



Our Lady of Mercy Academy
Program of Studies
2021-2022

**Empowering students to grow
as informed, inspired, compassionate souls.**

Contents

PARISHES IN THE MONADNOCK REGION.....	4
MISSION	5
PHILOSOPHY.....	5
CHANGES AND MODIFICATIONS TO SCHOOL POLICY & PUBLICATIONS	6
OUR FACULTY AND STAFF	7
ACADEMIC INFORMATION	8
Bell Schedules	8
Co-Curricular Eligibility.....	8
College Admissions	8
College Credit.....	9
College Transcripts.....	9
College Visits	9
Computers (personal)	9
Contacting School Personnel	9
Counseling.....	10
Course Failures.....	10
Course Level Changes	10
Course Selections	10
Credit Requirements.....	10
Exams	11
Extended Learning Opportunities.....	11
Financial Responsibilities	11
Grading Scale	11
Grading System	12
Graduation Requirements	12
Homework.....	12
Honors/Awards	12
Incompletes	13
Make-up Work	13
Parenting Plans	13
Progress Report.....	14
Records Release	14

RenWeb Parent Web	14
Report Cards	14
Service Requirement.....	14
Standardized Testing.....	14
ACADEMIC HONESTY AND EXPECTATIONS	16
Cheating	16
Plagiarism.....	16
Acceptable Use Policy for Computer Network	16
Electronic Devices for Learning.....	17
COURSES	18
FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT	18
COMPUTERS/TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT	20
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT	21
MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT	23
MUSIC/PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT	26
PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT	28
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT	29
SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT	31
THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT	33
WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT	35

“Catholic education is an expression of the mission entrusted by Jesus to the Church He founded. Through education the Church seeks to prepare its members to proclaim the Good News and to translate this proclamation into action. Since the Christian vocation is a call to transform oneself and society with God’s help, the educational efforts of the Church must encompass the twin purposes of personal sanctification and social reform in light of Christian values.”

To Teach as Jesus Did
National Conference of Catholic Bishops

PARISHES IN THE MONADNOCK REGION

Parish of the Holy Spirit

Saint Bernard Church
173 Main Street, Keene

Saint Margaret Mary Church
33 Arch Street, Keene

Immaculate Conception Church
31 School Street, Troy

Parish Office
161 Main Street, 3rd Floor
Keene, NH 03431
(603) 352-3525

Mary Queen of Peace Parish

Saint Joseph Church
Main Street, Hinsdale

Saint Stanislaus Church
82 Richmond Road, Winchester

Parish Office
161 Main Street, 3rd Floor
Keene, NH 03431
(603) 352-3525

Fr. Alan Tremblay | *Pastor, Parish of the Holy Spirit*
Fr. Britto Adaikalam | *Administrator, Mary, Queen of Peace Parish*
Deacon Kenneth J. Swymer | Deacon David L. Romano

MISSION

Our Lady of Mercy Academy will empower students to grow as informed, inspired compassionate souls.

The vision of Mercy Academy is to foster critical thinkers to go forth and create a just society. We are a Catholic school, welcoming families of all faiths from the greater Keene area, and serving students in grades Pre-K through 8. Our faith-based school program promotes high academic standards and positive self-esteem, encourages personal responsibility and public service, and instills a sense of community.

PHILOSOPHY

We believe in Catholic Education that is centered in the Spirit of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Lord.

We believe that our heritage in the Keene area gives us a faith-filled view of our school, of life, and of our mission.

We believe that together, the Saint Joseph community of parents, students, and teachers share a common vision---one formed by the message of the Gospel. **We affirm the values of high academic standards, responsibility, service, community, and worship.**

Because of our belief in **high academic standards**, we teach for a mastery of the basic learning skills by challenging students to use and develop their talents to the fullest.

Because of our belief in **responsibility**, we encourage our students to work both independently and cooperatively with others in a respectful manner.

Because of our belief in **service**, we teach our students to be aware of the needs of others and to reach out and help them.

Because of our belief in **community**, we choose to be a people who care for one another and to create a family atmosphere in our school.

Because of our belief in **worship**, we celebrate our personal commitment to Jesus Christ in prayer, in song, in liturgies, in the sacraments and in religious instruction.

Because of our belief in the **gospel message**, we accept the challenge of Catholic Education calling us to a new vision of what our school can be.

Realizing the human need for identity, relatedness and purpose, we strive to form each student into a young adult, responding to those needs by being:

- A Hope-Filled Person
- A Person Who Emulates Christ's Love To All People
- A Whole Person
- A Responsible Person
- An Enthusiastic Person
- A Wise Person

CHANGES AND MODIFICATIONS TO SCHOOL POLICY & PUBLICATIONS

Our Lady of Mercy Academy reserves the right to add, modify or amend any part of this Program of Studies between publication dates. The school will inform students, faculty and staff through various means when any changes to this document are made. These changes will supersede any previously published policies on the same topic.

The creation, distribution, and updating of any information and material to be placed on OLMA's website shall be specifically approved by the Principal or a person explicitly designated by her/him as having the authority to approve such materials.

OLMA reserves the right to remove from its server(s) any material that is outdated, not properly maintained, or not in compliance with school standards.

Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy As To Students

Our Lady of Mercy Academy admits students of any gender, race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

OUR FACULTY AND STAFF

Main Office: 603-352-2720

Fax: 603-358-5465

Principal:	Christopher Smith	csmith@stjosephkeene.org
Main Office Manager:	Kate Pratt	kate@stjosephkeene.org
Executive Assistant:	Allison Murray	amurray@mercyacademykeene.org
School Counselor:	Liberty Ebright	lebright@mercyacademykeene.org
Director of Advancement:	Jennifer Marshall	jmarshall@stjosephkeene.org
Program Manager:	Anthony Toscano	atoscano@stjosephkeene.org
Art	Molly Fletcher	mfletcher@mercyacademykeene.org
French	Marlee Glover	mglover@mercyacademykeene.org
Health and Physical Education	Cathy Hart	chart@stjosephkeene.org
Humanities	Andrew Gentes	agentes@mercyacademykeene.org
Mathematics	Andy Cardine	acardine@mercyacademykeene.org
Music	Christian Raabe	craabe@mercyacademykeene.org
Science	Abbey Hoye	ahoye@mercyacademykeene.org
Spanish	María Carmen Pérez-Perogil	mcperezperogil@mercyacademykeene.org
Theology/Campus Ministry	Chelsea Herman	cherman@mercyacademykeene.org

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Bell Schedules

Monday-Thursday

8:10am – First bell
 8:15– 9:35am – Block 1
 9:40 – 11:00am – Block 2
 11:00am -12:00pm – Lunch and Flex time
 12:00 – 1:20pm – Block 3
 1:25 – 2:45pm – Block 4

Friday

8:10am – First bell
 8:15-9:20am – Block 1
 9:30-10:15am – Mass
 10:25-11:30am – Block 2
 11:30am-12:30pm – Lunch and
 House meeting
 12:30-1:35pm – Block 3
 1:40-2:45pm – Block 4

2-Hour Delay

10:10am – First Bell
 10:15 – 11:10am – Block 1
 11:15am – 12:10pm – Block 2
 12:10 – 12:50pm – Lunch and Flex time
 12:50 – 1:45pm – Block 3
 1:55 – 2:45pm – Block 4

Co-Curricular Eligibility

Co-curricular activities that require considerable time after school or away from school are subject to the following eligibility rule: students must pass ALL courses each quarter in order to participate in those activities for the following quarter. Students in academic jeopardy may be suspended from co-curricular activities including sports participation **at any time** at the discretion of the Administration.

College Admissions

Since admission requirements vary widely between higher education institutions, students should consult college bulletins, catalogs and websites of different institutions early in their high school careers to assure they are completing the necessary requirements. It is important to remember that admissions to college are generally competitive, and students should consider enrolling in course work that exceeds the minimum requirements. The following table generalizes recommended admissions requirements for various post-secondary programs.

	English	Social Studies	Mathematics	Lab Sciences	World Language
Two-Year Colleges	4	3	3	2	0-2
Engineering	4	3	4-5	4-5	2-4
Four-Year Colleges	4	3	3-4	3-4	2-4
Highly Selective Colleges	4	3-4	4-5	4-5	3-5

College Credit

Running Start is a concurrent enrollment program available through the Community College System of NH (including River Valley Community College) that provides high school students with the opportunity to take college courses while also completing the requirements for high school graduation. Students must elect to sign-up for Running Start near the beginning of the course and pay a reduced tuition (\$150 or less for a 3-credit course). Scholarships may be available for students who qualify.

College Transcripts

Requests for transcripts may be made to the Counseling Office. When the transcripts are to be sent out with college applications, the applications should be in to the Counseling Office two (2) weeks prior to the college's deadline. There is no fee for sending transcripts of current students. There is a fee of \$5 for alumni requesting transcripts after graduation.

College Visits

Juniors and seniors are encouraged to visit colleges for tours or interviews on non-school days. If needed, seniors can schedule up to four (4) excused days from school for college interviews, visits or orientations. Juniors are allowed two (2) college visitations in the spring semester. Students must complete a request form and return it to the Counseling Office **at least two (2) school days prior to the visit** in order for these visits to be excused. Without a completed form, the visit is counted as an unexcused absence and the student may forfeit any remaining visitation days. Students are responsible for classwork and homework missed.

Computers (personal)

OLMA encourages students to use their personal mobile electronic devices (Bring Your Own Device) at school. With teacher approval, students may use devices such as laptops, iPads, tablets and eReaders in the classroom to access and save information from the Internet, collaborate with other learners, and utilize productivity available to them. Cell phones are not allowed in the BYOD network.

Contacting School Personnel

Attendance – Contact the Main Office by phone or by email to amurray@mercyacademykeene.org by 8:30am on the day of the absence.

Behavioral issues, co-curricular activities, safety and security of building and grounds – Please contact the classroom teacher or activity advisor for any behavioral concerns in classes or activities. Continued concerns, or questions regarding attendance or building safety can be directed to the Principal.

Classroom/Academic issues – Contact the classroom teacher first, and then our School Counselor.

Family/social/emotional issues – Contact our School Counselor if your child is experiencing social or emotional issues (personal or family) that might affect their experience during the school day.

Counseling

The goal of the School Counselor is to assist students and parents in a variety of activities that affect educational development. Among these are scheduling of courses, overseeing internships, counseling for future educational and career opportunities, serving as a liaison between school and community groups, making resources available to students and parents to assist in decision-making, and short-term personal counseling and/or referral. The School Counselor adheres to a policy of confidentiality, except when the individual or the OLMA community is at risk. The School Counselor is responsible for assisting students in registering for college admission tests.

Course Failures

A failed course may be made up by repeating the course, completing an approved online course, tutoring by a teacher approved by the administration, or in some cases, demonstrating proficiency of specific course competencies.

Course Level Changes

Students wishing to change a level in any core course must be recommended by the current teacher. Level Change forms are available in the School Counselor's Office. Level changes are made when they are academically necessary and in the best interest of the student.

All students should be enrolled in challenging but reasonable courses in which they have the ability to succeed. Students in Honors classes must maintain a minimum grade of C or may be moved to lower-level course.

Course Selections

Students should discuss their course selections with their parents, teachers, and the School Counselor. Course selections are completed online or using the course selection forms each spring.

Credit Requirements

The Program of Studies contains a detailed description of all courses offered. It is important that students consult college catalogues of schools of their choice and plan their course selections according to these requirements if possible. Students are required to complete 28 credits for an OLMA diploma.

Exams

Mid-year and final examinations will be administered. Specific details will be course dependent. Students are required to take their exams on the dates scheduled in the school calendar. **No student is permitted to take an exam outside of the scheduled time without the approval of the School Counselor. Written requests from parents regarding extenuating circumstances must be made to the School Counselor two weeks prior to the exam period.**

Extended Learning Opportunities

Extended Learning Opportunities provide multiple ways for students to learn outside of the classroom and achieve credit towards High School Graduation. These personalized learning opportunities are founded on student interest and need, and are planned in advance, and include rigorous content. They offer authentic opportunities for students to collaborate with a Certified Teacher and/or a community partner to demonstrate competencies outside of a traditional classroom.

ELO's may take many forms, including independent study, private instruction, performing groups, and internships. ELO's are generated by student interest or need. Extended Learning Opportunities include four components: Research Reflection, Product and Presentation. Assessment is based on achievement and demonstration of High School Competencies

Financial Responsibilities

Prior to the school year, all parents signed an Enrollment Contract which indicates that students will not be able to take final exams and final grades will be shown as incomplete until an account is up-to-date or there is a written plan approved and on file with the Principal.

Grading Scale

LETTER GRADE	NUMBER RANGE	College Prep	Honors
A +	100-98	4.0	4.5
A	97-95	3.75	4.25
A-	94-92	3.5	4.0
B+	91-89	3.25	3.75
B	88-86	3.0	3.5
B-	85-83	2.75	3.25
C+	82-80	2.5	3.00
C	79-77	2.25	2.75
C-	76-74	2.0	2.5
D+	73-71	1.75	2.25
D	70-68	1.5	2.0
D-	67-65	1.25	1.75
F	64-0	0	0

Grading System

Numeric grades are provided on report cards and recorded on school transcripts. At OLMA the passing grade is 65. Grades are weighted based on course levels.

Graduation Requirements

The *minimum* graduation requirements are:

English	4	
Math	3	
Science	3	
Social Studies	3	
Theology	4	
Mercy	2	
Phys Ed	1	
Health	.5	
Technology	.5	
World Language	2	
Fine Arts	1	
Electives	4	
Total	28	Plus 60 hours of community service.

Homework

Homework may take the form of written assignments, reading, reviewing, or studying/preparing for long range tests or projects and is an integral part of the curriculum and essential to the learning process. Homework is assigned at the discretion of the teacher and may be graded or non-graded. Homework is expected to be submitted on the day it is due.

Students cannot work together on homework unless explicit permission is given by the teacher.

Honors/Awards

Students who graduate with a cumulative grade average of 98% or higher will be designated "Summa Cum Laude" (with high honors). Students with a 95.00% to 97% will be designated "Magna Cum Laude" (with great honors). Students with a 92.00% to 94% will be designated "Cum Laude (with honors). Transcripts will show "Candidate for Summa Cum Laude," "Candidate for Magna Cum Laude," or "Candidate for Cum Laude" based on the cumulative and weighted average at the midpoint of their senior year.

Honor Roll

Unweighted grades are used for determining honor roll for each quarter report card.

First Honors 92% and above in all but one subject.

Second Honors 83% and above in all but one subject.

All students must be enrolled in a minimum of six (6) classes in order to be named to the honor roll.

Incompletes

In cases of extended absence excused by the Principal or School Counselor, a quarter or final grade of incomplete may be posted on the report card. All Incompletes must be made up at a time agreed upon with the administration.

Make-up Work

Following an absence from class, the student is required to ask teachers what work was missed. Arrangements to make up work must be done upon the student's return to school. The teacher will determine a reasonable make-up time. Students may be penalized for work not completed on time. **If a student willfully cuts a class or skips school, make-up work may not be allowed.**

When there is a planned absence, the student is required to gather advanced assignments from his/her teachers and to establish a schedule for completing assignments and tests. Since it is not always possible or desirable to provide all of the assignments that will be covered during the time of the absence, some assignments may be required to be completed by the student upon his/her return to school. The parents will submit a letter to the office detailing the date of departure and date of return, as well as, reason for absence. This request needs to be made at least **five** school days prior to the planned absence.

Students missing a class because of a scheduled school event, field trip or for other excused absences must make arrangements to complete missed work. A student missing work during an unexcused absence must complete work on the day they return. Parents of students missing school due to personal travel, vacations, extended holidays, or family circumstances **MUST** notify the Main Office with specific reasons and dates of absence at least one week **PRIOR to the absence**. Administrators will determine the appropriate makeup period and notify teachers that the student will not be in attendance. Students are encouraged to travel with their books and follow the class work assigned. Any work not completed in the assigned makeup time may be subject to penalties.

Parenting Plans

In the case of divorced or separated parents, parents shall submit to the school an updated parenting plan that sets forth the **decision-making, residential and financial** responsibilities of the parents. In the absence of submission to the school of a parenting plan, court order, or decree to the contrary, both parents will have the opportunity to request academic reports and information pertaining to the school.

Progress Report

Students receive progress reports midway through each quarter as noted on the school calendar. Progress reports include summaries of grades as well as teacher comments and are posted on RenWeb to all parents/guardians.

Records Release

When students or parents request, permission is granted for OLMA to release the student's transcripts, grades, recommendations and other information required by college. In other cases when transcripts are requested, parents will be asked to sign a "Records Release Form" granting OLMA permission to send requested information. Students 18 years of age and older do not need a parental signature and may sign on their own. **Note: sending test scores to the colleges is the responsibility of the student.**

RenWeb Parent Web

RenWeb is a web-based student information system used by Our Lady of Mercy Academy to maintain student data including attendance, grades, and course information, as well as used by parents for ordering lunches. RenWeb accounts should be created and maintained by all families. Information will be provided at the beginning of the school year.

Report Cards

Report cards are posted on RenWeb to parents/guardians at the end of each of the four quarterly marking periods.

Service Requirement

All students are required to complete 15 hours of service each year. Students are required to complete a service form. This community service is a graduation requirement. Project opportunities will be available through Campus Ministry, Mercy Project, and the House system.

Standardized Testing

Students in grade 9 can arrange to take the PSAT 8/9 at their home school which follows the format of the PSAT and SAT test that are continued in grades 10, 11, and 12. The ninth-grade test measures reading, writing and language, and math. Ninth graders may share their results with Kahn Academy for a personalized practice program based on their individual test scores.

Sophomores and juniors should take the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) in the fall of both their sophomore and junior years. This testing should be arranged at the student's home school. Scores from the junior year testing are used to qualify students for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Results and detailed explanations will be made available to students and parents. Individualized SAT review is available through the College Board.

Students should plan to take the SAT and/or ACT at least twice, usually during the spring of the junior year and the fall of the senior year. As part of the NH State testing program all juniors participate in the SAT free of charge. The optional writing portion is strongly recommended and must be paid for by the family. Students are automatically registered for this special test by Mercy Academy and will be given on site. Once students have taken this test, they can again use the online review materials or register for an SAT prep program to prepare for repeating the test, off site, in the fall of the senior year. The exams are given nationally on specific dates chosen by the College Board. Some colleges also require SAT Subject Tests. All subject tests are not available on every test date. Information is available in the Counseling Office or on the College Board website.

The ACT is another type of college entrance exam. This tests students in the areas of English, Math, Reading and Science with an optional Writing Assessment.

Students in grades 11 and 12 should research the testing requirements of the college in which they have interest to assure they meet the expectations and schedule testing at appropriate times. All student-athletes should pay particular attention to dates as there are sometimes conflicts with athletic events.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND EXPECTATIONS

Cheating

The administration and faculty consider cheating a serious violation of trust. Students violating this trust will be held responsible for their actions. The teacher will notify parents of the incident. It will result in a grade of zero for the activity (tests, quizzes, assignments, etc.,) and will be reported to the administration. Further sanctions may be imposed by the administration in accordance with the severity of the incident.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism (the representation of another's words, thoughts, or ideas as one's own) is another form of intellectual dishonesty. A student engaged in writing and utilizing information from sources other than personal experience will appropriately acknowledge the sources. Plagiarism includes the following:

1. Implementing a direct quotation, graph, table etc. without citing the source.
2. Paraphrasing the ideas, interpretation, and expressions of another without giving credit to the source.
3. Failing to acknowledge or document sources.

Students MUST assume that any paper, project, report or presentation should always give credit to the original source. All sources of information should be credited or cited according to the Modern Language Association (MLA) Style Sheet. Students are always encouraged to seek assistance if confused in any way regarding sources and citations.

Student Responsibilities

Every student has the responsibility and obligation to assist in protecting the integrity of the learning process by (1) not participating, either directly or indirectly, in cheating or plagiarism, (2) actively discouraging cheating or plagiarism by others, and (3) and reporting all instances of which a student has knowledge. A person who knowingly assists another person in cheating or plagiarism is as guilty as the person receiving help.

Acceptable Use Policy for Computer Network

The Saint Joseph Regional School computer network is established for the **educational and professional use of Saint Joseph Regional School students, faculty and staff**. The goal in providing this service is to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

- Users are expected to avoid actions which are illegal, unethical, or against school rules. **Such actions include, but are not limited to:**
- Making false statements about other people – harassment of any kind, direct or **indirect personal attacks.**
- Deliberate access to inappropriate materials – including “adult” materials.
- Sending e-mail or PM (Personal instant messages) **on the school’s computers.**
- Damaging the computers, computer system or computer network – including changing the configuration of the computers and the software, or any disruption of the computer system.
- Violating copyright laws – Users should cite information, found electronically, in the **same way they do information found in printed sources.** Saint Joseph Regional School **will not** tolerate the use of its system for the illegal copying or storing of illegally acquired **material.**
- Accessing other people’s files – Students may not attempt to gain unauthorized access to **any file, computer or network at Saint Joseph Regional School or through its systems, or go beyond authorized access.** This includes any attempt to log in through **another person’s account, access another person’s files, or take advantage of a user who inadvertently leaves a computer** without logging out.
- Students found in violation of these guidelines will have their network privileges revoked and **may face further disciplinary action.**

Electronic Devices for Learning

OLMA affirms the educational use of electronic devices to promote learning and increase computer literacy. Students may use electronic devices such as laptops, notebooks, and tablets (not CELL PHONES) with the following restrictions:

- Students may use electronic devices in the classroom with the **permission of the teacher.**
- Under no circumstance may a student use technology while taking an assessment unless approved by the teacher.
- Students may use electronic devices **for educational, not social or recreational use** during lunch, study halls, and in the library.
- **At no time** is a student allowed to wear headphones with an approved electronic device, unless approved by a teacher for educational purposes.

COURSES

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Students may submit a portfolio and/or a teacher recommendation in order to bypass Art I.

ART I

Levels available: Open

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • 1 credit - Semester

An exploration of the concepts, media, and processes of making art. Students engage in a range of individual and collaborative creative projects focused on developing visual literacy, skill-building, and self-expression.

ART II: PAINTING

Levels available: Open

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • 1 credit - Semester

Pre-requisite: Art I

An introduction to color theory and color harmonies using chalk pastels, oil pastels, watercolor and acrylic paint. Painting subjects will be from life, photograph, abstract, narrative and expressionist.

ART II: 3D DESIGN

Levels available: Open

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • 1 credit - Semester

Pre-requisite: Art I

An Exploration of all mediums 3D including paper, cardboard, plaster, clay and wood, among others. Student work will explore both additive and subtractive sculpture methods while being inspired by both representational and abstract sources.

ART III: PAINTING II

Levels available: Open

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • 1 credit - Semester

Pre-requisite: Painting I

Students will learn to work in a series and to create a body of work based on a concept developed at the beginning of the semester. The course is designed to create a more independent approach to painting and to conceptual art that still utilizes the skills built upon in Painting I.

ART III: PRINTMAKING

Levels available: Open

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • 1 credit - Semester

Pre-requisite: Painting I

A survey of techniques and history of printmaking. Investigation of “green” relief, screen-printing, and monotype processes. Covers both black-and-white and color printing processes. Further brainstorming, drawing and design skills, and professional printmaking practice will be emphasized.

ART III: CERAMICS I

Levels available: Open

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • 1 credit - Semester

Pre-requisite: 3D Design

With a focus on both hand-building and wheel work, students will create both vessels and sculptural work that emphasizes the properties of clay. Students will have field-trip demonstrations at Keene State's Ceramics Lab.

2D DESIGN

Levels available: Open

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • .5 credit - A/B Semester

Covers basic design principles including the use of emphasis, harmony, movement, form, color, repetition and variety. Student work is mostly abstract and completed in a variety of 2D media including charcoal, graphite, pastel, and paint.

DRAWING

Levels available: Open

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • .5 credit - A/B Semester

Students work from representational sources to learn the basics of drawing. Still life, self-portrait, and perspective drawings are completed in a variety of media including graphite, ink and charcoal.

COMPUTERS/TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE

Levels available: Open

Grade 9, 10 • .5 credit - A/B Semester

This required freshman course is designed to give students a practical understanding of what computer science is and how it can be applied to all other subject areas and courses they subsequently take.

Topics include:

- Microsoft Office Suite and Google Applications
- Internet Safety
- Web credibility -CRAAP (Currency, Reliance, Authority, Accuracy and Purpose)
- Basic video editing
- Basic web design
- Introduction to Programing
- Ethical us of computers
- Human computer interaction
- Social impact of computing

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE

Levels available: College Prep or Honors

Grade 9 • 1 credit - Semester

To prepare students for the rigorous demands of high school, this course emphasizes development of vocabulary, grammar, writing, speaking, listening and research skills. It includes intensive work in descriptive and expository writing with special attention to prewriting techniques, sentence variety, and paragraph development. Students read, write, analyze, and discuss the literary genres of the short story, drama, novel, poetry and nonfiction. Each freshman must complete a research paper to receive credit for the course.

WORLD LITERATURE

Levels available: College Prep or Honors

Grade 10 • 1 credit - Semester

Complementing the World History course required for sophomores, this course exposes students to the works of major world authors including a sample of African, Latin American, European, and Asian writers in a historical and cultural context. Students study changing cultural and historical patterns in literature with an eye towards recognizing the shared life experiences that connect all of humanity. Classroom activities and readings encourage students to broaden their perspectives of literature and life, to develop analytical skills, to think creatively and refine their abilities to communicate effectively through spoken and written word. Students write essays and a required research paper to refine their analytic and communication skills.

AMERICAN LITERATURE

Levels available: College Prep or Honors

Grade 11 • 1 credit - Semester

Complementing the U.S. History course required for juniors, this course is an historical survey of American Literature from 1620 through the 20th Century. Classroom activities stress the writing process and research skills culminating in a research project using internal documentation. Students also work extensively with vocabulary and reading comprehension preparation for the SAT. American Literature seeks to broaden the students' perspective and deepen their understanding of the inevitable relationship between the literature and history of any given era.

BRITISH LITERATURE

Levels available: College Prep or Honors

Grade 12 • 1 credit - Semester

A chronological course that explores the development of British literature from its origin to the early 20th century. Literary works covered will include works of fiction and nonfiction, Puritanism, the Enlightenment, Romanticism, Realism, Naturalism, and Modernism. Extensive reading, critical writing, and analytical discussions will center on a thematic approach. History, culture, the lives of the authors and their influence on society will be emphasized. A research paper is integral to this course, as is the reading of novels. College essays will be explored during the first term.

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

Level Available: Advanced Placement (AP)

Grades 11, 12 • 1 Credit - A/B Full Year

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

This course enables students to pursue college-level studies of rhetoric and composition while studying the American literary tradition. AP Language and Composition emphasizes the rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts and the development and revision of evidence-based analytic and argument writing. Non-fiction texts, including essays, speeches, letters, graphics, and other images, are the basis of the reading material; fictional works are included occasionally. AP Language & Composition paves the way for future study of rhetoric, composition, argument, and interdisciplinary writing. A research project is required. Summer work is assigned. Note: Students are required to take the AP Exam in May.

INTRODUCTION TO FILM

Levels available: Open

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • .5 Credit – A/B Semester

This course will introduce an appreciation of film, exploring the varieties of film experience, and the ways of viewing. Students will learn about the basic cinematic techniques and structures, including mise-en-scene and montage, use of cinematic time and space, the image, soundtrack, and the script. Consideration will also be given to analyzing the fundamentals of film production, directing, acting, and editing; how the elements of the production process are analyzed separately, then brought together to show how they create the emotional and intellectual impact of the film experience.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

PRE-ALGEBRA

Levels available: College Prep

Grade: 9 • 1 credit - Semester

Students in this course will spend time further developing their computational skills and number sense. Students will encounter situations where they will need to be proficient in performing mathematical operations on integers, decimals and fractions. Students will then translate those skills to algebraic expressions. Students will solve increasingly complex problems requiring proper use of order of operations, simplifying, and solving multistep equations. Successful completion of this course will place a student in Algebra 1.

ALGEBRA I

Levels available: College Prep/Honors

Grades 9, 10 • 1 credit - Semester

This is a traditional course in elementary algebra with an emphasis on solving problems. Students will also employ their skills on a variety of projects throughout the course designed to extend their classwork into a broader understanding of the world around them. The course falls into five basic parts: 1) the four operations on real numbers and their use in the solution of simple equations and related problems; 2) linear equations, inequalities, functions and relations, and systems of open sentences; 3) irrational numbers and exponents; 4) exposure to rational, exponential and quadratic functions and equations; 5) polynomials and factoring, leading to the solution of more complicated problems. A scientific calculator is required for the course. A Texas Instruments TI-83 or TI-84 series graphing calculator is recommended.

GEOMETRY

Levels available: College Prep/Honors

Grades 9, 10 • 1 credit - Semester

This course is an in-depth exploration of the concepts of Euclidean plane and 3-dimensional geometry. The course emphasizes deductive reasoning and rigorous proof which are the foundations of higher mathematics. Students are required to understand and use the vocabulary and concepts of geometry which are explored from the postulate and theorem level. Students will develop deductive and inductive reasoning skills through the writing of proofs, problem solving, and an exposure to technical drawing methods to solve problems visually. Students will practice solving problems and work on various cooperative and independent exercises and projects in their day-to-day work. A scientific calculator is required for the course. A Texas Instruments TI-83 or TI-84 series graphing calculator is recommended.

ALGEBRA II

Levels available: College Prep/Honors

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12 • 1 credit - Semester

Prerequisite: Algebra I

This course is offered to entering freshmen who have demonstrated mastery of Algebra 1 content. The course includes in depth analysis of higher degree polynomials; analysis, interpretation and graphing of rational functions, including asymptotic behavior; an in-depth consideration of the conic sections, including transformations. A Texas Instruments TI-83 or TI-84 series graphing calculator is required.

PRECALCULUS-TRIGONOMETRY

Levels available: Honors

Grades 10, 11, 12 • 1 credit - Semester

Prerequisite: Algebra I and II, Geometry

Precalculus-Trigonometry is designed to give a thorough preparation for college Calculus. This course will include the study of trigonometry, vectors in planes and space including dot and cross products, polar and parametric equations and their applications, and 3-D coordinate systems. Students will be expected to develop convincing, well organized presentations of their solutions to problems and to explore applications through a variety of project based learning opportunities. A Texas Instruments TI-83 or TI-84 series graphing calculator is required.

PRECALCULUS-FUNCTIONS

Levels available: Honors

Grades 10, 11, 12 • 1 credit - Semester

Prerequisite: Algebra I and II, Geometry

Precalculus-Functions is designed to give a thorough preparation for college Calculus. This course is an analysis of families of functions and relations – polynomials; rational functions; radical functions; exponential functions; logarithmic functions; trigonometric functions - and their graphs. Students will solve problems both algebraically and through the graphing calculator and graphing software; the course will include an introduction to the fundamental aspects of Calculus including an introduction to limits, derivatives, and general curve sketching. A Texas Instruments TI-83 or TI-84 series graphing calculator is required.

CALCULUS/AP CALCULUS

Levels available: Honors/Advanced Placement

Grades 11, 12 • 1 credit – A/B Full Year

Prerequisite: Precalculus Trigonometry and Precalculus Functions, teacher recommendation

Calculus/AP Calculus is meant for the student who is interested in pursuing a college major with a strong emphasis in mathematics. The course will cover three main topics of Calculus: limits, derivatives, and integrals. The course will emphasize a multi-representational approach to calculus with concepts and solutions expressed graphically, numerically, and analytically. The course sets the understanding of derivatives, integrals, and limits as a priority, as well as applications of these concepts. Students explore the concepts of limits and continuity; differentiation and its applications to problems of extreme and related rates of change; integration and its application to the solution of differential equations; definite integrals and their application to finding areas, volumes, and length of curves. A Texas Instruments TI-83 or TI-84 series graphing calculator is required.

STATISTICS

Levels available: College Prep/Honors

Grades 10, 11, 12 • 1 credit – Semester

Prerequisite: Algebra I and Geometry

This course is designed to give students a foundation for further studies in math while emphasizing preparation for majors in psychology, sociology, and other data intensive fields. The course is intended for students wishing to complete the equivalent of a one-semester non-calculus based college course in statistics. Students will be introduced to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. A Texas Instruments TI-83 or TI-84 series graphing calculator is required.

BUSINESS/CAREER MATH

Levels available: College Prep

Grades 11, 12 • 1 credit – Semester

Prerequisite: Algebra I and Geometry

This course will concentrate on application specific mathematics. Topics include data analysis, probability, measurement, basic trigonometry, and applications of algebraic and geometric problem-solving techniques. Students will solve real world related problems that deal with common life situations, simple and compound interest, mortgages and loans, taxes, inventory and overhead and other business statistics. The learning process will include multiple small group projects related to the subject. A scientific calculator is required.

MUSIC/PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

CONCERT CHORUS

Levels available: Open

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • 1 credit - A/B Full year

****With special approval from the School Counselor, this course can be .5 Credit A/B Semester.***

This course will focus on the development of basic vocal skills in a group setting. Students will explore various styles of vocal music including traditional, popular, blues, rocks, jazz. etc. Rehearsal techniques will be presented, with an emphasis on the development of the vocal ensemble for the purpose of school and/or public performance. Students will also learn basic music reading skills, harmony and theory as it applies to vocal performance. Other music skills that will be developed include part-singing, pitch control, rhythm dictation, breathing, musical interpretation, phrasing and enunciation. Chorus students should be prepared to participate in all public performances.

BEGINNER BASS

Levels available: Open

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • .5 credit - A/B Semester

This class is designed for those students with little or no bass experience. Students will have the opportunity to learn a variety of chords and melodies that will enable them to play songs from the jazz, rock and pop music styles. Class time will be divided between short learning drills, chord and melody practice, small group practice of guitar ensemble music, and learning to play jazz, rock, and pop songs. NOTE: Students must provide their own instruments.

INTERMEDIATE BASS

Levels available: Open

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • .5 credit - A/B Semester

This class is designed for those students with strong basic bass experience. Students will have the opportunity to move beyond basic chord and melody playing and concentrate on more advanced techniques such as barre chords, finger picking, and more advanced bass ensemble music. Students will also have the opportunity to learn more advanced songs from the jazz, rock, and pop music styles. NOTE: Students must provide their own instruments.

BEGINNER GUITAR

Levels available: Open

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • .5 credit - A/B Semester

This class is designed for those students with little or no guitar experience. Students will have the opportunity to learn a variety of chords and melodies that will enable them to play songs from the rock, pop, and folk music styles. Class time will be divided between short learning drills, chord and melody practice, small group practice of guitar ensemble music, and learning to play folk, rock, and pop songs. NOTE: Students must provide their own instruments.

INTERMEDIATE GUITAR

Levels available: Open

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • .5 credit - A/B Semester

This class is designed for those students with strong basic guitar experience. Students will have the opportunity to move beyond basic chord and melody playing and concentrate on more advanced techniques such as barre chords, finger picking, and more advanced guitar ensemble music. Students will also have the opportunity to learn more advanced songs from the folk, rock, and pop music styles. NOTE: Students must provide their own instruments.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Levels available: Open

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • 1 credit - A/B Full year

****With special approval from the School Counselor, this course can be .5 Credit A/B Semester.***

This course will be an all-inclusive ensemble with an emphasis on improvisation. Students will be introduced to soloing concepts and how to navigate the genre. We will break down jazz and its styles to give students a broad understanding of the genre, and what sets it apart from other kinds of music. Auditions will be necessary to create a well-tailored experience for all students, but will not dictate acceptance into the class.

MUSIC HISTORY AND THEORY

Levels available: Open

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • .5 credit - A/B Semester

Students will learn elements of music theory and apply this to either their instrument of choice or listening examples. This course will include history and written music studies as they connect to what we hear today. Class will strive towards a practical understanding of concepts in composition, instrumental techniques or ear training, and a basic knowledge of music history.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Physical Education I

Levels available: Open

Grades 9, 10, 11 • .5 credit - A/B Semester

Physical literacy is the ability, confidence, and desire to be physically active for life. Personal fitness principles and concepts are introduced and practiced throughout the semester during activities at the Summit Athletic Center. The personal fitness curriculum is designed with the intent of improving the many aspects of wellness including, cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength, endurance, and flexibility. Personal fitness allows students the opportunity to establish their own fitness goals based on specific fitness testing at the start of the semester and repeated at the conclusion of the course. This assesses the progress made performing a training program that targets their fitness goals and desired results. In addition, strategies, tactics, and concepts necessary for participation in games will be explored.

Extended learning is essential in meeting curriculum goals and includes student-driven exploration of local outdoor activities, as weather permits. The objective of this course is to help students gain self-discipline, accept personal challenge, experience personal accomplishment, and make fitness a life-long goal.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION II

Levels available: Open

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • .5 credit - A/B Semester

The personal fitness curriculum is designed with the intent of improving the many aspects of wellness including, cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength and endurance, flexibility, body composition, and mental health. This class incorporates a wide variety of physical activities in order to target every one of these aspects, such as strength training, circuit training, and aerobic and anaerobic activities. Personal fitness allows students the opportunity to create their own fitness plan and choose exercises and activities that target their specific fitness goals and desired results. Students will also explore fitness technology, which can help monitor their progress and workouts.

HEALTH

Levels available: Open

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • .5 credit - A/B Semester

This course will help students acquire an understanding of health concepts and skills to apply when making healthy decisions to recognize, improve, sustain, and promote personal, family, and community health with a study of health-related careers. The goal is to increase health literacy in order to apply knowledge and skills to enhance personal health and the health of others. A skills-based approach is the practice for this course. The class includes a study of Theology of the Body as the foundation from which all other topics will flow, including nutrition, fitness, relationships, and human development with a study of the human body and its systems. Additionally, topics, including but not limited to, mental health, substance abuse, consumer health, and suicide prevention will be explored in this comprehensive curriculum. Extended learning is essential in meeting curriculum goals, and includes exploration of fitness opportunities, both indoors and outdoors, as weather permits. The objective of this course is to empower students to make decisions regarding mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual health to impact their lives in a positive way.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

EARTH AND SPACE

Levels available: College Prep

Grades 9, 10, 11 • 1 credit - Semester

Earth and Space is the scientific study of our planet and the surrounding solar system. This course covers the study of space, geologic structures and forces, the waters on our planet, and the atmospheric forces that shape our world. Units of study include astronomy, Earth's minerals and resources, processes inside Earth, processes on Earth's surface, Earth's history and water bodies, weather and climate, and the environment and human actions. This course aims to develop students' appreciation for the natural world and the small part that we play in the larger galaxy.

BIOLOGY

Levels available: College Prep/Honors

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • 1 credit - Semester

Biology is a life science. This course covers the study of life from its chemical basis to the structure and function of the organism. Areas of study include Scientific Method, Chemistry of Life, Ecology, Cell Structures and Functions, Photosynthesis and Cellular Respiration, Mitosis/Meiosis, DNA, Genetics, Evolution, and the Human Body Systems. This course also aims to develop in students an appreciation for the natural world and our role in its stewardship.

CHEMISTRY

Levels available: College Prep/Honors

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • 1 credit - Semester

Chemistry is the scientific study of matter. This course aims to develop students as practicing laboratory scientists who can ask and answer questions of their own about what the world is made of and how and why chemical reactions occur. This course also aims to develop students' conceptual and quantitative understanding of chemical principles. Units of study in this course include the nature of the atom, naming of chemicals and compounds, bonding, the periodic table, reactions and equilibrium, stoichiometry, behavior of gases, acids, bases, and safe laboratory practices.

PHYSICS

Levels available: College Prep/Honors

Grades 10, 11, 12 • 1 credit – Semester

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 or permission from instructor.

Physics is the scientific study of the most fundamental laws of nature. This course aims to further develop students' appreciation for and competence in the scientific method. This course also aims to develop students' conceptual and quantitative understanding of physical principles. Students perform experiments to develop proficiency in laboratory technique in applying physical principles to the analysis of experimental data. Units of study in this course include motion, Newton's Laws, collisions, energy, thermodynamics, waves, sound, light, fundamental particles of nature, radioactivity, quantum mechanics, and electricity and magnetism.

AP BIOLOGY

Levels available: Advanced Placement (AP)

Grades 11, 12 • 1.5 credits - Fall semester and Spring Semester A/B

Prerequisite: Biology

The AP Biology course is equivalent in content, depth, and complexity to an introductory biology course at the college level. This course is designed to prepare the student to excel on the AP exam offered in May, and follows the AP curriculum closely. AP Biology is an in-depth, content-intensive study of biological principles that allows students the opportunity to engage hands-on in scientific experimentation. Units of study include cell biology, genetics, DNA technology, enzyme catalysis, photosynthesis, ecology, evolution, and physiology. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement exam in May.

AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Levels available: Advanced Placement (AP)

Grades 11, 12 • 1.5 credits - Fall semester and Spring Semester A/B

Prerequisite: Biology and Chemistry

Environmental Science is a life science course in which students will be challenged to develop a knowledge base and demonstrate a mastery of significant environmental issues. Students will investigate local and global events and conditions that impact our planet and will be given the opportunity to enhance their appreciation of Earth's resources and assume or strengthen a lifelong commitment to the care for our fragile planet. Environmental Science will study the relationships between humans, human societies, and their natural and created environments. Topics covered will include ecosystem components and the energy flow within ecosystems, evolution and the development of biodiversity, climate effects on terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, community ecological structure and the effects on sustainability, and the population dynamics within an ecosystem, survey of environmental problems, their causes, effects, and solutions. Further problems examined include living sustainably, organic and local foods, and fossil fuels. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement exam in May.

AP CHEMISTRY

Levels available: Advanced Placement (AP)

Grades 11, 12 • 1.5 credits - Fall semester and Spring Semester A/B

Prerequisite: Chemistry

The AP Chemistry course is equivalent in content, depth, and complexity to an introductory chemistry course at the college level. This course is designed to prepare the student to excel on the AP exam offered in May, and follows the AP curriculum closely. AP Chemistry is an in-depth, content-intensive study of chemical principles that allows students the opportunity to engage hands-on in scientific experimentation. Units of study include chemical reactions, modern atomic theory, molecular bonding, hybridization, organic chemistry, stoichiometry, thermodynamics, kinetics, aqueous equilibrium, acids, bases, precipitation, reduction, oxidation, electrochemistry, and nuclear chemistry. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement exam in May.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

CIVICS AND ECONOMICS

Levels available: College Prep

Grade 9 • 1 credit - Semester

The first half of this course focuses on the 3 branches of the federal government, the U.S. Constitution, local & state laws, individual rights and responsibilities of citizens, and the government's interactions with society, the economy and the environment. Students will apply their knowledge of these structures as they relate to current events. The second half of the course will introduce students to the fundamental concepts of economics and philosophies through the study of Adam Smith, Karl Marx and John Maynard Keynes. An overview of micro and macroeconomics will develop an understanding of larger economic theory. Topics in this course will include cycles in the economy, financial institutions and the role of government, international economics and trade, and personal finance. *This course fulfills a graduation requirement.*

WORLD HISTORY

Levels available: College Prep/Honors

Grade 10 • 1 credit - Semester

This course examines human development from the dawn of civilization through the Renaissance. Students learn about the socioeconomic conditions, political institutions, and ideological attitudes that have marked various time periods throughout history and across the globe. Students will conduct inquiry-based research to examine historical events, cultural developments, and social and family structures. This course challenges students to develop critical thinking, reading and writing skills, to participate in complex historical analysis and to engage meaningfully with primary and secondary sources. *This course fulfills a graduation requirement.*

UNITED STATES HISTORY

Levels available: College Prep/Honors

Grade 11 • 1 credit - Semester

This is a survey course that begins with colonial developments that gave rise to the United States and proceeds through key events in American history from the 20th and 21st century. The major events studied will include Early Colonization and Native American Relationships, Revolutionary War, Civil War, Reconstruction, Industrialization, the Gilded Age, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, Civil Rights, and the Global War on Terror. Students will be expected to demonstrate a thorough understanding of history through lecture, discussions, reading, writing assignments and the analysis of primary sources.

PSYCHOLOGY

Levels available: College Prep

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12 • 1 Credit - Semester

Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Focused on the fundamental facts and principles of psychology, it explores the broader context of contemporary personal and social concerns, including the latest research and medical breakthroughs by neuroscientists in understanding the functions, mapping, and healing of the human brain. The topics covered will also enhance the students' awareness of personality and behavior, group dynamics, learning styles, multiple intelligences, and the impact and treatment of such disorders as depression, autism, and attention deficit hyperactive disorder.

AP UNITED STATES HISTORY

Level Available: Advanced Placement (AP)

Grade 12 • 1.5 Credits - Fall Semester and Spring A/B Semester

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

AP U.S. History covers the spectrum of American history from pre-Columbian days to the present. Using chronological and thematic approaches to the material, the course exposes students to extensive primary and secondary sources and to the interpretations of various historians. Students will learn historical thinking skills that reflect the tasks of professional historians. While learning to master these tasks, AP U.S. History students will act as "apprentice historians." Lastly, the course is structured chronologically, divided into 9 units. Each unit includes one or more of the nine periods and/or key concepts outlined in the AP U.S. History curriculum framework. NOTE: Students in this course are required to take the AP US History exam in May.

THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

SACRED SCRIPTURE

Levels available: Open

Grade 9 • 1 credit - Semester

This course provides an overview of Sacred Scripture with focus on Salvation History through God's revelation of Himself in relationship with His people and the Covenants He made with them. The fulfillment of Old Testament Covenants is shown in the Life of Jesus Christ and Paschal Mystery. Students will also gain an appreciation of the birth of the Catholic Church at Pentecost and its early life through the Acts of the Apostles. Catholic principles for understanding and interpretation of the Bible are used to help students understand Sacred Scripture as well as the message of Joy and love which transcends the ages.

CATHOLICISM

Levels available: Open

Grade 10 • 1 credit - Semester

The Catholicism course is designed to provide a foundation of intellectual understanding and spiritual appreciation for authentic Catholic Christianity. The principles of faith and what it means to be Catholic will be illuminated through study of The Catechism of the Catholic Church, Sacred Scripture, the seven Sacraments, and the lives of the Saints. Students will discuss the relationship God has with His people, the structure of the Church, and the mission of Vocations as the adventure of joy and love for which each person was created.

HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND WORLD RELIGIONS

Levels available: Open

Grade 11 • 1 credit - Semester

The purpose of this course is to provide a general knowledge of the Catholic Church's history from its founding by Jesus Christ up to the present. Students will learn about the Church's 2000 years of history as the living Body of Christ, which includes divine and human elements. The development of Catholic doctrine and traditions will be explored as well as the Church's leadership and governance by the successors of the Apostles through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This course also reviews the emergence of other various belief systems and their differences and similarities with Catholicism. Students explore the overall role of religious belief in the course of human history. Specific emphasis is given to the five major religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

ETHICS

Levels available: Open

Grade 12 • 1 credit - Semester

Ethics is the study that deals with what is right and wrong, goodness and evil in light of action. We will examine questions proper to ethics: What is happiness? What makes a deed right or wrong? What is human fulfillment? Is there a rational basis for human action? What is human freedom? How does ethics relate to the community? We will reflect on these and other key questions by examining the ideas of Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Thomas Hobbes, Immanuel Kant, John Stuart Mills and Friederich Nietzsche. Special attention will be paid to the following ethical concerns: cultural and individualistic relativism, subjectivism, determinism, rationality, and freedom. Finally, we will discuss the role which religion—and Catholic Christianity in particular—play in contemporary ethical debates.

THE MERCY PROJECT

One unique component of Our Lady of Mercy Academy's curriculum is participation each year in The Mercy Project. The Mercy Project is our interpretation of a community service-based course in which students play active roles in both our immediate and extended neighborhoods, while embodying the Spirit and values of Jesus Christ.

SERVICE

Levels available: Open

Grade 9 .5 credit - A/B Semester

First-Year Students will take Service, where they will study principles of sociocultural relationships and how to identify unmet needs in a community. Students will learn to describe models of local, national, and global service and will organize and participate in activities that relate to their studies and interests. This course will include guest speakers from existing community service organizations and local clergy.

LEADERSHIP

Levels available: Open

Grade 10 .5 credit - A/B Semester

Sophomores will study Leadership. In this course, students will learn the psycho-social principals behind leadership, management, and organization, while continuing to develop their personal interest in local, national, and global current events and service opportunities. They will also learn about nonprofit Board composition and governance, and the important role that volunteer Boards play in leading organizations. This course will include guest speakers from local businesses, city officials, professors, clergy, and nonprofit Board members.

BUSINESS

Levels available: Open

Grade 11 .5 credit - A/B Semester

Juniors will examine Business. In this course, third year students will learn the basics of accounting, fundraising, marketing, finance, human resources, strategic planning, and law. They will come to understand how knowledge of all of these subjects is critical in creating the framework of their own nonprofit organization geared toward service. This will include guest speakers from local businesses and nonprofits, financial advisors, professors, as well as marketing and development professionals.

THE MERCY PROJECT

Levels available: Open

Grade 12 .5 credit - A/B Semester

In their final year, seniors will put their nonprofit business into action, culminating in an extensive presentation of their progress in the area of their expertise. This course will be overseen by an academic advisor and may be taught as an independent study.

WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

New students requesting to begin their language course of study at a higher level than French I/Spanish I will be required to take a written/verbal placement exam.

FRENCH I

Level Available: College Prep

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • 1 Credit - Semester

Students will develop communication skills centered around greetings, introductions, farewells, expressions of courtesy, personal descriptions, family and friends, school life, home life, community life, leisure activities and weather. Students will learn about a variety of French-speaking countries and make cultural comparisons between their own community and the French-speaking world.

FRENCH I/II

Level Available: College Prep

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • 2 Credits - Full Year

This course combines content from French I and II. Students will develop communication skills centered around greetings, introductions, farewells, expressions of courtesy, personal descriptions, family and friends, school life, home life, community life, leisure activities and weather. They will also communicate about daily routines, leisure activities, travel, eating and shopping habits, clothing, living quarters, chores and entertainment. Students will learn about French-speaking countries and the city of Paris, making comparisons between their own community and the French-speaking world.

FRENCH II

Level Available: College Prep

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • 1 Credit - Semester

Prerequisite: French I and/or teacher recommendation

Students will build upon their communication skills from French I. They will learn to communicate about themselves, daily routines, leisure activities and travel, eating and shopping habits, clothing, living quarters, chores and entertainment. Students will learn about daily life in Paris, continue to learn about French-speaking countries while making comparisons between their own community and the French-speaking world.

FRENCH III

Level Available: College Prep

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • 1 Credit - Semester

Prerequisite: French II and/or teacher recommendation

Students will build upon their communication skills from French II. They will communicate about the environment, nature and animals, the body and health, emotions and relationships, celebrations, food shopping and preparation, travel and leisure activities, society structures, and family. Students will learn about family structures and etiquette in the Francophone world, as well as immigration. They will learn about the regions of France, Paris monuments, making cultural comparisons between their own community and the Francophone world.

FRENCH IV

Level Available: College Prep

Grades 10, 11, 12 • 1 Credit - Semester

Prerequisite: French III and/or teacher recommendation

Students will be expected to use French in the classroom at all times. Students will continue to develop communication skills from French III. They will learn to communicate about family, adolescence and adulthood, education, professions, science, and inventions. Students will read short stories, including “The Little Prince” and explore the history of France from prehistoric times through the Renaissance and the French Revolution. They will continue to make cultural comparisons between their own community and the French-speaking world.

SPANISH I

Levels available: College Prep

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • 1 credit – Semester

Level I Spanish focuses on students’ communicative competence in Spanish and their understanding of the cultures of Spain and other Hispanic countries. In level I Spanish classes, students learn to communicate in real-life context about topics that are meaningful to them. Spanish I concentrates on the development of the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Emphasis is placed on use of Spanish in the classroom as exclusively as possible and on use of authentic materials to learn about the language and culture. An important component of Spanish classes is the use of the Spanish language beyond the classroom in order to apply knowledge of the language in the real world. In many cases, this is accomplished through the integration of technology into the classroom.

SPANISH II

Levels available: College Prep

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • 1 credit - Semester

Prerequisite: Spanish I and/or teacher recommendation

In Spanish II, students continue to develop their proficiency in the three modes of communicative competence; interacting with other speakers of Spanish, understanding oral and written messages in Spanish, and making oral and written presentations. They are exposed to more complex features of the Spanish language. They continue to focus on communicating about their immediate world and daily life. Emphasis continues to be placed on the use of Spanish in the classroom as well as on the use of authentic materials to learn about the culture.

SPANISH III

Levels available: College Prep

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • 1 Credit - Semester

Prerequisite: Spanish II and/or teacher recommendation

In Spanish III, students continue to develop their proficiency in the three modes of communicative competence. They communicate using more complex structures in Spanish on a variety of topics, including some of an abstract nature. They comprehend the main ideas of authentic materials that they read and hear and are able to identify significant details when the topics are familiar. Spanish is used almost exclusively in the class as students develop the ability to discuss topics related to historical and contemporary events and issues.

SPANISH IV

Levels available: College Prep

Grades 10, 11, 12 • 1 Credit - Semester

Prerequisite: Spanish III and/or teacher recommendation

In Spanish IV, students continue to develop their communicative and cultural competence, understanding oral and written texts, and making oral and written presentations in Spanish. They are able to exchange and support opinions on a variety of topics related to historical and contemporary events. They comprehend spoken and written Spanish texts from a variety of authentic sources as well as produce compositions containing well-developed ideas on various topics. Students compare and contrast everyday situations with those of our own culture.

AP SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Level Available: Advanced Placement (AP)

Grades 11, 12 • 1 Credit - A/B Full Year

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Advanced Placement Spanish is a challenging and rigorous academic course that is designed to prepare students for the AP Spanish Language and Culture Examination in May. Students are expected to use Spanish at all times and on all activities. Students will use a variety of authentic resources to focus on listening comprehension, reading comprehension, grammatical accuracy, formal and informal writing, oral expression, and cultural comparisons. Students are required to take the AP exam in May and will also complete a self-directed final project.