



St. John Paul II School

HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION

120 HIGH SCHOOL ROAD

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Course Description Book 2021 – 2022

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Mission Statements

Diocese of Fall River Catholic Schools

The Office of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Fall River is rooted in the gospel message of Jesus Christ. This message is carried out according to the authentic teachings of the Catholic Church in union with the Diocesan Bishop who is the Chief Teacher in the Diocese.

The Office of Catholic Schools works collaboratively with parochial and diocesan school communities to provide a faith centered, holistic, values-based Catholic school experience. Our students are educated and encouraged to live out their lives as vibrant and committed members of our Church, and – as persons of faith – to be responsible and contributing citizens of their community, our nation and the world.

We pledge:

- To assist families, the primary educators, and their children entrusted to our care.
- To work collaboratively with pastors, teachers and Catholic school administrators in fulfilling the Church's teaching and evangelizing mission in the Catholic schools of the Diocese.

St. John Paul II School

The school is a caring community that embodies the Gospel of Jesus Christ and teaches the faith and practices of the Catholic Church.

An educational ministry of the Diocese of Fall River, the school serves students and families of all faiths across Cape Cod, the Islands, and southeastern Massachusetts who seek distinctive co-educational middle and high school Catholic education. Through strong relationships and worthy example, the school recognizes students' gifts, develops their potential, and inspires their pursuit of truth through faith and reason..

General Information

The curriculum is designed to prepare all students for post-secondary education. Course levels are weighted to determine grade point averages. Some courses are not offered at all levels. Please consult the course descriptions for each department in this catalog for information about course level offerings.

The placement of students in appropriate levels is a collaborative process that reflects our desire to create the best possible academic experience for each student. The goal of level placement is to have each student sufficiently challenged by a rigorous academic program while ensuring that he/she has the aptitude and skills to be successful in the classroom.

Courses are offered at the following levels of depth and pace to address the needs of students with varying aptitudes and learning styles.

Advanced Placement: Advanced students are offered the opportunity to engage in college level study in several disciplines as part of the College Board's Advanced Placement Program. In order to participate, students must demonstrate superior aptitude and achievement and a willingness to commit to considerable independent study. Admission to these courses is by school recommendation and application. All students in these courses are required to take and pay the fee for the College Board Advanced Placement Examination. Some colleges award credit to those students who receive a satisfactory score on the examination.

AP Capstone Diploma Program: The AP Capstone program is offered by the College Board and centers around two courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. Through these courses, students learn critical thinking, research, collaboration, time management, and presentation skills. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing receive the AP Capstone Diploma, which is awarded by the College Board. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research but not on four additional AP Exams receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate.

Honors: Honors level courses are designed to challenge students who have demonstrated a high level of academic aptitude and achievement. The pace of instruction is rapid and topics are explored in greater depth than in the College Preparatory level. School recommendation is required for enrollment in honors courses. Students are expected to complete independent research, group work, and long term assignments. Assessments emphasize the development of critical thinking skills, originality and creativity, and the ability to make connections within the subject area as well as with other academic disciplines.

College Preparatory: This level provides students who have demonstrated above average/average aptitude and achievement with a thorough understanding of the fundamentals of the subject area and the application of concepts. Emphasis is placed on fine tuning skills as well as developing the capacity for more critical thinking. Students are expected to complete daily homework assignments as well as some long term assignments and projects. Frequent and varied assessments characterize this level.

College Preparatory 1: Emphasis is placed on developing a strong understanding of the course fundamentals, the capacity for independent and critical thinking, and the learning skills necessary for more advanced study. Daily homework is assigned to provide students with practice in working with new concepts, review of previously learned material, and structure in their learning process. Long-term assignments are frequently broken down into several components. This level is placed by school recommendation only.

Dual Enrollment: St. John Paul II School offers dual enrollment (DE) courses with Stonehill College. As college level courses, the DE courses require superior aptitude and achievement. Courses offered will vary from year to year. The college will provide an instructor for the course, which will be offered outside of regular JP2 school hours. Students will receive high school credit for a DE course and the course will be recorded on an official college transcript from Stonehill. Students may enroll for up to three credits in each academic semester, up to a maximum of six credits for the entire program. DE courses are intended for seniors and juniors. Students must pay a fee to enroll.

Graduation Requirements: To receive a diploma from St. John Paul II High School, students must earn a total of 26 credits in the following areas:

- English 4 Credits
- Theology 4 Credits
- Science 3 Credits
(3 Credits must be a laboratory science)
- Mathematics 3 Credits
- Social Studies 3 Credits
(1 Credit in World History and 2 in U.S. History)
- World Languages 3 Credits
(must be earned in the same language)
- Fine Arts 1 Credit
- Health .5 Credit
- Elective Courses 4.5 Credits
- Christian Service Program Additionally, successful completion of the school’s Christian Service Program is required for matriculation and graduation.

Grade Chart/ Quality Points: Letter grades are equivalent to the quality points listed below. Advanced Placement course grades receive a 1.15 multiplier; Honors course grades receive a 1.1 multiplier.

Grade	AP Courses	Honors Courses	CP Courses
A+	4.98	4.76	4.33
A	4.6	4.4	4
A-	4.22	4.04	3.67
B+	3.83	3.66	3.33
B	3.45	3.3	3
B-	3.07	2.94	2.67
C+	2.68	2.56	2.33
C	2.3	2.2	2
C-	1.92	1.84	1.67
D+	1.53	1.46	1.33
D	1.15	1.1	1
D-	0.77	0.74	0.67
F	0	0	0

Freshman Program

Students are required to enroll in a minimum of 6.5 credits during their freshman year. *Students may schedule no more than one study hall per year.*

English	Pre-AP English 1 (9)	CP English 9	
Theology	Scripture: The Revelation of Jesus Christ	Christology: Who is Jesus Christ?	
Sciences	Honors Chemistry	Pre-AP Biology	CP Biology
Mathematics	Honors Geometry	Honors/CP Algebra I	Honors Algebra II/ Trigonometry
Social Studies	Honors World History	CP World History	
World Languages	CP French I	CP Spanish I	ESL
	CP French II	CP Spanish II	
Arts	Foundations of Visual Arts	Strings Ensemble	Concert Choir
	Chamber Choir	Technical Theater	
Health & Physical Education	Health Science	Team Sports	
Other	Quiet Study		

Sophomore Program

Students are required to enroll in a minimum of 6.5 credits during their sophomore year. Students may schedule no more than one study hall per year.

English	Honors English 10	CP English 10	Creative Writing I, II
Theology	Church History	The Church: Jesus Christ's Mission Continues	
Sciences	Chemistry (Honors, CP)	CP Marine Science	CP Earth Science
STEM	CP Principles of Engineering		
Mathematics	Geometry (Honors, CP)	Honors Algebra II/ Trigonometry	CP Algebra II
Social Studies	Honors United States History I	CP United States History I	
World Languages	CP French II	CP Spanish II	ESL
	French III (Honors, CP)	Spanish III (Honors, CP)	
Arts	Foundations of Visual Arts	3-D Design	Chamber Choir
	Painting & Design I, II	Digital Media I, II	Technical Theater
	Advanced Drawing	Concert Choir	Strings Ensemble
Health & Physical Education	Team Sports		
Other	AP Seminar	Quiet Study	

Junior Program

Students are required to enroll in a minimum of 6.5 credits during their junior year. Students may schedule no more than one study hall per year.

English	AP Language & Composition	Honors English 11	CP English 11
	Creative Writing I, II	Creative Writing III (Independent Study)	
Theology	Sacraments: Privileged Encounters with Jesus Christ	Christian Morality: Life in Jesus Christ	
Sciences	AP Biology	Honors Anatomy & Physiology	CP Earth Science
	Chemistry (AP, Honors, CP)	Physics (AP, Honors, CP)	CP Marine Science
	Science Fair Practicum		
STEM	CP Principles of Engineering		
Mathematics	Precalculus (Honors, CP)	Honors Algebra II/ Trigonometry	CP Algebra II
	AP Statistics		
Social Studies	United States History II (AP, Honors, CP)	Psychology (Honors, CP)	Economics (Honors, CP)
World Languages	French III (Honors, CP)	Spanish III (Honors, CP)	ESL
	French IV (Honors, CP)	Spanish IV (Honors, CP)	
Arts	Foundations of Visual Arts	3-D Design	Chamber Choir
	Painting & Design I, II	Digital Media I, II	Technical Theater
	Advanced Drawing	Concert Choir	Strings Ensemble
Health & Physical Education	Team Sports		
Other	AP Computer Science Principles	AP Seminar	AP Research
	Quiet Study		

Senior Program

Students are required to enroll in a minimum of 6.5 credits during their senior year. Students may schedule no more than one study hall per year.

English	AP Literature & Composition	Honors English 12	CP English 12
	Creative Writing I, II	Creative Writing III (Independent Study)	
Theology	Social Justice: Living as Disciples of Jesus Christ	Mission & Evangelization: 21st Century	Catechetical Practicum
Sciences	AP Biology	Honors Anatomy & Physiology	CP Earth Science
	Chemistry (AP, Honors, CP)	Physics (AP, Honors, CP)	CP Marine Science
	CP Bioethics	Science Fair Practicum	
STEM	CP Principles of Engineering		
Mathematics	Calculus (AP, Honors, CP)	Precalculus (Honors, CP)	
	AP Statistics	CP College Mathematics	
Social Studies	AP United States Government & Politics	Psychology (Honors, CP)	Economics (Honors, CP)
World Languages	French IV (Honors, CP)	Spanish IV (Honors, CP)	ESL
	Honors French V	Honors Spanish V	
Arts	Foundations of Visual Arts	3-D Design	Concert Choir
	Painting & Design I, II	Independent Portfolio Design	Chamber Choir
	Advanced Drawing	Strings Ensemble	Technical Theater
	Digital Media I, II		
Health & Physical Education	Team Sports		
Other	AP Computer Science Principles	CP Introduction to Western Philosophy	AP Seminar
Honors Leadership Studies & Practicum	AP Research	CP Introduction to Political Philosophy	Quiet Study

English Program

CP ENGLISH 9: Introduction to Literature & Expository Writing

Year

1 Credit

Grade 9

Introduction to Literature serves as an introduction to the major content areas of high school English. The focus on literature is designed to expose students to a variety of literary forms, including poems and short stories. The full-length works explore various genres, including drama, novel, non-fiction, and autobiography. In writing, students practice the narrative, descriptive, expository, and persuasive modes to demonstrate original critical thinking skills reflecting their understanding of the works analyzed. Students will learn vocabulary and context skills, and experience a review of the fundamentals of grammar and syntax. Other skills that this class will allow students to work on include close-reading, MLA formatting, quiz and test preparation, proofreading and self-assessment, authenticating research, and technology skills specifically word processing, and slide and document formatting.

PRE-AP ENGLISH 1 (9)

Year

1 Credit

Grade 9

Req: School recommendation.

"Texts take center stage in the Pre-AP English classroom, inspiring and preparing all students for close, critical reading and analytical writing. This course trains the reader to observe the small details within a text to arrive at a deeper understanding of the whole. It also trains the reader to appreciate authors' sometimes subtle choices, developing an awareness of how words produce effects and how the conventions of the English language are used for both precision and style. As writers, students will focus first on crafting complex sentences, building this foundational skill; they will then move on to producing well-organized paragraphs and, as the year progresses, more sophisticated, longer-form analyses." (*Pre-AP English 1 Course Guide*, College Board, Fall 2018)

CP ENGLISH 10: World Literature

Year

1 Credit

Grade 10

World Literature exposes students to literature from around the world, expanding their worldview while improving writing, reading, and analytical skills. Students will read works from a multitude of time periods and cultures, responding to and synthesizing content, theme, and conventions. With this work students will connect cultures all around the world, taking note of similarities and evaluating differences. They will also describe and locate common themes and relate those themes to geographic, religious and cultural influences. Through reading literature that spans the globe, students will improve upon reading and writing skills, making connections to the world around them. Students will compile comparative and analytical essays, multimedia presentations, and projects that foster creativity, demonstrating how literature can break down boundaries and yield true understanding of moral and cultural truths.

HONORS ENGLISH 10: World Literature

Year

1 Credit

Grade 10

Req: School recommendation.

World Literature exposes students to literature from around the world, expanding their worldview while improving writing, reading, and analytical skills. Students will read works from a multitude of time periods and cultures, responding to and synthesizing content, theme, and conventions. Students at the Honors level are expected to deeply engage with the readings while reading at a faster pace, participate in in-depth discussions of the literature, and hone their writing skills throughout the year. With this work students will connect cultures all around the world, taking note of similarities and evaluating differences. They will also describe and locate common themes and relate those themes to geographic, religious and cultural influences. Through reading literature that spans the globe, students will improve upon reading and writing skills, making connections to the world around them. Students will compile comparative and analytical essays, multimedia presentations, and projects that foster creativity, demonstrating how literature can break down boundaries and yield true understanding of moral and cultural truths.

CP ENGLISH 11: American Literature

Year

1 Credit

Grade 11

The American Literature course explores a variety of American texts through which students learn close-reading and analysis skills. The purpose of the course is to enable students to write effectively and confidently in their college preparatory level courses across the curriculum. The students read both nonfiction and fiction works by American authors in order to achieve a higher level of learning and analysis. Students are instructed in the different forms and functions of rhetoric in order to analyze written works, as well as to write on various topics through argumentation, narration, exposition, and analytical writings. Students will continue to develop vocabulary and test taking skills while working toward mastery of language skills. An emphasis on standardized test-taking skills, the revision process, the conventions of language, and online research will all be integral parts of this course.

HONORS ENGLISH 11: American Literature

Year

1 Credit

Grade 11

Req: School recommendation.

The Honors American Literature course explores a variety of American texts through which students strengthen critical reading, thinking and writing skills. Students read and carefully analyze a variety of nonfiction and fiction, deepening their awareness of rhetoric and how language works. Through close reading exercises and frequent writing, students gain greater access to language and develop a greater awareness of purpose and strategy, enabling students to write effectively and confidently across the curriculum. Students examine and work with essays, letters, speeches, images and imaginative literature; and are instructed to write on various topics through argumentation, narration, exposition, and analytical writings. Students will continue to develop vocabulary, writing, and test taking skills while working toward mastery of language skills. An emphasis on standardized test-taking skills, the revision process, the conventions of language and online research will all be integral parts of this course.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH 11: Language and Composition

Year

1 Credit

Grade 11

Req: Successful completion of Honors English 10 or its equivalent, school recommendation, application process.

An AP English Language and Composition course cultivates the reading and writing skills that students need for college success and for intellectually responsible civic engagement. The course guides students in becoming curious, critical, and responsive readers of diverse texts, and becoming flexible, reflective writers of texts addressed to diverse audiences for diverse purposes. The reading and writing students do in the course should deepen and expand their understanding of how written language functions *rhetorically*: to communicate writers' intentions and elicit readers' responses in particular situations. The course cultivates the rhetorical understanding and use of written language by directing students' attention to writer/reader interactions in their reading and writing of various formal and informal genres (e.g., memos, letters, advertisements, political satires, personal narratives, scientific arguments, cultural critiques, research reports). Reading and writing activities in the course also deepen students' knowledge and control of formal conventions of written language (e.g., vocabulary, diction, syntax, spelling, punctuation, paragraphing, genre). The course helps students understand that formal conventions of the English language in its many written and spoken dialects are historically, culturally, and socially produced; that the use of these conventions may intentionally or unintentionally contribute to the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of a piece of writing in a particular rhetorical context; and that a particular set of language conventions defines Standard Written English, the preferred dialect for academic discourse.

N.B.: All students enrolled in this course are required to take the Advanced Placement Examination. Students must pay the fee associated with the AP exam.

CP ENGLISH 12

Year

1 Credit

Grade 12

CP English 12 focuses on the dual skills of critical analysis and composition in order to prepare students for college composition. Students will develop critical reading skills through the study of classic and contemporary fiction, nonfiction, essays and poetry. With an emphasis on analysis and synthesis, students learn to identify the rhetorical devices and strategies used by authors to convey their message. Students then learn to use those strategies themselves. With a focus on developing the kinds of critical thinking and writing skills that are valuable across a variety of careers and professions, students work on refining the elements of style and preparing for college writing expectations. Readings represent a variety of disciplines and genres. Writing is centered around the art of clear expository, argumentative, and persuasive papers.

HONORS ENGLISH 12

Year

1 Credit

Grade 12

Honors English 12 focuses on the dual skills of critical analysis and composition in order to prepare students for college composition. Students are challenged to think more comprehensively and abstractly about the works and ideas of modern society. Students will develop critical reading skills through the study of classic and contemporary fiction, nonfiction, essays and poetry. With an emphasis on analysis and synthesis, students learn to identify the rhetorical devices and strategies used by authors to convey their message, and then learn to use those strategies themselves. At the Honors level, students are expected to perfect and groom their academic voices in writing in any sphere or for any subject area. Readings represent a variety of disciplines and genres. Writing is centered around the art of clear expository, argumentative, and persuasive papers.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH 12: Literature and Composition

Year

1 Credit

Grade 12

Req: Successful completion of Honors English 11 or its equivalent, school recommendation.

AP Literature and Composition is designed to teach students college-level reading and writing skills, and follows the curricular requirements described by the College Board. Students will experience the equivalent undergraduate introduction to literature through this course. In signing up for this course, students will engage in a rigorous study of works both canonical and modern, will develop academic writing through extensive production and edit of analytical essays, and partake in, even lead, thorough intellectual discussions about literature. Students study and analyze drama, poetry, fiction, and non-fiction, including literary criticism, to further develop as skilled readers and writers. Students must assume considerable responsibility for their learning, as progress in this course depends heavily on work ethic. This course marks intensive study of literary works and their complexities, richness of meaning, historical context, and artistry. Students will experience, interpret, and evaluate how writers use language to provide meaning and answer life's "big questions." At the AP level, students will be asked not just "what" the author says, but "why" and "how" he or she does it.

N.B.: All students enrolled in this course are required to take the Advanced Placement Examination. Students must pay the fee associated with the AP exam.

CREATIVE WRITING I

Semester

½ Credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

Creative Writing I assumes competence in the basic writing forms: narration, persuasion, definition, description, analysis and exposition; and a genuine love and enthusiasm for written expression. Through an emphasis on critical and creative thinking and writing, students will improve upon their current skill level. The course employs a workshop format with revision and further revision as its mantra. Creative Writing uses daily submissions, participation in workshops, evidence of revision and a final portfolio as the primary modes of assessment.

CREATIVE WRITING II

Semester

½ Credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Creative Writing I, school recommendation.

Creative Writing II continues and builds upon the lessons, practices and production of Creative Writing I. Students can narrow their focus to a specific genre and extend the length and complexity of their prose or poetry. Daily submissions, participation in workshops, evidence of revision and a final portfolio will be the primary modes of assessment. *This course may be taken for elective credit only; it does not fulfill the general English requirement.*

CREATIVE WRITING III: Independent Study

Semester

½ Credit

Grades 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Creative Writing I & II, school recommendation.

This advanced level writing course is designed for students who wish to work seriously to develop their writing skills. Each student must develop a proposal for the independent study indicating the genre (or genres) of study, a reading list, and the intended final project. Once admitted, students will work with the instructor to develop a plan for the semester.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT SEMINAR

Year

1 Credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

Req: School recommendation, application process.

AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Offered as a World Literature course, AP Seminar uses an inquiry framework by which students will read works from a multitude of time periods and cultures to discover how literature can break down boundaries and yield true understanding of moral and cultural truths. At the AP level, students will additionally practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and foundational literary and philosophical texts that compliment the thematic concerns of the primary texts of study; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students will learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in research-based written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments. AP Seminar, in combination with AP Research and four other AP subject courses, can lead to an AP Capstone diploma.

N.B.: This course will replace English 10 for all Grade 10 students who enroll. All students enrolled in this course are required to take the Advanced Placement Examination. Students must pay the fee associated with the AP exam.

Fine Arts - Visual/Performing Arts Program

One (1) credit in Fine Arts is required for graduation.

FOUNDATIONS OF VISUAL ARTS

Semester ½ Credit Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

This course is designed for students of all levels. It is a survey course intended to expose students to several different mediums including charcoal, pastel, pen and ink, and pencil drawing. Art processes will be taught alongside lessons in art history. Students will be introduced to movements throughout the art world in addition to the basic techniques for handling chosen materials. Emphasis is placed on both the finished art “object” as well as the process of creating a piece of work. Students will participate in formal critiques of their peers’ work, and in doing so become familiar with art vocabulary. After completing this course, students are prepared for more advanced work in a specific focus area, including painting or graphic design.

PAINTING & DESIGN I

Semester ½ Credit Grades 10, 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Foundations of Visual Arts.

This course is designed for students who wish to further their knowledge of fine art. Basic color mixing is taught, including the color wheel and color harmonies. Experiences in selected media including acrylic paint, pastel, watercolor, charcoal, and printmaking are applied to abstract designs, still-life, landscapes, and the figure.

PAINTING & DESIGN II

Semester ½ Credit Grades 10, 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Foundations of Visual Arts, Painting & Design I.

Students will build upon the skills learned in Painting and Design I. Advanced subject matter, drawing, and painting media will facilitate the development of the individual student-artist. Drawing and painting skills will be reinforced and expanded.

ADVANCED DRAWING

Semester ½ Credit Grades 10, 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Foundations of Visual Arts.

This course is intended for the student who wishes to develop and strengthen his or her drawing skills. Advanced techniques in pencil, charcoal, conte, pastel, and colored pencil will be taught. Observational drawing skills will be emphasized alongside creative thinking and problem solving. Extensive outside of class sketchbook assignments will be an important part of the course. Students should take Foundations of Visual Arts before taking this class.

DIGITAL MEDIA I

Semester

½ Credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Foundations of Visual Arts.

This course is an introduction to creating artwork and graphic design projects using Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign. The class will cover artwork creation (digital photography, scanning original artwork, and creating vector-based drawings); art research (appropriate use of online photo resources); and graphic design (logos, ads, posters, publications, digital magazines, and other projects).

DIGITAL MEDIA II

Semester

½ Credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Digital Media I.

This course is a continuation of Digital Media. Students will work on higher-level photo editing and compositing with Photoshop, learn advanced rendering techniques with Illustrator, as well as create a digital art portfolio with InDesign, among other advanced projects. This course is meant for the digital art student who works well independently.

3-D DESIGN

Semester

½ Credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Foundations of Visual Arts.

This course is designed to develop three-dimensional skills in a variety of media. Students will complete sculptural works in paper, wire, clay, relief sculpture, fabric, and papier mache. Projects will have figurative, narrative, and abstract emphases. Students should take Foundations of Visual Arts before taking this class.

INDEPENDENT PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT

Semester

½ Credit

Grade 12

Req: School recommendation.

This independent study course will prepare the advanced visual art student for portfolio presentation at post-secondary art schools. This option is intended only for the serious art student desiring post-secondary art instruction.

STRINGS ENSEMBLE

Year

½ Credit

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Strings Ensemble provides an opportunity for violin, viola, and cello students to perform chamber music together as well as receive individual instruction. Students learn to play in a variety of styles including classical, sacred, fiddling and folk music, and also gain a basic understanding of music theory and music history.

CONCERT CHOIR

Year

½ Credit

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

This large Concert Choir is open to all students. It affords students the opportunity to sing both large choral classics, as well as more accessible, contemporary selections. Exposure to a wide variety of sacred and secular choral works is a priority. The Concert Choir tours annually, both locally and to places such as Broadway. Additionally, the Concert Choir sings monthly at Mass with our school. No previous singing experience is necessary; all aspects of singing and performing that are required will be taught to students as a part of this class.

CHAMBER CHOIR

Req: Audition Process, Enrollment in Concert Choir.

Year

No Credit

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

This is the most advanced voice and choir class at St. John Paul II High School. Admittance into this ensemble is by audition only. This Honors Choir will perform for numerous events throughout the year. Enrollment in the Concert Choir is required, and private voice lessons are highly recommended.

TECHNICAL THEATER

Semester

½ Credit

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

This class will focus on the fundamentals of technical theater, including set design and construction, lighting design and implementation, sound design and execution, as well as how to run a show, including the various technical theater roles and their appropriate and functional interaction. The correct and responsible use of state-of-the-art technical theater equipment, such as computer lighting boards, and digital sound boards is included in this course. Students enrolled in this class will be expected to perform as a part of the Tech Crew during all productions while in the class.

World Languages Program

A three-year/three (3) credit sequence in either French or Spanish is required. Students may take more than one language at the same time.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Year 1 Credit Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

This course supports students so that they may advance their English language skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) in order to succeed academically in their other classes at St. John Paul II High School, prepare for the TOEFL and other college entrance requirements, and navigate daily life in the United States.

CP FRENCH I

Year 1 Credit Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

This course introduces the French language through listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students learn basic vocabulary around a few topics and learn to apply it to real life through interactive games and role play situations. Students also learn about the customs and culture of French speaking countries. Classroom instruction is conducted mostly in the target language and students are expected to respond and converse in French using basic vocabulary expressions they have learned in class and eventually by creating their own sentence structures.

CP FRENCH II

Year 1 Credit Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of French I.

In this course, students will increase their oral, listening, reading and writing fluency. French II builds on the skills acquired in French I by extending their vocabulary, learning grammatical concepts behind their phrases, and by participating in activities such as extended role play dialogues based on assigned real life situations. Students will learn grammar and syntax structures that contribute to their self expression. They will expand their knowledge of the customs and culture of French speaking countries. Classroom instruction is conducted mostly in the target language and students are expected to respond and converse in French using expanded vocabulary and structures.

CP FRENCH III

Year 1 Credit Grades 10, 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of French II.

In the French III course, students continue to build on the skills developed in Levels I and II. Students will learn more sophisticated grammar concepts that contribute to their self expression. Students will participate in conversation groups, conduct debates, write compositions, read adapted literary works and be able to discuss and summarize the events in the target language. Classroom instruction is conducted mostly in French and students are expected to respond and converse in French using expanded vocabulary and structures.

HONORS FRENCH III

Year 1 Credit Grades 10, 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of French II, school recommendation.

In the French III course, students continue to build on the skills developed in Levels I and II. Students will learn more sophisticated grammar concepts that contribute to their self expression. Students will participate in conversation groups, conduct debates, write compositions, read adapted literary works and be able to discuss and summarize the events in the target language. Classroom instruction is conducted mostly in French and students are expected to respond and converse in French using expanded vocabulary and structures.

CP FRENCH IV

Year 1 Credit Grades 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of French III.

This course includes a comprehensive review of verbs, idioms and grammatical structures previously studied in French I through III to improve students’ oral and written competency in French. The course includes a strong focus on French spoken language and its formal variant, touches upon some historical figures and literary works, and deals with modern life and mass media. Students are required to read and interpret current news articles, modern songs, modern and classical literature. Students will frequently participate in conversation groups, write mini compositions and be able to discuss and summarize course content in the target language. Classroom instruction is conducted in French and students are expected to respond and converse in French using expanded vocabulary and structures.

HONORS FRENCH IV

Year 1 Credit Grades 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of French III, school recommendation.

This course includes a comprehensive review of verbs, idioms and grammatical structures previously studied in French I through III to improve students’ oral and written competency in French. The course includes a strong focus on French spoken language and its formal variant, touches upon some historical figures and literary works, and deals with modern life and mass media. Students are required to read and interpret current news articles, modern songs, modern and classical literature. Students will frequently participate in conversation groups, write mini compositions and be able to discuss and summarize course content in the target language. Classroom instruction is conducted in French and students are expected to respond and converse in French using expanded vocabulary and structures. Students at the Honors level are expected to show a higher level of proficiency than the CP level.

HONORS FRENCH V

Year 1 Credit Grade 12

Req: Successful completion of French IV, school recommendation.

This is a literature and cinematography course that uses the combined skills acquired in French I-IV to study and understand French works, formal and informal language styles, interpret actions of characters through cultural and historical prism. Students will have daily reading and writing assignments and will watch authentic French newscasts to be versed in current affairs. The focus is to create a “francophone environment” in which students ask questions, give answers and debate certain topics entirely in French.

CP SPANISH I

Year

1 Credit

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

This course introduces students to the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing with an emphasis on authentic communication. Classes are conducted mostly in Spanish and students respond and converse in Spanish using basic vocabulary and grammatical structures. Students are provided opportunities within the classroom to communicate orally in Spanish with their peers. Students are also introduced to various cultures of the Spanish speaking world through readings, realia, art, popular sayings, photographs, games, music and literature. Listening will be practiced through contemporary and pop music, audio, video, and other content that supplements the course material.

CP SPANISH II

Year

1 Credit

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Spanish I.

This course expands upon the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Classroom instruction is in Spanish and students are expected to respond and converse in Spanish using expanded vocabulary and grammatical structures. Students will do more extensive readings and creative writing. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the cultures of various Spanish speaking places by making presentations on Hispanic culture, history and geography. Listening will be practiced through contemporary and pop music, audio, video, and other content that supplements the course material.

CP SPANISH III

Year

1 Credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Spanish II.

This course begins with a review of grammatical structures presented in Spanish I and II and introduces new vocabulary within the context of conversation, reading, and writing. Students are introduced to higher-level grammatical structures, including the subjunctive mood, while mastering previously learned tenses and grammar. Students will expand their understanding of Latino and Hispanic cultures through art, videos, and short stories. Students are expected to write short compositions and give oral presentations on topics within their experience using vocabulary and structures being studied. Students are expected to progress to use only Spanish in all classroom activities.

HONORS SPANISH III

Year

1 Credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Spanish II, school recommendation.

This course begins with a review of grammatical structures presented in Spanish I and II and introduces new vocabulary within the context of conversation, reading, and writing. Students are introduced to higher-level grammatical structures, including the subjunctive mood, while mastering previously learned tenses and grammar. Students will expand their understanding of Latino and Hispanic cultures through art, videos, and short stories. Students are expected to write short compositions and give oral presentations on topics within their experience using vocabulary and structures being studied. Students are expected to progress to use only Spanish in all classroom activities. Students at the Honors level are expected to show a higher level of proficiency.

CP SPANISH IV

Year

1 Credit

Grades 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Spanish III, school recommendation.

This course reinforces the basic grammar and vocabulary learned in Spanish I-III and gives the student an understanding and working ability of more complex grammatical constructions. At the same time, it builds upon vocabulary and structures that are presented and their relation to real-life situations of student experiences in education, the workplace, and study abroad. Students work to improve proficiency of the Spanish language and expand their understanding of Latino/Hispanic cultures through authentic reading selections, which cover classic literature, modern journal-writing, and essays. We will also view a number of films in Spanish to improve their understanding of the language and to gain further insight into the history and cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Students are expected to use only Spanish in all classroom activities.

HONORS SPANISH IV

Year

1 Credit

Grades 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Spanish III, school recommendation.

This course reinforces the basic grammar and vocabulary learned in Spanish I-III and gives the student an understanding and working ability of more complex grammatical constructions. At the same time, it builds upon vocabulary and structures that are presented and their relation to real-life situations of student experiences in education, the workplace, and study abroad. Students work to improve proficiency of the Spanish language and expand their understanding of Latino/Hispanic cultures through authentic reading selections, which cover classic literature, modern journal-writing, and essays. We will also view a number of films in Spanish to improve their understanding of the language and to gain further insight into the history and cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Students are expected to use only Spanish in all classroom activities. Students at the Honors level are expected to show a higher level of proficiency.

HONORS SPANISH V

Year

1 Credit

Grade 12

Req: Successful completion of Spanish IV, school recommendation.

This course reinforces the extensive grammar learned in previous levels and gives the student a working ability of more complex grammatical constructions. At the same time, it builds upon vocabulary and their relation to real-life situations of student experiences in education and the workplace. Students will demonstrate fluency in the target language and will be exposed to a wide range of literary selections from Spain, Latin America, and the United States. Students will view a number of films in Spanish to improve their understanding of the language and to gain further insights into the history and cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Students are required to use Spanish in all classroom activities (written and spoken).

Mathematics Program

Three (3) credits in Mathematics are required for graduation. However, as a college-preparatory school, four years of mathematics are highly recommended.

CP ALGEBRA I

Year 1 Credit Grade 9

This course is the standard course for the majority of students. Emphasis is placed on acquiring a solid knowledge of the fundamentals of algebra. Topics include: uses of algebra, operations with real numbers, solving equations, equations and inequalities, graphing relations and functions, systems of equations, inequalities, exponents and polynomials, rational expressions, word problems with rational expressions, radicals, and quadratic functions and equations.

HONORS ALGEBRA I

Year 1 Credit Grade 9

Req: Requires school recommendation.

This course is intended for students with strong mathematics ability who are looking for a solid foundation in Algebra I so that they will be prepared for future honors and AP level courses. Topics include: operations with real numbers, order of operations, solving equations and inequalities, absolute values, exponents and polynomials, factoring, systems of equations, coordinate geometry, rational expressions, word problems, radicals, and quadratic functions and equations.

CP GEOMETRY

Year 1 Credit Grades 9, 10

Req: Successful completion of Algebra I. Grade 9 requires school recommendation.

This course is the standard grade 10 course for the majority of students. Emphasis is on exploring geometric relationships using algebraic techniques. The use of deductive reasoning and proof is introduced. Major topics include coordinate geometry, congruence, inequalities, perpendicularity, parallel lines, area of polygons, right triangles, similarity, circles, area of circles and sectors, surface area, and volume. Students will work with computer technology to explore geometric concepts. Incoming freshmen who have successfully completed a solid Algebra I course to include quadratic equations may take this course.

HONORS GEOMETRY

Year 1 Credit Grades 9, 10

Req: Successful completion of Algebra I. Grade 9 requires school recommendation.

This course is intended for the student with superior mathematical ability who has successfully completed a solid Algebra I course in 8th grade. Emphasis is on exploring geometric relationships using algebraic techniques. The course integrates plane and solid geometry. The use of deductive reasoning and proof is stressed especially in the first semester. Major topics include coordinate geometry, congruence, inequalities, perpendicularity, parallelism, area of polygons, right triangles, similarity, circles, area of circles and sectors, surface area and volume. Students will work with computer technology to explore geometric concepts. Students are expected to maintain a 'C+' average or better to remain in the class during the school year.

CP ALGEBRA II

Year

1 Credit

Grades 10, 11

Req: Successful completion of Geometry.

This course is the continuation of the Algebra I course. After a brief review of Algebra I, students will cover topics such as: polynomial equations and inequalities, exponents and radicals, factoring, quadratic and inverse functions, function applications, transformations of graphs, polynomial functions, rational expressions, rational functions and inequalities, and complex numbers.

HONORS ALGEBRA II & TRIGONOMETRY

Year

1 Credit

Grades 10, 11

Req: Successful completion of Geometry, school recommendation.

This course is the continuation of the honors sequence in math for the students that took Honors Geometry. Students will be required to work at a fast pace and in depth. Major topics include: solutions of polynomial equations and inequalities, exponents and radicals, factoring, quadratic and inverse functions, function applications, analytic geometry, transformations of graphs, polynomial functions, rational expressions, rational functions and inequalities, and complex numbers. Topics in trigonometry include trigonometric functions, inverse functions, radian measure, identities and trigonometric equations. A graphing calculator is required.

CP PRECALCULUS

Year

1 Credit

Grades 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of CP Algebra II or Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry and Geometry.

This course will not be as rigorous as Honors Precalculus but it will cover many of the same topics. Topics to be covered are polynomial functions, conic sections, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometry, analytic geometry and complex numbers. Graphing calculators are required.

HONORS PRECALCULUS

Year

1 Credit

Grades 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Honors Algebra II/ Trigonometry and Honors Geometry.

This course is a study of functions and topics in precalculus. Topics to be covered are polynomial functions, conic sections, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometry, analytic geometry and complex numbers. Graphing calculators are required.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT STATISTICS

Year

1 Credit

Grade 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Honors Precalculus, school recommendation, application process.

The purpose of the AP course in statistics is to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes: 1. Exploring Data: Describing patterns and departures from patterns. 2. Sampling and Experimentation: Planning and conducting a study. 3. Anticipating Patterns: Exploring random phenomena using probability and simulation. 4. Statistical Inference: Estimating population parameters and testing hypotheses. Students who successfully complete the course and exam may receive credit, advanced placement or both for a one-semester introductory college statistics course. Because this is an AP course it will require more out-of-class work than non-AP courses. Graphing calculators are required, preferably TI 84 Plus.

N.B.: All students enrolled in this course are required to take the Advanced Placement Examination. Students must pay the fee associated with the AP Exam.

CP COLLEGE MATHEMATICS

Year

1 Credit

Grades 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of CP Algebra II or Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry.

This is a course designed for College Bound Seniors in preparation for the college level math classes they will be expected to take as freshmen. Topics from Algebra I & II, Geometry, and Probability and Statistics will be covered and expanded upon to create a strong foundation of important mathematical skills. Examples of some topics include: Plotting Data and creating scatter and line plots, working with formulas and various variables to solve applications, probability, plotting data and analyzing it using statistics, logarithms and related problems, geometric applications etc.

CP CALCULUS

Year

1 Credit

Grade 12

Req: Successful completion of Precalculus.

This course is similar to Honors Calculus but covers the material in less depth. The differentiation and integration of algebraic and transcendental functions with applications are the major topics. A graphing calculator is mandatory.

HONORS CALCULUS

Year

1 Credit

Grade 12

Req: Successful completion of Honors Precalculus, school recommendation.

This course follows the guidelines set by the College Board and is equivalent to almost one semester of college level calculus. The differentiation and integration of algebraic and transcendental functions with applications are the major topics. This course is less rigorous than AP Calculus. A graphing calculator is mandatory.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS AB

Year

1 Credit

Grade 12

Req: Successful completion of Honors Precalculus, school recommendation, application process.

This course is designed to be equivalent to an introductory college course in calculus. Topics begin with a quick review of inequalities, absolute value and algebraic functions. New topics include: limits, differentiation, mean value theorem, curve tracing, extreme value problems, related rates problems, integration, area under and between curves, volumes of solids of revolution by disc and shell methods, and elementary differential equations. This course requires more out-of-class work than non-AP courses. Graphing calculators are required, preferably TI 84 Plus.

N.B.: All students enrolled in this course are required to take the Advanced Placement Examination. Students must pay the fee associated with the AP Exam.

CP PRINCIPLES OF ENGINEERING

Semester

½ Credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

Principles of Engineering is designed for students who desire to learn the practical aspects of engineering. Principles of Engineering focuses on a hands-on, practical approach to learning engineering principles. The course includes 8-10 labs addressing a range of engineering disciplines such as electrical, mechanical, chemical, etc., and will involve subjects such as thermodynamics, robotics, and power systems.

N.B.: This course may count as one-half Science or Mathematics credit.

Health and Physical Education Program

One-half credit of Health is required for graduation.

HEALTH SCIENCE

Semester

½ Credit

Grade 9

Health education is a social science that draws from the biological, environmental, psychological, physical and medical sciences to promote health and prevent disease. Students will use a skills-based approach to empower them to maintain and enhance their health and wellness. They will develop the skills, attitudes, and knowledge necessary for being health literate.

This program correlates with the National Health Standards, the Diocesan Health Curriculum, is aligned with the Mass Health Frameworks, and addresses the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's six priority health-risk behaviors of youth.

The course content includes Nutrition, Mental and Emotional Health, Healthy Relationships, Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs, Violence Prevention, Injury Prevention and Safety, Disease Control and Prevention, Human Reproduction, HIV/AIDS and other STDs.

Health is required for graduation.

TEAM SPORTS

Semester

½ Credit

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Participation in a St. John Paul II High School team sport earns physical education credit. The following requirements exist for this credit to be issued:

- Students must complete the entire season as a bona fide team member (team managers will not receive credit).
- Athletes injured during the season may receive credit at the discretion of the Athletic Director.
- All athletes must have proof of recently (13 months) completed physical exams and completed MIAA physical exam forms on file with the School Office.
- The Athletic Director will issue pass/fail grades at the end of the sports season.
- A maximum of ½-credit may be earned in any one academic year, regardless of the number of team sports.
- Team sports shall be defined by the school. Cheerleading meets the Team Sports definition.

Science Program

Three (3) credits are required for graduation. However, as a college-preparatory school, four years of science are highly recommended. Biology and Chemistry must be completed.

CP BIOLOGY

Year 1 Credit Grade 9

Biology is a required, laboratory-based course for all freshmen. It is designed to use scientific inquiry as a problem-solving approach to understand how living systems function and interact with their physical environment. Topics include biochemistry; cells; genetics; evolution; diversity and adaptations of organisms; and ecology.

PRE-AP BIOLOGY

Year 1 Credit Grade 9

Req: School recommendation.

“Pre-AP Biology sparks student motivation and critical thinking about our living world as they engage in real-world data analysis and problem solving. Through the Areas of Focus, students engage deeply with science practices to construct and refine their biological knowledge and strengthen their cross-disciplinary reading, writing, and mathematical skills as they analyze data. Pre-AP Biology fosters student growth as they make meaningful connections among the structures, processes, and interactions that exist within and across living systems—from cells to ecological communities. Pre-AP Biology motivates students to be active participants in analyzing real-world phenomena and to collaborate productively with their peers in dialogue, investigations, and problem solving.” (*Pre-AP Biology Course Guide*, College Board, Fall 2018)

ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY

Year 1 Credit Grades 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Pre-AP or Honors Biology and Honors Chemistry, school recommendation, application process; minimum grade of B+ in Chemistry and Biology.

AP Biology is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester college introductory biology course usually taken by biology majors during their first year. The two main goals of AP Biology are to help students develop a conceptual framework for modern biology and an appreciation of science as a process. Essential to the conceptual understanding of AP Biology topics, students will grasp science as a process rather than as an accumulation of facts, have personal experience in scientific inquiry, recognize the unifying themes that integrate major topics of biology, and apply biological knowledge and critical thinking to environmental and social concerns. Extra class time is required weekly throughout the year.

N.B.: All students enrolled in this course are required to take the Advanced Placement Examination. Students must pay the fee associated with the AP Exam.

CP MARINE SCIENCE

Year

1 Credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Biology.

Marine Science is a laboratory based course designed to provide the student with a practical overview of the physical, chemical, biological, and ecological aspects of the marine environment.

The course includes the following topics: plate tectonics and the origins of the oceans; chemical, physical, and geological aspects of the marine environment; ocean technologies and equipment; characteristics of the major marine ecosystems; characteristics of the major marine phyla; marine communities and fisheries management; and the impact of humans on the marine environment.

Laboratory exercises include: regular use of field sampling equipment and instrumentation for data collection and analysis of the marine environment; physiology and anatomy of marine organisms to relate form and function; and setup, maintenance and operation of marine aquaria.

The course includes monthly sampling of Hyannis Harbor, guest speakers, and possible field trips to scientific institutions on Cape Cod.

CP CHEMISTRY

Year

1 Credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Biology.

CP Chemistry is an introductory course in the principles of chemistry. This course includes a qualitative and quantitative examination of the composition and subsequent reactions of matter.

Topics include properties of matter, atomic structure, periodicity, nuclear chemistry, chemical bonding, chemical reactions, and stoichiometry. Class discussion is supplemented by laboratory investigations. Skills, techniques and concepts are taught which will prepare students to excel in a college-level science curriculum. A scientific calculator is required.

HONORS CHEMISTRY

Year

1 Credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Biology and school recommendation.

Honors Chemistry is an advanced introductory course in the principles of chemistry. Topics of the course include properties of matter, atomic structure and nuclear chemistry, periodicity, chemical bonding, chemical reactions and stoichiometry, states of matter, solutions, acids and bases, and kinetics. Students will receive challenging textbook and laboratory assignments. Skills, techniques and concepts are taught which will prepare students to excel in a college-level science curriculum. Students are expected to be more self-disciplined and self-directed during laboratory exercises and independent assignments. Advanced critical thinking, reading, and writing skills are necessary for success in this course. A scientific calculator is required.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CHEMISTRY

Year

1 Credit

Grades: 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Honors Chemistry and Algebra II with grades of B+ or above in each; current math and science teacher recommendation; application process. Physics is not a prerequisite for AP Chemistry, but students are strongly encouraged to take Physics concurrently or the following year.

AP Chemistry is designed to be the equivalent of an introductory chemistry course usually taken during the first college year. It focuses on promoting enduring, conceptual understandings of Chemistry and the content that supports them, and will expose students to fundamental laboratory techniques used in college chemistry courses. Students will spend less time on factual recall and more time on inquiry-based learning of essential concepts, and will develop the reasoning, laboratory, and writing skills necessary to engage in science practices. Illustrative examples and laboratory experiences are provided that allow students to achieve a deep understanding of content. Students will also develop skills such as designing plans for collecting data, analyzing data, applying mathematical models, connecting concepts in and across domains, and effectively communicating results.

Topics include matter; atomic structure and quantum mechanics; bonding and intermolecular forces; chemical reactions, solutions, and stoichiometry; thermochemistry and thermodynamics; kinetics; general and solubility equilibrium; acid-base equilibrium; gases and kinetic-molecular theory; oxidation and reduction reactions; electrochemistry.

N.B.: All students enrolled in this course are required to take the Advanced Placement Examination. Students must pay the fee associated with the AP Exam.

HONORS ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY

Year

1 Credit

Grades 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Chemistry or concurrently enrolled, school recommendation.

A cooperative study of the human body, this course aims to develop an understanding of and appreciation for the relationship between structure and function in the human body, focusing on the structure and function of body systems. Laboratory investigations, including dissections, follow class discussions. Topics include cell organization, tissues, and a survey of the major human organ systems. Homeostatic mechanisms and application to clinical situations will be emphasized.

CP EARTH SCIENCE

Year

1 Credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Biology.

Students will explore four branches within the study of Earth Science: Geology, Oceanography, Meteorology and Astronomy. Students will perform many practical classwork activities including forecasting weather, identifying rocks and minerals through examining rock samples, ground water modeling, locating and measuring earthquake activity, energy sources and alternatives, and researching tornado and hurricane storm movement. The course will also help students develop laboratory skills needed to collect and analyze data.

CP PHYSICS

Year

1 Credit

Grades 11, 12

Req.: Successful completion of Algebra II or Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry

This course provides students with a core foundation in Physics, the branch of science that studies the interactions of matter, space, time, and energy. Students discover how the universe works at a basic level. Topics will extend from classical Newtonian physics to modern physics: units including Motion and Forces, Conservation of Energy and Momentum, and some special topics. Students will use math to solve problems. Laboratory exercises will explore core physics concepts (i.e. kinematics, energy), as well as develop their scientific research skills, and understanding of 21st century science and technology.

HONORS PHYSICS

Year

1 Credit

Grade 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Algebra II/Trigonometry with minimum grade of B+ and current math teacher and science teacher recommendation; school recommendation.

This course is an introduction to physics. The course will consist of a study of the relationship of matter and energy, allowing students to discover the workings of the universe at the most basic level. The topics covered in the course include: the mechanics of motion, gravity, and the conservation of energy and momentum. Other topics of study include thermodynamics, wave motion (mechanical, light, and sound), electricity, magnetism, and modern physics (atomic and nuclear). Students will supplement their learning with laboratory experiments. This course will have a high level of critical thinking components (problem solving) and will assume strength in mathematics.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PHYSICS 1

Year

1 Credit

Grade 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Honors Physics, Algebra II/Trigonometry and Pre-Calculus with minimum grades of B+ in each course; school recommendation, application process.

AP Physics is designed to be equivalent to the first semester of an introductory college-level algebra/trigonometry-based physics course. As AP Physics is taught over a full school year, there is time for thorough, in-depth, student-centered inquiry activities that give the students some flexibility and control over how they learn the course curriculum. Students will spend upwards of 25% of instructional time completing laboratory activities, usually in groups of two or three. The majority of lab activities begin with open-ended questions that guide students to develop their own approach to addressing the problem at hand. Next to lab investigations, peer-group problem solving will occupy a significant amount of in-class time, allowing the students to work collaboratively to reach a solution. The goal is to have each student develop the problem-solving skills necessary in this branch of science. Topics include kinematics; Newton's Laws of Motion/dynamics; work; energy; power; linear momentum; angular motion; gravitation; simple harmonic motion; waves; sound; electrostatics; and simple circuits.

N.B.: All students enrolled in this course are required to take the Advanced Placement Examination. Students must pay the fee associated with the AP Exam.

BIOETHICS

Semester

½ Credit

Grades 11, 12

Bioethics is an introductory course which examines the Catholic Church's moral teachings regarding the use of current and emerging advances in biomedicine and biotechnology. Specific areas of study include beginning-of-life issues, end-of-life issues, biotechnology, and medicine. The course is premised on the dignity and value of all persons from conception to natural death as affirmed in St. John Paul II's 1995 encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (Gospel of Life). The course will emphasize the use of faith and reason to comprehend the ethical dilemmas arising from real-world bioethical issues.

CP PRINCIPLES OF ENGINEERING

Semester

½ Credit

Grades 10, 11, 12

Principles of Engineering is designed for students who desire to learn the practical aspects of engineering. Principles of Engineering focuses on a hands-on, practical approach to learning engineering principles. The course includes 8-10 labs addressing a range of engineering disciplines such as electrical, mechanical, chemical, etc., and will involve subjects such as thermodynamics, robotics, and power systems.

N.B.: This course may count as one-half Science or Mathematics credit.

HONORS SCIENCE FAIR PRACTICUM

Semester

½ Credit

Grades 11, 12

In this science practicum, students will propose and design an experiment, conduct the experiment, analyze data, write research proposals, papers, and presentations, and gain valuable experience in independent STEM research under the guidance of knowledgeable faculty. It is expected that students will utilize best science and engineering practices, learn how to independently design and troubleshoot science or engineering designs and experiments, and gain experience presenting their research in a variety of settings at the local, regional, and state level.

N.B.: All students enrolled in this course must participate in the school science fair and, if their projects are selected, in the regional and state science fairs.

Social Studies Program

A three-year/three (3) credit program in Social Studies (1 year of World History and 2 years of United States History) is required for graduation.

HONORS WORLD HISTORY

Year 1 Credit Grade 9

This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the formation of world civilizations from the early centuries up to the late nineteenth century. The course traces the development of societies in Asia, Africa, and Europe, and concludes with the age of industrialism and imperialism. Students will be taught historical thinking skills, such as interpreting primary sources, analyzing arguments, and writing essays based on historical evidence. While similar in content to College Prep World History, topics will be covered in greater depth and with special emphasis on critical reasoning skills.

CP WORLD HISTORY

Year 1 Credit Grade 9

This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the formation of world civilizations from the early centuries up to the late nineteenth century. The course traces the development of societies in Asia, Africa, and Europe, and concludes with the age of industrialism and imperialism. Students will be taught historical thinking skills, such as interpreting primary sources, analyzing arguments, and writing essays based on historical evidence.

CP UNITED STATES HISTORY I

Year 1 Credit Grade 10

This course surveys the beginnings and growth of the United States as reflected in key political, social, economic, and cultural events from pre-Columbian societies to the Civil War. The course will focus on the founding of the American colonies, independence of the United States, development of the early U.S. government, and westward expansion. The course will also study the formation and development of United States government and politics, including contemporary American civics. Students will be taught historical thinking skills, such as interpreting primary sources, analyzing arguments, and writing essays based on historical evidence.

HONORS UNITED STATES HISTORY I

Year 1 Credit Grade 10

Req: School recommendation.

This course surveys the beginnings and growth of the United States as reflected in key political, social, economic, and cultural events from pre-Columbian societies to the Civil War. The course will focus on the founding of the American colonies, independence of the United States, development of the early U.S. government, and westward expansion. The course will also study the formation and development of United States government and politics, including contemporary American civics. Students will be taught historical thinking skills, such as interpreting primary sources, analyzing arguments, and writing essays based on historical evidence. While similar in content to College Prep US History, topics will be covered in greater depth and with special emphasis on critical reasoning skills.

CP UNITED STATES HISTORY II

Year

1 Credit

Grade 11

This course is a continuation of CP United States History I taken in Grade 10. This course surveys the growth and development of the United States as reflected in key political, social, economic, and cultural events starting with the Civil War and continuing to the present. Topics include: the Civil War, Reconstruction, causes and consequences of the Industrial Revolution, Progressive Movement, the New Deal, WWII, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War era, and recent American history. Students will be taught historical thinking skills, such as interpreting primary sources, analyzing arguments, and writing essays based on historical evidence.

HONORS UNITED STATES HISTORY II

Year

1 Credit

Grade 11

Req: School recommendation.

This course is a continuation of United States History I taken in Grade 10. This course surveys the growth and development of the United States as reflected in key political, social, economic, and cultural events starting with the Civil War and continuing to the present. Topics include: the Civil War, Reconstruction, causes and consequences of the Industrial Revolution, Progressive Movement, the New Deal, WWII, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War era, and recent American history. Students will be taught historical thinking skills, such as interpreting primary sources, analyzing arguments, and writing essays based on historical evidence. While similar in content to College Prep US History, topics will be covered in greater depth and with special emphasis on critical reasoning skills.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES HISTORY II

Year

1 Credit

Grade 11

Req: School recommendation, application process.

This course is a continuation of United States History I taken in Grade 10. This course is for students with superior verbal ability and a strong interest in history. It requires high motivation and an ability to write cogently, coherently, and analytically. Students must also be able to acquire knowledge from varied sources as necessary. The course requires extensive reading assignments and numerous papers and essays. The course surveys the key political, social, economic, and cultural events from the Civil War to the present. The areas of concentration include: The development of the Constitution, the Jacksonian Era, the Civil War, the Reconstruction, the Populist & Progressive Movements, WWI, the Twenties, the Great Depression, the New Deal, WWII, the Cold War and its aftermath, and recent American history.

N.B.: All students enrolled in this course are required to take the Advanced Placement Examination. Students must pay the fee associated with the AP exam.

CP ECONOMICS

Semester

½ Credit

Grades 11, 12

Economics is a semester-long course that will give students a broad understanding of economics, ranging from the study of individual consumers and business owners (microeconomics) to the national economy (macroeconomics). The course will focus on the law of supply and demand, money and prices, types of businesses, labor unions, the business cycle, and the government's influence on the economy. Other topics for discussion will include stock markets, comparative economic systems, and the impact of political and social decisions on the economy. Students will also learn basic basic personal finance information.

HONORS ECONOMICS

Semester

½ Credit

Grades 11, 12

Economics is a semester-long course that will give students a broad understanding of economics, ranging from the study of individual consumers and business owners (microeconomics) to the national economy (macroeconomics). The course will focus on the law of supply and demand, money and prices, types of businesses, labor unions, the business cycle, and the government's influence on the economy. Other topics for discussion will include stock markets, comparative economic systems, and the impact of political and social decisions on the economy. Students will also learn basic basic personal finance information. The Honors level course will have a more intensive study than the College Prep level course.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Year

1 Credit

Grade 12

Req: School recommendation, application process.

This course is an intensive study of the U.S. Government structure, systems and political processes, focusing on constitutional structures and foundations. Students will study the structure, functions, and powers of government at the national level. Through the study of U.S. Government and Politics, students will continue to develop their reading, writing, and critical thinking skills that will provide value in other academic disciplines and provide enduring skills for life beyond high school. This course is for students with superior verbal ability and a strong interest in government, politics, and history.

N.B.: All students enrolled in this course are required to take the Advanced Placement Examination. Students must pay the fee associated with the AP exam.

CP PSYCHOLOGY

Semester

½ Credit

Grades 11, 12

Psychology is the study of individual human behavior and this course will be a survey of the theories, experiments and categories associated with that study. Students will gain a deeper understanding of human development and be expected to keep with the readings and projects assigned. Throughout the course various psychological concepts and theories will be studied. Some of these include: learning, intelligence, child development, personality, abnormal behavior, treatment, and therapies.

HONORS PSYCHOLOGY

Semester

½ Credit

Grades 11, 12

Req: School recommendation.

Psychology is the study of individual human behavior and this course will be a survey of the theories, experiments and categories associated with that study. Students will gain a deeper understanding of human development and be expected to keep with the readings and projects assigned. Throughout the course various psychological concepts and theories will be studied. Some of these include: learning, intelligence, child development, personality, abnormal behavior, treatment, and therapies. The Honors level course will have a more intensive level of study than the College Prep level course.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT RESEARCH

Year

1 Credit

Grades 11, 12

Req: School recommendation, application process.

AP Research, the second course in the AP Capstone experience, allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue, or idea of individual interest. Students design, plan, and implement a yearlong investigation to address a research question. Through this inquiry, they further the skills they acquired in the AP Seminar course by learning research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information. Students reflect on their skill development, document their processes, and curate the artifacts of their scholarly work through a process and reflection portfolio. The course culminates in an academic paper of 4,000-5,000 words (accompanied by a performance, exhibit, or product where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense.

N.B.: All students enrolled in this course are required to take the Advanced Placement Examination. Students must pay the fee associated with the AP exam.

Theology Program

Four (4) credits are required for graduation. The Theology program is at the heart of the mission of a Catholic school. Theology courses are required for each of the eight semesters - one course per semester (two per year), five days a week. All Theology courses are consistent with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Curriculum Frameworks for Catholic High Schools*.

SCRIPTURE: THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST IN SCRIPTURE

Semester ½ Credit Grade 9

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 particular attention to the Gospels, where they may grow to know and love Jesus Christ more personally.

CHRISTOLOGY: WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

Semester ½ Credit Grade 9

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Through study of the Paschal Mystery, 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.

CHURCH HISTORY

Semester ½ Credit Grade 10

This course is a survey of the history of the Roman Catholic Church from its beginning to the present day. The history of the Church is one of a pilgrim people united, as the Mystical Body of Christ that has developed over the ages. The purpose of this course is to supply the students with a general knowledge of the Church's history from apostolic times to the present. They will be introduced to the fact that the Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by him throughout history through the Holy Spirit. They will explore major events and movements that have been part of the Church's development and be introduced to the major players in the history of the institution.

THE CHURCH: JESUS CHRIST'S MISSION CONTINUES

Semester ½ Credit Grade 10

The purpose of this course is to help the 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 him through the Holy Spirit. The students will come to know that the Church is the living Body of Christ today. This Body has both divine and human elements. In this course, students will learn not so much about events in the life of the Church but about the sacred nature of the Church.

SACRAMENTS: PRIVILEGED ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS CHRIST

Semester

½ Credit

Grade 11

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 throughout life.

CHRISTIAN MORALITY: LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST

Semester

½ Credit

Grade 11

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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE: LIVING AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

Semester

½ Credit

Grade 12

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 needy, is present today in the Church's social teaching and mission.

MISSION AND EVANGELIZATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Semester

½ Credit

Grade 12

Roman Catholics have a unique way of looking at the world and responding to its many challenges. Guided by the teachings of the Church, Sacred Scripture and the perspective of Catholic writers, informed Catholics live as active members of the Body of Christ in an increasingly secular society. This course encourages the seniors to think about their role as lay people in the modern Roman Church, and citizens in a global society. Using the Documents of the Church, Scripture and the work of Catholic authors, students will consider how to meet the challenges of living their lives as Catholics in the modern world and preaching the Gospel in a secular society.

CATECHETICAL PRACTICUM

Semester

½ Credit

Grade 12

Req: School recommendation.

An elective course for seniors who are practicing Catholics and well versed in Catholic Theology. Working under the direction of the Senior Theology teacher the students will act as Theology tutors to International students. These students will work with International students individually or in small groups and instruct them in the basics of Catholic Faith and practice with a goal of preparing the international students to move into the regular Theology program after a semester or two of individualized instruction. Working with the Theology instructor, the students will plan and execute lessons and keep a record of the material covered; they will develop assignments and assessments to measure students' progress.

Additional Elective Courses

CP INTRODUCTION TO WESTERN PHILOSOPHY

Semester ½ Credit Grade 12

Philosophy is both an activity of the mind and a genuine subject matter to be encountered. Through the use of primary sources in the history of Western philosophy, students will consider some of the central issues of Western thought: truth and opinion; the existence of God; skepticism and the nature of knowledge; the relationship between minds, bodies and human persons; logic and language; and the nature of goodness and morality. Additionally, students will learn how to argue for and against various positions in both speech and in writing.

CP READINGS IN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Semester ½ Credit Grade 12

This course introduces students to the concepts, enduring questions, and significant thinkers associated with the Western political philosophy, such as Plato, Aristotle, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, Niccolo Machiavelli, J.J. Rousseau, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Karl Marx, and John Rawls. Topics include differing conceptions of human nature, politics, authority, the state, civic obligations and rights, freedom, justice, and democracy. This course will familiarize students with essential political philosophies and develop students' understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of the US democratic system.

HONORS LEADERSHIP STUDIES & PRACTICUM

Year 1 Credit Grade 12

Req: Application; Program Director approval

This program will introduce leadership theory and develop leadership skills necessary for current and future leaders in society. The course is open to seniors who seek to develop and enhance leadership skills. The fall component of the class is classroom-based. Students will meet daily as a class to study communication, ethics and the philosophy of leadership. They will also have the opportunity to hear from a series of guest speakers who represent a wide spectrum of leadership roles in our community.

In the spring semester, students will demonstrate leadership development through the completion of a practicum within a professional context in the community. All practicum projects require program director approval. Students will meet periodically as a class during the spring semester to discuss progress, challenges and successes. Students will also meet individually with the program director to ensure progress. Completion of the practicum will include a written reflection and oral presentation on the assignment.

n.B.: All students enrolled in this course are required to complete an independent practicum assignment in the professional context of the community in the spring.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES

Year

1 Credit

Grades 11, 12

Req: Successful completion of Algebra I and either Algebra II or Geometry; school recommendation, application process. Preference will be given to students in grades 11 and 12.

This course introduces students to the foundation concepts of computer science and explores the impact computing and technology have on our society. With a unique focus on creative problem solving and real-world applications, the Computer Science Principles course gives students the opportunity to explore several important topics of computing using their own ideas and creativity, use the power of computing to create artifacts of personal value, and develop an interest in computer science that will foster further endeavors in the field.

Students will write and run code in the browser, create websites and digital artifacts, and engage in in-person collaborative exercises with classmates. Students will be able to write both text based and block based JavaScript programs, and students will use Processing.js to create graphical programs. They will also create webpages using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. Students will finish the course with a personal portfolio of creative projects and programs. Students gain programming experience early on in the course that will enable them to explore the rest of the course topics through computational thinking practices.

N.B.: All students enrolled in this course are required to take the Advanced Placement Examination. Students must pay the fee associated with the AP exam.

Christian Service Program

Successful completion of four (4) years of Christian Service is required for graduation. Through the Gospel mandate of Jesus Christ, we are called as Christians to take up our "basin and towel" to love and serve as Christ did.

"For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you." (John 13:15)

Through the Christian service program, all students of St. John Paul II School are offered the gifts of *humility* and *poverty in spirit* in loving service to others through Jesus Christ. Students are required to perform four years of Christian Service at St. John Paul II School.

Students receive specific Christian Service Program requirements for each year through Campus Ministry orientations and Theology classes.

- Students receive a Pass/Fail grade based on the completion of the required service on their semester report cards and transcript.
- Service is required for graduation. It will be recorded as a zero credit "class" on transcript.
- Students who fail to fulfill their service requirement will not be allowed to return to St. John Paul II School without completing the requirement during the summer months.

Freshman Year

All freshmen are required to participate in two service experiences led by JPII faculty or staff members (minimum: one each semester). In addition to the actual service events, there will be preparation meetings and follow-up sessions. The student must be present for the preparation and follow up meetings as well as the actual service events to fulfill their service requirement. A list of upcoming service opportunities will be provided to the students in their Theology class and will be updated throughout the school year.

Sophomore Year

All sophomores are required to participate in four service experiences (minimum: two each semester). They may participate in the service opportunities led by JPII faculty or staff members or they may participate in service experiences of their choosing. Sophomores who do service outside of school are responsible for presenting the sophomore Theology teachers with appropriate documentation signed by an adult verifying the completion of service. Staff-led service opportunities are announced by the campus ministers and Theology teachers throughout the school year.

Junior Year

All juniors will participate in Community Service to the “*marginalized*”. This will include eight visits to an agency or agencies serving the marginalized that have been approved by the service coordinator.

- Students must complete all eight visits at no more than two service sites.
- Students are encouraged to do the service with a partner.
- In choosing their sites, students are encouraged to think beyond the junior year and choose a site that might develop into the Senior Advocacy Project.

“*Marginalized*” is defined as a population of people who are generally forgotten members of society; a population of people who are generally seen as not contributing members and have little or no worth to society. The marginalized person is one whose needs are greater than the “average” member of society and whose needs are typically unmet. We look to Jesus as a model of service to the marginalized.

Senior Year

All seniors will participate in a social justice advocacy effort.

A major aspect of the Social Justice course is training students to speak on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves. Therefore, seniors will participate in an advocacy project where students learn about and speak on behalf of the poor and vulnerable in our society. Students will work at a local agency that serves a marginalized population (They are encouraged to continue the relationship developed in their Junior service project). They will visit the site at least six times and interview clients and service providers, learning about this issue and its possible solutions.

The advocacy project will also require the participation of all seniors in a Social Justice Fair, where they will make other members of our community aware of the problem and organizes or encourages others to become involved. Seniors will be encouraged to help younger students reflect on service.