

St. Benedict Preparatory Secondary School
Course Offerings
2016-17



EXCEL CHALLENGE CREATE HONOR SERVE

ST. BENEDICT PREPARATORY SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

St. Benedict Preparatory School on the north side of Chicago is a Catholic Preschool-Grade 12 community that utilizes our unique educational resources to provide an innovative and rigorous academic program. To achieve this mission, we

- Excel in educating the whole individual in the Catholic tradition
- Challenge students to develop their God-given talents
- Create a Christian community by sharing our gifts
- Honor the gifts and diversity of the community, and
- Serve the Lord and each other in an ever-changing world.

THE SBPS GRADUATE

The St. Benedict Preparatory School Graduate enters post-secondary life well-rounded and prepared for learning, achievement and service in a 21st century global society. Honoring the tradition of St. Benedict, our graduates possess the knowledge, reason, diligence, and perseverance to grow in faith, wisdom and spirit.

ACCREDITATION

The Illinois State Board of Education and the North Central Association of Colleges.

GENERAL INFORMATION

St. Benedict Preparatory High School's curriculum offers honors and college preparatory courses. Graduation requirements as stated fulfill requirements for state colleges, but the college admissions process is strengthened by additional courses in math, science, social studies, and foreign language. Guidance counselors, administrators and teachers are available, along with a student's parents, to help plan a student's program of study. It is the student's responsibility to check the required courses and credits, both for graduation and for admission to a college under consideration. College entrance requirements are found in the student handbook. A minimum of 28 credits is needed for graduation.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to graduate, all students must earn at least 28 credits. All students must earn:

- 4.5 credits in English (4 years plus one English elective)
- 4 credits in Theology
- 3 years Mathematics (Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2)
- 3.5 credits in Social Studies (including 1 in U.S. History, .5 in Government, .5 in Consumer Education, and 1.5 in World Studies)
- “Pass” on U.S. and Illinois Constitution Tests
- 2 credits in P.E. (.5 credit per school year)
- .5 credits in Health
- 1 credit in Fine Arts
- 3 credits in Science
- 1 credit in Digital Technology Application
- 2 credits in the same Foreign Language
- 1.5 credits of electives
- .5 credits in Bengal Prep (for all freshman)

COLLEGE CREDIT OPTIONS

Loyola’s Dual Credit program is an extension of Loyola’s Jesuit tradition to promote academic excellence and improve access to college. Through participation in the program, high school students can earn college credit and at the same time, fulfill their high school graduation requirements.

About the Program

Dual credit courses are taught at the high school by teachers who are approved as adjunct instructors at Loyola University Chicago. By offering college credit in the high school classrooms, students are more primed to succeed in college. In fact, studies show that students who begin college with credit earned in high school are more likely to complete their degrees.

- Be of junior or senior status
- Have at least a “B” (3.0) grade point average
- Have a letter of recommendation from the high school principal that certifies year in school and academic standing

These college credits are usually transferable to other colleges and universities. Most colleges will not accept any grade less than a C in a college credit transfer. The anticipated dual credit courses for 2016-2017 include: AP Calculus, AP British Literature, AP Spanish, and French 4 Honors.

To find out more about the program, please visit: <http://luc.edu/dualcredit/informationforstudents/>

AP Classes offered at St. Benedict Preparatory Schools:

AP Calculus
AP Chemistry
AP Biology

AP Physics
AP U.S. History

AP English Literature & Composition
AP Spanish Language and Culture

All students taking an AP class will be required to take the AP Exam if they do not take do not take the College Credit option. All AP classes are 3 trimesters in length. AP exam fees will be billed to the student. Fees are up to \$92 per exam depending on financial need.

GENERAL NOTES

Please read carefully.

- The Administration reserves the right to drop a course whose enrollment (upon the initial Spring registration) is below 10.
- Students whose registration fee is paid later than the designated due date may be placed on a waiting list in courses of their choice.
- When a student requests approval for placement in a course other than his/her academic recommendation, **ONLY** administrative review and parental permission gain authorization.
- Placement in courses is subject to department review and written approval.
- All students must be enrolled in a minimum of five (5) courses per trimester. Seniors may have study halls with administrator and parental permission, only if they have exhausted all of their options for that period.
- **IF A STUDENT FAILS A REQUIRED COURSE, HE/SHE MUST MAKE UP THE COURSE BEFORE THE FOLLOWING FALL.**
- The Guidance Counselor or Administration must give prior approval for any courses taken for credit during summer school.
- Assignment of student courses and schedule will be done when appropriate fees are paid.
- Lunch period will be assigned by the administration.
- Courses fees may be added to particular classes.
- Students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) classes are required to take the AP exam in May unless they have registered for Loyola Dual credit, or by teacher permission. AP exams fees are the responsibility of the student.
- Students are expected to stay in the courses selected by them.
- Course changes must be approved by the student's parent, in writing, prior to the change being implemented.
- 8th graders who are taking Honors classes will receive a multiplier of 1.094% for their final grades to account for the Honors credit.

BUSINESS/COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Google Apps and Beyond

Open to All HS

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 Credit

Course Description:

Hands on course designed to provide students with the skills and knowledge necessary to use technology in all areas of the curriculum. Students will learn the basics of transferring documents via Google Docs in a cloud-based format. Students will also learn the basics of Microsoft Office 2010 brief.

Note: Test out option- Make arrangements with the technology department

Graphic Design

Open to All HS

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 Credit

Course Description:

In this course, you will learn about the most important features of Adobe Illustrator. You will start by learning the interface, working with various tools. Next, you will learn techniques to create scale-able artwork used for print and publishing to Web. This is a project based course that is about getting hands-on experience. You don't need to be an artist to use Adobe Illustrator creatively.

Note: Test out option- Make arrangements with the technology department

InDesign

Open to All HS

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 Credit

Course Description:

In this course, you will understand the "how" and "why" skills are applied. Work on creative projects covering basic to advanced InDesign skills. By the end of the course, you will be able to create professional-looking layouts that incorporate illustrations and bitmap graphics as well as sophisticated presentations of text and typography.

Note: Test out option- Make arrangements with the technology department

Multimedia

Open to All HS

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 Credit

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Course Description: This class focuses on the use of tools and software for presenting and publishing engaging digital content. Additionally students will design and create multimedia projects as a means of

communication and problem solving. Students will learn to utilize a green-screen to create special effects, use of animation tools, record and produce original music, video and film. Students will be able to specialize in a particular skill, so there's something for everyone!

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Middle School Creative Writing

Open to 7th and 8th grade
Course Length: 1 Trimester
Credit: 0.5 Credit

Course Description:

This course will focus on exploring the writing process from finding ideas and inspiration, through organizing, drafting, and publication. Writing in various genres will be explored, including short stories, creative non-fiction, poetry, one-acts, and vignettes. Students will draft multiple versions of each genre, selecting one representative work to bring to a polished copy and include in a portfolio of their best work. Mentor texts will be examined to identify characteristics of outstanding pieces of work and students will use those criteria as guideposts for creating their own pieces. Students will use peer review and participate in a writers' workshop to develop their ideas and skills and will be encouraged to submit their work for publication.

Middle School Journalism

Open to 7th and 8th grade
Course Length: 1 Trimester
Credit: 0.5 Credit

Course Description:

This course will focus on the study, practice, and work of journalism resulting in publication of the St. Ben's newspaper. Students will learn to conduct research and interviews, write columns, news reports, feature stories, and publicize St. Ben's events. Subjects for coverage include events, profiles, feature stories, sports and news reports. This course will provide opportunities for improving networking skills and insight into the online publishing landscape.

6th Grade Language Arts

Open to 6th grade
Course Length: 3 Trimesters

Course Description:

In this course, students will be introduced to a variety of literary content through literature circles, multi-media projects, independent reading projects, and class discussions. Students will research and produce original work as response or interpretation to various texts read throughout the year. During the course of the year, students will submerge themselves in the writing process; studying and interpreting language that will deepen students' abilities to peer edit, collaborate, provide feedback, edit, revise, and publish their work. Literature study may include titles such as *Walk Two Moons*, *The Ninth Ward*, *The Pearl*, and *The Miracle Worker*.

7th Grade Language Arts

Open to 7th grade

Course Length: 3 Trimesters

Course Description:

This course requires that students build on their study of composition and literature to become more independent and proficient in their writing, reading, and use of technology. Students will create projects presented in diverse media and formats that are built on comprehension of ideas and collaboration with classmates. Student writing will reflect more mature organization, development, and use of language in expressing ideas, building arguments, or reflecting on issues. Students will continue to develop and apply MLA citation to support their ideas. Units will incorporate multimedia projects, literature of different genres, including fiction, non-fiction and Shakespearean drama, and writing of varying lengths and purposes. Literature study may include titles such as *The Outsiders*, *The Hero's Trail*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Red Badge of Courage* or *Across Five Aprils* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

8th Grade Language Arts

Open to 8th grade

Course Length: 3 Trimesters

Course Description:

In this course, students will build on their existing knowledge of genres of literature and forms of writing to read and write more complex works. Students will analyze various texts to identify key ideas and details, as well as analyze craft of structure of the texts. Writing assignments will focus on creating clear, well-developed pieces that demonstrate command of language skills, including short projects that incorporate information from diverse sources. Students will present information, findings, and supporting textual evidence in collaboration with classmates in formats that appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. Literature study may include titles such as *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, *The Lord of the Flies*, *Speak*, *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Maus*.

Introduction to Literature

Open to 9th grade

Course Length: 3 Trimesters

Credit: 1.5 credits

Course Description:

This course emphasizes elements of language and writing, including comprehension, vocabulary, and grammar. Students study literature from a variety of genres including short stories, novels, poetry, non-fiction and drama and write for a variety of purposes including to inform, to persuade, and to describe. Students are required to bring appropriate technology to allow them to engage in all steps of the writing process, practice note taking skills, readily access websites, and work collaboratively to present their findings through various media. Literature study may include titles such as *The House on Mango Street*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Odyssey*, and *Of Mice and Men*. Books are included in course fee.

Honors World Literature

Open to 10th grade
Course Length: 2 Trimesters
Credit: 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: B- or better in Honors Introduction to Literature and Teacher recommendation.

Course Description:

This course examines world literature from ancient to modern day and provides an opportunity for students to deepen their research, analytical, and writing skills. The class focuses on elements of genre, historical context, character development, thematic approach, and literary techniques. Students learn to read critically while annotating and analyzing texts. Using expository, creative, and persuasive writing techniques, students will also focus on developing their skills of organization, analysis, textual support, and grammar. Students will utilize laptops to conduct research, draft papers, as well as present their findings using appropriate media. Literature study may include memoirs around the world and literary titles such as *Metamorphosis*, *The Stranger*, *The Ramayana*, *Persepolis*, *The Alchemist*, *Oedipus Rex*, and *The Stranger*. Books are included in course fee.

Note: This course is intended for students who will ultimately be taking the Advanced Placement Test in Literature and Composition during their senior year and will highlight works of literature of the type that may appear on the Advanced Placement Test.

World Literature

Open to 10th grade
Course Length: 2 Trimesters
Credit: 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Introduction to Literature

Course Description:

This course focuses on understanding and responding to various selections of world literature from ancient to modern day. Students will improve reading strategies and expository skills through various exercises that focus on annotation, characterization, literary techniques, theme and essay development. Emphasis is placed on organization, analysis with textual support, transitions, and grammar as students develop writing pieces that are expository, creative, and persuasive. Students will utilize their laptops to conduct research, draft papers, as well as present their findings using appropriate media. Literature study may include titles such as *The Alchemist*, *Oedipus the King*, *Persepolis*, and *The Ramayana: The Divine Loophole*. Books are included in course fee.

Honors American Literature

Open to 11th grade
Course Length: 2 Trimesters
Credit: 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: B- or better in Honors World Literature and Teacher recommendation.

Course Description:

This course is an in-depth study of American literature and the significant periods and authors that are representative of American Literature. Students will read, analyze, and interpret various selections of poetry,

fiction, and nonfiction. Students will perfect their application of MLA citation to support their ideas in formal writing assignments and projects. A formal research paper using MLA format is required, in addition to writing in each of the following genres: persuasion, exposition, and description. The research, drafting, revision, and publication of the writing will be completed digitally, so it is required that students provide appropriate technology. Literature study may include titles such as *The Great Gatsby*, *Slaughterhouse Five*, *Catcher in the Rye*, and *Death of a Salesman*. Books are included in course fee.

Note: This course is intended for students who will be taking the Advanced Placement Test in Literature and Composition during their senior year and will highlight works of American literature of the type that may appear on the Advanced Placement Test.

American Studies

Open to 11th grade
Course Length: 2 Trimesters
Credit: 1.0 credit

Course Description:

This survey course explores the connections between history, culture, and literature in the United States from the 17th-century through World War II. This interdisciplinary course will be a combination of projects, discussion and debate, and lecture. Students will produce narrative, expository, and persuasive writing grounded in seminal fiction and non-fiction texts, including both primary and secondary sources. Essential questions for exploration will include “What does it mean to be an American?” “How is America unique?” and “What is the American dream?”

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition

Open to 12th grade
Course Length: 3 Trimesters
Credit: 1.5 credits

Prerequisite: B- or better in Honors American Literature and Teacher recommendation.

Course Description:

This course is designed to prepare students for a college English course and the Advanced Placement in Literature and Composition Exam. Students read a variety of genres and practice developing their own essay topics that are focused, well-supported, and organized. In preparation for the AP exam, students also have opportunities to synthesize multiple sources into a coherent, unified, supported argument. Students learn to annotate poetry, approach multiple choice questions, and, more importantly, develop their own textual analyses of various works. Special emphasis is placed on group and independent analysis of setting, characterization, point of view, tone, style, figurative language, and the significance of individual elements in relation to each work as a whole. Supplemental materials and support are provided for students to prepare for the Advanced Placement Test in May. Literature study may include titles such as *Great Expectations*, *Jane Eyre*, *Hamlet*, *Frankenstein*, *1984*, and *Heart of Darkness*. Books are included in course fee.

British Literature

Open to 12th grade

Course Length: 2 Trimesters

Credit: 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: American Literature

Course Description:

This course focuses on the literary movements of British literature from the fourteenth through the twentieth centuries. While examining a variety of genres, students continue to work on analysis of texts and annotate for textual evidence. As part of essay development, students improve expository skills through various writing exercises that focus on genre structure, literary techniques, and annotation of quotes. Emphasis is placed on support, elaboration, organization, transitions, and grammar. Students have opportunities to develop mini-research projects, utilize MLA citation, and offer technology presentations. Literature study may include titles such as *Beowulf*, *Macbeth*, *Frankenstein*, and *Brave New World*. Books are included in course fee.

College Research and Writing

Open to 11th and 12th grade

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Course Description:

This course challenges students to develop and deepen their basic research skills in preparation for college. Students create research queries, evaluate various online and library sources, practice note-taking skills, and participate in a writers' workshop to draft and revise their writing. Using the MLA format, students complete a plagiarism agreement form, learn proper citation techniques, and develop formatted bibliographies. Students also have opportunities to pursue field work and debate their topic through VoiceThreads. The course is intended to provide a comprehensive and authentic research experience for students.

Creative Writing

Open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Teacher approval

Course Description:

This course will focus on exploring the writing process from finding ideas and inspiration, through organizing, drafting, and publication. Writing in various genres will be explored, including short stories, creative non-fiction, poetry, one-acts, and vignettes. Students will draft multiple versions of each genre, selecting one representative work to bring to a polished copy and include in a portfolio of their best work. Mentor texts will be examined to identify characteristics of outstanding pieces of work and students will use those criteria as guideposts for creating their own pieces. Students will use peer review and participate in a writers' workshop to develop their ideas and skills and will be encouraged to submit their work for publication.

Semantics

Open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Teacher approval

Course Description:

This course will focus on the meaning and interpretation of words, signs, and sentence structure. Semantics largely determine our reading comprehension, how we understand others, and even what decisions we make as a result of our interpretations. Applying Latin and Greek roots to both familiar and unfamiliar words reveals to the reader the actual meaning of the word itself, which lends itself to the distinction between literal and figurative meaning. Students will participate in various activities to identify word meaning, research and apply Latin and Greek roots, increase their vocabulary in both Spanish and English language, and ultimately compose a creative project showcasing his/her understanding of Semantics. SKW

Introduction to Film Studies

Open to all HS

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Teacher approval

Course Description:

This course will focus on building an appreciation and critical analysis of all types of narrative cinema, including unique elements of film as a medium. Students will learn to “read” films as texts by focusing on the characteristics of filmmaking such as editing, composition, lighting, camera movement, and the use of color and sound to tell a story. The text used may be *Film Studies: An Introduction* by Ed Sikov.

Sports Writing / Journalism

Open to all HS

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Teacher approval

Course Description:

This course will provide students with the opportunity to develop and create a school-wide newspaper for publication. Students will learn how to present information in a writing style suitable for print. This course will focus on interviewing classmates, writing sports columns, profiles, feature stories, and news reports. Students will also be required to attend St. Ben’s events outside of class and school time.

Speech

Open to all HS

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Course Description:

This course presents the study of the art of communication. Students explore all areas of communication through oral presentations, speeches, projects, and discussions. Students study the communication process and learn to listen critically, to interview others effectively, and explore the aspects of nonverbal communication.

ARTS DEPARTMENT**Introduction to Art**

Open to all HS

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Course Description:

This course will present a study of visual art. Student will learn and apply the principles of analysis and self-expression blending art history with studio experiences, both two and three dimensional, which include design, drawing, cartoon rendering, and painting. Students who have completed a middle school or previous art experiences comprised of Introduction to Art requirements are eligible to register for higher level art courses.

Drawing

Open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Introduction to Art and teacher recommendation

Course Description:

This course focuses on the elements of art and principles of design. Students will experiment with different drawing media such as pencil, charcoal, pastel, ink, and watercolors. Subjects for drawings include still-life, self-portrait, landscape and a perspective work. Students will learn to draw subjects in proportion and include a range of values in their drawings. The studio work is accompanied with lecture and the study of art criticism. Students who have completed a middle school or previous art experience comprised of Introduction to Art requirements are eligible to register for this course.

Painting

Open to 10th, 11th and 12th grade

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Introduction to Art and teacher recommendation

Course Description:

This course focuses on the elements of art and principles of design. Students will experiment with different painting media such as acrylic, watercolor, oil, and tempera. The studio work is accompanied with lecture and the study of art criticism. Students who have completed a middle school or previous art experience comprised of Introduction to Art and Drawing requirements are eligible to register for this course.

Photoshop

Open to all SS

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Introduction to Art and teacher recommendation

Course Description:

Students will learn fundamental photographic skills including digital capture, manipulation and output. We will explore digital photography in relation to fine and commercial art and learn about the history of Photography. For the processing and enhancement of digital photographs, students will learn the basics of Photoshop. In Photoshop, students will learn about tools, layers, image adjustments, filters and masks. These digital skills and tools for the making of photographs will be taught within the context of the aesthetics of photography. All students must have a digital camera (not a smart phone or IPod) that has adjustable settings.

Ceramics

Open to all SS

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Introduction to Art and teacher recommendation

Course Description:

This course develops basic skills in the creation of 3D forms and pottery from clay. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking skills, problem-solving skills, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics. Students will create projects using the pinch, slab and coil techniques and they will glaze their work.

Two Dimensional & Three Dimensional Design

Open to all SS

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Introduction to Art and teacher recommendation

Course Description:

This course is a study of basic principles of 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional visual organization and skills. It includes line, value, texture, color, shape, and other elements of form as they relate to 2D and 3D art and design. The studio work includes drawing, painting, graphic design, copper foil embossing and sculpture and is accompanied with lecture and the study of art criticism. Students will use a variety of media from clay to recycled materials to create sculptural art forms. Students who have completed a middle school or previous art experience comprised of Introduction to Art requirements are eligible to register for this course.

Chorus

Open to all SS

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Introduction to Art and teacher recommendation

Course Description:

This class will focus on the development of good singing habits, including posture, breath support and control, as well as basic musicianship, including music theory and note reading. Students will also learn necessary choral singing skills, including part singing and diction. Previous singing experience is not required. There will be two culminating performances in December, one of which will be a caroling visit to the Chicago Children's Hospital. Attendance at the performances is mandatory.

Band

Open to all SS

Course Length: 1 Trimester for each trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Course Description:

Students will learn the fundamentals of music including how to read, write and analyze music. We learn the proper techniques of playing an instrument and perform both individually and in an ensemble. Students will have the opportunity to perform in various concerts throughout the year.

Note: May be taken more than once for credit

Theater

Open to all SS

Course Length: 1 Trimester for each trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation.

Course Description:

This is an ideal class for any student who wants to develop performance skills, stage presence, and confidence. Improvisation and theatre games will help students learn how to work in a team environment. The class will also instruct students how to audition for plays and musicals. Students will have the opportunity to play a wide variety of roles and characters through on stage performances and role playing exercises.

Note: May be taken more than once for credit

Acting 1

Open to all HS

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Course Description:

This course will assist students of all acting levels learn how to create a character utilizing a Stanislavsky based technique. Students will work through monologues and various scenes from classic and current day playwrights to develop their rehearsal and performance skills. Students will gain confidence and skills in vocal projection. Students can expect to come out of this class knowing how to create and develop a character from 'page to stage'!

Dance Inquiry: Creative Movement through Improvisation

Open to all SS

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Course Description:

This course will take students on a step-by-step journey through improvisational dance. A spirit of spontaneous creativity is essential to this course. Improvisation is like a quick conversation that demands immediate responses, or movement answers. During the improvisation process, dancers will freely explore their movement potential to create innovative dance pieces.

*may be used for Fine Arts or Physical Education credit

Tap I is FUN: Intro to Tap Dance

Open to all SS

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Course Description:

Tap dancing is a uniquely American art form with a rich history and roots in African and Irish folk dance. Anyone who loves music and wants to learn how to make it with their feet will enjoy this class, which starts with the basic elements of tap, including shuffles, flaps, ball changes, and cramp rolls. After mastering the essential vocabulary, we will put these steps together into simple combinations and time steps and experiment with rhythms and patterns.

*may be used for Fine Arts or Physical Education credit

Dance I: Intro to Dance

Open to all SS

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the dance world based upon general principles of essential dance knowledge, skills, and concepts. This course emphasizes activities that promote individuality, creativity, and imagination. Students will learn to communicate without words, learn about quality teamwork, practice effective learning strategies, and demonstrate improved physical skills all while focusing on their technical and choreographic abilities. Participants will also study various forms of cultural dance.

*may be used as Fine Arts or Physical Education credit

Conditioning for the Dancer and Athlete

Open to all SS

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Course Description:

This course will increase strength, agility, flexibility and endurance for the dancer and athlete. Students will learn fundamental movement techniques that can be easily carried over into their other athletic experiences. Conditioning for the Dancer and Athlete will strengthen the body's core (abdominal and back muscles) while improving coordination, balance, and alignment and optimizing flexibility. Students enrolled in this class will use a variety of manipulatives in their training: ballet barre, stability balls, and resistance bands just to name a few.

*may be used as a Fine Arts or Physical Education credit

Dance II: Contemporary Dance

Open to all SS

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Dance I: Intro to Dance

Course Description:

What is Contemporary Dance? "If I could tell you that, I wouldn't have to dance it." ~Isadora Duncan, pioneer of dance. Contemporary dance is a style of expressive dance that combines elements of several dance genres including modern, jazz, lyrical, and classical ballet. Students in this class will strive to connect the mind and the body through fluid dance movements. Contemporary dance stresses versatility and improvisation, unlike the strict, structured nature of ballet. Students in this course will perform to many different styles of music with a focus on big, out of body movements. Students of this course are required to participate in the spring dance recital.

*may be used as a Fine Arts or Physical Education credit

Hip-hop 1

Open to all SS

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Course Description:

Hip-Hop 1 is an introductory course to the genre of hip-hop dance. While hip-hop has become mainstream over the years, this course explores hip-hop's roots as a cultural phenomenon. With the combination of old-school styles mixed with popular dance techniques, Hip-Hop 1 teaches a wide array of concepts, terminology, and movement styles. Students enrolled in Hip-Hop 1 will receive a foundation of hip-hop dance training that incorporates historical relevance, popular culture, and musical creativity.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

Sixth Grade Spanish

Open to grade 6

Course Length: 2 Trimester, 3 days a week

Course Description:

Sixth Grade Spanish is a continuation of the vocabulary practice students have been exposed to since Kindergarten. The vocabulary largely focuses on students' daily activities and their surroundings. The grammar goal is for students to be able to successfully conjugate –ar verbs and understand subject pronouns and the conjugation rules by the end of the year. Partner activities including speaking, writing, listening, and reading are a part of every class period in order to ensure that students become more prepared to use their Spanish skills outside of the classroom. Material from the Descubre textbook is used in class to expose students to material that will be covered in the next levels of Spanish.

Spanish I

Open to grades 7-12

Course Length: 2 Trimesters

Credit: 1 credit

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to learning a wide range of conversational Spanish through everyday situations, vocabulary building, basic composition and grammar structures. Students will also examine different the Hispanic cultures of today and study maps of Latin America.

N.B. This course is intended for students that have little to no experience with the Spanish language. Native speakers of all levels should not enroll in this course. If a student has already taken Spanish classes, he or she will most likely place out of Spanish 1.

Spanish II

Open to grades 8-12

Course Length: 2 Trimesters

Credit: 1 credit

Prerequisite: Spanish I or successful completion of a placement test

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to further the students' conversational skills in Spanish. In addition to new vocabulary, the past tense and other useful grammatical points will be covered. As in Spanish 1, there will be great emphasis on developing the students' speaking ability. Each class intertwines both vocabulary and grammar, while also addressing cultural aspects. Students are expected to communicate predominantly in Spanish.

N.B. This course may, with the instructor's permission, be taken for honors credit. Students who have demonstrated a high level of motivation, independence, and interest will have the opportunity to explore the subject more deeply through more challenging, higher-level readings, and additional opportunities for writing and research.

Spanish III Honors

Open to grades 9-12

Course Length: 2 Trimesters

Credit: 1 credit

Prerequisite: Spanish II with a C- or better and teacher recommendation, or successful completion of a placement test.

Course Description:

This class is taught in Spanish. Students engage with Spanish through conversation and scenarios that increase student knowledge of how to interact and communicate in a range of contexts in Spanish. Students will read authentic texts in Spanish as well as present day and historical texts on Hispanic and Spanish culture topics. By the end of this course students will be familiar with most Spanish grammatical structures. Reading assignments and projects broaden knowledge and appreciation of Latin American and Spanish culture.

AP Spanish

Open to grades 10-12

Course Length: 3 Trimesters

Credit: 1.5 credits

Prerequisite: Spanish III with a C-. Teacher recommendation

Course Description:

The AP Spanish Language and Culture course is a rigorous course taught exclusively in Spanish that requires students to improve their proficiency across the three modes of communication: writing, reading and speaking. The course focuses on the integration of authentic resources including online print, audio, and audiovisual resources, as well as traditional print resources that include literature, essays, and magazine and newspaper articles with the goal of providing a rich, diverse learning experience. Students communicate using advanced vocabulary and linguistic structures on a variety of culture topics. N.B. Students are required to take the AP exam.

French I

Open to grades 7-12

Course Length: 2 Trimesters

Credit: 1 credit

Course Description:

French I is an interactive course that introduces students to the basics of French language and francophone cultures while focusing on real-world communication. Students will read, write, and speak French in a variety of authentic contexts. This course is geared toward true beginners in French and is closed to native speakers of all levels. In French I students focus on building a strong grammatical foundation in French, as well as getting acquainted with the francophone world.

French II

Open to grades 8-12

Course Length: 2 Trimesters

Credit: 1 credit

Prerequisite: French I

Course Description:

French II is an interactive course that continues to introduce new, essential language and culture to students. Students will continue to learn the French language in real-world contexts relevant to students' lives. This course is intended for students that have achieved a passing grade in French I and is closed to native speakers of all levels. Students will hear and speak as much French as possible in the classroom, the focus being on practical, real-world communication.

N.B. This course may, with the instructor's permission, be taken for honors credit. Students who have demonstrated a high level of motivation, independence, and interest will have the opportunity to explore the subject more deeply through more challenging, higher-level readings, and additional opportunities for writing and research.

Honors French III

Open to grades 9-12

Course Length: 2 Trimesters

Credit: 1 credit

Prerequisite: French II with a C- or better. Teacher recommendation

Course Description:

Honors French III is an interactive course that allows the student to incorporate both familiar and new French language into everyday activities. This course broadens the knowledge and appreciation of the French culture through readings, films, music, and research. Students will apply complex grammatical structures they've acquired in class to reading authentic texts, listening to native speakers, and exploring the francophone world via projects. French III students will also read and write detailed French passages and hold topical and impromptu conversations in French.

Honors French IV

Open to grades 10-12

Course Length: 2 Trimesters

Credit: 1 credit

Prerequisite: French III with a C- or better. Teacher recommendation

Course Description:

Honors French IV is a course focused on communication that allows students to apply complex grammatical structures and expressions not just to authentic French texts and other cultural exports, but also to everyday conversations. Oral proficiency, reading proficiency, and the development of the written expression are the major focuses of the course. Throughout two trimesters students will acquire knowledge of complex grammatical structures, read and write detailed French passages, hold topical and impromptu conversations in French, and delve deeper into the Francophone culture through reading assignments and projects.

Introduction to Mandarin

Open to 6th grade

Course Length: 2 Trimesters, 3 days a week

Course Description:

Sixth grade Mandarin is an introductory course in modern standard Chinese (Mandarin) for students with no prior experience in the language. This course focuses on pronunciation and tone, which is introduced through the Chinese Phonetic System (pinyin) as well as building a basic understanding of simplified Chinese characters. Great emphasis is also placed upon developing listening, speaking, reading and writing skills through everyday conversations. Students will further explore the country's unique culture, traditions, history through films and class discussions.

Mandarin I

Open to grades 7-12

Course Length: 2 Trimesters

Credit: 1 credit

Course Description:

This is a beginning-level Mandarin course for students with little or no prior Mandarin experience. This interactive course introduces students to conversational Mandarin through everyday situations. Students will focus on developing skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing. Students will acquire vocabulary, grammar and sentence structures to read short passages and write in simplified Chinese characters. Students will also gain understanding of the Chinese language, culture, and the basic structural components by using the Pinyin Phonetic System as a supplementary tool.

Mandarin II

Open to grades 8-12

Course Length: 2 Trimesters

Credit: 1 credit

Prerequisite: Mandarin I or with Teacher recommendation

Course Description:

This is a continuation course to Mandarin I. Students should already have an understanding of the Pinyin Phonetic System and the basic structural components of the language. In this course, students will focus on increasing their proficiency in the domains of speaking, listening, reading and writing through various learning activities. Students will improve conversational skills, read and write passages in simplified Chinese and continue to build on their vocabulary through interactive activities. Students will further develop cultural understanding through exploring the people, traditions, customs, art, music, geographical locations and histories.

MATH DEPARTMENT

Traditional Middle School Math Sequence:

Intro to Math Concepts (formerly 6th Grade Math) -> Mathematical Operations & Relationships (formerly 7th Grade Math) -> Pre-Algebra or Algebra (determined by the criteria provided below)

See the placement criteria listed below for each course.

Introduction to Math Concepts (formerly known as 6th Grade Math):

Placement Criteria: Completed 5th Grade Math

This course covers some basic uses of integers, fractions, decimals, and percents. Students will explore how to use addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division for word problems, geometric applications, fractions, and decimals. A variety of number properties are developed and applied. Statistics and displays are covered including stem-and-leaf plots, bar graphs, circle graphs, and line graphs. Basic knowledge of ratios, proportions, and equations is learned, as well as probability, area, surface area, and volume. These topics are correlated to the Common Core State Standards of 6th grade and much of 7th grade math.

Mathematical Operations and Relationships (formerly known as 7th Grade Math):

Placement Criteria:

- **Completed Introduction to Math Concepts (formerly known as 6th Grade Math)**

OR

- **Grade of A in 5th Grade Math**
- **Minimum 95% correct on Placement Test**
- **Completes homework on time 100% of the time**

This course expands on students' knowledge in topics such as the number system, statistics and probability, geometry, expressions and equations, and ratios and proportional relationships. Additional topics include inequalities, functions, and multi-step algebraic equations. An emphasis is placed on problem solving techniques, multiple approaches to solving problems, and written as well as verbal communication of mathematics. These topics are correlated to the Common Core State Standards of 7th grade and much of 8th grade math.

Pre- Algebra

Open to grades 8 and 9

Course Length: 3 Trimesters

Credit: 1.5 credits

Prerequisite: Department placement

Course Description:

This course reinforces arithmetic skills, developing the pre-algebra concepts of variable recognition, signed numbers, formulas and single variable equations. Students will be introduced to algebraic symbolism, simplifying expressions, solutions to elementary equations, and the graphic representations associated with variables. More topics may be explored. Calculator requirement: TI-84

Note: We will bill you for the online textbook a charge of no more than \$20. It is highly recommended that all students also purchase a hard copy textbook. Book Title: Glencoe Algebra 1 2014, Edition: 2014, ISBN: 9780076639236

Algebra I

Open to grades 8 and 9

Course Length: 3 Trimesters

Credit: 1.5 credits

Prerequisite: Department placement

Course Description:

This course covers topics studied in a traditional Algebra I course. Topics include expressions, equations, functions, properties of real numbers, solving and graphing and writing linear equations and linear inequalities, and graphing functions. More topics may be explored. Calculator requirement: TI-84

Honors Geometry

Open to grades 8, 9 and 10
Course Length: 2 Trimesters
Credit: 1 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra I and Teacher recommendation

Course Description:

This course will provide the student with an in-depth study of the vocabulary, postulates, and theorems of Euclidean geometry. Methods of proof will be emphasized. Topics include the basics of Geometry, reasoning and proof, perpendicular and parallel lines, congruent triangles, properties of triangles, quadrilaterals, similarities, right triangles and basic trigonometry. We may include additional topics. Students will explore geometric topics inductively using software programs. Calculator requirement: TI-84

Geometry

Open to grades 8, 9 and 10
Course Length: 2 Trimesters
Credit: 1 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Course Description:

This course will provide the student with an informal study of the vocabulary; postulates and theorems of Euclidean geometry. Students will explore geometric topics inductively using software programs. Calculator requirement: TI-84

Honors Algebra II

Open to grades 9, 10, 11
Course Length: 2 Trimesters
Credit: 1 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry, and Teacher recommendation; 9th grade placement by department recommendation

Course Description:

This course strengthens skills studied in a traditional Algebra I course and introduces new topics from analytic geometry and linear algebra. More challenging exercises are assigned. ACT type questions will be explored. A Texas Instrument graphing calculator is required.

Algebra II

Open to grades 9, 10, 11
Course Length: 2 Trimesters
Credit: 1 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra I and Geometry

Course Description:

Description: This course strengthens skills studied in a traditional Algebra I course and introduces new topics from analytic geometry and linear algebra. ACT type questions will be explored. A Texas Instrument graphing calculator is required.

College Prep Math

Open to grades 11 and 12
Course Length: 2 Trimesters
Credit: 1 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra I and Geometry

Course Description:

This course will review basic math skills including a review of: number systems, basic principles of arithmetic and algebraic processes. The objective of this course is to help prepare students to succeed in college math and place into the highest level college math course they can achieve. If taken as a Junior, this course will prepare students to succeed in Algebra II. A TI-84 graphing calculator is required. (*Students who already have a Ti-83 may continue to use it)

Precalculus Honors

Open to grades 11 and 12
Course Length: 2 Trimesters
Credit: 1 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra II and teacher recommendation

Course Description:

This course studies operations on a wide variety of functions: polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric. Functions are studied analytically as well as graphically. A TI-84 graphing calculator is required. (*Students who already have a Ti-83 may continue to use it)

Advanced Placement Calculus

Open to grades 11 and 12
Course Length: 3 Trimesters
Credit: 1.5 credits

Prerequisite: Precalculus Honors and teacher recommendation

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to college level calculus, including the study of functions involving one independent variable, limits, derivatives, and integrals. A heavy emphasis is placed on using technology to help solve problems, experiment, interpret results, and support conclusions. A TI-84 graphing calculator is required. (*Students who already have a Ti-83 may continue to use it)

N.B. Students are required to take the AP exam.

Physical Education and Health Department

Middle School Girls and Boys Physical Education

Open to grades 6, 7 and 8

Course Length: 2 Trimesters, 2 days a week

Course Description:

This class is designed to give a well-rounded Physical Education curriculum that includes physical conditioning and participation in a variety of sports. Students gain knowledge of each sport and improve the necessary skills for success. Teamwork is of major importance – playing together with healthy competition. (Classes are separated by grade level)

Physical Education I

Open to grade 9

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Course Description:

An introductory course focusing on team sports, cardiovascular fitness, and recreational games. Skills, drills, and rules will be emphasized. Fundamentals in all activities will be stressed. Physical fitness testing will consist of a variety of endurance, strength, and flexibility skills. Physical education uniform and school issued lock is required.

Health*

Open to grade 9 and 10

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Course Description:

The student will receive one semester of health, including basic knowledge of first aid skills. The Health Education units will cover topics such as mental health, social health, emotional health, nutrition, fitness, personal hygiene, drug/alcohol and tobacco education, public/community health, body systems and infections/disease. Basic First Aid/CPR training will be provided. Physical education uniform and school issued lock is required. ***Graduation Requirement**

Foundations of Personal Fitness

Open to grade 9

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Health

Course Description:

This course was designed as an individualized approach for the assessment, analysis, and understanding of a lifetime of wellness through fitness. This course includes a thorough physical fitness/risk factor assessment, and a variety of skill and health related physical fitness component activities. An emphasis is placed on weight training once a week. Along with a focus on personal fitness information, it also covers practical skills, and real-

world applications that encourage students to become responsible for their own fitness and well-being throughout life. Physical education uniform and school issued lock is required.

Physical Education II

Open to grade 10, 11, and 12

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Physical Education 1

Course Description:

Course is designed to review skills with an emphasis on team drills and team play through coverage of rules, mechanics of officiating, team tournaments, and one-on-one tournaments. Students will be taught the importance of teamwork in sports as well as in everyday life. Physical fitness testing will consist of a variety of endurance, strength, and flexibility skills. Physical education uniform and school issued lock is required.

Physical Education III

Open to grade 10, 11, and 12

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Physical Education II

Course Description:

This course focuses on leadership, dual/team sports, along with life-long athletic and recreational activities. Both skill and health related fitness components are covered throughout this course and an emphasis is placed on weight training once a week. Students will be taught the importance of teamwork in sport and everyday life. Physical fitness testing will consist of a variety of endurance, strength, and flexibility skills. Physical education uniform and school issued lock is required.

Weight Training

Open to grade 10, 11, and 12

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: PE I and/or Foundations of Personal Fitness

Course Description:

This course provides an opportunity for students to develop and increase their physical capabilities. Emphasis will be on muscular efficiency, muscular development and the utilization of the "Components of Physical Fitness (Health/Skill Related)". This course will supply each student with the basic foundations & principles to exercise as well as to design an individualized/sport specific exercise program. Students will practice and implement "IV Phases" of weight and strength training, while participating in standardized fitness testing consisting of a variety of endurance, strength, and flexibility skills. Physical education uniform and school issued lock is required.

Athletic PE and Conditioning (Offer Fall/Winter/Spring Session)

Open to grade 10, 11, and 12

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Athletic and PE/Health Department Approval

Course Description:

This course is designed to be a rigorous Physical Education class for the sophomore, junior, and/or senior who are or will be participating on one or more sophomore/varsity team sports. It is designed to work on conditioning and skills which are needed to compete at a higher level. Basic fundamentals and technique of sport specific training will be stressed and drilled along with placing a strong emphasis on strengthening the "core" muscle groups and improving explosiveness and speed. Physical fitness testing will consist of a variety of endurance, strength, and flexibility skills. This course is a great way to prepare and develop for an upcoming season. Physical education uniform and school issued lock is required.

Coaching and Sport Management (offer once a year 2nd term)

Open to grade 10, 11, and 12

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Athletic and PE/Health Department Approval

Course Description:

This course was designed to give students a broad overview of the coaching and sport management profession and industry. The historical look at great leaders and the development of sport management as a profession and as an academic discipline is traced. The diverse variety of opportunities in sport management is discussed. Selected functional areas of contemporary sport management are surveyed relative to supervisory responsibilities of the sport management professional. This course will also explore concepts in facility and event management, media/public relations, ethical/legal challenges in sport management as well as a brief look at intramurals, high school, intercollegiate and professional sports. Students in this course will work closely with the schools Physical Education and Health Department, Athletic Department and community partners. *Some outside class time will be necessary for this class.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Ever-Changing Earth

Open to grade 6

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Course Description:

In this class, students will learn and discover the inner workings of our Earth starting with heat energy and transfer, convection currents and plate tectonics. They will use these three concepts to then explore how earthquakes, volcanoes and the rock cycle works through hands-on activities.

Air Quality

Open to grade 6

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Course Description:

In this class, students will be introduced to basic chemistry concepts. Students will learn how to measure mass, volume and density. They will be introduced to the Periodic Table of Elements. Students will learn the basics of how the elements are organized and how they behave in different states. Chemical reactions and polymers will be explored as well.

Genetics

Open to grade 7

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Course Description:

In this class, students will learn about the cell: the building block of life. Students will learn about the organelles, chemistry and processes that go on within the cell and help the cell to divide. Genetic inheritance and probability will be explored through the use of Punnett Squares. Genetic disorders and advancements will be addressed as well.

Vehicles in Motion

Open to grade 7

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Course Description:

In this class, students will learn the 3 basic concepts in physics; motion, forces and energy. Students will learn about Newton's laws. Pascal's Principle and Bernoulli's Principle while exploring gravity, friction, density, buoyancy and pressure. Students will also learn about work and how it is applied to other physics' concepts. Text supplied in class.

Astronomy

Open to grade 8

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Course Description:

In this class, students will learn about our universe and the various systems within it. Stars and constellations will be mapped as will the movement of the moon and sun throughout the year. Students will explore the effects of object colliding and interact with each other. The students will also learn about NASA and the progression of the space program which includes Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo Programs and the physics of rocket science.

Human Biology and Health

Open to grade 8

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Course Description:

In this class, students will learn about multiple body systems and how they work together. Various labs and activities will be used including animal dissection. Students will also learn about healthy habits and how viruses and diseases are spread.

Honors Biology

Open to grade 9 and 10

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 1 credit

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Course Description:

Honors Biology incorporates analytical reasoning and the use of the scientific method while investigating biological processes. Biochemistry is emphasized in this class. Topics include chemistry of life, cytology, molecular biology, cellular energetics, heredity, molecular genetics, evolutionary processes, diversity of organisms, environmental science and the structure and function of plants and animals. Special emphasis is given to current topics in science and their importance in our daily lives.

Biology

Open to grade 9 and 10

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 1 credit

Course Description:

Biology encourages analytical reasoning and the use of the scientific method while investigating biological processes. Topics include chemistry of life, cytology, molecular biology, cellular energetics, heredity, molecular genetics, evolutionary processes, diversity of organisms, environmental science and the structure and function of plants and animals. Special emphasis is given to current topics in science and their importance in our daily lives. Lab course.

Honors Chemistry

Open to grade 9, 10, and 11

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 1 credit

Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment in honors level math class and teacher recommendation. "B" or better in previous science and math classes.

Course Description:

This laboratory course investigates the structure and properties of matter, atomic structure, the periodic table and periodic properties, chemical formulas and reactions, stoichiometry, chemical bonding, kinetic theory, states of matter, reaction rates, acids, bases and salts in depth. The course has a mathematical basis with emphasis on interpretation of data.

Chemistry

Open to grade 9, 10, and 11

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 1 credit

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Course Description:

Laboratory course that investigates the structure and properties of matter, atomic structure, the periodic table and periodic properties, chemical formulas and reactions, stoichiometry, chemical bonding, kinetic theory, states of matter, reaction rates, acids, bases and salts.

Honors Physics (Not offered in 2016-17)

Open to grade 9, 10, and 11

Course Length: 2 Trimester

Credit: 1 credit

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Course Description:

Honors Physics investigates classical mechanics, waves, sound and light, electricity and magnetism, ideal fluids and basic thermodynamics. Problem solving is utilized to understand concepts. This course has a mathematical basis with emphasis on interpretation of data. Knowledge of algebra is required and basic ideas of trigonometry will be introduced in connection with physical concepts.

Physics (Not offered in 2016-17)

Open to grade 10 and 11

Course Length: 2 Trimester

Credit: 1 credit

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Course Description:

This course in physics investigates classical mechanics, waves, sound, light, electricity and magnetism, ideal fluids and basic thermodynamics. Some algebra-based problem solving will be utilized to understand concepts.

AP Physics B (Not offered in 2016-17)

Open to grade 11 and 12

Course Length: 3 Trimesters

Credit: 1.5 credits

Prerequisite: Physics, completion or concurrent enrollment in AP Calculus and instructor recommendation.

Course Description:

AP Physics B examines the physical world through a combination of lecture, discussion, and laboratory experiments. This course has a mathematical basis: knowledge of algebra and basic trigonometry is required; the basic ideas of calculus will be introduced in connection with physical concepts. The first trimester will be spent investigating Newtonian mechanics (motion, forces, momentum, work and energy). The second trimester will be spent investigating fluid mechanics, thermodynamics, waves, sound and light. The third trimester will be spent investigating electricity and magnetism, and nuclear physics.

AP Chemistry (Not offered in 2016-17)

Open to grade 11 and 12

Course Length: 3 Trimesters

Credit: 1.5 credits

Prerequisites: Chemistry and instructor recommendation.

Course Description:

AP Chemistry is designed to be the equivalent of the general chemistry course usually taken during the first college year for students majoring in science and engineering. Classroom time will be generally focused on lab work. Because the class is heavily lab-based, attendance and homework expectations are particularly high. Emphasis is on energy, molecular orbital theory, solution chemistry (including acid/base, equilibrium, and rate laws), and thermodynamics. This course is mostly inorganic, but organic compounds are discussed and the basis of their bonding described. Students enrolled in AP Chemistry are expected to take the corresponding AP Exam in May.

AP Biology

Open to grade 11 and 12

Course Length: 3 Trimesters

Credit: 1.5 credits

Prerequisites: Biology and instructor recommendation.

Course Description:

AP Biology is designed to be equivalent of the general biology course usually taken during the first college year for students majoring in science. Students will focus on the major concepts of biology (evolution, Energy Processes, Information, and Interactions) and their connections to the world, deepen the understanding of the content, and integrate biological knowledge through inquiry-based activities and laboratory investigations. This course is 3 Trimesters.

Physical Science

Open to grade 9 and 10

Course Length: 2 Trimesters

Credit: 1 credit

Course Description:

This course is designed to be an introductory overview of the major concepts in chemistry and physics to provide students with necessary knowledge and skills in physical science. Students will learn abstract concepts such as the structure of atoms, motion and forces, conservation of matter and energy, action-reaction principle and behavior of waves. The goal of the course is to strengthen the students' understanding of basic physical science concepts, to provide a solid foundation for further study in the sciences and to prepare the student to be successful in Chemistry and Physics. Practice in ACT testing will also be included.

The Scientific Method

Open to All SS

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Course Description:

This elective can be taken in addition to your other core science courses. In this class, students will learn and apply all steps in the scientific method through science inquiry. Students will research, design and implement their own science experiments while using Next Generation Science Standards.

Science Inquiry

Open to grades 7-8

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Course Description:

This elective can be taken in addition to your other core science courses. In this class, students will explore many different science concepts from chemistry, physics, and earth sciences. Through the use of science inquiry, students will use hands-on and project based learning throughout the entire course.

Forensic Science

Open to grades 7-8

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Course Description:

This elective can be taken in addition to your other core science courses. Students will explore the basics of Forensic Science including its history as well as technique through the use of inquiry and project based learning situations. This course is 1 trimester long.

Robotics

Open to All SS

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisites: For Middle School students, requires math and science teacher recommendation.

Course Description:

This is a beginning course in robotics. We will be utilizing LEGO MINDSTORMS controllers and parts and the programming language. Students will design, build, program, and test their solutions based on real-Life robotics technology. Topics may include motor control, torque, friction, sensors, timing, decision-making, and timing sequences. This course is 1 Trimester long.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

The Ancient World

Open to grade 6

Course Length: 2 Trimesters

Course Description:

History Alive! The Ancient World introduces students to the beginnings of the human story. As they explore the great early civilizations of Egypt and the Near East, India, China, Greece, and Rome, students discover the secrets of these ancient cultures that continue to influence the modern world.

The Medieval World and Beyond

Open to grade 7

Course Length: 2 Trimesters

Course Description:

History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond explores the legacy of civilizations from Europe, Africa, and the Middle East to Asia and the Americas. From the decline of feudalism to the revolutions in science, exploration, and thought that are the foundations of our modern world, students will discover rich connections to the past.

The United States Through Industrialism

Open to grade 8

Course Length: 2 Trimesters

Course Description:

History Alive! The United States Through Industrialism immerses students in a powerful journey through the history of the United States from its earliest foundations to the age of industrialism. Students examine the philosophies, conflicts, and cultures around which the early nation developed and consider the influence of past events on the nation today.

World History

Open to grade 10

Course Length: 2 Trimesters

Credit: 1 credit

Course Description:

The course is a comprehensive study of the historical developments from the Renaissance through the Present. Major objectives, presented thematically, are to examine the diversity and similarity of world cultures by focusing on peoples and events within these themes: geography and patterns of population; economic networks and exchanges; group identity; politics, law and abuses of power; war and diplomacy; philosophy, spirituality and moral codes; science, technology and the environment.

Consumer Education*

Open to grade 10, 11, and 12

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to enable students to understand and to fit into, the economic world. Topics such as credit, wise buying, savings, checking accounts, economic structure, frauds, budgeting, taxes, advertising, automobile buying, housing contracts, insurance, gold and silver, and the stock market will be studied.

***Graduation Requirement**

American Studies*

Open to grade 11 and 12

Course Length: 2 Trimesters

Credit: 1 credit

Course Description:

This survey course explores the connections between history, culture, and literature in the United States from the 17th-century through World War II. This interdisciplinary course will be a combination of projects, discussion and debate, and lecture. Students will produce narrative, expository, and persuasive writing grounded in seminal fiction and non-fiction texts, including both primary and secondary sources. Essential questions for exploration will include "What does it mean to be an American?" "How is America unique?" and "What is the American dream?" ***Graduation Requirement (or AP US History)**

Advanced Placement United States History

Open to grade 11 and 12

Course Length: 3 Trimesters

Credit: 1.5 credits

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation (from English and World History)

Course Description:

The study of American history introduces students to the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that played a fundamental role in shaping the world in which they live. In addition to providing a basic narrative of events and movements from early settlers of the American continent to present day, the goals of AP U.S. History are to develop (a) an understanding of the principal themes in American history, (b) and ability to analyze historical evidence and make historical interpretations, and (c) an ability to express historical understanding in writing.

Throughout the course, extensive attention will be paid to reading, analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating a wide variety of both primary and secondary sources, major themes in intellectual and cultural history, and works of historical scholarship. The ultimate goal of this course is to gain Advanced Placement college credit in U.S. History by passing the AP U.S. History Examination.

N.B. Students are required to take the College Board Advanced Placement United States History test.

Current Events and Social Issues

Open to grade 11 and 12
Course Length: 1 Trimester
Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: World History, U.S. History or concurrent enrollment

Course Description:

In this course we will examine current events and social issues from a world and U.S. perspective. The instructor and students will research and present on issues that have and continue to affect our 21st century world. Active student participation is expected as this will be a largely discussed based course. This course will involve projects, discussion and debate, as well as oral presentations.

Government*

Open to grade 11 and 12
Course Length: 1 Trimester
Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: U.S. History or concurrent enrollment

Course Description:

This course is required for graduation starting with the Class of 2010. This course is designed to expand and challenge students' existing ideas and beliefs about government, power, authority, foreign policy, and the law. Through this course students will explore the foundations of the American politics and government, analyze the principles and values embedded in the United States Constitution, interpret American values, identify the roles of citizens in an American democracy, and critique the relationship of the United States with other nations abroad. The course will strive to improve students' reading, writing, and critical thinking skills through analysis of current events, open discussion, writing assignments, and effective note taking. ***Graduation Requirement**

N.B. This course may, with the instructor's permission, be taken for honors credit. Students who have demonstrated a high level of motivation, independence, and interest will have the opportunity to explore the subject more deeply through more challenging, higher-level readings, and additional opportunities for writing and research.

Sociology (Not offered in 2016-17)

Open to grade 11 and 12
Course Length: 1 Trimester
Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Teacher approval / recommendation

Course Description:

Sociology is an elective course open to Juniors and Seniors that studies human society and social behavior. This course is designed as an interactive course using hands on technology that will dive into the basic concepts of human and social behavior in order to understand society, socialization, sexuality, deviance, social class, gender stratification, ethnicity, religion and education. This course acquaints students with the basic sociological theories and tools of analysis and shows their relationship to other behavioral science disciplines such as anthropology and psychology. Additionally, the class will examine the effect of social structure, practices, and institutions upon the individual in everyday life.

World War II

Open to grade 11 and 12
Course Length: 1 Trimester
Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: US History and teacher approval / recommendation

Course Description:

This class will study the causes, the course, and the implications of World War II. Topics will include the geographic areas involved, the major diplomatic, political and military events, the Holocaust and discuss civilian life in both the Allied and Axis countries. The course will also address moral controversies raised by the war including the firebombing of Germany, Japanese Internment Camps, Concentration Camps and the decision to drop the atomic bomb. It covers the time period of 1918 to the present, with an emphasis on the years 1939-1945. The purpose of the course is to familiarize students with the political, social, economic and cultural history of the Second World War and the impact upon our own era.

Psychology (Not offered in 2016-2017)

Open to grade 11 and 12
Course Length: 1 Trimester
Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Teacher approval / recommendation

Course Description:

This course is designed for students interested in understanding behaviors and mental processes. Using problem based learning and interactive seminars students will develop a deeper understanding of basic psychological theories and tools of analysis. This course will highlight individual behavior and why an individual thinks, feels, and reacts to certain stimuli. Major emphases will be placed on research methods, stages in childhood and adolescence, how the brain works, altered states of consciousness, psychological testing, and psychological disorders

History Through Film and Music (not offered 2016-2017)

Open to grade 11 and 12
Course Length: 1 Trimester
Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Teacher approval / recommendation

Course Description:

In this course, students will study American history through the medium of film and music. This will be done through viewing, writing, listening and discussing both historical and contemporary pieces on topics related to political, social, economic, and racial history. The history of America contains stories of innovation, triumph, leadership, and courage while also marred with stories of war, slavery, deceit, and overall treachery. Students successfully completing this course will know important facts, concepts, and theories pertaining to American history. Understand and interpret typical patterns of political ideology in history and society. Evaluate sources, including how to distinguish fact from opinion, as well as recognizing perspective and bias. Students will be evaluated through class discussions, essay writing, unit quizzes, and their critique/blog.

The Cold War (not offered 2016-2017)

Open to grade 11 and 12
Course Length: 1 Trimester
Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Students must have completed World History and U.S. History with a C or higher. Teacher approval/recommendation.

Course Description:

This course will examine the nearly 50-year struggle between the United States and the Soviet Union. Our study will use primary and secondary sources to explore the origins, conduct, conclusion, and legacy of the Cold War, primarily from the American point of view. Special attention will be paid to major foreign policy flash points in Berlin, Cuba, Korea, and Vietnam, as well as on how the struggle affected and defined domestic conditions in the United States. We will also dive into understanding the political and religious context which has influenced the Middle East and their relationship with the West. The course will specifically look at key events including Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and the history behind the Israel and Palestine conflict that continues to plague the Middle East. We will also examine the idea of terrorism and key influences that have contributed to the developed of these cells. Special emphasis will be given to the past 10 years since 9/11.

RELIGION DEPARTMENT

All Secondary School students are required to take two trimesters of Theology/Religion to fulfill his or her graduation requirement each year. All 8th grade students making his or her Confirmation through St. Benedict Parish will fulfill requirements from the DRE in addition to class requirements. All courses in the department are aligned with the Elementary and High School Religion Curriculum of the Archdiocese of Chicago and use approved texts.

Grade 6 Religion

Open to grade 6
Course Length: 3 Trimesters/2 days a week

Course Description:

The sixth grade religion curriculum focuses on the Hebrew scriptures and the covenant promise that God made with our Jewish religious ancestors. We begin with the promises that God makes with Abraham and Moses, then move to the entrance into the promised land, to the exiles of the Babylonians through the Romans, and end with John the Baptist's claim for repentance. This journey through the Hebrew scriptures gives the students a clear context in which to study the story of Jesus and become better followers of him.

Grade 7 Religion

Open to grade 7
Course Length: 2 Trimesters/3 days a week

Course Description:

The seventh grade religion curriculum focuses on the story of Jesus. It begins with the birth of Jesus through his ministry, passion, death, resurrection, and ends with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Acts of the Apostles. The course focuses on the message of the Kingdom of God and how the students can bring about the Kingdom here on earth and how to get to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Grade 8 Religion

Open to grade 8

Course Length: 2 Trimesters/3 days a week

Course Description:

The eighth grade religion curriculum focuses on the history of the Church. It begins with the Acts of the Apostles and gives a history of the Church through the modern era. Along with the story of the Church, students will also learn about living a Christian lifestyle with the Family Life curriculum. Within the 8th grade religion class, each student has the option of making the sacrament of Confirmation, which includes many requirements that come from the Director of Religious Education for the parish.

Scripture and Hermeneutics

Open to grade 9

Course Length: 2 Trimesters

Credit: 1 credit

Course Description:

In this course students will look at scripture starting with God's covenant promise in the Hebrew scriptures through the Gospels and end their journey with the book of Revelation. Students will be reading and studying this sacred text from a social and historical context to better understand God's revelation, how we should live in community and to form a clearer understanding of the Kingdom of God.

Church History

Open to grade 10 and 11

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Scripture and Hermeneutics

Course Description:

In this course we will be studying the Church's story from its early foundations as witnessed in the New Testament through its development until the present day.

Liturgy and Sacraments

Open to grade 10 and 11

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Scripture and Hermeneutics

Course Description:

In this course we will be looking at history, mystery, matter and form of the seven Sacraments with a deeper insight into the role of these rituals within our community and the individual lives of its members.

Christian Morality and Ethics

Open to grade 10 and 11
Course Length: 1 Trimester
Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Scripture and Hermeneutics

Course Description:

In this course we will use the Gospels and Church Teaching to help us practice mature conscience formation and use that formation to help us make good moral decisions in our lives.

Ecumenical Connections

Open to grade 10 and 11
Course Length: 1 Trimester
Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Scripture and Hermeneutics

Course Description:

Called to understand and be participants in the Church as a sign of unity in the world, students in this course will reflect on the teachings and documents of the Church while examining the beliefs of their families and cultures. Students will confirm their own faith by engaging in respectful and productive dialogue with other religions from around the world.

Social Justice and Vocations

Open to grade 12
Course Length: 1 Trimesters for 2 periods
Credit: 1 credit

Course Description:

Using Catholic Social Teaching as our framework, we will learn how Christ calls us to just social action. Students will participate in regular service outings as part of class, and by processing their experience through individual and communal theological reflection, they will gain literacy in analyzing their experience and striving for responsive action. Our course-work will focus on marginalized populations and relevant social issues as we consider the different states of life – single life, religious and ordained life, and marriage and family life. Students will synthesize their learning and experiences by tying the situation of a marginalized population into their own experience and the action of a local organization, considering the insight that the calls of Catholic Social Teaching provide while also striving to create a way to respond in faith.

BENGAL PREP CLASS

Bengal Prep Class

Open to grade 9

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Scripture and Hermeneutics

Course Description:

Through this course students are introduced to the history and culture of St. Benedict Preparatory School. Students become orientated to the academic, extracurricular and support services that are offered. With the aid of the tablets students are prepared with the skill-set needed to be competitive in the 21st century. They develop critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration and creativity in order to have a successful high school, college and career experience. ***Graduation Requirement for freshman students**

PROTEGE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Career Preparation

Open to Seniors who qualify for Protégé Internship Program

Course Length: 1 Trimester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Course Description:

The Career Preparation class is designed to prepare students for life after high school in the “real world.” They explore and evaluate their interests and talents regarding career choices. They learn job seeking and job keeping skills. From a hands-on, practical perspective, the students will have the opportunity to participate in preparing their resumes, then engaging in the application, interview, hiring and employment process. Emphasis is placed on communication skills, soft skills, professional standards and business etiquette.

Protégé Internship

Open to Seniors who qualify for Protégé Internship

Course Length: 1 Trimester for 2 periods

Credit: 1 credit

Course Description:

Philosophy

The mission of the Protégé Internship Program is to engage the student in an experience outside the classroom that will enrich his/her education and provide him/her with critical career insights.

Duration and credits

The Protégé Internship Program runs over a 12 week period with a 12-15/hour work week. The total minimum hours for the program are 144. Paid positions may work up to 20 hours without additional academic counselor approval. Each 12 week program is worth (1) full credit.

Prerequisites

- GPA minimum of 3.0
- Recommendation of attendance coordinator, academic counselor and dean of discipline.
- Completion of 'Shadow Day' requirement.

Description of the Program

The Protégé Internship Program was created out of the desire to better prepare our students for life after graduation. In college, students often declare a major where they have only an abstract comprehension of what it would be like to work in that field. The Protégé Internship Program gives them a more realistic view of their career direction, which then encourages a more pragmatic outlook of their future. A prerequisite to the program is the Career Preparation class where students explore career choices, learn job seeking and job keeping skills and develop an employment portfolio*.

An early afternoon dismissal allows students to work between 12 and 15 hours a week. Periodically, the student will return to the classroom to discuss activities, successes and/or challenges experienced in the workplace.

Our Partners

Partners are the community business owners who have taken the challenge of helping students receive hands-on practical experience in preparation for their future. The partners have hired a student at an entry-level position and will be instrumental in providing concrete job skills. This apprenticeship type program provides partners with energetic high school students who are excited to enter the work force and eager to learn. Partners will be responsible for completing student evaluations and reviewing their job performance based on the Illinois Standard Guidelines for Workplace Competencies. Their evaluations are weighted heavily in determining the final grade of the protégé.