

**THE HIGH SCHOOL OF
SAINT THOMAS MORE**
Course Descriptions
2019-2020

Class of 2020 Graduation Requirements

	High School Diploma	College Prep Certificate
Theology	4 credits	4 credits
English	4 credits	4 credits
Math	3 credits	4 credits
Science	3 credits	4 credits
Social Studies	3 credits US History is Required Civics & Econ are Required	3 credits US History is Required Civics & Econ are Required
Fine Art	1 credit	1 credit
Foreign Language		2 credits
PE Health	1.25 credits* 0.5 credit	1.25 credits* 0.5 credit
Electives	3 credits	1 credit
Total	22.75 credits	24.75 credits
*PE is 0.25 credits per trimester		

Seniors are required to take 4 classes per trimester. Seniors taking a Parkland class may take 3 classes at a time.

Class of 2021 and After Graduation Requirements

	High School Diploma	College Prep Certificate
Theology	4 credits	4 credits
English	4 credits	4 credits
Math	3 credits	4 credits
Science	3 credits	4 credits
Social Studies	3 credits US History is Required Civics & Finance or Econ Course are Required	3 credits US History is Required Civics & Finance or Econ Course are Required
Fine Art	1 credit	1 credit
Foreign Language		2 credits
PE Health	1.5 credits* 0.5 credit	1.5 credits* 0.5 credit
Electives	5.5 credits (0.5 Intro to Research is Required starting with the class of 2023)	3.5 credits (0.5 Intro to Research is Required starting with the class of 2023)
Total	25.5 credits	27.5 credits
*PE is 0.5 credits per trimester		

Seniors are required to take 4 classes per trimester. Seniors taking a Parkland class may take 3 classes at a time.

Fine Arts Department

Visual and Graphic Arts (All courses fulfill Fine Arts Elective)

Art I

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: None

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12

This survey course will introduce the students to a wide variety of art styles and movements in visual art, the skill of art criticism and a broad selection of media and techniques. Each student will understand the vocabulary of art and apply this vocabulary in their studio art, class discussion, and in writing. Throughout the course, students will learn to recognize major styles and artists throughout time and in many world cultures. Studio art lessons will introduce students to drawing, painting, sculpture, architecture, calligraphy and other media. This course is a critical foundation for students who want to explore their interest in art, develop their art skills or go on to take any of the other art courses. This course guides students through the development of their artistic skills in order to use them to express their faith through visual means. They will also explore ways that the Church has impacted the visual arts throughout history.

Art II

1 Credit - 1 Trimesters

Prerequisite: Art I

Grades 10, 11, 12

This course will consist of a more in-depth study of several art media in two and three dimensional art. Processes and media will include drawing, painting and digital art with several types of paint media, digital collage, printmaking, clay, plaster and wire as well as non-traditional media. With each art lesson students will critique their work using the vocabulary of art and design to discuss their pieces. The study of art history will accompany each medium in focus and there will be a written research project during each trimester. Those students seriously interested in attending a college/university fine arts school will begin preparation of slides of their work for future portfolio use. This course guides students through the development of their artistic skills in order to use them to express their faith through visual means.

Portfolio Creation

½ Credit – 1 Trimester – can be taken twice for credit within a year

Prerequisite: Art II, Ceramics II, or concurrently enrolled in AP 2D or 3D Design

Grade 11 or 12

In Portfolio Creation, the study of art media will be conducted within an independent study format combined with assigned projects that will assist in building a strong portfolio. The student intensively seeks advanced skills in a medium or media of his/her personal choice with supervision from the instructor. A contract will be developed and signed by both the student and the instructor. Critiques with all students will closely resemble the college/university format in an effort to prepare students for future experiences in the fine arts profession. This course is for students who are interested in a career in the arts. This course guides students through the development of their artistic skills in order to express their faith through visual means.

AP 2D Design Studio Art

1 Credit - 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: Art II, Portfolio (two trimesters) or Ceramics II (two trimesters) and Permission of instructor

Grade: 12 (Grade 11 with teacher approval)

This Advanced Placement course is intended to address a broad interpretation of two-dimensional design issues. This type of design involves purposeful decision-making about using the elements and principles of art in an integrative way. It is for the advanced student who wishes to seek AP credit by submitting a portfolio of work for consideration by the College Board and has an interest in a career in the arts. Each student will develop a portfolio containing an artist's statement and diverse works that demonstrate an area of concentrated development. Students will compile a body of work and create a format to present that work to colleges, prospective employers, galleries and art competitions. This course guides students through the development of their artistic skills in order to express their faith through visual means.

AP 3D Design

1 Credit - 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: Art II, Portfolio (two trimesters) or Ceramics II (two trimesters) and Permission of instructor

Grade: 12 (Grade 11 with teacher approval)

This Advanced Placement course is intended to address a very broad interpretation of three-dimensional design issues. This type of design involves purposeful decision-making about how to use the elements and principles of art in an integrative way. It is for the advanced student who wished to seek AP credit through submitting a portfolio of work for consideration by the College Board and has an interest in studying art in college. Each student will develop a portfolio containing an artist's statement, a diverse range of works of artwork that demonstrates an area of concentrated development and to prepare a college level portfolio. Students will create and compile a body of work and create a format for presenting that work to colleges, prospective employers, galleries and art competitions. This course guides students through the development of their artistic skills in order to use them to express their faith through visual means.

Applied Arts

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters; ½ Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: None

Grade: Any

This course is a survey of different Applied Arts in which students apply knowledge of design and aesthetics to functional objects. They will learn media, techniques and history in a variety of crafts including ceramics, weaving, leather tooling, wood craft, copper tooling and basket weaving, among others. Design elements and principles will be integrated into the content to help students create satisfying work as well as develop appreciation of art. This course guides students through the development of their artistic skills in order to use them to express their faith through visual means.

Ceramics I

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters; ½ credit - 1 trimester

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 9,10, 11, 12

This course is a basic introduction to the processes, terminology and history of ceramics. Students will learn and apply hand building techniques, wheel throwing, glaze application techniques, ceramics vocabulary, and the history of clay in art and society. Design elements and principles will be emphasized, helping students to integrate technical production skills with aesthetic decision making in order to create a unified work of art. Opportunities will be available for students to display their work and develop a better understanding of ceramics and pottery as works of art as well as functional objects. This course guides students through the development of their artistic skills in order to use them to express their faith through visual means.

Ceramics II

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters; ½ credit - 1 trimester

Prerequisite: Ceramics I

Grade: 10, 11, 12

Ceramics II is an advanced course that will expand upon skills developed in Ceramics I. Students will work on creating pieces in series and sets as well as exploring personally expressive directions in clay. Experimentation with clay, glazes, and ceramic techniques will be encouraged as students explore design relationships in the construction and decoration of three-dimensional forms. They will also develop more in-depth understanding and skill with kilns, wheels and other studio equipment. Students will also observe the work of professional potters and private clay workers as well as research the works of modern ceramic artists. This course guides students through the development of their artistic skills in order to use them to express their faith through visual means.

Photography

½ credit - 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: None

Grades 9-12

Students will learn the basic use of the SLR digital camera, its functions and the foundational composition of photographs. Film cameras will also be explored. This course trains students to appreciate their world and how to focus on specific aspects of beauty, reality and perception. Grades 9-12. **Students will need to provide their own DSLR cameras, however, there will be opportunities to rent cameras from the school if there is a compelling need.**

Graphic Design

½ Credit - 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: None

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

This class is designed to provide the basic design concepts used in the field of graphic design. Students learn basic photo and text editing and editing of raster and vector images in relation to creative and client-driven materials that emphasize God's Truth, Beauty and Goodness. **Beginning fall 2019, students enrolled in this class must have a laptop computer with mouse and a subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud (\$20/mo) for the duration of the class.**

Graphic Design II

½ Credit - 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: Graphic Design

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

This class is designed to provide the advance design concepts used in the field of graphic design. Students learn to refine skills in photo and text editing and editing of raster and vector images in relation to creative and client-driven materials that emphasize God's Truth, Beauty and Goodness. **Beginning fall 2019, students enrolled in this class must have a laptop computer with mouse and a subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud (\$20/mo) for the duration of the class.**

Web Design

½ Credit - 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: None

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

This course is designed to provide the knowledge of designing a website. Students will understand the planning and designing process of web sites. They will explore the world of html coding in creating professional website, whether personal or business. This class is aligned with the STM mission in that the class fosters intellectual growth and instructional materials are aligned with the teachings of the Catholic church. Student must have a laptop computer; all coursework will be accessed online. There is no prerequisite for this class and any student may take it any semester it is offered, but students should be self-starters and willing to problem solve.

Digital Art - Still Images

½ Credit - 1 Trimester

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

A basic introduction to photo editing and how artists can use technology to create meaningful works that emphasize God's Truth, Beauty and Goodness. There is no prerequisite coursework and any student may take this class at any time it is offered. **Students enrolled in this class must have a laptop computer and a subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud for the duration of the class. Subscriptions for students cost \$20/mo.**

Digital film production (animation)

½ Credit - 1 Trimester

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Students will study the history of animation and learn and practice basic stop-motion animation and film editing techniques that emphasize God's Truth, Beauty and Goodness. There is no prerequisite coursework and any student may take this class at any time it is offered. This class will be offered alternating years with Digital Film Production (live action). **Students enrolled in this class must have a laptop computer and a subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud for the duration of the class. Subscriptions for students cost \$20/mo.**

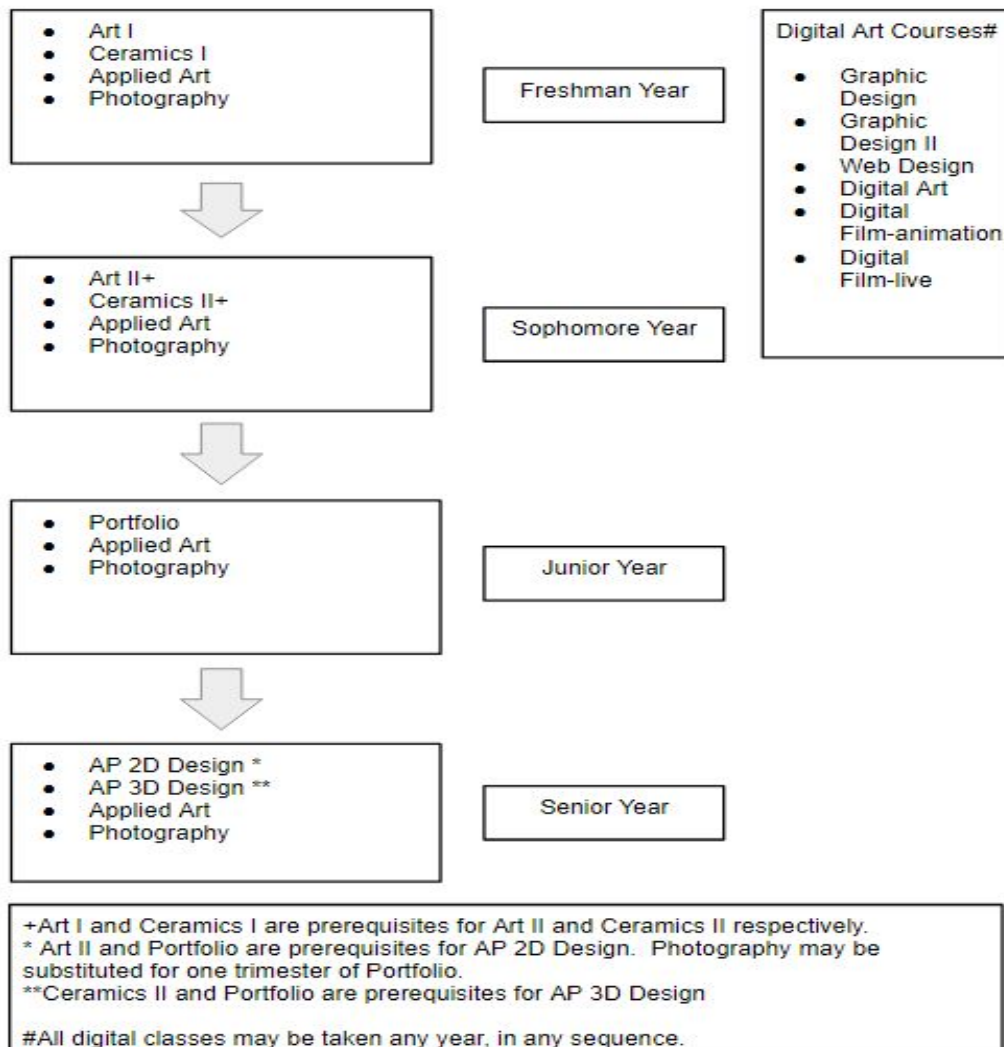
Digital film production (live action):

½ Credit - 1 Trimester

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Students will learn basic live action film and editing techniques that emphasize God's Truth, Beauty and Goodness. Depending on trimester this could coincide with local Pens to Lens competition. There is no prerequisite coursework and any student may take this class at any time it is offered. This class will be offered alternating years with Digital Film Production (animation). **Students enrolled in this class must have a laptop computer and a subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud for the duration of the class. Subscriptions for students cost \$20/mo.**

Sample Visual Arts Progression



Performing Arts (All fulfill Fine Arts Elective)

Concert Choir

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: None

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12

This is a non-audition choir consisting of students in grades 9 through 12. Students learn the fundamentals of music theory, some music history, music notation (reading music), proper vocal production, and musicality. The choir performs a wide range of repertoire and will explore singing in various languages and styles. The Fall Curriculum is traditional choral repertoire and the Spring Curriculum is based on Popular and Contemporary music. The choir represents the school and community in various concerts, festivals, and competitions. Students will be given the opportunity to work on solo and small ensemble literature as well. This course helps students to develop the skills in creation of music that reflects the beauty and purpose of God's gift. **As a performance class, the majority of work is done in class. However, attendance at all concert, contests, and performances is mandatory. There are generally three major concerts throughout the entire year.**

Concert Band

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: None

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12

This is a non-audition band consisting of students in grades 9 through 12. The band performs a wide variety of music including traditional concert literature, current and classic rock/pop music for Pep Band, and occasionally some jazz. Students will develop the fundamentals of playing their instruments, as well as improve on individual technique, musicality, and playing as an ensemble. Playing tests are given throughout each quarter to assess each student's ability to play his/her assigned part. Individuals are given opportunities to perform with large festival groups (some of which require auditions), as well as solos and ensembles. This course helps students to develop the skills in creation of music that reflects the beauty and purpose of God's gift. **As a performance class, the majority of work is done in class. However, attendance at all concert, contests, and performances is mandatory. There are generally three major concerts throughout the year.**

Introduction to Music Theory and Instruments

½ credit - 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

This course will cover basic topics in music theory, as well as provide in depth aural skills training as well as sight-reading skills. Special emphasis will be placed on composition, arranging, and music technology. The course will also cover aspects of music history and explore various genres of music, and students will learn the foundations of their selected instrument during this trimester. Open to anyone interested in learning more about the inner workings of music and learning how to play any instrument. This course helps students to develop the skills in creation of music that reflects the beauty and purpose of God's gift. Students will be required to purchase *Essential Elements*. More information will be provided in supply lists.

Percussion I

1/2 Credit – 1 Trimester; may be repeated

Prerequisite: Intro to Music Theory

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12

This class is for all students who want to play percussion. The percussion class will learn fundamentals of all percussion instruments including: drum set, timpani, snare drum, mallet percussion, and auxiliary percussion. Students will also rehearse music for the concert band and pep band and will perform with those groups. Students will also rehearse and perform music as a percussion ensemble. This course helps students to develop the skills in creation of music that reflects the beauty and purpose of God's gift. **As a performance class, the majority of work is done in class. However, attendance at all concert, contests, and performances is mandatory. There are generally three major concerts throughout the year.**

Percussion II

1/2 Credit – 1 Trimester; may be repeated

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Percussion I or Successful completion of skill assessment (should be completed by registration)

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12

This class is for all students who play percussion. This class is taken in conjunction with Band. Students will rehearse music for the concert band and pep band and will perform with those groups. Students will also rehearse and perform music as a percussion ensemble which include performing with buckets, trash cans, and other novelty percussion equipment. Much of this class is based on individual preparation of material and rehearsing with an ensemble during class. This course helps students to develop the skills in creation of music that reflects the beauty and purpose of God's gift. **As a performance class, the majority of work is done in class. However, attendance at all concert, contests, and performances is mandatory. There are generally three major concerts throughout the year.**

Bass Guitar

1/2 Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: - Intro to Music Theory

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

This class is for any student who wishes to learn guitar. The content of the class will be determined by the experience and skill level of the students enrolled but is intended for beginning students. All students will learn the basics of the bass guitar, music theory, which includes reading notes and rhythmic notation. Students will work on current popular music and music for pep band and concert band as well as skill building exercises. This is a performance-based class, therefore all performances on the schedule are mandatory. This course helps students to develop the skills in creation of music that reflects the beauty and purpose of God's gift. Students will be given the opportunity to perform individually as well as in groups. **Students will be required to perform in concerts/performances outside of school hours.**

Acoustic Guitar

1/2 Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: - Intro to Music Theory

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

This class is for any student who wishes to learn guitar. The content of the class will continue building upon the skills introduced in Intro to Music Theory. Students will work on current popular music as well as technique building exercises. Students will learn to read chords and perform individually as well as in groups. This is a performance-based class, therefore all performances on the schedule are mandatory. This course helps students to develop the skills in creation of music that reflects the beauty and purpose of God's gift. **Students will be required to perform in concerts/performances outside of school hours.**

Piano I

1/2 Credit – 1 Trimester; may be repeated

Prerequisite: - Intro to Music Theory

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

This course is designed for beginning piano students. Students will become familiar with the keyboard and will learn to read notes and build piano technique. Piano technique will include learning music theory to understand the material and the instrument, learning scales, and arpeggios. Introduction to chords and chord progression will allow students to play classical repertoire better but also to begin playing contemporary music. This course helps students to develop the skills in creation of music that reflects the beauty and purpose of God's gift. **Students will be required to perform in concerts/performances outside of school hours. Students will be required to purchase a copy of *Faber Adult Piano Adventures - All in One Course Book #1 - No CD or DVD.* - ISBN-13 - 9781616773021**

Piano II

1/2 Credit - 1 Trimester; may be repeated

Prerequisite: - Successful Completion of Piano I or Successful completion of skill assessment (should be completed by registration)

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

This course is designed for more advanced piano students. The content of this class will build upon the skills introduced in Piano I. Students will continue to build piano technique as well as understanding how to interact with other musicians in an ensemble setting or as an accompanist. This course helps students to develop the skills in creation of music that reflects the beauty and purpose of God's gift. **Students will be required to perform in concerts/performances outside of school hours.**

Advanced Placement Music Theory

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, Intro to Music Theory or equivalent

Grade: 10, 11, 12

This course will cover advanced topics in music theory, as well as provide in depth aural skills training as well as sight-reading skills. Special emphasis will be placed on composition, arranging, and music technology. The course will also cover aspects of music history and explore various genres of music. This course helps students to develop the skills in creation of music that reflects the beauty and purpose of God's gift. Although open to anyone (per consent of instructor) this is also an ideal class for anyone considering a major in music in college.

Introduction to Acting

1/2 Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

This is a basic class aimed at introducing students to basic acting techniques through monologue, scene work and improvisation and is taught through a Catholic worldview focusing on God's Truth, Beauty and Goodness and how actors make that known to their audiences. This course will be offered even numbered years (2020, 2022, 2024, etc.).

Introduction to Technical Theatre

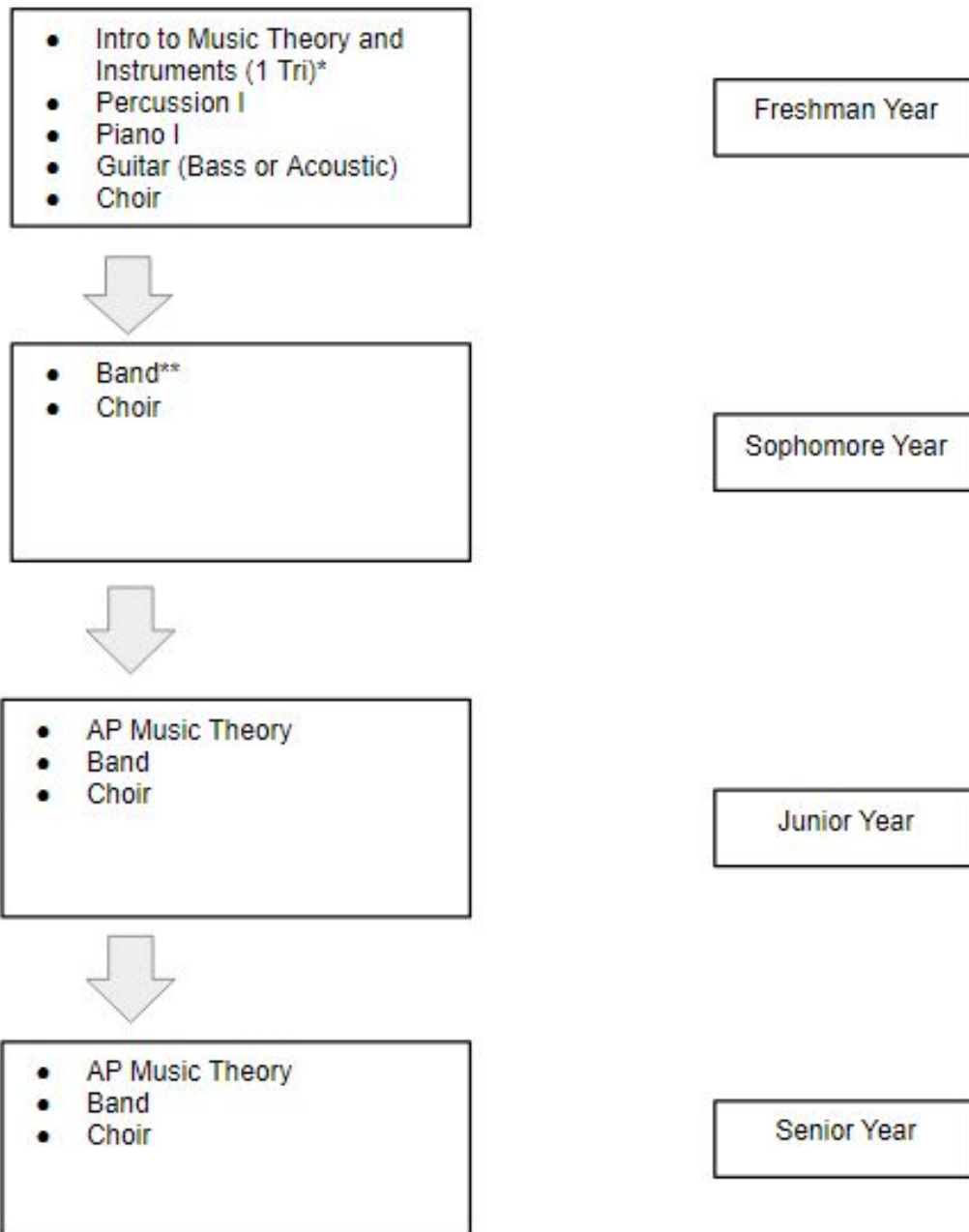
½ Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: None

Grade 9,10, 11, 12

Actors aren't the only people who make a show. This course is an introduction to technical, "behind the scenes" theatrical work and focuses on costume, set and lighting design. No theatrical or artistic experience is necessary. Students will learn, and try their hand at, the design process and how creative choices in every aspect of theatrical production influence an audience. This class is taught through a Catholic worldview that focuses on God's Truth, Beauty and Goodness and how designers work together to make that clear to their audiences. This course will be offered odd numbered years (2021, 2023, 2025, etc.).

Sample Music Progression



* Introduction to Music Theory and Instruments is a required course. Students who demonstrate proficiency in their instrument may opt out. Learning an instrument is open to all grade levels.
**Freshmen who demonstrate proficiency in playing an instrument may choose to start in Band.

English Department

Introduction to Research

½ Credit - 1 Trimester (Fulfills an elective requirement)

Required for all incoming students

This course teaches research and writing skills expected of all STM students in all courses. During the course of the semester, students will learn to research using multiple internet and print sources, including but not limited to general reference books, historical texts, recent periodicals, the Bible and Catholic Catechism, and biographies. Students will learn how to properly cite, how to avoid plagiarism, and how to edit and revise as they write small papers and at least two larger papers. Research will focus on key concepts such as the virtues and the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

English 9: Introduction to Fiction

1/2 Credit - 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: None

Grade 9

Students will learn to annotate, discuss, analyze, and write about various pieces of fiction ranging from contemporary short stories to classic pieces of drama and epic poetry in terms of plot structure, character development, conflict, and theme. This class meets the STM mission by fostering intellectual curiosity and growth; instruction is aligned with the teachings of the Church. There is no prerequisite for this class, but it is a required class; any freshman student may take this class any trimester it is offered.

English 9: Narrative Nonfiction and Expository Writing

1/2 Credit - 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: None

Grade 9

Students will explore creative narrative nonfiction and be introduced to other forms of writing with an emphasis on an introduction to academic writing intended to inform an audience. Students will read, study, analyze and discuss mentor texts, practice crafting their own pieces, and build vocabulary intended to strengthen the message in their writing. This class meets the STM mission by fostering intellectual curiosity and growth; instruction is aligned with the teachings of the Church. There is no prerequisite for this class, but it is a required class; any freshman student may take this class any trimester it is offered.

English 10: Introduction to Literary Analysis

1/2 Credit - 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: English 9

Grade 10

Students will read, annotate, and analyze two novels with the intention of writing a multi-draft analysis essay by the end of the trimester. Within that time, students will learn how to distinguish the literary tone, theme, and allegory of a writing piece and how to use that knowledge to craft an essay. This course is taught from a Catholic worldview and designed to introduce students to the concepts and tools they need to be thorough literature readers and competent essay writers. Students are required to take English 9 before they can be enrolled in this course.

English 10: Historical Perspectives in Literature

1/2 Credit - 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: English 9

Grade 10

Students will read, annotate, and analyze non-fiction pieces about the Holocaust with the intention of creating a final project that addresses a real world issue from a Catholic perspective. This course will use the Holocaust as a learning tool to understand how to address life's complex issues. Additionally, this course will also focus on how an author's use of vocabulary creates meaning for his/her audience. They will apply this focus to their final project. Students are required to take English 9 before they can be enrolled in this course.

Honors English 10: Introduction to Literary Analysis

1/2 Credit - 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: English 9, proficient and timely completion of all summer reading requirements, including writing assignments.

Grade: 10

All students must complete a summer reading requirement and any associated assignments. In Honors English 10: Introduction to Literary Analysis, students will read, annotate, and analyze two novels with the intention of writing a multi-draft analysis essay by the end of the trimester. Within that time, students will learn how to distinguish the literary tone, theme, and allegory of a writing piece and how to use that knowledge to craft an essay. Along with the novels, students will also be responsible for reading additional texts at a pacing of their choosing. These texts will then be incorporated into the multi-draft essay. Honors English 10 is taught from a Catholic worldview and designed to introduce students to the concepts and tools they need to be thorough literature readers and competent essay writers. Because of the rigorous coursework and self-regulated pacing, this is an honors course that is designed to prepare students for Advanced Placement English. Students are required to take English 9 before they can be enrolled in this course.

Honors English 10: Historical Perspectives in Literature

1/2 Credit - 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: English 9, proficient and timely completion of all summer reading requirements, including writing assignments.

Grade: 10

All students must complete a summer reading requirement and any associated assignments. In Honors English 10: Understanding Literature's Role in the Real World. Students will read, annotate, and analyze non-fiction pieces about the Holocaust with the intention of creating a final project that addresses a real world issue from a Catholic perspective. This course will use the Holocaust as a learning tool to understand how to address life's complex issues. Additionally, this course will also focus on how an author's use of vocabulary creates meaning for his/her audience. They will apply this focus to their final project. Along with the in class work requirements, students will also be responsible for reading additional texts at a pacing of their choosing. These texts will then be incorporated into the final documentary project. Because of the rigorous coursework and self-regulated pacing, this is an honors course that is designed to prepare students for Advanced Placement English. Students are required to take English 9 before they can be enrolled in this course.

English 11: American Literature and Composition 1

½ Credit - 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: English 10 or Honors English 10

Grade: 11

Students will recognize truth, beauty, and goodness in American Literature beginning with Puritanism and ending with American Romantic and Gothic literature. This course features practice in reading comprehension, critical thinking, and literary analysis using major works of American authors. Reading selections will be from multiple genres, including short stories, drama, poetry, and speeches. Additionally, students will study key vocabulary in the context of the texts they read. Students will write multiple literary analysis essays that explore themes in American literature in relation to American history.

English 11: American Literature and Composition 2

1 / 2 Credit - 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: English 10 or Honors English 10

Grade: 11

Students will recognize truth, beauty, and goodness in American Literature beginning with World War I and ending with contemporary American Literature. This course features practice in reading comprehension, critical thinking, and literary analysis using major works of American authors with an emphasis on non-fiction texts. Students will read short stories, non-fiction, and one novel. Additionally, students will study key vocabulary in the context of the texts they read. Students' final essay will synthesize sources from multiple non-fiction texts from a specific period of American history.

Advanced Placement English: English Literature

1 Credit - 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: English 10 or Honors English 10, proficient and timely completion of all summer reading requirements, including writing assignments.

Grade: 11, 12

The High School of Saint Thomas More offers two Advanced Placement English courses that are offered on an alternating year basis. School years ending in even years (2020, 2022, 2024) will offer Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition. These courses are open to both Juniors and Seniors.

All students must complete a summer reading requirement and any associated assignments. The Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition course challenges students to both recognize truth, beauty, and goodness in literature and to spread truth, beauty, and goodness through their own writing and other forms of expression. Students will become skilled readers of prose and poetry and writers for a variety of purposes and audiences. This is achieved through in depth study of the tools and techniques that an author uses to convey purpose and audience expectations. Upon completion of the course, students will be required to take the Advanced Placement test in English Literature and Composition.

Advanced Placement English: English Language

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: English 10 or Honors English 10, proficient and timely completion of all summer reading requirements, including writing assignments.

Grade: 11, 12

School years ending in odd years (2021, 2023, 2025) will offer Advanced Placement English Language and Composition.

All students must complete a summer reading requirement and any associated assignments. The Advanced Placement English Language and Composition course challenges students to both recognize truth, beauty, and goodness in nonfiction and literature and to spread truth, beauty, and goodness through their own writing and other forms of expression. Students will become skilled readers of prose, with a special emphasis on the rhetorical techniques used by authors. Students will also become skilled writers, focusing their writing on meeting the needs of a variety of audiences and purposes. Through careful reading and the fine tuning of writing skills, students will become aware of how the writer's purpose and attention to the audience's needs and expectations combine to create effective writing. Upon completion of the course, students will be required to take the Advanced Placement test in English Language and Composition.

English 12: Rhetoric

½ Credit - 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: English 11 or Advanced Placement English (Literature or Language)

Grade: 12

Students will learn rhetorical argument strategies with the intention of writing several multi-draft essays/projects. To prepare students for each essay/project, the class will examine multiple sides to an argument as a way of informing their own position. Research will be conducted from a Catholic worldview, using sources such as the Catechism and the Bible. Students will then combine both skills to write a full length essay.

English 12: British Literature

½ Credit - 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: English 11 or Advanced Placement English (Literature or Language)

Grade: 12

Students will read and annotate multiple pieces of British Literature with the intention of writing a multi-draft analysis essay that focuses primarily on theme. Along with the literature pieces, this class will also focus on the relevance each piece has within the context of its time period and the Catholic Church. This focus will be the cornerstone of the final analysis essay.

Electives

Catholic Comparative Literature

1/2 Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite:

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Students begin with a look into classical pieces from the Catholic canon (works of literature will vary by semester but may include authors such as Dante, Pope, and Chaucer, etc.). Using these classical pieces as a foundation, students will then study pieces from Catholic authors from other time periods.

Introduction to Creative Writing (Fine Arts Elective)

1/2 Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite:

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Introduction to Creative Writing is designed to foster a student expression while also addressing practical writing strategies and application through a Catholic worldview. In class, students will study writing strategies that they will apply to their own creative piece, while also examining how published authors have used those strategies in their own work. This course has the feel of a tight-knit writing club with the structure of an academic course.

Journalism

1/2 Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite:

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Taught from a Catholic worldview, students study news elements, journalism history, and laws and ethics as applied to print and digital media products. In addition, students develop journalistic writing skills with practical application through the production of news elements for the school audience.

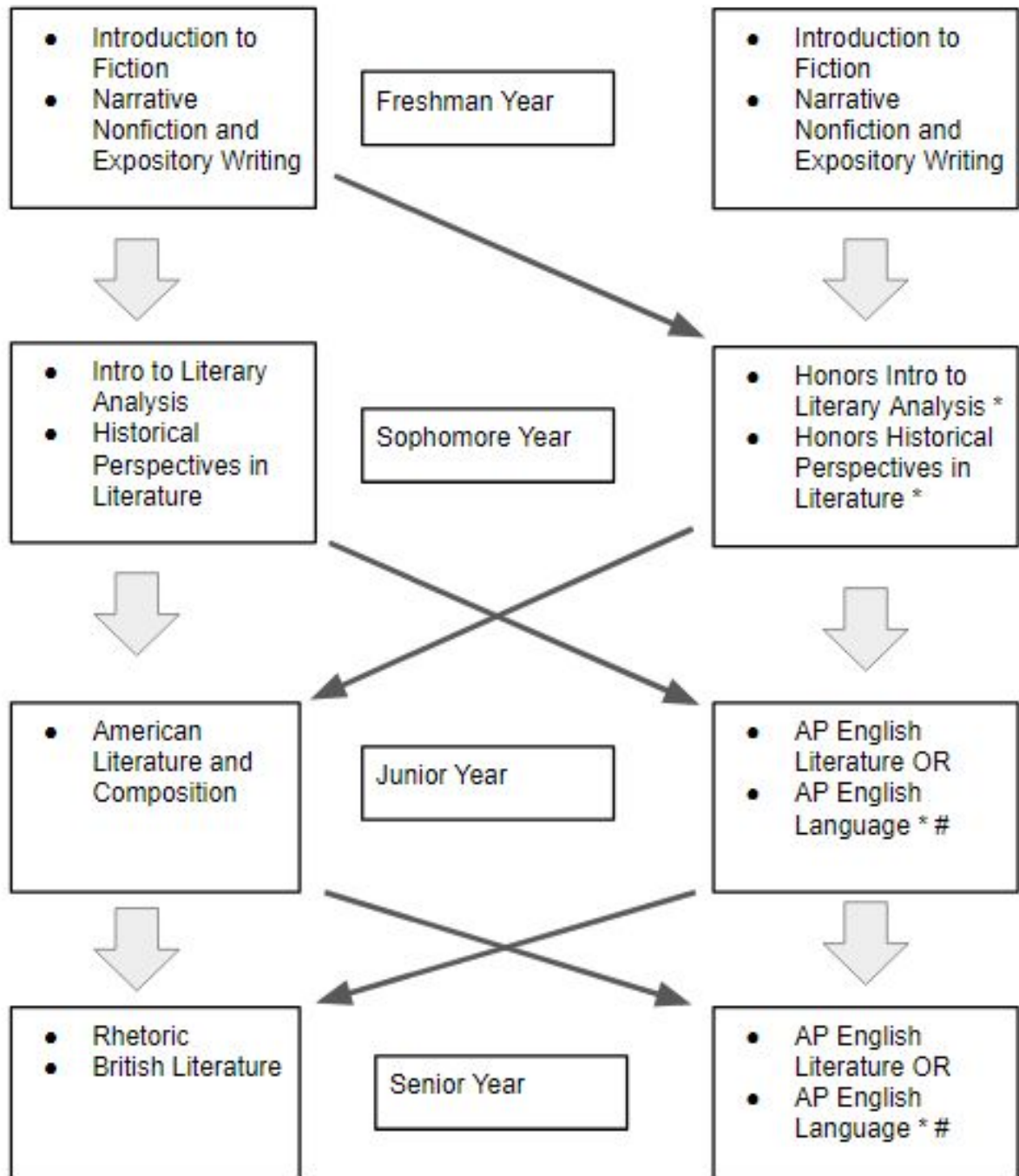
Speech – Introduction to Public Speaking

1/2 Credit – 1 Trimester

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

This course is for students who want to learn to think clearly and express themselves effectively before an audience, all while orienting their speech toward truth, beauty, and goodness. This course prepares students for various types of public speaking situations in college and their careers. Students are provided opportunities to increase their fluency as a speaker and develop their self-confidence. There is no prerequisite for this class and any student may take this class any trimester it is offered.

Sample English Progression



*Students in honors courses are required to complete summer reading and writing assignments.

#AP English Literature and Language are offered on a rotating basis.

Mathematics Department

Pre-Algebra

1/2 Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: None

Grade 9

Students will review basic math topics in preparation for Algebra I, including working with negative numbers, place value, fractions and decimals, and more. This course may be required for students based on information from the Placement Exam.

Algebra I

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: None

Grade 9

These students know how to work with fractions, integers, decimals, and percent. Emphasis will be on solving, graphing, and writing linear and quadratic equations and inequalities. A solid understanding of this course is necessary before continuing in mathematics.

Geometry

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Logical reasoning and the concept of proof are covered in this class. We will investigate properties of lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, and circles. Areas and volumes of two- and three-dimensional figures will be explored. Work with similarity, right triangles, and an introduction to trigonometry is included.

Honors Geometry

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: Algebra I with a cumulative average grade of 90% or better or STM Placement Test

Grades 9, 10

This is a one-year course in Euclidean Geometry that emphasizes logical reasoning, problem solving, and various types of proof. Connections between topics in geometry, other subjects in mathematics and the real world will be explored. The properties of lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, and circles will be covered. The area and volume of two- and three-dimensional figures will be explored. The course will also include transformations and an introduction to trigonometry.

Intermediate Algebra

1/2 Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: Designed for students needing a refresher of Algebra I prior to enrolling Algebra II

Grades 10, 11, 12

Students will review major topics covered in Algebra I, including solving equations, graphing lines, and factoring in preparation for Algebra II. This course will be required for all students achieving 72% or below in Algebra I.

Algebra II

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry or Honors Geometry

Grades 10, 11, 12

This class is a continuation of Algebra I. The TI 83 or TI 84, plus graphics calculator is used in this class. Linear, polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, and rational functions are studied. Quadratic relations and the conic sections will be investigated. Work with matrices, sequences, series, probability, and statistics is included. We will explore functions, graphs, identities, and solving trigonometric equations. This class leads to Pre-Calculus.

Honors Algebra II

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: Geometry with a cumulative grade average of 90% or Honors Geometry with a cumulative grade average of 85%

Grades 10, 11, 12

This class is a continuation of Algebra I. The TI 83 Plus graphics calculator is used in this class. Linear, polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, and rational functions are studied. Quadratic relations and the conic sections will be investigated. Work with matrices, sequences, series, probability, and statistics is included. We will explore functions, graphs, identities, and solving trigonometric equations. This class leads to Pre-Calculus.

Business Economics

1/2 Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I and any Geometry course

Grades 11 & 12

Business Economics introduces economic concepts and principles which are useful in understanding the general economic environment within which businesses and other organizations operate. These concepts are put into practical terms as students perform the basic mathematical computations to match the concepts.

Personal Finance

1/2 Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I and any Geometry course

Grades 11 & 12

Personal Finance is a course designed to help students understand the impact of individual choices on occupational goals and future earnings potential. Topics covered will include income, money management, spending and credit, as well as saving and investing.

Statistics

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra II

Grades 11, 12

This course includes topics to give students a good foundation of statistics. The student should have a good foundation of basic algebra skills. Some topics to be covered include: measuring tendencies, organizing and analyzing data, calculating probability, examining distributions, and testing hypotheses.

Honors Pre-Calculus

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra II or Honors Algebra II

Grades 11, 12

Trigonometry and Analytical Geometry are the main subjects and focus of this course. Other topics covered include: Functions and their graphs, polynomial and rational functions, vectors, complex numbers, exponential and logarithmic functions, the Binomial Theorem, principles of counting, limits and an introduction to Calculus. Problem solving techniques of solving equations are included. This course assumes the knowledge and skills of Algebra and Geometry. A solid understanding of Pre-Calculus is necessary before taking Calculus.

Honors Calculus Advanced Placement

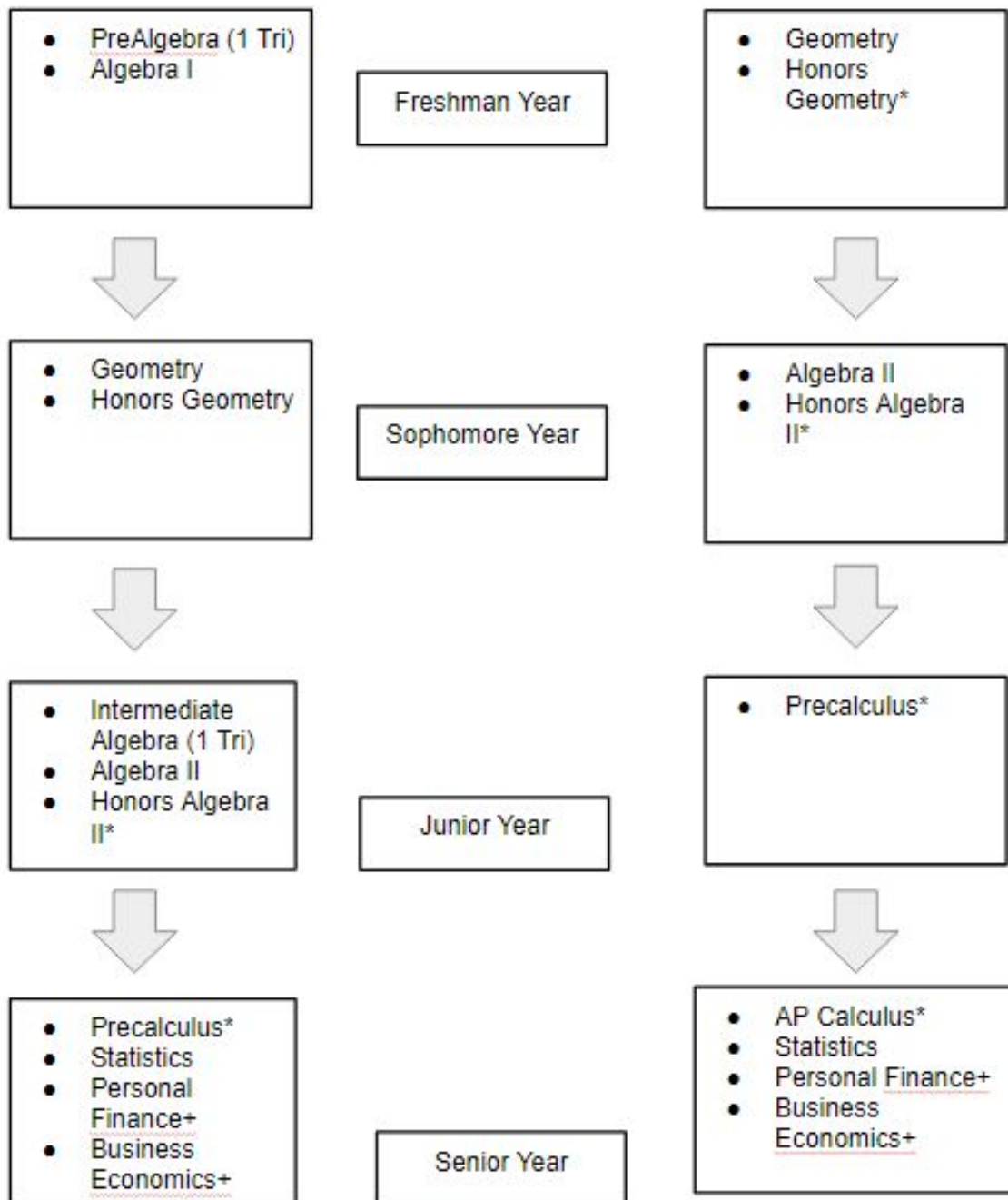
1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus with a cumulative grade average of 80% or teacher discretion

Grade 12

This course is intended for students entering with a firm foundation in Algebra, Geometry, and Pre-Calculus. A review of pertinent mathematical topics needed for Calculus is undertaken and includes: Lines, Functions and Graphs, Exponential and Logarithmic Functions, and Trigonometric Functions. The topics of Calculus to be covered include: Functions and models, Limits and Continuity, Derivatives, Differentiation Rules, Applications of Differentiation, Integrals, and Applications of Integration.

Sample Math Progression



*Please see course descriptions for prerequisites for these classes.

+Students are required to take either Personal Finance, Business Economics or Consumer Economics.

Physical Education Department

Physical Education I – General Fitness

½ credit -- 1 Trimester

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

This P.E. class is designed to be more instructional, emphasizing rules, skills, technique, and physical fitness principles. The units studied and applied may include the following: flag football, basketball, soccer, volleyball, badminton, ultimate Frisbee, pickleball, softball and a variety of other individual and team sports. Classes focus on building Catholic virtue through sports.

Activity classes: 3 days a week Weight training: 2 days a week

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated on their skill levels, knowledge of the history and rules of the sport, and on physical fitness testing. Students will be required to participate and improve their skill levels to the best of their ability.

Physical Education 2 – Fitness P.E.

½ credit -- 1 Trimester

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Successful completion of one full trimester of Physical Education I –General Fitness

This physical education class is designed for instruction in the area of physical fitness and strength training. Students who enter this class do so to become stronger individuals, both mentally and physically. The premise of the class is to work on gaining and maintaining physical strength, along with improving physical fitness. This class is open to anyone interested in striving to develop their God-given physical fitness.

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated on their ability to maintain and follow a strength training program. Students will also be evaluated on their physical fitness and strength training gains.

Drivers Education

0 Credit – 6 weeks (then students move into a PE class)

Prerequisite: See description

Grades 9, 10

This class will teach all of the driving skills and concepts required by the state, including teaching young drivers the safe and defensive techniques needed in today's hazardous driving conditions. Each student is required to log 40 clock hours in the classroom and 6 clock hours of driving with the instructor and 6 clock hours observing. The students will receive their permit after about one week of class. This slip allows the student to drive with their parents. There is a 9 month waiting period from the time they receive their permit until they are allowed to receive their license. During this time, the student must drive 50 clock hours with their parents. **Students will be dropped from this class on their fourth absence. Students may not miss any part of the driving sequence. Driving order is based on the student's birth date; oldest students will drive first. Pass/Fail grade will be given. Students must have received a passing grade in at least eight courses over the past two semesters in order to take Drivers Ed.**

Health

1/2 Credit -- 1 Trimester

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

Health is designed to promote a lifestyle of wellness, identify hereditary, environmental, and behavioral risks, provide educational information on preventing health risks, and to help make a difference in the student's lifelong behavioral choices by offering a Catholic/Christian vision of the human person and morality. Themes that will be highlighted in this course are nutrition, violence prevention, alcohol and drugs, self-esteem, stress management, abstinence, and building healthy relationships. Guest lecturers may be invited to speak to the class. Sensitive topics of an intimate nature regarding human sexuality will not be covered in this class, as the Church teaches that parents have the sole responsibility to convey such information.

Science Department

Introduction to Biology

0.5 Science Credit / 0.5 Elective Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: None

Grade 9

Taught with the Catholic worldview of God as the Creator, Introduction to Biology offers the first trimester of Biology over the period of two trimesters for students who would benefit from a slower-paced approach. Emphasis is placed on the development of scientific critical thinking and problem solving through the study of microbiology with the goal of improving science study skills to prepare the student to continue on with the second trimester of Biology.

Biology I

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: None

Grade 9

Taught with an emphasis on the Catholic worldview of God as the Creator, this course has an intellectual foundation in both molecular and integrative biology. The focus of this course is on conducting laboratory investigations and developing critical thinking and problem solving skills applied to biological principles. The main themes include basic biological principles, the structures and functions of cells, fundamentals of genetics, evolutionary theories, the interdependence of organisms, as well as dissection analysis of various specimens

Introduction to Chemistry

1/2 Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology and Algebra 1

Grades 10, 11, 12

Introduction to Chemistry is a laboratory course that focuses on the fundamental topics learned in chemistry, but with a more conceptual approach. Mathematical skills will be needed, but on a limited basis. Students will have the opportunity to discover the composition and transformation of matter as well as the usefulness of the periodic table. Through abundant models and laboratory experiences, students will get to experience the beauty of God's creation and laws at the atomic level.

Introduction to Physics

1/2 Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology and Algebra I

Grades 10, 11, 12

Introduction to Physics is a laboratory course that focuses on the fundamental topics learned in physics: energy, work, motion, and forces. While this course provides a conceptually-based exposure to the fundamental principles and processes of the physical world, the mathematical component of this course requires algebra based mathematics. Scientific models and experiments will allow students to experience the beauty of God's creation in the natural laws of physics.

Earth Science: Earth's History and Space

½ credit - 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology and Algebra I

Grades 10, 11, 12

Taught with focus on our Creator God, this course investigates Earth's history as a planet, its designed place in our solar system, and the space beyond our world. This course utilizes an online text and requires independent note-taking to prepare for in-class activities, writings, and discussions involving the application of the concepts as well as algebra as needed to solve quantitative problems.

Earth Science: Geology**½ credit - 1 Trimester****Grades 10, 11, 12****Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology and Algebra I**

Bringing attention to the beauty and goodness of God reflected in nature, this course looks at minerals and rocks as well as volcanoes, plate tectonics, earthquakes and other natural hazards that shape Earth, our common home. This course utilizes an online text and requires independent note-taking to prepare for in-class activities, writings, and discussions involving the application of the concepts as well as algebra as needed to solve quantitative problems.

Earth Science: Atmosphere and Human Impacts**½ credit - 1 Trimester****Grades 10, 11, 12****Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology and Algebra I**

Beginning with the make up of and conditions in our atmosphere, this course encompasses weather forecasting and natural resources as well as human impacts on our global environment including conservation, preservation, overconsumption, and stewardship as it relates to creation and to caring for that which God has given to sustain us. This course utilizes an online text and requires independent note-taking to prepare for in-class activities, writings, and discussions involving the application of the concepts as well as algebra as needed to solve quantitative problems.

Chemistry I**1 Credit – 2 Trimesters****Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology and Algebra I; successful completion of Geometry is strongly recommended****Grades 10, 11, 12**

Chemistry is a laboratory course that focuses on the intricacies and orderliness of God's design of matter through exploration of topics including kinetic theory, atomic structure, chemical periodicity, solutions, and chemical bonds and reactions. This course is a stepping stone for students who wish to pursue honors science course offerings. Along with experimental and guided-inquiry, students use modeling, mathematical, and scientific problem solving skills to understand God's creation and universal truths.

Honors Physics I**1 Credit – 2 Trimesters****Prerequisites: 1. Successful completion of Chemistry and Geometry; Successful completion of Algebra II is strongly recommended****Grades 11, 12**

A laboratory course, Honors Physics I uses modeling, guided-inquiry, application, and mathematics to understand God's fundamental physical laws. Topics include mechanics, Newtonian laws of motion, mechanical energy, and circular motion. Physics I also aims at providing students with hands-on engineering experiences through building mousetrap cars, catapults, and toothpick bridges. This course is recommended for students interested in pursuing careers in computers, engineering, architecture, or medicine.

Honors Physics II**1 Credit – 2 Trimesters****Prerequisite: Successful completion of Physics I****Grade 12**

Honors Physics II is a continuation of Honors Physics I with a laboratory component as an integral part of the course. Topics include static and current electricity, magnetism, and waves including sound and light. Along with experimental, engineering, and guided-inquiry activities, students use modeling, mathematical, and scientific problem solving skills to understand God's perfectly-designed physical laws and constants. Additionally, students will study the details of the Galileo affair to counter the assumption that the Church is anti-science.

Honors Anatomy and Physiology

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Chemistry

Grades 11, 12

Taught with the Catholic worldview of God as the Creator and to instill an appreciation for God's gift of simultaneous complexity and simplicity of physical reality, Honors Anatomy is a rigorous college level course that provides an intense study of cells, tissues, and the structure of organs and organ systems. The class is an in-depth look into the form and functional processes of cells, tissues, organs, and organ systems, showing the cooperativity of these systems to ensure the survival and health of the human body. The course **requires students to perform two dissections.**

Human Biology (Dual Credit through Parkland College)

1 credit - 2 Trimesters

Prerequisites: Parkland Placement Test and successful completion of Biology I

Grades 11, 12

Human Biology is a college level, dual credit course providing non-science (college) majors with basic principles of human biology in the context of current social issues. This class is largely a discussion course, but includes lecture, online discussions, lab activities, and quizzes accessed on Parkland's Cobra student interface. Topics include moral issues involving in vitro fertilization, human cloning, human genetic manipulation, and human experimentation and what the Church teaches regarding work in these areas. Course instruction places emphasis on the human body and its interconnectedness to health, disease, growth, development, genetics, and evolution, as they relate to individuals and society and teaches a primacy of care and concern at all stages of life for each human person as an image and likeness of God.

Advanced Placement Chemistry

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Chemistry; successful completion of Algebra II is strongly recommended.

Grades 11, 12

The High School of Saint Thomas More offers two Advanced Placement Science courses. We are considering offering those on an alternating year basis. Potentially, school years ending in even years (2020, 2022, 2024) will offer Advanced Placement Chemistry. AP Chemistry is open to both juniors and seniors.

Advanced Placement Chemistry is an advanced laboratory course that follows the rigorous CollegeBoard curriculum and focuses on the intricacies and orderliness of God's design of matter. Topics are typical of a first-year college chemistry course and include: atomic structure, chemical quantities and reactions, bonding theories, properties of solids, liquids, and gases, thermodynamics, kinetics, electrochemistry, and solution chemistry. Students complete both introductory and guided-inquiry laboratory activities highlighting six "Big Ideas" throughout the course and are required to take the AP Chemistry exam in May.

Advanced Placement Biology

1 Credit - 2 Trimesters

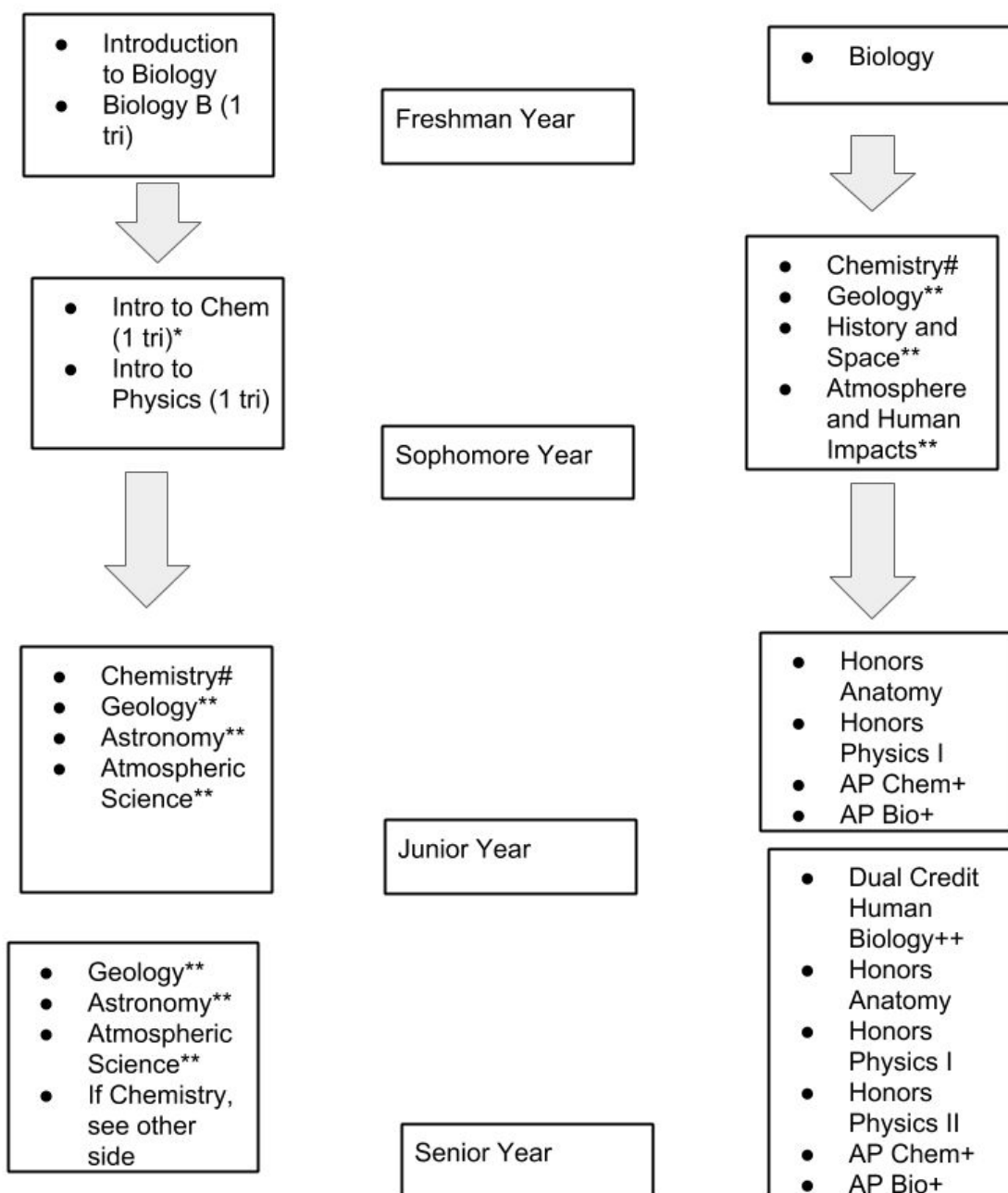
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Chemistry and Geometry

Grade 11, 12 (In 2019-2020, the course will have preferred enrollment for seniors)

The High School of Saint Thomas More offers two Advanced Placement Science courses. We are considering offering those on an alternating year basis. Potentially, school years ending in odd years (2021, 2023, 2025) will offer Advanced Placement Biology. We are encouraging juniors interested in AP courses to take AP Chemistry in the event that it may not be offered the following year.

Advanced Placement biology is designed to be a college level class in accordance with the AP course descriptions. It delves deeper into the nuances of biology and gives an insight into the beauty and goodness of God's creation. It is focused around the four "Big Ideas" present in the AP biology curriculum: the process of evolution driving the diversity of life, the energy of biological systems used to maintain homeostasis, how living systems transmit information necessary for life processes, and the complexity of biological system interactions. Students will complete the integrated AP biology labs and are required to take the AP Biology exam in May.

Sample Science Progression



*Students taking Intro to Chem 1st tri of sophomore year may take Chemistry 2nd and 3rd trimester of the same year with instructor recommendation.

**Sophomores may take any courses in the Earth Science series with instructor recommendation

#Chemistry is a requirement for all honors and AP level courses.

+AP Bio and AP Chem will be offered on alternate years.

++Dual Credit Human Bio is open to juniors and seniors, with preference given to seniors if enrollment exceeds capacity.

Social Studies Department

Human Geography

1/2 Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: None

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

The Geography course familiarizes students with the world through a Catholic lens. Students should develop skills and knowledge about location, place, human/environmental interaction, movement, and regions. The course should compare and contrast these themes across all continents. The course should require students to apply skills and knowledge to content information involving different regions of the world.

World History I: Ancient Civilizations

1/2 Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: None

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

This course focuses on the first civilizations in the world, beginning with a general overview of the dawn of humans and ending with the fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476 A.D. With an understanding of the basic components of any civilization and how those developed in the places studied in this course, students will consider the unique cultural and technological contributions of each individual civilization from a Catholic perspective. Areas covered include: Mesopotamia, ancient Egypt, the Persian Empire, ancient Greece and the Hellenistic World, ancient China, and the Roman Empire.

World History II: The Middle Ages

1/2 Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: Ancient Civilizations or Geography

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

The period from the end of the 5th century A.D. through the end of the 15th century was one of great cultural shifts throughout the world. Religion, languages, art, and technology were shared along major trade routes as well as due to military conquests. This course will examine from a Catholic perspective some of the major places and events associated with this time period, including the Byzantine Empire, feudal systems of Europe and Japan, trade along the Silk Road, the Holy Roman Empire, the Crusades, the Trans-Saharan gold and salt trade, and the rise of the Maya, Aztec, and Inca Empires.

World History II: Modern Civilizations

1/2 Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: Ancient Civilizations or Geography

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Beginning with the Age of Exploration, the modern world began to take shape. This course begins with a look at the situation in Europe prior to Columbus' discovery of the New World and follows the paths forged by imperialism, trade, and revolutions--including the Industrial Revolution--to form the cultures and nations of the modern world. The course will end with an investigation of the wars of the 20th century. This course explores modern history from a Catholic perspective.

Modern Warfare

1/2 Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: World History II or III (for sophomores) or concurrent or past enrollment in American History

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Modern Warfare is an in-depth analysis of WWI and WWII with an emphasis on the causes, the strategies, the weaponry and key battles, the personalities, and the peace negotiations and settlements. In addition there will be focus on the impact on civilian populations and international war conventions to establish rules of war. This course explores these topics from a Catholic perspective.

United States History

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: None

Grade 11

United States History is a **required**, introductory survey of American history for students in their junior year. The topics covered include the social, economic, political, cultural, and diplomatic forces that have shaped this country's development from the first colonial settlement to present day. United States History is intended to acquaint the student with the basics of American history, to appreciate conflicting interpretations surrounding various topics, to enhance the student's understanding of the multi-cultural diversity of America, and to do this all from a Catholic perspective.

Advanced Placement United States History

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisites: Requires the completion of a summer assignment that will be due the first day class is in session.

Grade 11

Topics covered include the social, economic, political, cultural, and diplomatic forces that have shaped this country's development from the first colonial settlement to the present day. Advanced Placement U.S. History is designed to be a writing-intensive course taught from a Catholic perspective. At the conclusion of this course the student will be equipped to take the Advanced Placement test. Successful completion can lead to a student's exemption from further American history courses at the collegiate level and subsequent college credit.

Civics

½ Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: None

Grade 10, 11, 12

This is a **required**, one trimester, preparatory survey course that introduces the student to the parameters upon which the government in the United States was created and organized by the Founding Fathers. In addition to the principles upon which the government was founded, the course investigates the functions that government performs in the United States today, and discusses the role that the American people play in their system of governance, all from a Catholic perspective. Topics covered include the origin and development of the Constitution as well as how the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government function at both the federal and state level. Included within the curriculum is an in-depth overview of both the U. S. Constitution and the constitution of the State of Illinois. **Passing the IL and US constitutions test is required for graduation.**

Comparative Politics

½ Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: Civics

Grade 10, 11, 12

This course introduces students to the rich diversity of political life in and outside the United States. The course uses a comparative approach to examine the political structures, policies, and political, economic, and social challenges. Additionally, students examine how different governments solve similar problems by comparing the effectiveness of approaches to many global issues through a Catholic lens. Students will be able to discover how faith and governments are related.

Consumer Economics

½ Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: None

Grade 12

Economics is a course that introduces students to the basic concepts that govern the economic process from a Catholic perspective. Some of the topics include the American economy, an overview of macro and micro economics, the stock market, and the importance of personal financial planning. Trimester will conclude with students constructing resumes and holding a mock interview. Students will leave the course with a basic understanding of finance, interview experience and a revised personal resume.

Sociology**½ Credit – 1 Trimester****Prerequisite: None****Grade 11, 12**

Sociology examines the characteristics that are found within society and the role they play. Some topics covered are: racism, gender, poverty, sexism, economic class, stratification, deviance, religion, and family. Students will be expected to analyze various forms of institutions and explain how diverse groups have contributed to society and other aspects. Class format is lecture/discussions, group and individual research projects and is taught from a Catholic perspective.

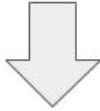
Psychology**½ Credit – 1 Trimester****Prerequisite: None****Grade 11 ,12**

Psychology studies the mysteries of the mind and body from a Catholic perspective. Topics covered include human social behavior, personality, psychological disorders and treatment, learning, memory, human development, biological influences, thinking, intelligence, language, motivation, emotion, stress and health, cross-cultural psychology, and applied psychology.

Sample Social Studies Progression

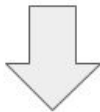
- World His I
- World His II **
- World His III **
- Human Geography

Freshmen



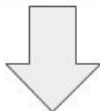
- Modern Warfare#
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Human Geography
- Civics*

Sophomore



- US History*
- APUSH
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Human Geography
- Modern Warfare#

Junior



- Civics*
- Modern Warfare#
- Comparative Politics +
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Human Geography

Senior Year

* Required courses. APUSH may be substituted for U.S. History.

** World History I or Geography is a prerequisite for World History II and III.

+ Civics is a prerequisite for Comparative Politics

Students may take Modern Warfare sophomore year if they have taken WH II or III. Modern Warfare may also be taken concurrently with or after US History or APUSH

Technology Department

Computer Programming

½ Credit - 1 Trimester

Grades 11, 12

In this course, the students will learn basic structures in several different programming languages. Students will gain an understanding of the history behind programming languages and how the different languages are written and what they are used for.

Computer Networking

½ Credit - 1 Trimester

Grades 11, 12

Students will learn both the hardware and software sides of networking. They will gain a better understanding of how a network actually works and how to manipulate different aspects of network via changes in hardware or software.

Theology Department
(Four years required)

Introduction to Research

½ Credit - 1 Trimester (Fulfills an elective requirement)

Required for all incoming students

This course teaches research and writing skills expected of all STM students in all courses. During the course of the semester, students will learn to research using multiple internet and print sources, including but not limited to general reference books, historical texts, recent periodicals, the Bible and Catholic Catechism, and biographies. Students will learn how to properly cite, how to avoid plagiarism, and how to edit and revise as they write small papers and at least two larger papers. Research will focus on key concepts such as the virtues and the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

Introduction to Catholicism

½ Credit - 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: None

Grade 9

This course is required for all non-Catholic students as a prerequisite to any other Theology class, but is open to all students. Non Catholic students may test out of this class if they can demonstrate a solid understanding of the Christian faith. This course will begin with an introduction to Christianity, and then delve into the precepts of the Catholic faith.

Old Testament I

½ Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: None

Grade 9

This course offers an introduction of Sacred Scripture in the context of the person and mission of Jesus Christ. The course is based around the covenants in the Old Testament. Students will be able to draw connections from Old Testament figures and their own lives. The covenants of Adam, Noah, and Abraham will be covered in this course.

Old Testament II

½ Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: Old Testament I

Grade 9

This course offers an introduction of Sacred Scripture in the context of the person and mission of Jesus Christ. The course is based around the covenants in the Old Testament. Students will be able to draw connections from Old Testament figures and their own lives. The covenants of Moses, David, the Prophets, and finally Jesus will be covered in this course.

Christology

½ Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: Old Testament II or permission of department (transfer students only)

Grade 10

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

Theology of the Body

½ Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: Christology or permission of department (transfer students only)

Grade 10

This course will review the basic moral principles contained in the course of fundamental morality and will expand the student's view of the moral problems which will confront him as a mature human being. The purpose of this course is to help the students understand that in and through the Church they encounter the living Jesus Christ. The students will come to know that the Church is the living Body of Christ today. This course will focus on Saint John Paul II's writings of Theology of the Body.

Ecclesiology

½ Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: Theology of the Body or permission of department (transfer students only)

Grade 11

This course will examine the doctrine of the Church from Scripture and Tradition focusing on the concept of the Church as the mystical body of Christ. It draws especially on the Letters of St. Paul and the Gospel of John to show how the Incarnation of the Son of God is extended in the life and ministry of the Church. It then covers the first five centuries of the Church in both its Councils (e.g. Nicea) and its liturgy to elucidate the Church's self-understanding throughout history. It ends by examining how the structure of the Church flows out of its mystical nature.

Sacraments

½ Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: Theology of the Body or permission of department (transfer students only)

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.

Logic

½ Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: Sacraments or permission of department (transfer students only)

Grade 12

This course introduces the student to the fundamentals of deductive and inductive logic with special emphasis on the syllogism and informal fallacies. These concepts are applied to proofs for the existence of God and the nature of knowledge. The course finally examines the fallacies of modern philosophies of materialism and relativism.

Apologetics

½ Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: Logic

Grade 12

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to articulate why it is reasonable to believe in God, Jesus, and why it is reasonable to believe that the Catholic Church holds the fullness of truth. This section is a Christian apologetic (defense); it will include an exploration of why faith and reason (or religious beliefs and the findings of science) do not conflict.

The Catholic Heritage (Honors)

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: Successful Completion of essay junior year

Grade 12

Sir Isaac Newton once said, "If I have seen farther than others, it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants." This course develops that truth by an in-depth examination of one of the giants of western culture, St. Augustine of Hippo. Students read and discuss *The Confessions* of St. Augustine as one of the greatest classics of all philosophical and theological literature. The topics of Logic and Apologetics will be incorporated into the course.

Electives

Christology in Film

½ Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: None

Grade 10, 11, 12

This course will examine various films throughout modern history and draw out the Christological themes found within.

Ethics

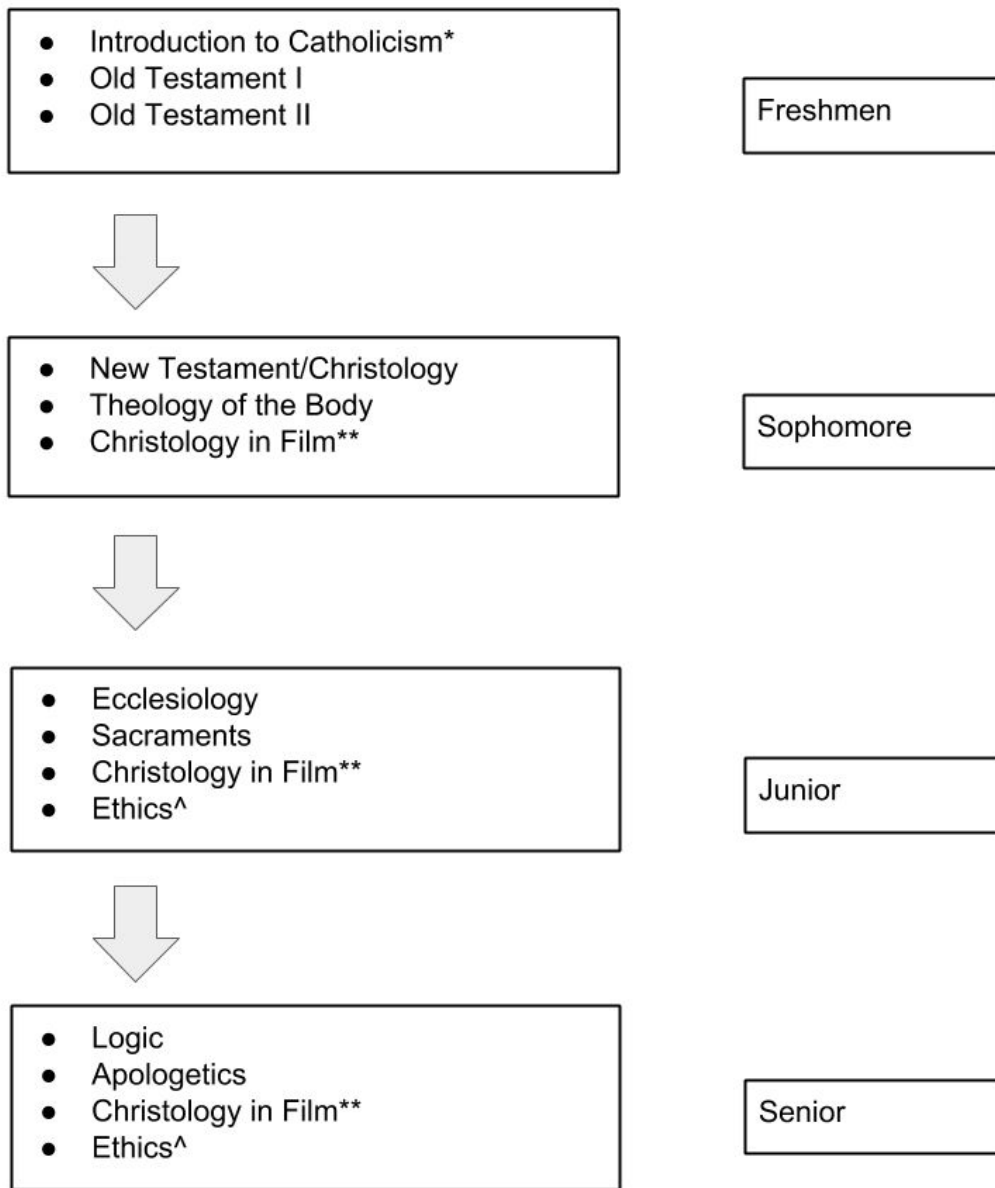
½ Credit – 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: None

Grade 11, 12

This course addresses a wide range of ethical issues in modern society from abortion and capital punishment to sexual mores and reproductive technologies. Using the Ten Commandments as a framework, as explicated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the course examines both issues and philosophical frameworks for moral judgment. It depends heavily on Natural Moral Law.

Sample Theology Progression



*Required for all non-Catholic students. Students may test out.

**May be taken after New Testament/Christology.

^Concurrent or past enrollment in Sacraments required.

Senior Year: Honors possible upon successful completion of essay within Junior year Theology class

World Language Department

LATIN DEPARTMENT

We continue to search for a Latin teacher, and will communicate progress towards those who sign up for Latin.

Latin I

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: None

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12

Latin II

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Latin I

Grade 10, 11, 12

The students in Latin II and Latin III participate in the National Latin Examination administered by the American Classical League.

Latin III

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Latin II

Grade 11, 12

The students in Latin II and Latin III participate in the National Latin Examination administered by the American Classical League.

Honors Latin IV

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Latin III

In this course, the grammar is completed and the students will have a wide knowledge of Latin vocabulary. They will be able to enjoy the further reading of Latin literature in addition to the passages in the textbook.

Spanish Department

Spanish I FUNdamentals

½ credit -- 1 Trimester

Prerequisite: None

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12

This course is an elective for students who have never taken Spanish or who are seeking a solid foundation before taking Spanish 1. Whether building or reinforcing the Spanish foundation, Spanish 1 FUNdamentals is an interactive class where students will engage in music, role-playing, cultural “*dichos*” (proverbs), chants, rhymes, Bible verses and Catholic prayers, as well as basic grammatical concepts. Correct pronunciation and use of basic, common phrases are emphasized as learners gain cultural insights into the Spanish-speaking world. This course is taught mostly in Spanish along with English as needed.

Spanish I

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: None

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12

This course is an interactive approach to learning how to speak, read, write, and listen in Spanish utilizing technology, engaging activities, and cultural appreciation of the Spanish-speaking world and supplementary class activities. Students will be discussing subjects that interest them and Spanish-speaking teens including leisure activities, music, sports, family, friends, shopping, classes, traveling, and food. Survival skills for the global community and a Catholic worldview will be emphasized as students act independently and successfully in novel cultural situations.

Spanish II

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish I or STM Spanish Placement Exam

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12

Spanish II is an expansion of the communicative tasks and skills learned in Spanish I. Students must enter with basic knowledge and mastery of the first year of the language. Reading, writing, listening, and oral skills will improve as students learn to analyze, interpret, and discuss songs, articles, and stories and write more intensively. There is a continued focus on studying the Spanish-speaking world, cultural similarities and differences, and a Catholic worldview.

Accelerated Spanish II

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish I and teacher recommendation or recommendation by STM Spanish Placement Exam

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12

All students must prepare for this course by completing a summer reading and any additional assigned work. Students must have demonstrated exceptional mastery of Spanish 1 skills and be highly motivated to learn at an accelerated pace. Reading, writing, listening, and oral communicative skills will improve as students learn to analyze, interpret, and discuss songs, articles, and stories and write more intensively and critically on an advanced level. There is a continued focus on studying the Spanish-speaking world, cultural similarities and differences, and a Catholic worldview.

Spanish III

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

**Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish II, the STM Spanish Placement Exam, or teacher recommendation
Grades 10, 11, 12, native or heritage Spanish speaker**

Spanish III is built entirely on the knowledge gained in the previous courses. Therefore, it is imperative that students enter with a strong foundation. Students will further develop foundational language skills in verbal and written Spanish. There will also be a continued focus on cultural aspects of the Spanish-speaking world through a Catholic worldview. Students will read and write more intensively in Spanish and will learn to communicate and comprehend with greater ease. Spanish is used almost exclusively in the class as students develop the ability to discuss topics related to historical and contemporary events and issues and interact with other speakers of Spanish. Students will present in Spanish orally and written as students work

from concrete issues to abstract, they will demonstrate higher level thinking and more in-depth and independent work.

Spanish IV (H)

1 Credit – 2 Trimesters

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish III or teacher recommendation

Grades 11, 12, native or heritage Spanish speaker

This intermediate Spanish honors course is designed to provide students with an engaging learning experience as they strengthen their language skills and develop their cultural competency while using an interactive, communicative approach.

Students will develop conversational knowledge of verbal and written Spanish of Hispanic cultures through the use of authentic cultural experiences, connections with native or heritage Spanish speakers, intermediate grammar and syntax, Hispanic literary works, and immersion. Students will do research and presentations on various cultural issues in the Spanish-speaking Americas and Spain through a Catholic worldview, and thereby develop cultural fluency. This course is aligned to help students turn the skills and knowledge acquired in the classroom into functional experience that can be used to excel by communicating effectively in the Spanish-speaking world.

Spanish V Mentoring (H)

½ Credit – 1 Trimester – can be taken twice for credit within a year

Prerequisite: Spanish IV or III with recommendation and permission from instructor

Grade: 11, 12

This active and personalized course combines theory and practice in the teaching and authentic application of Spanish in the community while living the Catholic faith. It is an intermediate Spanish honors course designed to provide real-life opportunities for combining students' language skills and service. Mentors will research, plan, teach, and reflect throughout the year on their personal experiences with youth and the aged. As students practice, reinforce and further explore vocabulary and grammar, communicative skills will be enhanced. Written reflection in the target language is required as students analyze their progress and discover truth, goodness, and beauty through human connections. There is a \$30 course fee to defray the costs of transportation.

Sample Spanish Progression

