



**St.
Mary's
High
School**

**2010-2011
Course Description Catalog**



Art

Ceramics

1/2 Unit

This course gives students the opportunity to learn basic skills using clay and glaze materials and to foster those skills to develop creative thinking. Hand-building techniques, practice on the potter's wheel, and working with a variety of clay surface designs will be explored. Also insights into cultural and ancient uses of ceramic materials will be introduced. Attention will be given to developing awareness of the aesthetic and utilitarian roles of clay as a design material. The elements and principles of design will be emphasized in planning and creating ceramic forms which utilize the techniques, processes, and materials of ceramics design.

Advanced Ceramics

1/2 Unit

This course is designed to increase knowledge and production of functional and decorative pottery, to develop an understanding of the history and aesthetics of ceramics design, and to further develop technical skills necessary for the successful formulation of glazes, preparation of clay bodies, and firing of ceramic wares.

Prerequisite: Ceramics

Studio in Art

1 Unit

This is a good course for students considering a major in art but is available to anyone. It consists of learning basic art techniques and expression in a variety of media: painting, drawing, oil pastels, and colored pencils. Art appreciation and art history are also included. Open to all students.

Drawing and Painting

1/2 Unit

This course introduces the student to fundamental techniques of drawing and painting through the study of art elements and principles and through direct experience with different drawing and painting materials. Students also study the works of various artists and art movements throughout history. Students read and write about different aesthetic theories of art to help them learn how to analyze and appreciate works of art. Open to all students.

Introduction to Fine Arts

1/2 Unit

This is a beginner course that will introduce basic art concepts to students. They will learn about color, the elements of art, as well as how to use art media such as paint, pencil, and pastels. Art history will also be included. Open to all students.

Digital Photography

1/2 Unit

Students will learn the basics of photographic composition and lighting, the basics of using a digital camera, and the basics of preparing a digital darkroom. Students will also learn basic color theory and the fundamentals of image processing. This course is designed for the student who has no background in photography. Students will use Adobe Photoshop for manipulation of photographs. After completing this course, students will be able to successfully use a digital camera to make images; explain and apply basic photographic compositions to their images; explain and apply the various characteristics of light in making their images; explain and apply the fundamental tools of image processing to their work; explain the hardware and software requirements for a digital darkroom and analyze their systems in terms

of those requirements; explain how a digital camera works; and explain how they can use their photographs.

Requirement: any digital camera of 4 megapixel or more.

Digital Art

1/2 Unit

This course is designed to develop both technical and artistic skills using computers as a creative tool to generate images. Digital art created in this course will be applied to electronic slide shows, web pages, and hard-copy prints. Finished projects will demonstrate understanding of both the technical and aesthetic implications of the medium. The final objective will be to generate a digital portfolio that can be viewed both electronically (web and/or CD) and as hard-copy prints. Students will learn about drawing, painting, animation, and multimedia applications with a combination of lecture, demonstration, and hands-on experience. They will also gain exposure to ethical concerns and copyright issues.

Prerequisite: Computer Foundations for High School

Advertising & Design

1/2 Unit

This course is for persons interested in design. Students will create things such as play programs, book covers, advertisements for products, and much more. The primary focus will be using the computer and Photoshop to create advertising and marketing style projects. Students may also use other media such as pencil, colored pencils, markers, paint, and digital photography.

Prerequisite: Digital Art

Yearbook Design I

1/2 Unit

Grades 11-12

Yearbook Journalism I is a first-semester elective course for juniors and seniors interested in journalism. The course includes a comprehensive study of yearbook layout designs, copy preparation, publication finances and accounting, and photography. Hands-on experience will be applied to the preparation of the *Lance*, St. Mary's Yearbook, using InDesign, YearTec, and PhotoShop software. Course expectations include the student's availability after school, on weekends, or during free periods, at deadline times.

Yearbook Design II — Theory

1/2 Unit

Grades 11-12

Yearbook Journalism II is a second-semester elective course for juniors and seniors interested in journalism. The course will continue to develop yearbook layout, design, and photography. The course will also develop students' leadership ability as editors in charge of planning, theme design, ladder design construction, layout and copy proof, sales, work rotations, and schedules. Course expectations may include the student's availability after school, on weekends, or during free periods.

Prerequisite: Yearbook Design I

Advanced Yearbook Design

1 Unit

Grade 12

Advanced Yearbook Design is for seniors who wish to take an editorial leadership role in the production of the school's Yearbook. The course will continue to develop yearbook layout, design, and photography. The course will continue to develop students' ability in planning, theme design, ladder design construction, layout and copy proof, sales, work rotations, and schedules. Course expectations may include the student's availability after

school, on weekends, or during free periods.

Prerequisite: Yearbook Design I & II

Business & Computer Science

Business

Accounting

1 Unit

Grades 11-12

Accounting is highly recommended for college-bound students considering accounting, business, or economics. This course is designed to introduce students to real world concepts in today's business environment. Accounting starts with the elementary principles of debits and credits and ends with the balance sheet and income statement.

Accounting II

1/2 Unit

Grade 12

Using computer applications, students will set up their own company and apply all learned accounting techniques to real life. Hands-on interaction in a business simulation setting will be the format of this class. This course will prepare students for advanced accounting courses at the college level.

Prerequisite: Accounting I

Business Law

1 Unit

Grades 10-12

Business Law is an interesting and educational class that is encouraged as an elective for all students. In this course, students develop a respect for and understanding of business law and law enforcement as it affects the student's personal, family, and occupational pursuits. An introduction to our legal system, court procedures, and the jury process will be presented. Students become aware of the need for legal assistance in a variety of day-to-day business transactions, so that they may avoid legal entanglements by having a working knowledge of their rights and obligations. Students who plan on majoring in business, economics, government, or history are encouraged to take this class.

CEIP (Career Exploration Internship Program)

1/2 Unit

Grades 11-12

The Career Exploration Internship Program is the only internship program approved by the New York State Education Department and the New York State Department of Labor. Students must apply for admission to the course through an application process that includes three letters of recommendation. Students will be placed at a job site matching their career interest. This career-related course allows students the opportunity to gain knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for successful school to college/career transitions. Students will be required to complete 54 hours at the job site and attend class once a week.

Prerequisite: 85% overall average

Leadership Skills

1/2 Unit

Grades 10-12

The Leadership course, open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors, endeavors to teach or support organizational or leadership skills through the planning of school-related events. The course will address brainstorming, time management, presentation, organization, event planning, evaluation, and follow-up, along with

other leadership skills. Students will be evaluated on classroom work as well as the successful planning and implementation of school-related event(s).

Marketing

1/2 Unit

Grades 10-12

Content for this course includes selected entrepreneurial skills as well as those necessary to the management, merchandising, and marketing functions inherent in the operation of a business. The course will help prepare students for college-level business programs and introduce them to an area of business with which they may be familiar or wish to pursue upon graduation.

Personal Finance

1/2 Unit

Recommended for Grades 11-12

Do you want to learn how to wisely save and spend your money? If so, this course is for you. This is your opportunity to learn about earning money, budgeting, loans (including college loans), managing a checking account and a credit card, and doing comparison shopping. Prepare for your adult life by learning about insurance of all types, investing, taxes, buying a house, and saving for retirement.

Computers

Computer Foundations for High School

1/2 Unit

Grade 9

This is a mandatory course that will provide an introduction to the computer, exploring the essential concepts and information about the computer. The physical components of the computer will be discovered. A practical knowledge of the Windows operating system and graphical user interface (GUI) is achieved. Students will also develop proficiency in using an integrated Office Suite package, which includes word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation software. Current issues such as social networking and Internet safety are explored.

Introduction to AutoCAD

1/2 unit

Students will explore the basics of Computer Aided Drafting using industry-standard software. A modern, hands-on approach through the use of tutorials with basic projects provides students an immediate opportunity to start drawing. Students will develop an understanding of the software command prompts, drafting techniques, and mouse-driven drawing techniques using AutoCAD. Throughout the semester students will continue to be challenged with new projects resulting in a collection of drawings for a portfolio. At the end of the semester, students will communicate their knowledge of the AutoCAD software via a written test and computer design project. This course is open to students of all grade levels. (Allowed to count as an art elective.)

Advanced CAD with 3D Modeling

1/2 unit

Using modeling software, students will build real-world objects in a three-dimensional environment. The skills gained in this course will help students prepare for possible careers in such fields as graphic design, game design, animation, simulation, and engineering. (Allowed to count as an art elective.)

Prerequisite: Introduction to AutoCAD





Internet and Web Page Development

1/2 Unit

This is an introductory course intended for individuals who have knowledge of using Internet browsers such as Internet Explorer and Netscape. An overview of the Internet and World Wide Web fundamentals begin the course. Students will explore the history of the web, protocols, browsers, e-mail, security, and legal issues as part of the course. Website design using state-of-the-art tools featuring Macromedia MX provide a framework for student projects. Projects will include designing a website. Fundamentals will include Macromedia MX, some HTML, some Java, animations, web flash presentation, and introductory graphics.

Prerequisite: Computer Foundations for High School and Digital Art

Computer Science I

1/2 Unit

Computer Science I is designed as an introduction to computer logic as well as program and game design. Students will learn the fundamental principles of computer programming while being introduced to a basic programming language that will be used to create working programs.

Prerequisite: Minimum requirement – successful completion of Geometry A or Geometry H (or Integrated Algebra II B with Math Department recommendation)

Computer Science II

1/2 Unit

This course is a continuation of the Computer Science I course. Students will do more advanced programming (including games) with an emphasis on lists, recursion, and variables.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Computer Science I

Advanced Placement Computer Science

1 Unit

This course is a college-level course for students who are interested in computer science. It will continue object-oriented programming with an emphasis on Java. The course will also cover the case study recommended by the College Board. Students will be prepared for the Advanced Placement Exam. The cost of the A.P. exam is approximately \$90.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Computer Science II

English

English 9

1 Unit

This course studies literary genres including short stories, poetry, novels, nonfiction, and drama. Also integral to the course are writing skills, concentrating on content, sentence structure, paragraphing, and organization. Drama includes a Shakespearean play. A research paper is required. Assignments include reading, compositions, reports, and creative projects. Summer reading is mandatory.

English 9 Honors

1 Unit

This course will cover the English 9 Regents course requirements at an accelerated pace. Several additional works will be studied to help students further develop their literary appreciation and writing skills. Honors classes for underclassmen are preparation for junior and senior year Advanced Placement courses in English. Completion of summer reading is a requirement of the course.

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Study Skills

N/C

Grade 9

Study Skills is a required course for all Freshmen. It is designed to help students make the successful academic and social transition to high school. Course material includes the video workshop "Skills for Studying". This program provides instruction and practical exercises in listening skills, goal setting, organizational skills, time management, memorization, note taking, outlining, studying, and test taking. There are also units on public speaking, library use, and research skills. The Study Skills grade is incorporated into the English 9 course. This class is offered during the 1st semester.

Reading Development

1/2 Unit

Grade 9

Reading Development is a lab-type course that permits each student to progress at his/her own rate. Course material includes individualized comprehension and vocabulary exercises tailored to fit each student's level; reading in content areas using textbooks; and reading various types of literature and the newspaper. Recreational reading is also encouraged. This course is required for some ninth graders, based upon results of tests given in eighth grade. In determining the grade for this course, the student's effort and degree of improvement are heavily considered. This is a one-semester course.

English 10

1 Unit

The second year of English focuses on a study of world writers. The study involves a deepening understanding of literary forms such as the novel, drama, short story, nonfiction, and poetry begun in the freshman year. Mastery of vocabulary and progress in grammar are considered essential. Outside assignments include novel reading, composition, and projects. The research paper is required. Completion of summer reading is a requirement of the course.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 9

English 10 Honors

1 Unit

This course in English focuses on a study of world writers. The study involves a deepening understanding of literary forms such as the novel, drama, short story, nonfiction, and poetry. A major stress is placed on reading assignments and analytical essays. The titles of novels to be read will be selected from a preparatory college reading list. Mastery of selected vocabulary will be expected. Outside assignments include reading, composition, and research work. The research paper is a course requirement. Honors classes for underclassmen are preparation for junior and senior year Advanced Placement courses in English. Completion of summer reading is a requirement of the course. The course pace is accelerated.

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

English 11 — Regents

1 Unit

This course is a survey of major American writers. The course is approached from the type of literature studied historically and chronologically. Research techniques are an integral part of the course work, and a research paper is required. Other types of writing, such as narrative and persuasion, are taught. All students will take the Comprehensive English Regents Exam in January. Summer reading is required.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 10

Writing Development

1/2 Unit
Grade 11

This course is designed to aid students weak in composition. It is mandatory for juniors who have been identified by the English Department as having difficulty with writing skills at the end of their sophomore year. This course is offered in addition to the regular requirements in English. Those students successfully completing this first semester course will receive ½ unit of credit, and will be eligible to take the English Regents Exam in January of their junior year. Satisfactory completion of assigned writing is a must for credit.

English 11 – Advanced Placement English Literature & Composition

1 Unit

This college-level course is the equivalent of English 11 Honors. The student who selects this course should be college-bound and have a good command of reading, writing, and discussion skills. A research paper is required each semester. Nightly assignments of reading and/or writing can be expected. At the end of the year, students will take the A.P. English Literature and Composition Exam. The cost of this A.P. exam is approximately \$90. Students who pass the A.P. exam may be eligible for college credit. Students also take the New York State Regents Exam in English in January. A summer reading assignment, including written paper, is due upon return in the fall; completion of this assignment is a course requirement, and will be incorporated into the first marking period grade.

Prerequisite: Based on department recommendation and/or approval.

English 12

1 Unit

The goal of the English 12 course is to expose students to the riches of British Literature. The course begins with the oldest-known poem in the English language, "Beowulf". Major British authors are studied in detail, and students will be exposed to all genres of literature. Projects include a research paper (a course requirement) and poetry writing. Summer reading is a requirement of the course.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 11

English 12 – Advanced Placement English Language & Composition

1 Unit

This college-level course is the equivalent of English 12 Honors. The student who selects this course should be college-bound and have a good command of reading, writing, and discussion skills. This course mirrors the freshman college composition course all college students take in the beginning of their freshman year. The emphasis of the literature studied in this course is nonfiction. A research paper is required each semester. Nightly assignments of reading and/or writing can be expected. At the end of the year, students will take the A.P. Language and Composition Exam. The cost of this exam is approximately \$90. Students who pass the A.P. Exam may be eligible for college credit. A summer reading assignment, including written paper due upon return in the fall, will be required and will be incorporated into the first marking period grade.

Prerequisite: Based on Department recommendation and/or approval plus mastery level on the junior-year Regents English Exam. A summer reading assignment, including written paper due upon return in the fall, will be required and will be incorporated into the first marking period grade.

Electives

The Art and Craft of Poetry Writing

1/2 Unit
Grades 11-12

Students will explore the whole process of poetry writing, including topic choice, use of imagery and figurative language, meter and rhyme, revision, and publishing.

Introduction to Journalism

1/2 Unit
Grades 11-12

This is a half-year course designed to introduce students and allow them the opportunity to gain some experience in several disciplines of the communications world. This course will cover the following topics: Radio and Television Broadcasting, Print Journalism, Print Publication Design, Internet Communications, and Event Publicity. Students will be divided into teams that will work on different projects simultaneously, with groups rotating between topics. As a group returns to do a topic again, the students will take up different jobs than the first time around. The entire class will meet once a week in "production meetings" to discuss the projects each group is working on. This class could include field trips to various communication organizations.

Public Speaking

1/2 Unit
Grades 11-12

This single-semester elective provides the student with the opportunity to learn, through experience, the basics of public speaking. From short 30-second oral presentations to full debates, this hands-on course will help the student build self-confidence and empower the student to speak before any group.

Health / Physical Education

Health

1/2 Unit

The emphasis on this course is self-responsibility and that choices made result in consequences. In line with the contemporary attention to individual and group health problems, the State Department of Education now mandates that all students have a minimum 1/2 unit in health education which must include the topics of stress management, suicide prevention, nutrition, drugs (including alcohol, tobacco, and steroids), and disease (including sexually transmitted diseases). The focus of this course will be for students to understand that health and wellness are life-long and cumulative, and that knowledge translated into positive health practices can extend youthfulness and postpone aging. The course also stresses principles adaptable to living life to the fullest extent today, toward accepting oneself, associating harmoniously with others, and developing an awareness of our physical, social, mental, spiritual, and environmental responsibilities. This course will include individual health problems as well as the health problems facing us as a society and how we can deal with them. Student participation in understanding the areas of health that affect them today and in the future is the major objective of this course. Students are required to complete a 20-hour volunteer service project that is health and people related.





Physical Education

1/2 Unit

New York State mandates that all students in high school must take physical education in order to fulfill the requirements for graduation. At St. Mary's, students must take two (2) physical education classes per cycle, for 40 weeks, each year. In lieu of Physical Education, Dance Class may be selected and will fulfill the Physical Education requirement.

Dance I

1/2 Unit

This course will give students a well-rounded experience in Dance Study. It will include the history of dance, dance terminology, ballet, barre, basic tap, and exercises to facilitate students' balance, coordination, and agility. Dances popular in the '30s through the present will be studied. Participation is mandatory. This course may be taken in place of a physical education class. The option of participation in two show productions are offered. (Students taking this course for physical education credit may not choose the study hall option when on an athletic team.)

Dance II

1/2 Unit

This course will cover what Dance I covers, however with more advanced criteria. Stage presence, movement, strength, and coordination are strongly emphasized. The option of participation in two show productions are offered. (Students may not take a study hall option when on an athletic team.)

Prerequisite: Dance I or permission of instructor

Languages

French I

1 Unit

This is an introduction to French language and culture. This course concentrates on four language skills: listening, oral expression, reading, and writing. Emphasis is placed on vocabulary, grammar, and classroom conversation.

French II

1 Unit

This course continues to develop the skills taught in French I. Emphasis is placed on strengthening speaking and reading skills through the use of dialogue and short reading passages. Instruction includes vocabulary, grammar, verb conjugation, and verb tenses.

Prerequisite: French I and/or department recommendation. For incoming freshmen, a score of 85% on the St. Mary's final French I exam will be accepted as the equivalent of French I.

French III — Regents

1 Unit

This course continues to develop the skills learned in French I and II, with particular emphasis on speaking and compositional skills. Materials include French publications, newspapers, and literature.

Prerequisite: French II and/or department recommendation. Successful completion of this course is required for Regents Diploma candidates

Spanish I

1 Unit

This is an introduction to the Spanish language and culture, including Mexico, Central and South America, and Spain. This

course concentrates on four language skills: listening, oral expression, reading, and writing. Emphasis is placed on vocabulary, grammar, and classroom conversation.

Spanish II

1 Unit

This course continues to develop the skills taught in Spanish I. Emphasis is placed on strengthening speaking and reading skills through the use of dialogue and short reading passages. Instruction includes vocabulary, grammar, verb conjugation, and verb tenses.

Prerequisite: Spanish I and/or department recommendation. For incoming freshmen, a score of 85% on the St. Mary's final Spanish I exam will be accepted as the equivalent of Spanish I.

Spanish III — Regents

1 Unit

This course continues to develop the skills learned in Spanish I and II, with particular emphasis on speaking and compositional skills. Materials include Spanish publications, newspapers, and literature.

Prerequisite: Spanish II and/or department recommendation. Successful completion of this course is required for Regents Diploma candidates

Spanish IV

1 Unit

This course offers students exposure to the world of Spanish and Hispanic cultures through short stories, poetry, and literary passages of a variety of authors. A travel unit emphasizes vocabulary, expressions, and situations that are designed to make students confident travelers in Spanish-speaking countries. The art and crafts of the early Mayan and Aztec peoples are introduced.

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Latin — An Introduction

1/2 Unit

This one-semester elective concentrates on building vocabulary skills for the college-bound student.

Mathematics

All Math students must have a TI-83 Plus / TI-84 Plus Graphing Calculator

Integrated Algebra A

1 Unit

Designed for pupils of average to above average ability in mathematics, this course is the first step in the Math curriculum. It will integrate topics from algebra and geometry such as elementary algebra, basic concepts of probability, statistics, and high school geometry (trigonometry, area, perimeter, volume, surface area, polygons). Problem solving will be emphasized in all areas. The Integrated Algebra Regents exam will be given in June of the freshman year.

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Integrated Algebra B

1 Unit School

This slower-paced course is designed for students who have shown in their mathematics background or achievement a need for extra attention. Students will take three semesters to prepare for the Integrated Algebra Regents exam. The Integrated Algebra Regents Exam will be given during January of the sophomore year.

Prerequisite: Department recommendation



Geometry A

1 Unit

This course is the second step in the mathematics curriculum. It is designed for those students who have successfully completed Integrated Algebra A. This course will build on topics covered in Integrated Algebra and extend those topics to provide a more in-depth study of Euclidean and analytic geometry. The Geometry Exam will be given in June.

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Geometry B

1 Unit School

This is a continuation of Integrated Algebra B. The Integrated Algebra Exam will be given in January.

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Geometry Honors

1 Unit

An accelerated course that covers the topics presented in Geometry A and additional enrichment topics. The Geometry Exam will be given in June.

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Integrated Algebra II / Trigonometry A

1 Unit

This course builds upon the New York State Integrated Algebra and Geometry courses. Students will extend their understanding of the real number system to the complex number system. The course material includes functions, transformation geometry, probability, statistics with an emphasis on trigonometry. The Integrated Algebra II / Trigonometry examination will be given in June.

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Integrated Algebra II / Trigonometry Honors

1 Unit

This is an accelerated and expanded version of the regular Integrated Algebra II / Trigonometry and is designed for those students who have demonstrated both competence and interest in mathematics. The content of the course will cover all the topics included in Integrated Algebra II / Trigonometry as well as additional enrichment topics. The Integrated Algebra II / Trigonometry exam will be given in June.

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Integrated Algebra II B

1 Unit

This slowed paced course is designed for students to enhance their algebra skills. Students will extend their understanding of the real number system to the complex number system. The course material includes functions, transformation geometry, sequences and series, probability, and statistics.

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Math IV B

1 Unit

A fourth year of B-level study, this course will develop algebraic skills needed in the study of trigonometry. Topics include conic sections, logarithms, and trigonometry, including graphing, equations, and the solution of the triangle.

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Precalculus

1 Unit

This course is designed for students with competence and skill in mathematics. This course integrates advanced algebra, analytic geometry, trigonometry, and an introduction to calculus; therefore, the course is an in-depth study of that material which is basic to an understanding of calculus.

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Precalculus Honors

1 Unit

This is an accelerated and expanded version of the regular Precalculus course and is designed for those students who have demonstrated both competence and interest in mathematics. The content of the course covers all the topics of Precalculus as well as additional enrichment topics.

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Advanced Placement Calculus

1 Unit

Designed for advanced students, the course will study the differential and integral calculus of one real variable. Topics include differentiation and its applications and integration, techniques, and applications of the definite integral. Students will write the Advanced Placement Exam. The cost of the exam is approximately \$90.

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Advanced Placement Statistics

1 Unit

Grades 11-12

Students who wish to complete studies equivalent to a one-semester, introductory, non-calculus based college course should enroll in AP Statistics. An introductory statistics course, similar to the AL Statistics course, is typically required for majors such as social sciences, health sciences, and business. Science, engineering, and mathematics majors usually take an upper-level calculus-based course in statistics, for which the AP Statistics course is an effective preparation. The purpose of the AP Statistics course is to introduce students to major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes: exploring data, planning a study, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference. Students in this course will take the Advanced Placement examination. The cost of the exam is approximately \$90. This course may be taken concurrently with Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus Honors, or AP Calculus.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra II / Trigonometry A or Honors. Based on department recommendation and/or approval.

Music / Performing Arts

Band

1/2 or 1 Unit

Band is a course for instrumentalists to play in an ensemble setting. Students will have the opportunity to play at NYSSMA and ECMEA festivals, as well as perform at school events and in the community. Solo opportunities will also be available, but not required. This course is open to any instrumentalist. Some experience is recommended. Course objectives include playing in an ensemble setting with proper technique, intonation, and balance; applying extended instrumental techniques; following a conductor; improvising on a chordal structure; and analyzing musical structure.



Introduction to Performing Arts

1/2 Unit

Introduction to Performing Arts is an overview course that is designed to give students an understanding and appreciation of the performing arts industry. Students will study basic theatrical and dance terminology, elements of a script, basic stage directions, theater architecture, the history of theater and dance, basic performance and production techniques, and job opportunities in the performing arts industry.

Musical Theatre Performance

1 Unit

This performance-based course is designed for the more advanced student. It will present a broad overview of the music, drama, and dance of American musical theater. Each student will be expected to perform for an audience in each of these categories alone and/or in small groups. During quarters 1, 2, and 4, students will complete academic work, practical exercises, and study a few musicals/scenes in depth. During quarter 3, students will participate in the production of the major musical.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Performing Arts, Vocal Ensemble, Dance, or permission of instructor

Musical Theatre Production (Tech Crew)

1/2 or 1 Unit

This practical course will give students a hands-on learning experience in musical production. Each student will get an overview of the technical and business sides of musical theater. Students will complete academic work and practical exercises relating to performance production. They will assist in school productions, including liturgies, concerts, assemblies, and the annual musical.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Performing Arts, Prep Choir, Vocal Ensemble, Dance, or permission of instructor

Prep Choir

1/2 Unit

This half-year course is an excellent introduction to fine arts performance. It is intended for new students with little or no musical background as well as more advanced students. Students will learn basic musicianship through class work and exercises in a large-group choral setting. Solo opportunities may be offered but are never required. Students will perform together with the larger Vocal Ensemble for school concerts. In addition to the class, small-group instruction will be included through voice labs once per cycle.

Vocal Ensemble

1/2 or 1 Unit

This class teaches basic musicianship through class work and exercises in a large-group choral setting. Solo opportunities may be offered but are never required. The Vocal Ensemble will prepare music for school concerts in the winter and spring. Members may have the opportunity to perform at group and solo festivals for Erie County and the New York State School Music Association. In addition to the class, small-group instruction will be included through voice labs once per cycle.

Keyboarding & Guitar I

1/2 Unit

This half-year elective is intended for students with little or no background in keyboard or guitar. The course is divided into 10-week sections for each instrument. Basic technique and musicianship skills will be taught including note reading, note writing, and improvisation. Methods of both group and individual instruction will be utilized.

Advanced Keyboarding

1/2 Unit

A continuation of the Keyboarding & Guitar I class, this half-year elective takes keyboarding skills to a higher level. Students will be introduced to more difficult piano literature and will continue in technical progress and reading abilities. Musical growth and understanding is part and parcel of this course as well as increasing technical ability.

Prerequisite: Keyboard & Guitar I or permission of instructor with demonstrated ability.

Advanced Guitar

1/2 Unit

A continuation of the Keyboarding & Guitar I class, this half-year elective takes guitar and listening skills to a higher level. Students will be introduced to more difficult guitar literature and continue with listening skills, technical progress, and reading abilities.

Prerequisite: Keyboard & Guitar I or permission of instructor with demonstrated ability.

Music Theory I

1 Unit

The emphasis of this course is on basic concepts and knowledge of the mechanics of music as well as development of skills necessary to read, write, and understand music and musical notation. Logical progression from individual notes through scales, chords, and simple composition is covered. No prior knowledge is required. This is an academic course and has no performance requirements. Purchase of the combination text/workbook (\$13.95) is required.

Religious Studies

Religion 9

1 Unit

This yearlong course is an overview of the Catholic faith. It touches on the Church's basic beliefs and practices. Topics include our faith's understanding of God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Sacred Scripture, prayer, liturgy, sacraments, and morality. A practical application of the Church's beliefs is explored. This is done by helping students to continue to develop a healthy Christian life-style including issues of personal identity, development, self-image, communication, family, friendship, sexuality, work, money, leisure, and life vocations. Students are required to complete a total of 10 (five each semester) hours of community service.

Old Testament

— 10th Grade fall semester

1/2 Unit

The students will recognize the story of the people of Israel as the root of their own faith story. This course introduces the student to a survey of major themes from the Bible such as sin, covenant, and redemption. Students are required to complete 10 hours of community service each semester.

New Testament

— 10th Grade spring semester

1/2 Unit

This course places an emphasis on the connection between Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. Catholic Christian tradition is rooted in an understanding of the message of Jesus found in the New Testament, particularly the Gospels. Students will discover

who Jesus is and what He means in each person's life. This program will foster a development of a personal, deeply relational experience of Jesus Christ. The history of the Church will be reflected on in the active and continuing presence of God. Students are required to complete 10 hours of community service each semester.

Morality — 11th Grade fall semester

1/2 unit

This course will focus on the moral teachings of the Bible, conscience formation, processes used for moral decision-making, and bioethics. Issues will be analyzed in the light of current debate and the teachings of the Church. Catholic and biblical teaching as a counter-cultural force is examined. Topics will include beginning of life issues such as fertilization, abortion, surrogacy, artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, and cloning. End of life issues such as suicide, euthanasia, physician-assisted suicide, hospice, and living wills will be examined. Death and dying, as well as grief instruction, will also be presented. Students will read *Tuesdays with Morrie*. Morality in the business world and in technology will also be covered. Students are required to complete 15 hours of community service each semester.

Christian Family Living & Vocations — 11th Grade spring semester

1/2 unit

This course will deal with the importance of vocations. Single life, married life, and religious life will be examined. Sacramental study of marriage as a covenant. The significance of relationships based on mutual love, respect, forgiveness, and concern. Other issues include the Church's teaching on chastity and abstinence. The Church's teachings in regards to love between marriage partners as well as parental responsibilities and cherishing of children are considered. Guest speakers from all three vocations will address the students. Students are required to complete 15 hours of community service each semester.

Social Justice I

— 12th Grade fall semester

1/2 unit

Students will understand the Church's teaching on Social Justice issues, including their sources rooted in the Old and New Testament plus Papal and Episcopal documents. This first-semester course will call students to discern discrepancies, where they exist, between social realities and Gospel values, and to develop strategies to make Gospel values operative. The students will develop a foundation for a social justice consciousness and learn how the Church addresses current social justice issues of our time. Students are required to complete 20 hours of community service each semester.

Social Justice II / World Religions — 12th Grade fall semester

1/2 unit

This semester will focus on specific justice issues including the ethics of life, racism, poverty, environmental concerns, and the challenge of peace. An appreciation for diversity through culture, tradition, and other world religions will be explored. Students are required to complete 20 hours of community service each semester.

Elective

Retreat Peer Ministry

1/4 unit

Grade 12

This course focuses on the formation of students in preparing and conducting retreats. This course is twofold in scope: (1) to introduce the student to various forms of spiritual and liturgical experiences; and (2) to develop leadership, organizational, and planning skills. This course will meet as part of their 12th grade religion course.

Science

Earth Science I A — Regents

1 Unit

Earth Science I B — Regents

1 Unit

Grade 9

This course presents the principles necessary to develop an up-to-date story of the earth as a planet and its environment in space. Factors which have shaped the earth in the past and their relationship to the current processes of change are discussed. A number of basic concepts in the Earth Sciences are presented and interrelated. A laboratory requirement is part of this course. *Prerequisite: Earth Science I A — enrollment in Integrated Algebra A or higher. Earth Science I B — enrollment in Integrated Algebra B*

Living Environment (Biology) I A — Regents

1 Unit

Living Environment (Biology) I B — Regents

1 Unit

This is a course of study designed to create an understanding of complex interrelationships between living organisms and among living systems. Major topics include concepts of life, biochemistry, comparative anatomy of plants and animals, human body systems, genetics, evolution, and ecology. Each unit is enriched with hands-on laboratory experiences offering greater conceptualization of the material.

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

General Chemistry

1 Unit

This course presents an introduction to chemistry. Major topics include atomic theory, periodicity of the elements, chemical bonding, equation manipulation, simple organic chemistry, and nuclear chemistry. A laboratory experience is a part of this course.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Geometry B, one Regents science exam, and department recommendation

Chemistry — Regents

1 Unit

This course provides a thorough introduction to general chemistry. It includes an up-to-date treatment of modern chemical theory enriched by historical background and development. Thus it reveals the changing nature of chemistry as an evolving and expanding science. Topics included are atomic structure, periodicity of the elements, chemical bonding, kinetic theory, reaction rates and chemical equilibrium, and organic and nuclear chemistry. The laboratory portion of the course includes both quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Geometry H or Geometry A, the Geometry Regents exam, one Regents science exam, and department recommendation





Chemistry Honors — Regents

1 Unit

Chemistry Honors is a Regents course that goes beyond the material required in the core curriculum. Topics go into much greater depth and detail to provide the Honors student with a deeper understanding of the science of Chemistry. Major research work is expected on the part of the student beyond the normal course work. The research work includes use of the publication *ChemMatters*. The laboratory portion of the course includes both quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Geometry H or Geometry A, the Geometry Regents exam, two Regents science exam, and department recommendation

Environmental Science

1 Unit

As inhabitants of the Earth, it is our responsibility to use Earth's resources responsibly and to minimize the impact we have on the planet. In this course, students will examine some of the issues surrounding humans' impact on the environment, possible solutions to reducing the impact, and the social, economic, and political ramifications of these actions. Additionally, students will explore their personal environment and discover some of the dangers that they face in their every day life and ways to reduce the risk from these hazards. This course is designed to be a senior elective for those students interested in science beyond the required courses. *Please note: This course requires the students to complete 32 hours of course work outside the classroom; some events may require an admissions fee.*
Prerequisite: Chemistry (Regents or General) and department recommendation

Physics — General

1 Unit

This course focuses on the practical applications of physics. Laboratory experience will be included. Topics to be covered will include electricity, magnetism, motion, light, and nuclear physics.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Geometry A or Algebra II B and department recommendation

Physics — Regents

1 Unit

The study of Physics is concerned with the relationship between matter and energy. This course is both qualitative and quantitative in nature. Topics include mechanics, energy, electricity and magnetism, wave phenomenon, and modern physics. The relevancy of the various topics is reinforced by the laboratory portion of the course.

Prerequisite: Successful completion, of Algebra II/Trig, Chemistry-Regents, or Chemistry Honors-Regents and department recommendation

Advanced Placement Biology

1 Unit

Grade 12

Advanced Placement Biology is a college-level course open to seniors who have achieved above-average grades in science each previous year, over a three-year period. Students who select this course should be college bound and possess analytical skills. The Advanced Biology Course is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory biology course with labs. The curriculum includes these general topics: molecules and cells, genetics and evolution, organisms and populations, anatomy and physiology. A research project is required each semester. Students may be expected to purchase all required textbooks and

additional lab fees. A summer reading list and accompanying assignments are required. Students will have the opportunity to take the Advanced Placement Biology exam in May. The cost of the exam is \$80.

Prerequisite: Based on department recommendation and/or approval.

Advanced Chemistry

1 Unit

This course is designed for students interested in a secondary chemistry course. Advanced Chemistry is intended to be a hands-on course, with the majority of class time spent in the lab utilizing the information from Regents Chemistry. The major areas of lab work include: 1. forensic science — this includes analysis of documents, finger prints, hair and crime scene evidence as well as art forgery. 2. synthesis — includes the making of plastics and polymers, aspirin, paints, dyes, perfume, soap, and many more items. 3. chemical identification — includes chromatography, spectroscopy, distillation, and wet analysis. 4. chemical analysis — includes drug testing, melting point determination, caffeine separation, and identification of poisonous substances.

Prerequisite: Regents Chemistry and department recommendation

Social Studies

Global Studies 9 & 10 — Regents

1 Unit / year

This is a two-year Social Studies program for grades 9 and 10. This program of learning is in the following areas: South, Southeast, and East Asia, Africa south of the Sahara, the Middle East, Eastern and Western Europe, and Latin and South America. The social sciences of geography, history, economics, political science, and sociology are woven together to enable the students to develop cultural understanding. All students will take the Global Studies Regents Exam at the end of their sophomore year.

Global Studies 9 Honors

1 Unit

This course is designed as a pre-AP World History course, covering the New York State Global Studies Curriculum in a very in-depth and extensive manner. The course will be a bridge from normal high school course work to a more complex "college level" study. Global Studies 9 Honors covers the history of human beings chronologically from the Paleolithic Age through to current times. This course includes a study of every major area, culture, and religion throughout history. Student will take a NYS Regents Examination at the end of sophomore year.

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Advanced Placement World History

1 Unit

Grade 10

Advanced Placement World History is a college-level course open to sophomores that have achieved above-average grades in Social Studies and English during their freshman year. This course, designed for students who are college bound and possess a good command of reading and writing, will develop a greater understanding of the evolution of global processes and contacts in different types of human societies. Students will study the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that play a fundamental role in shaping the world in which they live. The ultimate goal of the course will be a mastery of the information and preparedness for the college-level examination. This course includes extensive reading and writing assignments.

Students will take the A.P. exam in May of their sophomore year and the NYS Global Studies Regents in June. Students who pass the A.P. exam may be eligible for college credits. The cost of the A.P. exam is approximately \$90.

Prerequisite: Based on department recommendation and/or approval.

Advanced Placement United States History

1 Unit

Grades 11-12

Advanced Placement United States History is a college-level course open to juniors and seniors who have achieved above-average grades in Social Studies and English. This course is designed for students who are college bound and possess a good command of reading and writing skills. A term paper is required each semester. Students must take the A.P. exam in May, and juniors will take the U.S. History & Government Regents in June. The cost of the A.P. exam is approximately \$90. Students who pass the A.P. exam may be eligible for college credit. All required textbooks are the responsibility of the student.

Prerequisite: Based on department recommendation and/or approval.

U.S. History and Government — Regents

1 Unit

This course reviews the development of the United States. It will include a chronological survey of United States history in general, but emphasis will be on the United States as a transitional and fully developed industrial nation. Constitutional and legal issues will be explored in depth, as will the problems of a dynamic and industrial society in an increasingly complex and technology-oriented world. This course serves as a historical foundation for the senior courses. All students will take the U.S. History and Government Regents exam at the end of the year.

Participation in Government

1/2 Unit

Grade 12 Only

This required one-semester course emphasizes the interaction between citizens and government at all levels: local, state, and federal. The course encourages students to analyze public policy, issues and problems, decision making, and implementation of proposed changes. A participatory project is required.

Introduction to Economics

1/2 Unit

Grade 12 Only

This required one-semester course deals with the basic concepts and principles of economics, the major elements of economic systems, and the roles of various components of these systems, including the consumer, business, labor, agriculture, and government. The major focus is on the economy of the United States, but attention will be given to the world economy as a whole and to other economic systems. There will be an emphasis on economic decision-making at all levels through the course.

Electives

Psychology

1/2 Unit

Grade 12 Only

This course reviews the eclectic approach to the study of human behavior. The five basic theories — neurobiological, behavioral, psychoanalytic, cognitive, and phenomenological — are reviewed for the advantages and applied to the study of development, learning and memory, personality, and abnormal behavior. The course also provides an opportunity for personal assessment. Students who wish may also take advantage of the AP Psychology exam in May.

Introduction to Criminal Justice

1/2 Unit

Grade 12 Only

This Social Studies elective is a basic law course designed to give students a better understanding of the principles, procedures, and actual practices of the U.S. criminal system. Topics in this one-semester course will include the nature and causes of criminal behavior; the qualifications for, characteristics of, and problems connected with police work; due process as it relates to police investigations, arrests, court and legal procedures; and sentencing and prison life. The many controversies connected to the above items are explored. The course is augmented by an array of guest speakers who are professionals in the field, a ride-along program, and a field trip to a correctional facility.



Course Credit Graduation Requirements

Student must earn a minimum of 27 credits, which includes the minimum requirements for each subject area, as listed below.

- English – 4
- Social Studies – 4
- Math – 4
- Science – 3
- Religion – 3½ (4 for Class of 2013 and 2014)
- Art/Music – 1
- Health – ½
- Computers – ½
- Physical Education – 2 (½ credit per year)
- Foreign Language – 2 for Regents diploma; 3 for Advanced Regents diploma

Diploma Requirements

In addition to meeting the course credit requirements listed above, graduation requirements also include passing specified New York State Regents exams. Each student will earn one of the following diplomas, as described below:

Regents Diploma

Student must pass the following Regents exams:

- 1 Science
- Math A or Integrated Algebra
- Global Studies
- English
- American History

Regents Diploma with Honors

Student must have an average of 90 or above on these Regents exams.

Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation

Student must pass the exams required for the Regents diploma, plus the following additional Regents exams:

- 2nd Science
- Foreign Language
- Math B or Geometry and Integrated Algebra II / Trigonometry

Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors

Student must have an average of 90 or above on the exams required for the Regents diploma with advanced designation.

Service-Hour Requirements

This is just a reminder for all parents and students that the Religion Department of St. Mary's High School has a service-hour requirement for all students.

- Freshmen need a total of **10** hours (5 per semester).
- Sophomores will complete their service-hour requirement of **20** hours through Health class.
- Juniors need **30** hours (15 per semester).
- Seniors need **40** hours (20 per semester).

Students are encouraged to employ their God-given gifts and talents to serve at various levels in the spirit of St. Francis.

Students will demonstrate an understanding of their Christian identity by making a commitment to meaningful service with a preferential option for the poor and those in need.

Those who have questions should contact the campus minister.