

HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

English Department Offerings

Freshman English

Grades: 9

Credits: 1

Prerequisite: Sections are grouped by ability, from honors to remedial

Freshman English lays the groundwork for the next three years of English. It covers basic grammar and punctuation, introduces the student to a variety of literature, and develops writing abilities with a wide range of assignments. Students learn to think analytically and express their thoughts in writing and in class discussion.

A.P. English

Grades: 11-12

Credits: 1 each year

This intensive two-year course of study is for the top 10-12% of the junior and senior classes. Its overall goal is to enable students to demonstrate their achievement in college-level work on the national Advanced Placement English Exam, on which they can earn college credit and/or college standing. The course moves more quickly and covers more challenging material than the honors classes do. It covers all of the literary genres and explores the social/historical context for works of literature. Written responses to the readings and active participation in class discussion are equally important. Summer reading and writing are also required.

Expository Writing

Grades: 10

Credits: ½

Prerequisites: English I and English Department Placement

This honors writing class develops students' proficiency in various essay forms—comparison/contrast, process analysis, argument, etc. Students learn various styles, formats, and purposes of writing, composing their own pieces in various styles. They also work on their revising and editing skills. Students write an extended research paper according to MLA standards. This class, together with Composition and Advanced Composition, is designed to prepare students for the most advanced college writing assignments. This course is paired with Drama.

Drama

Grades: 10

Credits: ½

Prerequisite: English I and English Department Placement

Drama is an honors class which involves an intense study of dramatic literature. Students read and analyze various forms of drama from different time periods and by many different playwrights. Students also view three live dramas and learn the techniques to bring these dramas to the stage. The class also studies the history of drama and the social contexts of the plays. This course is paired with Expository Writing.

Composition**Grades: 11****Credits: ½**

Prerequisites: English I and English Department Placement

This honors writing course focuses mainly on argumentative and narrative writing. Together with Expository Writing and Advanced Composition, this course prepares students for the assignments in college composition classes. Students also read, analyze, and discuss, as well as write about, a large amount of professional writing. Attention is given to grammar, punctuation, and spelling as needed, although students should have largely mastered the mechanics of correct writing before taking this class. Workshop sessions allow students to read, evaluate, and make recommendations for each other's writing. This course is paired with Scapegoat in Literature.

Scapegoat in Literature**Grades: 11****Credits: ½**

The focus of this junior honors course is on the theme of the scapegoat in mythology, history, modern life, and especially in a wide variety of literature. After studying the basic concepts of scapegoating, students read a large number of stories, novels, and plays that embody the scapegoat theme. The class does a great deal of traditional literary analysis, focusing on point of view, character, conflict, theme, and symbolism. Some short writing assignments may be required, but these are limited since this course is paired with Composition.

Advanced Composition**Grades: 12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisites: English I and English Department Placement

This honors writing course, along with Expository Writing and Composition, prepares students for the demands of a college composition class. Students develop and organize essays on a wide range of topics, employing a variety of structural forms such as comparison/contrast, classification, persuasion, definition, etc. The course culminates with the writing of a "Senior Thesis", following MLA guidelines. Students also read, analyze, discuss, and write about various readings. Attention is given as needed to grammar, punctuation, and spelling. This course is paired with Novel.

Novel**Grades: 12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisites: English I and English Department Placement

This senior honors class exposes students to a range of novels from various historical periods in preparation for the kind of reading and analysis required in college. Analysis and discussion will focus on traditional fictional elements—plot, character, point of view, setting, theme, style, symbolism, etc., as well as on each work's and the author's social/cultural background. Some short writing assignments may be required, but are limited in number since this class is paired with Advanced Composition.

Creative Writing**Grades: 10-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: English I

Creative Writing is a high college prep class in which students write in and experiment with a broad range of genres and styles—fiction, poetry, drama. Students should already be proficient in basic writing skills, although attention is given as needed to grammar, punctuation, and spelling. During this course, the imagination and creativity of students should be activated and developed. This course is paired with World Literature.

World Literature**Grades: 10-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: English I

World Literature is a high college prep class in which students read a broad range of literature of different genres from all over the world. Students study the social/cultural contexts in which the pieces were written and make comparisons/contrasts among them. This class is paired with Creative Writing.

Introduction to Formal Writing**Grades: 10-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: English I

Introduction to Formal Writing is a high college prep course in which students master the skills of paragraph writing and develop proficiency in essay forms. The class increases students' skills in various types of writing: informative, comparison/contrast, persuasive, cause-and-effect, etc. Students are introduced to the MLA Style of Research and apply this style in critical/analytical assignments. Much attention is also given to the various stages of the writing process, from prewriting to editing and proofreading. This class is paired with 20th Century Authors.

20th Century Authors**Grades: 10-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: English I

20th Century Authors is a high college prep course that introduces students to a variety of authors and works from the modern era. Students focus on important issues, study various writing techniques, and interpret literature from all genres. Class discussion involves traditional literary analysis of plot, character, theme, point of view, setting, etc. There will be brief writing assignments and critiques. This class is paired with Introduction to Formal Writing.

Plays**Grades: 12 mainly****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: English I

This mid-level college prep course is an introduction to drama. Students read a variety of stage plays, as well as TV and movie screenplays. The emphasis is on reading, analysis, and discussion, with some dramatization and occasional short writing assignments. Movie versions, recordings, and perhaps a live stage production help give students a grasp of how plays can be interpreted and staged in a variety of ways. This course is paired with Print to Screen.

Print to Screen**Grades: 12 mainly****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: English I

This mid-level college prep course focuses on works of literature that have been made into films. Students read and discuss a novel, story, or play, bringing out main themes, conflicts, tone, character traits, and so on. Next, they view the film based on the work. Then they write a critical response to the film, focusing on changes that have taken place and evaluating decisions made by the filmmakers. Students also acquire a working knowledge of basic film technology. This course is paired with Plays.

Survival in Literature**Grades: 12 mainly****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: English I

This course for middle-level students focuses mainly on fiction in which a serious threat is posed to the physical or psychological well-being of an individual or group. These threats include war, crime, nature, etc., but also include conflicts within an individual or between an individual and society. Much of the reading focuses on characters experiencing moral crises, stress, or social conflicts. Analytical writing assignments help students evaluate, appreciate and understand the literary works. This course is paired with Science Fiction.

Science Fiction**Grades: 12 mainly****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: English I

This middle-level literature class studies writing about the future or about the effects of science and progress of human life. The emphasis is less on the bizarre or fantastic stories and more on works that give serious insights into the present and the future. The course attempts to broaden students' perspectives on human development, as well as expose them to a wide variety of literary approaches to science and the future. This course is paired with Survival in Literature.

College Preparatory Writing**Grades: 10-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: English I

College Preparatory Writing is a middle-level college prep course designed to enable college-bound students to become skilled writers. The course prepares students for college-level writing assignments, partly through the development of an MLA Research Paper. The students develop critical and analytical views of literature in particular, expressing these views in their writing. Students also develop their ability to revise and proofread their writing. This class is paired with Elements of Literature.

Elements of Literature**Grades: 10-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: English I

Elements of Literature is a middle-level college prep course designed to engage students in becoming skilled readers. The course will enable students to understand and recognize the various literary elements: plot, character, setting, theme, point of view, etc. Students will focus on the interaction between an author's techniques and themes. Class discussions and analytical writing assignments will be equally important. This class is paired with College Preparatory Writing.

General Writing Skills**Grades: 10-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: English I

General Writing skills is a lower-level, introductory college-prep course designed to help students become proficient in basic writing skills. Students concentrate on the basics of writing such as sentence structure, paragraph formation, grammar, punctuation, and vocabulary. Students also focus on developing essays, covering all the steps of the writing process: prewriting, organization, editing, proofreading, etc. This class is paired with American Literature.

American Literature**Grades: 10-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: English I

American Literature is a basic college prep course that introduces to a variety of American authors, both past and present. Students study literature from a wide range of American people and cultures, covering the traditional literary elements—plot, character, theme, setting, point of view, etc. The course helps students become aware of the interactions among authors' purposes, techniques, and audiences. There will be short analytical writing assignments. This class is paired with General Writing Skills.

Writing Workshop**Grades: 10-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: English I

Writing Workshop is a lower-level college preparatory course designed to develop students' core writing skills, from sentence and paragraph structure to full-length essays. A great deal of attention is paid to grammar, punctuation, spelling, and vocabulary. Students also read and respond analytically to a variety of readings. Longer essays may include argument, process analysis, description, and exposition. This class is paired with Contemporary Literature.

Contemporary Literature**Grades: 10-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: English I

Contemporary Literature is a lower-level College Prep course that helps students develop the basic tools to analyze modern literature from various genres. Students are introduced to the basic tools of literary analysis—plot, character, theme, setting, point of view, etc. They exercise critical thinking skills, sharing their views in discussion and in writing. This class is paired with Writing Workshop.

Fundamentals of Writing**Grades: 10****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: English I and English Department Placement

Fundamentals of Writing is a remedial course designed to aid sophomores in writing coherent and cohesive sentences, paragraphs, and short essays. Students work with different styles and formats of writing, both analyzing various readings and composing their own pieces. Units of study may include comparison/contrast, interview, persuasive writing, and creative writing. A great deal of attention is given to grammar, punctuation, spelling, and vocabulary. This class is paired with Short Stories.

Short Stories**Grades: 10****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: English I and English Department Placement

Short Stories is a sophomore remedial course intended to give students a basic understanding of the literary elements that make up fiction: plot, character, setting, conflict, point of view, etc. Students read, analyze, discuss, and write about a broad range of short fiction drawn from various cultures and eras, making comparisons and contrasts. A great deal of attention is given to vocabulary. This class is paired with Fundamentals of Writing.

Writing and Revision/Reading Skills**Grades: 11****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: English I and English Department Placement

This course pair is designed mainly for juniors who need basic, remedial work in the fundamentals of reading and writing. Students concentrate on writing more cohesive, effective paragraphs and essays, as well as on improving grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Prewriting and revision are stressed as vital parts of the writing process. Students read, analyze, discuss, and write about a wide variety of short stories, articles, novels, and plays, developing skills in the use and understanding of literary terms such as plot, conflict, character, etc. A great deal of attention is given in both courses to vocabulary.

Writing IV**Grades: 12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: English I and English Department Placement

Writing IV is a course designed to engage students in becoming skilled writers and life learners. It is designed for seniors at the remedial level and gives them an opportunity to improve their study skills. Students analyze various readings and write short analyses of them. Students also begin preparing for their future after graduation by exploring various options in business writing. The class also covers ACT preparation, job interviews, college research, and resume writing. This course is paired with Contemporary Authors.

Contemporary Authors**Grades: 12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: English I and English Department Placement

Contemporary Authors is a senior remedial course designed to help students become skilled readers. It also gives students an opportunity to improve their overall study skills. Students read, analyze, discuss, and write about a range of contemporary stories, novels, and plays. Class discussion focuses on authors' techniques and meanings and the connections between them. A great deal of attention is given to vocabulary. This class is paired with Writing IV.

History Department Offerings**World Geography****Grades: 9****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: None

Geography is an entry level class designed to prepare incoming freshman for high school social studies. The curriculum focuses on both human and physical geography; meaning that students will not only be exposed to maps and locations but also to the different cultures that inhabit the earth. Emphasis is put on map skills and a working knowledge of how humans interact with the environment and each other. Through this course, students will gain a better understanding of the planet and the diverse peoples that inhabit it.

Ancient World Civilizations**Grades: 9****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: Recommendation based on entrance exam

Ancient World Civilizations is an advanced class meant for those students who wish to continue on the honors / dual-credit track in the department. The curriculum begins with the dawn of humanity and concludes with the fall of the Roman Empire and the end of the ancient era. Students in this class will be challenged to read, write, and critically think on an advanced level about the civilizations, belief systems, and issues prevalent in the ancient world. Through this course, students will gain a firm understanding of the ancient world and be able to make connections to the modern world to see how history, no matter how ancient, still affects the modern world today.

World History**Grades: 10****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of World Geography or Ancient World Civilizations

World History is the standard class for all sophomores here at HCHS. Students will be placed into a certain level ranging from low college prep to honors based on teacher recommendations and their desire. World History is designed to immerse students in the rich cultures and heritages that have shaped our world since the dawn of humanity. This class integrates European, Asian, African, and American history into a class that focuses on broad topics and themes that transcend places and times. Through this course, students will be able to comprehend the vastness and complexity of history, understand how history is written, and gain a respect for the variety of life and lifestyles that have existed in the past and continue to inform the present.

Thomas More Dual-Credit World History**Grades: 10****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and completion of Ancient World Civilizations (preferred)

Students who participate in this class and receive a C- or higher per semester will receive up to 6 college credit hours from Thomas More College that can be transferred to most colleges. To have this opportunity, students must pay a small fee to the college, but the savings compared to normal costs for credit hours is enormous. The curriculum of this class is designed to be as rigorous and challenging as an entry-level collegiate class on the subject. Students will be asked to read, write, and analyze world history at the level of college freshmen. Typically, this course covers history from the fall of Rome to the modern world. This class focuses on broad themes of European, African, Asian, and American history and asks students to compare and contrast civilizations across time and space to gain insight into how they behaved, interacted, and helped create the world within which we live today. Successful completion of this course puts students on track to earn up to 18 college credit hours through the HCHS History and Social Studies Department.

American History**Grades: 11****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of World History

American History is the standard class for all juniors here at HCHS. Students will be placed into a certain level ranging from basic to honors based on teacher recommendations and their desire. American History is designed to allow students to dig deeper into our nation's past to explore how the country was formed and how it grew into the nation that it is today. The course begins with the colonial era and wraps up with the Great Depression and the New Deal. Throughout the course, students will be given opportunities to analyze and think critically about the country's past, present, and future. Students will be given the tools needed to understand how history changes and will be encouraged to explore those changing interpretations through a rigorous and detailed history of the United States.

Thomas More Dual-Credit American History**Grades: 11****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Thomas More Dual-Credit American History Grades: 11 Credits: 1 Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation Students who take this course and receive a "C" or higher will receive up to 6 college credit hours from TMC which can be transferred to most colleges. Students who wish to take the course for credit will be required to pay an additional small fee for the cost of the credits and the materials needed. However, these fees are greatly discounted and a great deal for students who wish to pursue the credit. Typically, this course covers the entirety of American history from the colonial era to the modern day. Special emphasis is placed on the students developing their abilities to read, write, analyze, and criticize on a college level. This class requires students to dig deeper into the nation's history in order for the students to develop their own opinions, arguments, and historical thoughts concerning US history and the field of history itself. This class is geared around several themes that are consistent throughout US history such as the nature of freedom, the growth of freedom, and the expansion of the US into a continental and global power. Completion of this course will provide students with a working knowledge of American history and the ability to understand historical study as something they can appreciate and take part in.

Thomas More Dual-Credit American Foreign Policy**Grades: 12****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Foreign Policy is designed as a class for sophomores in college, in which students can earn up to 6 college credits from Thomas More College by receiving a grade of C- or better for the course. Foreign Policy is designed to rigorously investigate historical and contemporary relations between the United States and the world. Students complete tests, hold debates, and write articles on modern day policy issues that surface throughout the year. This unique blend of history and current events gives students a unique perspective into America's diplomatic history as well as invaluable insight into today's world in all its complexity and difficulty. TMC Foreign Policy is the culminating class in the departments dual credit offerings, and as such is meant to be a challenging yet rewarding investigation into the US's ever changing position in the world.

American Government and Modern America**Grades: 12****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of American History

American Government is a one semester course that is standard for all seniors here at HCHS. American Government is designed to create a better understanding of the structure of the American republic in an attempt to create active participants in the democratic process. This course includes the American political system, the origins and development of the U.S. Constitution, analysis of the Legislative Branch, Executive Branch and the Judicial Branch.

Modern America is a one semester course taken in conjunction with American government. Modern America is designed to create a better understanding of our nations more recent history and how it impacts our country today. This course includes the Second World War, beginning of the Cold War, Cold War Events (Korean War, Red Scare, Bay of Pigs, Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam War), Kennedy and Johnson Years, Civil Rights Movement, Reagan Years, End of the Cold War and Clinton Years.

Criminal Justice**Grades: 10-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: None - elective

Criminal Justice is a course designed to allow students to examine the history, organization and function of the various local, state, and federal agencies that make up the American criminal justice system. The curriculum is designed to focus on the three major components of the criminal justice system: law enforcement, courts, and corrections.

Global Issues**Grades: 10-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: None - elective

Global Issues is an elective course designed to create awareness of the history and current struggles that confront mankind today. The course includes terrorism, turmoil in the Middle East, New Europe, economic reform in China, global standards of living and a strong emphasis on contemporary events.

Psychology**Grades: 10-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: None - elective

This one semester course is an introduction to the fundamentals and theories of psychology. It is to acquaint students with the different studies of psychology, psychological disorders, mind and body interactions and ways to deal with life issues. It includes topics such as history, consciousness (dreams and sleep), criminal psychology, child development, personality and abnormal psychology (psychological disorders).

War and Peace**Grades: 10-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: None - elective

War and Peace is an elective course focused on American military history and its historical impact on the peace that followed. The course covers the reasons for war, the weapons, the tactics, the military terminology, the results of the conflicts and their significance. Beginning with the American Revolution, the class will move through American wars including the nation's most recent conflicts.

Economics**Grades: 10-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: None - elective

Students will learn how markets and other governance structures organize core economic activities, such as production, distribution, and consumption, and the growth of productive resources. They will understand the implications of supply and demand on their lives regarding scarcity and opportunity costs. Students will also study the importance of saving by analyzing investment strategies and putting them to real life work by playing the stock market game.

Mathematics Department Offerings**Algebra 1****Grades: 9****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Placement based upon HSPT scores

This course is a first course in developing the concepts and operations of algebra. This course introduces the fundamental skills of algebra, which include solving equations, working with polynomials, factoring, graphing linear and nonlinear equations, simplifying radical expressions and solving word problems with algebraic equations and inequalities. Computer and calculator technology are incorporated throughout these units of study.

Honors Algebra 1**Grades: 9****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Placement based upon HSPT scores

This honors level course is for students with a high understanding of arithmetic concepts. This course focuses on the same material as Algebra 1 but is designed to give students the opportunity to take Honors Algebra 2 and Honors Geometry as a sophomore in preparation to reach Calculus as a senior.

Geometry**Grades: 10****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

This course is designed to develop geometric skills and to apply the understanding of geometric concepts. These concepts include proofs, congruent triangles, parallel lines, similarity, right triangle trigonometry, circles, area and volume. This course also involves solving algebraic equations using geometric shapes, formulas and theorems.

Honors Geometry**Grades: 10****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Honors Algebra 1 and/or teacher recommendation

This honors-level course is for those students who have mastered Algebra 1. This course is designed to develop geometric skills and to apply the understanding of geometric concepts. These concepts include proofs, congruent triangles, parallel lines, similarity, right triangle trigonometry, circles, area and volume. A strong emphasis is placed on deductive reasoning and problem solving applications. This course also involves solving algebraic equations using geometric shapes, formulas and theorems.

Algebra 2**Grades: 11****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 and Geometry

This course is a second course in developing the concepts and operations of algebra. Many of the topics of algebra 1 are repeated in greater depth. Additional topics covered include functions such as quadratics, radical, rational, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric. The complex number system and its operations are also covered in this course. This course is a prerequisite for College-Prep Pre-Calculus. *TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required.*

Honors Algebra 2**Grades: 10-11****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Honors Algebra 1, Accelerated Geometry or Honors Geometry, and/or teacher recommendation.

This honors-level course is for those students who have excelled in their previous math courses. The same topics covered in Algebra 2 will be covered in this course but in greater depth. This advanced course is designed to prepare students for Pre-Calculus. This course is a prerequisite for Honors Pre-Calculus, Honors Calculus and above. *TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required.*

Algebra 3**Grades: 12****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Algebra 2

This course is designed so students can master skills and concepts from the Common Core Standards for Mathematics and to prepare students to take the Kentucky On-Line Test (KYOTE). The course focuses on college readiness standards and will allow the students one more opportunity to obtain the Kentucky math standards score for placement into a college level math class their freshman year in college. This is a transitional course specifically designed to help students intending to take a college readiness exam or a college algebra exam

Precalculus**Grades: 11-12****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Algebra 2 and/or teacher recommendation

This course is designed so that the students can develop skills and concepts beyond Algebra 2 and prepare them for a college level Calculus curriculum. Students will be able to solve many types of equations including polynomial, radical, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric. Strong emphasis is placed on graphing functions and their transformations. Matrices and Trigonometry are also a major focus of this course. *TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required.*

Honors Precalculus**Grades: 11-12****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Honors Algebra 2 and/or teacher recommendation

This honors-level course covers all the topics of Precalculus but in greater depth. Students who master this course will be prepared to take Dual Credit Calculus through Xavier University. *TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required.*

Honors Calculus**Grades: 12****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Precalculus, Honors Precalculus and teacher recommendation

This honors level course is designed for students to learn Calculus and to develop an understanding of how Calculus can be utilized in a variety of fields. The main focus of this course is to provide students with the knowledge and skills that will prepare them for college level Calculus. In this course, topics studied include differential equations and an introduction to integral Calculus. *TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required.*

Thomas More Dual-Credit Calculus**Grades: 12****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Honors Precalculus and teacher recommendation

This course is taught in conjunction with Thomas More College and students who successfully complete the course will receive 4 semester credit hours of Calculus 1. Students will learn the basic mechanics of differentiation and integration and their applications in relationship to optimization, related rates, area, and volume. This course provides students who wish to work in science, engineering, and mathematics with a solid background of Calculus 1. *TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required.*

Science Department Offerings**Honors Biology****Grades: 9-11****Credits: 1**

Prerequisites: HSPT scores in Top 20% of incoming freshmen students

Honors Biology is an accelerated laboratory science course that investigates the relationship between structure and function from molecules to organisms and systems, the interdependence and interactions of biotic and abiotic components of the environment, and mechanisms that maintain continuity and lead to changes in populations over time. Students explore biological concepts through an inquiry approach. Embedded standards for Inquiry, Technology & Engineering, and Mathematics are taught in the context of the content standards for Cells, Interdependence, Flow of Matter and Energy, Heredity, and Biodiversity and Change.

Biology**Grades: 9-11****Credits: 1**

Prerequisites: Placement based upon HSPT scores

Biology is a laboratory science course that investigates the relationship between structure and function from molecules to organisms and systems, the interdependence and interactions of biotic and abiotic components of the environment, genetics, evolution and the 5 kingdoms. Students explore biological concepts through inquiry-based learning activities and laboratory investigations. Embedded standards for Inquiry, Technology & Engineering, and Mathematics are taught in the context of the content standards for Cells, Interdependence, Flow of Matter and Energy, Heredity, and Biodiversity.

Honors Chemistry**Grades: 10****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Chemistry is the study of the composition of matter and the changes it undergoes. This course will explore topics including scientific measurement, atomic structure, nuclear chemistry, periodic table, bonding, chemical quantities, chemical reactions, states of matter, solutions, equilibrium, thermochemistry, acids and bases, oxidation-reduction, and hydrocarbons. Through inquiry-based learning activities and laboratory investigations, students will develop scientific critical thinking and reasoning skills. They will learn to interpret graphs and diagrams and use equations and relationships to solve problems. Students will research current issues and the role chemistry plays in the world around them. Compared to the Chemistry course, the Honors Course includes additional topics, explores topics in more depth, and requires more quantitative and analytical skills.

Chemistry**Grades: 10****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Chemistry is the study of the composition of matter and the changes it undergoes. This course will explore topics including scientific measurement, atomic structure, nuclear chemistry, periodic table, bonding, chemical quantities, chemical reactions, states of matter, acids and bases, solutions and thermochemistry. Through inquiry-based learning activities and laboratory investigations, students will develop scientific critical thinking and reasoning skills. They will learn to interpret graphs and diagrams and use equations and relationships to solve problems. Students will research current issues and the role chemistry plays in the world around them.

Chemistry in the Community**Grades: 10****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: General Biology

Chemistry in the Community, also known as Chem Comm, is a course developed by the American Chemical Society. The focus of this course is on the principle concepts of chemistry, the importance of chemistry, and the role it plays in our society. Societal issues that are studied include, but are not limited to: supplying clean air and water; conserving chemical resources; utilizing petroleum as both a fuel and building material, etc. This course addresses concepts and ideas that the students will experience in their daily lives as well as those in the news today. It is an option for students who aren't planning to major in science or have a science-related career, and is accepted as a prerequisite for colleges and universities that require a high school chemistry course.

NKU Dual Credit – Introduction to Biology I and II**Grades: 10****Credits: 1**

Prerequisites: NKU prerequisites: A minimum ACT score of 22 in math and 19 in each remaining division (or SAT equivalent), or completion of all precollege curriculum courses.

HCHS prerequisites: Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry.

Semester One - The chemistry of life; cell structure and function; photosynthesis and respiration; cellular reproduction and Mendelian genetics; gene regulation and DNA technology. Suggested only for students majoring or minoring in biological sciences, other natural sciences or other pre- professional programs. (4 credit hours)

Semester Two - Population genetics and evolution; systematics and diversity of life; organismal systems anatomy and physiology; interrelationships among organisms and between organisms and their environment. (4 credit hours)

Honors Anatomy and Physiology**Grades: 11-12****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Minimum of General Biology and General Chemistry

Honors Anatomy and Physiology is an intense, accelerated course in which students draw on their previously acquired knowledge of biology and chemistry to understand some of the complexities of the human body. The class stresses both the form of the human body, as well as the function of its constituent parts. The class is structured around an overview of the human body, followed by an in depth study of each of the major organ systems of the human body. This course is designed to familiarize students with human anatomy, physiology and associated medical terminology. Emphasis is placed on practical applications in associated health fields. Topics include, but are not limited to: body organization, exercise physiology and body systems, with particular concentration on the nervous system and its importance in maintaining homeostasis.

Environmental Science**Grades: 11-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry

Co-requisite: Advanced Topics in Biology

This class is a semester long interdisciplinary course that integrates biology, earth science, chemistry, and other disciplines. Students enrolled in this course conduct scientific studies of ecosystems, population dynamics, resource management, and environmental consequences of natural and anthropogenic processes. Environmental science will provide opportunities for the use of scientific procedures and equipment in carrying out first-hand investigations which affect the environment. Students will explore and evaluate biomes and environmental conditions that may involve natural resource use, waste, disposal or pollution (air, water, land) issues.

Advanced Topics in Biology**Grades: 11-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry

Co-requisite: Environmental Science

This course is a semester long study of topics that are current in the biological world. Students are able to apply information and concepts learned in biology and chemistry to help them understand the issues that come up in their daily lives. Due to the concept of the course, the subjects covered will change from year to year. Activities, experiments, research projects and article readings enhance the topics covered in the class. Some topics that tend to be covered are forensics, nutrition, animal diversity and the brain including memory and physiological and psychological functions.

Astronomy**Grades: 11-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: Biology, Chemistry

This course is a semester long elective designed to give students a deeper understanding of the universe and an awareness of their place in it. This course will provide the student with an introduction to the concepts of modern astronomy, the origin and history of the universe, and the formation of the earth and the solar system. The course includes topics such as planets, stars, galaxies and black holes. Physics concepts including forces, motion, energy, waves and light are studied and used to understand astronomical phenomena. Laboratory activities allow students to explore, analyze and draw conclusions about the various topics covered in the class.

Geology**Grades: 11-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: Biology, Chemistry

This course is a semester long elective designed to generate a deeper understanding of the planet on which we live. This course will focus on the earth's structure, composition and history; processes which shape the earth's surface such as glaciations, crustal movements and tectonics, erosion and sedimentation; classification of rocks; mineral, energy and water resources; natural hazards. Physics concepts including forces, motion, energy, waves and light, electricity and magnetism are studied and used to understand geological phenomena. Laboratory activities include making and interpreting topographic maps and practical problems in geology.

AP Physics 1**Grades: 12****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry

This course corresponds to an algebra-based introductory college-level physics course that explores topics such as Newtonian mechanics, work, energy, power, waves, sound, light and electricity. Through inquiry-based learning students will develop scientific critical thinking and reasoning skills, learn important physics concepts and prepare for the AP Physics 1 Exam at the end of the year. Laboratory investigations and problem-solving are important components of the course. Students can earn up to 5hrs of college credit for this course upon successful completion of the AP exam. This course is often used by colleges as a physics course for students in life sciences, pre-medicine, pharmacy and a variety of technical fields. This course will also prepare students pursuing careers in engineering or physics for their required courses in college.

Honors Physics**Grades: 12****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry

This course explores topics such as motion, forces, work, energy, power, waves, sound, light, electricity and magnetism. Through activities, explorations and laboratory investigations students will develop scientific critical thinking and reasoning skills, and use mathematics to find relationships between quantities. The course emphasizes understanding of the concepts of physics and applications of these concepts. The course will give students an awareness of the role of physics in the world around them and prepare them for further study in any of the physical sciences, engineering, life sciences, medicine, etc.

NKU Dual Credit – Intro.to Human Anatomy and Physiology I/II**Grades: 11-12****Credits: 1**

Prerequisites: NKU prerequisites: Prerequisites: Composite ACT of 19 or any college biology or chemistry course with a grade of C- or better.

HCHS prerequisites: Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry.

Semester One - Introduction to human structure and function. Not applicable to major or minor in biological sciences. Laboratory sessions include gross and microscopic morphology and application of physiological principles.

Semester Two - Continuation of BIO208 with emphasis on structure and function of organ systems.

Religion Department Offerings

Religion I

Grades: 9

Credits: 1

Prerequisite: None

Semester One- "Faith and Revelation: An Introduction to Scripture

The purpose of this course is to give students a general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. Through their study of the Bible they will come to encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. In the course they will learn about the Bible, authored by God through Inspiration, and its value to people throughout the world. If they have not been taught this earlier, they will learn how to read the Bible and will become familiar with the major sections of the Bible and the books included in each section. The Students will pay attention to the Gospels, where they may grow to know and love Jesus Christ more personally.

Semester Two- "Who Is Christ?"

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, and the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. In this course students will understand that Jesus Christ is the ultimate Revelation to us from God. In learning about Who he is, the students will also learn who he calls them to be.

Religion II

Grades: 10

Credits: 1

Prerequisite: None

Semester One:

The name of this course is "The Mission of Christ." The purpose of this course is to help students understand all that God has done for us through his Son, Jesus Christ. Students will learn that for all of eternity, God has planned for us to share eternal happiness with him, which is accomplished through the redemption Christ won for us. Students will learn that they share in this redemption only in and through Jesus Christ. They will also be introduced to what it means to be a disciple of Christ and what life as a disciple entails.

Semester Two:

The name of the second semester course is "Christ and the Church." The purpose of this course is to help students understand that in and through the Church they encounter the living Jesus Christ. They will be introduced to the fact that the Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by Christ through the Holy Spirit. Students will come to know that the Church is the living Body of Christ today. This Body has both divine and human elements. They will learn the life of the Church and its sacred nature.

Religion III**Grades: 11****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: None

Semester One:

The name of this course is "Christ and the Sacraments." The purpose of this course is to help students understand that they can encounter Christ today in a full and real way in and through the sacraments, and especially through the Eucharist. Students will examine each of the sacraments in detail so as to learn how they may encounter Christ through life.

Semester Two:

The name of this course is "Moral Living in Christ." The purpose of this course is to help students understand that it is only through Christ that they can fully live out God's plans for their lives. Students are to learn the moral concepts and precepts that govern the lives of Christ's disciples.

Religion IV**Grades: 12****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: None

Semester One:

The name of this course is "The Call of Christ: On Christian Vocation". The purpose of this course is to help students understand the vocations of life: how Christ calls us to live. In this course students learn how all vocations are similar and how they differ. The course is structured around married life, single life, priestly life, and consecrated life. Students will learn what it means to live life for the benefit of others and the value in considering a vocation in service to the Christian community.

Semester Two:

The second semester students will have an option to study one of the following elective Religion courses

- I. The name of this course is "Dei Verbum: An In-Depth Study of the Bible." The purpose of this course is to give an overview of Sacred Scripture with an introduction to the basic principles for understanding and interpreting the Bible
 - II. The name of this course is "Church History." This purpose of this course is to supply the students with a general knowledge of the Church's history from apostolic times to the present. Students will learn about the 2000 years of history and about how the Church is led and governed by the successors of the Apostles and directed by the Holy Spirit.
 - III. The name of this course is "Catholic Social Teaching." The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the Church's social teaching. IN this course students are to learn how Christ's concern for others, especially the poor and the needy, is present today in the Church's social teaching and mission.
 - IV. The name of this course is "World Religions and Catholic Faith: Ecumenism and Apologetics." The purpose of this course is to help students understand the manner in which the Catholic Church relates to non-Catholic Christians as well as other religions of the world. Building on the foundational truth that Jesus Christ established and entrusted to her in the fullness of God's Revelation, the course is intended to help students recognize ways in which important spiritual truths can also be found in non-Catholic churches and ecclesial communities as well as in non-Christian religions
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Foreign Language Department Offerings

French I

Grades: 9-11

Credits: 1

Prerequisite: None

This course introduces students to the French language and culture. The four elements of language-speaking, listening, reading, writing- are addressed. Students learn every day vocabulary such as greetings, weather, clothing, friends, ordering in a café, activities. All vocabulary is used in correct grammatical form. Life and customs in France are discussed and how they are the same or different than in the United States.

French II

Grades: 10-12

Credits: 1

Prerequisite: French I

This course builds on the foundations established in French I. Students continue to build vocabulary based on themes such as weekend activities, meals, films, sports, etc. More involved grammar, verb forms and tenses are presented. When possible, class is conducted in French, followed by English if necessary. Students are expected to write short paragraphs and have dialogues in French.

French III and IV

Grades: 11-12

Credits: 1

Prerequisite: French II or III respectively

These levels are taught in a combined classroom. It is presented in a two year format: different vocabulary and grammar are taught each year. Students at both levels do the same work, but do not repeat courses. Fourth year students are expected to demonstrate greater proficiency in the use of the language. All work is to be done in French. A variety of readings is used including excerpts of French literature.

Spanish I

Grades: 9-11

Credits: 1

Prerequisite: None

This course serves as an introduction to the Spanish language and includes the five language standards: communicative, comparisons, culture and communities. The goals of this course are to provide students with the opportunity to develop core skills of language in addition to achieving a novice level of language proficiency. In this course, speaking, reading, writing and listening skills are developed through modes of communication (interpersonal, interpretive and presentational). Topics of study include basic grammar structure of nouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, articles, pronouns and verbs. Students will be able to communicate proficiently in the present tense through use of established, extensive vocabulary.

Honors Spanish I**Grades: 9-11****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Recommendation after completion of placement test

This course serves as an introduction to the Spanish language and includes the five language standards: communicative, comparisons, culture and communities. The goals of this course are to provide students with the opportunity to develop core skills of language in addition to achieving a novice high or beginning intermediate level of language proficiency. In this course, speaking, reading, writing and listening skills are developed through modes of communication. Topics of study include basic grammar structure of nouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, articles, pronouns, verbs and commands. Other topics of study include an in-depth analysis of verbs (regular, irregular, reflexive and stem changing) and an introduction to the preterit tense. Students will be able to communicate proficiently in the present tense through use of established, extensive vocabulary.

Spanish II**Grades: 10-12****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Spanish I or instructor approval upon completion of a placement test

Spanish II builds upon knowledge gained in Spanish I. This course will also reinforce those skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing with an emphasis on perfecting pronunciation and mastery of basic grammatical structures. Acquisition of functional vocabulary is expected, and students will be exposed to the irregular verb forms in the present tense, reflexive verbs, commands, and past tenses. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to apply acquired vocabulary and grammatical concepts to their writing and speaking of the Spanish language.

Honors Spanish II**Grades: 10-12****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Spanish I with instructor recommendation or instructor approval after completion of a placement test

Spanish II builds upon knowledge gained in Spanish I. This course will also reinforce those skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing with an emphasis on perfecting pronunciation and mastery of advanced grammatical structures. Students will expand their vocabulary, which will include more sophisticated terms, advanced language expressions, verb tenses and grammatical concepts. Students will be exposed to the past tenses, future, conditional, subjunctive and compound tenses. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to write complex sentences and incorporate them in speaking the language.

Honors Spanish III**Grades: 11****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: Spanish I & II with instructor recommendation

This course serves as an in-depth analysis of the Spanish language with the goals of achieving an intermediate level of language proficiency. In this course, all modes of communication (reading, writing, and speaking) are improved through various activities, which include reviewing grammatical structures and translating. The final assessment in this class will expose their development through the course as they perform a Spanish play. At this point, students will have perfected pronunciation, mastered grammatical concepts, and be comfortable with communicating in a second language. Upon completion of this course, students are expected to take Spanish IV.

Thomas More College Spanish IV**Grades: 12****Credits: 1***

Prerequisite: Spanish I, II & III with instructor recommendation

This course aims at developing and improving students' oral and written communication through the continued study of the language, literature and culture of Spanish-speaking countries. It also seeks to improve students' ability to read and appreciate literary texts in Spanish, while deepening their vocabulary through translation of Spanish novels and short stories. Students will be expected to use advanced, complex grammatical concepts in both writing and speaking activities, which emphasize proficient communication on traditional and current events in the Spanish-speaking world. By reading, writing and speaking, students will be exposed to and grow an appreciation for the Latin culture.

*During the second semester, students will participate in a Dual Credit Course offered through Thomas More College, earning them 3 hours in an advanced college Spanish course.

Health and Physical Education Department Offerings**Health Education****Grades: 9****Credits: ½**

Health is a semester long course that is taken by all students and is a required course upon graduation. The curriculum focuses on many aspects in the field Health Education. Students are educated on skills that promote individual well-being and healthy family relationships. They will acquire knowledge and skills they need to remain physically, mentally and emotionally healthy. They learn how to accept responsibility for their own physical, mental, emotional and social well-being. The skills and concepts learned throughout this course can be easily applied to their daily lives.

Physical Education**Grades: 9****Credits: ½**

Physical Education is a semester long course that is taken by all students and is a required course upon graduation. The curriculum focuses on many aspects in the field of Physical Education. Students develop motor skills, specialized movements, strategies, fitness knowledge and techniques that can be used throughout their lives. Students will develop an understanding of the social, mental/emotional and physical benefits of physical activity. They also develop a foundation of rules associated with a variety of team and individual sports.

Business and Technology Department Offerings**Business Communications****Grades: 11-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: None

Students will be able to examine career options and make informed decisions on college choices and job opportunities. They will understand how to build a working cover letter and resume and will understand all aspects of proper interviewing techniques. Students will design and present a speech using new technology. Also, they will understand the advantages and disadvantages of social media as it applies to college and career aspirations.

Accounting**Grades: 11-12****Credits: 1**

Prerequisite: None

This course focuses on the fundamental principles and methods of accounting. Coursework includes the study of financial statements, terminology, ledgers, journals, budgets, payroll, accruals, automated accounting systems such as QuickBooks and the integration with Excel. Small business and personal accounting applications will be explored. This course is an excellent tool for all students interested in Accounting or Business. It is also an excellent course for young entrepreneurs or anyone wishing to manage their own money.

Computer Applications**Grades: 9-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: None

This course focuses on multiple software applications as well as a brief introduction to the computer's hardware configurations. Students will learn how a computer and network works. They will breakdown and rebuild an actual computer. Students will be introduced and work in the following applications Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Outlook and Publisher, and Google applications. As time permits, other software applications will be explored.

Intro to Web Design**Grades: 10-11****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: None

Students will design, draw and build web pages from scratch using hypertext markup language (HTML). They will learn to understand the purpose of the web site, navigation techniques, and who will use the website. Students will show an understanding of the computing environment, creativity, marketing strategies, and ecommerce when planning the web site.

Personal Finance**Grades: 11-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: None

Students will increase their understanding of personal finance concepts. They will develop critical thinking skills with respect to financial planning concepts. Also, Students will appreciate the awesome power of compound interest as both a friend and an enemy. Students will apply the knowledge gained to their personal financial situation. Students will become financially responsible adults who save regularly and use credit wisely.

Architectural Drawing**Grades: 10-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: None

Students will design, draw and build a scale model of a contemporary three bedroom home. Included is the bathroom, kitchen, living, and work space. Students will also study, design, build and test a bridge made of balsa wood. Students will also explore career opportunities to Architects and Draftsperson. It is one semester long.

Mechanical Drawing (CAD)**Grades: 10-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: None

Mechanical Drawing/ C.A.D. will introduce students to the basic operation of a computer aided drafting program named TurboCad. Students will generate, manipulate, and store 2-D and 3-D drawings. Students will visualize three dimensional objects and draw them in a two dimensional format, and vice versa. It is one semester long.

Photoshop**Grades: 11-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisites: none

Photoshop explores and provides a basic understanding of the program "Adobe Photoshop". Students study digital photography as well as the historical aspects of 35mm photography. This class focuses on fine art, illustration, photography and advertising as they pertain to digital medium.

Academic Enhancement Department Offerings

Academic Enhancement Program

Grades: 9-12

Credits: 1

Prerequisite: None

The Academic Enhancement Program is for students with a professionally diagnosed learning disability. This class is a guided study hall to help students with a learning disability find success in high school. The focus of this program is to teach organizational skills, test taking skills, prioritizing assignments, time management skills and study skills. The students progress through this program with a lot of support their freshmen year. The support is decreased each subsequent year so that by their senior year the support the students receive is as close as possible to the support and accommodations they will receive in college.

Transition Program

Grades: 9-12

Credits: 1

Prerequisite: None

The Transition Program is for students who need some extra help or support transitioning into high school; however these students do not have a diagnosed disability. This class is a guided study hall during first period every day, to help students find success in high school. The focus of this program is to teach organizational skills, test taking skills, prioritizing assignments, time management skills and study skills. The goal of this program is to give the students the tools that will carry them through their high school career, and into the future.

Visual and Performing Arts Offerings

Art I

Grade: 9-12

Credits: 1

Prerequisites: none

Art I builds a foundation for a dynamic four-year art program. It provides a basic understanding of line, shape, value, craftsmanship, and composition. Art I not only teaches art, it also teaches time management and self discipline.

Art II

Grades: 10-12

Credits: 1

Prerequisites: Art I or Art Appreciation (by recommendation)

Upon entering Art II students should have a strong understanding of the foundations of art. Art II builds upon the foundations of Art I by introducing conceptual theories. Students begin to consciously communicate personal issues through their artwork.

Art III**Grades: 11-12****Credits: 1**

Prerequisites: Art II

Art III is the most critical year in a four year program. This course concentrates not only on personal issues; it also confronts political, spiritual, and environmental issues that affect the students individually. Students at this point, have a strong grasp on the fundamentals of visual art. Students are pushed to go beyond what they feel they are capable of. Personal reflection and the development of a strong portfolio are the key goals of this course.

Art IV**Grades: 12****Credits: 1**

Prerequisites: Art III

Art IV is designed for the student planning to pursue a career in or relating to art. In Art IV, students will explore in depth what they have learned in Art I-III. For more advanced projects, each individual will be branching out on his/her own whether it is drawing, painting, sculpture or printmaking. Students will keep a personal journal and sketchbook to record their process and progress. Art IV students must complete some form of art-based community service.

Art Appreciation**Grades: 9-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisites: none

Art Appreciation is geared for the art novice. This class deals with the historical and social effects of art as well as learning the fundamentals of fine art. This class is intended to establish an appreciation and better understanding of the arts. Some students discover that they are talented and continue into Art I or Art II in sophomore year.

Digital Arts**Grades: 11-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisites: Photoshop

Digital Arts expands on what students learned in Photoshop. In this project driven class, students will use their acquired knowledge of Photoshop and digital photography to assist in the creation of the high school yearbook. Students in Digital Arts learn valuable lessons in photography, graphic design, editing, and the advanced use of Photoshop.

Film Studies**Grades: 12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: None

Students will be introduced to the techniques, history and innovators of film making, as well as write, produce, film and edit short films using a state of the art computer editing system. Students will watch historic and award winning films, their directors, as well as the films they made. It is one semester long.

Visual Art**Grades: 10-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: None

Students will understand how two-dimensional design affects them in a commercial world. Students will explore basic design elements and principals such as line, shape, and color and how their arrangement and value affects them subconsciously. Students will explore design color affects them in the decision in what they buy and wear. It is one semester long.

Acting I**Grades: 9-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: None

Designed as an exploration of the nature of the performance and the collaborative creative process, this course is an introduction to the art and craft of acting, focusing on the actor's inner and outer resources including physical and vocal response, concentration, imagination, and sensory awareness. This course also includes beginning level work on character creation through improvisation, performance, and script analysis. There is no requirement to participate in the school plays but it is encouraged.

Acting II**Grades: 9-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: Acting I or Teacher's approval

An advanced course in acting designed to increase the student's skills in character development and work within dramatic scenes. Coursework will include scene and monologue work in a variety of theatre genres and performance styles. Participation in school plays not mandatory but suggested.

Directing the Play**Grades: 11-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: Acting I or Teacher's approval

This course is an introduction to direction theory and practice. The course includes the function of the director, the production concept, textual analysis and techniques of directing. Students will direct a one-act play.

Musical Theatre**Grades: 10-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: None

A survey of the American musical theatre from about 1890 to present day. An overview of theatrical forms, including vaudeville, revues, operettas, and book musicals, from the turn of the century to now, with particular attention to the composers and lyricists of the period. Major works to be examined include *Showboat*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Oklahoma!*, *Damn Yankees*, *Hair*, *Godspell*, *Les Mis*, *Memphis* and others. This is not a performance class.

Theatre Arts**Grades: 10-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: None

The course charts the developments from the ancient Greek theatre through the 17th century across the globe using major plays as our focus. We will explore their context—when, where, and why they were written—the lives of the playwrights, and the culture of their society. With the Greeks our prime focus will be the nature of tragedy. Readings include Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*, Sophocles' *Oedipus at Colonus*, and *Antigone*. Moving forward in time, we view Hildegard, Marlowe, Shakespeare, Cervantes, Molière, Goethe, & Racine.

Theatrical Design**Grades: 10-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: None

Addresses imagination and creativity. Using the framework of theater production, students explore the process of translating a script into a performance. Topics include set, lighting and sound, costumes and makeup design. Students will work on designing elements for the plays & musical that year.

Beginning Instrumental**Grades: 10-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: Music Theory

Students have the opportunity to learn the basics of an instrument in a semester class setting. Students may choose from keyboard, guitar & voice. The basic skills, elementary repertoire, and technique will be examined. Music theory is a prerequisite. *May be retaken again to learn a different instrument.*

Music Appreciation**Grades: 9-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: None

This music course is designed to increase awareness, appreciation and skill in listening to, responding to, and analyzing a variety of music. Students will trace the development of Western music genres from their beginnings to present day through the exploration of composers' lives, and the historical and social contexts of the times. Videos of actual performances will enhance the students' knowledge of the sound and performance of those who were instrumental in today's music.

Music Theory**Grades: 10-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed for students who have a desire to learn the fundamentals of music in order to play an instrument. Music theory is the language that will allow you to communicate with other musicians. This course, based on freshman year music theory in college, will include: language of music, diatonic modes and scales, intervals, perfect and major intervals, solfege and transposition, understanding of diatonic harmonic progressions, the detailed analysis of music selections (including Roman numerals and chord symbols), the increased proficiency of sight singing and listening skills of music.

Photography**Grades: 11-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: Art Appreciation or Instructor Approval

Photography is a hands-on learning experience where students will learn how to see and capture their world through the lens. Students will be instructed in the proper use of cameras and in the basics of photography. Nikon DSLR cameras are provided for photography students to use during their time in the class.

Miscellaneous**Driver Safety****Grades: 10-11****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: None

Students develop practical knowledge and techniques to avoid traffic collisions and violations. They will learn to choose safe, responsible, and lawful driving behaviors and habits makes personal and financial sense. Student will learn factors one can control before driving, from emotions to vehicle maintenance, how to drive defensively in unpredictable conditions and how driver attitude and behavior can help prevent collisions and poor decision-making.

Public Speaking**Grades: 9-12****Credits: ½**

Prerequisite: None

Public Speaking is a skill needed for success in college, the workforce, and beyond. This course will focus on learning to address large or small audiences with intelligence and confidence through a series of speeches concluding with a mock trial. Some of the speeches covered are informative, demonstrative, extemporaneous & persuasive. Students will be required to develop topics, do thorough research and cite all sources. All elements of this course are designed to create a public speaker with poise, professionalism, and an engaging style of delivery. *Speech is an elective course and does not fulfill the graduation requirements for either the visual and performing arts or English.*