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# MOUNT ST. MARY ACADEMY GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- 4 credits in Theology
- 4 credits in English
- 3 credits in Social Studies - to include
  - 1/2 credit - Global Regions\*\*
  - 1/2 credit - Civics
  - 1 credit - American History or AP American History
  - 1 credit - World History or AP European History
- 3 credits in Science - to include
  - 1 credit - Physical Science or AP Physics
  - 1 credit - Biology
  - 1 credit - Chemistry
- 4 credits in Mathematics - to include
  - 1 credit in Algebra I
  - 1 credit in Geometry
  - 1 credit in Algebra II/Trigonometry
  - 1 credit – elective Math
- 2 credits in Foreign Language (One Language)
- 1/2 credit in Fine Arts
- 1/2 credit in Speech Communications
- 1/2 credit in Physical Education
- 1/2 credit in Health
- 1/2 credit in Economics (\*digital experience)
- 5-1/2 elective credits

\*Starting with the Class of 2018, at least one half credit of the twenty-eight required for graduation must be through a digital experience.

Students are encouraged to take an additional year of science, foreign language, and social studies. Mathematics must be taken each year. Credits are granted in grades 9 – 12. Adaptations are made for students who enter later than their freshman year and for students who have learning differences. The five and one-half elective credits are considered REQUIRED credits. Their importance is equal to all other credits.

\*\*AP Human Geography may replace the 1/2 credit Global Regions course requirement.

# ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program (AP) enables students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. Through the currently offered courses, each culminating in a rigorous exam, AP provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both. Taking AP courses also demonstrates to college admission officers that students have sought out the most rigorous course work available to them.

Each AP course is modeled upon a comparable college course, and college and university faculty play a vital role in ensuring that AP courses align with college-level standards.

**Each AP exam costs \$94. AP Research and AP Seminar exam fees are \$142. There are no additional fees for obtaining the AP Seminar and Research Certificate or the AP Capstone Diploma.**

AP courses offered for **2018-2019**:

- AP Biology
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Chemistry
- AP Comparative Government and Politics
- AP English Language and Composition
- AP English Literature and Composition
- AP Environmental Science
- AP European History
- AP French Language and Culture
- AP Human Geography
- AP Latin
- AP Physics 1
- AP Psychology
- AP Research
- AP Seminar
- AP Spanish Language and Culture
- AP Statistics
- AP Studio Art: 2-D Design
- AP Studio Art: Drawing
- AP United States History
- AP Biology

AP courses are weighted. In order to receive the weight factor, students must finish the course and take the College Board AP examination.

# About the AP Capstone™ Program

AP Capstone™ is an innovative diploma program from the College Board that equips students with the independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills that are increasingly valued by colleges. AP Capstone is built on the foundation of two AP® courses — **AP Seminar** and **AP Research** — and is designed to complement and enhance the in-depth, discipline-specific study experienced in other AP courses.

In AP Seminar, students investigate real-world issues from multiple perspectives, gathering and analyzing information from various sources in order to develop credible and valid evidence-based arguments. In AP Research, students cultivate the skills and discipline necessary to conduct independent research and inquiry in order to produce and defend their scholarly work.

The AP Capstone program aims to empower students by

- ▶ engaging them with rigorous college-level curricula focused on the skills necessary for successful college completion;
- ▶ extending their abilities to synthesize information from multiple perspectives and apply skills in new situations and cross-curricular contexts;
- ▶ enabling them to collect and analyze information with accuracy and precision;
- ▶ cultivating their abilities to craft, communicate, and defend evidence-based arguments; and
- ▶ providing opportunities for them to practice disciplined and scholarly research skills while exploring relevant topics that appeal to their interests and curiosity.



# GRADING SYSTEM

Students at Mount St. Mary earn grades and credits based upon work completed during each grading period. Semester grades are permanent grades and appear on the student transcript. Quarter grades indicate the student's status at the midpoint of the semester. Each grading period ends on the day designated on the school calendar. All assigned work, make-up work, and teacher-approved extra-credit must be turned in by the end of the grading period. Any extension to turn in work after the grading period has ended must be approved by the Assistant Principal and is limited to cases of illness and family emergency. No student may receive a grade higher than 100% in any course.

A+	100-98	B+	89-87	C+	79-77	D+	69-67	F	Below 60
A	97-94	B	86-83	C	76-73	D	66-63		
A-	93-90	B-	82-80	C-	72-70	D-	62-60		

## Grade Quality Points

	College Prep	Honors	Advanced Placement
A	4.0	4.5	5.0
B	3.0	3.5	4.0
C	2.0	2.5	3.0
D	1.0	1.5	2.0
F	0.0	0.0	0.0

According to Arkansas State Law, weighted grades are granted when all coursework and tests are completed.

## GRADE POINT AVERAGE (G.P.A.)

The cumulative G.P.A. is the combined G.P.A. of all semester grades and is determined by adding course quality points for each semester class (dividing by two), then dividing by the number of credits.

For example:

Semester 1	Semester 2
Honors English (.5) A=4.5	Honors English (.5) B=3.5
Honors Math (.5) A=4.5	Honors Math (.5) A=4.5
AP Human Geo (.5) B=4.0	AP Human Geo (.5) A=5.0
Theology (.5) B=3.0	Theology (.5) A=4.0
Total=16/2	Total= 17/2
=8	=8.5

GPA= 16.5 total quality points divided by 4 credit hours = 4.125 GPA

\*Students who drop an AP course or fail to take the AP exam will not be awarded higher quality points.

\*\*Courses taken for credit during the summer or outside of the “regular” academic schedule (including online courses) will be listed on the official transcript, awarded a grade, and awarded appropriate credit but will not be calculated into the cumulative GPA or credit total.

### **ACADEMIC DEFICIENCIES**

Students failing more than 3 semester courses will repeat the academic year and may be asked to seek an alternative learning environment. Please see the full policy in the Student Handbook.

# **COURSE TITLES**

## **ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Learning Strategies 9  
Learning Strategies 10  
Learning Strategies 11-12

## **BUSINESS**

Multimedia I (1/2)  
Multimedia II (1/2)  
Human Relations (1/2)  
Student Network Administrator  
Economics (1/2)

## **ENGLISH**

English 9  
Honors English 9  
English 10  
Honors English 10  
English 11  
AP English Language and Composition 11  
English 12  
AP English Literature and Composition 12  
Creative Writing (1/2)  
ACT Test Preparation (1/2)  
Women in Literature (1/2)

## **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE**

Family and Consumer Science  
Child Development (1/2)  
Culinary Arts  
Foods and Nutrition (1/2)  
Fashion/Clothing and Textiles (1/2)  
Financial Literacy (1/2)

## **FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS**

MSM Concert Belles  
Harmony Belles  
Intro to Guitar (1/2)  
Guitar II (1/2)  
Intro to Piano (1/2)  
Piano II (1/2)  
Guitar Ensemble (1/2)  
Catholic High School Band (no credit)  
Music Appreciation (1/2)

Speech Communication (1/2)  
Forensics: Speech Performance (1/2)  
Theatre Appreciation (1/2)  
Theatre Arts  
Stagecraft Elements (1/2)

Art Appreciation (1/2)  
Studio Art I  
Studio Art II  
Honors Studio Art III  
3-D Design/Sculpture  
AP Studio Art: 2-D Design  
AP Studio Art: Drawing

### **INTERDISCIPLINARY**

AP Research  
AP Seminar

### **INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE**

French I  
French II  
Honors French II  
Honors French III  
AP French Language and Culture

Latin I  
Honors Latin II  
Honors Latin III  
Honors Latin IV  
AP Latin

Spanish I, II, III, IV  
Honors Spanish I  
Honors Spanish II  
Honors Spanish III  
Honors Spanish V  
AP Spanish Language and Culture

### **MATHEMATICS**

Algebra I  
Honors Algebra I  
Geometry  
Honors Geometry  
Algebra II  
Honors Algebra II  
Algebra III  
Pre-Calculus



Honors Pre-Calculus  
Statistics  
ACT Test Prep (1/2)  
AP Statistics  
AP Calculus AB  
AP Calculus BC

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Health Education (1/2)  
Physical Education (1/2)  
Physical Education/Health Basketball  
Contemporary Health Issues (1/2)  
Recreation for Life (1/2)

### **SCIENCE**

Biology  
Honors Biology  
Physical Science  
Honors Physical Science  
Chemistry  
Honors Chemistry  
Anatomy (1/2)  
Environmental Science (1/2)  
Forensic Science (1/2)  
Geology and Space (1/2)  
AP Biology  
AP Environmental Science  
AP Chemistry  
AP Physics 1

### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Civics (1/2)  
Global Regions (1/2)  
American History  
AP United States History  
World History  
AP European History  
Street Law (1/2)  
Sociology (1/2)  
Psychology (1/2)  
AP Comparative Government and Politics  
AP Psychology  
AP Human Geography

### **THEOLOGY**

Theology I  
Theology II

## **HOMEWORK GUIDELINES**

Below you will find the 2018 - 2019 Homework Guidelines. Homework is defined as anything which the student is required to do at home in order to prepare for a class. This includes reading, study, memorization, completing written assignments, test preparation, etc. Please use the Guidelines as a reference when deciding on course choices.

### **College Preparatory Classes**

Freshmen and Sophomores should normally expect 30 minutes of homework for each 90 minute period. At times this may increase to 45 minutes, but 30 minutes should be the norm. This represents approximately two to two-and-one-half hours of study per night. For Juniors and Seniors, 45 minutes will be more frequent.

### **Honors Classes**

Freshmen and Sophomores should normally expect 45 minutes of homework for each 90 minute period. At times this may increase to 60 minutes, but 45 minutes should be the norm. For a typical sophomore taking Honors English, Honors Foreign Language, and Honors Math, this represents two-and-one-half to three-and-one-half hours per night. For Juniors and Seniors, 60 minutes will be more frequent.

### **AP Classes**

These classes are intended to prepare a student to successfully pass the exams at the end of the course. As such, students enrolling in these courses should anticipate a workload that exceeds that of an honors level class. Because the priority of these classes is to help students pass the exams, their pace cannot be moderated and may frequently exceed one hour of preparation for each 1 1/2 hour class meeting.

### **Weekends and Vacations**

Students should not be given additional work for weekends and vacations. On a weekend, students should typically have the same amount of homework they would have on any other day as indicated above.

# LEARNING SERVICES PROGRAM

## NOTE:

\*\*Mount St. Mary Academy does not offer a special education program; however, students with documented diagnosed learning differences with a DSM IV or V classification may be assisted by the Learning Services Program or Learning Strategies Class.

Documentation must be completed by a qualified professional and the condition must substantially limit one or more major life activities. The following information must be addressed in the documentation:

- Original Diagnosis (e.g date, diagnosing professional, symptoms/impairment, course of treatment, and educational/behavioral/social interventions)
- Description of the presenting problem(s) and its (their) developmental history, including relevant educational and medical history
- Neuropsychological or psychoeducational evaluation which includes results of an intellectual assessment using a complete and comprehensive battery
- Evidence of current impairment (including diagnostic interview and statement of presenting problems)
- Specific diagnosis and evidence that alternative explanations have been ruled out
- Description of the functional limitations supported by the test results and a rationale for the recommended test accommodation specific to those functional limitations
- Please note in following with the documentation policy for ACT and the College Board symptoms of ADD/ADHD must be present before the age of 12

The purpose of these two programs is to assist students in achieving success with a college preparatory curriculum. The Guidance Department, the Assistant Principal, and the Learning Services Coordinator determines participation in the programs based on current diagnostic testing including professional recommendations for classroom accommodations.

Mount St. Mary Academy will assist students who participate in the Learning Services Program with requests for accommodations on standardized test (AP exams, SAT, PSAT and ACT). Special testing can only be requested by students with a documented diagnosed learning difference which includes the DSM IV or V classification. This documentation must be on file with the school prior to student requesting accommodation. When students request for accommodations they are consenting for the school to send off necessary documentation to support the need for accommodations. Special testing is at the discretion of the company administering the test not Mount St. Mary Academy. For more information about accommodations for standardized test please contact the Learning Services Coordinator.

Mount St. Mary Academy does not offer a modified grading system for students with learning differences; however, recommended accommodations from neuropsychological or psycho educational evaluations for students in the Learning Services Program are considered. The Counseling Department and the Assistant Principal determine which accommodations are feasible.

LEARNING STRATEGIES 9

CREDITS:1

OPEN TO: GRADE 9

FEE: \$205\*

PREREQUISITE: TEST SCORES AND ACADEMIC RECORDS

Learning Strategies class is a year-long course for incoming freshmen whose test scores and academic performance indicate that they are performing below grade level in their basic English, reading, and mathematics skills. Skill development provides students with basic information and skills needed in the areas of self and time management, improvement of study skills, listening skills, participating and taking notes in class, preparation for test taking, exploring test anxiety, and exploring the library/media center. This class will utilize multisensory learning and components of Orton Gillingham tutoring will be incorporated into the class.

LEARNING STRATEGIES 10

CREDITS:1

OPEN TO: GRADE 10

FEE: \$155\*

PREREQUISITE: DIAGNOSED LEARNING DISABILITY

Learning Strategies class is offered to students with a diagnosed learning difference that would benefit from a teacher's assistance and additional academic resources during the day. Students will receive one-on-one tutoring as well as participate in math and reading interventions. This class will utilize multisensory learning and components of Orton Gillingham tutoring will be incorporated into the class. This course replaces an elective in graduation requirements.

LEARNING STRATEGIES 11-12

CREDITS:1

OPEN TO: GRADES 11, AND 12

FEE: \$55\*

PREREQUISITE: DIAGNOSED LEARNING DIFFERENCE

Learning Strategies class is offered to students with a diagnosed learning difference that would benefit from a teacher's assistance and additional academic resources during the day. Students will receive one-on-one tutoring as well as participate in math and reading interventions. This class will utilize multisensory learning and components of Orton Gillingham tutoring will be incorporated into the class. This course replaces an elective in graduation requirements.

**\*Additional fees are applied to tuition rates for Learning Strategies classes. These fees cover the costs of books and program subscriptions.**

# **BUSINESS DEPARTMENT**

## MULTIMEDIA I

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 10 – 12

This course is an introductory one-semester course focusing on the practice of news production and video editing. Emphasis is placed on planning, writing, camera operation, production and post production. Students produce, direct and deliver daily news program called Belle TV. This is a classroom environment that will empower students to take hold of their own learning experience, ultimately creating a positive impact on student achievement.

## MULTIMEDIA II

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 10-12

PREREQUISITE: MULTIMEDIA I

This is a one-semester course audio and video production. Students will capture, create, and edit audio and video files for production in various delivery formats. This course allows the student to build digital audio and video making skills by having them conceive, storyboard, record, edit and finalize projects in various media formats. This is a hands-on course that teaches students how to use audio and video editing software. Students produce, direct and deliver daily news program called Belle TV. This is a classroom environment that will empower students to take hold of their own learning experience, ultimately creating a positive impact on student achievement.

## HUMAN RELATIONS

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADE 12

In this course, students provide a service to the school through assisting a teacher or working in an office for one class period. The grade for this class is a combination of four factors: the assigned teacher/staff member's evaluation, the student's written essay, the two hour work obligation during semester exams, and the student's attendance. This course is limited to one semester unless approved by the Guidance Department.

## STUDENT NETWORK ADMINISTRATION

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 11-12

Students apply problem-solving skills to business situations exploring computer maintenance activities. Students will analyze software problems, install software applications programs and customize defaults, connect components of a local area network, use basic network protocol, and troubleshoot network problems. Participation in this course is limited and will be determined by counselor recommendation only.

ECONOMICS

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 10 - 12

Economics is a one-semester online course. Students will study basic economic theory and learn to apply basic economic concepts to real-world issues and problems. Knowledge of fundamental principles and application of theory will be addressed. Through this application, students will further develop their skills of critical analysis. This course is provided through our Mercy Learning Online platform.

# ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

## ENGLISH 9

CREDITS:1

OPEN TO: GRADE 9

The English 9 course provides an introduction to literary analysis and composition through in-depth studies in poetry, the novel, drama, and short stories. This class also reviews grammar basics and includes twenty units of vocabulary study. Preparation for the PSAT is begun. Students will develop skills in critical thinking, discussion, collaboration, and oral presentation.

## HONORS ENGLISH 9

CREDITS:1

OPEN TO: GRADE 9 WITH STRONG READING AND WRITING SKILLS AS INDICATED BY TEST SCORES AND ACADEMIC RECORDS

The Honors English 9 course is a college preparatory class providing a challenging curriculum for high achieving students. This course consists of an in-depth study of the novel, a Shakespearean drama, epic poetry, selections of other poetry, and short stories. This class also reviews grammar skills, begins research skills, and covers twenty units of vocabulary study. Strong attention will be given to the development of composition skills. Literary analysis and both written and oral reflection will be highlighted. **This course is designed to prepare students for Honors English 10 and further work in Advanced Placement courses.**

## ENGLISH 10

CREDITS:1

OPEN TO: GRADE 10

The English 10 course focuses on literature and writing, including the study of a novel, a Shakespearean drama, mythology, and selections of poetry, short stories, and nonfiction. Work includes some grammar instruction, writing instruction and practice (including instruction in research), and eighteen units of vocabulary study. PSAT and ACT test preparation is also included. Students will develop analytical reading, academic writing, critical thinking, and presentation skills.

## HONORS ENGLISH 10

CREDITS:1

OPEN TO: GRADE 10

PREREQUISITE: HONORS ENGLISH 9 AND TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

Honors English 10 provides a challenging curriculum for high-achieving students. The course focuses on the development of advanced composition skills through the study of poetry, drama, mythology, the novel, short stories, and nonfiction. Students will receive further training in research and analysis. Preparation for the PSAT and ACT continues. This fast-paced program of study is designed to sharpen students' ability to think critically and synthesize information while demonstrating language mastery. **The Honors English 10 course is a prerequisite for AP English courses.**

ENGLISH 11

CREDITS:1

OPEN TO: GRADE 11

PREREQUISITE: ENGLISH 10

The English 11 course promotes an appreciation of American literature and nonfiction prose. It is designed to develop students' individual language skills, their ability to comment upon familiar texts, and the ability to express a personal and independent response to literature. Vocabulary study, SAT/ACT test preparation, and research paper are also included.

AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION 11

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADE 11

RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITE: ENGLISH 9/HONORS ENGLISH 9 AND HONORS ENGLISH 10 AND TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

AP Language and Composition 11 will include the study of nonfiction prose and American literature from a variety of periods, disciplines and contexts. The course will also involve a variety of writing for different audiences and purposes as well as analysis of style, application to nonfiction prose, and a study of vocabulary, grammar use, and the mechanics in the context of composition. **For weighted credit to be awarded, students must take the AP Exam in the spring and complete the course for the entire year.**

**\*This course requires payment of an exam fee.**

ENGLISH 12

CREDITS:1

OPEN TO: GRADE 12

PREREQUISITE: ENGLISH 11

The English 12 course promotes an appreciation of British and world literature focusing on selected works from a variety of genres. The course continues the conceptual groundwork of the junior level course through a detailed study of works in which the student will increase understanding of other cultures. The course covers two thematic units of literary study: "The Tragic Figure in Literature" and "The Search for Identity." Both written and oral assessments are used to determine the student's ability to express a meaningful, relevant response to literature. Vocabulary study and ACT/SAT test preparation are also a part of this course.

AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION 12

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADE 12

RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITE: AP LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION AND TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

AP Literature and Composition 12 promotes an appreciation of British and world literature focusing on selected works from a variety of genres. The course covers two thematic units of literary student: "The Tragic Figure in Literature" and "The Search for Identity." Extensive preparation for the May 2019 AP Literature and Composition Exam is a part of this class. Students will write numerous at-home essays and in-class essays on poems, prose excerpts, plays, and novels. Students will also prepare for the Multiple Choice test, which is an important component of the AP Exam. Vocabulary study and ACT/SAT test preparation are



also a part of this course. Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* and Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* are assigned for summer reading. **For weighted credit to be awarded, students must take the AP Exam in the spring and complete the course for the entire year.**  
**\*This course requires payment of an exam fee.**

ACT TEST PREPARATION

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADE 11, FIRST OR SECOND SEMESTER;  
GRADE 12, FIRST SEMESTER

Instruction for this one-semester elective course will focus on all four parts of the ACT test, plus the optional written component, and will include content-based learning, test-taking strategies, and time-management. Pre-tests will be administered to ascertain students' strengths and weaknesses, and proctored interim exams will measure students' progress.

CREATIVE WRITING

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 11-12

This one-semester elective course provides a focused introduction to the craft of creative writing. In daily exercises, students will practice a variety of traditional and contemporary forms and styles and build a portfolio of original short stories and poems. The class will discuss its own creative work along with a selection of anthologized works. A combination of short-term and long-term assignments will serve to motivate and refine students' writing. Students will be encouraged to apply studied literary conventions as well as to improvise. Assessment will be based on the extent to which students adhere to the expectations of given exercises.

WOMEN IN LITERATURE

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 11-12

This one-semester elective course will examine the roles of women in literature, including women as authors, characters, and subject matter. The class will explore selections of poetry, short stories, novels, and nonfiction pieces by such authors as Virginia Woolf, Margaret Atwood, Charlotte Brontë, and Elizabeth Barrett Browning. This course will discuss the changing ideas of female archetypes from the earliest literature to modern heroines found in the work of J.K. Rowling, Suzanne Collins, and Veronica Roth. Student discussion and projects will be the most important components of this course, with some quizzes on the authors and reading material throughout the semester.

# **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

## FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 9 - 10

Family and Consumer Science is designed to provide students with basic information and skills needed to function effectively within the family and within a changing, complex society. Emphasis is given to the development of competencies related to family and individual health; relationships; arrangement of personal living space; wardrobe planning and selection; garment care and construction; selection of toys and age-appropriate play activities for children; health and safety procedures related to child care; nutrition and food selection; meal planning, preparation, and service; home management; money management; use of credit and banking services; consumer education; computer use at home, in school, and in the workplace; and career skills. Upon completion of this course, the student should have developed basic life skills that promote a positive influence on the quality of life.

## CULINARY ARTS

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 10-12

PREREQUISITE: FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE OR FOODS AND NUTRITION

Culinary Arts is a year course designed to introduce students to the culinary arts profession. Emphasis in this course is given to the development of basic competencies related to the culinary arts profession, basic menus and recipes, standardization and kitchen procedures. In addition to the preceding, other studies will include kitchen staples and principles of cooking and baking: soups, stocks and sauces, dairy products, eggs, fruits and vegetables, grains and pasta cookery, and meat cookery. Upon completion of this course, students should have attained basic skills needed for entry level employment in the food service industry, customer relations, purchasing and storage of foods, cooking techniques and principles of baking.

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 10-12

Child Development focuses on skills needed to guide the physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development of children. Emphasis is given to the development of competencies related to the study of children, pregnancy and prenatal development, birth and the newborn, types of growth and development, stages of growth and development, rights and responsibilities of parents and children, needs of children, factors influencing the behavior of children, selection of child-care services, health and safety of children, children with special needs, coping with crises, the effects of technology on child development, and careers related to the area of child development. Upon completion of this course, the student should be prepared to care for and guide the development of a child through all stages of growth—within a family, as a child-care professional, or in other experiences with children.

### FASHION/CLOTHING AND TEXTILES

CREDIT: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 10 – 12

Experiences in the Fashion/Clothing and Textiles course are designed to assist students in developing skills necessary for management of individual and family wardrobes, for decision making as a clothing consumer, and for understanding the role of the clothing and textile industry in the economy. Emphasis is given to the development of competencies related to clothing selection; clothing needs of family members; wardrobe planning; clothing care; characteristics of natural and synthetic fibers; types of fabrics and fabric finishes; laws and regulations related to the clothing and textiles industry; use and care of basic sewing supplies and equipment; fabric selection; clothing construction techniques; jobs and careers in clothing and textiles; computer use in clothing and textiles; and effects of technology on the clothing and textiles industry. Upon completion of this course, a student should be able to provide and maintain personal/family wardrobes to meet the needs of individuals. In addition, the student should acquire skills needed for clothing and textiles occupations and develop a knowledge of the impact of technology on the clothing and textiles industry.

### FOODS AND NUTRITION

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 10 - 12

Experiences in the Foods and Nutrition course focus on the development of skills needed to select, prepare, and serve food which meets nutritional needs of individuals and families. Emphasis in this course is given to the development of competencies related to nutrition, weight control, the food consumer, the effect of technology on food and nutrition, microwave cookery, kitchen organization and equipment, safety and sanitation, menu planning, serving and eating food, food preparation, eating away from home, and jobs and career opportunities in the field of food and nutrition. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to apply sound nutritional practices which will have a positive effect on their health.

### FINANCIAL LITERACY

CREDIT: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 10-12

Financial literacy is a semester course designed to increase financial literacy among students and prepare them to successfully manage their personal financial resources. Students learn to manage resources through hands-on applications which are relevant to their lives. Emphasis is given to the development of the individual's role and financial responsibilities as a student, citizen, and active participant in the business world.

# FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT

### MSM CONCERT BELLES

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 10 - 12

PREREQUISITE: BY AUDITION; Minimum of 1 year in Harmony Belles; A 2.0 GPA in accordance with AAA regulations

This is a MINIMUM OF ONE-YEAR elective course designed for the intermediate to advanced choral student who enjoys performing in a choral ensemble and enjoys singing choral music of all types, from Bach to Broadway. Members of Concert Belles are strongly encouraged to remain in the ensemble throughout their years at MSM. Emphasis in the class is on vocal technique, sight-reading skills, musicality, and performing. It also includes singing quality choral literature of various styles and periods, and preparing the student for college ensemble singing and scholarships. A student in Concert Belles will be expected to sign a contract and will be expected to have the motivation to do independent work. She should be prepared for occasional performances and rehearsals outside the regular school day.

The MSM Concert Belles sings in two home concerts a year, regional and state competitions, where it consistently receives superior ratings, and school liturgies. It often has members who audition for and make All-Region and All-State Choirs. The ensemble is also active in community performances. Since 1997 it has sung in Ballet Arkansas' /Arkansas Symphony *The Nutcracker*. For over ten years, under the direction of David Itkin, it sang on the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra's Christmas program. It has sung the national anthem at the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, for the opening of Riverfest, and for the city's "Big Jingle Jubilee". The ensemble has sung in programs with the Cathedral of St. Andrew's choir, the UALR Choir and Community Choir, and the Holy Souls Choir. It also had a cameo role in the Little Rock performance of the touring Broadway musical *High School Musical*. The ensemble sang in the Ordination for the Bishop of the Catholic Church of Arkansas (2000), and has performed for the Mercy Secondary Education Association's National Conference. In 2012-13 the group performed at the Governor's Mansion and at City Hall.

Concert Belles also has traveled outside the state of Arkansas. It has twice traveled to NYC to participate in concerts in Carnegie Hall. Under the Clinton Administration it went to The White House to perform at a Christmas party. In 1992 it was named the Outstanding Female Choir at the Presidential Inaugural Festival in Washington, D.C.

### HARMONY BELLES

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 9-12

This course is a non-audition women's ensemble. For beginner and experienced signers who wish to be a part of a choral ensemble. Soprano I, Soprano II, Alto I, and Alto II (SSAA) voice parts will be combined to perform a range of classical, gospel, theater, and pop choral arrangements with accompaniment as well as a cappella. This course will be offered year

round; therefore participation is encouraged for consecutive semesters. However, if specific conflicts arise that only allow one semester to be taken, this can be approved per the instructor. Although this level will contain a variety of experience levels, a commitment to the process of learning music and supporting a team spirit of musicians is strongly encouraged. Students must have a minimum of 1 year in Harmony Belles before being eligible to audition for Concert Belles.

INTRO TO GUITAR

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 10 – 12

This course is intended for students who have a desire to learn to read music and play basic guitar. In this course, student's class time will be used to learn how to read music, determine key signatures, and basic music theory as it pertains to guitar. Students will also learn to play a basic strum pattern as well as develop skills playing a melody line. Students will be encouraged to practice their skills and use them for further study including individual composition. Assessments can include performing tests, written tests, performances and concert attendance.

Guitar may be provided by the student, but the Music Department also has several for use.

GUITAR II

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 10-12

This course is intended for students who have either taken Intro to Guitar or already know how to play guitar. In this course, students' class time will be spent becoming proficient at reading music written in standard notation and tablature, learning advanced music theory, and learning how to be an independent musician and performer.

INTRO TO PIANO

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 10 – 12

This course is intended for students who have a desire to learn to read music and play basic piano. In this course student's class time will be used to learn how to read music, determine key signatures, and basic music theory as it pertains to piano. Students will also be required to play basic chords, scales, and beginner solo repertoire. Students will be encouraged to practice their skills and use them for further study including individual composition.

PIANO II

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 10-12

This course is intended for students who have either taken Intro to Piano or already know how to play the piano. In this course, students' class time will be spent becoming proficient at reading piano music, sight-reading, learning advanced music theory, learning how to perform, and developing a larger repertoire of intermediate pieces of music.

GUITAR ENSEMBLE  
OPEN TO: GRADES 10-12

CREDITS: 1/2

This course is intended for students who have either taken Intro to Guitar or already know how to play the guitar and are interested in playing with others in a larger group. In this course, the students' class time will be spent learning ensemble pieces written for guitar and getting ready to perform those pieces. Time will also be spent learning advanced music theory and becoming proficient in reading guitar music written in standard notation and tablature.

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL BAND (directed by Matt Golladay)

NON-CREDIT

MSM has an arrangement with Catholic High School that allows talented and interested students to play in the CHS Band. Rehearsals are held at CHS during activity periods. All arrangements are made through Mr. Matt Golladay.

MUSIC APPRECIATION  
OPEN TO: GRADES 10 – 12

CREDITS: 1/2

Music Appreciation is a one-semester course designed to teach students the basic elements, principles, processes, materials, and inherent qualities of music. Students will examine a broad range of methods and will conduct critical analyses of the creative processes involved in music. Students will reflect on the connections between society and music. Music Appreciation students will develop perceptual awareness and aesthetic sensitivity as well as a foundation for a lifelong relationship with music. Music Appreciation will satisfy the one-half credit fine arts requirement for graduation.

## **SPEECH & THEATRE DEPARTMENT**

SPEECH COMMUNICATION

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 11 AND 12, AND 10th GRADE STUDENTS DESIRING TO ENTER THE FULL ADVANCED PLACEMENT DIPLOMA PROGRAM

Speech Communication explores a variety of public speaking and general communication situations. Students learn how to select a topic, organize a speech, and make an effective oral presentation. The course includes a study of the levels of communication, listening skills, language, nonverbal communication, and perceptions/cultures.

Speech Communication fulfills the ½ unit of Oral Communication required for graduation.

FORENSICS: SPEECH PERFORMANCE I, II, III, or IV

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 11 AND 12,  
GRADES 9-10 DESIRING TO TAKE MULTIPLE THEATRE COURSES

Forensics: Speech Performance is the introductory course to the MSM theatre department. It introduces basic theatre concepts through competitive speech and theatre tournament participation incorporating both group and individual performances. Students are expected to

compete in weekend tournaments as a requirement for credit. Membership into the National Speech and Debate Association may be earned.

Forensics will develop basic communication competencies including ethical practices, communication barriers, interpersonal communication, listening, verbal and nonverbal messages, and use of digital media. Students will develop research skills to prepare for a variety of public speaking formats, including public address and oral interpretation of literature.

Forensics fulfills the ½ unit of Oral Communication required for graduation. The curriculum for this course may be repeated for additional elective credits.

THEATRE APPRECIATION

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 11 AND 12

**PREREQUISITE: SPEECH COMMUNICATION/ FORENSICS:SPEECH PERFORMANCE**

Theatre Appreciation is a one semester fine arts credit that incorporates study of theatrical styles, history, and theory utilizing performances. This course is an introduction to the art of theatre. It will explore the various components of the theatre through attending live performances and experiencing recorded performances; reading plays, textbook, and other materials; participating in class presentations, lectures and class discussion. The goal of this course is to help the student become a savvy theatre critic with the ability to appreciate, analyze, evaluate – and enjoy – a theatrical event in its artistic, socio-political and cultural contexts. Students will attend three staged productions, respond to them critically, and participate in a group performance project.

Theatre Appreciation fulfills the ½ unit of Fine Arts required for graduation.

THEATRE ARTS I, II, and III

CREDITS: 1

ELECTIVE: GRADES 10 - 12

**PREREQUISITE: FORENSICS: SPEECH PERFORMANCE OR SPEECH COMMUNICATION**

Theatre Arts I, II, and III are two semester advanced drama courses, and their curriculum is designed to be the continuation of FORENSICS: SPEECH PERFORMANCE. These courses includes the study of theatre movement, acting, production elements, and technical theatre elements. They give students the opportunity to make theatre as creators, designers, directors and performers. These courses emphasize the importance of working both individually and collaboratively as part of an ensemble. Each student will work on the production of at least two public performances during class.

Theatre Arts fulfills the ½ unit of Fine Arts required for graduation. The curriculum for this course may be repeated for additional elective credits (Theatre Arts II and III).

STAGECRAFT ELEMENTS

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 11 AND 12

**PREREQUISITE: DRAMA, THEATRE ARTS I, OR TEACHER RECOMMENDATION**

Stagecraft Elements is a one-semester course which provides students with both exposure to and experience in elements of technical theatre, including scenery, props, lighting, sound, costume, and makeup. The four strands emphasize creating, performing/presenting, responding and connecting.

Students will assist with the technical elements of school-wide productions outside of class.

## VISUAL ART DEPARTMENT

### ART APPRECIATION

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 10 - 12

**Art Appreciation** fulfills the need for a fine art credit at Mount. This course is designed to introduce the origins and historical development of art for students that are not interested and highly motivated in pursuing art further in their high school career. Emphasis is on the relationship of design principles and historical significance to various art forms including but not limited to sculpture, painting, and architecture. Over the course of the year students will identify and analyze a variety of artistic styles, periods, aesthetic theories and media. Various explorations of film, literature, and scholarly articles will explore art terms, theories, techniques, contemporary art and historical art movements. Philosophical discussions of art and aesthetics will be encouraged and explored along with ethics and society.

Semester exams for this course consist of assessment on the information given through the various presentations and class lectures. The exam format may consist of multiple-choice, matching, true/false, and short answer or may be a gallery visit and art criticism. Art making will be explored by the students, but not to the extent that it would in a studio course.

### STUDIO ART I

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 9 - 12

**Studio Art I** is a beginning level course for students interested in Art as a career, hobby, or means of self-expression. The curriculum of the course is based on the Elements and Principles of Design, which give the student the basic language and skills needed to begin creating quality artworks and experimenting with different media. Students will be encouraged to develop problem solving skills and self reliance while working through projects. They will be exposed to various methods and techniques of art making-such as drawing, painting, collage, and printmaking; as well as various media- such as graphite, pen and ink, acrylic and cut paper. The majority of projects begin with information given via a Slides presentation/lecture format, as well as demonstration of technique. This course emphasizes technical skill building, exposure to various media, compositional planning, observational skill, and process. Individual and group critiques of final works and works-in-progress are introduced along with art criticism methods. Effort, attitude and correct assignment completion (based on an assessment rubric) play a major role in the student's evaluation process.

Semester exams for this course consist of assessment on the information given through the various presentations, class lectures, and technical skills demonstrated during projects. The



exam format may consist of multiple-choice, matching, true/false, and essay; as well as a drawing portion to demonstrate certain skills.

## STUDIO ART II

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 10-12

**Prerequisite: Complete Studio Art I course with a final semester grade of a B or higher, 1<sup>st</sup> semester exam grade of a C or higher, and an art teacher-signed recommendation on course sign-up sheet. If grade requirements are met, and there is a high demand for the course (more than 20 students interested), other criteria will be taken into consideration for recommendation to the course. For example, level of craftsmanship and organization, attitude, creativity level, level of interest in art concepts shown during Art I course, general behavior during Art I course, desire to take an AP art course and any other criteria the teacher deems acceptable to incorporate into the recommendation process.**

**Studio Art II** is a continuation of the exploration of art methods and media learned in Art I, as well as a course designed to incorporate a higher level of research, planning, and content into works. Emphasis is placed on creativity, planning, composition, and infusing each work with relevant content and meaning. Students will work with media used in Art I- such as graphite and acrylic paint- as well as media connected with multiple printmaking methods, and new more inventive materials. Several Printmaking techniques are introduced during Art II such as drypoint etching, multiple relief printing methods, and monotype. Individual and group critiques are used for many projects.

Semester exams may consist of assessment of information given during a project, technical skill demonstrations, evaluation and critiquing of finished artworks, and explanation of technical processes. Seniors taking this course may choose to participate in the Senior Show or not.

## DIGITAL DESIGN/PHOTOGRAPHY

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 11-12

This semester course introduces computer illustration techniques, image manipulation, digital camera use, graphic design, visual literacy and the principles and elements of art in composition. Students use image editing and digital drawing to put into practice the art principles learned. They will explore career opportunities in the design, production, display and presentation of digital artwork. Students will work primarily in Adobe Creative Suites (Photoshop and Illustrator) and photography concepts explored will be limited to digital photography. If there is a high demand for this course (20 or more students per semester) preference will be given to current Yearbook students.

## 3-D DESIGN/SCULPTURE

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 11-12

OFFERED: 19-20

**Prerequisite: Studio Art I and II ; may be taken concurrently with AP Studio Art and art teacher-signed recommendation on course sign-up sheet**

This course will introduce basic three dimensional processes and materials as well as develop the student's ability to analyze form and space relationships. This course is meant to provide students with knowledge of the technical processes and vocabulary associated with three-dimensional forms. To develop students' ability to analyze and discuss three-dimensional works. To assist students in exploring those individual and cultural issues which influence art, artists and three-dimensional environments. To reveal and cultivate students' powers of imagination, creativity and ability to conceptualize in three dimensions. The educational goals of this course are to establish an initial working relationship with basic materials, processes, and studio practice in three-dimensional design. Students will gain knowledge of and facility with various sculptural processes and materials. Students will be able to create three-dimensional forms and utilize support drawings, plans, and maquettes. Students will learn to utilize visual elements and design principles in manipulating space and creating three dimensional forms. Students will become familiar with the tools and techniques necessary in creating three dimensional forms and safe studio practices. Students will develop skills in the solution of visual problems and demonstrate the practical use of sketchbooks, ideas books, notebooks, and other methods of research. Students will acquire a visual vocabulary, which will allow them to successfully articulate concepts and insights during discussions and critiques. Students will gain an awareness of the history of sculpture, as well as contemporary issues, through lecture, research, museum and gallery visits and attending artist presentations. This course will be capped and only students showing concerted effort and maturity will be allowed entrance into this course. Students must have maintained an A in all previous art courses.

AP STUDIO ART: 2-D DESIGN

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 11 & 12

PREREQUISITE: Studio Art I and II

The A.P. Studio Art Course and portfolios are designed for students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of art. A.P. Studio Art is not a course based on a written examination; instead students submit portfolios for evaluation at the end of the school year to the College Board and the Advance Placement Program.

For this portfolio, students are asked to demonstrate understanding of 2-D design through any two-dimensional medium or process, including, but not limited to, graphic design, digital imaging, photography, collage, fabric design, weaving, fashion design, fashion illustration, painting and printmaking. **For weighted credit to be awarded, students must take the AP Exam in the spring and complete the course for the entire year.**

**\*This course requires payment of an exam fee.**

AP STUDIO ART: DRAWING

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 11 & 12

PREREQUISITE: Studio Art I and II

The A.P. Studio Art Course and portfolios are designed for students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of art. A.P. Studio Art is not a course based on a written examination; instead students submit portfolios for evaluation at the end of the school year to the College Board and the Advance Placement Program.

The Drawing Portfolio is intended to address a very broad interpretation of drawing issues and media. Line quality, light and shade, rendering of form, composition, surface manipulation, the illusion of depth and mark-making are drawing issues that can be addressed through a variety of means, which could include painting, printmaking, mixed media, etc. **For weighted credit to be awarded, students must take the AP Exam in the spring and complete the course for the entire year.**

**\*This course requires payment of an exam fee.**

## INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSES

### AP SEMINAR

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADE 11-12

AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and foundational, literary, and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments. **For weighted credit to be awarded, students must take the AP Exam in the spring and complete the course for the entire year.**

**\*This course requires payment of an exam fee.**

### AP RESEARCH

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADE 12

PREREQUISITE: AP Seminar

AP Research, the second course in the AP Capstone experience, allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue, or idea of individual interest. Students design, plan, and implement a yearlong investigation to address a research question. Through this inquiry, they further the skills they acquired in the AP Seminar course by learning research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information. Students reflect on their skill development, document their processes, and curate the artifacts of the scholarly work through a process and reflection portfolio. **For weighted credit to be awarded, students must take the AP Exam in the spring and complete the course for the entire year.**

**\*This course requires payment of an exam fee.**

# INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

## FRENCH

### FRENCH I

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 9 - 12

This course introduces students to the culture and the basic structural elements of the language of the French-speaking world at a novice level. Special attention is given the French sound system. Oral and written communications are emphasized. Videos and recordings by native speakers assist the teacher, and opportunities for individual in-school use of software are offered to students. Videos are used to learn vocabulary, grammar, and culture. At the conclusion of the school year, simulated role-play projects are done to assess conversation points of material learned throughout the school year. All students enrolled in the course must participate in the National French Contest during the spring semester.

### FRENCH II

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 9-12

PREREQUISITE: FRENCH 1

This course is a continuation of the study of French language and culture at high beginner or low intermediate according to the ACTFL fluency scale. French II provides a blend of all language skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking in French. Resources include recordings of native speakers, the Internet, videos, songs, etc. as real sources to practice all language skills. Students will complete projects focused on Francophone culture. These projects count as test grades and include an oral presentation and visual. All French students must participate in the National French Contest during the spring semester.

### HONORS FRENCH II

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 9 - 12

PREREQUISITE: FRENCH I AND TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

Honors French II is an advanced and fast-paced continuation of the study of French language and culture at an intermediate level. Honors French II provides a blend of all language skills: understanding of culture, reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Authentic realia is used in class to enhance the students' contact with French (recordings of native speakers, CDs, Internet, videos, songs, etc.). The students will complete projects focused on Francophone culture (holidays, gastronomie, etc.). These projects count as test grades and include an oral presentation and a visual. Students in this class must participate in the National French Contest during the spring semester.

### HONORS FRENCH III

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 10 - 12

PREREQUISITE: HONORS FRENCH II AND TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

Honors French III is an advanced and fast-paced continuation of the study of French grammar and culture at a high intermediate level. Honors French III provides a blend of all five language skills: reading, writing, listening, speaking, and understanding of culture. Authentic realia is used in class to enhance the students' contact with French (recordings of native speakers, Internet, videos, songs, magazines, newspapers, etc.). Students in this class must participate in the National French Contest during the spring semester. Honors French III students are expected to prepare for the Advanced Placement (AP) French class to be taken the following year.

AP FRENCH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 11 - 12

RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITE: HONORS FRENCH III AND TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

AP French Language and Culture is an advanced and fast-paced continuation of the study of French grammar and culture at a pre-advanced level. AP French Language and Culture provides a blend of all five language skills: reading, writing, listening, speaking, and understanding of culture. Authentic realia is used in class to enhance the student's contact with French (recordings of native speakers, CDs, Internet, videos, songs, magazines, newspapers, etc.) Students in this class must participate in the National French Contest. AP students will prepare for the AP French Language and Culture Exam throughout the course of the year through study of the 6 AP topics and practice assessments. **For weighted credit to be awarded, students must take the AP Exam in the spring and complete the course for the entire year.**

**\*This course requires payment of an exam fee.**

## LATIN

LATIN I

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 9 - 12

Latin lives! The language of Caesar, Cicero, Virgil, St. Augustine, and countless other great authors is alive and well in the modern world. It lives on in the Romance languages, which are the descendants of Latin. It lives on in English, which draws a major part of its vocabulary from Latin. It thrives in the technical terms of science, law, and proclamations of the Catholic Church. And it is the language of inscriptions, mottoes, and any idea that needs to be stated with permanence and precision. Latin I provides the key skills for being able to unlock the lives of the ancients by studying their very words. In addition to a study of forms and grammar, students will learn to read and comprehend texts as well as expand their cultural literacy through the mythology, history, and culture of the ancients. All Latin students are inducted into the National Junior Classical League and take the National Latin Exam.

HONORS LATIN II

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 9 - 12

PREREQUISITE: LATIN I

Latin lives on! Honors Latin II is a continuation of the study of the ancients with emphasis on reading and writing the language. Students encounter a variety of assessments to appeal to different learning styles. One project, a detailed study of Roman banquets includes reading the “Cena Trimalchionis” from the *Satyricon* by Petronius and recreating an ancient Roman banquet for their guests. Attendance at the banquet is mandatory. All Latin students are members of the National Junior Classical League and take the National Latin Exam.

HONORS LATIN III, HONORS LATIN IV OR AP LATIN\*

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 10 - 12

PREREQUISITE: HONORS LATIN II AND TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

This course is an advanced study of Latin poetry and prose. Students translate selections from Vergil’s *Aeneid* and Julius Caesar’s *De Bello Gallico*. In addition students read portions of both works in English. Students will translate a variety of words from other authors, some at sight. Students progress in reading and comprehending, translating, contextualizing, and analyzing Latin texts. Students learn to use the dictionary properly, continue their study of Latin grammar and Roman social and political history. Students will be able to recognize and apply literary techniques, rhetorical devices, and Latin metrics. All students are members of the Junior Classical League and take the National Latin Exam. **For weighted credit to be awarded, students must take the AP Exam in the spring and complete the course for the entire year.**

**\*This course requires payment of an exam fee.**

## SPANISH

SPANISH I

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 9 – 12

This course is an introduction to the culture and the basic structural elements of the language of the Spanish-speaking world that requires students to attain a level of mid to high novice (according the ACTFL fluency scale). It emphasizes the skills of understanding culture, reading, writing, speaking, and listening activities in Spanish. Students work at pronunciation with a goal of attaining proper native sounding speech. Students complete projects focused on Spanish in the U. S., Latin America and Spain. They use recordings of native speakers, CDs, Internet, videos, songs, podcasts, foreign radio stations, etc. as real sources to practice all language skills. Students in this class take the National Spanish Exam and may attend the Language Festival

HONORS SPANISH I

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 9-12

PREREQUISITE: SPANISH PLACEMENT EXAM

This course is geared toward those students who have mastered the basics of introductory Spanish and are ready for a fast-paced study of Spanish grammar and culture. Students are expected to attain a level of *novice high* according to the ACTFL fluency scale. The course emphasizes the skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking in Spanish with a goal of attaining near native speech. Resources include recordings of native speakers, CDs, the Internet, videos, songs, podcasts, foreign radio stations, etc. as real sources to practice all

language skills. Students complete projects focused on Spanish in the U. S., Latin America and Spain. All Spanish students take the National Spanish Exam and may attend the Language Festival.

SPANISH II

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 9 - 12

PREREQUISITE: SPANISH I

This course is a continuation of study of Spanish grammar and culture on a novice high level. Spanish II blends cultural, reading, writing, speaking, and listening activities. Students will continue where they left off in Spanish I and learn more verb tenses. Students use authentic materials to enhance contact with Spanish (recordings of native speakers, CDs, Internet, videos, songs, magazines, newspapers, etc.). Students complete projects focused on Spanish in the U. S., Latin America and Spain. Students in this class take the National Spanish Exam and may attend the Language Festival.

HONORS SPANISH II

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 9 - 12

PREREQUISITE: SPANISH I AND TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

Honors Spanish II is an advanced and fast-paced continuation of the study of Spanish grammar and culture at a low-intermediate level. Honors Spanish II emphasizes all skills: understanding culture, reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students start where they left off in Honors Spanish I and will learn all verb tenses but the perfect (have/had + participle) tenses. Students contact real Spanish via recordings of native speakers, CDs, Internet, videos, songs, podcasts, foreign radio stations, etc. Students complete projects focused on Spanish in the U. S., Latin America and Spain. Students in this class take the National Spanish Exam and may attend the Language Festival.

SPANISH III

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 10 - 12

PREREQUISITE: SPANISH II AND TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

This course is a continuation of Spanish I and II. Spanish III is a study of Spanish grammar, culture, and literature on a low intermediate level. The goal is to increase proficiency in understanding of culture, reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students contact real Spanish via recordings of native speakers, CDs, Internet, videos, songs, podcasts, foreign radio stations, etc. Various projects on Spanish or Latin American literature and/or current issues in Spanish-speaking countries may be assigned. Students in this class take the National Spanish Exam and may attend the Language Festival.

HONORS SPANISH III

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 9 - 12

PREREQUISITE: HONORS SPANISH II AND TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

This course is a continuation of Honors Spanish I and Honors Spanish II. Honors Spanish III is a study of Spanish grammar, culture, and literature on a mid to high intermediate level.



The goal is to increase proficiency in reading, understanding of culture, writing, listening, and speaking. Students make contact with real Spanish via recordings of native speakers, CDs, Internet, videos, songs, podcasts, foreign radio stations, etc. Various projects on Spanish or Latin American literature and/or current issues in Spanish-speaking countries are assigned. Students in this class take the National Spanish Exam. Students may attend the Language Competition and must prepare for AP Spanish Language and Culture.

SPANISH IV

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 10 - 12

PREREQUISITE: SPANISH III AND TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

This course is a continuation of Spanish I, II, and III. Spanish IV intensifies study of Spanish grammar, culture, and literature at a mid-intermediate level. The goal is to increase proficiency in understanding of culture, listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Students contact real Spanish via recordings of native speakers, CDs, Internet, videos, songs, podcasts, foreign radio stations, etc. Special individualized projects are assigned. Spanish IV students must be willing to work independently at times. Students in this class take the National Spanish exam and may attend the Language Festival.

AP SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 10 - 12

RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITE: HONORS SPANISH III AND TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

This course is a continuation of Spanish I, Honors Spanish II and III. AP Spanish IV blends study of Spanish grammar, understanding of culture, and literature at a high intermediate to pre-advanced level. The goal is to increase proficiency in understanding of culture, listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Students immerse themselves in real Spanish via recordings of native speakers, CDs, Internet, videos, songs, podcasts, foreign radio stations, etc. AP Spanish IV students must be willing to work independently at times. Students take the National Spanish Exam and may attend the Language Competition. **For weighted credit to be awarded, students must take the AP Exam in the spring and complete the course for the entire year.**

**\*This course requires payment of an exam fee.**

HONORS SPANISH V

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 12

PREREQUISITE: IB SPANISH IV, RECOMMENDATION OF TEACHER

Honors Spanish V is a continuation of Spanish I, II, III, and IV. Spanish V students must work independently, contracting weekly work as they are often added to another Spanish class and must share the teacher's time. The goal is to increase proficiency to a solid pre-advanced level. Students take the National Spanish Exam and may attend the Language Competition.

# MATH DEPARTMENT

## ALGEBRA I

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADE 9

PREREQUISITE: DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Algebra I is a first year comprehensive course that includes the skills necessary for success in future math courses. Topics covered include: fundamentals of algebra; solving linear, absolute value, and quadratic equations in one variable; graphing linear, absolute value, and quadratic equations in two variables; simple and compound linear inequalities and absolute value inequalities in one variable; systems of linear equations and inequalities; laws of exponents; polynomials and factoring; rational expressions; radical expressions; and problem solving. A TI-84 Plus graphing calculator is required.

## HONORS ALGEBRA I

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADE 9

PREREQUISITE: DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Honors Algebra I is a comprehensive course taught at a pace and depth necessary for success in honors math courses. Topics covered include: solving linear, absolute value, and quadratic equations in one variable; graphing linear, absolute value, and quadratic equations in two variables; simple and compound linear inequalities and absolute value inequalities in one variable; systems of linear equations and inequalities; laws of exponents; polynomials and factoring; rational expressions and equations; radical expressions and equations; data analysis, probability; and problem solving. A TI-84 Plus graphing calculator is required.

## GEOMETRY

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 9- 10

PREREQUISITE: AN ALGEBRA I COURSE AND DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Geometry is a comprehensive course that explores the properties of two- and three-dimensional figures, with limited exposure to formal proof writing. Topics covered include: points, lines, planes, segments and angles, coordinate geometry, transformations, inductive and deductive reasoning, parallel and perpendicular lines, properties and attributes of triangles, polygons, special quadrilaterals, congruent and similar figures, right triangles and basic trigonometry, circles, area of plane figures, and volume and surface area of solid figures. A TI-84 Plus graphing calculator is required.

## HONORS GEOMETRY

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 9-10

PREREQUISITE: HONORS ALGEBRA I AND DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Honors Geometry is a comprehensive course exploring the properties of two- and three-dimensional figures taught at a pace and depth necessary for success in Honors Precalculus and Advanced Placement math courses. This course more fully develops the concepts of proofs and proof writing techniques. Topics covered include: polygons, special

quadrilaterals, similar figures, Pythagorean Theorem, special right triangles, trigonometry, circles, perimeter, and area of polygons, surface area and volume of regular three-dimensional figures, and transformations. A TI-84 Plus graphing calculator is required.

HONORS ALGEBRA II

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 9-11

PREREQUISITE: HONORS ALGEBRA I AND DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION OR A GEOMETRY COURSE AND DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Honors Algebra II is a comprehensive course taught at a pace and depth necessary for success in Honors Precalculus and Advanced Placement math courses. Topics covered include: systems of linear equations and inequalities, matrices and determinants, quadratic equations, complex numbers, elementary and compound functions, powers, roots, and radicals, exponential and logarithmic functions, polynomial functions, rational functions, conic sections, elementary sequences and series, trigonometry, modeling, probability, and data analysis. A TI-Nspire CX (not CAS model) graphing calculator is required.

ALGEBRA II

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 9-11

PREREQUISITE: A GEOMETRY COURSE AND DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Algebra II is a comprehensive course which approaches the study of algebra through functions and their applications. The topics covered include: systems of linear equations and inequalities, matrices and determinants, probability, and basic statistics, quadratic functions, an introduction to complex numbers, polynomial functions, an introduction to the six trigonometric functions and the unit circle, radical functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, rational functions, modeling application word problems. A TI-Nspire CX (not CAS model) graphing calculator is required.

ALGEBRA III

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 11-12

PREREQUISITE: AN ALGEBRA II COURSE AND DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Algebra III is a fourth year comprehensive math course designed for students who have successfully completed Algebra II. This course enhances the higher level thinking skills developed in Algebra II through a more in-depth study of those concepts and exploration of some pre-calculus concepts. Students in Algebra III are challenged to increase their understanding of algebraic, graphical, and numerical methods to analyze, translate, and solve linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Modeling real world situations is an important part of this course. Sequences and series are used to represent and analyze real world problems and mathematical situations. Algebra III also includes a study of trigonometric functions, right triangles, and oblique triangles. Matrices are explored by algebraic and technological methods. Technology will be integrated where appropriate. A TI-Nspire CX (non-CAS model) graphing calculator is required.

## PRECALCULUS

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 10-12

PREREQUISITE: AN ALGEBRA II COURSE AND DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Precalculus is a comprehensive course expanding upon the higher level thinking skills developed in Algebra II/Trigonometry. Students will have an in-depth study of polynomial, rational, exponential and logarithmic functions. This course also includes the study of right triangles, trigonometric functions, trigonometric identities, and oblique triangles. Additional topics covered are systems of equations, vectors, conics, and sequences and series. A TI-Nspire CX (non-CAS model) graphing calculator is required.

## HONORS PRECALCULUS

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 10 - 12

PREREQUISITE: HONORS ALGEBRA II AND DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Honors Pre-Calculus is a comprehensive course taught at a pace and depth necessary for success in Advanced Placement math courses. Students will have an in-depth study of polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and piecewise functions. This course also includes the study of right triangles, trigonometric functions, trigonometric identities, inverse trigonometric, and oblique triangles. Additional topics covered are systems of equations, vectors, conics, introduction to limits, and sequences and series. A TI-nSpire CX (non-CAS model) graphing calculator is required.

## STATISTICS

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 11-12

RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITE: AN ALGEBRA II COURSE AND DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

The course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. There are four themes in the Statistics course: exploring data, sampling and experimentation, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference. Since using data effectively is a large and growing part of most professions, many college majors require a statistics course. This course will prepare students for a college statistics course. A TI graphing calculator is required for this course.

## AP STATISTICS

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 11-12

RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITE: A PRE-CALCULUS COURSE OR HONORS ALGEBRA II AND DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

The course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. There are four themes in the AP Statistics course: exploring data, sampling and experimentation, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference. Students who successfully complete the course and AP examination may receive credit, advanced placement, or both for a one-semester introductory college statistics course. A TI graphing

calculator is required for this course (CX or CAS are acceptable) (Note: CAS can not be used on the ACT!)

**\*For weighted credit to be awarded, students must take the AP Exam in the spring and complete the course for the entire year.**

**\*This course requires payment of an exam fee.**

### AP CALCULUS AB

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 11-12

RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITE: HONORS PRE-CALCULUS AND DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

This course is equivalent to a first semester course of calculus on the college level. AP Calculus introduces concepts involving limits, derivatives, definite integrals, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. Students will learn how to approach concepts and problems when they are represented graphically, analytically, numerically, and verbally, and to make connections amongst their representations. Students who successfully complete the course and AP examination may receive credit, advanced placement, or both for a Calculus I course in college. A TI graphing calculator is required for this course (TI-nSpire CX CAS is highly recommended but a CAS can not be used on the ACT!).

**\*For weighted credit to be awarded, students must take the AP Exam in the spring and complete the course for the entire year.**

**\*This course requires payment of an exam fee.**

### AP CALCULUS BC

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADE 12

RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITE: AP CALCULUS AB AND DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

This course is equivalent to a second semester of calculus on the college level. It will be an extension of AP Calculus AB. All topics in AB will be covered plus sequences, improper integrals, infinite series, parametric, vector, and polar functions. A TI graphing calculator is required for this course (TI-nSpire CX CAS is highly recommended but a CAS can not be used on the ACT!).

**\*For weighted credit to be awarded, students must take the AP Exam in the spring and complete the course for the entire year.**

**\*This course requires payment of an exam fee.**

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

## HEALTH EDUCATION

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 9 - 12

This course is open to all students, but designed primarily for freshmen and sophomores. Topics covered include units on health and wellness, fitness and healthy diet, nutrition, eating disorders, digestive system, muscles and bones, chronic and infectious diseases, and substance abuse.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 9 - 12

This course is open to all students, but designed primarily for freshmen and sophomores. The emphasis of this course is on fundamental skills in team sports moving toward an emphasis on individual sports for life. Activities include basketball, volleyball, soccer, softball, dance, etc.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH BASKETBALL

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: 9<sup>th</sup> GRADE BASKETBALL PLAYERS

REQUIRED: FRESHMEN BASKETBALL TEAM

Fundamental skills in team sports as well as preparing for the basketball season are the focuses of this course. In addition, all relevant health topics as outlined in Health Education are covered.

## CONTEMPORARY HEALTH ISSUES

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 11 - 12

This course will fulfill the graduation requirement or may be taken as an elective. Topics included are mental health and wellness, drugs as medicines, self defense and rape prevention, stress management, consumer health issues, aerobics and fitness, first aid/CPR certification and major adult health issues. Activities may include guest speakers.

## RECREATION FOR LIFE

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 11 - 12

This course is designed to fulfill the requirements for graduation or may be taken as an elective. The main objective of this course is to stress the importance of lifetime physical fitness and to introduce primarily individual activities in which students can participate during their leisure time. Included in the syllabus is a unit on spectator sports (football), bowling, tennis, golf, and a unit on leisure sports which includes badminton, pickleball, shuffleboard and table tennis. In-class field trips may be taken to the bowling alley and putt putt.

MARINE CORPS JROTC (Zero Hour)

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 9 – 12

**Course Overview:** Leadership Education, more commonly referred to as Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (MCJROTC), is a nationally recognized program that has received accreditation by The Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation (CITA). The CITA Alliance includes the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS-CEMS and SACS-CSMS). It is designed to instill in high school students the values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility and a sense of ethics and honor.

The MCJROTC Leadership Education Program emphasizes the development of self-discipline, leadership, honor, integrity, and the value of community service. Citizenship training is emphasized throughout the program and reinforced by using current events and activities occurring in the Little Rock area, the state of Arkansas, our nation and the world. In addition, students are acquainted with basic military subjects and Marine Corps traditions, customs, and courtesies. Enrollment does not obligate a student to military service.

The MCJROTC program produces successful students and productive adults while fostering a constructive and disciplined learning environment. Additionally the program makes substantial contributions to many community service projects and not-for-profit organizations. The class meets for physical fitness on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. at Catholic High. Academics are conducted on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 6:45 to 7:30 a.m. at Catholic High.

Extra-curricular activity details may be found at this link, <http://www.lrchs.org/academics/academic-departments/marine-corps/> and include:

Drill Team  
Color Guard  
Marksmanship Team  
Orienteering Team  
Physical Fitness Team  
Cyber Defense Team  
Academic Team

**REQUIRED STANDARDS:** Students desiring to become and remain cadets **must** maintain acceptable standards of school academics, discipline and conform to Marine Corps grooming/uniform standards while in uniform and during other designated events. These standards may be found at the following link:

<http://www.lrchs.org/academics/academic-departments/marine-corps/>

# SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

## BIOLOGY

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 9

This course is designed to teach students that science can be meaningful to their present interests and future goals and to arouse the curiosity of students about themselves and their environment. Students are expected to gain a thorough understanding of biological concepts and be able to apply those concepts to the explanation and resolution of various problems and situations present in today's world. Topics of study include scientific method, cell biology, genetics, classification, microbiology, plants, animals, and ecology. Laboratory time is spent in developing laboratory safety and basic microscope skills and fundamental laboratory techniques used in biology.

## HONORS BIOLOGY

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADE 9 WITH STRONG TEST SCORES AND ACADEMIC RECORDS

This course is designed for the task-committed, self-motivated student with above average interest and ability in science and problem solving. It emphasizes unifying themes in Biology. It is designed to expand the range and depth of the following topics: molecular and cell biology, bioenergetics, heredity, classification, and diversity (organisms and populations), biological change through time, and ecology. Laboratory investigations are an integral part of this course.

## PHYSICAL SCIENCE

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 10, 11, 12

Physical Science Survey is designed as preparatory instruction to help students achieve diverse knowledge in the concepts of chemistry and physics. Students gain a thorough understanding of physical science concepts and are able to apply those concepts to the explanation and resolution of problems in the lab or classroom setting. Key components of this class include lab safety, microscopy, physical and chemical properties of matter, and in-depth study of forces and motion. Problem-based and cooperative learning are emphasized through group projects with an emphasis on scientific method.

## HONORS PHYSICAL SCIENCE

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 10, 11, 12

PREREQUISITE: BIOLOGY OR HONOR BIOLOGY, ALGEBRA I OR HONORS ALGEBRA I AND TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

The course includes studies of the scientific method, scientific measurement, the nature of matter, current understanding of the atom; nature, classification, and naming of matter; characteristics and components of radioactivity; arrangement of the Periodic Table; phase of matter and molecular motion; properties of solutions; transformations and flow of energy; force, mass, and motion; properties of waves; properties of electricity and magnetism. Mathematical applications will be used often with scientific formulas.



## CHEMISTRY

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADE 11

PREREQUISITE: BIOLOGY, PHYSICAL SCIENCE

This course studies unit analysis, measurement, scientific measurements, accuracy and significant digits as building blocks for future problems. Atomic structure, chemical formula, and chemical equations are investigated. Stoichiometry calculations, limiting reactants, stoichiometry of solution, molality, and normality are studied. Solutions and their properties, gases and their properties and chemical reactions are analyzed. Acid-base titration and pH are investigated. Compounds of carbon are examined. This class spends a minimum of 20% of its class time in the laboratory, and many class demonstrations are performed for the visual learners.

## HONORS CHEMISTRY

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 10, 11

PREREQUISITE: GRADE 10- HONORS BIOLOGY, HONORS ALGEBRA I, ENROLLED IN HONORS GEOMETRY, SCIENCE TEACHER RECOMMENDATION.  
PREREQUISITE: GRADE 11- BIOLOGY, PHYSICAL SCIENCE, SCIENCE TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

This course studies unit analysis, measurement, scientific measurements, accuracy and significant digits as building blocks for future problems. Atomic structure, chemical formula, and chemical equations are investigated. Stoichiometry calculations, limiting reactants, stoichiometry of solution, molality, and normality are studied. Solutions and their properties, gases and their properties and chemical reactions are analyzed. Acid-base titration and pH are investigated. Chemical reactions, kinetic and dynamic equilibria and oxidation-reduction reactions are studied. Compounds of carbon are examined. This class spends a minimum of 20% of its class time in the laboratory and many class demonstrations are performed for the visual learners. The course uses the same textbook as standard chemistry but covers more topics quickly and in more detail.

## ANATOMY

CREDIT: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 11-12

PREREQUISITE: BIOLOGY AND PHYSICAL SCIENCE/CHEMISTRY

Covers the basics of human anatomy and physiology including anatomical terminology, basic biochemistry, cells and tissues, and the integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, cardiovascular, lymphatic/immune, respiratory, digestive, urinary, and reproductive systems. Introduces common human disease processes

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

CREDIT: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 11-12

PREREQUISITE: BIOLOGY AND PHYSICAL SCIENCE/CHEMISTRY

This course is an introduction to environmental science and environmental studies for non-science majors. It examines the environmental impact of population growth on natural

resources; mineral and resource extraction; water resource use and water pollution; air pollution and climate change; and conventional and sustainable energy supplies. Emphasis is placed on a holistic approach to environmental science using class discussions, laboratory exercises, and environmental surveys to reinforce scientific principles.

### FORENSIC SCIENCE

CREDIT: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 11-12

PREREQUISITE: BIOLOGY AND PHYSICAL SCIENCE/CHEMISTRY

The course is designed to emphasize the laboratory techniques used by forensic scientists in the analysis of crimes and the role of evidence in criminal and civil proceedings. Investigative procedures to be studied include crime scene processing and reconstruction, fingerprinting, evaluation of injuries and cause of death, determination of the post-mortem interval, forensic entomology, bite mark analysis, tool marks, ballistics, trajectory analysis, blood spatter analysis, and DNA analysis. Ethical issues and case studies of actual crimes will be discussed. Students will learn how to lift latent fingerprints using multiple techniques, and then match them with a suspect. Students will also collect and analyze trace evidence such as hair and fiber to determine their origin. Examination of skeletal remains will include determination of gender and race, as well as differentiating post-mortem and ante-mortem injuries. Experts from local and state forensic labs and law enforcement will give seminars in actual crime scene investigation.

### GEOLOGY AND SPACE

CREDIT: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 11-12

PREREQUISITE: BIOLOGY AND PHYSICAL SCIENCE/CHEMISTRY

This course deals with the physical earth and the universe in which it is found. Various instructional media are used to explore the topics of earth materials, geologic history, forces and events shaping Earth's surface, and astronomy. Emphasis is also placed on the scientific method and learning how currently held theories have been developed. Appropriate laboratory activities are included to support the concepts and skills developed in the course.

### AP BIOLOGY

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 11-12

RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITE: HONORS BIOLOGY AND HONORS PHYSICAL SCIENCE AND TEACHER RECOMMENDATION; HONORS CHEMISTRY CAN BE CONCURRENT

This course is an introductory college level biology course that focuses on the following topics: evolution, cellular processes, energy and communication, genetics, information transfer, ecology and interactions. This course shifts the emphasis from a traditional "content coverage" model of instruction to one that focuses on enduring, conceptual understandings and the content that supports them. This approach will enable students to spend less time on factual recall and more time on inquiry-based learning of essential concepts, and will help them develop the reasoning skills necessary to engage in the science practices used throughout their study of AP Biology. This course requires that 25% of instruction time will be spent in hands-on laboratory work, with an emphasis on inquiry based investigations that

provide students with the opportunity to apply concepts learned throughout the course. Students will learn to design a plan for collecting data, analyze data, apply mathematical routines, and connect concepts in and across domains. The result will be readiness for the study of advanced topics in subsequent college courses. At the end of the year, students are encouraged to take the Advanced Placement Examination for college credit. Students taking this course may be required to complete laboratory work outside of the regular class time. This course is equivalent to a two-semester college introductory biology course.

**For weighted credit to be awarded, students must take the AP Exam in the spring and complete the course for the entire year.**

**\*This course requires payment of an exam fee.**

### AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 11-12

RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITE: BIOLOGY OR HONORS BIOLOGY, PHYSICAL SCIENCE OR HONORS PHYSICAL SCIENCE, HONORS CHEMISTRY, ALGEBRA I OR HONORS ALGEBRA I, GEOMETRY OR HONORS GEOMETRY, AND TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

The goal of the AP Environmental Science course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them.

Environmental science is interdisciplinary; it embraces a wide variety of topics from different areas of study. Yet there are several major unifying themes, that cut across the many topics included in the study of environmental science. The following themes provide a foundation for the structure of the AP Environmental Science course: Earth Systems and Resources (10%–15%), The Living World (10%–15%), Population (10%–15%), Land and Water Use (10%–15%), Energy Resources and Consumption (10%–15%), Pollution (25%–30%), Global Change (10%–15%).

**For weighted credit to be awarded, students must take the AP Exam in the spring and complete the course for the entire year.**

**\*This course requires payment of an exam fee.**

### AP CHEMISTRY

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 11-12

RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITE: HONORS BIOLOGY, HONORS PHYSICAL SCIENCE, HONORS CHEMISTRY AND HONORS ALGEBRA I, HONORS GEOMETRY AND TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

Chemistry is equivalent to a college level general chemistry course that provides rigorous study in four major areas: structure of matter, states of matter, reaction and descriptive chemistry. Students must be highly motivated to tackle this rigorous course. At the end of the year, students are encouraged to take the Advanced Placement Examination for college credit. Students taking this course may be required to complete laboratory work outside of the regular class time. The student will demonstrate a basic understanding of, and the ability

to apply, mathematical solutions to problems involving atomic theory and structures, chemical bonding, nuclear chemistry, kinetic theory, solutions, reaction types, stoichiometry, equilibrium, kinetics, thermodynamics, and descriptive chemistry. Evaluation is based on homework, lab reports and tests. Much of the class is “out of class homework” and in class “lab” based work.

**For weighted credit to be awarded, students must take the AP Exam in the spring and complete the course for the entire year.**

**\*This course requires payment of an exam fee.**

AP PHYSICS 1

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADE 12

RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITE: HONOR BIOLOGY, HONOR PHYSICAL SCIENCE, HONOR CHEMISTRY AND HONOR ALGEBRA I, HONOR GEOMETRY, HONOR ALGEBRA II, AND TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

AP Physics 1 is designed as an introductory course in physics. Concepts in mechanics, thermodynamics, optics, electricity and magnetism, and modern physics are studied. A minimum of 20% of class time is spent in the laboratory. A TI-Nspire calculator is required for this course.

**For weighted credit to be awarded, students must take the AP Exam in the spring and complete the course for the entire year.**

**\*This course requires payment of an exam fee.**

# SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

## CIVICS

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADE 9-12

Civics is a one-semester course designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of American government and the major divisions within our government. Students learn why government and politics are necessary, the essential characteristics of limited and unlimited government, the nature and purpose of the U.S. Constitution, the values and principles basic to American constitutional democracy, how power and responsibility are distributed, shared, and limited in the United States, and how the U.S. government is organized and what it does. Students learn how citizenship is applied in everyday situations and how to get involved in the democratic process. They observe the development of important constitutional issues from a young person's perspective.

## GLOBAL REGIONS

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADE 9

Global Regions is a one-semester course designed to introduce students to geography using five themes: location, place, interaction, movement and region. These themes provide an organized focus for geographic study and are tools that students use to analyze a place, to answer the where, why and how questions that constitute geography. Students are guided through seven regional units. In each regional unit, students learn about the region's geography, history and traditions, economics and daily life, arts and literature, as well as the role of the region in the world today.

## AMERICAN HISTORY

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADE 10

American History is designed to provide students with a broad knowledge base of American history from revolutionary to modern times. Students engage in thematic analysis to provide them with appropriate context for understanding factual content. Using critical thinking skills, students identify central issues, make comparisons, determine relevance, recognize cause and effect, formulate questions, and draw conclusions.

## AP UNITED STATES HISTORY

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADE 10

RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITE: Approval from 9th grade Social Studies teacher

This is a full year survey of United States History from the age of exploration and discovery to the present. Solid reading and writing skills and the desire to devote considerable time to homework and study are necessary to succeed. Emphasis is placed on essay writing, interpretation of original documents, and historiography. The AP Exam is required in the spring.

**\*For weighted credit to be awarded, students must take the AP Exam in the spring and complete the course for the entire year.**

**\*This course requires payment of an exam fee.**

## WORLD HISTORY

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 11

World History is designed to introduce the students to the events of history from prehistoric times to the present while incorporating current events in order to make the past relevant to the present. Assignments are given which allow students to demonstrate their ability to understand and use maps, to explain how geography and history are linked, to conduct research based on the historical method, and to analyze and interpret charts, tables and primary documents. The focus of the course is to give an understanding of how events in all cultures are influenced by physical and human geographical factors and how ideas, events, and conditions bring about change which can contribute to conflict or cooperation. Each unit specifically centers on understanding political, social/cultural and economic themes.

## AP EUROPEAN HISTORY

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 11

AP European History is offered to students who are interested in a first year university level course in European History. This course focuses on developing students' abilities to think conceptually about European history from approximately 1450 to the present and apply historical thinking skills as they learn about the past. Six themes of equal importance- Interaction of Europe and the World, Poverty and Prosperity, Objective Knowledge and Subjective Vision States and Other Institutions of Power, Individual and Society, and National and European Identity- provide areas of historical inquiry for investigation throughout the course. These require students to reason historically and continuity and change over time and make comparisons among various historical developments in different times and places. Therefore, students are expected to demonstrate strong writing, analytical skills, and independent work habits. The Advanced Placement European History course purpose is to provide students with a learning experience equivalent to that of most college history courses. This course is designed to prepare students to successfully complete the AP European History exam in order to receive college credit.

**\*For weighted credit to be awarded, students must take the AP Exam in the spring and complete the course for the entire year.**

**\*This course requires payment of an exam fee.**

## STREET LAW

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 11 - 12

Street Law is a one-semester course designed to give students a practical understanding of law and the legal system. The course is designed to provide students with an understanding of their legal rights and responsibilities, a knowledge of everyday legal problems, and the ability to analyze, evaluate, and resolve legal disputes. The course addresses general problems in the areas of criminal and juvenile justice; torts, housing law and consumer law.

## SOCIOLOGY

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 11 – 12

Sociology is designed to introduce students to the general scope of this discipline and to foster a greater appreciation of this field. Students will study such topics as culture, interaction, control, inequality, institutions and social change. This course will also introduce students to diverse methods used in research and the ethical practices and responsibilities required. Finally, the purpose of this course is directed toward preparing students for further study in college and exposing them to possible career options.

## PSYCHOLOGY

CREDITS: 1/2

OPEN TO: GRADES 11 - 12

Psychology is designed to introduce students to the basic principles of psychology, the major theoretical approaches (psychoanalytic, behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, biological and social psychology) used to study behavior. The various methods of inquiry with the ethical standards inherent to psychological investigation are also studied. The major topics of study include biological processes, sensations/perceptions and altered states of consciousness, learning, memory and intelligence, motivation, emotion, stress and conflict, development, personality theories, and abnormal behavior. Relevant and practical applications to everyday life and the social issues society faces are addressed as well as possible careers in the field of psychology.

## AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 11-12

This course introduces students to the rich diversity of political life outside the United States. The course uses a comparative approach to examine the political structures, policies, and political, economic, and social challenges among six selected countries: Great Britain, Mexico, Russia, Iran, China, and Nigeria. Additionally, students examine how different governments solve similar problems by comparing the effectiveness of approaches to many global issues. This course is designed to be equivalent to a one-semester introductory college course. Students successfully completing this course will:

- Compare and contrast political concepts, themes, and generalizations
- Describe and explain typical patterns of political processes and behaviors and their consequences
- Compare and contrast political institutions and processes across countries to derive generalizations
- Analyze and interpret basic data relevant to comparative government and politics.

**\*For weighted credit to be awarded, students must take the AP Exam in the spring and complete the course for the entire year.**

**\*This course requires payment of an exam fee.**

## AP PSYCHOLOGY

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 11-12

PLEASE NOTE: You may not enroll in this course if you have previously taken regular Psychology.

**Advanced Placement Psychology** is designed as a rigorous curriculum that provides an overview of current psychological theory and practice. This course follows the APA guidelines for Advanced Placement Psychology. It is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes of humans and other animals. In accordance with the driving principles of current psychological practice, this course will emphasize scientific methods of research and procedure, ethical standards in research, and critical thinking skills. AP Psychology's aim is to introduce students to the six major theoretical approaches: Psychodynamic, Behavioral, Cognitive, Humanistic, Biological and Sociocultural. The main topics of study include the history of psychology, research methods, biological processes, sensations / perceptions and states of consciousness, learning, cognition, motivation, emotion, developmental psychology, personality, abnormal behavior and treatment and Social Psychology. Students are expected to demonstrate strong writing and analytical skills and independent work habits. Relevant and practical applications to everyday life and the social issues we face are addressed as well as possible careers in the field of psychology. It is opened to juniors and seniors. There is no prerequisite and no major projects required. The Advanced Placement Psychology course purpose is to provide students with a learning experience equivalent to that of most college introductory psychology courses.

**\*For weighted credit to be awarded, students must take the AP Exam in the spring and complete the course for the entire year.**

**\*This course requires payment of an exam fee.**

## AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

CREDITS: 1

OPEN TO: GRADES 9-12

AP Human Geography introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and organization of the earth. Students will employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human organization of space. This AP Human Geography class teaches spatial relationships at different scales ranging from local to global. Students will examine human geography through the lenses of population and health, migration, folk and popular culture, languages, religions, ethnicities, political geography, development, food and agriculture, industry, services, and urban patterns.

**\*For weighted credit to be awarded, students must take the AP Exam in the spring and complete the course for the entire year.**

**\*This course requires payment of an exam fee.**



## **THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

MSM theology courses will equip students with the knowledge and understanding to develop their faith in God more deeply as they grow into disciples of Jesus, particularly by studying Scripture and Sacred Tradition. These theology courses will encourage students to respond in loving obedience to God and their faith tradition by making moral decisions, by developing the practices of prayer and personal reflection, and by loving and serving humanity with compassion, mercy, and justice.

### **THEOLOGY I: FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH AND CHRISTIAN DECISION MAKING**

CREDITS: 1

Freshman theology is designed to foster a deeper understanding of each student's faith and the connections between lived faith and lived values. This course will provide a foundation for student knowledge and understanding of Catholicism and the meaning and importance of their faith and their relationship with God. Students will learn about the "Mercy" values, history and tradition of the Mercy Sisters. This course will encourage students to respond and live out their relationship with God by making moral decisions, developing the practices of prayer and reflection, and by loving and serving others.

### **THEOLOGY II: HEBREW SCRIPTURE AND CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE**

CREDITS: 1

Sophomore Theology is a one year course that studies both the Hebrew Scripture (Old Testament) and Christian Scriptures (New Testament). Through a study of the Hebrew Scriptures, students will better understand their relationship with God as established by the early covenants between God and His people. The Christian Scriptures will help students to understand how Jesus is revealed in the scripture and how this revelation relates to us now. It will challenge students to use the scripture as a life guide.

### **THEOLOGY III: CHRISTIANS IN THE MODERN WORLD**

CREDITS: 1

This year long course is an introduction to social justice and service-learning. The course will encourage students to explore the world around them as they help bring justice to their neighbors in central Arkansas through their off campus service assignments. Through their service the students will develop knowledge and understanding of their love and faith in God by learning more about their call to love and serve as Jesus would.

### **THEOLOGY IV: ADULT CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

CREDITS: 1

Senior Theology examines Christian life and discipleship from an adult faith perspective. This capstone course will increase and further develop the knowledge and understanding of the students' faith in God and will provide a foundation for their continued growth as adult Christian disciples living in the 21st century. It will encourage students to respond in loving obedience to God and their faith tradition by giving them practice in making moral decisions, observing and analyzing the conditions and issues of social injustice, and in living out their vocation as an adult disciple of Jesus Christ.