriculum will introduce students to a wide range of cultures, examining their unique histories, belief systems, arts, languages, social structures, and daily practices. Through a comparative lens, students will explore the commonalities and differences among cultures, fostering an appreciation for the richness of human diversity.

Introduction to Sociology

Hopefully, sociology will allow students to study the development and structure of human society in a way they have never studied before. Our government, economy, infrastructure, and everyday interactions are shaped by the intersection of race and ethnic relations, gender (and their roles) relations, religion, and sexuality, as they endeavor to achieve social justice. We will study various social groups and how they are portrayed in pop culture and the media through both physical and digital resources. This wide range of issues will hopefully scratch the surface of the field of sociology in the hopes that the student will pursue it further in higher education.

Introduction to Criminal Justice

This introductory course looks at our judicial system and its influence in our society. The following topics of law are also discussed: The Bill of Rights, Constitutional rights, criminal law procedures and juvenile justice matters. Students in this course will participate in an interdisciplinary project with our forensics course.

Introduction to Psychology

An introduction to the fundamental data and theories of the science of psychology, emphasis on personality, abnormal behaviors and psychotherapies and social psychology. The course is designed to help students understand the contributions and limitations of psychology; to apply psychological techniques to real life problems; to develop an understanding of people with psychological problems and how psychological interventions help them; and to encourage the exploration of cultural diversity.

Myths and Legends in Society

The class examines the significance of mythology, folklore, and legends in various ancient and modern societies. By examining each society's legends, students will gain an understanding of each society and how folk stories shaped, and continue to shape, every society. From Gilgamesh in ancient Sumer, The Greek and Roman Legends, Odin in Viking Culture, all the way to the Legend of Sleepy Hollow and "Washington chopping down the cherry tree" in America, myths have a way of shaping a culture's view of itself and the outside world, and reveal to us a society's values and beliefs.

Business Law Honors

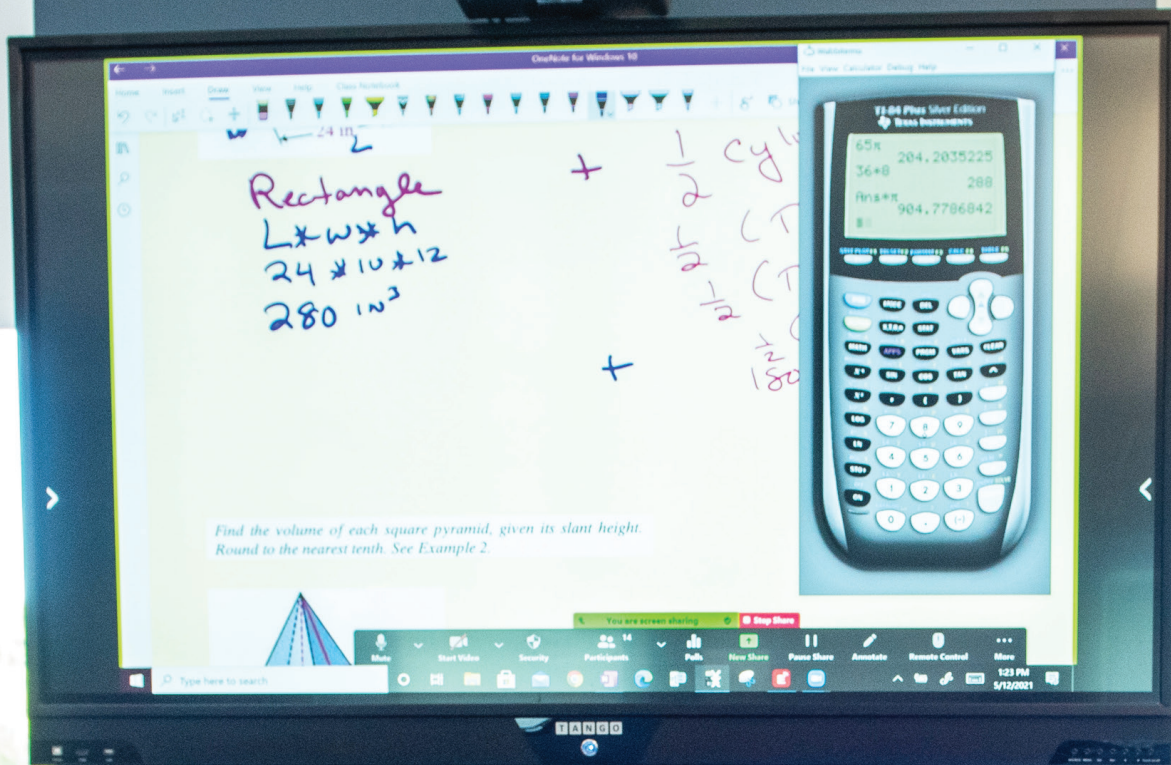
This course introduces the student to the legal and ethical framework of business. Contracts, negotiable instruments, the law of sales, torts, crimes, constitutional law, the Uniform Commercial Code, and the court systems are examined. Upon completion the student should be able to identify legal and ethical issues that arise in business decisions and the laws that apply to them.

Tort Law Honors

This course will focus on the fundamental principles, concepts, and development of tort and personal injury law, while combining theoretical and practical applications of such principles and concepts. The course presents an overview of the substantive law governing compensation for injuries to property and to the person. Specific areas of study include negligence and defenses to negligence; products liability and strict liability; negligent infliction of emotional distress; injury to property; tort immunities and tort investigations. Students will examine the analytical process used both to understand court opinions and hypothetical problems in this area of the law. The course highlights the public policy objectives and social forces behind the development of tort and personal injury legislation.

Modern European Politics

This introductory class will evaluate and dissect the political climate and structures across Western Europe. The main part of the course consists of a discussion of the political cultures, parties, electoral systems, and current problems confronting the political systems of the various countries. This course will also include outside countries and their impact on the EU such as Saudi Arabia, China, and India among others.



**“The essence of math
is not to make simple things
complicated,
but to make complicated things
simple.”**

Stan Gudder
American mathematician

Core Courses

Algebra I

Algebra I introduces students to key concepts such as variables, algebraic expressions, equations, inequalities, and functions, along with their various representations. In this course, students will learn to tackle real-world problems, effectively use graphing calculators, and clearly communicate mathematical ideas. Emphasis will be placed on developing problem-solving skills and logical reasoning. By mastering these fundamentals, students will build a strong mathematical foundation that supports success in advanced courses and practical applications.

Algebra I Honors

Algebra I Honors offers an in-depth exploration of variables, algebraic expressions, equations, inequalities, functions, and their multiple representations. Students will engage in complex problem-solving, apply advanced techniques using graphing calculators, and articulate mathematical concepts with precision. The course emphasizes critical thinking and analytical skills, preparing students for higher-level mathematics. By mastering these advanced topics, students will build a strong foundation for success in future math courses and real-world applications.

Geometry

This course offers an integrated exploration of geometric relationships through a hands-on approach, enhancing understanding of geometric properties and concepts. Students will delve into topics such as triangle properties, quadrilaterals, circles, and coordinate geometry. The course emphasizes practical application and problem-solving. A graphing calculator is recommended to aid in visualizing and solving geometric problems. Students will also apply geometric principles to solve real-life problems, reinforcing their understanding through practical experience.

Geometry Honors

This Honors Geometry course provides an advanced, integrated exploration of geometric relationships with a focus on in-depth understanding and sophisticated problem-solving. Students will engage in a rigorous study of topics such as triangle properties, quadrilaterals, circles, and coordinate geometry, employing both theoretical and practical approaches. The course emphasizes critical thinking and complex problem-solving, encouraging students to apply geometric

principles to intricate, real-world scenarios. A graphing calculator is highly recommended to assist in visualizing and solving advanced geometric problems. Additionally, students will undertake challenging projects and assignments that require them to apply geometric concepts to practical and theoretical problems, thereby deepening their comprehension and analytical skills.

Algebra II / Trigonometry

Algebra II/Trigonometry builds on the concepts introduced in Algebra I, delving into more advanced mathematical topics. This course covers complex numbers, functions and graphs, systems of equations and inequalities, and explores polynomial, logarithmic, and exponential functions and equations, as well as sequences and series. In trigonometry, students will study circular functions, their graphs, and practical applications. Graphing calculators are utilized to facilitate mathematical modeling and to enhance comprehension of functions, equations, and inequalities through realistic applications.

Algebra II/Trigonometry Honors

Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry extends and deepens the study of concepts introduced in Algebra I, offering a more rigorous exploration of advanced mathematical topics. Students will engage with complex numbers, a variety of functions and their graphs, and systems of equations and inequalities, including polynomial, logarithmic, and exponential functions. The course also covers sequences and series with a focus on deeper theoretical understanding. In trigonometry, students will analyze circular functions, their graphs, and their sophisticated applications. Graphing calculators are essential for modeling complex mathematical scenarios and for exploring advanced functions, equations, and inequalities. The course emphasizes analytical thinking and problem-solving skills, preparing students for higher-level math courses and applications.

Algebra II & Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus Honors

The Algebra II Pre-Calculus Honors course is an advanced mathematics class designed to build on the foundations established in Algebra I and Geometry. Students will explore complex numbers, polynomial functions, rational expressions, and logarithmic functions, while also delving into advanced topics such as trigonometry, sequences and series, and introductory concepts in limits and derivatives. Emphasizing critical thinking and problem-solving skills, this course encourages students to engage in mathematical reasoning through rigorous coursework and collaborative projects. Additionally, students will utilize

technology to model and analyze real-world situations, preparing them for future studies in calculus and higher-level mathematics. This honors-level course is ideal for motivated students who aspire to excel in mathematics and pursue STEM-related fields.

College Algebra

The course includes an in-depth exploration of trigonometry, covering both numerical and analytical aspects. In addition, it addresses key algebraic concepts such as operations with polynomials, working with fractions, and the complex number system. Students will also study the theory of equations, matrices and determinants, systems of inequalities, and linear programming. These topics not only enhance mathematical proficiency but also prepare students for practical applications in various fields. By engaging with real-world problems, learners will develop stronger problem-solving skills and analytical thinking. Overall, this course lays a solid foundation for future mathematical studies.

Pre-Calculus

Pre-Calculus is a high school math course aimed at preparing students for advanced courses like Calculus. It covers a broad array of topics that build on the algebra and geometry skills acquired in earlier math classes. The main emphasis is on functions, exploring their properties and applications. Students will learn to analyze and graph different types of functions, such as polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions. Additionally, students will develop skills in solving equations and inequalities involving these functions.

Pre-Calculus Honors

This course serves as a bridge from high school mathematics to college-level math. It covers a range of topics, including a review of algebra, complex numbers in both polar and rectangular forms, theory of equations, partial fractions, inequalities, absolute value, conic sections, elementary function theory, matrices and determinants, mathematical induction, vectors, limits, asymptotes, and graphing rational functions. Through these topics, students will not only strengthen their foundational skills but also develop critical thinking abilities essential for success in higher-level mathematics.

Calculus

Calculus is a branch of mathematics focused on understanding rates of change and accumulation. This course aims to introduce high school students to the fundamental concepts of calculus, providing a solid foundation for future studies in mathematics and science. Throughout the course, students will learn to analyze and solve problems involving functions, limits, derivatives, and integrals. They will also explore topics such as optimization, related rates, and the practical applications of calculus in real-world scenarios. By engaging with these concepts, students will develop critical thinking skills that are essential for success in advanced mathematical courses and various scientific fields.

Advanced Placement Calculus AB

This course is structured as a college-level class and covers essential concepts in differential and integral calculus, along with relevant applications. Key topics include the theory of limits, differentiation and integration techniques, and their applications to related rates, curve sketching, optimization problems, velocity and acceleration, area and volume, and various physical scenarios. Students will also engage in real-world applications to deepen their understanding. By the end of the course, they will be well-prepared to take the Advanced Placement exam, potentially earning college credit in mathematics. This experience not only enhances their mathematical skills but also fosters a deeper appreciation for the subject's relevance in everyday life.

AP Calculus BC

AP Calculus BC is a second course in single-variable calculus that would be equivalent to a second semester calculus course at most colleges and universities. This course will provide a deeper understanding of the concepts of limit, continuity, derivatives, and integrals which were covered in AP Calculus AB. The major new topics covered in AP Calculus BC are Parametric, polar, and vector functions; slope fields; Euler's method; L'Hopital's Rule; Improper Integrals; Logistic differential equations; Polynomial approximations and Series; and Taylor Series.



**“The secret of business
is to know something
that nobody else knows.”**

Aristotle
Greek philosopher

Core Courses

Introduction to Business Leadership

This course is designed to equip students with essential skills for success in any career. It explores key attributes and skills shared by experienced business professionals, emphasizing the importance of communication, decision-making, teamwork, and problem-solving in fostering confidence, determination, and perseverance. The course applies leadership theory to analyze various business and political leaders, allowing students to enhance their own leadership abilities through self-reflection and case studies. A significant component involves group projects, where students learn effective teamwork strategies. By the end of the course, students will have developed a deeper understanding of the traits and skills associated with successful individuals and will be able to apply leadership principles to both their personal lives and future academic or professional endeavors.

Business Management Honors

The Business Management curriculum offers a rigorous and dynamic educational experience, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of business theory and practice. It covers essential areas including international business, marketing, production, human resources, and finance. This challenging subject is designed to enhance a wide range of skills applicable to daily life, making it particularly advantageous for students pursuing careers in business or economics. Through the curriculum, students will refine their critical thinking, technical, analytical, and decision-making abilities, while gaining insights into both local and global business environments. They will also explore core principles of business ethics and social responsibility. The curriculum is organized around five key topics: business organization and environment, human resources, accounting and finance, marketing, and operations management.

Introduction to Finance Honors

From managing one's personal investments to examining the profitability of a multibillion dollar global corporation, the mathematics of money is at the heart of successful financial endeavors. Why are round-trip fares from Orlando to Kansas City higher than those from Kansas City to Orlando? How do interest rate adjustments made by the Federal Reserve affect the real estate market? How does one calculate the price-earnings ratio of a stock and use that to help predict that stock's future performance? Mathematics is an indispensable part of the answer to each of these questions.

This course provides students with a mathematical grounding in central concepts of business and finance. Students investigate the mathematics of buying and selling, and apply these principles to real-world situations. They gain fluency with the concepts of simple and compound interest and learn how these affect the present and future value of loans, mortgages, and interest bearing accounts. Students investigate various forms of taxes, considering their impact on personal and governmental budgets. In their examination of these topics, students manipulate and solve algebraic expressions, and also learn to apply a range of mathematical concepts including direct and indirect variation and arithmetic and exponential growth. Through simulations, entrepreneurial projects, and classroom investigation, this course provides students with the foundation required to be more secure in their own personal financial management, and enhance their understanding of the broader economic conditions that shape investments in the public and private sectors.

AP Statistics

The purpose of the AP course in statistics is to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions for data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes:

1. Exploring Data: Describing patterns and departures from patterns
2. Sampling and Experimentation: Planning and conducting a study
3. Anticipating Patterns: Exploring random phenomena using probability and simulation
4. Statistical Inference: Estimating population parameters and testing hypotheses

College Accounting Honors

Principles of Financial Accounting provides an introduction to the concepts and uses of financial accounting information in a business environment and its role in the economic decision-making process. Accounting is referred to as the language of business. The primary areas of study in this course include the theory of debits and credits, special journals, the accounting cycle, notes and interest, receivables and payables, accruals and deferrals, measurement and valuation of assets and liabilities, the determination of net income (profit) and the preparation and analysis of basic financial statements. Financial accounting also examines the accounting model, measurement processes, inventory, current and long-term liabilities and equity structures of partnerships, proprietorships and corporations.

Elective Courses

Marketing

Throughout this course you will learn the fundamentals of business and marketing. This class focuses on current topics in business and marketing including the 4 P's: Product, Price, Place & Promotion. The class also includes topics on retail sales, business presentations, management, entrepreneurship, ethics, career exploration, and business and marketing plans. Students study economic functions at work in the marketplace, marketing functions including purchasing, pricing, and distribution functions. This course is based on the business and marketing core that includes communication skills, economics, financial analysis, and promotion. Both marketing and employment skills learned will improve and increase the chance of successful transition into the world of work.

Entrepreneurship

How do you turn an idea into a business? Experience just that in this course! Entrepreneurship focuses on recognizing a business opportunity, starting a business, operating and maintaining a business. Students will be exposed to the development of critical thinking, problem solving, and innovation in this course as they will either be the business owner or individuals working in a competitive job market in the future. Integration of accounting, finance, marketing, business management, legal and economic environments will be developed throughout projects in this course. Working to develop a business plan that includes structuring the organization, financing the organization, and managing information, operations, marketing, and human resources will be a focus in the course. Engaging students in the creation and management of a business and the challenges of being a small business owner will be fulfilled in this course. Various forms of technologies will be used to expose students to resources and application of business principles for starting, operating and maintaining a business. Professional communication skills and practices, problem-solving, ethical and legal issues, and the impact of effective presentation skills are enhanced in this course to prepare students to be college and career ready. Employability skills are integrated into activities, tasks, and projects throughout the course standards to demonstrate the skills required by business and industry.

Introduction to Decentralized Finance

DeFi and the Future of Finance is a four course learning experience. DeFi or Decentralized Finance is a new technology whereby users interact as peers with algorithms or smart contracts rather than through traditional intermediaries such as banks, brokerages or insurance companies. The technology has the potential to transform finance as we know it. It solves key problems in traditional finance such as lack of inclusion, inefficiency, opacity, centralized control and lack of interoperability.

Sports Management

This course introduces the field of Sports Management and will focus on the structure of an athletic department, professional sports organization, or organization whose main purpose is related to sports or physical activities. Topics will include event planning, facilities management, organization, budgeting, marketing, and leadership. Sports management is implemented in all levels of sports including recreational, intramural, high school, college, professional, and the fitness industry.

Personal Finance

If we can agree that financial stability (budgeting, investing, understanding taxes, etc....) is a goal we should all value, then we should think about how the decisions we make impact our ability to reach this goal. This course will invite learners to pursue an interest in understanding value as a measure of standards and monetary worth. Learners will examine the definition of value(s) and discover the correlation between the decisions we make and the values we prioritize through activities and conversations. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to identify their values, as it relates to their self-worth, value of their current resources, so that they can appreciate the value for their future financial stability.

Behavioral Science of Business Honors

The Behavior Science of Business will prepare seniors to become effective, efficient, and productive leaders and managers using hard skills like managing human resources, planning, organizing, and controlling. They will also develop the soft skills that will allow them to build respectful, empathetic, and emotionally adept behaviors by employing motivational techniques, persuasion, and patience. Soft skills will allow students to build their human and social capital.



**“ Science is fun.
Science is curiosity.
We all have natural curiosity.
Science is a process
of investigating.
It’s posing questions
and coming up with a method.
It’s delving in.**

**Sally Ride
American Astronaut and Physicist**

Core Courses

Biology

The Biology course introduces students to the study of living organisms and their interactions with the environment. It covers core concepts such as cell structure and function, photosynthesis, cellular respiration, DNA, genetics, and the diversity of life. Students will also explore evolution, ecology, and human body systems. The course includes laboratory investigations to develop scientific inquiry and critical thinking skills. By the end, students will have a solid grasp of biology fundamentals, be capable of conducting scientific investigations, and effectively communicate their findings, preparing them for further study in biology and related fields.

Biology Honors

The Honors Biology course offers an in-depth study of living organisms and their environmental interactions, with a strong emphasis on critical thinking and scientific inquiry. Students will explore advanced topics such as cell structure and function, photosynthesis, cellular respiration, DNA, and genetics, as well as the diversity of life, evolution, and human body systems. The course includes rigorous laboratory work and independent research projects to develop scientific skills and apply biological concepts. By the end, students will have a deep understanding of biology, be proficient in designing and conducting investigations, analyzing data, and communicating findings, preparing them for advanced study in biology and related fields.

Advanced Placement Biology

This course offers a rigorous introduction to college-level biology, specifically designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement examination. Aligned with the AP syllabus set by the College Board, it aims to achieve two primary goals: helping students develop a strong conceptual framework for modern biology and fostering an appreciation for science as a process. Key to this understanding are experiences in scientific inquiry, the identification of unifying themes that connect major biological topics, and the application of biological knowledge and critical thinking to environmental and social issues. Topics explored include Molecules and Cells, Energy Transformation, Heredity, Evolution, Physiology, and Ecology. Significant laboratory work enhances and expands the intellectual framework of the course. Additionally, students will be REQUIRED to take the AP Exam in May, ensuring they are well-prepared for the challenges of advanced studies.

Chemistry

Chemistry is an introductory course designed to build a solid foundation in basic chemistry concepts. It covers key topics such as atomic structure, including atoms and subatomic particles; the periodic table and element organization; chemical bonding and its types; and the behavior of gases, liquids, and solids. Students will also study chemical reactions, including stoichiometry and balancing equations, as well as solutions, acids and bases, and basic organic chemistry. The course emphasizes fundamental principles without requiring advanced math, though it includes basic algebra and concepts like unit conversions. Laboratory experiments are often included to reinforce the material presented in lectures.

Chemistry Honors

This course is a study of the basic laws of chemistry, covering the common elements of the periodic system, their structure, interactions, and energy relationships. The course is accompanied by work in the mathematical solution of chemical problems, and laboratory use of experimental data. This course is especially important for students planning on attending college in a scientific or health-related field of study. The design of this course is intended to help students prepare for the rigors of lab-science courses that may be encountered in college. Students should expect a demanding daily workload that will include worksheets, reviews, and laboratory write-ups as well as quizzes, and tests to assess understanding and retention. A high level of understanding in mathematical problem-solving and the scientific methods is necessary for success in this course. Honors Chemistry will utilize the same curriculum as the Chemistry course but will move at a faster pace and will include additional inquiry and lab activities. By the end of the school year, it is expected that Honors Chemistry will be approximately one full chapter ahead of the chemistry classes.

Advanced Placement Chemistry

AP Chemistry is designed to provide a rigorous and challenging science curriculum that aligns with the principles and concepts typically found in a university-level general chemistry course, as outlined by the American Chemical Society curriculum guidelines. Students will explore the relevance of chemistry in their chosen fields of study as well as in everyday life. The course includes substantial laboratory work and a strong emphasis on mathematical concepts. It encourages critical and analytical thinking, enabling students to develop a deep understanding of chemical concepts and achieve the course's learning

objectives. Additionally, students will be REQUIRED to take the AP Exam in May, ensuring they are well-prepared for future academic endeavors.

Geology

Geology, the central discipline within earth sciences, explores various phenomena such as plate tectonics, mountain building, volcanoes, earthquakes, and the long-term evolution of Earth's atmosphere, surface, and life. Given the increasing demand for resources, exposure to natural hazards, and climate change, geology holds significant societal importance. This course introduces students to foundational geology through lectures, labs, and research projects. Topics include mineral and rock identification, the formation of continents, geologic mapping, plate tectonics, erosion by rivers and glaciers, and the history of life.

Anatomy & Physiology

Anatomy is the exploration of the structure and function of the human body. This course serves as a foundation for advanced biological studies, biomedical nursing, and various science-related careers. It is specifically designed for students who have completed a biology course and wish to deepen their understanding of biological systems. Through detailed examinations of body systems, students will learn how structure relates to function and the complexities of human physiology. Additionally, the course includes hands-on activities and dissections to provide practical experience and enhance learning. By the end of the course, students will be well-equipped for future studies in health and science fields.

Anatomy & Physiology Honors

Anatomy & Physiology Honors is an advanced study of the structure and function of the human body, offering a comprehensive understanding of complex biological systems. This course is designed for students who have successfully completed a biology course and wish to deepen their knowledge in preparation for advanced studies in biology, biomedical fields, nursing, and other science-based careers. Through rigorous coursework, hands-on activities, and in-depth exploration, students will develop critical analytical skills and engage in sophisticated discussions about human anatomy and physiology. This honors-level curriculum encourages independent research and fosters a deeper appreciation for the intricacies of the human body, making it an

excellent choice for those aspiring to pursue careers in healthcare, research, or related scientific disciplines.

Environmental Science

Environmental Science course provides an in-depth exploration of the interactions between humans and the environment. Students will study key topics such as ecosystems, biodiversity, natural resource management, and the impact of pollution. Through hands-on experiments, fieldwork, and research projects, they will develop critical thinking skills and a deeper understanding of ecological principles. The course also emphasizes the importance of sustainability and the role of individuals and communities in environmental stewardship. By the end of the course, students will be equipped to engage with contemporary environmental issues and make informed decisions for a sustainable future.

Advanced Placement Environmental Science

The Advanced Placement Environmental Science (APES) course is a challenging science class that emphasizes scientific principles and analytical skills. The primary goal of APES is to equip students with the concepts and methodologies necessary to understand the interconnections within the natural world, identify and analyze environmental issues, evaluate associated risks, and explore alternative solutions for addressing or preventing these problems. This interdisciplinary course integrates aspects of biology, earth and atmospheric sciences, fundamental chemistry and physics, and human population dynamics, all while considering the impact of human activity on the ecosystems studied. Students will also develop an appreciation for biological and natural resources, fostering a sense of stewardship for the environment. By the end of the course, students will be prepared to engage thoughtfully with contemporary environmental challenges.

Advanced Placement Psychology

The AP Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice.

Biochemistry Honors

The study of biochemistry deals with the examination of biomolecules and chemical reactions that are present in living organisms. This course will include the investigation of the structure and function of Amino Acids, Lipids, Nucleic Acids, and Carbohydrates. Major concepts will include: the science of biomolecules, energy yielding processes, molecular basis of genetics, transfer of genetic information, recombinant DNA and genetic engineering, immunology, microbiology, pharmacology and bioethics. Students will review scientific journals and take field trips related to the course.

Elective Courses

Advanced Patient Care

Using a patient simulator, the Advanced Patient Care course is designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of healthcare students, particularly those transitioning into medical programs in college. This course covers the following key aspects:

- Prepare students to take on increased responsibility in patient care settings
- Expand clinical skills beyond basic patient care
- Improve clinical reasoning and medical knowledge
- Develop leadership and critical thinking skills necessary for transitioning to higher-level roles

Marine Biology

This is an introduction to the study of Marine Biology. Topics studied: The Principles of Marine Science, Life in the Marine Environment, Structure and function of Marine Ecosystems and Humans and the Sea. In conjunction with the textbook, students will have access to an Online Learning Center. This will allow the student to review the materials covered in class. In addition, students will discover Marine Biology through interactive explorations of various topics. The course will also include lab and various field trips to such places as the Maritime Center, local beaches, and to the Sound Waters Environmental Center to learn about life in the Long Island Sound.

Meteorology

Meteorology is the scientific study of the atmosphere that focuses on weather processes and forecasting. Students will study meteorological phenomena through observable weather events, and learn to

appreciate the atmosphere and how changes in the atmosphere affect our daily lives. In addition, students will learn how meteorologists predict changes in weather patterns. Topics include: atmospheric profiles, seasons, wind patterns, ocean currents, cloud types and development and severe weather such as hurricanes, tornadoes, cyclones and tsunamis. As part of the course, students will take a field trip to a local weather station. Also, students will research major weather events such as Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Andrew and how cities can prepare for these severe weather patterns.

Astronomy

This course will provide the student with an introduction to the concepts of modern astronomy, the origin and history of the universe, and the formation of the Earth and the solar system. Students will compare the Earth's properties with those of the other planets, and explore how the heavens have influenced human thought and action. The course gives a description of astronomical phenomena using the laws of physics. The course contains many standard topics including planets, stars, the Milky Way and other galaxies, black holes to more esoteric questions concerning the origin of the universe and its evolution and fate.

Genetics Honors

This course enriches the students' knowledge of the biological concepts and applications in the field of genetics. The course will cover the tremendous impact current genetic research is having on the quality of human life. Students will evaluate scientific data relating to the effects of genes on human health and the prospects of engineering, altering and possibly eliminating defective genes from future human generations. In addition, cellular structure, DNA, RNA and Mendelian Laws will be studied.

Epidemiology Honors

The epidemiology of infectious diseases on a worldwide level is growing with the many emerging social, political and demographic changes in populations. The main focus of this course will be the impact of infectious diseases on society on a national and global level. In addition, major national and international health problems and the risk factors associated with these problems will be discussed. Students will also learn about the Center for Disease and Control in Washington, DC and what role they play in the outbreak and further spread of infectious diseases. The course will conclude with a look at biological warfare and the agents used in such warfare.

Nutrition

Nutrition is the science or study of proper, balanced diet to promote health. Students will learn to recognize a well-balanced diet and apply the food guide pyramid to good nutrition. Use of supplements, importance of vitamins and minerals, food safety, weight control and exercise will be discussed. Students will analyze their own diets and exercise programs.

Forensic Science

An introduction to the study of forensic science and the role of the forensic scientist in the criminal justice system. Students will study the techniques employed by forensic scientists in collecting physical evidence from a crime scene. In addition, students will learn the current technologies police rely on to apprehend criminal perpetrators and how they link them through trace evidence to crime scenes. The course will include the study of case histories and how forensic science impacted on the “crimes of the century.” There will be an opportunity to set up a “crime scene” and use some of the techniques studied to collect evidence. The course will culminate in a field trip to a crime lab.

Introduction to Botany

This course provides an introduction to the classification, relationship, structure and function of plants. Students will learn the ecological and economic importance of plants and the relationship of plants to other organisms and human activities. In addition students will learn the difference between organic vs. inorganic and Genetically Modified Plants vs. Organics and Heirlooms. The importance of plants used in Pharmaceuticals, Medicine, Ethnobotany, and as biofuel energy will be discussed in great detail. This will be a project based course which will include the building of a terrarium and a landscaping design. Students will also learn about urban planting and the Green Movement. The course will culminate in a trip to the Botanical Gardens in the Bronx.

Exercise Science

This course is designed for those interested in all aspects of science relating towards human movement and exercise. This includes: basic human anatomy, exercise physiology, biomechanics, strength and conditioning, general health and fitness, wellness and nutrition. Specifically, students will become familiar with the skeletal and muscular systems, anatomical terms of description,

the energy systems that provide fuel for general movement and exercise, how to classify muscular movements, basic strength programming for athletics, sports nutrition, and other general health and fitness concepts.

Bioethics Honors

This course introduces students to contemporary issues in bioethics, an interdisciplinary subject focused on ethical issues in health care, health policy, medical practice, medical and scientific research, and more. Students will engage with ethical theory, case studies, and media to gain familiarity with foundational bioethical concepts and important topics including ability/disability, reproduction, race, and research ethics. Students will learn to use ethical concepts and normative theory to analyze and evaluate real-life cases, understand, articulate and defend philosophically and ethically sound positions, engage critically and respectfully with opposing views, and to recognize the moral residue that is often an unavoidable aspect of resolutions to complex bioethical problems.

Behavioral Neuroscience Honors

This course will introduce students to the foundational neuroscience principles and investigate the relationship between the brain and behavior. It will emphasize nervous system structure and function and how brain processes cause psychological processes and behavior, and how psychological events are encoded in the brain. Topics covered include evolution of psychological and social traits, structure and function of neurons, neurotransmitter signals and interaction with drugs, neuroanatomy of brain structures and brain mechanisms of perception, motivation, learning and cognition.

Medical Greek and Latin Terminology

Medical Greek and Latin Terminology focuses upon the different body systems and how the body operates through anatomical and etymological standpoints. Students will be exposed to a multitude of commonly used medical terms and thoroughly study their origins. Students will learn a great deal of anatomy and physiology, with the goal of putting into practice their ability to break apart, analyze, and build medical words from their prospective prefixes and suffixes. Each student will utilize his knowledge of the ancient Greek and Latin languages to guide him in doing this. This course will act as an ancillary and enrichment course for Archbishop Stepinac’s Science classes.

The Science of Food

This course will examine human interactions with food in everyday life through the lens of science. This exploration will occur through the classroom experience as well as through hands-on activities and demonstrations. Topics will include food as fuel; how the human body metabolizes different foods, and the chemical and physical processes needed to turn meals and snacks into available energy. Different types of diets will also be explored, each with its guiding principles and nutritional requirements. The science of cooking and food preparation will also be covered. The chemical reactions which occur when ingredients are combined, heated, or cooled will be covered, and the amazing results that take place when simple ingredients are transformed into a variety of foods that we eat. Upon completion of the course, the students will have a better understanding of the science behind their food consumption, preparation, and food choices as well as a deeper appreciation of the overall role food plays in their lives. They will also experience practical applications of basic concepts in chemistry, biology, and physics.

Introduction to Health

Health Education is a comprehensive high school course that provides students with essential knowledge and skills for maintaining personal health and well-being. The curriculum covers topics such as physical fitness, nutrition, mental health, substance abuse prevention, and healthy relationships. Students will engage in interactive lessons and activities that emphasize the importance of lifestyle choices, stress management, and making informed decisions. Upon completion, students will have a solid foundation in healthy living principles, preparing them to apply this knowledge to their own lives and make informed health decisions.

Physical Education: Grades 9-12

Physical Education focuses on improving physical fitness, motor skills, and knowledge of sports. The course develops cardiovascular endurance, strength, and flexibility through various exercises, and enhances fundamental movement skills like running, jumping, and throwing. Students practice team sports such as basketball and soccer, as well as individual sports like tennis and track. The curriculum also covers health topics, including nutrition and injury prevention, and promotes sportsmanship and teamwork. With a blend of physical activities, fitness assessments, and written assignments, the course aims to foster lifelong healthy habits and positive attitudes toward physical activity.



“Everybody should learn to program a computer, because it teaches you how to think.

Steve Jobs
Former CEO and Creator of Apple

Core Courses

Introduction to Computer Science Engineering (CSE)

This course introduces students to Computer Science Principles, offering foundational concepts in computing and technology. Students will explore the impact of technology on the world and its future potential. The curriculum also covers the basics of Engineering and the Engineering Design Process for problem-solving, as well as fundamental Physics and its everyday applications. Through a project-based approach, students will gain a solid understanding of computer science and its relevance to daily life, preparing them for further studies in the field.

Principles of Engineering Honors

This survey course exposes students to some of the major concepts that they will encounter in a postsecondary engineering course of study. Through problems that engage and challenge, students explore a broad range of engineering topics, including mechanisms, the strength of materials and structures, automation, and kinematics. The course applies and concurrently develops secondary level knowledge and skills in mathematics, science, and technology. Students have the opportunity to develop skills and understanding of course concepts through activity-, project-, and problem-based learning. By solving rigorous and relevant design problems using engineering and science concepts within a collaborative learning environment, APB learning challenges students to continually hone their interpersonal skills, creative abilities, and problem solving skills. Students will also learn how to document their work and communicate their solutions to their peers and members of the professional community. It also allows students to develop strategies to enable and direct their own learning, which is the ultimate goal of education.

Engineering Project Management and Design Honors

Engineering project management and design course aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively manage engineering projects and apply design methodologies. These courses typically combine theoretical concepts with practical applications, often including hands-on project work. Key Components include: 1. Project lifecycle: Understanding the stages of a project from initiation to closure. 2. Planning and scheduling: Techniques for organizing project tasks and timelines. 3. Resource allocation: Managing human, financial, and material resources effectively. 4. Risk management: Identifying, assessing, and mitigating project risks. 5. Problem identification:

Defining and justifying engineering problems. 6. Concept generation: Developing multiple solution possibilities. 7. Design analysis: Applying STEM principles to evaluate design concepts 8. Prototyping and testing: Creating testable prototypes and conducting experiments

Physics

Physics is an algebra-based introductory course designed to build a foundational understanding of key physical concepts. Students enhance their learning through a combination of classroom instruction, interactive activities, and hands-on laboratory exercises. Topics covered include Kinematics, Work and Energy, Momentum, Gravitation and Circular Motion, and Rotational Motion and Torque. The course emphasizes both theoretical principles and practical applications, helping students connect abstract concepts to real-world scenarios. Students will also develop problem-solving skills and learn to apply mathematical techniques to physical situations. By conducting experiments and analyzing data, they will gain a deeper appreciation for the fundamental laws governing the physical universe. Additionally, the course prepares students for more advanced studies in physics and related fields.

Physics Honors

The Honors Physics course is an algebra-based introductory class designed to provide an in-depth understanding of fundamental physical concepts. This rigorous curriculum combines advanced classroom instruction, interactive activities, and extensive hands-on laboratory exercises to enhance student learning. Key topics covered include Kinematics, Work and Energy, Momentum, Gravitation and Circular Motion, and Rotational Motion and Torque. The course emphasizes both theoretical principles and practical applications, encouraging students to connect abstract concepts to real-world scenarios. Students will develop advanced problem-solving skills and apply mathematical techniques to complex physical situations. Through conducting experiments and analyzing data, they will gain a deeper appreciation for the fundamental laws governing the physical universe. This honors-level course prepares students for further studies in physics and related scientific fields, fostering critical thinking and a passion for exploration in the sciences.

Advanced Placement Physics 1

AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course. Students cultivate their understanding of physics through classroom study, in-class activity, and hands-on, inquiry-based

laboratory work as they explore concepts like systems, fields, force interactions, change, conservation, and waves.

Advanced Placement Physics 2

Students explore principles of fluids, thermodynamics, electricity, magnetism, optics, and topics in modern physics. The course is based on seven Big Ideas, which encompass core scientific principles, theories, and processes that cut across traditional boundaries and provide a broad way of thinking about the physical world. The following are Big Ideas: Fields existing in space can be used to explain interactions; interactions between systems can result in changes in those systems; and changes that occur as a result of interactions are constrained by conservation laws.

Advanced Placement Physics C: Mechanics & Electricity and Magnetism

The Mechanics portion will provide instruction in each of the following six content areas assessed on the AP[®] Exam: Kinematics; Newton's laws of motion; work, energy, and power; systems of particles and linear momentum; circular motion and rotation; and oscillations and gravitation. The Electricity & Magnetism portion will provide instruction in each of the following five content areas assessed on the AP[®] Exam: Electrostatics; conductors, capacitors, and dielectrics; electric circuits; magnetic fields; and electromagnetism.

Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles

The AP Computer Science Principles course introduces students to core computer science concepts and enhances their computational thinking skills. Students will learn to think algorithmically and write code to solve problems, while examining the broader societal impact of computing. The course covers computer system components, programming languages, and algorithms through hands-on activities and assignments using various programming tools. It also addresses topics like digital privacy, cybersecurity, and the ethical implications of data use. By the end, students will understand fundamental computer science concepts, be proficient in multiple programming languages, and apply their knowledge to real-world problems. This course prepares students for advanced computer science studies and may offer college credit or placement opportunities through the AP exam.

Advanced Placement Computer Science A

The AP Computer Science A course offers students an introduction to computer science and programming using the Java language. It covers fundamental topics such as problem-solving, data structures, algorithms, and object-oriented programming principles. Students will gain experience in designing, implementing, and analyzing computer programs, developing skills in writing, testing, and debugging code. The course also addresses the ethical and social implications of computer science and explores its role and impact on society, individuals, and communities.

Elective Courses

Electrical Engineering

Electrical Engineering is a high school course that introduces students to the principles of electrical and electronic circuits and devices. The course typically covers several key topics: understanding basic electrical concepts such as voltage, current, resistance, and power, as well as electrical safety procedures; analyzing and designing simple circuits using Ohm's Law, Kirchhoff's Laws, and circuit theorems; studying electronic devices such as diodes, transistors, and operational amplifiers, and their application in circuits; exploring digital logic circuits, including Boolean algebra, logic gates, and flip-flops; and examining microcontroller programming and interfacing with input/output devices. Students will also engage in hands-on design projects that allow them to apply concepts learned in class to real-world problems. This course emphasizes problem-solving skills and critical thinking, and may include laboratory work and computer simulations to reinforce concepts. The goal is to prepare students for further study in electrical engineering or related fields and to provide a foundation for future technological innovation.

Media and Technology

The course is a study on how technology has influenced news and advertising media. It concentrates on the evolution and importance of social media in these areas. Students will analyze how social media is used and is evolving, as well as develop professional social profiles for pseudo corporations and themselves. The course will also analyze different "news" sites

and discuss the reliability of the information. Finally, the students will analyze and discuss the implications of misuse of social media.

Introduction to Engineering

Introduction to Engineering is a survey course that introduces different engineering from Automotive, Electronic, Structural, etc. Students explore the role of Engineer in society, the key role they play in using the results found by Science, and turning those into products and things we use every day. Students also have the opportunity to work in teams to try out these methods and come up with some products and ideas of our own, test them out, and present those to the class.

Video Game Design

This course is for anyone who loves gaming and wants to design and build original games from scratch. Students learn how to use popular game-development software to create engaging, interactive games in a variety of styles. After learning about game genres, students learn about all aspects of the game-design process. From there, it's on to a series of increasingly challenging hands-on projects that teach all the elements of successful game development. This course provides a solid foundation in the essentials of game design and the ability to understand the basic skills needed in this growing field. (This course will require additional software.)

Digital Publishing & Broadcasting

This course is designed to develop student's digital publishing skills. The course will teach students how to create school newsletters, magazines and especially concentrate on the development and publishing of the school's yearbook. Students will also produce a Stepinac news show for broadcast. Students learn basic principles of digital publishing production and develop skills that include writing copy, captions and headlines; digital photography, including photo and video editing; desktop publishing and using appropriate technology tools for media production. The creation of both digital and print copy will be explored in this course with the emphasis on creativity of design.

Technology in Sports

Sport embraces technology like few other industries. From carbon fiber bicycles to electronic taekwondo vests, from high-tech swimsuits to goal-line technology, there is innovation everywhere. But while it brings excitement it also brings challenges. How does technology evolve safely before appearing on the big stage? Why is the role of the athlete so

crucial? What opportunities does it give him/her? The possibilities are endless and very exciting!

Social Media Advertising

This course brings together the wide world of social media and how it affects our society today. From its effect on our social skills to how social media has completely changed the advertising business. The course will touch upon the importance of Social- nomics, logos, slogans, jingles and branding in the field of marketing and advertising. The students will learn how digital communication has grown and changed over the years and the effect that has had on us. Finally, this course will have a graphic art element to it, students will design and create their own logos and brand with the goal to learn how to give something or someone a successful social media presence.

Programming for Mobile Applications

Using the newest software and websites, they will learn through basic and advanced tutorials how to create their own mobile apps. The use of specific websites to assist in the overall learning experience like Code Academy and GROK Learning is an important part of the course. The latest version of MIT App Inventor will also be an important teaching tool we will use to learn Programming. As the students gain experience with the software they will gain confidence in their new-found ability to create programs.

Stagecraft

Stagecraft introduces students to a practical approach to technical and production aspects. Students learn the skills needed to construct scenery, hang and focus lighting instruments, and implement a sound system. Students are trained in the usage of tools, lumber, and machinery.



**“ Each of you should use
whatever gift you have received
to serve others,
as faithful stewards of God’s grace
in its various forms.
Do not be slothful in zeal,
be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.**

1 Peter 4:10-11

Core Courses

Religious Studies I

In this course, the goal is to provide students with a basic understanding of the value and importance of the Bible. In the first half of the year, students explore the forty-six books of the Old Testament which record salvation history from creation, through the story of ancient Israel, and up to the time of Jesus. This is followed by the study of the twenty-seven New Testament books written during the early years of the Church. Understanding the New Testament allows students to appreciate the impact of the life, mission, death, and resurrection of Jesus on world history. Emphasis is placed on the importance of Jesus' teachings in contemporary life.

Religious Studies II

The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to the Catholic Faith and deepen their understanding of its core elements. By the end of the course, students should be able to answer several key questions: "What is the Church?" "What are the mysteries of the Church?" "What does it mean to be a member of the Church?" and "In what ways can the Church serve as our teacher, sacrament, and servant?" Through engaging discussions, reflective activities, and exploring historical and theological perspectives, students will gain a comprehensive view of the Church's role in their lives and the broader world. This exploration aims to foster a personal connection with the Faith and inspire students to actively participate in the Church's mission.

Religious Studies III

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the moral teachings of the Catholic Church and help them understand how these teachings apply to everyday life. By exploring fundamental questions such as "What is morality?" and "How is Catholic Morality Applied to Everyday Life Experiences?", students will gain insight into ethical decision-making from a Catholic perspective. The course will also examine how Catholic values influence personal behavior and societal norms. Through discussions and case studies, students will develop a deeper appreciation for the role of moral principles in guiding their actions and interactions. Ultimately, the course aims to empower students to integrate Catholic moral teachings into their daily lives.

Religious Studies IV

The senior curriculum focuses on the mystery and nature of the church, as well as an overview of church history. Included will be a look at the church as unchanging, yet developing. During the course, various images used for the church are examined such as: Body of Christ, People of God, Sacraments, Mother, Sheep Fold. Finally, the documents of the Second Vatican Council are discussed to conclude the course.

Elective Courses

World Religions

World Religions will examine religion through a historical, social, political, and economic lens. Students will be exposed to the connection between religion and society, and the many ways these two ideas are intertwined. This course will cover a variety of religions from all over the world throughout the year, examining each through historical, cultural, and sociological contexts. Topics of study will include Ancient Religions, Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Eastern Religions, African Religions, and Cults and Modern Religions. The coursework will primarily focus on assignments, quizzes, essays, and tests, as well as group projects in the spirit of collaborative visual mediums.

Philosophy Honors

In this course, students will explore some of the foundational concepts that have driven the development of western philosophy, such as consciousness, identity, ethics, free will, happiness, and justice. Students will read a mixture of primary sources from famous philosophers (like Plato, Descartes, and Kant), apply philosophical concepts to contemporary events, and develop their critical thinking skills.

Angels, Apparitions and The Apocalypse

Do angels exist? Why have there been more appearances by Mary in the last two centuries? Are we in the end times? Our current age seems to be fraught with conflict and controversy. Using Scripture and *The Second Greatest Story Ever Told* by Fr. Michael Gaitley, we will look at the message(s) from the past and present that speak to humanity's future.

Introduction to Ethics

This ethics course will introduce the branch of philosophy that attempts to discover by rational methods the truth about right and wrong, good and bad, moral and immoral. Ethics critically examines existing systems of values and their applications to life situations; helps improve students' ability to understand and make ethical choices. This course will introduce and analyze basic moral concepts of goodness, right, and obligation. This course will then apply this theory into different areas such as society, business, medicine, religion, and the law. This course builds on the base of learning from the morality component of the Religious Studies III course.

Peer Ministry

This is for seniors who have a strong faith, integrity, moral compass and who excel in compassion and kindness. Seniors will lead Freshmen (RELST I classes*) in discussion 1 day per cycle using the Alpha Youth Film Series to evangelize as well as build fellowship with their younger peers and to hone their skills in Peer Ministry. At the conclusion of Alpha, the Seniors minister to Freshmen and other underclassmen in small groups in a practicum of the materials/topics covered in the RELST courses as well as practical life (such as bereavement, conflict resolution, peer pressure, bullying, family issues, etc.)

Biblical Studies

The class would examine how the bible came about. We will cover the 4 editing stages of the Old Testament books. We will determine how the Gospels came about. In these discussions we will consider Biblical Inspiration and the determination of the Biblical Canon. We will also discuss Paul's epistles and find out why they were written and the major themes that St. Paul presents.

Sociological Examination of Morality in Film

The course will examine moral dilemmas through a sociological lens as depicted in films. Examples of the topics discussed in class (through the viewing of several films) would include race, sexuality, socio-economic status, independence/groupthink, bystander effect, peer pressure, etc... Students will be required to view the films in class collectively, discuss their personal reflections of the films together, as well as write reflections of films, and comment on others' reflections using online platforms.

A Matter of Life

We are at a crossroads in our society and history. With laws that threaten the lives of preborns, infants, the disabled, and the elderly, we need to take a hard look at our history as well as learn about the technologies and scientific developments to understand and raise up moral voices to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. This class will study relevant Supreme Court cases as well as the post-Civil War eugenics movement that was the catalyst for Margaret Sanger, the American Birth Control League/Planned Parenthood. We will also examine the science of human conception and development through the innovations of 3-D and 4-D sonography videos.

Christian Mysticism

This course will introduce students to the three dimensions of Christian Mysticism namely, the biblical, the liturgical, and the spiritual. The course would provide students with different texts, films, and documentaries by leading biblical mystics and historians to explore the intimate relationships human beings have encountered with the divine or transcendent. Works from figures like Teresa of Ávila, Meister Eckhart, Julian of Norwich, John of the Cross, Evelyn Underhill, Thomas Merton, and anonymous masters like the authors of classics like 'The Cloud of Unknowing' or 'The Way of a Pilgrim' would be incorporated for greater context into the earliest experiences of Christian mystics/sages. Other global mystical experiences such as the Marian Apparitions will also be examined through the spiritual lens. Students will be encouraged to share their own spiritual experiences in the pursuit of connecting each individual to the divine in their own way.



“ Knowledge
of languages
is the doorway
to wisdom.

Roger Bacon
English philosopher

Core Courses

Spanish I

Spanish I is an introductory course that provides a basic understanding of Spanish language and culture. It covers vocabulary and grammar, including sentence structure and verb conjugation, while developing speaking and listening skills through practice in pronunciation and basic conversations. Students will also focus on reading and writing, including comprehension and simple sentence construction. The course introduces Spanish-speaking cultures, including geography, history, and traditions. Emphasis is placed on building foundational language skills and fostering an appreciation for the diverse cultures of Spanish-speaking countries.

Spanish II

Spanish II builds on the foundation established in Spanish I, expanding students' vocabulary and grammar to include more complex concepts like verb tenses, the subjunctive mood, and indirect object pronouns. The course focuses on advanced communication skills, including understanding and participating in more complex dialogues and expressing opinions and feelings. It also develops advanced reading and writing abilities, such as comprehending intricate texts and crafting detailed paragraphs and essays. Students will explore cultural diversity within the Spanish-speaking world. Prior knowledge from Spanish I is required, and the course emphasizes enhancing language proficiency and deepening cultural understanding through interactive activities like debates and presentations.

Spanish II Honors

Spanish II Honors builds on the skills acquired in Spanish I, extending students' vocabulary and grammar to encompass advanced concepts such as various verb tenses, the subjunctive mood, and indirect object pronouns. This course places a strong emphasis on refining communication skills, including engaging in complex conversations and articulating opinions and emotions with nuance. Students will also advance their reading and writing abilities by analyzing intricate texts and composing detailed essays and paragraphs. Additionally, the course offers a deeper exploration of cultural diversity within the Spanish-speaking world. Prior knowledge from Spanish I is required, and the course integrates interactive activities such as debates and presentations to enhance language proficiency and cultural insight. This challenging curriculum is designed to further develop students'

linguistic capabilities and prepare them for more advanced language studies.

Spanish III

Spanish III is an intermediate-level course that builds upon the skills developed in Spanish I and II, focusing on expanding vocabulary, refining grammatical concepts, and enhancing cultural understanding. The course includes an in-depth study of Spanish vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, advanced verb tenses, and complex grammatical structures such as the conditional perfect and the present perfect subjunctive. Students will advance their communication skills to engage in more intricate conversations, express opinions with greater precision, and comprehend spoken Spanish in various contexts. The course also develops advanced reading and writing abilities, enabling students to interpret complex texts, analyze literary works, and compose essays and research papers in Spanish. A deeper exploration of contemporary issues, cultural movements, and literary contributions within the Spanish-speaking world is integral to the curriculum. Prior completion of Spanish II or equivalent coursework is required, and the course emphasizes achieving a higher level of language proficiency and a thorough appreciation of Spanish-speaking cultures through interactive activities like debates, presentations, cultural research projects, and literary analysis.

Spanish III Honors

Spanish III H is an honors-level course that builds on Spanish I and IIH, focusing on advanced language skills and a deeper understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures. Key topics include an extensive study of vocabulary and grammar, covering advanced verb tenses, the subjunctive mood, and complex structures like passive voice. Students will enhance their speaking and listening skills to engage in extended conversations, deliver presentations, and understand various dialects. The course also emphasizes advanced reading and writing, enabling students to analyze texts and compose essays in Spanish. Prior knowledge equivalent to Spanish IIH is required, and the course includes interactive activities such as debates, cultural projects, and literary analysis to promote proficiency and cultural appreciation.

Spanish IV

Spanish IV focuses on deepening cultural understanding and language skills through authentic Spanish-language films, literature, and music. Rather than traditional language instruction, the course encourages students to explore the diverse histories, arts, and contemporary issues

within Spanish-speaking communities. Through discussions and projects based on these materials, students strengthen their language comprehension and gain insights into the cultural contexts that shape the Spanish-speaking world. This immersive approach promotes critical thinking and prepares students for advanced language and cultural studies.

Advanced Placement Spanish Language

This college-level course will explore seven centuries of Hispanic literature, exposing students to a diverse range of genres and discourse. It will allow students to trace the evolution of Spanish prose from Don Juan Manuel to contemporary authors, highlighting some of the most notable practitioners. The reading list is designed to introduce significant works that have influenced literature and art globally. One notable text, “Lo que sucedió a un mozo que casó con una mujer muy fuerte y muy brava,” is drawn from Don Juan Manuel’s collection *El Conde Lucanor*, which Angel Flores describes as potentially the earliest European work of fiction in the vernacular, positioning its author as Spain’s first short story writer and a pioneer of Spanish prose. This course will deepen students’ appreciation of the rich literary tradition within the Spanish-speaking world.

Italian I

Italian I is an introductory course aimed at providing students with a basic grasp of the Italian language and culture, designed for those with little or no prior knowledge of Italian. Students will learn fundamental pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, and syntax while practicing listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. The course covers essential topics such as greetings, personal information, descriptions, food and drink, travel, hobbies, and basic grammar. It also introduces Italian culture, including traditions and daily life. By the end of the course, students will be able to engage in simple conversations, understand basic written and spoken Italian, and have a foundational knowledge of Italian culture.

Italian II

Italian II is an intermediate-level course designed for students who have completed Italian I or possess a basic understanding of the language. Building on the skills from Italian I, this course advances students’ grammar knowledge and introduces more sophisticated vocabulary and language structures. Students will further develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, engaging in

complex conversations that include expressing opinions, giving advice, and recounting past experiences. The curriculum also expands vocabulary to encompass more abstract and nuanced concepts. An integral part of the course is a detailed exploration of Italian culture, including its art, music, literature, and history, which enriches students’ understanding of Italian society and traditions. Topics covered include expressing emotions, discussing current events, making plans, using the conditional tense, exploring hypothetical situations, and mastering advanced grammar concepts such as the subjunctive mood and indirect speech. By the end of the course, students will be equipped to participate in more intricate conversations, analyze authentic Italian texts, and effectively communicate their ideas in both spoken and written Italian, while gaining a deeper appreciation of Italian culture and society.

Italian III

Italian III is an advanced course designed for students who have completed Italian II or possess a strong foundation in the language. Building on the skills learned in Italian I and II, this course emphasizes fluency, accuracy, and cultural understanding. Students will engage in complex conversations using advanced vocabulary and structures while refining their language skills by focusing on grammar, syntax, and idiomatic expressions. The course includes an in-depth exploration of Italian culture—covering the arts, history, politics, and social issues—through the analysis of authentic texts like literature, newspapers, and films. Topics will include discussing contemporary issues, expressing opinions, using complex verb tenses, and writing persuasive essays. By the end of the course, students will communicate fluently and accurately in Italian, with a deep understanding of Italian culture and society, preparing them for advanced studies in the language.

Italian IV

Students will demonstrate comprehension and comprehensibility in spoken and written Italian in a variety of personal contexts, actively negotiating meaning and drawing appropriate inferences. Students will comprehend spoken Italian in a variety of academic and culturally appropriate contexts and draw appropriate inferences. Students will write compositions in Italian on general topics with clarity and accuracy and in a variety of contexts, styles, and registers.

Advanced Placement Italian Language and Culture

The AP Italian Language and Culture course is designed to be comparable to college/university Italian courses that serve as a transition between language courses and linguistics or content-based courses. Its aim is to develop students' reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills within a cultural frame of reference reflective of the richness of Italian language and culture. The AP Italian Language and Culture course should help prepare students to demonstrate their level of Italian proficiency across three communicative modes (Interpersonal, Interpretive, and Presentational).

Students will demonstrate comprehension and comprehensibility in spoken and written Italian in a variety of personal contexts, actively negotiating meaning and drawing appropriate inferences. Students will comprehend spoken Italian in a variety of academic and culturally appropriate contexts and draw appropriate inferences. Students will write compositions in Italian on general topics with clarity and accuracy and in a variety of contexts, styles, and registers.

French I

In French I, students are introduced to the basics of the French language, including foundational vocabulary, pronunciation, and essential grammar. Topics covered include greetings, family, school, weather, and daily routines. Cultural studies focus on French-speaking countries, traditions, and lifestyles, providing context for language learning. By the end of the course, students will be able to hold simple conversations, write basic sentences, and understand key cultural concepts.

French II

Building on French I, French II expands students' vocabulary and grammatical understanding, enabling more detailed self-expression. Students learn to discuss past and future events, describe people and places, and express opinions. Themes include travel, hobbies, health, and shopping, along with a deeper exploration of Francophone cultures. The course emphasizes listening, reading, and conversational skills through various interactive activities and projects.

French III

In French III, students further develop their language proficiency, focusing on more complex sentence structures, verb tenses, and nuanced vocabulary. Emphasis is placed on refining conversational

skills and understanding authentic materials, such as short stories, articles, and media from French-speaking regions. Cultural topics cover current events, arts, and customs, helping students gain a well-rounded view of the Francophone world. By the end of this course, students can discuss a range of topics with greater fluency and cultural awareness.

French IV

In French IV, students immerse themselves in French language and culture primarily through film, literature, and music. While direct language instruction is less emphasized, students naturally develop language skills by engaging with authentic materials that reflect contemporary and historical Francophone societies. Topics include global and cultural issues, art, and personal identity. This approach fosters a deeper cultural understanding and encourages students to analyze and discuss complex ideas, enriching their language experience and preparing them for advanced language studies.

AP French Language and Culture

The AP French Language and Culture course prepares students for the AP exam by focusing on six major themes: Global Challenges, Science and Technology, Contemporary Life, Personal and Public Identities, Families and Communities, and Beauty and Aesthetics. Students explore these themes through authentic French-language materials, including articles, audio recordings, and literary texts. The course emphasizes the development of all language skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—at a sophisticated level, enabling students to communicate with accuracy and depth. Cultural comparison and analysis are integral, allowing students to gain a nuanced understanding of Francophone perspectives.

Latin I Honors

The Latin IH course introduces students to Latin language and culture, emphasizing proficiency in reading and translating texts. Students will cover fundamental Latin grammar, syntax, and vocabulary while exploring the historical and cultural context of the language. They will read various Latin texts, from simple sentences to excerpts from classical literature, and practice translating between Latin and English with a focus on accuracy. The course also includes a study of ancient Roman history, culture, and mythology, highlighting Roman contributions to modern law, government, art, and literature. Upon completion, students will have a solid foundation in Latin and a deeper appreciation for Roman cultural heritage, preparing them for advanced Latin studies and enhancing their understanding of English's Latin roots.

Latin II Honors

Latin II Honors is an advanced course that builds on the foundation established in Latin I, aiming to enhance students' proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking Latin. The course places a strong emphasis on advanced grammar and syntax, alongside an expanded vocabulary, to enable students to read and comprehend more complex Latin texts. In addition to deepening their understanding of ancient Roman history and culture, students will study the literary works of Roman authors and explore the significant influence of Latin on modern languages and cultures. The honors curriculum challenges students with more rigorous texts and assignments, fostering a deeper appreciation for the classical language and its enduring legacy.

Latin III Honors

Latin IIIH is an advanced high school course that builds on the grammar, vocabulary, and cultural knowledge acquired in Latin I and II. Key topics include advanced grammar, with a review of previous concepts and an introduction to more complex structures like the subjunctive mood and indirect statement. Students will read and analyze authentic Latin texts from authors such as Cicero, Virgil, and Ovid, focusing on literary techniques and historical context. The course emphasizes accurate translation into English, along with an understanding of the cultural and historical backdrop of ancient Rome, including its social structures, religious beliefs, and political institutions. Students will also develop writing skills in Latin, crafting sentences, paragraphs, and short essays. Overall, the course encourages critical thinking, analytical skills, and independent research projects, aiming to prepare students for further studies in Latin, classical studies, or related fields while fostering an appreciation for ancient Rome's rich cultural legacy.

Latin IV Honors

This course continues the survey of Latin literature begun in Latin III. Students will read longer selections of major authors such as Cicero, Vergil, Ovid, and Horace, with increased emphasis on the historical and cultural backgrounds of the text, the style of the author, and the conventions of the genre. This course requires students independently to read scholarly articles and selections from seminal works in the discipline for both class discussion and projects. Students will be expected to have mastered the grammar of the Latin I-III program so they will be able to work comfortably in challenging texts. Finally, they will work throughout to cultivate

skills for reading complex works, doing scholarly research, and enjoying great literature.

Advanced Placement Latin

Students are expected to be able to translate accurately from Latin into English the poetry or prose they are reading and to demonstrate a grasp of grammatical structures and vocabulary. Since the appreciation of Latin literature requires an understanding of the literary techniques of Latin writers and of poetic meters when appropriate, stylistic analysis is an integral part of the advanced work in this course. In addition, AP Latin includes the study of the cultural, social and political context of the literature on the syllabus.

Elective Courses

Mandarin I Honors

This course introduces students to the Chinese language across three communicative modes (Interpersonal, Interpretive, and Presentational) and the five goal areas (Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities) as outlined in the Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century. Its aim is to provide students with opportunities to begin developing their proficiencies across the full range of language skills within a cultural frame of reference reflective of the richness of Chinese language and culture.

Spanish Conversation through Film

Through Spanish and Hispanic Cinema, students will continue their studies of Spanish. Students will continue to learn new vocabulary and dialect of different Spanish speaking countries through film. Discussions of film will be done in Spanish to increase Spanish conversation as well as continue to practice the written expression.

Introduction to Spanish Literature

Students will be introduced to the great poets and authors of Spain and Latin America. They will read and analyze literature, learn literary terms in Spanish (which are learned in English).

Introduction to Ancient Greek

This full year course will introduce students to the Ancient Greek language. Students will read, write, and speak Ancient Greek in a dynamic, active classroom. In addition to grammar and vocabulary, students will learn about Greek culture, history, and especially mythology. Assignments will include spoken Greek activities, Greek composition, and cultural research projects and presentations. By the end of the year students will be prepared to read a selection of Greek texts including Herodotus, Homer, and the Greek New Testament.

It's All Greek to Us

The ancient Greeks bequeathed to us the great philosophical, literary, political and historical themes that have dominated the worldview (Weltanschauung) of western civilization since ancient times. It is difficult, if not impossible, to find an area of humanity or human relationships with men, nature, and God that was not discovered and then explained by the writers and poets of that little speck of land in the Mediterranean Sea. In this course, we will consider our inheritance from Greece and how it has influenced our own history, language, politics, religion, and culture.

Medieval and Ecclesiastical Latin Honors

Medieval and Ecclesiastical Latin will focus upon the literature, language, culture, history, mythology, and legacy of the Roman people from the birth of Christianity until the late dark ages (circa 1200 AD). How did the late Romans see the world? How did they live their lives? Is it different from ours in the 21st century? What can we learn from them and what did they bequeath to us? Through a series of readings (both primary and secondary sources), this class will explore art, architecture, the legal system, educational system, political structures, technological advances, history, and philosophy of Rome from the dawn of Christianity until after the collapse of the Holy Roman Empire.



**“ You are stronger than you seem,
braver than you believe,
and smarter than you think.**

A.A. Milne
English writer

Core Courses

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

- **Postsecondary Planning:**

Students explore options for college, vocational training, military service, or entering the workforce directly after graduation¹.

- **Employability Skills:**

The course covers essential workplace skills like resume writing, interviewing, and professional communication.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Self-Care:**

Students learn to adapt their self-care plans as they transition to post-high school life, covering topics like coping skills, time management, and healthy lifestyle choices.

- **Life Skills:**

The curriculum helps students develop skills to balance personal, family, school, community, and work roles.

ACADEMIC PREPARATION

- **College and Career Readiness:**

Students focus on skills and knowledge needed for success in their chosen postsecondary paths.

Guidance 9

Guidance 9 is a crucial component of the student's educational journey, designed to support their transition into high school and foster their academic and social-emotional development. This developmental counseling course employs a variety of methods, including group activities, class discussions, web-based activities, lectures, and presentations to enhance self-awareness and personal growth. Topics covered will include transitioning into high school, organizational skills, time management, goal setting, communication skills, stress management, accountability, and understanding responsibility. By engaging in these activities, students will build a strong foundation for success throughout their high school years and beyond. All students register for Naviance and College Board accounts.

Guidance 10

Guidance 10 is a crucial component of the student's educational experience, focusing on their educational, vocational, and social development through a developmental approach to school counseling. The course involves lectures, presentations, group activities, class discussions, and web-based activities to enhance self-awareness and personal growth. Students will engage in activities designed to help them get to know themselves better and explore various aspects of their future by completing a Sophomore Guidance and Counseling Questionnaire. This will help them select an educational pathway by setting academic, personal, and social goals; completing a self-evaluation of interests, personality, hobbies; and identifying possible career choices based on the aforementioned. Other topics of focus include understanding learning styles, study and time management skills, stress management strategies, addressing bullying, participating in leadership exercises, resume format and writing, and using Naviance for career exploration.

Guidance 11

Guidance 11 is a comprehensive and essential component of the student's educational journey, aimed at supporting their educational, vocational, and social development. The course has two primary objectives: to explore topics that are significant to students and to provide them with specialized knowledge about the college admissions process. It includes lectures, presentations, class discussions, and web-based activities, all designed to enhance understanding of the college search and admission process. Topics covered include an overview of standardized testing options, their relevance, format, and scoring; college essay and brainstorming; and practical exercises that prepare students for the challenges of transitioning to higher education. This holistic approach ensures that students are well-equipped for their future academic endeavors. Naviance is their primary tool for college exploration.

Guidance 12

The 12th grade guidance course focuses on completion of all the steps in the college application process including essay and supplement writing and review. Counselors again guide students in their use of Naviance to manage the college application process. Counselors coach students and families through the various steps in submitting their applications. Students are also guided in scholarship search and application opportunities. Lastly, students and their families are assisted with understanding decision notifications and financial aid awards.

Elective Courses

Peer Mentor Program

The Peer Mentor program was designed to provide additional support from upperclassmen to the incoming freshmen.

Program outcomes include:

- Provide a role model for positive and productive relationships to freshmen through upper-class mentors
- Create a consistent source of assistance for students during a time of transition and change
- Provide freshmen with a knowledgeable point of contact regarding campus resources and peer-level academic advice.
- To create an avenue whereby mentors and mentees can remain connected to the Stepianc community and feel a sense of belonging and/or contribution to the community
- To provide opportunities for mentors to experiment with leadership styles, interpersonal skills, and communication skills



“ Music is a moral law.
It gives soul to the universe,
wings to the mind,
flight to the imagination,
and charm to life
and to everything.

Plato
Greek philosopher

Fine Art: Core Courses

Advanced Placement 2-D Art and Design

In AP 2-D Art and Design you'll develop skills using materials and processes such as graphic design, photography, collage, printmaking, fashion illustration, and others. As the course concludes you'll submit a portfolio that demonstrates your ability to practice, experiment, and revise your own work while communicating your ideas about art and design.

Advanced Placement Drawing

In AP Drawing, you'll use the skills you learn in the course, and your own ideas, to create unique works of art. Throughout the course, you'll develop an inquiry that guides artmaking through practice, experimentation, and revision of materials, processes, and ideas while demonstrating drawing skills through painting, drawing, sequential art, printmaking, illustration, animation, fibers, and others.

Introduction to Studio Art

The primary goal of this course is to develop an understanding of the Elements of Art and Principles of Design while introducing students to drawing, painting, and basic digital art techniques. Students will explore and engage with various art forms, focusing on creating visual art using diverse media such as pencil, pen, watercolor, and digital tools. The course offers hands-on experience and encourages experimentation with different artistic methods. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to develop their unique artistic style and express their creativity through a variety of projects.

Introduction to Digital Media

This is a survey course designed to introduce the concepts of digital multimedia. Students will explore the path of contemporary digital design, highlighting the importance of process, innovation and communication. Students will be introduced to the history, principles and processes associated with digital media and designing for digital media, with emphasis on production. Students will be exposed to different areas of multimedia that include text, images, audio, video, various software programs, and animation. Students will have the opportunity to manipulate text, capture images, edit audio, create video, and design simple animations. Students will combine the components to design and develop several digital media presentations.

Architectural Design

This course will serve as an introduction to architectural design through an interactive and experiential learning process. The course will allow students who are interested in pursuing the profession to investigate the study through a hands-on and creative approach. Students will experience the history and culture of architecture and design curricula through a brief introduction of architectural history and building styles. Armed with the knowledge of the design principles of architecture, students will then explore the methods and techniques of architectural representation through technical drawing. The technical drawing component will offer the student a foundation in basic drafting with experience in their development of sketching, rendering, geometric construction and sectional drawings. Students will also be introduced to three-dimensional architectural representation through a scaled model project of their own designed structure at the completion of this course.

Digital Photography

This is an introduction to digital photography. Through a variety of assignments and in class crit presentations students will be introduced to a general study of digital photography. Students will learn how to shoot pictures in different program mode settings; foreground and background, depth of field and aperture. They will explore the elements of art, principles of design, and composition, while exploring the genres of landscapes, architecture, still life, portrait, documentaries and photo-journalism. Students will post and present their final works in the annual spring art show. This course requires each student to have their own digital camera. Cameras should be digital SLR.

CAD Design

The course outlines modern solid modeling design, analysis, simulation, and manufacturing of mechanical systems. Theoretical focus is given to fundamental Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM) concepts. These are sustained by numerous practical examples to provide the student with intensive hands-on experience with CAD/CAM. The objective of this course is to prepare the students to utilize powerful digital design, simulation, and manufacturing tools to use in classes, projects, and future work. The materials learned will help engineers to develop a product from the stage of the research and development, into prototype developments, and final commercial product developments.

Music Department: Core Courses

Chorus

Students study proper vocal tone production, rhythmic accuracy and melodic and rhythmic precision. A variety of choral literature is studied and performed, along with studies of music theory and history. The students learn a varied repertoire of music from sacred to pop standards and show tunes. The group lends its singing talent to numerous school and community functions. They sing for school masses and liturgies throughout the school year, including the graduation mass in June. The students appear in the Christmas and spring concerts. Many members perform in the annual spring musical. There is also an honors section of this course.

Chorus Honors

The Honors Chorus (year-long) course is designed to provide students, but not limited to, the following advanced vocal musical learning experiences: continuing development of sight-reading ability; analyzing, rehearsing, and performing unison, two-, three-, and four-part music; singing with small and large ensembles in addition to solo opportunities; singing a cappella; experiencing a wide variety of choral literature including secular and no secular music; singing with individual and ensemble instrumental accompaniment; and participating in choral performances. Enrollment in this course requires teacher permission and may require an audition.

Introduction to Band

The beginning band class offers the students an opportunity to learn to play a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument for an entire academic year. The students and the teacher will collaborate to choose one instrument from the woodwind family (flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon), brass instruments (trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba), or percussion (drum and bell kit) for the student to study for the entire year. Physical characteristics, personality traits, prior musical experience, instrument availability, student interest, and the need for balanced instrumentation within the band will all be considered in instrument selection. The goal of the class is to give the students the fundamental skills needed to continue their development in the advanced band.

Concert Band

Concert Band is an ensemble that performs formal concert music. Students in Concert Band present several performances throughout the academic year. Band members explore various styles of music including: concert compositions, jazz, folk, classical, marches, and music from film/shows. Students will experience various techniques and interpretive practices necessary to perform these styles. Creative strategies are utilized in order to expose students to a variety of related musical concepts including history, foreign language, improvisation, critique, conducting, and music theory.

Wind Ensemble Honors

Wind Ensemble emphasizes instruction of skills in tone, intonation, rhythm, tempo, dynamics, articulation, harmony, and phrasing. Students will experience a variety of music activities through participation, performance, creation, interpretation, and evaluation. The course will explore wind literature and practices from various historical/cultural sources and provide opportunities for music appreciation and knowledge of college/career opportunities. Students are expected to develop advanced skills through performance technique and knowledge of basic music theory and history. Students will be able to perform music of simple to advanced difficulty and understand the fundamentals of music from different cultures, periods and styles. Listening to music will be emphasized, and outside work will be required; including research, concert attendance, and individual practice. Students are expected to participate in all rehearsals and performances.

String Ensemble

String Ensemble is a performance group that includes violin, viola, cello, and string bass and places emphasis on the development of playing skills. It will provide the students with opportunity to study technique, tone, style interpretation and repertoire, as well as developing rehearsal techniques. Focus will be on duets, trios, quartets and small ensembles. The course promotes a deeper appreciation of music, affords pleasure and enjoyment through performance experience, increases knowledge of music, and serves both school and community. String Ensemble activities will include performances at school and community concerts and music festivals. Students will be required to attend after school rehearsals and scheduled performances.



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