



## Mount Saint Mary Academy

*A Sponsored Work of the Sisters of Mercy*  
1645 US Highway 22, Watchung, NJ 07069  
908-757-0108

### *Course Descriptions* *2020-2021 Academic Year*

Mount Saint Mary Academy's curriculum is designed to prepare its students for higher education through a college preparatory program that allows them to reach their fullest potential. The Academy recognizes that a college prep program includes students who demonstrate different levels of aptitude and emotional IQ. Students who are accepted to the Academy will be prepared for college level studies. However, we recognize that not all students are able to move at the same pace. Mount Saint Mary Academy will provide appropriate classes as needed for our student body. **The Administration reserves the right to drop a course in which there is not a sufficient number of students enrolled.**

#### ***GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS - 130 Credits***

Theology	4 credits per year enrolled
English	20 credits
Mathematics	15 credits
Science	15 credits
Social Studies	15 credits
World Language	10 credits (2 consecutive years of same language)
PE/Health	6.5 credits
Fine Arts	5 credits
Technology	1.25 credits* Beginning with the Class of 2023, 2.5 credits of Technology will be required

*Financial Literacy \*Beginning with the Class of 2024, 2.5 credits of Financial Math will be required*

Four-year sequences are preferred in all academic areas. Students must take a minimum of seven courses each semester.

#### **MERCY CORE VALUES SERVICE DAYS**

All students are required to participate in one Core Values Service Day per year and give two hours of service on campus each year as a graduation requirement.

#### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND HONORS COURSES**

Advanced placement and honors courses are available to students whose academic abilities are outstanding. The courses are designed to offer depth in scope and exploration. Selection is based on aptitude, academic record, test results, previous achievement in the subject area and teacher recommendation.

A student should first consult with her teacher and or the department chair if she does not meet the prerequisite of an Honors/AP course and remains interested in taking the course. After serious consideration and discussion with her parent(s), school counselor, teacher and/or the department chair, a student will be allowed to register for the class pending the submission of a waiver. This form will be issued by the student's school counselor.

Juniors and Sophomores: Signed waivers are due to the Office of Student Services **by March 17, 2020.**  
Freshman: Signed waivers are due to the Office of Student Services **by March 31, 2020.**

**Any waiver submitted after the deadline is subject to a \$50 fee. Waivers will not be considered after June 1, 2020.**

## **THE MERCY DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

Mount Saint Mary Academy endeavors to challenge and enrich the most academically qualified students with a select curriculum tailored to their advanced achievement level. As a Mercy Distinguished Scholar, students' curriculum will be enhanced to include Honors level classes in English and Social Studies. Placement testing is required in Mathematics and World Language to appropriately place students based on their prior academic exposure. Additionally, Mercy Distinguished Scholars will be enrolled in Foundations of Global Sustainability Honors Seminar. (*\*Please see description of course below*). Mercy Distinguished Scholars must continue in an acceptable number of honors courses and maintain a GPA of 3.5.

### **Foundations of Global Sustainability Honors Seminar**

**Credits 2.5 - Grade 9**

A multi-disciplinary research seminar focusing on the United Nations Sustainability Goals. This seminar will familiarize students with the process for identifying and developing solutions to major global challenges. The primary objective of this course is to equip students with the skills and approaches necessary for becoming future agents of change in a rapidly changing and complex world.

## CREATIVE ARTS

**DRAWING** **One Semester** **2.5 Credits - Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

This course provides a foundation for the beginner. It introduces the basics of line, proportion, perspective and shading for realistic rendering as well as for more creative approaches to making art. Projects are varied and employ a wide range of media.

**MIXED MEDIA** **One Semester** **2.5 Credits - Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

Students enrolled in this course will explore a variety of media. The elements and principles of design are reinforced as the students enjoy freedom of expression in painting, pastel, ceramics and found objects.

**GRAPHIC ART** **Full Year** **5 Credits - Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

Students enrolled in this course will learn about the elements and principles of design using a variety of media, both digital and non-digital. They will apply that knowledge to the creation of digital design projects using design software. Students will learn about the commercial applications of graphic art in publications, posters, package design and other print work. Animation and 3D printing will also be included. Each student is required to have access to a digital camera or smartphone. 3D printing will be included. There will be an extra fee for software.

**PAINTING** **Full Year** **5 Credits - Grades 10, 11, 12**

*Prerequisite: Drawing, Graphic Art, or Mixed Media.* This course introduces the techniques of painting in acrylics and watercolors. Projects range from still life to abstractions. It provides an opportunity to experiment with color, texture and transparency/opacity on a variety of surface supports.

**ADVANCED STUDIO ART** **Full Year** **5 Credit - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisite: Painting.* This course is for the advanced student who desires to explore more fully the intellectual and expressive possibilities of art making. A variety of historical and contemporary approaches to media and themes will be examined. Students may choose their own direction in a particular medium, developing a concentration of work within a theme developed by the student. Portfolio assistance will be provided for college applications.

**STUDIO ART CONCENTRATION** **Full Year** **5 Credits - Grade 12**

*Prerequisite: Advanced Studio Art I.* This course is for the advanced art student who is motivated, self-disciplined and interested in honing her art skills while pursuing her own direction in art. With prompts, planning and teacher guidance, the student will develop her own theme and focus for the duration of the course, selecting media, surfaces and styles for each of her artworks. The student will present her art concentration plan at the beginning of the year producing the specified number of artworks per semester under the direction of the teacher. All plans for artwork, materials and themes must be approved by the teacher at the beginning of the course. Portfolio preparation will be included.

## ENGLISH

*Prerequisites for honors-level English classes, grades 10-12: B+ average in English Honors or an A average in English CP; excellent writing skills (A- average on essays); excellent discussion skills; and a love of English. Final recommendation will be made by the teacher. All English classes are full-year courses.*

### **ENGLISH I: LITERARY GENRES**

**5 Credits - Grade 9**

This course offers an intensive review of writing as well as exposure to a variety of genres for study and reading enjoyment, including the short story, the essay, drama, poetry, and the novel/novella. During the first half of the first semester, particular emphasis is placed on honing writing skills, including sentence structure, paragraph formation, thesis development, quote integration, and grammar. Additionally, vocabulary enrichment is an integral part of the program. Use of the library and the groundwork of professional research are introduced at the end of the year.

### **ENGLISH I: LITERARY GENRES AND COMPOSITION**

**5 Credits- Grade 9**

This course focuses on developing academic writing skills and language mechanics. Through a revisionary writing process, students learn to organize their thoughts, synthesize information, and present arguments in a coherent, complete essay. Particular emphasis will be placed on learning vocabulary (including parts of speech, prefixes, suffixes, and etymology), sentence structure, paragraph formation, thesis development, quote integration, and grammar. Additionally, students read genres that form the basis of Western literature, including the short story, the essay, drama, poetry, and the novel/novella.

### **ENGLISH I (HONORS): LITERARY GENRES**

**5 Credits - Grade 9**

*Prerequisites: Superior entrance test scores in English and successful demonstration of analytical writing skills on the Department's placement test (both to be determined by the Department).* This course offers opportunities for in-depth literary analysis, composition, and critical thinking sparked by the short story, the essay, drama, poetry, and the novel/novella. During the first half of the first semester, particular emphasis is placed on honing writing skills, including sentence structure, paragraph formation, thesis development, quote integration, and grammar. The groundwork of professional research is introduced, and a formal library research paper is required.

### **ENGLISH II: MOVEMENTS IN AMERICAN LITERATURE**

**5 Credits - Grade 10**

Framed by the writing process, the primary goal of this course is for students to hone critical reading, thinking, and writing skills. Additionally, it explores the pluralistic American literary experience, including Puritanism through the 20<sup>th</sup> century, African American, Native American, and emergent Women writers with an emphasis on 19<sup>th</sup> century Romanticism. Selections from major American authors as well as nontraditional genres such as Science Fiction – with a particular emphasis on Technology, Science, and Philosophy – will illustrate the characteristics of each literary period.

### **ENGLISH II (HONORS): MAJOR AMERICAN WRITERS**

**5 Credits - Grade 10**

This course offers an exploration of the pluralistic American literary experience through a study of Puritanism through the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with an emphasis on 19<sup>th</sup> century Romanticism. Selections from major American authors illustrate the characteristics of each literary period as well as introduce students to the voices of African American, Native American, and emergent Women writers. Framed by the writing process, the chief goal of this course is for students to hone critical reading, thinking, and writing skills. Additional emphasis is placed upon lively class discussion, extensive research, and oral and written presentations of individual and collaborative student investigations.

### **ENGLISH III: BRITISH LITERATURE:**

#### **THE VICTORIAN AGE THROUGH POST-MODERNITY**

**5 Credits - Grade 11**

This course familiarizes students with British and Irish writers by tracing the development of literature from the Victorian, Modern, and Postmodern eras. Students continue their preparation for college-level writing, including honing the synthesis essay and studying grammar and vocabulary. Finally, students learn the foundations of research skills and writing.

### **ENGLISH III (HONORS): LITERATURE OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE**

**5 Credits - Grade 11**

This rigorous course explores historical works of the former British Empire and their connections to the modern world. Students will be encouraged to give consistent attention to all levels of the writing process and practice evaluating texts using a variety of critical approaches to literature. Students continue their preparation for college-level writing,

including honing the synthesis essay and studying grammar and vocabulary. Finally, students learn the foundations of research skills and writing.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION** **5 Credits - Grade 11**

*Prerequisites: A in English II Honors (greater emphasis placed on essay average); critical essay; teacher recommendation.* This rigorous college-level course provides students with the interpretative skills necessary to read and understand complex texts and to fashion fully developed, insightful essay responses in a variety of forms (narrative, expository, argumentative) on a myriad of topics. The process of writing, including comprehension, analysis, reaction, and revision, will be the primary focus of this course. Ideally, students will recognize and practice the rhetorical strategies and stylistic choices that energize effective writing. Students are required to write a formal research paper and must take the Advanced Placement Exam in Language and Composition.

**ENGLISH IV: WOMEN’S LITERATURE** **5 Credits - Grade 12**

This course considers how the work of Women writers comprises a unique literary tradition. Course readings will provoke discussion of questions about the nature of Women’s literature: What topics and themes recur in works by Women writers, and how might these topics and themes comment on the social and cultural context of the work? What challenges and obstacles have Women writers faced in their efforts to gain acceptance into the literary canon? How have Women writers been treated by critics and consumers of their work? How do the stories that Women writers tell intersect with those of other marginalized groups? In addition to surveying major works by Women writers, the course will also include a study of the writings of prominent classical and contemporary feminist theorists. For the final course project, students will pursue a related topic of interest to research and present.

**ENGLISH IV (HONORS): WORLD LITERATURE** **5 Credits - Grade 12**

In this course, students consider the question of what constitutes world literature (s) and what exactly makes for a text. In addition to reading novels, the class will engage with –and in some cases, produce—works of travel writing, photography, memoir, poetry, narrative, short stories, maps, journalism, philosophy, science, diary, essay, and historical fiction. Designed for the self-motivated student who enjoys class discussion, emphasis will be placed on critical theories and the analytical essay. Students are encouraged but not mandated to sit for the AP English Literature and Composition exam in May.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION** **5 Credits - Grade 12**

*Prerequisites: B+ in AP Language and Composition (greater emphasis placed on essay average); A in English III Honors (greater emphasis placed on essay average); critical essay; teacher recommendation.* This rigorous college-level course is designed to develop the student's ability to understand and thoughtfully respond to works of literature through class discussion and critical essays. While the content of the course centers around 20thCentury literature, students also study Greek drama, Shakespearean texts, and Romantic and modern poetry. Students are required to write a formal research paper and must take the Advanced Placement Exam in Literature and Composition.

*The following courses are not offered every year:*

**LITERATURE & THE LAND: JOURNEYS INTO LITERARY AMERICA** **5 Credits - Grade 12**

“Tell me the landscape in which you live, and I will tell you who you are.” Jose Ortega y Gasset. This course opens students’ minds to literature that has been born of both natural and man-made landscapes. We will reflect on questions such as to what degree does geographic location affect lifestyle/psychology. Is there such a thing as “moral geography”? What is our place in the natural world, and is that place changing? These questions and the readings that inspire them will also stir discussion on geology, anthropology, philosophy, wild(er)ness, and self-preservation. In addition to the novels we will read, the authors in our anthology- Literature and the Environment: A reader on Nature and Culture – are not all “typical” writers; some are scientists, tribal members, farmers, or travelers. To witness first-hand what inspired some of the class readings, a few local day trips are planned.

**LITERARY NONFICTION** **5 Credits - Grade 12**

In this literary nonfiction class, students explore what stories are, how they get told, who gets to tell them, and the degree “truth” plays in writing them. To that end, the class will engage with –and in some cases, produce- works of travel writing, photography, memoir, narrative, maps, Journalism, philosophy, stream-of-consciousness, science, diary, essay, historical fiction, documentary, and cuneiform.

\*This course, in addition to fulfilling the English IV requirement for 12<sup>th</sup> graders, may also serve as an elective for students in grade 12 only.

**THE WRITTEN & SPOKEN WORD IN THE LITERARY CONTINUUM** **5 Credits - Grade 12**

This college preparatory course is comprised of several elements of study. Creative Writing will allow students to unpack the technique, method, imagery, tension, point of view, and structure of poems, dialogues, and short stories to help them write and revise their own original works. In addition, students will examine fiction and non-fiction (poetry, one-act plays, and short stories) as models to follow in the writing process. Public Speaking will expose students to experiences in oral presentation, including emphasis on content, analysis, performance, persuasive/informative speech preparation and delivery. Students will experiment with various modes of delivery using manuscript, extemporaneous, impromptu, and memorized speech, as well hone their abilities to articulate, intone, and keep eye contact during all forms of presentations. Focus will be placed on important rhetorical strategies (logos, ethos, and pathos) in order to understand the importance of understanding and connecting with one’s audience. Instruction also will emphasize how technology and visual aids help communicate and acquire information effectively. Non-CP seniors may take this class as an elective.

**ENGLISH II: AMERICAN LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION** **5 Credits - Grade 10**

This class is strongly suggested for students who have experienced difficulty with writing on the high school level. It focuses on improving academic writing skills and developing fluency with language mechanics. Through a revisionary writing process, students will learn to organize their thoughts, synthesize information, and present their arguments in a coherent, complete essay. Basic grammar skills including proper punctuation, sentence structure, and syntax will be reinforced. Teacher recommendation.

**DIGITAL JOURNALISM** **5 Credits - Grades 10, 11, 12**

Do you want a place to share your ideas? Are you a sports fan who follows the game but have no place to express your opinions? Are you a fashionista who is looking to publish your thoughts on the latest trends? Ever want to have your own blog, but do not know where to start? Digital Journalism is a course designed to help students discover their passions in writing and provide an ideal place for publishing their work, the Web! In this elective co-taught course, which blends the disciplines of English and technology, students will write news articles, start and maintain a blog, and develop writing skills necessary to be a published author. Students will examine professional examples of writing and follow current trends in the media. Students will also learn the technical portion of maintaining a website and/or blog through working with the course’s technology teacher. **N.B. This course does not count as a year of English. It is an elective that may be taken in addition to a full-year English course.**

## MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

### MATHEMATICS COURSES

#### **ALGEBRA I**

**5 Credits - Grade 9**

*Prerequisite: MSMA entrance test; department recommendation.* Algebra I introduces and develops the following topics: operations with signed numbers and variables, solutions of linear equations and inequalities, writing equations from word problems, operations with rational numbers and polynomials, functions, graphs, irrational numbers, and quadratic equations.

#### **ALGEBRA II**

**5 Credits - Grades 9, 10, 11**

*Prerequisite: Algebra I, MSMA placement test.* Algebra II builds on the concepts taught in Algebra I by adding these areas: solutions to complicated word problems, imaginary numbers, functions, graphs and solutions of quadratic functions and inequalities, solutions of polynomial functions, radical functions, exponential and logarithmic functions and rational functions. Preparation for standardized testing is an integral part of the course.

#### **ALGEBRA II (HONORS)**

**5 Credits - Grades 9, 10, 11**

*Prerequisite: Algebra I, MSMA placement test.* In addition to the traditional Algebra II content, this course includes in-depth coverage of radical expressions and equations, exponential and logarithmic functions, rational expressions and functions, the binomial theorem, and sequences and series, probability and statistics, and matrix operations. Critical thinking skills and adaptation to pace are emphasized.

#### **GEOMETRY: An Integrated Approach**

**5 Credits - Grade 10**

*Prerequisite: Algebra I or II.* In this course students will develop reasoning and problem-solving skills through the study of geometry and data analysis. Geometry topics include congruence, similarity, lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, and circles. Spatial relationships will be strengthened, and students will use multi-step processes utilizing algebraic functions, variables, and geometric relationships. During the second semester, statistics and probability will be introduced to prepare students for the math components of the ACT and SAT as well as real-world problems. TUVa data analysis software will be used throughout the semester.

#### **GEOMETRY: An Analytic Approach (HONORS)**

**5 Credits - Grade 10**

*Prerequisite: B in Algebra II H; department recommendation.* This course is designed for students who have successfully completed Algebra II Honors. The first semester covers topics in plane geometry, while the beginning of the second semester expands on these topics to provide the basis for the underlying concepts of calculus. During the second semester students will be introduced to elementary statistics and the graphical representation of data using TUVa software. Topics include sampling basics, measures of center and spread, and the proper display of data. The content of this course will develop the students' critical thinking skills to prepare them for higher level math courses, as well as the ACT and SAT.

#### **PRE-CALCULUS**

**5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisite: B in Algebra II.* This course extends Algebra II to include trigonometry, reflections and transformations of graphs, exponential and logarithmic functions, matrices, linear programming, and SAT II preparation.

#### **PRE-CALCULUS (HONORS)**

**5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: B in Algebra II Honors and Geometry Honors; or department recommendation and supplemental summer work.* This rigorous course extends and unifies mathematical principles for advanced studies in calculus and abstract algebra. It requires above-average mathematical reasoning and a desire and ability to master difficult problems. The course emphasizes advanced algebra and trigonometric functions and incorporates SAT II preparation.

#### **STATISTICS AND DATA ANALYSIS (HONORS)**

**5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisite B- in Algebra II or Pre-Calculus.* This course is an introduction to statistical data analysis. Topics include the examination of the proper ways to collect and report data, the various statistical tools that are used to analyze data, probability applications, the measurement of uncertainty that is inherent in statistical data, and how to draw meaningful conclusions from statistical information.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT STATISTICS****6 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: B+ in Geometry Honors or B in Pre-Calculus Honors or A in Pre-Calculus.* This course for the self-motivated student will follow the syllabus outlined by the College Board and prepare students for the Advanced Placement Statistics Exam, which they must take. Topics include examination of the proper ways to collect and report data, the various statistical tools that are used to analyze data, the measurement of uncertainty that is inherent in statistical data, and how to draw meaningful conclusions from statistical information.

**CALCULUS (HONORS)****5 Credits - Grade 12**

*Prerequisites: A in Pre-Calculus; B in Pre-Calculus Honors.* This course is an introductory single-variable calculus course designed to cover many of the topics covered in Advanced Placement Calculus AB, but at a less intense pace. The course includes a brief review of elementary functions and limits, techniques and applications of differentiation, and techniques of integration applied to problems of area and volume.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS AB****6 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: A- in Pre-Calculus Honors.* This course will follow the syllabus outlined by the College Board and prepare students for the Advance Placement Calculus AB Exam, which they must take. Included are limits and continuity of functions, derivatives and their applications, definite integrals and their applications, the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, and separable differential equations and slope fields.

**FINANCIAL MATH****One Semester****2.5 Credits - Grades 10, 11, 12**

This one semester course helps students apply economics and decision-making skills to the real world of earning, spending an income, and managing money. Math lessons about financial topics such as savings rates, compound interest, and present value form the basis of the course. Career planning is included, with the focus on budgeting and financial planning for the future. The course will introduce students to asset classes such as stocks, treasuries, corporate and municipal bonds, and mutual funds. Credit, debt, and insurance are also components of the course. The students will take an online financial literacy certification test at the conclusion of the course.

**BUSINESS ANALYTICS****One Semester****2.5 Credits-Grades 10, 11, 12**

*Prerequisite: Financial Math*

This one semester class exposes students to introductory concepts in business and finance. Topics covered include types of businesses, business formation, financing needs, private and publicly held companies, initial public offerings, compound interest, present value, and discount rates. Students will understand the differences among stocks, bonds, index funds, mutual funds, and exchange-traded funds. As part of the course, students will use Bloomberg terminals to receive Bloomberg certification in four areas: macroeconomic indicators, foreign exchange, equities, and fixed income. The students will also design an investment portfolio for a 23-year old and participate in a portfolio competition.



## MUSIC & FILM

### **CHORALE** **Full Year** **5 Credits - Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

This is the core vocal performing ensemble at Mount Saint Mary Academy, open to any interested students. Chorale performs at school liturgies, concerts, school events, and occasional performances outside of school. Participation in Liturgies, Christmas and Spring Concerts is required. Students may also participate in trips and festivals. The ability to read music notation is helpful but not a prerequisite. Students who are part of Chorale may audition for GraceNotes, the MSMA acapella ensemble. Purchase of MSMA Concert Attire is required.

### **CHORALE ENSEMBLE** **Full Year** **4 Credits – Grades 10, 11, 12**

This course meets from 7:30 a.m. to 8:10 a.m.

**Prerequisite:** *Previous participation in full year Chorale*

This is the core vocal performing ensemble at Mount Saint Mary Academy. Chorale Ensemble perform at school liturgies, concerts, school events, and occasional performances outside of school. Participation in Liturgies, Christmas and Spring Concerts are required. Students may also participate in trips and festivals. The ability to read music notation is helpful but not a prerequisite. Students who are part of Chorale Ensemble may audition for GraceNotes, the MSMA acapella ensemble. Purchase of MSMA Concert Attire is required.

### **INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE** **Full Year** **4 Credits – Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

*Co-requisite: Music Theory I or passing grade in Music Theory I placement exam. \**

This course meets from 7:30 a.m. to 8:10 a.m.

Instrumental Ensemble is open to any students who have band, orchestral or ensemble experience. Pianists who can read music are also welcome. Students must be able to read music, practice daily and learn their assigned parts. Students must possess their own instruments and are responsible for keeping them in good working order. Participation in Christmas and Spring Concerts and all dress rehearsals is mandatory. Opportunities for additional performances occur throughout the year. Students may also participate in trips and festivals. Select players are chosen to perform at school liturgies as soloists or as part of small groups. Purchase of instrument accessories (cleaning rods/cloths, reeds, oils, rosin, strings, etc.), MSMA Concert Attire, binder and course materials (books, sheet music) is required. Annual maintenance is required for all wind instruments. *\*Music Theory I placement exam will be scheduled and administered during final exams for rising sophomores, juniors and seniors. Incoming freshmen will take the exam prior to registration by appointment.*

### **MUSIC THEORY I\*** **Full Year** **5 Credits - Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

Beneficial for both instrumentalists and vocalists, this class will encompass the basics of music notation on a grand staff incorporating pitch, note enharmonics, dynamics, articulations, tempos, major key signatures, non-compound rhythmic structures, diatonic interval recognition and diatonic triad construction. *MusicTheory.net* is utilized for on-line lessons and assessments along with *required text* (see website for text and materials requirements), worksheets and computer notation software: *Finale Notepad* or *MuseScore*. Students will be introduced to basic aural training through rhythmic and melodic dictation, and diatonic solfeggio. All students will sit for the scheduled RCM exams\*\*.

Exam and materials fee required.

\*Requirement: access to a 2 octave keyboard and text.

\*\*Dates for the RCM exams will be determined during the course year.

### **MUSIC THEORY II\*** **Full Year** **5 Credits – Grades 10, 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: A- in Music Theory I, passing grade in Music Theory II placement exam or Teacher recommendation.*

This course is a continuation of *Music Theory I*. After a brief review of *Music Theory I*, this class will include the analysis and aural skills of compound time signatures, relative minor scales, chromatic pitch alterations, non-diatonic intervals, triads and inversions. Qualities of triads built on scale degrees, advanced music notation, transposition and additional clefs are introduced. *MusicTheory.net* is utilized for on-line lessons and assessments along with *required text* (see website for text and materials requirements), worksheets and computer notation software: *Finale Notepad* or *MuseScore*. All students will sit for the scheduled RCM exams\*\*

Exam and materials fee required.

\*Requirement: access to a 2-octave keyboard and text.

\*\*Dates for the RCM exams will be determined during the course year.

**MUSIC THEORY III\*****Full Year****5 Credits – Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisites:* A- in Music Theory II, passing grade in Music Theory III placement exam or Teacher recommendation. This course is a continuation of *Music Theory II*. After a brief review of *Music Theory II*, topics for analysis and aural skills include seventh chords, cadences, musical forms. Introduction to basic part writing using I, IV, V and V7 cadences and nonchord tones in all major keys. *MusicTheory.net* is utilized for on-line lessons and assessments along with *required text* (see website for text and materials requirements), worksheets and computer notation software: *Finale Notepad* or *MuseScore*. All students will sit for the scheduled RCM exams\*\*  
Exam and materials fee required.

\*Requirement: access to a 2-octave keyboard and text.

\*\*Dates for the RCM exams will be determined during the course year.

**CLASSIC FILMS AND THEIR MUSIC: A JOURNEY THROUGH GREAT MOVIES AND THEIR MUSIC****Fall Semester****2.5 Credits - Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

Did you know that the music from Walt Disney's "*Bambi*" influenced the music from Steven Spielberg's "*Jaws*"; or that silent films were not silent? In this class we will journey through the earliest films that have become known as "The Classics". So much of what made them classic was the lush musical scores that completed the storytelling of these films. Could you imagine "The Wizard of Oz" without Dorothy singing "Over the Rainbow"? There are dozens of films in our history where memorable music (film scores) made them musical icons. In this class, we will learn why the music was so important to the storytelling and how the Hays Code of 1930 revolutionized the film score as a new music genre. Using worksheets and class discussion, we will examine the drama, cinematography, society, and of course the music to see how each film comes together as a cohesive art form.

No prior knowledge of music is required.

**MODERN FILMS AND THEIR MUSIC: A JOURNEY THROUGH MODERN MOVIES AND THEIR MUSIC****Spring Semester****2.5 Credits - Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

*Prerequisite:* CLASSIC FILMS AND THEIR MUSIC

Continuing through the Golden Age of Hollywood to modern times, new forms of music changed our listening habits. The Hays Code morphed into MPAA ratings, Jazz, Rock, Pop, Electronic music and more is used more frequently than the orchestral music of the classic films. Changing social norms, global influences, special effects and computer graphics called for new music to fit this rapidly evolving art form. Think about the "*Star Wars*" series of films without electronic music or movie musicals without its popular songs. In this class we will learn how modern music is used in today's films. We will learn how the music (film score) uses different elements to affect the storytelling and audience response. Using worksheets and class discussion, we will examine the drama, cinematography, special effects, computer graphics and of course the music to see how each film comes together as a modern art form.

No prior knowledge of music is required.

**FILM NOIR: THE MOST INTRIGUING YET MISUNDERSTOOD FILM GENRE****Full Year****5 Credits -Grades 10, 11, 12**

*Prerequisites:* Classic Films and Their Music, Modern Films and their Music.

*Film Noir* is one of the most popular film genres from the Golden Age of Hollywood, the 1940s to 1950s. In *Classic Films and Their Music*, we studied our first Film Noir: "*Rebecca*" directed by Alfred Hitchcock based on the Daphne Du Maurier novel. Surprisingly, the definition of *Film Noir* is as varied as there are film scholars. Basically, these are Black & White highly stylized Crime Dramas where "The Bad Guy" is usually female – also known as the "Femme Fatale". In this class we will study at least 15 of the greatest films such as "Double Indemnity", "The Postman Always Rings Twice", "Clash By Night", "The Letter" and "The Maltese Falcon". These wonderful films are full of suspense and mystery, great acting and storytelling. As we progress through the course we will develop our own definition of *Film Noir* examining several published opinions and our own. We will pay special attention to cinematography, lighting and character development. Course work will be worksheets and class discussion.

## **THEATER ARTS**

### **THEATER ARTS I**

**One Semester**

**2.5 Credits - Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

This course will include the exploration of the fundamentals of acting through improvisation, pantomime, theater games, the study of movement, the importance of correct use of the voice and diction, and theatrical terms and discussions about performance goals. This is done in an effort to free the performer's creativity and develop their technical skills on stage. Building on these principles, we will begin to work on building a scene, which will include monologues and two and three-person scenes with "song as monologue", and implementing the core principles of acting. Course includes a requirement to attend one outside production for written evaluation, as well as a Showcase at the end of the semester featuring monologues performed by all students.

### **ACTING I**

**One Semester**

**2.5 Credits – Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

*Prerequisite: Theater Arts I.* This course expands on the critical thinking and artistic skills initiated in Theater Arts I, creating a dialogue between theory and practice through deeper character study and detailed script analysis combined with a disciplined approach to the rehearsal process. There will be advanced improvisations skills explored, as well as more in-depth monologue and scene study. Course will conclude with a Showcase of monologues and scenes studied.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION, HEALTH, DRIVER EDUCATION**

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Full Year**

**2.5 Credits - Grade 9**

This course offers team sports, life-time activities, dance, fitness and conditioning. It encourages the qualities of leadership, sportsmanship, creativity and self-discipline, and develops knowledge of, and appreciation for, sport through the understanding of terminology and rules.

**HEALTH EDUCATION**

**Full Year**

**4 Credits - Grade 10**

Major concepts are identified and developed in personal health and wellness, human sexuality and women's health issues. Students will be prepared for the NJ State written driver's test through encouraging the development of good driving habits, including knowledge of and respect for traffic rules and regulations, defensive driving skills, and basic automotive principals. Additionally, decision-making, leadership and communication skills will be thoroughly developed in order to identify ways to prevent injury/illnesses, recognize and respond to emergencies. At the conclusion of this course, students will receive the appropriate training to become certified in Safety/First Aid, AED and CPR through the American Red Cross.

## SCIENCE

### **CHEMISTRY**

**5 Credits - Grade 9**

This course emphasizes key aspects of chemistry and provides students with a strong foundation in science. The course builds up from topics in matter and atomic structure, to modern atomic theory, elements, the periodic table, chemical bonding, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, and chemical energy. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking and problem solving. Hands-on laboratory experiences will reinforce class content. Tablet computers will be used for homework, laboratory data collection and lab software will be used to collect and synthesize data and to develop models of scientific processes.

### **CHEMISTRY (HONORS)**

**5 Credits - Grade 9**

*Prerequisite: Placement in Algebra II Honors.* Chemistry Honors investigates topics in chemistry with an emphasis on independent work and mathematical problem-solving. The course surveys topics in matter, atomic structure, modern atomic theory, elements, the periodic table, chemical bonding, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, and chemical energy. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking and problem solving. Laboratories supporting chemistry topics that require model building and mathematical analysis are an integral part of this course. Tablet computers will be used for homework, laboratory data collection and lab software will be used to collect and synthesize data and to develop models of scientific processes.

### **BIOLOGY**

**5 Credits - Grade 10**

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Chemistry.* Biology I is a laboratory based course filled with inquiry and learning real life applications. This course builds on the ninth-grade science curriculum and begins by reviewing the fundamentals of chemistry. The course moves into ecology with a focus on the biosphere and ecosystems to teach interdependence of organisms among populations. Next, cell structure and function, the molecular basis of heredity, as well as photosynthesis, cellular respiration and fermentation are discussed. The course ends with classification, biological evolution and an introduction to animals. Hands-on laboratory experiences will reinforce class content. Additionally, students learn how to write a lab report based on experiments performed in class by analyzing results and data generated.

### **BIOLOGY (HONORS)**

**5 Credits - Grade 10**

*Prerequisite for Honors: A in Chemistry; B+ in Chemistry H.* This program builds on the foundations of the ninth-grade science curriculum. Chemical structures and foundations like energy flow will be used as a platform for a more advanced understanding of biological systems like cellular energetics, genetics, and evolution. An in-depth understanding is fostered through project-based learning, on-line tutorials, and the development of models that represent themes in Biology. Hands-on laboratory experiences will reinforce class content. Topics to be covered are ecology, cell structure and function, photosynthesis, respiration, cell growth, development, DNA, RNA, protein synthesis, and classification. Human genetic disorders and biotechnology techniques such as electrophoresis are incorporated into laboratory investigations. Students are expected to show a high-level of independence.

### **CONCEPTUAL PHYSICS**

**5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry.* This course is focused on providing the underlying principles that explain the physical environment. Conceptual Physics is an inquiry-based course that is student centered and includes integrated strategies for learning and assessment, thus permitting greater individualized instruction. Topics include: mechanics, properties of matter, sound, heat, electricity and magnetism. Laboratory investigations are included to support and enhance the topics that are studied. This course is offered on alternate years.

### **PHYSICS**

**5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: B in Biology and Math; Algebra II completed. Pre-Calculus may be taken concurrently.* This course familiarizes students with fundamental principles of physics and their applications. The topics include matter, energy, mechanics, heat, sound, light, electricity and magnetism. Students will utilize their prior knowledge of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry to solve problems. Excel® is used to graphically represent data collected during laboratory sessions. Vernier® probe ware is used to complete many inquiry-based activities.

**PHYSICS (HONORS)****5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: B+ in Science Honors or A in Science CP; Algebra II completed. Pre-Calculus may be taken concurrently. Teacher recommendation required.* This honors-level course focuses on the foundational concepts of physics from theoretical, practical and mathematical viewpoints and prepares students to continue their knowledge of physics in future college classes. Topics include mechanics, sound waves and optics, heat and thermodynamics, electricity and magnetism. Students will learn the fundamentals of physics through problem-solving in the laboratory setting and by applying their prior knowledge of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry. Students are expected to demonstrate independence in homework, class activities, and laboratory investigations. Venier® probe ware is used to complete many inquiry-based activities.

**HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY (HONORS)****5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: B in Biology Honors, A- in Biology CP.* Human Anatomy & Physiology provides students an opportunity to study and explore the interrelationship of structure and function within and between human organ systems. This course will introduce the human body and basic biological principles such as chemistry, cytology, metabolism, and histology. The course starts with cells and tissues, moves into the skeletal and muscular systems, covering blood and the cardiovascular system, and the respiratory system all the way through the digestive system. Honors Human Anatomy is a very fast-paced course that is labor intensive. The course continues exploring how human organ systems work together to maintain homeostasis. This class applies theoretical knowledge with additional research on diseases, and case studies. This laboratory course includes dissections of the heart, brain, lungs, kidneys and a fetal pig.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE****5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: Successful completion of Chemistry and Biology.* Environmental Science is the interdisciplinary study of how the Earth works, how the human population interacts with the Earth, and environmental challenges. Students study earth systems, ecology, pollution, agriculture and solid waste as these are environmental issues that affect everyday life. Hands-on laboratory experiences and field work will reinforce class content. Students will develop environmental literacy, possessing the knowledge and understanding of science concepts and participate in civic and cultural affairs. During this course students will conduct extended independent experimental investigations in the laboratory or field to research a question about an Environmental Science-related phenomenon of their interest. Investigations may be descriptive, comparative or correlative. Investigation topics will be proposed, researched and refined to formulate and propose a research question. Upon approval, students will conduct the investigations on their own time with support from the teacher and a formal investigation report will be prepared.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT CHEMISTRY****6 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: A- in Honors Science; teacher recommendation.* AP Chemistry is based on the College Board's curriculum and is the equivalent of a full year (2 semester) college chemistry course with laboratory. The class will attain a considerable depth of understanding of advanced chemistry topics such as: Chemistry Kinetics, Equilibrium, Thermodynamics, Electrochemistry, and Nuclear Chemistry. Two double laboratory periods per cycle will be devoted to hands-on college level laboratory work and classroom demonstrations of the lab theme topics. The goals of AP Chemistry include improvements of analytical skills of problem solving and preparation for the Advanced Placement Chemistry Exam. Summer work and extended assignments over student holidays will be required. The AP Chemistry Exam is a requirement.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY****6 Credits - Grade 12**

*Prerequisites: A- in Biology Honors and Chemistry Honors or B+ in AP Chemistry or A- in Physics H.* This rigorous, fast-paced AP course is designed to be equivalent to a two-semester college introductory biology course with laboratory for biology majors. AP Biology integrates the major topics of biology including evolution, matter and energy, information transfer, ecology and interactions. Additional topics include biochemistry, cell physiology, energy transformations, molecular genetics, taxonomy, human physiology, and statistics. Labs are an integral part of the course work and are equivalent to college labs. Students will be expected to synthesize material from reading, class, and laboratory investigations into cogent and coherent essays in preparation for the free-response portion of the exam. Some laboratory investigations may require additional time outside of scheduled class time. Students are expected to demonstrate a high level of independence and motivation in all areas of this course. Summer work, extended assignments over student holidays, and additional class and lab meetings will be required. Students are required to take the AP exam.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE****6 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisite: B+ in Science AP or Honors, A in Science CP.* The AP Environmental Science course is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester, introductory college course in environmental science. The goal of this course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methods to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human made, and to evaluate the risks associated with these problems. This course surveys topics including earth systems and resources, the living world, population, land and water use, energy resources and consumption, pollution and global change through hands-on laboratory investigations, field work and observations. Problem-solving and examination of alternative solutions to develop practices that will achieve sustainable systems is an outcome. Students are required to take the AP exam.

**FORENSIC SCIENCE****One Semester****2.5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: Successful completion of Chemistry and Biology.* Forensic Science introduces students to the science behind investigations and law enforcement. This laboratory-based course incorporates math, chemistry, biology, physics, psychology and material science. Using exciting team-based investigations, students learn to investigate crime scenes, collect and analyze evidence, perform fingerprint, hair, fiber and DNA analysis, evaluate time of death along with other topics needed to identify a criminal. The history of criminals and crimes will also be discussed. The course will culminate with solving a staged crime.

**FOOD & AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE One Semester****2.5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: Successful completion of Chemistry and Biology.* Science that is good enough to eat! This hands-on laboratory course integrates the science of food, nutrition and agriculture along with developing an understanding of plant biology. The students will learn about agricultural techniques and environmental benefits and impacts of farming. Topics such as GMOs, pesticide use, food safety, and preservation will be addressed. Students will also participate in a school garden in addition to using hydroponics to grow vegetables and herbs. The science of cooking, fermentation, and baking will also be investigated.

**INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING AND DESIGN One Semester****1.25 Credits - Grade 9**

This course is designed to introduce high school students to the engineering design process. Extensive use of hands-on activities exposes students to the steps of the design process. Each of the steps is explained and then expanded upon with appropriate activities relevant to that step. Students conduct research, collect data, present data in Excel and analyze data. In addition, students are given opportunities to explore the various areas of engineering. Students investigate and prepare a presentation on their selected area of engineering.

**ENGINEERING (HONORS)****Full Year****5 Credits – Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisite: B in Geometry Honors, A in Geometry CP.* This class introduces concepts and skills relevant to engineering and design. Students are introduced to many areas of engineering, including structural, mechanical, biological, and chemical. This course will help to develop a unique set of skills including application of the engineering design process to a specific problem, working effectively in a design team approach, creativity in design solutions, presentation skills, and integration of industry standard CAD and design software. Students will utilize the Ultimaker\* 3D printer in the classroom to print their designs.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **WORLD HISTORY**

**5 Credits - Grade 9**

Building on students' prior knowledge of world cultures, this course will concentrate on the study of the Age of Global Expansion through World War II. It will examine the major events, people and movements that have contributed to the development of our modern world and lay the foundation for solid historical thinking skills by emphasizing the development of critical reading and writing skills, graphic data interpretation, oral presentation skills and the ability to synthesize information.

### **WORLD HISTORY (HONORS)**

**5 Credits - Grade 9**

*Prerequisites: Excellent standardized entrance test scores in reading comprehension and successful demonstration of analytical writing skills on a separate placement test.*

As with World History, this course will build on students' prior knowledge of world cultures and concentrate on the Age of Global Expansion through World War II. Students will be expected to examine major social, political and economic movements in greater depth, with an emphasis on critical reading and writing, independent research, analysis of primary source material and extensive discussion.

### **GLOBAL STUDIES**

**5 Credits - Grade 10**

This sophomore-level course is intended to provide students with the skills and insight necessary to better understand the forces affecting our world today, so that they may develop civic awareness on the local, national, and global levels. The course will focus on recent global history and diplomacy; global economic interdependence; foundations of government and analysis of current events. At the completion of the course, students will have gained an increased understanding of the role of the informed citizen in helping to shape civic life in the future.

### **GLOBAL STUDIES (HONORS)**

**5 Credits - Grade 10**

*Prerequisites: B+ average in World History Honors or A average in World History; excellent writing skills (B+ test and essay average in World History Honors; A test and essay average in World History); Teacher recommendation.*

This sophomore-level social studies course is intended to provide students with the skills and insight necessary to better understand the forces affecting our world today, so that they may develop civic awareness on the local, national, and global levels. The course will focus on recent global history and diplomacy; global economic interdependence; foundations of government; and analysis of current events. In addition to the topics covered above, this course will emphasize in-depth, critical reading and writing, independent research, analysis of primary source materials and oral argument.

### **UNITED STATES HISTORY**

**5 Credits - Grade 11**

This course offers a chronological survey of United States history from the birth of our nation through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. By focusing on political, economic and social perspectives, students will examine and evaluate the people, events and movements that have influenced our national development. Students will continue to build upon reading, writing and oral presentation skills they developed in previous Social Studies courses.

### **UNITED STATES HISTORY (HONORS)**

**5 Credits - Grade 11**

*Prerequisites: B+ average in Global Studies Honors or A average in Global Studies; excellent writing skills (B+ test and essay in Global Studies Honors; A test and essay average in Global Studies); Teacher recommendation.*

This honors level course provides a chronological survey of United States history from the birth of our nation through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. In addition to the significant political, economic and social aspects of our history, the course will place greater emphasis on critical and analytical essay writing, in-depth reading of text and primary source material and extensive discussion.

### **ELECTIVES: The following electives may be taken with the appropriate department recommendations:**

*Due to the redesign of the Advanced Placement courses in History and Government, and the strong emphasis being placed on the mastery of historical thinking skills and the analysis of primary source documents, students must demonstrate proficiency in those skills before being recommended for either AP United States History and AP Government.*

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES HISTORY****5 Credits - Grade 11**

*Prerequisites: A- in Global Studies Honors; excellent analytical writing skills and strong discussion skills; Teacher recommendation.* This college level course provides a survey of United States history from the late 15<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. In keeping with the College Board approved syllabus, students will engage in chronological reasoning, crafting historical arguments using historical evidence and interpreting and synthesizing historical narrative. Students will be expected to produce critical essays and participate in in-depth discussion. All students are required to take the AP United States History Examination.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT PSYCHOLOGY****5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation: strong critical reading, writing and discussion skills; successful completion of a prior AP Social Science course OR:*

*Sophomore: B+ in Global Studies Honors or A in Global Studies*

*Junior: B+ in US History Honors or A in US History*

In keeping with the College Board approved syllabus, this college-level course introduces students to the study of human behavior and mental processes. It will cover such topics as the biological basis for behavior, sensation and perception, learning and cognition, and developmental, abnormal and social psychology. Students will be expected to analyze and evaluate current psychological research and effectively communicate ideas through writing and discussion. Students are required to take the AP Psychology exam.

**ECONOMICS (HONORS): ISSUES IN A GLOBAL SOCIETY****5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisite: Department recommendation.* This course will introduce students to the global economy, with particular emphasis on the United States economy. Current economic issues such as deficits, debt, inflation, unemployment, and growth are major components of the course. A unit on the financial sector and the recent financial crisis is included. Social issues such as poverty, immigration, globalization, and the role of government are also investigated. Assessments will include an oral presentation, podcast, and video.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT MACROECONOMICS****5 Credits - Grades 10, 11, 12**

*Prerequisite: Department recommendation.* This course gives students a thorough understanding of the topics covered in an introductory college level macroeconomics course. Its primary focus is to provide students with a thorough understanding of the economic principles underlying aggregate economic behavior. National income and price level determination are major components of the course. Measures of economic performance, such as GDP, inflation, and unemployment are examined. Basic analytical tools are used to examine the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international economics. Students are required to take the AP Macroeconomics exam.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT MACRO/MICROECONOMICS****6 Credits - Grades 10, 11, 12**

*Prerequisite: Department recommendation and strong mathematical reasoning skills.* In addition to the topics covered in AP Macroeconomics, this course examines the individual decision makers within an economic system. The role of prices, market structures, externalities, efficiency, equity, and the role of government are covered. Students enrolled in this class will be required to attend six classes per cycle in order to prepare for the AP Macroeconomics and AP Microeconomics exams, both of which they are required to take.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT MICROECONOMICS     One Semester****3 Credits – Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisite: Department recommendation and strong mathematical reasoning skills.* This one-semester, college level course focuses on the individual decision makers within an economic system. It places primary emphasis on the nature and functions of product and resource markets. Concepts such as efficiency, equity, market structure, market power, and market failure are addressed. The role of government in promoting efficiency and equity is examined. Students are required to take the AP Microeconomics exam.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT & POLITICS     5 Credits - Grades 10, 11, 12**

*Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation; strong critical reading, writing and discussion skills; successful completion of a prior AP Social Science course OR:*

*Freshmen: A in World History Honors;*

*Sophomore: B+ in Global Studies Honors and A in Global Studies*

*From Junior Year: B in US History Honors and A- in US History*

In keeping with the College Board approved syllabus, this course provides students with a thorough grounding in the origins of our nation's government and the development of our political institutions. We will examine the origins of

our Constitution, the structure and function of the three branches of our national government, the role of linkage institutions, the creation of domestic and foreign policy, and the rights of individual citizens. Students are required to take the AP United States Government and Politics exam.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT & POLITICS**

**One Semester**

**3 Credits -Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisite: AP United States Government & Politics and strong critical reading, writing and discussion skills.* This one-semester, college-level course will focus on six core nations with the goal of identifying, understanding, comparing and contrasting various political structures, electoral systems, and civil liberties that exist in today's world. Students will explore how those nations respond to political, social and economic challenges. Students enrolled in this class will be required to attend six classes per cycle and are required to take the AP Comparative Government exam.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT & UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT & POLITICS**

**6 Credits - Grades 10, 11, 12**

*Prerequisite: Department recommendation; strong critical reading, writing and discussion skills.* In two semesters, this course will cover both the AP United States Government syllabus described above, as well as the AP Comparative Government syllabus. The AP Comparative semester will focus on six core nations with the goal of identifying, understanding, comparing and contrasting various political structures, electoral systems, and civil liberties that exist in today's world. Students will explore how those nations respond to political, social and economic challenges. Students enrolled in this class will be required to attend six classes per cycle and are required to take the AP United States Government and AP Comparative Government exams in May.

## **TECHNOLOGY AND MEDIA STUDIES**

### **RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY**

**One Semester**

**1.25 Credits – Grade 9**

Taken in the Fall semester of Freshman year, this course provides for student laptop support including the learning management system, cloud storage with OneDrive, OneNote, sharing documents, and cyber security. Students will also be instructed in the use of the Microsoft Office Suite, including Word, PowerPoint, Sway and Publisher for making presentations. Students will be taught effective information literacy skills while exploring research topics using academic databases and the Internet. Several projects will be completed while developing an online portfolio.

### **WEB DESIGN**

**One Semester**

**2.5 Credits - Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

Using design and programming skills, students will learn the elements of website design. Students will develop proficiency in HTML 5 and CSS through the development of introductory assignments as well as the creation of a final 3 to 5-page website on a topic of their choice. There is no fee for additional software, as students will use open source tools including Notepad++ for coding

### **DIGITAL MEDIA**

**One Semester**

**2.5 Credits- Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

Digital Media is digitized content, e.g., graphics, text, video, animation- used to communicate information electronically. Students will learn video production from concept to completion using Final Cut Pro. Completed projects will have the opportunity to be shown on the Mount Saint Mary Academy social media channels

## **THEOLOGY**

### **THEOLOGY I: CATHOLICISM**

**4 Credits - Grade 9**

This course assists students in developing a living and active faith through an understanding of Catholic teaching. The course includes an overview of the scriptural roots of Catholicism and encourages a deeper understanding of the relevant message and ministry of Jesus. The student will be able to express and practice her relationship with God in a deeper, more meaningful way by examining the teachings, traditions, doctrines and sacraments of our Catholic faith.

### **THEOLOGY II: SCRIPTURE AND MORALITY**

**4 Credits - Grade 10**

This course surveys the Catholic Bible, focusing on the wisdom and universal questions found in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. Biblical passages are studied together as organized in the Sunday readings of the liturgical calendar. Emphasis is placed on helping students deepen their relationship with God through the active and informed reading of Scripture and reflective writing during each season of the Church year. The course aims to help each student understand and integrate the teachings of Jesus, the Catholic Church, and Saint John Paul II's *Theology of the Body* in her everyday life.

### **THEOLOGY III: WORLD RELIGIONS AND GLOBAL JUSTICE**

**4 Credits - Grade 11**

This course surveys the history, beliefs, and practices of major religions of the world, including Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Shinto. The main objectives of the course are as follows: to help the student come to a greater understanding of her own faith, to deepen her appreciation of the richness of other faith traditions, and to develop an awareness of the major themes of Catholic Social Teaching and issues of justice and peace in our global world today.

### **THEOLOGY IV: CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING**

**4 Credits - Grade 12**

Catholic Social teaching is a collection of teachings designed to reflect the Church's social mission in response to the challenges of the day. The teachings are rooted in biblical values and reflections on Christian tradition. This course focuses on the call of all members of the Church, rich and poor alike, to work to eliminate the occurrence and effect of poverty, to speak out against social injustice, and to shape a more caring society and peaceful world. The students will research and identify social justice issues and reflect on their personal responsibility to address these issues.

## WORLD LANGUAGES

**If enrollment is insufficient to run individual college preparatory and honors classes on the upper levels of world language, they will be offered as combined classes with differentiated assessments.**

### ITALIAN

#### **ITALIAN I**

**5 Credits - Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

Students begin to understand and speak basic Italian. While gaining an understanding of Italian structure and knowledge of vocabulary, the emphasis is placed on skill building: comprehension, responding, reading, and descriptive writing. Course content includes an introduction to Italian-American studies, the global impact of Italian business and culture, Italian homes, fashion, schools, art and music. Italian I is conducted primarily in Italian and English is used when necessary to facilitate comprehension.

#### **ITALIAN II**

**5 Credits - Grades 10, 11, 12**

*Prerequisite: Italian I.* Students continue with the development of audio-lingual proficiencies moving toward an intermediate speaking level. Advanced grammar concepts are included as well as authentic reading material. Students continue to study culture: Italian regions, regional food, fashion, and history. The class is conducted primarily in Italian. Students are expected to respond primarily in Italian by January in the second semester.

#### **ITALIAN II (HONORS)**

**5 Credits - Grades 10, 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: A in Italian I; teacher recommendation.* This Honors level course is available for the most motivated student. This course will go forward at a faster pace and/or in greater depth. A greater oral proficiency is required for the Honors level. This course will have different assessments.

#### **ITALIAN III**

**5 Credits - Grades 10, 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: Italian II: B strongly suggested.* Fluency in Italian as a form of oral and written expression is the aim of the course. Vocabulary, idiomatic expressions and grammar are presented through short stories, newspapers, and movies. There is an in-depth study of Italian art, history and economics. An opera is selected, also. This class is conducted in Italian and students are expected to respond in Italian.

#### **ITALIAN III (HONORS)**

**5 Credits – Grades 10, 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: A in Italian II; B+ in Italian II Honors or a B+ in Accelerato; teacher recommendation.* This Honors level course is available for the most motivated student. This course will go forward at a faster pace and in greater depth. This course will have different assessments. A greater oral proficiency is required for the Honors level. An A in Italian II and teacher recommendation is required

#### **ITALIAN IV**

**5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: B- in Italian III strongly recommended; teacher recommendation.* Italian IV continues to further develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Advanced grammatical topics will be introduced and applied to the reading and discussion of excerpts from classical and modern literature as well as current event articles from Italian periodicals. An in-depth study of Italian businesses and their practices is undertaken. The second semester is dedicated entirely to the study of Italian history by viewing, discussing and writing about various Italian films. This class is conducted in Italian.

#### **ITALIAN IV (HONORS)**

**5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: A in Italian III; B+ Italian III Honors; teacher recommendation.* This Honors level course is available for the most motivated student. This course will go forward at a faster pace and in greater depth. This course will have different assessments. A greater oral proficiency is required for the Honors level.

#### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT ITALIAN**

**6 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisite: A in Italian IV; A in Italian III H; and Teacher recommendation.* This course focuses on the student's development of advanced listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in Italian. Literature as well as various reading passages, and an intense grammar and vocabulary review are emphasized. There are independent research assignments on various Italian cultural products. There are pre-course summer assignments. Listening exercises are to be done independently throughout the school year. This is a university level course that includes much independent study in addition to class time. Only Italian is spoken in class, and students are required to take the AP exam.

**ITALIAN ACCELERATO (HONORS)****5 Credits – Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

*Prerequisite: B average in Latin I or Spanish I or higher.* In this quick-paced course students acquire speaking and listening skills equivalent to a University Level I course. Accelerato builds on linguistic competencies acquired in the previous study of Latin or Spanish. Students will develop the four skills needed to use Italian successfully through the study of Italian culture, the structure of the language, and by listening to and speaking Italian daily.

**LATIN****LATIN I****5 Credits - Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

Students begin to learn to read and use Latin actively. They read myths and focus on building a strong vocabulary base and gaining an understanding of the structure of Latin. In addition, they begin to study ancient culture and the ways in which the classics have impacted the world for over 2,000 years.

**LATIN II****5 Credits - Grades 10, 11, 12**

*Prerequisite: Latin I (B average strongly suggested).* Students will increase their understanding of Latin vocabulary, grammar, and syntax. They will continue to study mythology and the ways in which the Latin language and ancient culture influence us today. There is a strong emphasis on the development of reading and translation skills.

**LATIN II (HONORS)****5 Credits - Grades 10, 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: A in Latin I; teacher recommendation.* This course will incorporate the components of Latin II with differentiated assessments and different expectations regarding mastery of material.

**LATIN III****5 Credits - Grades 10, 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: Latin II (B average strongly suggested).* Goals for this course include development of reading and translation skills as well as increased understanding of more complex Latin grammar, syntax, and vocabulary. Students will continue their study of mythology and begin to read authentic Latin literature.

**LATIN III (HONORS)****5 Credits - Grades 10, 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: A in Latin II; B+ in Latin II Honors; teacher recommendation.* This course will incorporate the components of Latin III with differentiated assessments and different expectations regarding mastery of material.

**LATIN IV****5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: B- in Latin III.* Students will employ the skills and knowledge gained in Latin I through Latin III and begin to read, analyze and discuss authentic Latin literature such as letters, historical documents, inscriptions, poems and myths. They will examine literature in its historical context in order to enhance their understanding of the ancient world. Course expectations include a thorough understanding of Latin grammar and syntax, strong translations skills and willingness to contribute to class discussions.

**LATIN IV (HONORS)****5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: A in Latin III; B+ in Latin III Honors; teacher recommendation.* This course will incorporate the components of Latin IV with differentiated assessments and different expectations regarding mastery of material.

**SPANISH****SPANISH I****5 Credits- Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

This is an introductory course designed to develop listening, speaking, reading and writing competency in Spanish. Students are introduced to basic grammatical structures, pronunciation and the practices and perspectives of the Spanish speaking world, using the communicative approach. Classes are conducted primarily in Spanish; English is used when it is necessary to facilitate comprehension.

**SPANISH II****5 Credits - Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: Spanish I.* This course promotes the continued development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in Spanish. Students are introduced to the history, geography, culture and literature of Spain and the Latin American countries. They are exposed to a wide variety of Spanish audio-lingual/visual materials. The use of the iPod and programs available on the tablet, and video equipment help promote aural/oral skills. The class is conducted primarily in Spanish. Students are expected to respond primarily in Spanish by January in the second semester.

**SPANISH II (HONORS)****5 Credits - Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

*Prerequisite: A in Spanish I; teacher recommendation* A greater oral proficiency is required for Honors level course. This course will go forward at a faster pace and in greater depth. A greater oral proficiency is required for an Honors level. This course will move forward at a faster pace and in greater depth than that in Spanish II CP. Students are introduced to the history, geography, culture and literature of Spain and Latin American countries. They are exposed to a wide variety of Spanish audio-lingual/visual materials, all of which will help to further promote aural/oral skills. The class is conducted primarily in Spanish. Students are expected to respond primarily in Spanish by the second quarter of the first semester.

**SPANISH III****5 Credits - Grades 10, 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: Spanish II (B strongly suggested); teacher recommendation.* Fluency in Spanish, as a form of written and oral communication, is the aim of this course. Grammar vocabulary and idiomatic expressions will be presented through conversational practices, the study of literary pieces and oral presentations. There is an in-depth study of geography, history and cultural trends of Latin America and Spain. Classes are conducted in Spanish

**SPANISH III (HONORS)****5 Credits - Grades 10, 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: A in Spanish II or B+ in Spanish II Honors; teacher recommendation.* This Honors level course is available for the most motivated student. This course will go forward at a faster pace and/or in greater depth. This course will have different assessments. A greater oral proficiency is required for the Honors level.

**SPANISH IV****5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: B- in Spanish III; teacher recommendation.* Fluency in Spanish, as a form of written and oral communication, is the aim of this course. More complex usage of grammar, listening, reading and writing skills is practiced through thematic units such as travel, the arts and careers. Short readings will give the students exposure to the history, geography and culture of different Spanish-speaking countries.

**SPANISH IV (HONORS)****5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: A in Spanish III; or B+ in Spanish III H; teacher recommendation.* This course is open to those students who have excelled in level III Honors and who anticipate continuing on to the AP program. This course involves more complex structures and patterns of grammar and the study of idiomatic expressions that contribute to an advanced level of reading and composition. It is also an introduction to, and a survey of, Spanish Literature, particularly Spanish masterpieces of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Classes are conducted entirely in Spanish and students are expected to speak only in Spanish as a pre-AP level.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT SPANISH LANGUAGE****6 Credits - Grade 12**

*Prerequisites: A in Spanish IV Honor and teacher recommendation.* This course focuses on the student's development of advanced listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in Spanish. Literature as well as various reading passages, and an intense grammar and vocabulary review are emphasized. There are pre-course summer assignments. Listening exercises are to be done independently throughout the school year. This is a university level course that includes much independent study in addition to class time. Only Spanish is spoken in class, and students are required to take the AP exam.

**SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE****5 Credits – Grade 12**

*Prerequisites: Spanish IV or Spanish IV Honors.* This course is designed to promote Spanish language and Hispanic culture and help students to develop their interpersonal communication skills through discussions based on media, film, short story, art, music, and current events from the Spanish-speaking world. The first component of this course is content based, including vocabulary usage, creative writing, cultural awareness, and communication strategies with the focus on further development of the students' language skills. Making a shift from the grammar-based textbook structure of the previous levels, this course brings the beauty, culture, and traditions of the Hispanic world to students in a relaxed and communicative classroom atmosphere, as they explore the Hispanic culture in both contemporary and historical context.

## STUDENT SERVICES

### **FRESHMAN SEMINAR**

**No Credit - Grade 9**

This seminar course is designed to introduce all first-year students to the academic and extracurricular programs, policies, and practices of MSMA. Students will learn how to utilize all available resources at MSMA, as well as sign in to Naviance and complete a Learning Style Inventory. Additionally, students will discuss time-management techniques, self-care, goal setting and how to make high school count. Classes are scheduled for the first quarter. Classes are non-graded; attendance is required.

### **SOPHOMORE SEMINAR**

**No Credit - Grade 10**

This seminar course is designed for all sophomores as an introduction to college and career planning. Students will take assessments on career interest and personality through Naviance and discuss a wide variety of potential careers. Additionally, students will work on building resumes, review and analyze Pre-ACT and PSAT test results, and engage in college planning discussions. Students are encouraged to participate in a work-shadow experience. Classes are scheduled for third quarter. Classes are non-graded; attendance is required.

### **JUNIOR COLLEGE SKILLS SEMINAR**

**No Credit - Grade 11**

All junior students are enrolled in a college skills seminar class that introduces the college search process. Students will research colleges in an effort to construct a refined list of colleges to apply to in their senior year. Other topics include: building a resume, brainstorming a college essay, importance of visiting colleges, planning a standardized testing timeline, and requesting letters of recommendation. Students will use Naviance, a personalized web-based program, to facilitate the college search process. Classes are scheduled second and third quarter, one class per cycle. Classes are non-graded; attendance is required.

### **SENIOR COLLEGE SKILLS SEMINAR**

**No Credit - Grade 12**

All senior students are enrolled in a college skills seminar class that emphasizes the college application process. This course focuses on the completion of college applications utilizing a step by step approach. Topics include the navigation and submission of college applications including the Common Application, the submission of standardized test scores including SAT and ACT, requesting letters of recommendation, submitting transcript request forms, and the use of Naviance in tracking the submission of these forms. Deadlines are emphasized, questions answered, and class time is allotted to work on supplemental pieces of the application. Classes are scheduled first quarter, one class per cycle first quarter, one class per cycle. Classes are non-graded, attendance is required.

### **WELLNESS SEMINAR: SPIRIT, MIND, AND BODY**

**No Credit- Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

This seminar will feature educational and experiential workshops on a variety of mind, body, and spirit topics that encourage overall well-being for students. All students will engage in wellness activities that promote personal skill development in areas such as meditation, relaxation skills, improving sleep, basic nutrition, and exercise. Each marking period will focus on a different grade level and will emphasize and correspond with other health initiatives and student service seminars.

## One SchoolHouse

All courses offered by **One SchoolHouse** may be found on their website: [www.oneschoolhouse.org](http://www.oneschoolhouse.org). There is an extra fee for all courses. Students who choose to enroll in an OS class as a seventh or eighth course and want the grade to be factored into their GPA must take the class during the school day under the supervision of the Assistant Directress for Curriculum and Faculty. Students may not enroll in a course offered at the Mount unless there is a conflict in their schedules.

Students who take an AP on-line class must also sit for the AP exam in May. The fee for the exam will be paid to the Academy and the Academy will administer the exam.

Although all students are permitted to take a class through One SchoolHouse, freshmen will be strongly advised to not take an on-line course.