



**Mount Saint Mary Academy**  
*A Sponsored Work of the Sisters of Mercy*  
1645 US Highway 22, Watchung, NJ 07069  
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**Course Descriptions**  
**2017-2018 Academic Year**

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

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS - 130 Credits**  
Mount Saint Mary Academy Graduation Requirements

Theology	4 years or each year enrolled
English	4 years
Mathematics	3 years
Science	3 years of a lab science
Social Studies	3 years
World Language	2 years of the same language
PE/Health	3 years
Fine Arts	1 year
Technology	1 semester

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

**HONORS PROGRAM**

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

Students who want to appeal a placement decision must do so **in writing** to the Office of Student Services **by March 29, 2017. There is a \$50 fee to appeal placement decisions after the deadline. Appeals will not be considered after June 1, 2017.**

**THE MERCY SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

Students who qualify for the Mercy Scholars Program have earned outstanding scores on the Mount Saint Mary Academy entrance test, standardized tests and grades in middle school. These students will be placed in honors level classes in English and history. Students must take a placement test in math to determine the math and science courses appropriate to their skill level. Mercy Scholars must continue in an acceptable number of honors courses and maintain a GPA of 3.5.

**MERCY CORE VALUES SERVICE DAYS**

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

## CREATIVE ARTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Prerequisite: Graphic Art I.* Students enrolled in this course will continue to explore the features of software used in Graphic Art I, while applying the principles and elements of design using a variety of media in addition to digital design. Students will expand their knowledge of design software and increase their awareness of the commercial applications of graphic art through examples, research and imitation. Topics include the psychology of type and color, journal assignments, client based projects, introduction to printmaking techniques, animation, and digital fashion design. 3D printing will also be included. Students need access to a smart phone or camera. There will be an extra fee for software.

**MASTERPIECES, METHODS AND MEANINGS** **One Semester** **2.5 Credits - Grades 10, 11, 12**

Do you ever wonder why a certain work of art is considered a masterpiece? This hands-on art class will examine some important and controversial works of art for how and why they were made and why they are in Art Museums and great collections throughout the world. Students will learn basic aesthetic philosophies and art vocabulary to facilitate discussion of several great works. Techniques from egg tempera to recycled materials for making art of your own will be explored.

**FIBERS AND FABRICS** **One Semester** **2.5 Credits - Grades 10, 11, 12**

*No Prerequisite.* Students enrolled in this course will explore the use of fibers and fabrics in a variety of art and crafts projects. Simple fashion and sewing projects will be included. (Prior knowledge of sewing is not required.) Offered in alternating years.

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

*Prerequisite: Painting.* This course is for the advanced student who desires to explore more fully the intellectual and expressive possibilities of art making. A variety of historical and contemporary approaches to media and themes will be examined. Students may choose their own direction in a particular medium.

**ADVANCED STUDIO ART II** **Full Year** **5 Credits - Grade 12**

*Prerequisite: Advanced Studio Art I.* This course is a continuation of the study of fine art (drawing, painting and sculpture) with an emphasis on developing a concentration of work in one or two media within a theme developed by the student. Students will be assisted with creating a portfolio for college applications.

## ENGLISH

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

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

**5 Credits - Grade 9**

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

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

**5 Credits - Grade 9**

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

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

**5 Credits - Grade 10**

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

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

**5 Credits - Grade 10**

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

### **ENGLISH II: AMERICAN LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION**

**5 Credits - Grade 10**

This class is strongly suggested for students who have experienced difficulty with writing on the high school level. It will focus on improving academic writing skills and developing fluency with language mechanics. Through a revisionary writing process, students will learn to organize their thoughts, synthesize information, and present their arguments in a coherent, complete essay. Basic grammar skills like proper punctuation, sentence structure, and syntax will be reinforced and expanded upon. The latter will likely also increase verbal PSAT scores, specifically in the areas of identifying sentence errors and revising sentences. *Teacher recommendation.*

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

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

**5 Credits - Grade 11**

This course familiarizes students with British and Irish writers by tracing the development of literature from the Victorian, Modern, and Postmodern eras. Continued vocabulary study, college-essay preparation, and writing and research skills building are also integral.

**ENGLISH III (HONORS): LITERATURE OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE****5 Credits - Grade 11**

This course will explore historical works of the former British Empire and their connections to the modern world. Students will be encouraged to give consistent attention to all levels of the writing process and practice evaluating texts using a variety of critical approaches to literature. Additionally, a formal research paper, a continued study of vocabulary, college-essay preparation, and constant honing of writing and research skills will characterize this course.

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

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

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

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

**WORLD LITERATURES HONORS****5 Credits - Grade 12**

This course will begin with an exploration of five major branches of Philosophy – Ethics, Political Philosophy, Free Will/Determinism, Philosophy of Mind, and finally Epistemology – which will frame the remainder of the year's literary selections. Students will consider the question of what constitutes world literature (s) and what exactly makes for a text. In addition to reading novels, the class will engage with –and in some cases produce—works of travel writing, photography, memoir, poetry, narrative, short stories, maps, journalism, philosophy, science, diary, essay, and historical fiction. Designed for the self-motivated student who enjoys class discussion, emphasis will be placed on critical theories and the analytical essay. Students are encouraged but not mandated to sit for the AP English Literature and Composition exam in May.

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

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

## **DIGITAL JOURNALISM**

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

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

*The following electives are not offered every year.*

## **LITERATURE & THE LAND: JOURNEYS INTO LITERARY AMERICA**

**5 Credits - Grade 12**

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

## **LITERARY NONFICTION**

**5 Credits - Grade 12**

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

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

## MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

### MATHEMATICS COURSES

#### **ALGEBRA I**

**5 Credits - Grade 9**

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

#### **ALGEBRA II**

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

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

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

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

*Prerequisite: Algebra I, MSMA placement test.* In addition to the traditional Algebra II content, this course includes in-depth coverage of radical expressions and equations, exponential and logarithmic functions, rational expressions and functions, the binomial theorem, and sequences and series.

#### **GEOMETRY: AN INTERGRATED APPROACH**

**5 Credits - Grade 10**

*Prerequisite: Algebra I or II.* In this courses students will develop reasoning and problem-solving skills through the study of topics including congruence, similarity, and properties of lines, triangles, quadrilaterals and circles. Logical thought processes will be developed through inductive and deductive techniques. Spatial relationship skills will be strengthened through the study of length, perimeter, area, circumference, surface area, and volume. Students will use multi-step processes utilizing variables and geometric relationships as vehicles to problem solve. Algebraic functions will be imbedded in geometric contexts to develop the student's critical thinking skills. ACT and SAT preparation is also part of this course.

#### **GEOMETRY (HONORS): AN ANALYTIC APPROACH**

**5 Credits - Grade 10**

*Prerequisite: B in Algebra II H; department recommendation.* This course is designed for students who have successfully completed Algebra II Honors. The first semester covers topics in plane geometry, with particular emphasis on the topics included on both the ACT and SAT. The second semester expands on these topics to provide a basis for the underlying concepts of calculus. Emphasis is placed on geometry as a visual representation of algebraic functions. Students are introduced to trigonometric functions, their transformations and applications.

#### **PRE-CALCULUS**

**5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

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

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

**5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

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

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

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

**STATISTICS AND DATA ANALYSIS (HONORS)****5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES**

### **COMPUTER PROGRAMMING WITH PYTHON One Semester 2.5 Credits - Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

This course will provide an introduction to computer science using Python, an object-oriented, interpreted, and interactive computer programming language. Topics include variables, expressions, statements, conditional execution, functions, iterations, strings, and loops. The course will focus on planning and organizing programs, as well as the grammar of the Python programming language. Students with little or no prior experience will develop the skills needed to look at a data/information analysis problem and construct a computer program to solve the problem.

### **AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES 5 Credits - Grades 10, 11, 12**

The AP Computer Science Principles course is designed to be equivalent to a first semester introductory college computing course. No previous programming experience is required. The course introduces students to the computational thinking practices of computer scientists. Its ultimate goal is to have students coordinate and make sense of knowledge so that they can accomplish a task. The content of the course is organized around seven themes: creativity, abstraction, data and information, algorithms, programming, the internet, and global impact. The assessment of the AP Computer Science Principles course is comprised of two distinct parts. The first is a through course assessment which involves two performance tasks that require students to explore the impacts of computing and create computational artifacts through programming. The second assessment is a multiple choice exam developed by the College Board. Students are required to complete both assessments.

### **INTRODUCTION TO JAVA 5 Credits - Grades 10, 11, 12**

This course introduces students to the Java programming language. In the first semester, students will be introduced to computational thinking and the impact of technology on society. Basic programming concepts, including variables, loops, and operators will be covered through the use of a visual programming tool. Students will examine the social implications of computing as they deepen their knowledge of technology. The Eclipse programming environment will be used in this course as a compiler tool. The second semester will develop advanced programming and problem solving skills through projects and further studies of technology in society. Students will be introduced to recursion, inheritance, nesting and higher order functions. At the end of the course, students will have developed computation skills and familiarity with Java, which will prepare them for a higher level programming courses in high school and college.

### **AP COMPUTER SCIENCE 6 Credits – Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisite: Intro to Java or completion of a department approved summer course.* The AP Computer Science course is comparable to a first-semester university level Computer Science I course. Computational problem solving through the development of computer programs is the focus of the course. Students will study object oriented program design and create programmatic solutions using the Java language. Through problem analysis and application development students will become familiar with fundamentals of computer science such as algorithms, data types and structures. Programmable problem solving is essential and students should expect to spend 2-3 hours a week programming outside of class. Students are required to take the AP Computer Science exam. (Not running in 2017-2018)

## MUSIC

### **CHORALE**

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

This is the core vocal performing ensemble at Mount Saint Mary Academy, open to any interested students. Chorale performs at school liturgies, concerts, school events, and occasional performances outside of school. Participation in the Christmas and Spring Concerts are required. Students may also participate in trips and festivals. The ability to read music notation is helpful but not a prerequisite. Students who are part of Chorale may audition for GraceNotes, the MSMA acapella ensemble. Purchase of MSMA Concert Attire required. **This course may be taken for ½ year for 2.5 credits or a full year for 5 credits.**

### **SYMPHONIC BAND**

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

Concert Band with Strings, SYM is the core instrumental performing group at Mount Saint Mary Academy. Open to any students who have band, orchestral or ensemble experience. Pianists and guitarists who can read music are also welcome. Students must be able to read music and possess their own instruments. Secondary instruments are utilized during class as part of Baby Jazz Band and Gold 'N Blues, the MSMA Jazz Band. SYM has two major concerts each year, Christmas and Spring, in which participation is mandatory. Opportunities for additional performances occur throughout the year. Students may also participate in trips and festivals. Select players are chosen to perform at school liturgies as soloists or as part of small groups. Students who are part of SYM may audition for additional ensembles such in Morning Music Labs. Purchase of MSMA Concert Attire required. **This course may be taken for ½ year for 2.5 credits or a full year for 5 credits.**

### **MUSIC FUNDAMENTALS**

**Full Year**

**1 Credit - Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

**Scheduled by special arrangement with the Music Department**, this course meets once a cycle for a full year. Designed to be a pre-requisite to the study of Music Theory I, this course is beneficial for both instrumentalists and vocalists. In this class, students will review the basics of music notation on a grand staff incorporating pitch, note enharmonics, key signatures, scales and chord construction using a workbook and computer notation software: *Finale Notepad*. Students will be introduced to basic Ear Training through rhythmic dictation, simple melodic patterns and interval recognition. All students will sit for the December and May RCM\* exams. Exam and materials fee required.

### **MUSIC THEORY I**

**Full Year**

**1 Credit - Grades 10, 11, 12**

**Scheduled by special arrangement with the Music Department**, this course meets once a cycle for a full year. *Prerequisites: A- in Music Fundamentals or Teacher recommendation.* This course is a continuation of Music Fundamentals. After a brief review of key signatures and computer music notation software: *Finale Notepad*, students will learn the I, IV, V and V7 cadences and learn to harmonize melodies using these chords in all major keys. Ear Training will continue with rhythmic and melodic dictation and Solfeggio using moveable Do will be introduced. All students will sit for the December and May RCM\* exams. Exam and materials fee required.

### **MUSIC THEORY II**

**Full Year**

**1 Credit - Grades 11, 12**

**Scheduled by special arrangement with the Music Department**, this course meets once a cycle for a full year. *Prerequisites: A- in Music Theory I or Teacher recommendation.* This course is a continuation of Music Theory I. After a brief review of key signatures and computer music notation: *Finale Notepad*, Students will expand the I, IV, V and V7 cadences and continue to harmonize using these chords in all major and minor keys. Ear training will continue with rhythmic and melodic dictation and Solfeggio using moveable Do. All students will sit for the December and May RCM\* exams. Exam and materials fee required.

### **MUSIC THEORY III**

**Full Year**

**1 Credit – Grade 12**

**Scheduled by special arrangement with the Music Department.** *Prerequisite: A- in Music Theory II or Teacher recommendation.* This course meets once a cycle for a full year. After a brief review of key signatures and computer music notation software, *Finale Notepad*, students will learn the ii, iii, vi and dim7 cadences and learn to harmonize melodies using the chords in all minor keys. Ear training will continue with rhythmic and melodic notation and Solfeggio using moveable Do. All students will sit for the December and May RCM\* exams. Exam and materials fee required.

## **CLASSIC FILMS AND THEIR MUSIC: A JOURNEY THROUGH GREAT MOVIES AND THEIR MUSIC**

**One Semester**

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

Did you know that the music from Walt Disney's "*Bambi*" influenced the music from Steven Spielberg's "*Jaws*"; or that silent films were not silent? In this class we will journey through the earliest films that have become known as "The Classics". So much of what made them classic was the lush musical scores that completed the storytelling of these films. Could you imagine "The Wizard of Oz" without Dorothy singing "Over the Rainbow"? There are dozens of films in our history whose memorable music (film scores) made them musical icons. In this class, we will learn why the music was so important to the storytelling. Using worksheets and class discussion, we will examine the drama, cinematography, society, and of course the music to see how each film comes together as a cohesive art form. No prior knowledge of music is required.

## **MODERN FILMS AND THEIR MUSIC: A JOURNEY THROUGH MODERN MOVIES AND THEIR MUSIC**

**One Semester**

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

Going "to the movies" is one of the most popular social activities we enjoy. Even with cable, on-line streaming and big screen home televisions, we still enjoy going to a theater to see a film. New forms of music changed our listening habits. Jazz, Rock, Pop, Electronic music and more is used more frequently than the orchestral music of the classic films. Modern stories, special effects and computer graphics called for new music to fit this rapidly evolving art form. Can you imagine "*Star Wars*" without electronic music, or "*Frozen*" without its popular songs? In this class we will learn how modern music is used in today's films. We will learn how the music (film score) uses different elements to effect the storytelling and audience responses. Using worksheets and class discussion, we will examine the drama, cinematography, special effects, computer graphics and of course the music to see how each film comes together as a modern art form.

No prior knowledge of music is required.

## **THEATER ARTS I**

**One Semester**

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

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

## **THEATER ARTS II**

**One Semester**

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

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

## **PRIVATE LESSONS**

**Fee**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

Private lessons are offered during the school day in voice, piano, organ (prerequisite: one year of piano), harp, guitar, woodwinds, brass, string, and percussion instruments. Forms for lessons can be found on the MSMA website. Arrangements and payment are made for the year before school opens or upon special request.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION, HEALTH, DRIVER EDUCATION**

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**One Semester**

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

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

**HEALTH I**

**One Semester**

**2 Credits - Grade 9**

Major concepts are identified and developed in personal health, violence prevention, emotional development, wellness, human sexuality, and interpersonal relationships. The misuse of tobacco, stress management, and responsible decision making are explored, also.

**DRIVER EDUCATION (IN THE CLASSROOM) One Semester**

**2 Credits - Grade 10**

This course prepares students for the NJ State written test through encouraging the development of good driving habits, including knowledge of and respect for traffic rules and regulations, defensive driving skills, and knowledge and understanding of basic automotive principles. In addition, this course will also explore women's health issues, wellness, nutrition, and the misuse of alcohol.

**HEALTH III**

**One Semester**

**2 Credits - Grade 11**

This course will explore personal safety with an overview of First Aid and CPR techniques, AIDS awareness and education as well as the impact of drugs and alcohol on the body. Responsible sexuality and the stages of pregnancy are also explored

## SCIENCE

### **CHEMISTRY HONORS AND CP**

**5 Credits - Grade 9**

*Prerequisite for Honors: Successful completion of Algebra, 90<sup>th</sup> percentile or above on scores on standardized testing.* This course emphasizes key aspects of chemistry and provides students with a strong foundation in science. The course builds up from topics in matter and atomic structure, to modern atomic theory, chemical energy and equilibrium. Tablet computers and guided-inquiry methods, interactive sites, and engaging lab software will be used to collect and synthesize data and to develop models of scientific processes.

### **BIOLOGY I HONORS AND CP**

**5 Credits - Grade 10**

*Prerequisite for Honors: A in Chemistry and Math CP; B+ in Chemistry H and Math H, with an emphasis on testing averages.* This program builds on the foundations of the ninth grade science curriculum. Chemical structures and foundations like energy flow and equilibrium will be used as a platform for a more advanced understanding of biological systems like cellular energetics, genetics, evolution, and animal and plant physiology. An in-depth understanding is fostered through project-based learning, on-line tutorials, and the development of models that represent themes in Biology I and II. Tablets will once again assist in the analysis and presentation of data to enhance the understanding of the scientific processes. Topics to be covered are ecology, cell structure and function, photosynthesis and respiration, cell growth and development, DNA, RNA and protein synthesis.

### **CONCEPTUAL PHYSICS**

**5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry.* This course provides a science background needed to understand everyday physical surroundings. Topics include: structure of matter, applied chemistry, motion and forces, electricity and magnetism, waves of energy. Lab investigations are utilized to reinforce topics studied. Designed for individual instruction, the course is inquiry-based, and includes integrated strategies for learning and assessment. This course is offered on alternate years.

### **PHYSICS**

**5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: C+ in Chemistry and Math; Algebra II completed or taken concurrently strongly recommended.* This course familiarizes students with fundamental principles of physics and their applications. The topics include matter, energy, mechanics, heat, sound, light, electricity, magnetism, and nuclear physics. Students will learn the basis of physics through problem-solving in the lab and by using algebra, geometry, and trigonometry.

### **PHYSICS (HONORS)**

**5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: B+ in Chemistry I Honors or Biology I Honors and Math Honors or A in Chemistry and Math CP; Algebra II completed or taken concurrently is strongly recommended; teacher recommendation.* This honors-level course focuses on the basic concepts of physics from theoretical, practical and mathematical viewpoints and prepares students to continue their knowledge of physics in future college classes. The course expands on topics covered in Physics and includes physical mechanics, sound waves and optics, heat and thermodynamics, static and current electricity, electromagnetic waves and electromagnetic induction, and atomic and nuclear physics. Students will learn the basis of physics through problem-solving in the lab and by using algebra, geometry, and trigonometry. Students are expected to demonstrate independence in homework, class activities, and laboratory investigations. Library and internet research is encouraged.

### **HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY**

**Full Year**

**5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisites: C+ in Biology and Chemistry.* This survey course will explore the anatomy and physiology of the human body through the emphasis on physiological mechanisms related to homeostasis and general health. Students will develop and understanding and appreciation for the human body through a series of inquiry-based activities and lab investigations. Topics covered include: respiratory, circulatory, muscular, nervous, digestive, endocrine, immune, and skeletal systems. Reproduction and development, genetic diseases, cancer, and the role of biotechnology in research will be presented. This course is recommended for those students seeking a career in the health sciences. Lab dissection is a requirement.

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

*Prerequisites: B+ in Biology I Honors or Chemistry Honors; A in Biology or Chemistry CP; teacher recommendation.* This honors-level course continues to study the biological principles in greater depth than the first year of biology. The topics cover a pre-college course of study designed to prepare the students for AP Biology. It will cover evolution and classification, comparative anatomy and physiology of invertebrate and vertebrate organisms, plant growth, response, and development. Lab work integrates the AP Biology themes. Dissection is an integral part of the laboratory experience. Students are expected to demonstrate a high level of independence in homework and laboratory investigations. Computer-aided instruction is available in the lab.

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

*Prerequisites: Successful completion of Chemistry, Biology, Algebra I and Geometry.* Environmental Science is an interdisciplinary study of how the Earth works, how we interact with the Earth, and how we can deal with the environmental challenges we face. Environmental issues affect every part of our lives. Students will develop environmental literacy, possessing the knowledge and understanding of science concepts while demonstrating personal decision-making, participate in civic and cultural affairs, and economic productivity.

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

*Prerequisites: B+ in Honors Science and Mathematics, with an emphasis on testing averages; teacher recommendation.* AP Chemistry is based on the College Board's curriculum and is the equivalent of a first year college chemistry course. The class will attain a considerable depth of understanding of advanced chemistry topics such as: Chemistry Kinetics, Equilibrium, Thermodynamics, Electrochemistry, Nuclear Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, and Biochemistry. A minimum of one-double period per week in early morning hours will be devoted to hands-on college level laboratory work and classroom demonstrations of the lab theme topics. The goals of AP Chemistry include improvements of analytical skills of problem solving and preparation for the Advanced Placement Chemistry Exam. The AP Chemistry Exam is a requirement.

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

*Prerequisites: A- in Biology Honors and Chemistry Honors, B+ in AP Chemistry; A- in Physics H; B+ in Math Honors or A in Math CP, with an emphasis on testing averages. Statistics strongly recommended.* This rigorous, fast-paced AP course is designed to be equivalent to a two semester college introductory biology course usually taken by biology majors during their first year. The curriculum of AP Biology follows the recommendation of the College Board and is designed to prepare the student for the Advanced Placement Exam in May. The three general areas covered in this course include Molecules and Cells, Heredity and Evolution, and Organisms and Populations with topics including Biochemistry, Cell Physiology, Energy Transformations, Molecular Genetics, Principles of Taxonomy, Botany, Zoology, Human Physiology, Ecology and Statistics. Labs are an integral part of the course work and are equivalent to college labs. Students will be expected to synthesize material from reading, class, and lab into cogent and coherent essays in preparation for the free-response portion of the exam. Students are expected to demonstrate a high level of independence and motivation in all areas of this course. Summer work, extended assignments over student holidays, and additional class and lab meetings will be required. AP exam is required.

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

*Prerequisite: B+ in Biology H, A in Biology CP, B+ or better in Math H, A in CP Math, with an emphasis on testing averages.* The AP Environmental course is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester, introductory college course in environmental science. The goal of this course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methods to understand the inter-relationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human made, and to evaluate the risks associated with these problems. Problem-solving and examination of alternative solutions in order to develop practices that will achieve sustainable systems is an outcome. Students must take the AP exam.

**INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING****One Semester****2.5 Credits - Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

*Prerequisite: B+ or higher in Algebra I CP, B or higher in Algebra I H.* This class introduces concepts and skills relevant to engineering and design. Students are introduced to many areas of engineering, including structural, mechanical, biological, and chemical. The course will help to develop a unique set of skills including application of the engineering design process to a specific problem, working effectively in a design team approach, creativity in the design solutions, and presentation skills. Integration of design software will allow students to build from an engineering-design platform. Students will be able to prepare for the JETS-Teams Challenge, and Bridge-Building Competition.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### **WORLD HISTORY**

**5 Credits - Grade 9**

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

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

**5 Credits - Grade 9**

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

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

### **GLOBAL STUDIES**

**5 Credits - Grade 10**

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

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

**5 Credits - Grade 10**

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

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

### **UNITED STATES HISTORY**

**5 Credits - Grade 11**

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

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

**5 Credits - Grade 11**

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

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

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

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

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES HISTORY**

**5 Credits - Grade 11**

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

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT EUROPEAN HISTORY**

**5 Credits - Grade 12**

*Prerequisites: B+ in AP US History or A in US History Honors; excellent analytical writing skills and strong discussion skills; Teacher recommendation.* This course examines the cultural, economic, political, and social forces that shaped Europe from the Renaissance through the recent past. In keeping with the College Board approved syllabus, students will engage in chronological reasoning, crafting historical arguments using historical evidence, both orally and in writing, and interpreting and synthesizing historical narratives. A formal history research paper will be assigned. Students are required to take the AP European History examination.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT PSYCHOLOGY**

**5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

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

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

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

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

**ECONOMICS (HONORS)**

**5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

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

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT MACROECONOMICS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Freshmen: A in World History Honors;*

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

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

In keeping with the College Board approved syllabus, this course provides students with a thorough grounding in the origins of our nation's government and the development of our political institutions. We will examine the origins of our Constitution, the structure and function of the three branches of our national government, the role of linkage institutions, the creation of domestic and foreign policy, and the rights of individual citizens. Students are required to take the AP United States Government and Politics exam.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT & UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT & POLITICS****6 Credits - Grades 10, 11, 12**

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

*Freshmen: A+ in World History Honors*

*Sophomore: A in Global Studies Honors*

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

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

## **TECHNOLOGY AND MEDIA STUDIES**

### **FRESHMEN RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY    One Semester**

**1 Credit - Grade 9**

Students will receive support on the use of their laptop computers. Additionally, students will be introduced to effective research methods through on-line information sources. Attendance is required and students are expected to complete in-class activities.

### **WEB DESIGN**

**One Semester**

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

Using design and programming skills, students will learn the elements of website design. Students will develop proficiency in HTML 5 and CSS through the development of a portfolio site and personal project. There is no fee for additional software, as students will use open source tools including Notepad++ for coding and GIMP for image editing. Students' work will include creation of a 3-5 page website on a topic of their choice, which can include a 2 or more student team project that is submitted to the NJIT Web Design competition. Students will work with a hosted domain ([www.imsma.net](http://www.imsma.net)) and gain experience in FTP, file and directory management.

### **DIGITAL MEDIA**

**One Semester**

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

Digital Media is digitized content-graphics, text, video, animation- used to communicate information electronically. Students will learn to create various types of digital projects from concept to completion such as digital stories, animations, and videos. Projects will be done with Photoshop Elements, Premiere Elements, and Audacity. There is an additional fee for software.

## **THEOLOGY**

### **THEOLOGY I: CATHOLICISM**

**4 Credits - Grade 9**

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

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

**4 Credits - Grade 10**

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

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

**4 Credits - Grade 11**

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

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

**4 Credits - Grade 12**

Catholic Social Teaching is the articulation of the Church's social mission in response to the challenges of the day. The teachings are rooted in biblical values and traditions of the Church. This course focuses on the call of all members of the Church to address social injustices and shape a more caring society and peaceful world. The students will research and identify social justice issues and reflect on their personal responsibility to confront these issues.

## WORLD LANGUAGES

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

### ITALIAN

#### **ITALIAN I**

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

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

#### **ITALIAN II**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **ITALIAN III**

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

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

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

**5 Credits – Grades 10, 11, 12**

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

#### **ITALIAN IV**

**5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

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

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

**5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

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

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

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

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

*Prerequisite: B+ average in Latin I or II or Spanish.* In this quick-paced course students acquire speaking and listening skills equivalent to a University Level I course. Accelerato builds on linguistic competencies acquired in two years of Latin or Spanish. Students will develop the four skills needed to use Italian successfully through the study of Italian culture, the structure of the language, and by listening to and speaking Italian daily. Students who are strongly motivated to learn a third language and have demonstrated an excellent performance in English and a previously studied world language should consider this course. Students in grade 10 who successfully complete this course could complete the study of four years of Italian by grade 12. Students entering Accelerato in grade 9 must pass a written and spoken placement test.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CLASSICS (HONORS): GREEK & ROMAN MYTH, CULTURE & LITERATURE 5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

*Prerequisite: B+ average in two consecutive years of any language at the Mount. N.B.: This course is not a replacement for the third or fourth consecutive year of a language.* Classics is the study of the literature, art, architecture, history, language and culture of ancient Greece and Rome. This course will explore these topics through texts, documentaries, primary sources, art, music, film, theater, etymology, and digital media. It will incorporate basic elements of Greek and Latin vocabulary, including the Greek alphabet, although readings and discussions will be in English. Students will examine words, concepts, texts and artistic representations as they relate to personal identity, social constructs, religion and politics in the ancient world.

**SPANISH**

**SPANISH I**

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

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

**SPANISH II**

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

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

**SPANISH II (HONORS)**

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

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

**SPANISH III**

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

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

**SPANISH III (HONORS)**

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

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

**SPANISH IV**

**5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

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

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

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

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

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

**SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE****5 Credits - Grades 11, 12**

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

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

### **FRESHMAN SEMINAR**

**No Credit - Grade 9**

This course is designed to acquaint ninth graders with programs, policies, and practices of MSMA. Additional topics will include an introduction to a Naviance Learning Style inventory, time-management techniques, the importance of making high school count, and tips will be reviewed for maximizing the resources available at MSMA. Classes are scheduled first quarter, one class per cycle. Classes are non-graded; attendance is required.

### **SOPHOMORE SEMINAR**

**No Credit - Grade 10**

This class is designed for sophomores as an introduction to college and career planning. Students are acquainted with the Naviance Career/Personality Interest Assessments. An interest survey is administered through which students will be exposed to a variety of careers. Students are encouraged to participate in a work shadow experience. Students begin to build their own personal resumes and college planning discussions are facilitated. Standardized test scores (PSAT & Pre-ACT) will be reviewed and analyzed. Classes are scheduled third quarter, one class per cycle. Classes are non-graded; attendance is required.

### **JUNIOR COLLEGE SKILLS SEMINAR**

**No Credit - Grade 11**

Junior students are enrolled in scheduled classes that emphasize the college search process. Students will explore and research colleges examining their preferences in an effort to construct a refined list of colleges to apply to in their senior year. Other topics include: building a resume, brainstorming college essays, interpreting and discussing standardized test scores and requesting letters of recommendation. Students will use a college planning workbook as well as Naviance, a personalized web-based program to facilitate the college search process. Classes are scheduled second and third quarter, one class per cycle. Classes are non-graded; attendance is required.

### **SENIOR COLLEGE SKILLS SEMINAR**

**No Credit - Grade 12**

Senior students are enrolled in a College Skills class that emphasizes the college application process. This course focuses on the completion of college applications utilizing a step by step approach. Topics include the navigation and submission of college applications (inclusive of the Common Application), the submission of standardized test scores including SAT/ACT, the transcript request and letter of recommendation request process, as well as, the use of Naviance in tracking the submission of these forms. College deadlines are emphasized and questions answered in this seminar style course. Classes are scheduled first quarter, one class per cycle first quarter, one class per cycle. Classes are non-graded, attendance is required.

## **ON-LINE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**

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

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

Although all students are permitted to take a class through the On-Line School for Girls, freshmen will be strongly advised to not take an on-line course.