

**Office of Academic Affairs  
Program of Studies**



**2026-2027**

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## A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Students and Families,

Greetings from STA! While we are in the midst of the winter months, we slowly turn our attention to preparations for the 2026-2027 school year. During the third quarter, we begin the course placement process and share the exciting learning opportunities that await our students. We strive to offer our students engaging, relevant, and faith-filled courses seeking students to expand their knowledge of a wide array of content areas, skills, and the ability to use the values of Catholic faith and reason to understand the world around them. Our goal is for students to leverage their learning so as to live our Gospel call to be conduits of faith, service, and justice while living our motto of Lux in Tenebris - Light in Darkness.

We are thrilled to share the 2026-27 program of studies with you! Our courses allow pathways for each and every student to think, learn, and apply in a real-world way - survey courses designed to spark students' interest and advanced courses in highly specialized areas designed to challenge student potential. Each course has been carefully designed to engage and challenge students in a mission-based way - academically, spiritually, and socially. We support holistic student development and cultivate competency by providing structures for deep learning, inquiry, and preparedness for college and the world beyond.

Our dedicated faculty share their content expertise and innovative teaching and learning practices with all students. We strive to customize the learning experience to meet students where they are on their learning journey. Our academic leveling and pacing structures provide just that as we live our mission of educating the whole student. Individualized support offered through our Academic Support Center allows students to maximize their potential and access our robust and rigorous curriculum when organizational and/or academic struggles emerge and/or when learning differences are present.

The program of studies allows you the opportunity to review the graduation credit requirements, required courses, elective courses, and vast array of program and service opportunities offered at STA. From WinterTerm to Campus Ministry, there is something for all students to try and to excel in throughout their time here. Please utilize the Four Year Academic Overview and Map document to think about the courses and opportunities to explore throughout your or your student's course of study. I invite you to explore our student and academic services and experience all that STA has to offer.

Peace and prayers,

Dr. Michael Orlando  
Principal

# ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students in the class of 2027 are required to enroll in a total of 6 credits per year. Students in the classes of 2028, 2029 and 2030 are required to enroll in a total of 6.5 credits per year. Exceptions to course load or graduation requirements must be approved by both the Director of School Counseling and the Principal.

**Class of 2027 = 24 credits to graduate**

Department	Graduation Requirement
English	<b>Minimum of 4 credits (4 cr) over 4 years</b> English 9 (1 cr) English 10 (1 cr) English 11 or AP English Language & Composition (1 cr) English 12 and Elective or AP English Literature & Composition or AP Seminar (1 cr)
Fine Arts	<b>½ credit of visual or performing arts (½ cr)</b>
Mathematics	<b>Minimum of 3 credits (3 cr) over 4 years</b> Algebra 1 (1 cr) Geometry (1 cr) Algebra 2 (1 cr) Pre-calculus (1 cr) Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC (1 cr each) Statistics, AP Statistics (1 cr each) Math of Business and Finance (1 cr)
Theology	<b>Minimum of 3 ½ credits (3 ½ cr) over 4 years</b> Foundations of Catholicism (½ cr) and Morality (½ cr) Scripture I (Old Testament) (½ cr) and Scripture II (New Testament) (½ cr) Catholic Social Teaching (½ cr) Elective (½ cr) and Elective (½ cr)
Science	<b>Minimum of 3 credits (3 cr) over 4 years</b> Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) (1 cr) Biology (1 cr) Chemistry (1 cr) Physics (1 cr) AP Environmental Science, AP Physics, AP Biology, AP Chemistry (1 cr each) Science Electives (1 cr)

Social Studies	<b>Minimum of 3 credits (3 cr) over 4 years</b> Citizens and Government (½ cr) (Class of 2025 - Global Studies (½ cr)) Western Civilization (1 cr) United States History (1cr) Social Studies Elective (½ cr)
World Languages	<b>Minimum of 2 credits of the same World Language (2 cr) over 4 years</b> Spanish or French
Electives	<b>Minimum of 5 credits over 4 years</b> , some in content areas as described above

**Class of 2028, 2029, 2030 = 26 credits to graduate**

Department	Graduation Requirement
English	<b>Minimum of 4 credits (4 cr) w/ at least one course each year</b> English 9 (1 cr) English 10 (1 cr) English 11 or AP English Language & Composition (1 cr) English 12 and Elective or AP English Literature & Composition or AP Seminar (1 cr)
Fine Arts	<b>Minimum of 1 credit (1 cr) : ½ credit each of visual and performing arts</b>
Mathematics	<b>Minimum 4 credits (4 cr) w/ at least one course each semester</b> Algebra 1 (1 cr) Geometry (1 cr) Algebra 2 (1 cr) Pre-calculus (1 cr) Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC (1 cr each) Statistics, AP Statistics (1 cr each) Math of Business and Finance (1 cr)
Theology	<b>Minimum of 4 credits (4 cr) w/ at least one course each semester</b> Foundations of Catholicism (1 cr) Scripture I (Old Testament) (½ cr) and Scripture II (New Testament) (½ cr) Aquinas & Catholic Morality (½ cr) and Catholic Social Teaching (½ cr) Elective (½ cr) and Elective (½ cr)
Science	<b>Minimum of 3 credits (3 cr) over 4 years</b> Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) (1 cr) Biology (1 cr) Chemistry (1 cr) Physics (1 cr)

	AP Environmental Science, AP Physics, AP Biology, AP Chemistry (1 cr each) Science Electives (1 cr)
Social Studies	<b>Minimum of 3 credits (3 cr) over 4 years</b> Citizens and Government (½ cr) Western Civilization (1 cr) United States History (1 cr) Social Studies Elective (½ cr)
World Languages	<b>Minimum of 2 credits of the same World Language (2 cr)</b> Spanish and French
Electives	<b>Minimum of 5 credits</b> , some in content areas as described above

### Additional Graduation Requirements

Retreats	Freshman Retreat, Sophomore Retreat, Senior Retreat
Community Service	A total of 70 hours of service over 4 academic years
Winter Term	Alternative, Experiential Learning Week each school year

**Four Year Sequence of Studies at a Glance | Class of 2027**

<p align="center"><b>Freshman Year</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Sophomore Year</b></p>
<p>English 9 (1 cr)                      Algebra 1 or Geometry (1 cr)                      STEM or Biology (1 cr)                      Citizens and Government (2027) or Global Studies (2026) (½ cr)                      World Language (1 cr)                      Foundations of Catholicism and Morality (½ cr each)                      Fine Arts (½ cr)                      Elective (½ -1 cr) and/or Study Hall</p>	<p>English 10 (1cr)                      Geometry or Algebra 2 (1 cr)                      Biology or Chemistry (1 cr)                      Western Civilization (1 cr)                      World Language (1 cr)                      Scripture I and II (½ cr each)                      Elective (½ - 1 cr) and/or Study Hall</p>
<p align="center"><b>Junior Year</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Senior Year</b></p>
<p>English 11 or AP English Lang/Comp (1 cr)                      Algebra 2 or Pre-Calculus (1 cr)                      Chemistry or Physics (1 cr)                      United States History (1 cr)                      Catholic Social Teaching (½ cr)                      Academic Electives (1 ½ cr)                      Elective (½ - 1 cr) and/or Study Hall</p>	<p>English 12 and Elective or AP English Lit/Comp or AP Seminar (1 cr)                      Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Stats, Business (1 cr)                      Science (optional selection): (1 cr)                      Theology Elective (½ cr)                      Theology Elective (½ cr)                      Academic Electives (2-3 cr)                      Elective (½ - 1 cr) and/or Study Hall</p>

**Four Year Sequence of Studies at a Glance | Class of 2028, 2029, 2030**

<b>Freshman Year</b>	<b>Sophomore Year</b>
<p>English 9 (1 cr)                      Algebra 1 or Geometry (1 cr)                      STEM or Biology (1 cr)                      Citizens and Government (½ cr)                      World Language (1 cr)                      Foundations of Catholicism (1 cr)                      Fine Arts (1 cr)                      Study Hall</p>	<p>English 10 (1cr)                      Geometry or Algebra 2 (1 cr)                      Biology or Chemistry (1 cr)                      Western Civilization (1 cr)                      World Language (1 cr)                      Scripture I and II (½ cr each)                      Elective (½ - 1 cr)                      Study Hall</p>
<b>Junior Year</b>	<b>Senior Year</b>
<p>English 11 or AP English Lang/Comp (1 cr)                      Algebra 2 or Pre-calculus (1 cr)                      Chemistry or Physics (1 cr)                      United States History (1 cr)                      Catholic Social Teaching (½ cr)                      Aquinas and Morality (½ cr)                      Academic Electives (1 ½ cr)                      Elective (½ - 1 cr) and/or Study Hall</p>	<p>English 12 and Elective or AP English Lit/Comp or AP Seminar (1 cr)                      Pre-calculus, Calculus, Stats, Business (1 cr)                      Science (optional selection) (1 cr)                      Theology Elective (½ cr)                      Theology Elective (½ cr)                      Academic Electives (2-3 cr)                      Elective (½ - 1 cr)                      Study Hall</p>

**Four Year Student Academic Overview and Map | Student Planning Worksheet Class of 2027**

	<b>Freshman Year</b>	<b>Sophomore Year</b>	<b>Junior Year</b>	<b>Senior Year</b>
<b>English</b> (4 credits)				
<b>Math</b> (3 credits)				
<b>Theology</b> (3 ½ credits)				
<b>Social Studies</b> (3 Credits)				
<b>Science</b> (3 Credits)				
<b>World Language</b> (2 credits)				
<b>Fine Arts</b> (½ Credit)				
<b>Electives</b> (5 Credits)				

	<b>Freshman Year</b>	<b>Sophomore Year</b>	<b>Junior Year</b>	<b>Senior Year</b>
<b>Retreats</b>	Freshman Retreat	Sophomore Retreat	Optional experience	Senior Retreat
<b>Community Service</b>	10 hours	15 hours	20 hours	25 hours
<b>Winter Term</b>	Experiential Learning Week each school year			

**Four Year Student Academic Overview and Map | Student Planning Worksheet Class of 2028, 2029, 2030**

	<b>Freshman Year</b>	<b>Sophomore Year</b>	<b>Junior Year</b>	<b>Senior Year</b>
<b>English</b> (4 credits)				
<b>Math</b> (4 credits)				
<b>Theology</b> (4 credits)				
<b>Social Studies</b> (3 Credits)				
<b>Science</b> (3 Credits)				
<b>World Language</b> (2 credits)				
<b>Fine Arts</b> (1 Credit)				
<b>Electives</b> (5 Credits)				

	<b>Freshman Year</b>	<b>Sophomore Year</b>	<b>Junior Year</b>	<b>Senior Year</b>
<b>Retreats</b>	Freshman Retreat	Sophomore Retreat	Optional experience	Senior Retreat
<b>Community Service</b>	10 hours	15 hours	20 hours	25 hours
<b>Winter Term</b>	Experiential Learning Week each school year			

# COURSE CATALOG

## THEOLOGY

### **Foundations of Catholicism CP, Full Year**

This yearlong Freshman course invites students to explore the depth of Catholicism, blending intellectual inquiry with personal spiritual growth. The course begins with the foundational teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas, guiding students through Catholic doctrines, traditions, and practices. Topics include the nature of God, the role of the Church, the Sacraments, the Communion of Saints, and Catholic moral life. Students will engage with profound human questions such as “Who am I?” and “What is my purpose?” By fostering dialogue between faith and reason, the course encourages reflection on the integration of belief with everyday life, drawing inspiration from works like *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis.

**Note:** *Students are responsible for the purchase of supplies for this course including the text used for this course.*

### **Scripture I CP, Semester**

In this first semester Sophomore course, students are introduced to the Holy Bible. The stories of the Old Testament, or Hebrew Scriptures, are examined as sacred literature and with regard to their historical context. The notions of inspiration, revelation, and covenant are essential to understanding these texts as sacred literature. Students will study the stories of Creation, Abraham, Exodus, Monarchy, Exile, and Prophecy. The themes of God’s Call, our response to that Call including the practice of virtue, and personal Transformation will be applied both to the people and events of the Old Testament as well as to our own lives.

**Note:** *Students are responsible for the purchase of supplies for this course including the text used for this course.*

### **Scripture II CP, Semester**

During this second semester Sophomore course, our focus is on the New Testament. Emphasis is placed on the person of Jesus Christ, his birth, his life, his preaching, his healing, and the significance of his death and resurrection. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, the Letters of Paul, and the growth of the Early Church (Acts) will all be examined, both as sacred texts and with regard to their historical context. The Christian call to Transformation takes center stage in this semester, both as it applies to people, the practice of virtue, and to our own individual lives.

**Note:** *Students are responsible for the purchase of supplies for this course including the text used for this course.*

**Morality and the Catholic Teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas CP, Semester (Fall)** This seminar-style junior year course on Catholic Morality invites students to engage deeply with the Church’s moral teachings as a foundation for making sound ethical decisions. Building on their sophomore study of the virtues, students will explore moral theology through the lens of our patron, St. Thomas Aquinas, examining how faith and reason together illuminate the path to living a life of integrity. Through student-led dialogue, critical reflection, case studies, and discussions on contemporary issues, the course challenges students to consider how personal choices and social actions reflect one’s faith. Students will study Catholic teachings on conscience formation, sin, human dignity, and the moral law, using Aquinas’s synthesis of reason and revelation as a guiding

framework. By the end of the course, students will be equipped to navigate modern moral challenges with confidence, clarity, and compassion.

**Note:** *Students are responsible for the purchase of supplies for this course including the text used for this course.*

### **Catholic Social Teaching CP, Semester (Spring)**

This junior year course explores Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and its deep theological and historical foundations. Students will engage with Sacred Scripture (e.g., *Matthew 25:31-46*, *Luke 10:25-37*), Papal Encyclicals (*Rerum Novarum*, *Pacem in Terris*, *Caritas in Veritate*, *Laudato Si'*, *Evangelium Vitae*), and the Catechism of the Catholic Church (*CCC 1897-1942*). Through these sources, students will explore how the Catholic faith informs and shapes responses to pressing social issues. Topics include pro-life topics and the sanctity of life, poverty, world hunger, racism, war and peacemaking, and genocide. This course reflects on the beauty of and basis for Catholic teaching and challenges students to engage critically with societal issues, analyzing multiple perspectives while examining how Catholic teaching upholds human dignity, justice, and the common good. Students will develop moral reasoning skills, exploring the role of faith and reason in ethical decision-making (*CCC 1776-1802*). Students will also refine their ability to assess moral questions through informed conscience, engage in respectful dialogue, and reflect deeply on ethical dilemmas. This course emphasizes intellectual honesty, empathy, and leadership, encouraging students to discern their role in addressing contemporary challenges. Guiding questions include: *What responsibility do I have for the well-being of others? How do faith and reason contribute to ethical decision-making? What is the role of faith and the individual in addressing social challenges?*

**Note:** *Students are responsible for the purchase of supplies for this course including the text used for this course.*

### **The Christian Meaning of Death and Dying CP, Semester**

This elective offers seniors an in-depth exploration of suffering, death, and redemption, with a strong emphasis on the inherent dignity of each human person. Through literature such as Mitch Albom's *Tuesdays with Morrie* and *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, students will engage in thoughtful discussions about the profound human experience of mortality and the hope that faith offers in the face of it. Building on Scott Hahn's *Hope to Die: The Christian Meaning of Death and the Resurrection of the Body*, this course will guide students to understand the theological and spiritual dimensions of death, suffering, and eternal life, exploring how the Christian faith offers redemption and hope through the resurrection. Additionally, students will connect classroom learning with real-world experiences. Visits to St. Ann Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, as well as local cemeteries and funeral homes, will provide students with the opportunity to reflect on the realities of aging, illness, and death in a compassionate and respectful way. These experiences, combined with academic discussion, will deepen students' understanding of life, death, and the Christian call to live with hope and dignity.

**Note:** *Students are responsible for the purchase of supplies for this course including the text used for this course.*

### **The Catholic Imagination: Art, Literature & Film CP, Semester**

This course explores the "Catholic Imagination" through the lens of art, literature, and film. Students will investigate how Catholic themes—such as grace, redemption, suffering, and the sacramental worldview—are expressed in a variety of cultural forms. The course will cover classical

and contemporary works, inviting students to engage critically with the content while developing a deeper understanding of how Catholic theology influences creative expression. Though no prior knowledge of the subject is required, students are expected to approach the material with intellectual rigor and an open mind.

**Note:** *Students are responsible for the purchase of supplies for this course including the text used for this course.*

**Theology & Culture: Finding God in Modern Media CP, Semester** - (Offered Spring Semester Only)

How does modern media reflect deep theological truths? In this course, students will explore how contemporary films, TV shows, music, literature, and digital media engage with key themes in Catholic theology, such as redemption, sin, sacrifice, grace, and the search for meaning. Through critical analysis, discussion, and creative projects, students will develop a deeper understanding of how faith is expressed in culture today. This course is academic and engaging, designed for students of all backgrounds, and encourages thoughtful exploration of Catholic themes in modern storytelling.

**Note:** *Students are responsible for the purchase of supplies for this course including the text used for this course.*

**Faith and Literature: Finding God in Stories CP, Semester**

This course explores how literature reflects the search for meaning, truth, and the divine. Through the study of classic and contemporary works, students will examine themes of faith, redemption, suffering, grace, and the human longing for God. Authors may include Flannery O'Connor, C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, Graham Greene, and others whose writings grapple with profound theological and moral questions. Students will engage in literary analysis, reflective writing, and discussions that challenge them to see how stories—both sacred and secular—can illuminate the presence of God in the world and in their own lives.

**Note:** *Students are responsible for the purchase of supplies for this course including the text used for this course.*

**Christianity and Ethics CP, Semester [Not offered in 2026-27]**

This elective course introduces students to ethical thought through the lens of Christianity, encouraging them to explore questions about the good life, moral responsibility, and decision-making. Rooted in Catholic tradition, students will engage with thinkers such as St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, C.S. Lewis, and Flannery O'Connor, while also considering secular philosophers like Aristotle, Plato, Kant, Mill, and Nietzsche. The course challenges students to think critically, engage with diverse perspectives, and develop well-reasoned ethical positions. Topics include bioethics, artificial intelligence, human rights, and justice. Students will explore how different ethical systems shape personal values and are encouraged to reflect on their own convictions. Ultimately, this course aims to help students analyze ethical questions with a foundational understanding of Christian philosophy and thought. This will allow students to cultivate moral responsibility, empathy, and intellectual integrity, and prepare them to be compassionate leaders who approach ethical challenges with thoughtfulness and courage.

**Note:** *Students are responsible for the purchase of supplies for this course including the text used for this course.*

### **World Religions CP, Semester**

This elective course introduces students to some of the world's major religious traditions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Asian religious traditions. In each case students will examine the historical development of their traditions, basic beliefs, and religious practices, including forms of worship and prayer, sacred stories, and scriptures. Student research and presentations will cover a variety of other religious traditions such as Confucianism, Jainism, Shinto, Sikhism, Taoism, and Zoroastrianism.

**Note:** *Students are responsible for the purchase of textbook(s) for this course.*

### **Living Witnesses: Saints and the Story of the Catholic Church CP, Semester**

This elective course explores the history of the Catholic Church through the lives of saints, ordinary people from all walks of life who left an extraordinary impact on the world through their faith and actions. From the Age of the Apostles to the Modern Era, students will study how saints shaped the Church during times of persecution, reform, and renewal. Through engaging with the writings of saints, philosophical discussions, art, and media, students will reflect on how these holy men and women lived out their faith and continue to inspire the Church today. The course challenges students to recognize the power of ordinary lives to transform the world and invites them to consider how they might live as “living witnesses” of faith in their own lives.

**Note:** *Students are responsible for the purchase of supplies for this course including the text used for this course.*

### **Philosophy of Human Flourishing CP, Semester**

Our lives are not accidents. They have meaning and purpose. As such, this course will ask students to consider the following: What is a good life? How do we find our purpose? How do we, as human beings, thrive? These will be the central questions of the course—which will have us explore philosophical, theological, and literary texts to help us arrive at some answers. Thinkers and writers we'll study will include T.S. Eliot, Matthew Arnold, selections from the Bible, Simone Weil, Augustine, Aristotle, Thomas Aquinas, and Dante. This elective course will be discussion-based and will also feature student-centered activities that will help them reflect on the readings. Students should come prepared to discuss the assigned readings, which will be provided to them. They will also be expected to write short reflections, in addition to essays.

**Note:** *Students are responsible for the purchase of supplies for this course including the text used for this course.*

## **ENGLISH**

*For all English courses, students are responsible for the purchase of additional books, which will be shared on the course guidelines at the start of the school year.*

### **English 9 CP, Full Year**

This course is designed to lay the foundation of strong skills needed by the college-bound student to be successful. This course works to build a caring community of scholars in search of an intellectual, moral, social, and spiritual understanding of the world through literary and creative exploration. The foundation for reading skills will be established by exploring several literary genres including the short story, the novel, poetry, and drama to improve comprehension and increase understanding of literary techniques. Close reading skills will be reinforced through a range of note taking strategies. The foundation for strong writing skills will be established by focusing on grammar to explore the sentence structure, focusing on the paragraph structure to make claims and support ideas, and focusing on the essay structure to compose longer, academic writing. Students will be introduced to MLA format for the documentation and research process; they will be expected to use correct citation format when citing evidence or using quotes and paraphrased material.

**Note:** *Students will be provided with a copy of the core novel, *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger, for this course. Students will be billed for the cost of this novel via our student information/ billing platform.*

**Note:** *Placement is determined by placement exam and English faculty review.*

### **English 9 Honors, Full Year**

This course is designed to hone the skills needed by the college-bound student to be successful by building a caring community of scholars in search of an intellectual, moral, social, and spiritual understanding of the world through literary and creative exploration. Students will move at a pacing and depth that promotes independence and cultivates critical thinking. Reading skills will be enhanced by exploring several literary genres including the short story, the novel, poetry, and drama. Close reading skills will be reinforced through annotations. Strong writing skills will be strengthened by focusing on grammar to explore the sentence structure, focusing on the paragraph structure to make claims and support ideas, and focusing on the essay structure to compose longer, academic writing. Students will be introduced to MLA format for the documentation and research process; they will be expected to use correct citation format when citing evidence or using quotes and paraphrased material.

**Note:** *Placement is determined by placement exam and English faculty review.*

### **English 10 CP, Full Year**

Students in the sophomore year continue to hone their reading and writing skills through a study of works from the canon of British Literature. As they study works from Anglo-Saxon times to the modern era, students encounter a wide variety of poetry, fiction, and drama. Lifting up the voices and creative works of people from across time and cultures, helps students to understand the commonality of the human experience and encourages them to share their own God-given voices and talents. Emphasis is placed on oral communication skills through Socratic seminars and discussions, Poetry Out Loud recitations, and classroom presentations. Writing skills and analytical thinking skills are developed further, with particular emphasis on the development of the analytical

paragraph and defense of a thesis in essay form. Vocabulary and grammar study will be explored in context. Additionally, research skills and MLA formatting are practiced through class projects and writing assignments.

**Note:** *Students will be provided with a copy of the first quarter novel, The Lord of the Flies by William Golding, for this course. Students will be billed for the cost of this novel via our student information/billing platform.*

### **English 10 Honors, Full Year**

English 10 Honors helps students develop their critical thinking skills through a historical survey of British Literature and culture. Literary periods from medieval times through the contemporary era are studied. Students read and analyze a wide variety of poetry, drama, and fiction, learning to recognize the elements of each literary period, and the ideas and cultures which informed them. Lifting up the voices and creative works of people from across time and cultures, helps students to understand the commonality of the human experience and encourages them to share their own God-given voices and talents. Writing and analytical thinking skills are developed further through assignments related to the literature studied through comparative analyses, argumentative essays, and synthesis assignments. Emphasis is placed on oral communication skills through Socratic seminars and discussions, Poetry Out Loud recitations, and classroom presentations. Additionally, research skills and MLA formatting are practiced through class projects and writing assignments.

**Note:** *Placement in an honors-level course is determined by the teacher of the previous year's English course.*

### **English 11 - American Literature CP, Full Year**

The study of American Literature begins from its foundations in the seventeenth century through the twenty first century. The time periods, historical trends, and the evolution of American attitudes and styles are explored to consider America's values and ideals. American Literature is correlated to U.S. History as much as possible, so that students can discover the many connections between them and recognize the larger ideas that have shaped our culture and continue to impact our place in the world. The course focuses on the power of rhetoric. During the first semester, students will write a research paper for English class. During the second semester students will compose a speech, which is an interdisciplinary project between the English and Social Studies departments. Cultivating students' God-given gifts of intelligence, imagination, and ability, this course helps students develop their critical thinking, research, and communication skills, encouraging them to share their own God-given voices.

### **English 11 - American Literature Honors, Full Year**

The study of American Literature begins from its roots in Puritan New England through the twenty first century. The time periods, historical trends, and the evolution of American attitudes and styles are explored to consider America's values and ideals. Students will engage in academic writing and class discussions to enhance close reading of texts, knowledge of historical relevance, and appreciation of craft and purpose. American Literature is correlated to U.S. History, so that students can discover the many connections between them and recognize the larger ideas that have shaped our culture, and continue to impact our place in the world. The course focuses on the power of rhetoric. During the first semester, students will write a research paper for English class. During the second semester students will compose a speech, which is an interdisciplinary project between the English and Social Studies departments. Cultivating students' God-given gifts of intelligence, imagination, and ability, this course helps students develop their critical thinking, research, and communication skills, encouraging them to share their own God-given voices.

**Note:** *Placement in an honors-level course is determined by the teacher of the previous year's English course.*

### **AP English Language and Composition, Full Year**

AP Language and Composition “is an introductory college-level composition course. Students cultivate their understanding of writing and rhetorical arguments through reading, analyzing, and writing texts as they explore topics like rhetorical situation, claims and evidence, reasoning and organization, and style” (College Board). The primary focus of the course is centered on nonfiction texts, although there are additional readings from the American literary canon that are imaginative works. A major research paper and a speech done in conjunction with the U.S. History faculty are all part of the learning activities for this course. Students will also continue to develop analytical writing skills through a variety of assignments. Cultivating students’ God-given gifts of intelligence, imagination, and ability, this course helps students develop their critical thinking, research, and communication skills, encouraging them to share their own God-given voices.

**Note:** *Students are required to sit for the AP exam if enrolled in the course. Students are responsible for the purchase of textbook(s) for this course. Students will be billed for the cost of this exam and textbook via our student information/ billing platform.*

**Note:** *An additional summer reading assignment will be required.*

**Prerequisite:** *Honors British Literature. Placement in an AP-level course is determined by the teacher of the previous year's English course.*

**Note:** *Seniors are required to either take the full-year AP English Literature and Composition course or take Senior English: The Search for Self in the fall semester and one of several English electives in the spring semester. In the first semester, all Senior English courses and AP English 12 will include a personal narrative writing component to help with college application essays.*

### **English 12 - The Search for Self CP, Semester 1**

Who will I become and how will I get there? Every human being explores these questions, especially during times of uncertainty, change, and adjustment. Preparing for the next chapter in life’s journey, through study of a variety of literary works, students will explore the individual in relation to the self, to the community, and to God. Writings include the personal narrative as well as literary analysis.

### **English 12 - The Search for Self Honors, Semester 1**

Who will I become and how will I get there? Every human being explores these questions, especially during times of uncertainty, change, and adjustment. Preparing for the next chapter in life’s journey, through study of a variety of literary works, students will explore the individual in relation to the self, to the community, and to God. Literary works are taken from the scope of world literature, including an assortment of modern works. Students will be expected to draw on their knowledge of literary periods and cultures and to explore critical thinking about the literary works studied. In writing, the emphasis will primarily be on articulate and well-crafted narrative development, along with literary analysis.

**Note:** *Placement in an honors-level course is determined by the teacher of the previous year's English course.*

### **AP English Literature and Composition, Full Year**

The AP English class focuses on literary analysis through a careful study of each of the major genres of literature: fiction, poetry, and drama. Students cultivate their understanding of literature through reading and analyzing texts as they explore concepts like character, setting, structure, perspective, figurative language, and literary analysis in the context of literary works. Students often complete work independently and lead team discussions; willingness to participate and actively engage with the text is essential for students in this class. Preparing for the next chapter in life's journey, through study of a variety of literary works, students will explore the individual in relation to the self, to the community, and to God. The course is intended to provide students with a college level literature course, and is offered with the option for dual-enrollment through SNHU.

**Note:** *Students are required to sit for the AP exam if enrolled in the course. Students will be billed for the cost of this exam via our student information/billing platform. Students are responsible for the purchase of an anthology textbook and additional books for this course, which will be shared on the course guidelines at the start of the school year.*

**Note:** *An additional summer reading assignment will be required.*

**Dual Enrollment Option:** For a fee (\$100), students who pass this course may be eligible for college credits through Southern New Hampshire University. These credits may be transferable to other institutions.

**Prerequisite:** *Honors American Literature or AP Language & Composition. Placement in an AP-level course is determined by the teacher of the previous year's English course.*

### **Holocaust Literature: Resistance and Survival CP, Semester 2**

With each story shared by survivors of the Holocaust, we carry their legacy forward. This course will explore what it means to remember the Holocaust, unpack misconceptions about the Holocaust, and look at testimonies from victims and perpetrators. Through memoir and historical fiction, we will explore the resilience of humanity, bear witness to their struggle for survival, and say "never again" to genocide. In this course, we will explore the works of authors such as Viktor Frankl, Elie Wiesel, Corrie Ten Boom, and Christopher Browning.

### **Mass Media and Popular Culture CP, Semester 2**

This course focuses on developing tools of critical analysis and active reading with which to view various media, such as logos, advertisements, social media, and television. Scholarly research, books, excerpts, and journals will be read to frame the critical analysis and active reading, such as *Contagious* by Jonah Berger and PEW Research studies. Using critical questions, media deconstruction, and power of stories, students explore the impact of media and popular culture on human behavior, communication, and ethics. The course will explore Catholic-Christian values and how they compare to the values presented in the media, culminating in a value project that considers how the value shapes our culture and lives.

### **Mystery and Suspense CP, Semester 2**

"Mystery is an intellectual process . . . . But suspense is essentially an emotional process," stated Alfred Hitchcock. This course will explore the intricacies between mystery and suspense, exploring the craft writers and directors use to create stories that have a powerful effect on the reader. Similarly, the intricacies between faith and reason will be explored, showing that they are not at odds with one another. Through close reading exercises, literary analysis, and research, students will

explore how particular topics are prevalent in the mystery and suspense genres.

### **Speaking Up! - Public Speaking for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century CP, Semester, Grades 10-12**

Speaking before an audience is both a much feared and much needed skill. Whatever your plans, your future in college and your career will likely require you to make presentations, deliver speeches and lead through your spoken words. In this class, students study the basics of poise, presence, volume and diction, and perform works written by others as well as original speeches. Students will share their own God-given voices to perform a variety of speech types, from telling a joke to extemporaneous speaking, as well as practicing interview skills and presenting prepared speeches.

### **Writing Workshop Honors: Finding Your Voice, Semester, Grades 10-12**

This writing intensive class provides an opportunity for students to further hone their advanced writing skills in a variety of forms and styles, including personal narrative, fiction, research, drama, and poetry. By examining short works written in each of these forms and experimenting with their own creations, students work on the craft of writing. Students study mentor texts in various genres and experiment with finding their own style and, most importantly, their own voice as a child of God.

**Prerequisite:** *Placement in Writing Workshop requires successful completion in an Honors or AP English class, or recommendation by the teacher of the previous year's English course.*

### **Writing Lab CP, Semester, Grades 9-10**

This writing intensive class is designed to help underclassmen improve their writing skills at all stages of the writing process to help students become more confident and independent writers. This workshop-style class includes in-class writing time, peer feedback, and teacher feedback. Some of the key objectives include developing the writing process (guiding students through brainstorming, outlining, drafting, revising, and editing), improving core skills (focusing on grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, word choice, and organization), enhancing critical thinking and reading (reading actively to analyze texts and incorporate evidence effectively and ethically into their own work), understanding rhetorical principles (instructing on genre, audience, purpose, and tone for different writing situations), and documentation and citation (MLA formatting to avoid plagiarism). Students experiment with finding their own style and, most importantly, their own voice as a child of God.

### **AP Seminar, Grades 11-12, Full Year**

AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and foundational, literary, and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments. Cultivating students' God-given gifts of intelligence, imagination, and ability, this course helps students develop their critical thinking, research, and communication skills, encouraging them to share their own voices.

**Note:** *Students are required to submit a digital portfolio and sit for the AP exam if enrolled in the course. Students are responsible for the purchase of an anthology textbook and additional books for this course independently, which will be shared on the course guidelines at the start of the school year. Students will be billed for the cost of this exam and textbook via our student information/billing platform.*

**Note:** *An additional summer reading assignment will be required.*

**Prerequisite:** *Placement in AP Seminar requires successful completion in an Honors or AP English class and is determined by the teacher of the previous year's English course. Students must be concurrently enrolled in either AP Language & Composition or AP Literature & Composition.*

### **Multicultural American Voices CP, Semester 2 [Not offered in 2026-27]**

This course will focus on the literature of American authors of color: Black, Latino Indigenous, Asian, and other voices of the 20th and 21st centuries. In particular it will look at the ways in which the American experience may vary, with a view towards understanding the differences and beauty of our nation and its people. Possible authors include Toni Morrison, Amy Tan, Jhumpa Lahiri, Rudolfo Anaya, America Ferrera, Edwidge Danticat, Zora Neale Hurston, and Colson Whitehead.

### **Science Fiction: The Literature of Ideas CP, Semester 2 [Not offered in 2026-27]**

Famed Science Fiction writer Isaac Asimov once defined Science Fiction as “that branch of literature which is concerned with the impact of scientific advance upon human beings,” but it has also been defined as “the literature of ideas.” This second definition more accurately describes a constantly-developing and diverse literary genre that stretches the limits of imagination. Good science fiction, no matter the level of “science” it involves, challenges us to think beyond the traditional, the conventional and the ordinary. The authors drop us into imaginary worlds for the readers to search for an intellectual, moral, social, and spiritual understanding of our own earthly world. The challenging, provocative ideas found within these works make them so compelling. In this course we will explore works by thought-provoking authors, such as Kurt Vonnegut, Ursula Le Guin, and Philip K. Dick.

### **Women's Voices CP, Semester 2 [Not offered in 2026-27]**

How might a woman view war, or work on a farm, or a medical crisis through a different lens than that of a man? Women often experience similar life events as men, but within a different context. In our society, social rules and norms create differences in how men and women see and experience the world. In literature, these different perspectives are expressed quite eloquently by male and female authors. This course will focus on fiction, poetry and nonfiction written by women, primarily through study of works from the 20th and 21st centuries. In particular it will look at the ways in which experience may vary, opening up new voices and perceptions from female writers to show how women are created in the image and likeness of God.

# FINE ARTS

## *Visual Arts*

### **Introduction to Art CP, Semester**

In this class students will explore the introductory elements and principles of traditional art and design. Students will experiment with drawing, painting and 3-D design. The key principles of composition - line, shape, space, color, texture, rhythm, movement, repetition, contrast and balance - will be studied. Students will then apply these principles, working with pen and ink, pastels, charcoal and other media. This is a hands-on course and takes place in the art studio. A strong focus on collaboration and constructive criticism helps students develop into a caring community of scholars. During this course, students will cultivate their God-given skills and explore art created by famous artists such as da Vinci, Matisse, Kahlo and Monet.

### **3-D Modeling and Design CP, Semester**

This course will explore and learn principles of three-dimensional design. Students will primarily work in studio to learn hand-building using traditional methods such as pinch, slab, and coil techniques, and additive and subtractive processes using wood, clay, wire, Crea-stone™ and foil. Students will also take time to investigate the famous sculptures, such as Pieta and David. Attention will be given to the aesthetic concepts of spatial proportion (scale, angle, and position), silhouette, negative space, rhythm, balance, light/shadow, and texture.

### **Graphic Design and Drawing CP, Semester**

This course focuses on digital/computer-based graphic design based strongly in traditional techniques; students' time will be spent working equally in both media. This course will teach the fundamental principles of composition, drawing and graphic design through use of both hands-on techniques and graphic design software. Students will use varied media for drawing by hand in pen and ink, charcoal and pencil to study composition, figure drawing, and 2-dimensional design. Using digital media, students will work with image-making, typography, composition, and working with color and shape. As part of this course students will work on creating posters of notable Scripture passages highlighting the historical connection between Christianity and creative works.

**Prerequisite:** *Introduction to Art*

### **Digital Photography CP, Semester**

This course will introduce students to both digital photography and the manipulation of images through software such as Adobe Photoshop. Students will learn the basics of operating a digital camera, photo editing, and printing. Emphasis will be placed on creativity in composition of images, use of camera controls, exposure, and use of digital imaging software. Using Photoshop, students will practice manipulating images, such as corrections and layering, and with creating photomontage and page layout. A focus will be placed on nature and photographing natural imagery emphasising the beauty of God's creation.

**Prerequisite:** *Introduction to Art*

**Note:** *Students are required to have their own digital camera. This course does NOT include 35mm photography or*

*darkroom technique.*

### **Painting Workshop CP, Semester**

Painting workshop is a continuing in-depth art experience that will focus on the use and development of art skills from Introduction to Art or 3-D Modeling and Design. Students will begin by learning about famous artworks (including The Last Supper and Salvador Mundi) - investigating the emotional use of color and light in painting. The art of composition and the elements and principles of design will be reviewed and used in this class. Students will work with tempera paint, watercolor, acrylics, and mixed media.

**Prerequisite:** *Introduction to Art or 3-D Modeling and Design*

### **Pottery CP, Semester**

This is a beginner's class where students will learn the basics of hand-building, the potter's wheel, kiln firing, glazing, and surface embellishment. Wheel throwing will be demonstrated, and students may create one thrown piece. Students will begin with basic slab and coil methods. Surface design techniques such as carving and glazing techniques will be used to enhance forms. As students will learn, Christ is our potter and we are the clay- beauty and change take time, but with skilled hands, our cracks and blemishes will be healed.

**Prerequisite:** *Introduction to Art or 3-D Modeling and Design*

### **Character Design and Animation CP, Semester**

This course will teach students the basic elements of character design. Once students have an understanding of how to illustrate eye catching animals and humans, they will begin to learn the basics of Procreate Dreams. Procreate Dreams is an animation app ONLY available on the iPad. This course will also cover the human body and how all are modeled after God and in His image.

**Note:** *Students are responsible for the purchase of supplies for this course including Procreate Dreams and provide their own iPad.*

**Prerequisite:** *Introduction to Art or 3-D Modeling and Design*

### **Drawing CP, Semester**

This is a workshop exploring the intricacies of drawing. Students will learn about different drawing techniques and media. Graphite, charcoal, and pastels will each be explored as students develop a level of proficiency in recreating what they see. There will be an emphasis on drawing and shading from life- landscapes, still lifes, and live models will all be used. As students work to improve their gifts and skills, they will gain a better understanding and appreciation of the world around them and the beauty of God's creation.

**Prerequisite:** *Introduction to Art or 3-D Modeling and Design*

### **Introduction to Publications, Design, and Editing CP, Semester, Grades 10-12**

Students in this course are committed both individually and through class collaboration, to designing, developing, and publishing a first-rate yearbook for St. Thomas Aquinas High School

featuring the main pillars of school life - study, service, community, and prayer. There are many opportunities for responsible students to gain valuable experience and develop advanced skills including the following: leadership, business, editing, graphic design, marketing, sales, advertising, art, and photography. This class mirrors a professional work and team environment that students will encounter when they leave high school. As such, student commitment and dedication to the finished products are expected of all students. In keeping with this business model, students will apply and interview for positions within the class. Jobs and responsibilities may include editor, photojournalist, manager, sales, marketing, and graphic design. Many positions may require students to attend STA events during and outside of regular school hours. Throughout this semester course, students will be assessed by meeting deadlines, quality of work, and participation.

### **Studio Art Honors, Full year**

This full-year class is designed for juniors and seniors who are seriously interested in the practical experience of art. Students will be encouraged to investigate what matters the most to them, including family, emotions, and religion. The quality and breadth of the work completed during the course should reflect first-year college level standards. Therefore, only highly motivated students will be accepted into the program. Students will need to work outside the classroom as well as in, and beyond scheduled periods. Visits to museums and galleries will be used as extensions of school. Students are selected for Studio Art largely on the basis of teacher recommendation and portfolio review.

**Prerequisite:** *Introduction to Art or 3-D Modeling and Design and one other art class, OR portfolio submission for student approval*

### **AP 2-D Art and Design, Full year**

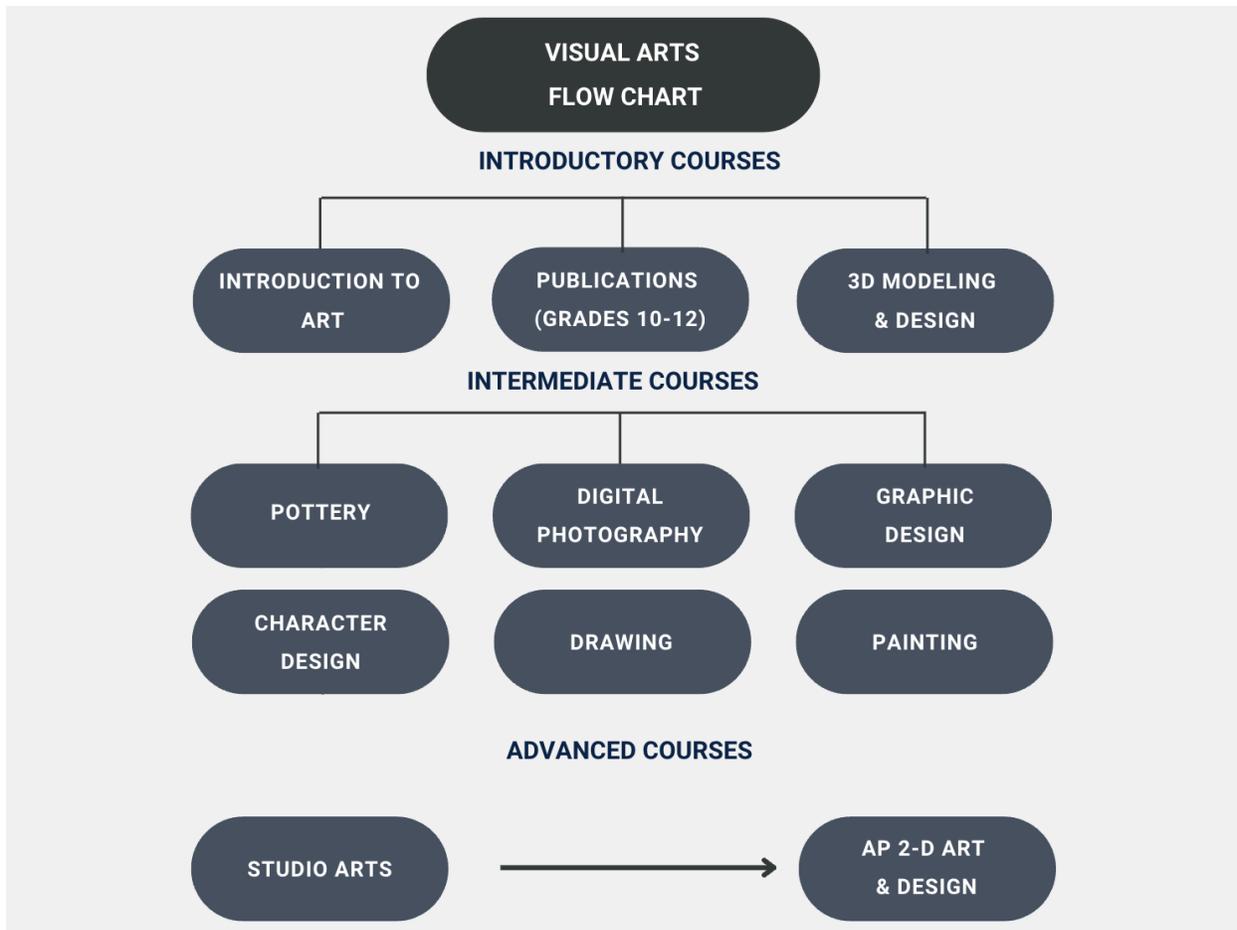
The framework for the AP Art and Design course is made up of three big ideas: investigate materials, processes, and ideas; make art and design; present art and design. Students create a portfolio of work to demonstrate inquiry through art and design and development of materials, processes, and ideas over the course of a year. Portfolios include works of art and design, process documentation, and written information about the work presented. In May, students submit portfolios for evaluation based on specific criteria, which include skillful synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas and sustained investigation through practice, experimentation, and revision, guided by questions. AP 2-D Art and Design addresses the following learning outcomes: the ability to (1) conduct a sustained investigation through practice, experimentation, and revision, guided by questions; (2) skillfully synthesize materials, processes, and ideas; and (3) articulate, in writing, information about one's work. Through the development and creation of art, students will explore the individual in relation to the self, to the community, and to God.

**Note:** *Students are required to submit a digital portfolio exam if enrolled in the course. Students will be billed for the cost of this exam via our student information/billing platform.*

**Note:** *Students are responsible for the purchase of supplies for this course including a sketchbook and any specialty art supplies needed for their individual artwork.*

**Note:** *An additional summer assignment will be required.*

**Prerequisite:** *Studio Art Honors, OR portfolio submission for student approval.*



## *Performing Arts*

### **Music Appreciation CP, Semester**

By learning a variety of basic elements of music, such as rhythm and note-reading, and beginner vocal and percussion techniques, students in this course have the opportunity to learn and develop their God-given musical talents. In a program of project-based learning, students may investigate a variety of musical styles and periods, learning how music through the centuries has relied on the basic elements for a foundation. This course is ideal for the student who wants to learn about music but does not have a background in music or play an instrument. Students are required to attend a school concert/event to apply course concepts.

### **Concert Band CP, Full year**

Concert Band emphasizes instruction of skills in tone, intonation, rhythm, tempo, dynamics, articulation, harmony, and phrasing, through a variety of musical activities experienced through participation, performance, creation, interpretation, and evaluation. Students in this course have the opportunity to learn and develop their God-given musical talents. In addition, the course will explore wind literature and performance practices from various historical/cultural sources as well as provide many opportunities for music appreciation and exploration of college/career opportunities in the field. Required activities include school concerts, and occasional public events and festivals.

*Note: Students are required to provide their own instruments or to rent them. STA has minimal instruments to lend to students. Contact the music teacher before the semester begins if an instrument is needed.*

### **Concert Choir CP, Semester**

Concert Choir is offered for students interested in developing their vocal ability and performing in an ensemble. Students will learn vocal technique, diction, and literacy through choral literature. Students in this course have the opportunity to learn and develop their God-given vocal talents. The choir class rehearses and performs a wide variety of musical selections throughout each semester. Students become familiar with reading musical notation and rhythms. Required activities include school concerts, and occasional public events and festivals.

### **Music Theory Honors, Semester**

Students in this course will learn fundamental concepts and techniques related to music theory, through analysis of hymns, compositional projects, and performances. Specific concepts include pitch and rhythmic notation, intervals, scales, major and minor keys, triads, and voice leading. Special attention will be given to 4-part voicing and analysis of various hymns and religious songs. Instrumental or vocal experience and the ability to read basic music notation are highly recommended but not required. This course includes daily homework assignments.

**Prerequisite:** *Concert Band, Concert Choir, or Music Appreciation*

### **Fundamentals of Piano CP, Semester**

This course teaches the basic elements of music through piano playing. Each student will learn how to play the piano at the elementary level. Students will also learn the basic elements of music theory. By the end of the course, students will be familiar with basic piano skills and help them to share their unique talents and abilities. Students in this course have the opportunity to learn and develop their God-given talents. In addition, the course will explore literature and performance practices from various historical/cultural sources as well as provide many opportunities for music appreciation and knowledge of college/career opportunities in the field

**Prerequisite:** *Concert Band, Concert Choir, or Music Appreciation*

### **Fundamentals of Guitar CP, Semester**

Fundamentals of Guitar is a course for true beginners, students who have never taken guitar lessons before. The class includes fundamental music theory, such as the basics of how to read and write music, as well as how to read both guitar tablature and notation. Students will learn how to read and play chord changes, basic technique, while playing a variety of songs and types of music with a focus on Catholic hymns. Students will be prepared to share their own talents through class presentations of playing. Students in this course have the opportunity to learn and develop their God-given talents. In addition, the course will explore literature and performance practices from various historical/cultural sources as well as provide many opportunities for music appreciation and knowledge of college/career opportunities in the field.

**Prerequisite:** *Concert Band, Concert Choir, or Music Appreciation*

**Jazz Band CP, Semester (after school)**

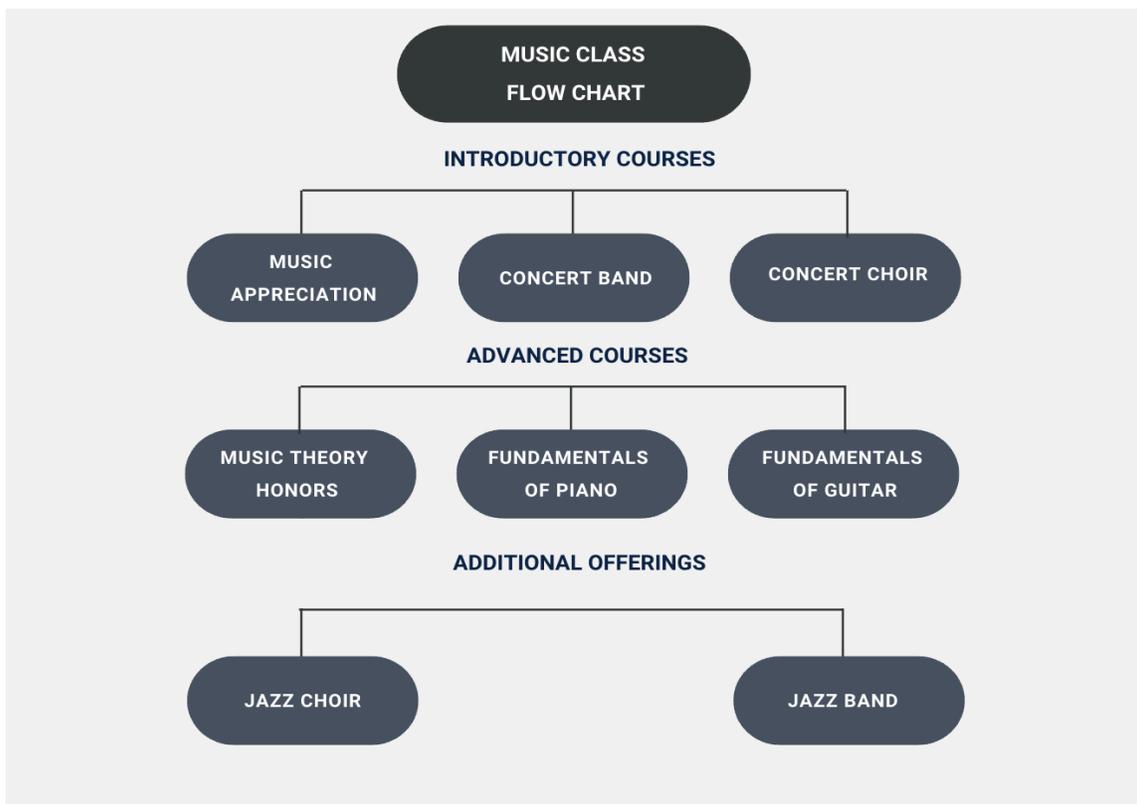
Jazz Band is a small band which ideally numbers around 20 members. This course meets **only** one day per week after school from 2:40 to 3:30 pm. The group specializes in playing traditional jazz standards as well as contemporary rock, blues, Latin, and funk arrangements. An understanding of the jazz idiom is helpful, but basic articulations, interpretations and beginning steps to improvisation will be taught. Required performances are for the St. Thomas Fall Concert, Christmas Concert, Solo and Ensemble Concert, and Spring Concert. Other required performances vary from year to year.

**Note:** *There are currently no audition requirements for Jazz Band. This course is open to Grades 9-12 and grading is pass/fail. Students are encouraged to repeat this course for additional credit. Students may also take Jazz Band on a non-credit basis by special permission only. Weekly attendance is mandatory for this after-school course. This course counts as .25 credit.*

**Jazz Choir CP, Semester (after school)**

This ensemble will require singers to rehearse and perform vocal music from the jazz and show choir repertoire. Emphasis will be placed on developing musicianship and ensemble singing with the goal of understanding these musical styles and experiencing the joy of public performance. Jazz Choir will meet one day a week after school.

**Note:** *There are currently no audition requirements for Jazz Choir. This course is open to Grades 9-12 and grading is pass/fail. Students are encouraged to repeat this course for additional credit. Students may also take Jazz Choir on a non-credit basis by special permission only. Weekly attendance is mandatory for this after-school course. This course counts as .25 credit.*



# ***MATHEMATICS***

## **Algebra I CP Enriched, Full Year**

Algebra 1 Enriched is offered to students who need additional support in Mathematics. It is recommended for students who have taken a Pre-Algebra course but may need further review of the topics. While the base curriculum is similar to Algebra 1 CP, there is flexibility in the course pacing to allow for further reinforcement. Further, the smaller class size allows for more individual instruction. This course helps students build a strong foundation in the principles of Mathematics and gain confidence in the subject area through application and problem-solving methods. It covers topics ranging from order of operations to solving linear, quadratic, and radical functions. Using a hands-on approach, students will graph, model, and interpret data and functions through many activities in conjunction with other STEM classes. Through collaboration, project-based learning, and more individualized instruction, students will see that they are created in the image and likeness of God and are part of a caring community of learners. They will discover God's beauty in the world around us through real-world applications, and develop a full sense of the mind, body, and spirit as they reason through problems.

Supporting technology:

- TI-84 Plus CE (student-purchased)
- Desmos online calculator - embedded calculator on SAT and AP tests

**Note:** *Algebra I CP Enriched placement is determined by the STA Mathematics Placement Exam for 9th graders.*

## **Algebra I CP, Full Year**

Algebra I CP is a course that helps students build a strong foundation in the principles of Mathematics. This course is offered to students who have completed a Pre-Algebra course. Methods and strategies for problem-solving are emphasized in this course, along with connections and applications to the real world. Topics covered in this class range from the order of operations to solving linear, quadratic, and radical functions. Graphing, modeling, interpreting data, and various functions are explored through activities, projects, and cross-curricular exploration, discovery, and problem-solving of the STEM fields. As we are encouraged to do in our Catholic faith and beliefs, students learn to keep an open mind when problem-solving and persevere through difficult problems. This course aims to foster students' reasoning skills through hands-on activities and real-world applications, and students will discover God's beauty in the world around us through real-world applications, and develop a full sense of the mind, body, and spirit as they reason through problems. Throughout the year, students will learn to place trust in the Mathematical process just as we do in our faith.

Supporting technology:

- TI-84 Plus CE (student-purchased)
- Desmos online calculator - embedded calculator on SAT and AP tests

**Note:** *Algebra I CP placement is determined by the STA Mathematics Placement Exam for 9th graders.*

## **Algebra I Honors, Full Year**

Algebra 1 Honors is an accelerated course offered to students who have taken an introductory Algebra 1 course. Topics covered in this class range from the order of operations to solving,

graphing, and modeling linear, exponential, quadratic, radical, and rational functions. This course is designed to take skills and concepts from previous math courses and expand upon them through contextually based problem-solving. Throughout this course, students gain the skills and confidence necessary to be successful in future honors-level mathematics courses. Emphasis is placed on using TI-84 graphing calculators effectively. This course encourages cross-curricular integration with our STEM courses through exploration, discovery, and problem-solving with real-world data. Students will learn that there are multiple ways to solve problems and that the answer to a problem may not be visible to us at first, similar to God's plan for each of us. We place trust in the fact that God will guide us even when we can't see the path ahead. Learning how to reason and apply critical thinking to complex mathematical problems encourages our students to do the same outside the classroom while maintaining their beliefs and personal goals.

Supporting technology:

- TI-84 Plus CE (student-purchased)
- Desmos online calculator - embedded calculator on SAT and AP tests

**Note:** *Algebra I Honors placement is determined by the STA Mathematics Placement Exam for 9th graders.*

### **Geometry CP Enriched, Full Year**

Geometry CP Enriched is offered to students who need additional support in mathematics. While the base curriculum is similar to Geometry CP, flexibility in the course pacing allows for further reinforcement of all of the major topics. This course aims to foster students' reasoning skills through hands-on activities and real-world applications while connecting geometric theories with the designs observed in the natural environment. These concepts are taught through lectures, observations, patterns, and discovery activities. Visualization is stressed through drawings and technology to support integrating our school-wide STEM initiatives. Students will learn to keep an open mind and place trust in the mathematical process, just as we do in our faith. Class size is smaller to improve the availability of the teacher for one-on-one assistance when necessary.

Supporting Technology:

- TI-84 Plus CE (student purchased)
- Desmos online calculator - embedded calculator on SAT and AP tests

**Prerequisite:** *Algebra I*

### **Geometry CP, Full Year**

Geometry CP is a college preparatory course designed to build on the skills learned in Algebra I while extending the concepts to spatial bodies and challenging students to think analytically. The content of the course includes an introduction to mathematical proofs, angle relationships, theorems involving parallel lines, right angle trigonometry, laws of similarity, properties of a coordinate plane, polygons, quadrilaterals, circles, and solids, and area and perimeter. In this course, students can expect to sharpen their ability to defend an argument, improve their problem-solving processes through visualization and logic, and build upon the concrete foundations established in Algebra I. These are skills essential for STEM-related coursework, including future math classes. This class will also encourage the student to extend their rational reasoning skills to all aspects of their life, including faith and morals, perfecting their ability to seek understanding and know Truth.

Supporting technology:

- TI-84 Plus CE (student-purchased)
- Desmos online calculator - embedded calculator on SAT and AP tests
- Pearson MyLabMath - website for homework and textbook (student-purchased)

**Prerequisite:** *Algebra I. Teacher recommendation is required if the student is coming from an Algebra I Enriched class.*

### **Geometry Honors, Full Year**

Geometry Honors is an accelerated course that provides a thorough examination of plane, solid, and coordinate geometry. Mastery of Algebra I is essential, as these skills enhance many of the abstract concepts presented and provide numerous opportunities for justification, analysis, and real-world applications. Topics covered include: logic and proof, parallel lines and polygons, perimeter and area analysis, volume and surface area analysis, similarity and congruence, right triangle trigonometry, circles, and other important aspects of an analytically-based geometry course. Emphasis is placed on mastering critical thinking skills as related to logical reasoning and the defense of an argument. These skills are essential for any STEM-related coursework. Students will work on keeping an open mind when problem-solving and persevere through difficult problems while placing trust in the Mathematical process as they do with their faith.

Supporting technology:

- TI-84 Plus CE (student-purchased)
- MathXLforSchool.com - website for homework and textbook

**Note:** *Geometry Honors placement is determined by the STA Mathematics Placement Exam for 9th graders. For 10th graders, placement in Geometry Honors is for students who have successfully completed Algebra I and is determined by the teacher of the previous year's math course.*

### **Algebra II CP Enriched, Full Year**

Algebra II CP Enriched is a college preparatory course that covers similar topics to Algebra II CP. This class is designed to move at a slower pace, allowing for more reinforcement of key concepts geared towards more individualized instruction and guidance. Topics include linear and quadratic functions and their applications, powers and roots, polynomial functions, and exponential and rational expressions, with heavy emphasis on numeric processes, algebraic methods, graph creation and interpretation, and the language and interpretation of mathematics. Students will enhance their technology skills using their TI-84 calculator and will continue to develop their reasoning skills through hands-on activities and real-world applications. As we are encouraged to do with our Catholic faith and beliefs, students learn to keep an open mind when problem-solving and persevere through difficult problems. Students will discover God's beauty in the world around us through real-world applications and develop a full sense of the mind, body, and spirit as they reason through problems.

Supporting technology:

- TI-84 Plus CE (student-purchased)
- Desmos online calculator - embedded calculator on SAT and AP tests
- MathXLforSchool.com - website for homework and textbook

**Prerequisite:** *Geometry*

### **Algebra II CP, Full Year**

College Preparatory Algebra II is designed to review the important concepts learned in Algebra I and to further develop these skills through the exploration of advanced topics. The topics include a review of the properties of Algebra, linear relations, systems of equations, quadratic functions and their graphs, imaginary and complex numbers, and polynomial, exponential, and logarithmic functions and their graphs. The course will include an introduction to right triangle trigonometry. A heavy emphasis is placed on the application of these concepts in real-world situations and the importance of these skills in other STEM-related courses, including future math classes. This course introduces Mathematical models and applies these models in the real world in situations as varied as economics to physics. These applications reveal the intelligible structure immanent in the universe, disclosing the existence of our intelligent designer, God.

Supporting technology:

- TI-84 Plus CE (student-purchased)
- Desmos online calculator - embedded calculator on SAT and AP tests
- MathXLforSchool.com - website for homework and textbook

**Prerequisite:** *Geometry. Teacher recommendation is required if the student is coming from a Geometry Enriched class.*

### **Algebra II Honors, Full Year**

Students in Algebra II Honors extend their knowledge of Algebra I concepts in a fast-paced, challenging environment as a start on the road to Calculus. Students interested in STEM careers should plan on taking this course. The course explores Mathematical functions from polynomial and rational functions to trigonometric, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Students will learn the key attributes of these functions and the tools needed to analyze them. Emphasis will be placed on making connections between the various functions in terms of the similarities and differences to aid in applying the models to real-world situations. As all math classes focus on building students' reasoning skills, Algebra II Honors adds to the list of models students can apply to real-world situations in personal, professional, and societal settings to help improve and to appreciate the beauty of our God-given world.

Supporting technology:

- TI-84 Plus CE (student-purchased)
- Desmos online calculator - embedded calculator on SAT and AP tests
- MathXLforSchool.com - website for homework and textbook

**Prerequisite:** *Geometry. Placement in an honors-level course is determined by the teacher of the previous year's math course.*

### **Statistics CP, Full Year**

Statistics CP is a full-year mathematics elective designed to prepare students for college level probability and statistics. Students will use frequency distributions to create multiple forms of data displays and graphs. Students will be able to calculate measures of dispersion and variability, predict probability through binomial and normal distributions, create appropriate samples, and interpret correlation through regression analysis in order to interpret real world data sets to make predictions and conclusions. Students will be able to use technology to develop reasoning skills to make

conclusions on real world situations and hypotheses. Students will discover God's beauty in the world around us through real-world applications and develop a full sense of the mind, body, and spirit as they reason through problems.

Supporting Technology:

- TI-84 Plus CE (student-purchased)
- Desmos online calculator - embedded calculator on SAT and AP tests
- Statcrunch.com - data displays
- Pearson: mymathlab.com -website for homework, textbook, and supplemental resources.

**Prerequisite:** *Algebra II. Teacher recommendation is required if the student is coming from an Algebra II Enriched class.*

### **Pre-calculus CP, Full Year**

Pre-calculus CP is a college preparatory course that aims to introduce early concepts of both Calculus and Statistics to students hoping to major in the STEM fields upon entering college. This course is offered to students who have completed an Algebra II course. Topics covered in this class range from polynomial, rational, trigonometric, piecewise, exponential, and logarithmic functions, as well as trigonometric identities, inverses, and the composition of functions. These functions are looked at in detail by integrating and applying Algebra and Geometry at a more advanced level. Throughout the course, the material is examined through the lens of STEM connections to enhance and further connect students' understanding of all Pre-calculus topics. Students will improve their reasoning skills and learn to keep an open mind. When integrating concepts from previous courses to new material, students will connect theories and designs to their environment through discernment and reflection. Students will discover God's beauty in the world around us through real-world applications and develop a full sense of the mind, body, and spirit as they reason through problems.

Supporting technology:

- TI-84 Plus CE (student-purchased)
- Desmos online calculator - embedded calculator on SAT and AP tests

**Prerequisites:** *Algebra II. Teacher recommendation is required if the student is coming from an Algebra II Enriched class. Concurrent enrollment or completion of Physics CP is strongly recommended.*

### **Pre-calculus Honors, Full Year**

Pre-calculus Honors is designed for the highly motivated student with excellent math skills planning to take AP Calculus or a rigorous college calculus course. This course stresses functions and integrates trigonometry and analytical geometry. The material covered includes the algebraic, graphical, and numerical analysis of functions, trigonometry, vectors, higher degree systems of equations, matrix algebra, polar and parametric functions, and sequences and series. By the end of this class, students will be proficient in all the elementary material needed to be successful in calculus. Pre-calculus Honors moves at a faster pace and covers topics in greater detail than Pre-calculus CP. This course introduces mathematical models and presents the application of these models in the real world in situations as varied as economics to physics. These applications reveal the intelligible structure immanent in the universe, disclosing the existence of our intelligent designer, God.

Supporting technology:

- TI-84 Plus CE (student-purchased)
- Desmos online calculator - embedded calculator on SAT and AP tests
- Pearson MyLabMath - website for homework and textbook (student-purchased)

**Prerequisite:** *Algebra II. Placement in an honors-level course is determined by the teacher of the previous year's math course.*

### **Pre-calculus Honors, Summer**

Summer Pre-calculus Honors is a twelve-week course with a large online component designed for the highly motivated student with excellent Math skills planning to take Calculus as soon as possible. The course covers the same material as the regular Pre-calculus Honors class, but students will learn it independently using the Pearson website to read the textbook and do homework and practice problems. Gaps will be filled in by using office hours with the instructor. As all math classes focus on building students' reasoning skills, this class adds to the list of models students can apply to real-world situations in personal, professional, and societal settings to help improve and appreciate the beauty of our God-given world. The models learned in Pre-calculus Honors can be applied to economics and living conditions to help students understand the impact of their decisions.

Supporting technology:

- TI-84 Plus CE (student-purchased)
- Desmos online calculator - embedded calculator on SAT and AP tests
- Pearson MyLabMath - website for homework and textbook (student-purchased)

**Note:** *Students will be billed for the cost of this summer course through our student information/billing system.*

**Prerequisite:** *Algebra II Honors. Placement in this course is for students who have successfully completed Algebra II Honors with an A for all four quarters.*

### **AP Calculus AB, Full Year**

Equivalent to a college-level Calculus 1 course in single-variable calculus, this Advanced Placement Calculus AB course helps students work towards mastery of limits, derivatives, integrals, approximations and applications, with emphasis on numeric, analytic, graphic and language-based approaches to problem solving. This course is fast-paced and rigorous, intended for students with strong preparation and interest in mathematics. As all math classes focus on building students' reasoning skills, this class adds to the list of models students can apply to real-world situations in personal, professional, and societal settings to help improve and appreciate the beauty of our God-given world. Calculus adds key tools to the models previously learned to anticipate the near-term expectations for things like inflation, interest rates, and unemployment, and can help students understand the impact of decisions we make on our world.

Supporting technology:

- TI-84 Plus CE (student-purchased)
- Desmos online calculator - embedded calculator on SAT and AP tests
- Pearson MyLabMath - website for homework and textbook (student-purchased)

**Note:** *Students are required to sit for the AP exam if enrolled in the course and will be billed for the cost of this exam via our student information/billing platform. Students are responsible for purchasing a textbook for this course and will be billed for the cost of the textbook via our student information/billing platform.*

**Dual Enrollment Option:** For a fee (\$100), students who pass this course may be eligible for college credits through Southern New Hampshire University. These credits may be transferable to other institutions, allowing students to enroll in Calculus II during their freshman year.

**Prerequisite:** *Pre-calculus. Placement in an AP-level course is determined by the teacher of the previous year's Math course. Concurrent enrollment in Honors or AP Physics is strongly recommended.*

### **AP Calculus BC/Multivariable, Full Year**

For students who have successfully completed AP Calculus AB, this course quickly reviews differential and introductory Calculus of single variables. The course then moves into second and third semester Calculus topics: Techniques and Applications of Integration, including more advanced volumes, arc length and surface area; the Calculus of Parametric, Polar and Vector Functions; more on Separable Differential Equations and Logistic Functions; Taylor and Maclaurin Series, and associated rules and theorems for determining convergence, intervals, radius of convergence and potential error. As all math classes focus on building students' reasoning skills, this class adds to the list of models students can apply to real-world situations in personal, professional, and societal settings to help improve and appreciate the beauty of our God-given world. Calculus adds key tools to the models previously learned to anticipate the near-term expectations for things like inflation, interest rates, and unemployment and can help students understand the impact of decisions we make on our world.

Supporting technology:

- TI-84 Plus CE (student-purchased)
- Desmos online calculator - embedded calculator on SAT and AP tests
- Pearson MyLabMath - website for homework and textbook (student-purchased)

**Note:** *Students are required to sit for the AP exam if enrolled in the course and will be billed for the cost of this exam via our student information/billing platform. Students are responsible for purchasing a textbook for this course and will be billed for the cost of the textbook via our student information/billing platform.*

**Prerequisite:** *Calculus AB. Placement in an AP-level course is determined by the teacher of the previous year's Math course. Concurrent enrollment or completion of AP Physics is strongly recommended.*

### **AP Statistics, Full Year**

AP Statistics is a mathematics elective to prepare students for college-level Statistics. This class is highly recommended for students planning studies in the physical, social, or life sciences. Students will learn to collect, analyze, and draw conclusions from data to test predictions and hypotheses. Topics include collecting and analyzing one and two variable data sets, probability, sampling distributions, and statistical inference. Students will be challenged to use their own faith and reasoning skills to draw conclusions on real world scenarios and support their conclusions with statistical analysis. This course emphasizes problem solving and critical thinking.

Supporting Technology:

- TI-84 Plus CE (student-purchased)
- Desmos online calculator - embedded calculator on SAT and AP tests
- Statcrunch.com - data displays
- Pearson MyLabMath - website for homework, textbook and supplemental materials (student-purchased)

**Note:** *Students are required to sit for the AP exam if enrolled in the course and will be billed for the cost of this exam via our student information/billing platform. Students are responsible for purchasing a textbook for this course and will be billed for the cost of the textbook via our student information/billing platform.*

**Prerequisite:** *Algebra II. Placement in an AP-level course is determined by the teacher of the previous year's Math course.*

### **Mathematics of Business and Personal Finance CP, Full Year**

The course includes discussion, assignments, and projects with budgeting techniques, paying for college, investing, using credit and debt, income taxes, buying a house and car, and planning for retirement. Business management and administration topics are also explored. Students will discover God's beauty in the world around us through real-world applications while continuing to grow their Christian virtues. Guest speakers are sprinkled throughout the course to highlight applications outside the classroom in businesses. A review of essential concepts in high school mathematics is interwoven throughout the course. This is a math elective course for seniors. It is recommended that students intending to study business, mathematics, or science in college also enroll in Pre-calculus or Statistics. This course will not prepare students for the future study of Calculus.

Supporting Technology:

- TI-84 Plus CE (student-purchased)

**Prerequisite:** *Algebra II*

## ***SCIENCE***

### **STEM CP, Full Year**

STEM is a freshman level science course that introduces students to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) experiences in a project-based environment. Freshman STEM students will learn what it means to be a scientist and about how to implement protocols of scientific research. This course is designed to encourage students to be creative thinkers, problem solvers, and developers of inquiry-based solutions. These inquiry experiences will include topics from and provide an introduction to the fields of physics, chemistry, and biology. The major focus of the course is to expose students to the design process, research and analysis, communication methods, engineering standards, and technical documentation while also developing skill and understanding in fundamental concepts of science. Proper use of technology will be emphasized throughout the course in preparation for further science courses.

### **STEM Honors, Full Year**

STEM Honors is a freshman-level science course that introduces students to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) experiences in a project-based environment. Freshman STEM Honors students will employ the engineering design process through the use of hands-on inquiry-based projects. Projects will focus on the fields of physics, chemistry, biology, and environmental science. Students will identify problems, research and design solutions, plan and build, test, and modify, all while sharpening their scientific investigation skills and understanding of the fundamental concepts of science. Inquiry drives each of these projects, in a search for truth, which is revealed through experimentation and interpretation of data. Honors students are expected to demonstrate a high degree of critical thinking and analytical skills in their approach to these projects.

**Note:** *Placement in STEM Honors course is determined through an analysis of 8<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics courses, entrance exam scores, and STA Mathematics Placement Exam.*

### **Biology CP, Full Year**

Biology CP is a sophomore course designed to provide a sound foundation in the biological sciences for college-bound students. This is a laboratory science course that investigates the development of biological systems at the molecular, cellular, and organism level using an inquiry approach. Our primary goal is for students to develop a sense of wonder and respect for the living world while learning the basics of biological science. The intricacies between faith and reason will be explored, showing that they are not at odds with one another.

**Prerequisite:** *STEM*

### **Biology Honors, Full Year**

Biology Honors is an academically demanding course for those students with advanced problem-solving and analytical skills. The course is a survey course covering the major themes of biology including biochemistry, cell biology and energetics, genetics and DNA studies (including biotechnology), evolution and ecology. The course is taught with an emphasis on molecular biology and genetics with the study of evolution serving as a unifying theme. Cultivating students' God-given gifts of intelligence, imagination, grit, and ability, this course helps students develop their critical thinking, experimental design, and communication skills. An overarching theme in this

course involves the search for truth which resides at the intersection of faith and reason. Special focus is placed on the interconnectedness of organisms with their environment and the impact that humans have on that relationship. Laboratory experiences frame all lessons and provide the opportunity for students to develop skills around the process of experimental design and numeracy. Laboratories will focus on the generation of authentic quantitative data, using a variety of advanced techniques including technology and biotechnology. Honors Biology is recommended for those students wishing to pursue careers in STEM fields. Honors biology utilizes an eText (online textbook) and course suite. There is no charge for this service.

**Note:** *Placement in an honors-level course is determined by the teacher of the previous year's science course.*

**Prerequisite:** *Grade 9 placement in Biology Honors is at the approval of the Department Chair based upon performance on the entrance exam, previous science course grades, and mathematics placement.*

### **AP Biology, Full Year**

This second-year biology course is an intense theme-based analysis of the major concepts in the field of biological science. The course is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory biology course. The two main goals of AP Biology are to help students develop a conceptual framework for modern biology and to assist students with the understanding of science as a process. The intricacies between faith and reason will be explored, showing that they are not at odds with one another. The major concepts covered in the course include: the study of ecology, basic cell function, biochemistry, genetics and genetic engineering, applied genetics, evolution, and cell communication and regulation. AP Biology utilizes numerous laboratory investigations to allow students to experience the application of biological concepts to authentic issues in the world today. Cultivating students' God-given gifts of intelligence, imagination, grit, and ability, this course helps students develop their critical thinking, experimental design, and communication skills.

**Note:** *Students are required to sit for the AP exam if enrolled in the course. Students are responsible for the purchase of textbook(s) and ancillary laboratory platforms for this course. Students will be billed for the cost of this exam and textbook/resources via our student information / billing platform.*

**Note:** *Placement in an AP-level course is determined by the teacher of the previous year's science course in conjunction with previous Science teachers.*

### **Chemistry CP, Full Year**

Chemistry CP is an introductory course for students who seek a strong foundation in the concepts and applications of chemistry. This course emphasizes the focus and connection between the atom and observable, macroscopic phenomena. Content is arranged to allow students to explore from the atomic level and structure, to atomic bonding, to chemical reactions, and beyond to the applications of chemistry. Laboratory activities and inquiry will play an important role in illustrating and evaluating these themes. The goal is for students to see the connections between the microscopic and the macroscopic using reason to explore the depths of this connection. Chemistry, as a quantitative science, requires a mastery of pre-algebra and algebra concepts, including: graphing, the use of exponents, algebraic manipulations, linear equations, and scientific notation. These concepts are used frequently and reviewed in class. This course is recommended for students who may elect to pursue further courses in the sciences at the college level.

**Prerequisite:** *Recommendation from biology teacher. Completion or concurrent enrollment in Algebra II*

### **Chemistry Honors, Full Year**

The course emphasizes the connection between microscopic atoms and the macroscopic phenomena using reason to explore the depths and beauty of this connection. Content starts by looking at atomic structure and then builds into types of bonds, chemical reactions and applications of chemistry. Chemistry Honors is a rigorous course with classroom and laboratory content similar to Chemistry CP. However, the Chemistry Honors curriculum is more in-depth, covers more content and asks the student to think critically and demonstrate advanced experimental reasoning and techniques. Problem solving in both the classroom and laboratory is heavily emphasized. The student's mathematical skills are more strongly emphasized than in Chemistry CP. A superior working knowledge of algebra, including graphing and the use of graphing calculators, as well as logarithms, exponents, and scientific notation are expected. Chemistry Honors provides a foundation for more advanced course work in chemistry, and/or other technical and science fields. This course is the recommended course for students who may wish to take AP Chemistry in a subsequent year.

**Note:** *Placement in an honors-level course is determined by the teacher of the previous year's science course.*

**Prerequisite:** *Completion or concurrent enrollment in Algebra II*

### **AP Chemistry, Full Year**

This second-year course in Chemistry gives the student full immersion into college-level chemistry and builds upon concepts and themes from first year chemistry. Course content covers the structure of atoms, chemical bonding, molecular structures, interactions between molecules, quantifying and describing chemical reactions, thermodynamics of reactions, and applications of chemical reactions. Students should be highly motivated with the capacity for self-teaching and should have a desire to dig deeper into the microscopic principles that govern the macroscopic behaviors in the world. This class uses inquiry and reason through class activities and a rigorous laboratory practice to allow students to develop mastery of these concepts. This class is heavily based in laboratory exploration and requires students to attend laboratory sessions before school.

**Note:** *Students are required to sit for the AP exam if enrolled in the course. Students are responsible for the purchase of textbook(s) for this course. Students will be billed for the cost of this exam and textbook via our student information / billing platform.*

**Note:** *Placement in an AP-level course is determined by the teacher of the previous year's science course.*

**Prerequisites:** *Completion or concurrent enrollment in Pre-calculus*

### **Physics CP, Full Year**

Physics CP is a non-calculus course for students who seek a first experience with physics and the typical rigors that accompany practice in physics, especially performing laboratory work, analyzing laboratory data, composing scientific arguments, and learning how physics principles are applied in practice. Topics in CP Physics include motion kinematics, force and Newton's laws, statics and equilibrium, conservation of momentum, conservation of energy, centripetal forces and circular motion, Ohm's law, and waves. Students will also learn how to cultivate gifts of intelligence, imagination, grit, aimed at helping students develop their critical thinking, experiment design, and communication skills. The course has a significant emphasis on lab work, and each unit is built around a project or a major investigative lab.

**Prerequisites:** *Recommendation from chemistry teacher. Concurrent enrollment in Algebra II or higher*

### **Physics Honors, Full Year**

Physics Honors is a non-calculus course for highly motivated students of proven analytical ability. Topics in Honors Physics include motion kinematics, force, Newton's laws, statics and equilibrium, conservation of momentum, conservation of energy, rotational kinematics, center of mass, and torque. The course deals with the operative concepts of Physics through mastery of a traditional foundation in mechanics. This is done while employing, and learning good scientific practice through laboratory work, analyzing laboratory data, composing scientific arguments, and understanding how Physics principles are applied in practice. Students will learn how to cultivate gifts of intelligence, imagination, grit, aimed at helping students develop their critical thinking, experiment design, and communication skills. Although the scope of the course is limited, an effort is made to provide an overview of the subject of Physics itself, especially through reflecting upon it as an empirical science.

**Note:** *Placement in an honors-level course is determined by the teacher of the previous year's science course.*

**Prerequisites:** *Concurrent enrollment in Pre-calculus or higher*

### **AP Physics C Mechanics, Full Year**

This course, built on the conceptual foundation provided by Physics Honors, Calculus, and vector analysis, advances students to a rigorous problem solving curriculum. Topics in AP Physics include motion kinematics, force, Newton's laws, statics and equilibrium, conservation of momentum in systems, conservation of energy in systems, rotational kinematics, center of mass, torque, and basic harmonic motion. AP Physics C: Mechanics employs the skills of differentiation, integration, vector addition, and vector products to analyze and model interactions between forces and matter. A laboratory experience is essential to provide students direct experience in physics principles, encouraging them to apply and engage with the guiding principles of the course and to develop inquiry, modeling, and analytical skills in an environment that welcomes individual student interests. Students will also learn how to cultivate gifts of intelligence, imagination, grit, aimed at helping students develop their critical thinking, experiment design, and communication skills.

**Note:** *Students are required to sit for the AP exam if enrolled in the course. Students are responsible for the purchase of textbook(s) for this course. Students will be billed for the cost of this exam and textbook via our student information/ billing platform.*

**Prerequisites:** *Recommendation from Physics Honors teacher. Completion or concurrent enrollment in Calculus.*

### **Anatomy and Physiology CP, Semester**

Anatomy and Physiology allows the student to develop a thorough understanding of the relationship between structures and functions of the human body, alongside an appreciation for the embodiment of human dignity. The curriculum will explore the organization of tissues, organs, and organ systems, as well as a comprehensive look at how the body maintains homeostasis. Emphasis will be placed on the respiratory, immune, nervous, cardiovascular, digestive, skeletal and muscular systems, with exploration of the reproductive, endocrine, excretory, and integumentary systems woven through the semester. This course will feature many laboratory exercises, simulations, hand-on activities, and students will utilize their own physiological data to gain insights about human body systems.

**Prerequisite:** *Biology*

### **Forensics CP, Semester**

Forensic is a challenging, lab-oriented course that will introduce students to the growing role that science plays in the application of criminal and civil laws. In class, students will read actual case studies, practice using deductive reasoning skills and learn to use a wide variety of techniques and technology to examine evidence. Central to these activities is the investigation of fairness and equity issues around criminal justice. Labs include: DNA profiling, blood typing, blood spatter analysis, forensic entomology, toxicology, drug and poison identification, forensic anthropology, trace evidence (hair and fiber) examination, document examination, fingerprinting, crime scene investigation and evidence collection.

**Prerequisite:** *Biology*

### **Introduction to Electrical Engineering and Robotics CP, Semester**

This junior/senior applied science elective course covers fundamentals of technology where purpose, design, testing and redesign apply electronic component theory to solve problems in electronics. Special attention is given to project-based learning in resistance and capacitance, AC and DC concepts, switching, amplifiers, signal processing, telecommunications, and digital circuits. The class will apply ideas to energy management in robotics to automate, control movement, and provide sensing. Students will demonstrate proficiency with regular in-class projects that include laying out and soldering circuit boards. Students will be expected to experiment and prototype circuits using breadboards, resistors, capacitors, diodes, potentiometers, switches, transistors, FETs, and LEDs. Students document their work with engineering notebooks. Students will learn how to cultivate their God-given gifts of intelligence, imagination, and grit, as this course encourages students to develop critical thinking, experiment design, and communication skills. This class is highly recommended for students who are interested in pursuing any branch of engineering, science, or technology.

**Prerequisites:** *Completion or concurrent enrollment in Algebra II*

### **Environmental Studies CP, Semester**

This exploratory course provides an inquiry-based examination of the interdisciplinary study of environmental science. This course will explore the integration and interaction of the physical and life sciences while connecting these to the social and political aspects of environmental studies. While environmental issues have a global context, the primary focus of the course will be on local and regional environmental case studies. These studies will relate specifically to climate change and sustainability and will foster an appreciation for the interconnectedness of our world. As humans, we will examine our role as stewards of the natural world. The course will include a cumulative final project.

**Prerequisite:** *Biology*

### **STEM Seminar CP, Semester**

This semester-long STEM research-based elective class strives to tackle a new and novel idea each year, taking the idea from design board to demonstration prototype. This junior/senior course may cover principles of mechanical/structural composites engineering, product design and testing, polymer chemistry, electrical signal and power distribution, or energy. A special interest and effort will be dedicated to solving a local community problem with a technological innovation. All students

will complete a unit of instruction in computer drafting, will create 3D prints of original designs, and will maintain engineering notebooks throughout the year. A final presentation to either another class, organization, corporation, or public announcement will serve as a culminating conclusion. Students will learn how to cultivate their God-given gifts of intelligence, imagination, and grit, as this course encourages students to develop their critical thinking, experiment design, and communication skills.

**Prerequisites:** *Chemistry; completion or concurrent enrollment in Algebra II*

### **Marine Biology CP, Semester**

Marine Biology focuses on the identification, classification, and interaction of marine organisms, as well as the interrelationships among marine organisms (e.g., algae, invertebrates, fishes, birds, and marine mammals) and various abiotic factors (e.g., pH, tides, temperature, currents, pollution, etc.). The principal objective of this course is to impart students with an appreciation for the ecology of marine systems. The course will also include an extensive discussion on ocean conservation, including threats facing marine life and policy solutions to those threats. Central to these studies is the exploration of environmental stewardship and our role in maintaining our fragile ocean environment. Students will occasionally participate in field trips to off-site locations that directly correlate with curriculum, e.g. UNH Marine Lab and/or Seacoast Science Center.

**Prerequisite:** *Biology*

### **Advanced Genetics and Biotechnology Honors, Semester**

This course introduces students to the study of applied genetics and the processes associated with recombinant DNA techniques. Studies will range from the application of genetics to the commercial and regulatory characteristics of recombinant DNA techniques and biotechnology. Gel electrophoresis and PCR work are central to many of the experiences in this course. The use of CRISPR as a gene editing tool and ELISA as a diagnostic tool will also be explored. Units of study include the exploration of disease and the role that biotechnology plays in diagnosing and treating disease. Central to these units is the dignity of all humans and the use of biotechnology to serve, support, and reestablish human health. This course will also evaluate the ethical nature of biotechnology by evaluating the central question: “we can...but should we?” and the difference between therapy and enhancement. To accomplish this goal, extensive work will be completed in a laboratory setting to include independent laboratory work.

**Note:** *This course may be taken concurrently with AP Biology.*

**Prerequisites:** *Completion of chemistry and a recommendation from your chemistry teacher*

### **AP Environmental Science, Full Year**

AP Environmental Science provides students with the scientific principles and concepts required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. Environmental science is wholly interdisciplinary, and this course is designed to encompass the interests of all students. Throughout this course, students will learn to explain environmental concepts and processes through the use of data analysis, visual representations, and writings. Students will apply quantitative and qualitative methodology to propose solutions to environmental problems. An overarching theme throughout the course is one of appreciation for the interconnectedness in all things. As humans and stewards, we will learn to appreciate the synchrony of the natural world, and the role that we play in the sustainability of such things. Students enrolled will have a mandatory summer assignment, to include

reviewing mathematical skills, purchasing the required textbook & reading Module 0, and researching applicable environmental legislation. Students will occasionally participate in field trips to off-site locations that directly correlate with curriculum, e.g. local wastewater treatment plant. Two practice AP exams will be offered on weekends in April, leading up to the May exam.

**Note:** *Students are required to sit for the AP exam if enrolled in the course. Students are responsible for the purchase of textbook(s) for this course. Students will be billed for the cost of this exam via our student information/billing platform.*

**Note:** *Placement in an honors-level course is determined by the teacher of the previous year's science course.*

**Prerequisites:** *Concurrent enrollment in Honors Chemistry or completion of Chemistry CP*

### **FIRST Robotics CP, Full Year**

In this course, students learn 3D design and printing, manufacturing and fabrication skills, milling, machining, electro-mechanical and coding operations. Students considering a STEM-based career are strongly encouraged to enroll, as this course builds problem solving skills in a collaborative technical environment. Students will cultivate their God-given gifts of intelligence, imagination, and grit, as this course encourages students to develop critical thinking, experiment design, and communication skills. Students will be expected to become members of the ROBOSAINTS team and take part in two in-season competitions, providing their own transportation, and at least one off-season (1 Sep-30 Dec) competition. Attendance at after-school sessions will also be required. From the season kickoff (1 Jan) until the end of March, the ROBOSAINTS meet on Saturdays from 9am until noon. Students in this course are required to meet with the team for a minimum of two Saturdays per month.

**Note:** *This course is open to Grades 9-12 and grading is pass/fail. Off-season requirements: October - January, meet once per week after school with no more than one unexcused absence. Competition Season Requirements: January - March, attend at least three sessions after school per week with no more than one unexcused absence. Attend at least one of the two competitions (Dates TBD). This course counts as .25 credit.*

## ***SOCIAL STUDIES***

### **Citizenship and Government CP, Semester**

In this freshman introductory course on United States Government and Citizenship, students will embark on a comprehensive exploration of the foundations, structures, and principles of the American political system. Through engaging units covering topics such as the Constitution, branches of government, civil liberties, and the electoral process, students will become active participants in their own learning journey. Emphasizing college preparatory study skills, analytical writing, and critical thinking, students will hone their abilities to analyze primary and secondary sources, discern nuances, and recognize internal and external bias. Students will write one major essay during the semester. Moreover, this course integrates Catholic faith principles, fostering discussions on justice, the common good, the dignity of the human person, and moral responsibility within the context of civic engagement. At the conclusion of the course, students will emerge equipped not only with a thorough understanding of American government but also with the skills and perspectives necessary to contribute meaningfully to their communities and the world at large.

### **Citizenship and Government Honors, Semester**

The Honors level course will include the College Prep curriculum, as well as involve more research and writing, outside readings, and student independence. Honors students must be ready to approach every class and assignment with a serious scholarly attitude and be prepared to complete a significantly larger workload, including homework, reading, and writing. In addition to the college prep curriculum, honors level students will be required to: 1) Write one persuasive, critical essay each quarter, 2) Critically read and interpret/discuss primary and secondary source documents, publications and materials. Students taking the honors level course are expected to have mastered grade level skills, and to be responsible, independent, and self-motivated learners.

**Note:** *Placement is determined by placement exam and Social Studies faculty review.*

### **Western Civilization CP, Full Year**

This course explores the foundations and evolution of Western civilization, tracing pivotal developments from the birth of democracy in Ancient Greece and Rome to the emergence of the modern world. Students will examine the Renaissance and the Scientific Revolution as eras of profound intellectual transformation, then contrast the ideals and outcomes of the American and French Revolutions. The course will cover the rapid changes brought by the Industrial Revolution and conclude with an exploration of the Global Age, focusing on European imperialism and the impact of the world wars. Designed as a rigorous college preparatory class, this course emphasizes reading comprehension, research, writing, and public speaking skills, as well as critical thinking. Students will analyze primary sources, defend positions, construct arguments, and present their ideas confidently to peers. Students will write one major essay each semester. Additionally, Catholic faith principles will be integrated throughout, inviting students to reflect on ethical and moral dimensions within historical contexts and the role of faith in shaping the Western world.

**Prerequisite:** *Citizenship and Government.*

### **Western Civilization Honors, Full Year**

The Honors level course will include the College Prep curriculum, as well as involve more research and writing, outside readings, and student independence. Honors students must be ready to

approach every class and assignment with a serious scholarly attitude and be prepared to complete a significantly larger workload, including homework, reading, and writing. In addition to the college prep curriculum, honors level students will be required to: 1) write multiple persuasive, critical essays each quarter, 2) critically read and interpret/discuss primary and secondary source documents, publications and materials, and 3) read one book (an historical account or work of historical fiction) per semester. Students taking the honors level course are expected to have mastered grade level skills, and to be responsible, independent, and self-motivated learners.

**Prerequisite:** *Citizenship and Government. Placement in honors is determined by the teacher of the previous year's Social Studies course and a grade of B+ or higher in Citizenship and Government.*

### **US History CP, Full Year**

This rigorous, student-centered course invites learners to engage deeply with the major political, social, and economic developments in American history from the Civil War to the present. Students will take ownership of their learning as they investigate pivotal topics such as the Civil War, America's industrialization, imperialism, the World Wars, the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, the Civil Rights Movement, the Cold War, the attacks on September 11th, and the challenges of the 21st century. Through independent research, critical analysis, and collaborative discussions, students will hone essential academic skills, including writing, interpretation, and synthesis. By examining primary and secondary sources, learners will develop a nuanced understanding of the complexities of American history and identity, cultivating their ability to think critically and form well-supported arguments. As a capstone, students will present a Junior Speech, grounded in research and analysis, accompanied by a comprehensive research paper. Catholic faith principles are integrated throughout, encouraging students to consider moral and ethical perspectives as they engage with U.S. history. Grounded in Catholic faith principles, the course emphasizes moral discernment, Catholic social teaching, and the dignity of all individuals, encouraging students to reflect on how historical events and decisions align with these values. Students will emerge from the course prepared to participate thoughtfully in informed conversations about America's past, present, and future.

**Prerequisite:** *Western Civilization*

### **US History Honors, Full Year**

The Honors level course will include the College Prep curriculum, as well as involve more research and writing, outside readings, and student independence. Honors students must be ready to approach each class and assignment with a serious scholarly attitude and be prepared to complete a significantly larger workload, including homework, reading, and writing. In addition to the college prep curriculum, honors level students will be required to: 1) write multiple persuasive, critical essays each quarter, 2) critically read and be able to interpret/discuss primary and secondary source documents, publications and materials, and 3) read one book (an historical account or work of historical fiction) per semester. Students taking the honors level course are expected to have mastered grade level skills, and be responsible, independent, and be self-motivated learners.

**Prerequisite:** *Western Civilization. Placement in honors is determined by the teacher of the previous year's Social Studies course and a grade of B+ or higher in Western Civilization.*

### **AP US History - Full Year**

Advanced Placement U.S. History is designed to provide students with the factual knowledge and analytical skills necessary to deal critically with the traditions and experiences of Americans from colonial times to present day. This is a college-level class requiring extensive readings equivalent to those made by full year introductory college courses. Students learn to assess historical materials in persuasive essays and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship in classroom activities. Catholic faith principles are integrated throughout, encouraging students to consider moral and ethical perspectives as they engage with U.S. history. Grounded in Catholic faith principles, the course emphasizes moral discernment, Catholic social teaching, and the dignity of all individuals, encouraging students to reflect on how historical events and decisions align with these values. Students in this course will have an extensive summer assignment to complete before the beginning of the fall semester of the junior year. Students taking this class shall have demonstrated mastery of grade level skills, proven to be highly self-motivated and independent, and willing to take on a significant workload outside of class time.

**Note:** *Students are required to sit for the AP exam if enrolled in the course. Students will be billed for the cost of this exam via our student information/billing platform. Students are responsible for the purchase of textbook(s) for this course.*

**Prerequisite:** *Honors Western Civilization. Placement in AP is determined by the teacher of the previous year's social studies course and a grade of B+ or higher in Honors Western Civilization.*

### **Economics CP, Semester**

In this rigorous and student-centered course, students will explore the principles and operation of the free enterprise system and the economic structure of the United States through independent learning and critical inquiry. By engaging deeply with the nature of markets, the role of government, and comparative economic systems, students will develop the skills necessary to understand and navigate the American economy as informed citizens, discerning consumers, and responsible professionals. This course emphasizes personal initiative in learning, with class projects and discussions rooted in current economic issues that challenge students to apply theoretical concepts to real-world scenarios. Topics such as competition, monopolies, and market dynamics will be analyzed through the lens of Catholic social teaching, fostering an understanding of how economic decisions align with principles of justice, solidarity, and stewardship. Through rigorous study and collaborative exploration, students will cultivate the ability to think critically, act ethically, and contribute meaningfully to society.

**Prerequisite:** *Western Civilization*

### **Economics Honors, Semester**

The Honors level course will include the College Prep curriculum, as well as involve more research and writing, outside readings, and student independence. Students taking the honors level course are expected to have mastered grade level skills, and be responsible, independent, and self-motivated learners.

**Prerequisites:** *Western Civilization; Recommendation from current social studies teacher required.*

### **Psychology CP, Semester**

This course invites students to actively explore traditional and contemporary psychological theories and the contributions of noted theorists through an independent and rigorous learning process. Students will engage deeply with topics such as the stages of the life cycle, personality theories, cognitive development, and learning theories, developing critical thinking and analytical skills. With a special focus on adolescent issues—including eating disorders, stress management, and motivation—students will be encouraged to connect their learning to their own experiences and those of their peers. Rooted in Catholic faith values, this course emphasizes the dignity of the human person and the call to nurture the mind, body, and spirit. Students will be challenged to approach psychological concepts with compassion, applying their knowledge to support themselves and others in living lives of purpose and well-being. Through independent research, collaborative discussions, and real-world applications, students will grow as lifelong learners and thoughtful contributors to their communities.

**Prerequisite:** *Western Civilization*

### **Introduction to the Law Honors, Semester**

This course empowers students to engage deeply with the U.S. legal system through independent inquiry and critical analysis, fostering a strong sense of personal responsibility and intellectual growth. With a focus on the Constitution and landmark Supreme Court cases, students will explore how foundational legal texts and decisions shape our nation and influence the lives of its citizens. Through case studies, research projects, and classroom debates, students will examine key areas of law, including torts, criminal law, and civil procedure, while reflecting on their real-world applications. Thought-provoking questions such as “How do laws affect daily life?”, “What rights and responsibilities do citizens hold?”, and “How should laws evolve to meet society’s needs?” will guide students’ learning and inspire them to propose solutions grounded in justice and ethical principles. Students will also investigate specialized topics such as juvenile law, family law, intellectual property law, and the intersections of law with education, sports, and entertainment. By evaluating the societal impacts of these legal areas, students will build critical thinking skills and an understanding of how faith and morality inform lawmaking and governance. Incorporating Catholic social teaching, the course emphasizes human dignity, the common good, and the pursuit of justice. Students will reflect on how legal principles align with these values and how they can serve as ethical leaders within their communities. Opportunities for real-world engagement, such as guest speakers, field trips, and career exploration in the legal profession, will inspire students to envision their future roles in promoting justice and serving others. This rigorous, student-centered course challenges learners to analyze, evaluate, and create while fostering a deeper appreciation for the law and its role in shaping a moral and just society.

**Prerequisites:** *Western Civilization; Recommendation from current social studies teacher.*

### **AP US Government and Politics, Full Year**

This yearlong course will prepare students for the Advanced Placement Exam in U.S. Government and Politics held in the Spring (May). The class covers the following content areas: the Constitutional background of American democracy, the history of political parties and interest groups in American society, and their influence and effect upon American political history. The class also covers the three branches of government, their functions and powers, and investigates the series of checks and balances that hold them together. Civil rights, civil liberties, and public participation in

the government process at the local, state, and national level are also included. This course will integrate Catholic faith-based principles, encouraging students to examine the moral and ethical dimensions of government and politics. Students will reflect on the importance of justice, the dignity of the human person, and the common good in shaping public policy. They will explore how Catholic social teaching informs perspectives on civil rights, responsibilities, and the role of government in serving the vulnerable. Additionally, students will be encouraged to apply principles of stewardship, subsidiarity, and solidarity to contemporary political issues, fostering a deeper understanding of how faith and reason work together in public life. Successful completion of this course and the accompanying exam could gain the student introductory college credit in government, therefore, this class will require substantial work on the part of the student. There will be heavy emphasis placed upon the student's writing and reading skills. Students will be required to write numerous essays and read outside sources in addition to the text, as well as complete an extensive summer assignment before the course begins in the fall semester.

**Note:** *Students are required to sit for the AP exam if enrolled in the course. Students will be billed for the cost of this exam via our student information/billing platform. Students are responsible for the purchase of textbook(s) for this course.*

**Prerequisite:** *AP or Honors United States History. Placement in AP is determined by the teacher of the previous year's social studies course and a grade of B+ or higher in AP or Honors United States History.*

## WORLD LANGUAGES

### **French I CP, Full Year**

This beginner-level course offers a rich introduction to the French language, focusing on the foundational skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. As students learn the fundamentals of grammar and expand their vocabulary, they will develop a deeper understanding of both language and culture, while also embracing Catholic principles of respect, empathy, and community. Students will learn to communicate in the present and near-future tenses, practicing essential greetings, introductions, farewells, and common expressions related to time, numbers, weather, and more. Conversation is an integral part of the course, with students encouraged and required to use French daily. They will engage in authentic dialogue, fostering confidence and fluency as they grow in their ability to communicate with others. Students will explore the rich cultural traditions of French-speaking countries, gaining an appreciation for the language, history, and customs. By the end of the year, students will have built a strong foundation in French while also understanding how language connects us to one another, reflecting the dignity and respect for all people that are core to our Catholic faith. Through this course, students will not only learn a new language, but also grow in empathy, cultural awareness, and communication—skills that will serve them well both in and out of the classroom.

**Note:** *Students will have the option to participate in Le Grand Concours national French exam in early spring. If they choose to do so, they will be billed the cost of this exam (approximately \$7) via our student information/billing platform.*

### **French II CP, Full Year**

Building upon the foundations of French I, French II is an intermediate-level course that deepens students' understanding of grammar, vocabulary, and cultural context while helping them grow in oral proficiency. Rooted in Catholic principles of respect, dialogue, and service, this course emphasizes not just linguistic skills, but also the value of communication as a bridge to understanding others in our global community. Students will expand their vocabulary, including idiomatic expressions, and master more complex grammar concepts. Students will deepen their ability to communicate confidently and clearly, with a special focus on speaking and listening skills. One of the key goals of French II is to increase oral proficiency. Students will engage in regular dialogues, participate in teacher-led conversations, and practice speaking in a variety of contexts, helping them express themselves with greater ease and fluency. Through carefully selected readings, students will improve their reading comprehension while gaining greater insight into the cultural and historical context of the French-speaking world. These readings will also highlight the universal themes of human dignity, compassion, and community—values that resonate deeply with our Catholic faith. By the end of the course, students will be more confident in their ability to communicate in French and more appreciative of the language as a means of building relationships and understanding. As they grow in their language skills, students will also grow in their ability to engage with the world and others in a way that reflects the love, respect, and service that are at the heart of our Catholic mission.

**Note:** *Students will have the option to participate in Le Grand Concours national French exam in early spring. If they choose to do so, they will be billed the cost of this exam (approximately \$7) via our student information/billing platform.*

**Prerequisites:** *French I and recommendation of French teacher.*

### **French III CP, Full Year**

French III CP is an intermediate-level course designed to deepen students' proficiency in French through enhanced communication, reading, writing, and cultural exploration. In this course, students will build upon their grammar knowledge to strengthen reading, writing, and speaking abilities. Through a variety of resources, including literature, media, and real-world materials, students will expand their vocabulary and deepen their cultural understanding. This exploration will allow them to appreciate the richness of French-speaking cultures while recognizing shared values of justice, peace, and human dignity that align with Catholic teachings. Conducted primarily in French, this course will encourage students to immerse themselves in the language, practicing speaking, reading, and writing every day. Active participation is key, as students will be expected to engage in conversations, discussions, and written assignments that promote fluency and confidence. Emphasizing Catholic values of respect and empathy, this course will inspire students to see language as a powerful tool for building relationships, promoting understanding, and serving others. By the end of the course, students will have a greater command of the French language, not only as a tool for communication but also as a means of engaging with the world in a way that reflects the compassion, respect, and unity that are at the heart of the Catholic faith.

**Note:** *Students will have the option to participate in Le Grand Concours national French exam in early spring. If they choose to do so, they will be billed the cost of this exam (approximately \$7) via our student information/billing platform.*

**Prerequisites:** *French II and recommendation of French teacher.*

### **French III Honors, Full Year**

An intermediate-level course, with a similar curriculum to French III CP, French III Honors emphasizes communication in the language as well as reading and writing skills through a more thorough exploration of authentic French literature and poetry, as well as newspaper articles, brochures, and discussion of current events. This course will be primarily conducted in French and all students will be expected to participate on a daily basis.

**Note:** *Students will have the option to participate in Le Grand Concours national French exam in early spring. If they choose to do so, they will be billed the cost of this exam (approximately \$7) via our student information/billing platform.*

**Prerequisites:** *French II and recommendation of French teacher.*

### **French IV Honors, Full Year**

An advanced level course, French IV Honors focuses on advanced grammar so that students will be better able to express themselves in French. French IV reviews all grammatical concepts learned previously as well as focuses on more advanced grammar. In order to lead students to a greater appreciation for the literature and customs of the French language, French literature will have a stronger emphasis. Classic French short stories or novels will be read and studied each term. French is the official language of this course. All students will be required to participate in French on a daily basis.

**Note:** *Students will have the option to participate in Le Grand Concours national French exam in early spring. If they choose to do so, they will be billed the cost of this exam (approximately \$7) via our student information/billing platform.*

**Prerequisites:** *French III and recommendation of French teacher.*

### **French V Honors, Full Year**

French V Honors is an advanced level course which concentrates on French culture and literature. Grammar will continue to be a focus and will be taught in context through the literature and culture. Students will be expected to be orally proficient to the point that they will be active participants on a daily basis as well as leaders who will often take the role as teacher in the classroom. Students will be expected to keep themselves current with events that are happening in the French speaking world. Elements of French cinema and media will be used to enhance essay writing as well as oral proficiency.

**Note:** *Students will have the option to participate in Le Grand Concours national French exam in early spring. If they choose to do so, they will be billed the cost of this exam (approximately \$7) via our student information/billing platform.*

**Prerequisites:** *French IV and recommendation of French teacher.*

### **Spanish 1 CP, Full Year**

This beginner-level course explores the foundational skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. As students learn the fundamentals of grammar and expand their vocabulary, they will engage with one another through guided dialogue, giving them an opportunity to reinforce their language skills while also creating a strong sense of community. Through cultural readings, videos, art and music, students will have a window into diverse customs and traditions, gaining an appreciation for the value and dignity of all individuals, which resonate with our Catholic faith and values. Students will learn to communicate in the present and near-future tenses, practicing essential greetings, introductions, farewells, expressions of courtesy, numbers, time and date, weather, and more. As students learn vocabulary related to family, school life, pastimes, food and clothing, they will engage in everyday conversations and situation enactments, gaining confidence and fluency as they grow in their ability to communicate with others. The overall objective of this course is to establish a strong foundation in Spanish, while fostering an appreciation for the Hispanic world and its diverse cultures. Students will grow in their ability to communicate in a thoughtful and respectful manner, building tolerance, empathy and acceptance of others, which resonate with our faith and values as a community.

**Note:** *Students will have the option to participate in the National Spanish Exam in early spring. If they choose to do so, they will be billed the cost of this exam (approximately \$7) via our student information/billing platform.*

**Note:** *Students are responsible for the purchase of a workbook for this course, approximately \$25.*

### **Spanish II CP, Full Year**

Spanish II CP is an advanced beginner course which builds upon the same skills studied in Spanish I. Students will deepen their understanding of grammar, vocabulary and cultural context while growing in oral proficiency. As students learn new vocabulary related to topics like daily routines, health, travel, and leisure activities, they will engage in guided conversations and participate in

role-playing activities. Students will also explore the customs, geography, social norms and Catholic traditions of Spanish-speaking countries. By the end of this course, students will be more confident expressing themselves in the present and near-future tenses, and they will have an understanding of how to use the preterite tense. Rooted in Catholic principles of respect, empathy and community, this course seeks to foster a supportive classroom environment where students feel safe to participate. Spanish II CP not only emphasizes linguistic skills, but also the value of communication as a bridge to understanding others in our global community.

**Note:** *Students will have the option to participate in the National Spanish Exam in early spring. If they choose to do so, they will be billed the cost of this exam (approximately \$7) via our student information/ billing platform.*

**Note:** *Students are responsible for the purchase of a workbook for this course, approximately \$25.*

**Prerequisites:** *Spanish I and recommendation of Spanish teacher.*

### **Spanish II Honors, Full Year**

Spanish II Honors is an intermediate level course that builds on the skills mastered in Spanish I, but moves at a faster pace than Spanish IICP. Students in this course will further develop their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills, while incorporating cultural aspects of the Spanish-speaking world. This course places a greater emphasis on formal grammatical structures while broadening students' vocabulary skills. Key grammatical structures like the preterite and imperfect tenses, reflexive verbs, and more complex sentence structures are studied. One of the primary objectives of Spanish II Honors is increased oral proficiency. As students learn new vocabulary related to topics such as daily routines, health, work, travel, pastimes, and childhood activities, students will engage in regular dialogues, participate in guided conversations, and practice speaking in a variety of contexts, helping them express themselves with greater ease and fluency. Through carefully selected readings, students will improve their reading comprehension while gaining cultural insight. Students will explore the customs, geography, social norms and Catholic traditions of Spanish-speaking countries through these readings, as well as via video, music and art. Rooted in Catholic principles of respect, empathy and community, this course seeks to foster a supportive classroom environment where students feel safe to participate. By the end of this course, students will be more confident in their ability to communicate in Spanish and more appreciative of language as a bridge to understanding others in our global community.

**Note:** *Students will have the option to participate in the National Spanish Exam in early spring. If they choose to do so, they will be billed the cost of this exam (approximately \$7) via our student information/ billing platform.*

**Note:** *Students are responsible for the purchase of a workbook for this course, approximately \$25.*

**Prerequisite:** *Spanish 1 and recommendation of Spanish teacher.*

### **Spanish III CP, Full Year**

Spanish III CP is an intermediate-level course that emphasizes the communication of ideas and meanings for practical purposes. All material - vocabulary, grammar, and culture - is rooted in a real-life context. Students will engage in communicative tasks that are relevant to their lives. This course weaves in culture from the Spanish-speaking world with language activities, hence these are taught concurrently. Students will explore the customs, geography, social norms and Catholic traditions of Spanish-speaking countries through these readings, as well as via video, music and art.

Rooted in Catholic principles of respect, empathy and community, this course seeks to foster a supportive classroom environment where students feel safe to participate. By the end of this course, students will be more confident in their ability to communicate in Spanish and more appreciative of language as a bridge to understanding others in our global community.

**Prerequisites:** *Spanish II and recommendation of Spanish teacher.*

### **Spanish III Honors, Full Year**

Spanish III Honors is an intermediate-level course designed to enhance communication skills through immersive practice in the Spanish language, with a particular emphasis on speaking and listening proficiency. Students will engage with the study of diverse grammar topics, reinforcing vocabulary and cultural understanding through authentic short cultural readings, videos, art, and music while actively participating in class discussions and activities primarily conducted in Spanish, all while upholding Catholic values of the Spanish culture, respect, critical thinking, and responsible communication. This course will prioritize speaking, listening, reading, and writing in Spanish. Students will assume prior Spanish knowledge during this course and build on existing skills to better understand the Spanish language. The class will be conducted primarily in Spanish with active student participation. Students will discuss cultural topics and perspectives through readings and conversations, participate in class discussions and presentations primarily in Spanish, and develop vocabulary related to diverse themes and topics.

**Note:** *Students will have the option to participate in the National Spanish Exam in early spring. If they choose to do so, they will be billed the cost of this exam (approximately \$7) via our student information/billing platform.*

**Note:** *Students are responsible for the purchase of a workbook for this course.*

Prerequisites: *Spanish II Honors and recommendation of Spanish teacher.*

### **Spanish IV Honors, Full Year**

Spanish IV Honors prepares students to communicate effectively in varied situations, using increasingly complex vocabulary and advanced grammatical structures. This course is designed to deepen students' understanding of Spanish through intensive study of advanced grammar, including the present and past subjunctive, alongside a focused exploration of classic Spanish short stories to foster a deeper appreciation for Hispanic literature and cultural customs; all instruction and student participation will be conducted mainly in Spanish. This course will prioritize fluency in all four content areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Spanish IV coursework will continue to emphasize the importance of cultural competence so that students may interact with and within other cultures to form relationships, conduct business, and learn more about the world around them. In alignment with the school's Catholic mission, students are taught and encouraged to be inspired learners rooted in effective communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Students are also encouraged to grow as faithful citizens who respect others, demonstrate character and integrity, value the uniqueness of every human being, and respect the traditions of families and cultures across the globe.

**Note:** *Students will have the option to participate in the National Spanish Exam in early spring. If they choose to do so, they will be billed the cost of this exam (approximately \$7) via our student information/billing platform.*

**Note:** *Students are responsible for the purchase of a workbook for this course.*

**Note:** *Students in Spanish 4 may also take the NH State Seal of Biliteracy Exam. The approximate cost is \$25, billed the same way as the National Spanish Exam.*

**Prerequisites:** *Spanish III Honors and recommendation of Spanish teacher.*

### **Spanish V Honors, Full Year**

Spanish V Honors is an advanced course aimed at highly motivated students seeking to further their Spanish language skills and understanding of Hispanic cultures in preparation for college study and immersion experiences in Spanish-speaking regions. The course prioritizes oral fluency and vocabulary development, requiring students to communicate exclusively in Spanish throughout the class. Students will use diverse media, to enhance their essay writing and speaking abilities while exploring authentic materials like visual arts, music, and literature. Active participation in a variety of speaking activities is expected, ranging from casual conversations and debates to prepared oral presentations. Students are encouraged to stay informed about current events in Spanish-speaking regions and incorporate them into class discussions. Rooted in Catholic values, this course will allow students to better connect with people from different backgrounds, demonstrating love and compassion by understanding their perspectives and experiences. This course will also highlight the role of the Catholic Church in the history, traditions, and celebrations in some Spanish-speaking countries.

**Note:** *Students will have the option to participate in the National Spanish Exam in early spring. Students will also have the option to sit for the Spanish AP exam if enrolled in the course. Students will be billed for the cost of these exams via our student information/ billing platform.*

**Note:** *Students are also responsible for the purchase of a workbook for this course.*

**Note:** *Students in Spanish 5 may also take the NH State Seal of Biliteracy Exam. The approximate cost is \$25, billed the same way as the National Spanish Exam and the Spanish AP exam.*

**Prerequisites:** *Spanish IV Honors and recommendation of Spanish teacher.*

## EDUCATION OF THE WHOLE STUDENT

The experience of high school involves much more than what happens within the confines of the classroom. Today's high school students are navigating a complicated social landscape where the virtual and real worlds are not always clearly delineated, where access to inappropriate material is far too available, where relationships have been shaped by the experience of a global pandemic, and where mental health has become a very real concern for too many. We see the need for educational opportunities aimed at helping students grow and develop as whole people, in relationship with each other and with Christ, who can be better prepared to thrive within the realities of today's world.

At several designated times throughout the school year, students and parents will have the opportunity to engage in workshops and other educational opportunities focusing on topics such as: how to live responsibly in an increasingly digital world; the risks of substance use/abuse and vaping; stress and anxiety management; and healthy college lifestyle choices. As STA continues to develop the educational programming for the whole student, grade-level topics will become the focus, with each grade level focusing on one of the topics for that year and cycling through them all by the end of the four years.

For the 2025-2026 academic year, STA plans to focus, minimally, on two of the above topics for all students. The fall semester will focus on social media and living responsibly in a digital world, and the spring semester on substance use/abuse and vaping. Workshops will be offered separately for underclassmen and for upperclassmen so they remain developmentally appropriate, with a separate offering on the same topics specifically for parents. Programming will be tailored both to students and to their parents so that parents can partner with us in these important conversations, and engage with their children as well. These workshops will each be followed by strategic interventions and activities derived from the content of the presentations, with the intent to keep students and families engaged in productive conversation about these important topics.

As this program develops, these two offerings will be presented to underclass students while the topics of mental health and anxiety/stress management and preparing for healthy post-secondary life will be the focus for upperclassmen.

## WINTERTERM PROGRAM

Winterterm provides meaningful and enriching educational experiences for our students. The single course structure allows students and faculty to bond and work more closely than they do in regular classes. Students may devote their time and attention to a singular area of study where they can engage in academic topics that are not typically offered in the regular semester curriculum.

The enhanced intellectual spectrum embraces not only faculty and staff but also alumni, parents, and area professionals who seek to participate as instructors. The 2024 Winterterm Program offers St. Thomas Aquinas High School students a pedagogical palette of colorful learning opportunities, the kind of which is generally found only on college campuses or as part of international study.

We invite students to **challenge** their minds, **support** their passions, and **transform** their perceptions of learning so that they may fully embrace what promises to be a remarkable educational experience. Winterterm takes place in the beginning of March and is a four day experience. Course descriptions, schedules, and registration are shared in December.

## **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **CENTER FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**

The Center for Academic Achievement is a resource available to students who will benefit from additional support in one or more academic areas.

Students with formal accommodation plans in place are given priority for placement in the Center. When additional space is still available, students without formal accommodation plans who may need some additional support in one of several areas may be able to access this resource as well. This is managed on a case-by-case basis and can be requested by parents, teachers, administration, and/or by the student him/herself.

The Center for Academic Achievement is a structured study hall staffed by a general education teacher who is able to provide assistance in a variety of areas: organization and planning, keeping track of assignments, ensuring that assignments are completed and turned in, collaborating with other teachers to determine the best way to support students, monitoring grades, collaborating with parents, facilitating relationships and conversations between between students and teachers, scheduling extra help sessions, and providing reteaching and extra help services directly to students.

### **SCHOOL COUNSELING**

The school counseling department provides comprehensive services to students in a variety of areas of need. Our school counselors work together very collaboratively, each with a specific area of expertise, to provide the most comfortable and helpful experience to all of our students. In partnership with parents and guardians, services provided within our school counseling department include:

- Course selection and scheduling
- Academic program advising
- College counseling
- College application guidance and support
- Social emotional advising and triage for outside services
- Crisis support
- Facilitation and collaboration with academic departments and individual teachers
- Assistance and support for extended absences from school
- Mediation and assistance with conflict resolution

### **HEALTH and WELLNESS OFFICE**

Our Health and Wellness office is a wonderful resource for students and families staffed by a Registered Nurse who is available to assist students with a variety of issues:

- Health, wellness visits for students who become ill during the school day
- Triage of medical issues needing further evaluation
- Excusal for absences or dismissals from school due to illness not requiring medical evaluation
- Administration of approved over the counter medications or prescription medications provided to the school by parents/guardians
- Medical intervention and/or safety plans
- Health records
- Health-related educational programs
- Health-related guidance to students and families
- Crisis intervention