



# ACADEMIC PROGRAM OF STUDIES

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# GENERAL ACADEMIC INFORMATION, 2024-25

## Schedules

At the end of the school year, students will choose courses for the next year based on recommendations by their current teachers. Students are encouraged to discuss all recommendations with their parents and teachers. A preliminary course schedule is distributed to students shortly after registration and must be returned to the counseling department with a parent's or guardian's signature.

Since scheduling involves additional time and data processing expense, any schedule change made after April 15 requires a fee of \$15.00. Before changes are made, approval must be obtained from the counseling director. In some cases, the approval of the principal must be obtained.

Every effort is made to honor schedule requests. However, in case of unresolved conflict, the student is consulted for alternate choices.

## Graduation Requirements

The minimum requirements for graduation are 130 credits.

Subjects required for graduation are the following:

Religion .....	4 years
English.....	4 years
Physical Education/Health .....	4 years
Mathematics.....	4 years
Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)	1 year each
World History .....	1 year
U.S. History .....	2 years
Foreign Language .....	2 years (3 recommended)
Fine Arts.....	1 year
Computer Science .....	1 year
Career Education .....	2 Quarters
Financial Literacy .....	1 Semester

## Additional Graduation Requirements

All students must pass each section of the IOWA Test of Educational Development (ITED) which is equivalent to the New Jersey High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA).

## Aquinas Scholars Honors Program

The St. Thomas Aquinas High School Honors Program is a four-year track designed to inspire high-achieving students to strive for excellence in their intellectual, spiritual, and social lives. The program is built on three distinct, yet inseparable and equally important areas which, when put together, assure that our students will succeed not only in their individual lives but also become contributing members to the wellbeing of our society. The three pillars of the Honors Program are: Academic Skills, Character Traits, and Practical & Professional Skills.

## Honors Courses

A student in an Honors course must maintain the course average as specified by each department in this Program of Studies. There are additional program requirements.

## College Courses

Occasionally a student may elect to take a course, or courses, at a local college. All such courses must be pre-approved by the Director of Counseling. These classes, taken for credit in a college, are indicated on the official transcript but are not calculated in the grade point average (GPA).

## Failures

A student who fails a subject for the year must repeat and pass the subject; failing grades cannot be carried into the next school year. Students may take the failed course in summer school or through private tutoring with an instructor certified in that subject area. Failure in summer school will result in automatic dismissal.

The summer school grade appears on the transcript. However, a grade of "D" is used to compute the GPA. Any student failing two (2) major subjects for the year may be asked not to return to St. Thomas Aquinas. This decision is made by the school administration.

The administration reserves the right to ask a student to withdraw from the school under the following circumstances related to failures:

1. Any student on academic probation if any subject is failed during the probation period.
2. Any student who fails a subject(s) in consecutive years.
3. Any student who fails (2) or more subjects in one academic year.

## Student Progress and Information

Parent-teacher-administration communication is enhanced through PowerSchool®, an Internet-based application that allows students as well as parents and guardians to view academic performance online.

St. Thomas Aquinas High School believes that parental involvement leads to better student development and performance. By visiting St. Thomas Aquinas's password-protected PowerSchool site, at any time, parents can access student information, check on grades, monitor attendance, view discipline reports and more. Course progress is current with a view of each teacher's grade book for all tasks, tests, homework, and project grades on an ongoing basis.

## Report Cards

Report cards are distributed at the end of the school year. Student progress may be viewed at any time throughout the school year through PowerSchool.

## SCIENCE

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### Biology/Lab (120)

*Credits: 6; Years Offered: 9*

Prerequisites: None

This course presents science through inquiry and develops an appreciation of the characteristics, complexity and diversity of living organisms. Students are introduced to various approaches and techniques of biological research emphasizing the ongoing nature of science. Scientific thinking is encouraged through experimentation and problem solving. Topics addressed include the history of biology, evolution, cellular structure/activities, DNA, genetics and a general survey of the phylums of the six kingdoms.

### Biology Honors/Lab (122)

*Credits: 6; Years Offered: 9*

Prerequisites: Placement determined by High School Placement Tests, department referral

This course takes a molecular approach to the study of major biological concepts. Areas of study include atomic structure, chemical bonding, organic molecules, cellular activities, DNA structure, genetics and evolution. A systems approach is used to study various organisms with an emphasis on human systems. The course concludes with a study of ecology. Laboratory work provides opportunities to reinforce and apply knowledge, develop scientific procedures and to think critically.

### AP<sup>®</sup> Biology/Lab (125)

*Credits: 7; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: "A+" average in Biology, Chemistry, Physics; "B+" average in Honors Sciences; departmental recommendation

This course is designed to be the equivalent of a first-year college course taken by biology majors. Areas of study include molecules and cells; genetics and evolution; organisms and populations. Lab work encourages the development of important skills such as detailed observation, accurate recording, experimental design, manipulation, data interpretation, and statistical analysis. Assignments offer the opportunity for students to learn about problem solving, the scientific method, techniques of research, and the use of scientific literature. Students are required to take the AP<sup>®</sup> exam.

### Chemistry/Lab (140)

*Credits: 6; Years Offered: 10*

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Biology

This course is a study of the properties and changes that occur in the composition of matter. This is accomplished by studying and stressing chemical bonding, periodicity in the behavior of chemical elements, the quantum mechanical model of the atom, molecular structure, the mechanics of a chemical reaction and the concept of the mole. Math skills are employed for the quantitative study of stoichiometry problems. This course includes the study of oxidation-reduction reactions, conversion methods and gas laws.

### Chemistry Honors/Lab (142)

*Credits: 6; Years Offered: 10*

Prerequisites: "A+" average in Biology or "B" average in Biology Honors; "A+" average in Math or "B+" average in Math Honors

This course covers the study of matter, its properties and the changes that occur in its composition. Application and logical interpretation of this knowledge is also stressed. Topics addressed include nomenclature, chemical formulas and equations, stoichiometry, atomic structure and quantum mechanics. Other topics include chemical bonding and molecular geometry, phases of matter, solution chemistry, equilibrium, reaction rates, thermodynamics, acid-base reductions and electrochemistry. Lab experiments serve to illustrate and reinforce these areas.

### AP<sup>®</sup> Chemistry/Lab (145)

*Credits: 7; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: Biology; "A" average in AP<sup>®</sup> Physics or "A+" average in Physics Honors; "A" average in Chemistry Honors

Completion of summer assignments is required. This course is the equivalent of a first-year college course for science and engineering majors, with a highly theoretical, in-depth treatment of the fundamental concepts learned in the Honors Chemistry course. Topics covered include chemical reactions and equations including oxidation-reduction and precipitation reactions, stoichiometry, atomic and molecular structures with geometry, chemical bonding, periodic trends, states of matter, and solution chemistry. Equilibrium topics include gaseous, acid-base and precipitate. Chemical kinetics, electrochemistry and quantum mechanics are covered. Lab experiments reinforce theory and technique. Students are required to take the AP<sup>®</sup> exam.

### Physics/Lab (160)

*Credits: 6; Years Offered: 11*

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry

Physics is a problem-solving course with an emphasis on mathematical applications involving the properties and behavior of matter. Topics covered include mechanics, heat, waves, optics and electrical circuits. The main objective of this course is to develop critical thinking.

## Physics Honors/Lab (162)

*Credits: 6; Years Offered: 11*

Prerequisites: "A+" average in Chemistry or "B" average in Chemistry Honors; "A+" average in Math or "B" average in Math Honors

This is an in-depth study of the concepts in physics with great emphasis placed on mathematical and physical relationships. Problems are that of a first-year college physics course. Students intending to pursue engineering or science degrees in college are advised to take this course.

## AP<sup>®</sup> Physics/Lab (165)

*Credits: 7; Years Offered: 11*

Prerequisites: "A+" averages in both Chemistry Honors and Math Honors

This course is offered as a first-year college-level Physics course for highly motivated and academically-oriented students. This is a rigorous, fast-paced course, which covers the topics of mechanics, heat and thermodynamics, waves and optics, electricity and magnetism, and modern physics. Students are required to take the AP<sup>®</sup> Physics exam.

## Forensic Science/Lab (180)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry, Physics; department referral

This senior year elective focuses on the scientific practices surrounding the field of forensics and crime scene investigation. The first part of the course focuses on the history and development of forensics as a science with the advent of new technologies. The basics of criminalistics, both in the lab and at the crime scene, are discussed as well as the importance and definition of physical evidence. The second part of the course moves into the anatomy of the human body and how it relates to an autopsy and forensic pathology. The vital organ systems are discussed in detail. Students act as forensic scientists with regard to specific practices such as fingerprinting, blood serology, toxicology, and ballistics. This course does not fulfill the three-year core science requirement.

## Anatomy and Physiology Honors (192)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: "B+" or better in all math and science courses.

This elective course will include a yearlong program of studying human anatomy with the rigors of an advanced level science course. The areas covered will include medical terminology, cell and tissue structure and the 10 systems of the human body, along with one full quarter dedicated to dissection. Students will also learn how to analyze scientific information and practice the art of scientific writing, research, and presentation of data. This course does not fulfill the three-year core science requirement.

## THEOLOGY

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### Theology I: Scripture and Christology (200)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9*

Prerequisites: None

Students will begin their Catholic Theological education by learning about the person of Jesus Christ through the clear presentation of His life, ministry and teachings. Rooted in the Scriptures and theological reflection, students will build their understanding of Who Jesus is through the lens of Salvation History, through the way the Old Testament prepares for the coming of Christ, and ultimately the life, death, and resurrection of Christ Himself, contained within the Gospels of the New Testament, which form the foundation of the Christian faith.

### Theology I Honors: Scripture and Christology (202)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9*

Prerequisites: Determined by the High School Placement Test  
An accelerated and deepened form of Theology I, students will begin their Catholic Theological education by learning about the person of Jesus Christ through the clear presentation of His life, ministry and teachings. Rooted in the Scriptures and theological reflection, students will build their understanding of Who Jesus is through the lens of Salvation History, through the way the Old Testament prepares for the coming of Christ, and ultimately the life, death, and resurrection of Christ Himself, contained within the Gospels of the New Testament, which form the foundation of the Christian faith. Students will look at how to make Theological connections between the Old and New Testaments, and develop the initial tools that they need to build further Theological connections in subsequent courses.

### Theology II: Church Teachings and the Sacraments (220)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10*

Prerequisites: None

Church Teachings: Building upon the Christological foundations of Theology I, students will explore the practices, beliefs, and customs of the Catholic Church by exploring the fundamentals of Church Teaching from the Creed to the Catechism. Sacraments: Proceeding from their exploration of the Catholic Faith, students gain a greater understanding of each of the Church's seven Sacraments through studying the symbolism, ritual, prayer, and ways in which each Sacrament is an extension of Christ's continuing incarnation through His Church. This course guides students to recognize how sacraments relate to their daily lives, with special emphasis given to the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist.

## Theology II Honors: Church Teachings and the Sacraments (222)

*Credits: 2.5; Years Offered: 10*

Prerequisites: "B" or better in Theology I Honors

Building upon the Christological foundations of Theology I Honors, students will explore the practices, beliefs, and customs of the Catholic Church by exploring the fundamentals of Church Teaching from the Creed to the Catechism. Proceeding from their exploration of the Catholic Faith, students gain a greater understanding of the nature of the Sacraments, sacramentality, and the Sacramental life of the Church. Through studying the symbolism, ritual, prayer, and ways in which each Sacrament is an extension of Christ's continuing incarnation through His Church, students will also explore how sacraments relate to their daily lives. A special emphasis is given to the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist.

## Theology II: Honors: World Religions (232) (Dual Enrollment)

*Credits: 2.5; Years Offered: 10*

Prerequisites: Required course for Global Honors students only

This course examines how questions and issues of life are addressed by the major religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism. The creed, code and culture of each religion are examined and contrasted. Students will also discuss and explore other contemporary religions. The course encourages students to develop respect and tolerance for other faiths Course study will be enhanced through speakers, trips and research.

## Theology III: Christian Morality (240)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11*

Prerequisites: None

This course studies Christian moral teachings through the teachings of the Church and through the lens of St. John Paul II's revolutionary work, "Theology of the Body" by asking the questions, "who is God?", "who am I?", "who is my neighbor?", and "what was I created for?" In exploring and discussing these questions, students will be presented with an understanding of Christian morality that goes beyond a simple list of rules, but gets to the heart of its purpose: responding to Jesus' teachings of how we are to love God, love our neighbors, and love ourselves. The emphasis in this course is on the development of an informed conscience based on Catholic teachings as students learn the importance of how the dignity of the human person, human needs, and faith can serve as a basis for critical reflection in making moral decisions.

## Theology III Honors: Christian Morality (242)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11*

Prerequisites: "B" or better in Theology II Honors and departmental recommendation; or "A" or better in Theology II and departmental recommendation

This course follows the outline of Theology III, with an emphasis on an in-depth application of principles to contemporary moral issues. This is accomplished through personal research, group work, and formal presentations. The course studies Christian moral teachings through the teachings of the Church and through the lens of St. John Paul II's revolutionary work, "Theology of the Body" by asking the questions, "who is God?", "who am I?", "who is my neighbor?", and "what was I created for?" In exploring and discussing these questions, students will be presented with an understanding of Christian morality that goes beyond a simple list of rules but gets to the heart of its purpose: responding to Jesus' teachings of how we are to love God, love our neighbors, and love ourselves. The emphasis in this course is on the development of an informed conscience based on Catholic teachings as students learn the importance of how the dignity of the human person, human needs, and faith can serve as a basis for critical reflection in making moral decisions.

## Theology III: Morality-Ethics (244)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11*

Prerequisites: "B+" or better in prior Religion classes; departmental recommendation only

This course is a study of the principles of moral and ethical decision-making as it is influenced by culture, media, business and government policies along with religious and personal morals. Students will attempt to answer the questions: What does Jesus have to do with ethics and what moral and ethical significance does he have for Christians today? How does Roman Catholicism influence our moral and ethical decision-making? Students will be required to prepare research papers both individually and in groups and present their findings in oral presentations.

## **Theology IV: Vocations and Christian Life (260)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: None

This course introduces the idea of vocations as a calling from God, to students, by exploring sacramental marriage, priesthood, and religious life. This course also explores the Universal Call to Holiness which undergirds the vocational callings of Christian life-states and focuses on helping students to understand the unique and specific role and context for holiness that God calls each and every person to. Additionally, students will explore how Christian life can be lived in the contemporary world in day to day life. At its core, this course encourages students to start asking the important questions: "who am I and what should I try to do with this life I have been given?"

## **Theology IV Honors: Vocations and Christian Life (262)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: "B" or better in Religion III Honors; departmental recommendation

This course follows the outline of Theology IV Honors, but does so at a greater depth. The course introduces the idea of vocations as a calling from God, to students, by exploring sacramental marriage, priesthood, and religious life. This course also explores the Universal Call to Holiness which undergirds the vocational callings of Christian life-states and focuses on helping students to understand the unique and specific role and context for holiness that God calls each and every person to. Students will explore the deeper Theological connections that can be made regarding what and why the Church teaches what she does about vocations.

Students will also have the opportunity to read and unpack primary source documents given by the Church regarding the vocational states, such as *Lumen Genitum*, *Christifideles Laici*, *Mulieris Dignitatem*, and others. Additionally, students will explore how Christian life can be lived in the contemporary world in day to day life. At its core, this course encourages students to start asking the important questions: "who am I and what should I try to do with this life I have been given?"

## **Theology IV: Peer Leadership (264)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: 2.5 cumulative GPA - Interested juniors are required to participate in a comprehensive selection process that consists of a written application, personal interview, and observed group task. This course provides seniors with a thorough knowledge of group dynamics, basic leadership, problem solving, and communication skills. Also, this course explores various Christian lifestyles focusing on the single, religious, and married vocations with their respective opportunities and challenges. Additional topics include: friendship, dating, love and human sexuality, and discerning choices and commitments in life. Students who are selected to be peer leaders are also required to sign a contract, along with their parents, agreeing to abide by the confidentiality, no use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco, and positive role model policies. Failure to follow these policies will result in dismissal from the Peer Leadership program.

## **Theology IV: Christian Life Choices / Service Option (263)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: Approval of the Theology Chairperson.

This course follows a condensed Christian Life Choices curriculum covering the developmental aspects of life choices including the spiritual, emotional, psychological & cognitive preparations for those choices. Students are prepared for and encouraged to volunteer in local hospitals, shelters, nursery schools, nursing homes. They may support the STA community working on special projects. Students have the opportunity to attend out-of- school service sites or remain in school during this period. A total of twenty-five service hours per quarter is required.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

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### **Physical Education (300)**

*Credits: 2.5; Years Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12*

Prerequisites: None

Physical Education classes help the student achieve physical, social and mental fitness. Students have the opportunity to experience and learn the skill required of several team-building activities. These activities develop sportsmanlike values in our students. Activities like aerobics, dance and recreational games are designed to encourage students to work at their own pace to attain personal physical goals. All activities exercise both the mind and the body in order to develop the whole student. The freshman year component includes Project Adventure activities, which develop problem-solving skills, acceptance and leadership and communication skills.

## Freshman Health (304)

*Credits: 2.5; Years Offered: 9*

Prerequisites: None

This course begins with the study of all body systems, including the male and female reproductive system. The second half of the class will address drug, tobacco and alcohol abuse. In addition, proper nutrition, exercise wellness and other aspects of a healthy lifestyle will be examined.

## Sophomore Health: Driver's Theory (324)

*Credits: 2.5; Years Offered: 10*

Prerequisites: None

This course is designed to familiarize the students with the operation of the automobile. Special emphasis is placed on New Jersey laws and regulations. The state written test is given at this time. This quarter-long course is scheduled without regard to the student's birth date.

## Junior Health (344)

*Credits: 2.5; Years Offered: 11*

Prerequisites: None

This course begins with the study of diseases and disorders including infectious diseases and their prevention. This course addresses sexually transmitted diseases, specifically HIV and AIDS. The second half of the course deals with non-infectious diseases, including cancer, heart disease, diabetes and arthritis. Students will also be instructed on the benefits of organ and tissue donations.

## Weight Training (365)

*Credits: 2.5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: B+ or higher in all physical education courses, a B or higher in Biology, and a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

This course will build on the basics of fundamental human movement to develop good habits in a gym or wherever students decide to pursue the improvement of physical health. This course will involve initial movement assessment practices and will then build upon basic movement patterns such as push-ups, pull ups, squats, and hip hinges. The course will also educate in biomechanics and muscle structure to understand what we are developing and why we are doing what we do. There will also be some basic nutrition discussions to make sure a basic understanding is held of how to eat and how to maintain healthy eating habits.

## Physical Education: Symphonic Band (380)

*Credits: 2.5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: Department approval/meeting with the student.

This option is available to senior students who are current or aspiring members of the Aquinas Concert Band. Band is a course for instrumental students who understand and apply the value of the study of music via performance in ensembles. The course is designed with three components: Physicality of Performance, Instrumental Method, and Music Theory. In addition to class time, students are members of the Concert Band ensemble and are scheduled for sectional pull-out lessons several times a month or as needed. All members are eligible for membership in the Marching Band and other co-curricular small ensembles. Students are required to attend pre-concert rehearsals (after school/evening) in addition to their own daily practice. Participation and performance in concerts is required.

## MATHEMATICS

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Calculator Use: The Math Department strongly recommends all students have a graphing calculator, TI-83 or any model of the TI-84. All classroom demonstrations are done using these calculators. Any student using any other TI model or a calculator from another manufacturer should be proficient with its use or be prepared to seek outside resources for help.

Summer work: As part of the first quarter grade students enrolled in the following courses will have an on-line summer math assignment: Algebra I, Algebra I Accelerated, Algebra I Honors, Geometry, Geometry Accelerated, Geometry Honors, Algebra II, Algebra II Accelerated, Algebra II Honors and Algebra II/Geometry Honors. Assignments are course specific. Changes to a student's school schedule could change the required summer assignment.

## Algebra I (400)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9*

Prerequisites: Departmental recommendation based on grammar school transcript, high school placement test and an optional Math Assessment Test.

This course is designed to develop the standard axioms of Algebra I while enhancing a student's basic skills in math. The beginning focus is on reinforcing pre-algebra skills of signed numbers, number sense and order of operations. The pace of the course allows the opportunity for students who need additional time to master a concept. Integral exponents, linear equations and operations with polynomials are emphasized. Word problems are identified for use in science and advanced math courses. Every student should have a scientific calculator; however, a graphing calculator is recommended (TI-83 or any model of the TI-84).



## Algebra I Accelerated (401)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9*

Prerequisites: Departmental recommendation based on grammar school transcript, high school placement test and an optional Math Assessment Test.

This course assumes proficiency in the Pre-algebra skills of signed numbers, number sense and order of operations. Integral exponents, operations with signed numbers, integral exponents, both positive and negative as well as scientific notation are emphasized. Systems of two linear equations are introduced. Various types of word problems are identified for use in science and advanced math courses. Every student should have a scientific calculator; however, a graphing calculator is recommended. (TI-83 or any model of the TI-84).

## Algebra I Honors (402)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9*

Prerequisites: Departmental recommendation based on grammar school transcript, High School Placement Test, and an optional Math Assessment Test

This course is designed to develop the standard axioms of algebra. Operations with signed numbers, integral exponents, both positive and negative as well as scientific notation are emphasized. Solving equations, inequalities and simplifying algebraic expressions are mastered. Elementary geometry formulas are applied to composite figures. Ratio, proportion problems, scientific notation and unit conversions help prepare students for science applications. Students will develop critical thinking skills through numerous and varied word problems using one and two variables, equations, or inequalities. Every student must have a graphing calculator (TI-83 or any model of the TI-84).

## Geometry (410)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9, 10*

Prerequisites: Completion of an Algebra I course and/or departmental recommendation based on a Math Assessment Test. This course introduces and develops fundamental Geometry concepts and their applications. There is emphasis on integrating Algebra I skills into the Geometry topics. Lines and planes, triangles, circles, polygons, similarity, congruence and basic trigonometry are studied at a pace that allows for students who need extra reinforcement to master concepts. Every student should have a scientific calculator; however, a graphing calculator is recommended (TI-83 or any model of the TI-84).

## Geometry Accelerated (411)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9, 10*

Prerequisites: Completion of an Algebra I Accelerated course with a C or better average and/or departmental recommendation based on a math assessment test.

This course introduces and develops multiple geometry concepts and uses a problem-solving base which integrates Algebra skills. Students will study circles, triangles, polygons, lines and planes, similarity, congruence and basic trigonometry. Every student should have a scientific calculator; however, a graphing calculator is recommended. (TI-83 or any model of the TI-84).

## Geometry Honors (412)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9, 10*

Prerequisites: Completion of an Algebra I Honors course with a B+ or better average and/or departmental recommendation based on a Math Assessment Test.

Lines, triangles, polygons, similarity, congruence, right triangles, basic trigonometry, circles and surface area and volume are studied. Critical thinking skills are emphasized throughout the course. Every student must have a graphing calculator (TI-83 or any model of the TI-84).

## Algebra II/Geometry Honors (422)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9, 10*

Prerequisites: Completion of an Algebra I Honors course with a B+ or better average and/or departmental recommendation based on a Math Assessment Test.

This is a rigorous, fast-paced course which covers a complete Geometry course and a complete Algebra II course in one year. In Semester I, students will study lines, triangles, polygons, similarity, congruence, right triangles, basic trigonometry rules, circles, surface area and volume. In Semester II, students will study the roots of an equation, rational exponents and functions, radicals and radical functions, various types of equations, variations, matrices, complex numbers, quadratic and trigonometric functions and conic sections. Critical thinking skills are emphasized throughout the course. Every student must have a graphing calculator (TI-83 or any model of the TI-84).

## Algebra II (430)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11*

Prerequisites: Completion of an Algebra I course and a Geometry course and/or departmental recommendation based on a Math Assessment Test.

This course covers fundamental operations on real numbers, complex numbers and polynomial expressions. Solving quadratic equations, solving and graphing equations and inequalities in one, two and three variables, variation and matrices are studied at a pace that allows for students who need extra reinforcement to master concepts. Every student must have a graphing calculator (TI-83 or any model of the TI-84).

## Algebra II Accelerated (431)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11*

Prerequisites: Completion of Geometry Accelerated with a C or better average and/or departmental recommendation

This course covers the fundamental operations on real numbers, complex numbers and polynomial expressions. Students are able to solve quadratic equations and resolve the relationship between roots, factors and coefficients of third and fourth degree equations. Other topics include equations and inequalities in one, two or three variables, variation and matrices. Emphasis is placed on problem solving. Every student must have a graphing calculator (TI-83 or any model of the TI-84).

## Algebra II Honors (432)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11*

Prerequisites: Completion of an Algebra I Honors course with a B+ or better average and completion of a Geometry Honors course with a B+ or better average and/or departmental recommendation based on a Math Assessment Test.

Roots, rational exponents and functions, radicals and radical functions, various types of equations, variation, matrices, complex numbers, quadratic and polynomial functions, trigonometric functions and conic sections are studied. Critical thinking skills are emphasized throughout the course. Every student must have a graphing calculator (TI-83 or any model of the TI-84).

## Pre-Calculus Accelerated (450)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Completion of an Algebra II Accelerated course and/or departmental recommendation

Students acquire and master the fundamental skills of Algebra and Trigonometry. Polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions are studied. Trigonometry topics include identities, right triangle applications and the Laws of Sines and Cosines. Every student must have a graphing calculator (TI-83 or any model of the TI-84).

## Pre-Calculus Honors (452)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Completion of Algebra II/Geometry Honors with a B+ or better average or Algebra II Honors with a B+ or better average and/or departmental recommendation

This course includes pre-calculus topics such as polynomial, rational, trigonometric, exponential and logarithmic functions and their graphs. Sequences, series, parametrics, vectors and polars are presented. The study of limits is introduced. Every student must have a graphing calculator (TI-83 or any model of the TI-84).

## Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry (461)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: Completion of an Algebra II course and/or departmental recommendation

This course emphasizes the development of the algebra and trigonometry skills necessary for college courses. Essential topics are the polynomial, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions and their characteristics. Trigonometry topics include identities, right angle applications and the Laws of Sines and Cosines. Every student must have a graphing calculator (TI-83 or any model of the TI-84).

## Calculus I (463)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Completion of a Pre-calculus Accelerated course and/or departmental recommendation.

Differential and integral Calculus topics are introduced and their applications, including related rate problems, area under a curve and minimizing and maximizing problems, are presented. Every student must have a graphing calculator (TI-83 or any model of the TI-84). Classroom instruction will be done on a Texas instruments calculator.

## Statistics (464)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: Completion of a Pre-Calculus course and/or departmental recommendation

This course gives a basic introduction to the study of Statistics. Topics covered include organizing data, variation, probability, normal distribution and hypothesis testing. Every student must have a graphing calculator (TI-83 or any model of the TI-84).

## **AP® Calculus AB (465)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Completion of a Pre-Calculus Honors course with a 95 or better average and/or departmental recommendation  
AP® Calculus AB is intended for students who have a thorough knowledge of college preparatory mathematics, including Algebra and Pre-calculus. The course introduces the student to the methods and procedures of differential and integral calculus. Every student must have a graphing calculator (TI-83 or any model of the TI-84). Classroom demonstrations are done on a Texas Instruments graphing calculator. Students are required to take the AP® exam.

## **AP® Calculus BC (475)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Completion of a Pre-calculus Honors course with a 95 or better average and departmental recommendation.  
This course is a rigorous full year course in Single Variable calculus that introduces the methods and procedures of differential and integral Calculus plus the additional topics of parametric, polar and vector functions and series. Every student must have a graphing calculator. Classroom demonstrations are done on a Texas Instruments graphic calculator. Students are required to take the AP® exam.

## **AP® Statistics (485)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: Completion of Calculus AB or Calculus BC with a B+ or better average and with a 3 or better on the AP test  
AP® Statistics is a rigorous full year course that introduces to the student the concepts and tools of data description and organization, probability, normal distributions, variance and standard deviation, hypothesis testing, correlation, regression and inference. Every student must have a graphing calculator (TI-83 or TI-84/84 Plus). Students are required to take the AP® exam.

## **Sports Management and Statistics (474)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: "B" or better in all previous math classes and departmental recommendation.  
Students will gain a greater knowledge of mathematics in this elective course by connecting it to the real-world application in the sports world. Student work will be evaluated through tests, projects and writing assignments.

## **Engineering Applications I (491)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Engineering Principles and Design or teacher approval  
This course follows and builds upon the foundations established in Engineering Principles and Design. In this project based learning course, students will work in different groups over the course of the year to research, design, prototype, and present on numerous Engineering design problems. Students will gain further experience in the areas of Mechanical, Electrical, Civil, Industrial, Computer, and other Engineering Disciplines, while also learning about different STEM related technologies such as 3-D printing, drafting, and design tools.

## **Engineering Principles and Design (471)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12*

Prerequisites: "B" or better GPA  
This course is designed to give students an introductory view into the world of engineering professions. We will explore what an engineer does and how engineers have been involved in designing solutions to problems throughout history. Students will also be exposed to the questions of ethics within the engineering profession, and how these decisions, which can pertain to things such as efficiency and cost, affect the engineering design process. At the end of the year, students will have the opportunity to work in a group on a small design project, to solve an engineering problem, putting what you have learned over the year to use. Students will develop skills in problem solving, research and design while learning strategies for design process documentation, collaboration and presentation.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

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### **World History (500)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10*

Prerequisites: None  
The World History course explores past civilizations and their impact upon the present. The course surveys Eastern and Western Civilizations and the development of major world religions. The Medieval Period and the dominant role of the Catholic Church are examined. Emphasis is on the transition from Medieval to Modern Europe with special attention on the growth of democracy and nationalism. Knowledge of world geography and the study of other cultures are stressed.

## World History Honors (502)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10*

Prerequisites: Placement determined by the High School Placement Test

World History Honors surveys major historical themes and cultural patterns of Eastern and Western civilizations. Beginning at the Renaissance through World War 2, political, economic and sociocultural aspects of all major world cultures are emphasized in their geographical relationships. Activities develop analytical and critical thinking through readings and research.

## Western Civilization Honors (512) (Dual Enrollment)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9*

Prerequisites: This course is limited to students enrolled in the Honors Program (classical track) as determined by the High School Placement Test

This course is a study of the historical and cultural evolution of Western society from its beginning to the Industrial Revolution. Institutions and ideas are examined not only as social phenomena, but also as expressions of the human encounter with the world. Students are acquainted with basic historical concepts and culture works as introduction to Western civilization.

## U.S. History I (530)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11*

Prerequisites: None

U.S. History I is a study of the development of America from the colonial era to the end of Reconstruction. Trends in American history including geography, immigration, westward expansion, technological change, religious expansion, the development of political parties and civil rights are studied.

## U.S. History I Honors (532)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11*

Prerequisites: "B+" or better in Western Civilization Honors. "B+" or better in World History Honors, or "A" in World History and departmental recommendation

This is a study of the growth of America from the Age of Exploration through Reconstruction. Emphasis is on the relationship of political, economic and social aspects of America's development. Special emphasis is paid to trends, including the growth of democracy, political parties, nationalism, industrialization and sectionalism. Constitutional studies, primary documents and geography are included. Analytical and critical thinking are applied through essays and other projects.

## U.S. History II (540)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: U.S. History I

This course traces the development of the United States from the Gilded Age to the present. Emphasis is on the events of the previous century as a guide to the nation in the 21st century. It is a chronological study of events including social, political, geographic, military and economic concepts. Critical reading, writing and thinking skills are developed through the study of primary and secondary sources.

## U.S. History II Honors (542)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: "B+" or better in U.S. History I Honors or "A" in U.S. History I and/or departmental recommendation

This course focuses on the U.S. from the Age of Imperialism to the present. A chronological study of American History and examination of the political, social, economic, cultural and geographic development of the U.S. is the basis for the course. Students are expected to be able to use their analytical, written and oral skills. Students will be instructed in the process of writing effective essays and the interpretation of primary and secondary sources.

## AP® U.S. History II (545)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: "A" average in U.S. History I Honors and/or departmental recommendation

This course is taught at the college level with a college level textbook. The course surveys American History from the Age of Imperialism to the present. Areas of study include the political, social, economic, psychological, cultural and geographic development of the U.S. Assessments include essays, research papers and interpretation of primary and secondary source materials. Extensive reading is required; writing, verbal and analytical skills are necessary to succeed. Students are required to take the AP® exam.

## AP® Psychology (562)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: "B+" or better GPA

AP® Psychology is an introductory college-level psychology course. Students cultivate their understanding of the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes through inquiry-based investigations as they explore concepts like the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and cognition, motivation, developmental psychology, testing and individual differences, treatment of abnormal behavior, and social psychology. Students are required to take the AP® exam.

## Childhood Development (585)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: None

Explore the fascinating world of Child Development in this engaging course. Delve into the intricate stages of childhood, understanding the physical, emotional, and cognitive development of young minds. Through a blend of theory and practical insights, students will gain valuable knowledge about the factors shaping a child's growth. Interactive activities, case studies, and discussions will empower students to apply their learning, fostering a deeper understanding of child psychology and providing a solid foundation for those considering careers in education, psychology, or any field involving interactions with children.

## U.S. Law Honors (582)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: Grades of "B" or better in English Honors and History Honors or teacher recommendation.

U.S. Law focuses on the structure and rhetoric of modern U.S. court proceedings, as well as several works of literature inspired by the American court system. Class time is divided between traditional instruction and project-based learning assignments, culminating in a statewide, mock trial competition.

## New Jersey History: Colonial Beginnings to Present Day (592)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Completion of English and History courses with a "B" or better

New Jersey is a state with a huge personality. It is located in the heart of the Atlantic Corridor and is the state with the highest population density in the country. This course is for students who love this state and want to learn more about what makes New Jersey the great state that it is. In this course, we will explore the state's most influential events and people. Students will have opportunities to work with primary sources from New Jersey's past, will hone their research and writing skills and participate in class projects including developing virtual walking tours, creating a county based Monopoly game showcasing New Jersey's rich diversity.

## American History & Culture Through Film (595)

*Credits: 2.5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Completion of U.S. History I and all English courses with a final grade of C+ or higher.

*American History & Culture Through Film* offers students an alternative way to view how and why America changed during the 20th and 21st centuries. One or two films per decade will be viewed and analyzed. The period films selected for this course will be chosen for their specific message, which reflects the spirit and mood of the decade in which they were made. Through film analysis, discussion, and essay-writing, students will gain insight into the social climate and historical events of the 20th and early 21st centuries. Discussion and writing will be required after each film.

## WORLD LANGUAGES

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### French I (F600)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9*

Prerequisites: None

French I is a foundation course for students and no prior French experience is needed. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), is Novice-Mid. By the end of the academic year, students should be able to engage in conversation on familiar topics and understand French culture.

### French I Honors (F602) (Dual Enrollment)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9*

Prerequisites: Determined by the High School Placement Test and grammar school transcript

French I Honors is a foundation course for students and no prior French experience is needed. Students are required to use the target language and language skills are enhanced through class discussions, compositions and novels. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), is Novice-High. By the end of the academic year, students should be able to engage in conversation on familiar topics and understand French culture.

## French II (F610)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9, 10*

Prerequisites: Successful completion of French I or placement test

French II is a continuation and expansion of the fundamentals of French. Students are required to use the target language and language skills are enhanced through class discussions, compositions and readings. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), is Novice-High. By the end of the academic year, the student should be able to engage in conversation in the several tenses, describe past events, predict future events, and make comparisons between American and French cultures.

## French II Honors (F612) (Dual Enrollment)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9, 10*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; "B" or better in French I Honors or placement test

French II Honors is a continuation and expansion of the fundamentals of French. Students are required to use the target language and language skills are enhanced through class discussions, compositions and novels. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), is Intermediate-Low. By the end of the academic year, students should be able to engage in conversation on familiar topics and understand French culture.

## French III (F620)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; "C+" or better in French II

French III builds upon the fundamentals of French with advanced vocabulary and structures. Students are required to use the target language and language skills are enhanced through class discussions, compositions and readings. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), is Intermediate-Low. By the end of the academic year, students should be able to engage in conversation in several tenses, discuss and defend topics, and make comparisons between American and French cultures.

## French III Honors (F622) (Dual Enrollment)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; "B" or better in French II Honors

French III Honors builds upon the fundamentals of French with advanced vocabulary and structures. Students are required to use the target language and language skills are enhanced through class discussions, compositions and independent readings. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, is Intermediate-Mid. By the end of the academic year, students should be able to engage in conversation in several tenses, discuss and defend opinions, and make comparisons between American and French cultures.

## French IV: Seminar in Modern French Topics (F630)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; "C+" or better in French III

French IV is a seminar-style course in modern French topics. Students are required to use the target language and language skills are enhanced through oral presentations, class discussions, literary and film analysis and assigned compositions based on contemporary issues in France. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), is Intermediate-High.

## French IV Honors: Seminar in Modern French Topics (F632)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; "B" or better in French III Honors

French IV Honors is a seminar-style course in modern French topics. Students are required to use the target language and language skills are enhanced through oral presentations, class discussions, literary and film analysis and assigned compositions based on contemporary issues in France. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), is Advanced-Low.

## Italian I (I600)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9*

Prerequisites: None

Italian I is a foundation course with no prior Italian experience needed. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), is Novice-Mid. By the end of the academic year, students should be able to engage in conversation on familiar topics and understand Italian culture.

## Italian I Honors (I602) (Dual Enrollment)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9*

Prerequisites: Placement determined by the High School Placement Test and grammar school transcript

Italian I Honors is a foundation course for students with no prior Italian experience needed. Students are required to use the target language and language skills are enhanced through class discussions, compositions and novels. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), is Novice-High. By the end of the academic year, students should be able to engage in conversation on familiar topics and understand Italian culture.

## Italian II (I610)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9, 10*

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Italian I or placement test

Italian II is a continuation and expansion of the fundamentals of Italian. Students are required to use the target language and language skills are enhanced through class discussions, compositions and readings. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), is Novice-High. By the end of the academic year, students should be able to engage in conversation in the several tenses, describe past events, predict future events and make comparisons between American and Italian cultures.

## Italian II Honors (I612) (Dual Enrollment)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9, 10*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; "B" or better in Italian I Honors or placement test

Italian II Honors is a continuation and expansion of the fundamentals of Italian. Students are required to use the target language and language skills are enhanced through class discussions, compositions and novels. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), is Intermediate-Low. By the end of the academic year, students should be able to engage in conversation on familiar topics and understand Italian culture.

## Italian III (I620)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; "C+" or better in Italian II

Italian III builds upon the fundamentals of Italian with advanced vocabulary and structures. Students are required to use the target language and language skills are enhanced through class discussions, compositions and readings. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), is Intermediate-Low. By the end of the academic year, students should be able to engage in conversation in several tenses, discuss and defend topics, and make comparisons between American and Italian cultures.

## Italian III Honors (I622) (Dual Enrollment)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; "B" or better in Italian II Honors

Italian III Honors builds upon the fundamentals of Italian with advanced vocabulary and structures. Students are required to use the target language and language skills are enhanced through class discussions, compositions and independent readings. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, is Intermediate-Mid. By the end of the academic year, students should be able to engage in conversation in several tenses, discuss and defend opinions, and make comparisons between American and Italian cultures.

## Italian IV: Seminar in Modern Italian Topics (I630)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; "C+" or better in Italian III

Italian IV is a seminar-style course in modern Italian topics. Students are required to use the target language and language skills are enhanced through oral presentations, class discussions, literary and film analysis and assigned compositions based on contemporary issues in Italy. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), is Intermediate-High.

## Italian IV Honors: Seminar in Modern Italian Topics (I632)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; "B" or better in Italian III Honors

Italian IV Honors is a seminar-style course in modern Italian topics. Students are required to use the target language and language skills are enhanced through oral presentations, class discussions, literary and film analysis and assigned compositions based on contemporary issues in Italy. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), is Advanced-Low.

## Latin I Honors (L602)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9*

Prerequisites: Determined by the High School Placement Test

The study of Latin provides a foundation in vocabulary and grammar for the study of modern Romance languages and aids in strengthening the student's knowledge of English. Latin also supports the development of analytical thinking and is helpful in liberal arts, as well as the medical and legal fields. Latin I emphasizes the basics of grammar, the study of vocabulary and the rules needed for correct translation. Roman culture is interspersed throughout the course.

## Latin II Honors (L612)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; "B" or better in Latin I Honors

Latin II Honors begins with a review of Latin I concepts. Students then develop their vocabulary and complete the study of basic grammar. Roman culture is integrated into the course.

## Latin III Honors (L622)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; "B" or better in Latin II Honors

The goal of Latin III is to utilize the grammatical concepts developed during the previous two years to actively read Latin texts, both historical and literary. New points of grammar are noted in passing, but the emphasis is on reading fluency. After a selection of varied texts, the students spend one quarter each on Caesar and Vergil.

## Latin IV Honors (L622)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; "B" or better in Latin III Honors

Latin IV covers various texts by classical Latin authors such as Horace, Ovid, Catullus, Cicero, Livy and Plautus. Poetic forms, grammatical structures, figures of speech and metrics are introduced as needed before studying selected readings from Vergil, Ovid and Catullus. Additional units may be added covering Medieval and Renaissance texts to explore Latin beyond the classical period and introductory linguistics, to understand the theoretical foundations of language.

## Spanish I (S600)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9*

Prerequisites: None

Spanish I is a foundation course for students with no prior Spanish experience needed. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), is Novice-Mid. By the end of the academic year, students should be able to engage in conversation on familiar topics in the present tense and understand Hispanic customs and their infusion into American society.

## Spanish I Honors (S602)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9*

Prerequisites: Placement determined by the High School Placement Test and grammar school transcript

Spanish I Honors is a foundation course for students with no prior Spanish experience needed. Students are required to use the target language and language skills are enhanced through class discussions, compositions and novels. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), is Novice-High. By the end of the academic year, students should be able to engage in conversation on familiar topics in the present and past tenses and understand Hispanic customs and their infusion into American society.

## Spanish II (S610)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9, 10*

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish I or placement test

Spanish II is a continuation and expansion of the fundamentals of Spanish. Students are required to use the target language and language skills are enhanced through class discussions, compositions and readings. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), is Novice-High. By the end of the academic year, students should be able to engage in conversation in the several tenses, describe past events, predict future events, and make comparisons between American and Hispanic cultures.

## Spanish II Honors (S612)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9, 10*

Prerequisites: "B" average in Spanish I Honors; teacher recommendation; or placement test

Spanish II Honors is a continuation and expansion of the fundamentals of Spanish. Students are required to use the target language and language skills are enhanced through class discussions, compositions and novels. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), is Intermediate-Low. By the end of the academic year, students should be able to engage in conversation on familiar topics and understand Hispanic culture.



## Spanish III (S620)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11*

Prerequisites: "C+" average in Spanish II; teacher recommendation  
Spanish III builds upon the fundamentals of Spanish with advanced vocabulary and structures. Students are required to use the target language and language skills are enhanced through class discussions, compositions and readings. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) is Intermediate-Low. By the end of the academic year, students should be able to engage in conversation in several tenses, discuss and defend opinions, and make comparisons between American and Hispanic cultures.

## Spanish III Honors (S622)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11*

Prerequisites: "B" average in Spanish II Honors; teacher recommendation

Spanish III Honors builds upon the fundamentals of Spanish with advanced vocabulary and structures. Students are required to use the target language and language skills are enhanced through class discussions, compositions and independent readings. Additional cultural readings on Spain and the Hispanic world are presented. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), is Intermediate-Mid. By the end of the academic year, students should be able to engage in conversation in several tenses, discuss and defend opinions, and make comparisons between American and Hispanic cultures.

## Spanish IV (S630)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; "C+" or better in Spanish III or Spanish for Heritage Speakers II

Spanish IV integrates the extensive language experience gained in levels 1 through 3. Students are required to use the target language and language skills are enhanced through oral presentations, class discussions, compositions and selected short stories. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), is Intermediate-Mid. By the end of the academic year, students should be able to lead conversation in several tenses, discuss and defend opinions, and explain the diversity of Hispanic cultures.

## Spanish IV Honors (S632)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; "B" or better in Spanish III Honors or "B+ or better in Spanish for Heritage Speakers II  
Spanish IV Honors integrates the extensive language experience gained in levels 1 through 3. Students are required to use the target language and language skills are enhanced through oral presentations, class discussions, compositions and selected works of literature and film. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), is Advanced-High. By the end of the academic year, students should be able to lead conversation in several tenses, discuss and defend opinions, and explain the diversity of Hispanic cultures.

## Spanish V Honors: Seminar in Modern Hispanic Topics (S635)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: "Teacher recommendation; "B" or better in Spanish IV Honors; "B+" or better in Spanish IV.

Spanish V is a seminar-style course in modern Hispanic topics. Students are required to use the target language and language skills are enhanced through oral presentations, class discussions, literary and film analysis, and assigned compositions based on contemporary issues in Latin America and Spain. The target proficiency level, as identified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), is Advanced-Mid.

## Spanish for Heritage Speakers I (S640)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9*

Prerequisites: Oral interview

This class is designed for heritage learners who are proficient speakers of Spanish. The objectives of the course are to expand communication skills and cultural knowledge, including the study of students' own cultural heritage. Students will learn to use Spanish beyond familiar contexts by reading relevant literary selections and will develop writing skills for academic purposes. Spanish for Heritage Speakers is a two-year sequence, which is followed by Spanish IV or Spanish IV Honors.

## Spanish for Heritage Speakers II (S650)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10*

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish for Heritage Speakers I

This class continues on the foundations of Spanish for Heritage Speakers I. The objectives of the course are to expand communication skills and cultural knowledge, including the study of students' own cultural heritage. Students will perfect their verbal communication skills while continuing to build reading and writing skills for academic purposes. Spanish for Heritage Speakers II is followed by Spanish IV or Spanish IV Honors.

## ENGLISH

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### English I (700)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9*

Prerequisites: Determined by the High School Placement Test

This first-year class focuses on the basic skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening. Emphasis is placed on the sentence, with its various patterns, and on the paragraph, with its various developments. An introduction to the genres of literature is also offered. Ten units of vocabulary are covered.

### English I Honors (702)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9*

Prerequisites: Determined by the High School Placement Test

This Honors course is a challenging program of advanced English I skills. Emphasis falls on clear and effective paragraph development. The basic essay form will also be taught. Readings are selected from the genres of poetry, nonfiction, fiction, drama and the novel. Ten units of vocabulary are covered.

### English II (720)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10*

Prerequisites: Successful completion of English I CP

The sophomore level course focuses on the study of basic skills. Emphasis is on clear and effective paragraph development and on clear and effective essay writing. Reading selections are chosen mainly from traditional American Literature. Ten units of vocabulary are covered.

### English II Honors (722)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10*

Prerequisites: Completion of English I Honors with at least a "B+" OR a teacher recommendation. Completion of English I with at least an "A" AND a teacher recommendation.

The sophomore Honors course offers an intensified study of basic skills. Emphasis is on clear and effective paragraph and essay development, and on the beginnings of the research paper.

Reading selections are chosen mainly from traditional American literature. Ten units of vocabulary are covered progressively by semester.

### English III (730)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11*

Prerequisites: Successful completion of English II CP

The junior English program further develops basic skills. Emphasis is focused on the analytical essay. Fundamental research skills are covered, as well as verbal and writing SAT preparation. Reading selections come from the greatest British masterpieces. Ten units of vocabulary are covered.

### English III Honors (732)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11*

Prerequisites: Completion of English II Honors with at least a "B+" OR a teacher recommendation. Completion of English II with at least an "A" AND a teacher recommendation.

The junior English program further develops basic skills. Emphasis is focused on the analytical essay. Reading selections are from the British masterpieces. Ten units of vocabulary with etymologies are covered, as well as preparation for the verbal and writing portions of the SAT.

### English IV: World Literature (740)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: Successful completion of English III CP

The senior English program continues to work on the basic skills. Emphasis is placed on the analytical essay and on a literature-based research paper. Reading selections come from the various world masterpieces.

### English IV: World Literature Honors (742)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: Completion of English III Honors with at least a "B+" OR a teacher recommendation. Completion of English III with at least an "A" AND a teacher recommendation.

This Honors course focuses on clear, effective analytical essays and on the research paper. Readings are selected from classics of world literature and world philosophies. A literature-based research paper is required.

### AP® English (745)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: Completion of English III Honors with at least an "A" AND a passing score on AP® placement exam.

This course focuses on comprehending complex pieces of literature and composing effective analytical essays. Readings are selected from the classics of world literature, culminating with a literature-based research paper. Students are required to take the AP exam, and will receive college credits for passing the exam.

The AP Placement exam will be given to English III Honors students during Q3. Students can score between 0 and 8 points. A score of 5 is considered passing.

## Literature on Screen (750)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11*

Prerequisites: Completion of previous English course with at least a "B" OR a teacher recommendation.

This English elective explores the nature of film adaptations of literary works. Students will first read through and analyze novels and novellas, before watching and analyzing their film counterparts. Attention will be paid to changes in story, character, theme, and how the change in artistic media, and its accompanying filmmaking techniques, affects such changes. 10 Units of vocabulary (20 words in each) will be covered in each level.

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

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### Introduction to Programming (854) (Dual Enrollment)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12*

Prerequisites: "B+" or better average in previous math classes

This course teaches the foundation of computer science and basic programming using Python3 and JavaScript. There is an emphasis on helping students develop logical thinking and problem-solving skills.

### AP<sup>®</sup> Computer Science A (855) (Dual Enrollment)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: B+ or better in Algebra 1 Honors and Geometry Honors. Previous exposure to coding (any language) is preferred. Any significant computer science course builds upon a foundation of mathematical reasoning that should be acquired before attempting such a course.

AP<sup>®</sup> Computer Science A introduces students to computer science through programming. Fundamental topics in this course include the design of solutions to problems, the use of data structures to organize large sets of data, the development and implementation of algorithms to process data and discover new information, the analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing systems. The course emphasizes object-oriented programming and design using the Java programming language. It is a year-long course designed to help students master the basics of Java and equip them to successfully pass the College Board AP<sup>®</sup> Computer Science A Exam at the end of the school year.

## BUSINESS & CAREERS

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### Freshman Foundations (801)

*Credits: 4; Years Offered: 9*

Prerequisites: None

This project-based course is an overview of computer applications and life skills. Throughout each semester, students will develop skills in computer programs specializing in word processing, spreadsheets, presentations and photo editing using Google Docs, Sheets, Slides and Drawing. These skills will be incorporated into websites they create using Google Sites. Students will learn block coding through Code.org and image-editing skills using Photoshop. They will also receive instruction on the rules and proper procedures of Internet safety – Digital Citizenship. Added focus will be on improving students' typing skills. Students will also develop the following skills that will help them achieve success in high school and in life: time management, note taking, public speaking, research and writing papers, good study habits, organizational skills, managing stress, mindfulness, developing coping skills, building healthful habits and effective and professional communication.

### Freshman Foundations: Aquinas Scholars Honors Program (803)

*Credits: 1.25; Years Offered: 9*

Prerequisites: None

This course is an overview of computer applications and life skills. Students will receive instruction on the applications of Google Sites and Canva, as well as rules and proper procedures of Internet safety, digital citizenship, effective research, test-taking, study skills, and public speaking.

### Career & College Education (810, 820)

*Credits: 1.25; Years Offered: 10, 11*

Prerequisites: None

The Counseling Department extends its services through a supportive and structured classroom program to assist students in becoming an informed career decision maker and planner. Activities are conducted in and out of school, such as interest and aptitude testing; computer search techniques for work, colleges and financial aid; SAT practice exercises; one-day work shadowing; career days with outside resource speakers; mock interviews; college presentations by representatives; college fairs; résumé writing and completion of a personal profile through the online Naviance program. Further career exploration is possible through various career-oriented clubs.

## Financial Literacy (830)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: None

In this course, students will develop skills and strategies that promote personal and financial responsibility related to financial planning, savings, investment and charitable giving in the global economy. Topics addressed will include setting financial goals, developing and maintaining personal budgets, understanding credit management and consumer rights and responsibilities and learning about the variety of banking and investment options in today's market.

## Introduction to Business & Finance (850)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: Overall GPA of C+ or higher

This course will divide into 2 specific semesters; the first designed to introduce general business concepts and terms, including marketing, advertising, and business management, including budget and forecasting and understanding variance analysis. This course should give the student a good idea of the various career possibilities in the business field introducing the basic skills to succeed. The second part of this course will focus on mainly investment strategy and comprehending financial statements including financial ratios and trends. This course will give students a high-level introductory level understanding of the many business opportunities available upon college graduation.

## Introduction to Accounting (852)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: None

This course is designed to introduce accounting concepts and terms, including recording transactions using the double entry accounting method, recognizing revenues and expenses on a profit and loss statement along with understanding what are assets, liabilities and equity on the balance sheet. This course will also focus on the concept of accrual-based accounting along with preparation of financial and cash flow statements to ultimately provoke business analysis and decision-making. An understanding into variance analysis of actuals vs. budgets and account reconciliations with the impact of those results will also be introduced. This course will prepare those students who wish to be future accounting and business majors upon graduation.

## Economics Honors (Online) (855)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: "B+" or higher in previous History courses or teacher recommendation

Economics is the study of how individuals, businesses and governments make decisions about the use of scarce resources. This class will teach students how to think like economists. Students will learn how to apply key microeconomic concepts such as supply and demand, prices and opportunity cost. They will also be introduced to macroeconomic principles such as banking, inflation, unemployment and the Federal Reserve System. The course will also cover a history of economic ideas from the 1700s to modern time.

## FINE & PERFORMING ARTS

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### Music I: History and Introductory Theory (900)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Must be a member of concert band and/or concert choir.

The art of music teaches timing, discipline and encourages the advancement of the group over the accomplishments of the individual. The class covers music not only as a creative art form and the basic performance of it as such, but also the appreciation, theory and history behind all forms of music. Discussion topics will also address music in films and TV, and the performance, application and development of basic music skill.

### Music II: Technology and Composition (901)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Music I and participation in music department co-curriculars or departmental recommendation

This class builds on the foundation set in Music I, adding composition and sound design into the curriculum. Students of any and all musical backgrounds and interest will learn the basics of composition and the techniques of great composers and arrangers, both classic and modern. Attention is especially given to portfolio/album development, with lessons in music publication, copyright law and artist/self management.

## Music III: Advanced Application and Portfolio Review (902)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: Participation in Concert Band and Concert Chorus, membership in the Tri-M Music Honor Society, Music II, departmental recommendation; student must be planning to major or minor in music in college

This class is an intense study in the advanced practice of music in the modern world. Students planning on pursuing music as an art form and a career will learn about today's music industry. Additional topics include abstract music, music therapy and the study of modern liturgical music. Attention is especially given to portfolio/album development, with lesson in music publication, copyright law and artist/self management. Students will be expected to produce college-audition quality performances in voice and multiple instruments.

## Art I (910)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12*

Prerequisites: None

Art I is designed to provide a foundation for students who wish to take art for personal enrichment as well as for those who intend to study fine art and build a portfolio. This comprehensive course is predominantly studio (production) oriented, but also integrates aesthetics, art history and careers in the arts as they relate to various projects. The elements of art as well as the principles of design are explored. Students are encouraged to develop creative self-expression as they learn techniques in drawing, painting, printmaking and design. Materials purchase is required.

## Art II (911)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Art I, departmental recommendation

Art II is designed for goal-oriented students who intend to further study art and are building a portfolio as well as for those who wish to take the class for personal enrichment and lifelong learning. This course Requires students to have background experience with drawing and painting techniques and media. Students will practice developing ideas and imagery in order to create original works of art based on highly evolved concepts in the expression of personal meaning. students will explore intermediate and advanced processes and conventions for the creation of artwork. The course primarily supports the development of drawing and painting skills, but students will also have the opportunity to explore printmaking, textiles, and 3D methods.

## AP®2-D Art and Design (915)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Department approval based on review of student's personal artwork and a writing

The AP® 2-D Art and Design course is designed to help students further grow in their two-dimensional art-making skills through the use of various processes and materials, and create a cohesive body of independently-driven artwork to complete a portfolio. This course expands upon the art-making and compositional skills developed in Art 1, Art 2, and/or Graphic Design courses. Students will create individualized artwork through a sustained investigation of a chosen theme, experimentation with materials, and development of art-making skills and studio habits throughout the course. The portfolio consists of 15-20 works of art, and students should expect to spend extensive time on their artwork both in class and at home. Students are required to take the AP® Exam, which involves the submission of a portfolio of artwork to the AP® Program at the end of the school year.

## AP® Art History (955)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12*

Prerequisites: "B" or better in both Social Studies and English classes in addition to departmental recommendation.

This course explores such topics as the nature of art, its uses, its meanings, art making and responses to art. Through investigation of diverse artistic traditions of cultures from prehistory to the present, the course fosters in-depth and holistic understanding of the history of art from a global perspective. Students will analyze examples of all media; sculpture, architecture, painting, photography and graphic art; and consider their cultural and social significance. Students will be expected to complete comparative essays and research papers; independent visits to local museums may also be assigned. Students are required to take the AP® exam.

## Drama I (960)

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12*

Prerequisites: None

This course is an introduction to all the elements of theater with a special emphasis on performance and self-expression. The student will gain self-confidence and self-awareness through the work in this course, which will include studying and practicing acting exercises. Dramatic scenes are rehearsed and presented in class, and a brief history of theater is taught. Students will also study the various elements of play production.

## **Drama II (963)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Instructor approval

This course is a creative exploration of theater, which encompasses and expands upon the curriculum of the Drama I class. Acting techniques previously developed are explored in depth. The preparation of the “rehearsed” scene as introduced in Drama I is further studied and practiced. Students prepare extended scenes within the class and continue to develop their knowledge of the various elements of play production. This course is recommended for students with previous theatrical experiences.

## **Drama III (964)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Instructor approval, or Drama I or Drama II

This course is a Level 3 creative exploration of theater, which encompasses and expands upon the curriculum of both Drama I and II. Acting techniques are developed further and creativity is strengthened by way of in-class scenes, monologues and one-act plays. Students will hone skills previously developed in diverse areas of play production.

## **Theater Arts Intensive/Lab (966)**

*Credits: 6; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Instructor approval, or Drama I or Drama II

Students will study and experience theater art, specifically in the areas of acting, musical theater, dancing, stage combat, playwriting and play production. In each of these areas, performance techniques will be emphasized. A theater lab will be held once a week to offer students additional time to work on class projects and hone their skills.

## **Writing for Publication I (Satoma) (970)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: “B” or better average in all English courses and instructor approval; limited to 12 students

This course is designed as a workshop for students to develop and apply skills in all areas of journalism: writing, editing, design, photography and computer graphics. A “hands-on” course, it involves direct participation in school news-magazine as well as outside publications. Students work under strict deadlines and are required to attend journalism and press conferences. Students are obligated to attend after-school meetings.

## **Writing for Publication II (Satoma) (972)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: “B” or better average in all English courses and instructor approval; limited to 12 students

Students will develop their journalism skills and expand upon their knowledge of Adobe InDesign and Photoshop.

## **Communications & Social Media I (974)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Instructor approval based on application

This course is designed for students interested in the field of Communications and is designed around three principle aspects: 1) the learning of basics in skills such as photography, videography, graphic design, and photo editing; 2) learning fundamental communications and marketing concepts and theories; and 3) using that knowledge to conceive of and create content for the school’s online presence. This is a “hands-on” and deadline-oriented course.

## **Communications & Social Media II (976)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12*

Prerequisites: B+ in Communications & Social Media I and instructor approval based on application

This course is designed to build upon the skills and knowledge learned in Communications & Social Media I. Students will be put into a leadership role as they manage and coach other students in managing social media platforms and apply skills in a real-world setting. This is a “hands-on” and deadline-oriented course.

## **Journal Graphics I (980)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12*

Prerequisites: “B” or better average in Computer Science and all English courses. Course instructor has final approval of applicants

This course is designed as a workshop for students to develop and apply skills in all areas of journalism and publication. In this “hands-on” course, the yearbook is prepared for publication. Students work under strict deadlines and are required to attend journalism and press conferences. Students are obligated to attend after-school meetings.

## **Journal Graphics II (980)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12*

Prerequisites: “B” or better in Journal Graphics I. Course instructor has final approval of applicants.

This course is designed as a workshop for students to build on, develop and apply skills in all areas of journalism and publication gained in Journal Graphics I. In this “hands-on” course, the yearbook is prepared for press. The students will be expected to take on leadership roles among their peers. Students work under strict deadlines and are required to attend journalism and press conferences. Students are obligated to attend after-school meetings.

## **Graphic Design (986)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Completion of an online application and instructor approval; “B” or better in freshman computer course

This course will allow students to explore graphic design and advertising, as well as design concepts of other popular visual communication and design fields. It is intended for students who are interested in future study of design, as well as for those who wish to take the class for personal enrichment. Students will use a “Design Thinking” method of problem-solving, develop hand drawing techniques, and utilize current technology to create both print and digital works. Creation and analysis of student artwork will be balanced with explorations into historical and contemporary practices across the commercial arts. Students will learn to manipulate images and text in Adobe Creative Suite as they create designs for projects such as logos, posters and packaging.

## **Broadcast Journalism (994)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Instructor approval

Students taking this course will experience the fast-paced world of broadcasting. Students will learn video basics as well as participate in the writing, pre-production, production, and post-production stages of news reporting. An introduction to television studio and field production will be provided. Students are expected to act as representatives of the school. Work time outside of class is required.

## **Broadcast Journalism II (995)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Instructor approval

Students taking this course will continue to build upon and further develop their experience in the fast-paced world of broadcasting. Students will be expected to take on leadership positions among their peers during the writing, pre-production, production, and post-production stages of news reporting. Students are expected to act as representatives of the school. Work time outside of class is required.

## **Creative Filmmaking (998)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12*

Prerequisites: Instructor approval

This project-based course is an introduction to the creative process of filmmaking. Students will analyze varying story structures in cinema and apply them during their own participation in the pre-production, production and post-production stages of filmmaking. Students are expected to be able to work both creatively and collaboratively. Work time outside of class is required.