

**Drama II (963)** Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12.

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

Acting techniques developed in Drama I are explored in depth. The preparation of the rehearsed scene as introduced in Drama I is studied and practiced. Students prepare extended scenes or one-act plays in class. The course is recommended only for the student serious about theatre as an art form.

**Play Production (964)** Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12.

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

The study of each element involved in the production of the play, i.e. directing, design, stage managing, box office, publicity, etc., is part of this course. Each student studies and performs in several areas of production. Projects are developed in class and produced by the students at various venues.

**Writing for Publication (970)** Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12.

Prerequisites: "B" or better average in all English courses and instructor approval; limited to 12 students.

This course is designed as a workshop for students to develop and apply skills in all areas of journalism: writing, editing, design, photography and computer graphics. A "hands-on" course, it involves direct participation in school news-magazine as well as outside publications. Students work under strict deadlines and are required to attend journalism and press conferences. Students are obligated to attend after-school meetings.

**Journal Graphics (980)** Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12.

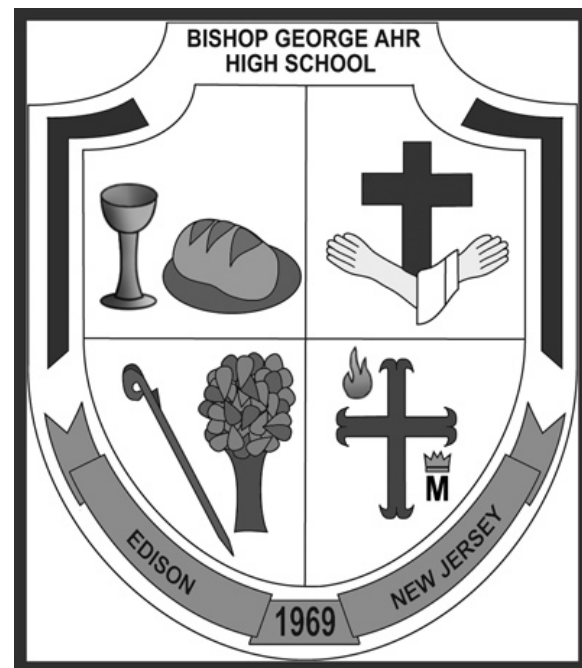
Prerequisites: "B" or better average in Computer Science and all English courses.

Course instructor has final approval of applicants. This course is designed as a workshop to develop and apply knowledge of publication skills and management. In this "hands-on" course, the yearbook is prepared for press. Students taking this course work under strict deadlines imposed by the publishing company.

## Peer Leadership

**Peer Leadership (990)** Credits: 5; Year Offered: 12.

Prerequisite: "C" or better GPA. Applicants are required to participate in a comprehensive selection process during their junior year. This course provides students with a thorough knowledge of group dynamics. Students learn basic leadership, problem-solving skills, and develop communication skills. After an orientation and skill building period, peer leaders meet with freshmen groups on a weekly basis providing a first-hand opportunity to utilize these skills. Freshmen group sessions are evaluated by the freshmen, peer leaders and peer teachers. Two overnight training workshops are required, as well as various projects, homework, tests. Students must sign a "no use" contract.



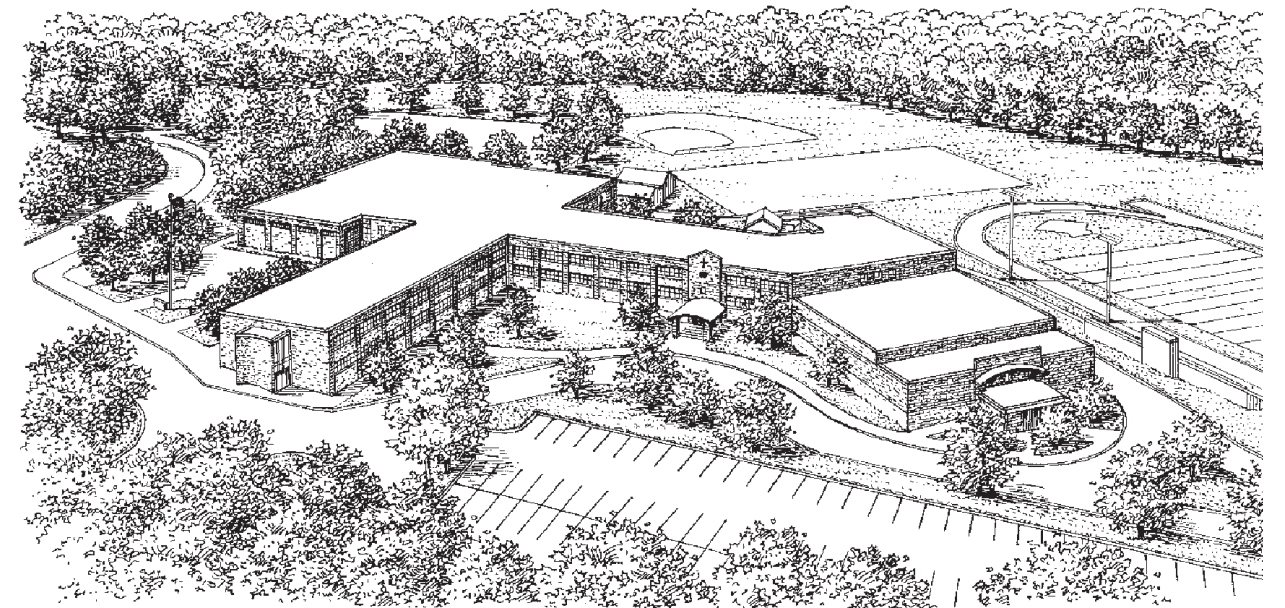
## Bishop George High School MISSION STATEMENT

*Bishop George Ahr High is a co-educational college preparatory school of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Metuchen, New Jersey. The school provides an atmosphere in which each individual's God-given abilities are nurtured and developed. Every student is encouraged to strive for spiritual, academic, social, creative, and athletic excellence through the interaction of a caring community. With Christ as our model, the Bishop Ahr community fosters a uniquely Christian environment. Each individual can grow in self-esteem, in social and moral responsibility, and in those values needed to face the challenges of tomorrow's world.*

# Bishop George Ahr High School

*Program of  
Studies*

**2008 - 2009**



1 Tingley Lane, Edison, New Jersey 08820

(732) 549-1108

www.bgahs.org

# Bishop George Ahr High School

## General Academic Information

2008 - 2009

### Schedules

After the first semester students are registered for courses for the upcoming school year. Recommendations for course assignments come from department chairpersons. Students are advised of these recommendations by the school counselors and are assisted in choosing elective courses. Students are encouraged to discuss all recommendations with parents and teachers. A preliminary course schedule is distributed to students shortly after registration and must be returned to the counseling department with a parent's or guardian's signature.

Since scheduling involves additional time and data processing expense, any schedule change made after April 1 requires a fee of \$15.00. Before changes are made, approval must be obtained from the counseling director. In some cases, the approval of the principal must be obtained.

Every effort is made to honor schedule requests. However, in case of unresolved conflict, the student is consulted for alternate choices.

### Graduation Requirements

The minimum requirements for graduation are 120 credits. Subjects required for graduation are the following:

Religion .....	4 years
English .....	4 years
Physical Ed./Health .....	4 years
Mathematics .....	4 years
Science.....	3 years
World History .....	1 year
U.S. History .....	2 years
Foreign Language.....	2 years (3 recommended)
Fine Arts .....	1 year
Computer Science.....	1 year
Career Education .....	2 Quarters

### Additional Graduation Requirements

All students must pass each section of the Test of Achievement Proficiency (TAP) which is equivalent to the New Jersey High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA). Also, all seniors are required to participate yearly in a day of retreat scheduled for their class.

Senior final exam exemption exists for those achieving an "A" in a subject for every marking period. Seniors who fail a course in the fourth quarter and/or the final exam for that course may fail the course for the year. Seniors also must make up all fourth quarter failures to participate in graduation exercises. This will be done after exams and before graduation.

### Honors Program

A student in an Honors course must maintain the course average as specified by each department in this Program of Studies.

### College Courses

Occasionally a student may elect to take a course, or courses, at a local college. All such courses must be pre-approved by the counseling director. These classes, taken for credit in a college, are indicated on the official transcript, but are not calculated in the grade point average (GPA).

### Failures

A student who fails a subject for the year must repeat and pass the subject; failing grades cannot be carried into the next school year. Students may take the failed course in summer school or through private tutoring with an instructor certified in that subject area. Failure in summer school will result in automatic dismissal.

The summer school grade appears on the transcript. However, a grade of "D" is used to compute the GPA. Any student failing two (2) major subjects for the year may be asked not to return to Bishop George Ahr High School. This decision is made by the school administration.

The administration reserves the right to ask a student to withdraw from the school under the following circumstances related to failures:

1. Any student on academic probation if any subject is failed during the probation period.
2. Any student who fails a subject(s) in consecutive years.
3. Any student who fails (2) or more subjects in one academic year.

### Student Progress and Information

Parent-teacher-administration communication is enhanced through PowerSchool®, an Internet-based application from NCS Pearson that allows students as well as parents and guardians to view academic performance online.

The Bishop Ahr High School community believes that parental involvement leads to better student development and performance. By visiting Bishop Ahr's password-protected PowerSchool® site, at any time, parents can access student information, check on grades, monitor attendance, view discipline reports and more. Course progress is current with a view of each teacher's grade book for all tasks, tests, homework and project grades on an ongoing basis.

### Report Cards

Report cards are distributed four (4) times a year at the end of each quarter. Dates of distribution are in the Principal's Newsletter and posted on the school's website at [www.bgahs.org](http://www.bgahs.org).

## Fine & Performing Arts

### Chorus (900) Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12.

Prerequisite: Audition.

Students in this class participate in the development and performance of vocal repertoire for concerts and liturgical music. Topics covered include development of the singing voice, exercises for vocal warm-up and improvement, reading choral music, elementary music theory, and introductions to different periods and styles. Students are required to become members of the Concert Choir and liturgical music groups; each entails after-school practice and performance commitments. Previous singing or music experience is helpful but not necessary. All students who are members of the Music Department are required to take part in our pull-out program enabling the director to work with individual voices on a sectional basis.

### Basic Music Theory (910)

Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12.

Students in this course explore the concepts "behind the scenes" that make modern music possible. Topics covered include basic music notation (reading and writing), scales and keys, rhythm and meter, sight singing and more. Previous experience in singing or playing an instrument is helpful but not necessary.

### Band (920) Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12.

Prerequisite: Audition.

The band performs at pep rallies, concerts, football and basketball games, parades, and competitions. The focus of this course is every aspect of preparation for performance. Rehearsal etiquette is emphasized. Students are required to become members of the Concert/Marching Band. Afterschool rehearsals are required. All students who are members of the Music Department are required to take part in our pull-out program enabling the director to work with individual instruments on a sectional basis.

### Advanced Music Theory (928)

Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12.

Prerequisite: Department approval.

This course is designed for prospective college music majors and serious musicians. Students are introduced to four-part common-practice harmonization, analysis and composition of melodic lines and basic ear-training skills. Other advanced instruction in pivot chord modulation, secondary dominants and seventh chords are also addressed. Student may optionally take the AP Music Theory exam.

### Drawing & Creative Thinking (940)

Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12.

Learning drawing skills entails thinking in new and creative ways that can complement academic performance. Instruction is designed to open the right hemisphere of the brain through creative visualization. Since anyone can improve his/her drawing skills, talent is not a prerequisite. Students are graded on an individual basis. This course is a prerequisite for most upper level art classes.

### Design I (944) Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12.

Prerequisites: Drawing & Creative Thinking, department approval. This course begins with the basic elements of two dimensional design (dot, line and shape) and progresses to the actual design applications. Three dimensional design is also covered. Students are encouraged to develop their own individual sense of design and acquire an understanding of the design process.

### Painting & Creative Expression (946)

Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12.

Prerequisites: Drawing & Creative Thinking, department approval. This class examines and enhances creative ways of thinking introduced in the drawing course. The goals of the course are to introduce acrylic painting techniques and to apply such to different ways of seeing.

### Design II (947) Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12.

Prerequisites: Design I and department approval. This course elaborates on various themes and projects encountered in Design I. This course is intended for the serious art student who is developing a portfolio.

### Painting II (948) Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12.

Prerequisites: Painting & Creative Expression, department approval. This independent study of painting involves a further development of imagination through more elaborate painting techniques. This course is intended for art school candidates.

### Sculpture (950) Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12.

Prerequisites: Drawing & Creative Thinking, department approval.

This class presents the basics for expressive use of form and space in the visula environment. Models of design solutions, the effects of light and shadows, and the use of color and texture are applied to each problem. Projects involve exploration of effective use of form with emphasis on concept and idea. Students work in the following mediums: plaster, wood and clay.

### AP Art History (955) Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12.

Prerequisites: "B" or better averages in both Social Studies and English classes in addition to department approval.

This course will allow the high school student to participate in the college-level "Survey of Western Art" course. Students will be introduced to the artists, the audience and the best-known works of Western European art, and art beyond this geographical constraint, from Prehistory to the present. Students will analyze examples of all media: sculpture, architecture, painting, photography and graphic art; and consider their cultural and social significance. Students will be expected to complete comparative essays and research papers; independent visits to local museums may also be assigned. Middlesex County College credit may be earned for an additional fee; see chairperson for details. Students are required to take the AP exam.

### Drama I (960) Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12.

The course emphasizes performance and self-expression. The student will gain self-confidence and self-awareness through the work in this course. The student will study and practice acting exercises. Scenes from plays are rehearsed and presented in class. A brief history of theatre is also taught.

## **English II (720)** *Credits: 5; Year Offered: 10.*

The sophomore level course focuses on the study of basic skills. Emphasis is on clear and effective paragraph development and on clear and effective essay writing. Reading selections are chosen mainly from traditional American Literature. Fifteen units of vocabulary are covered.

## **English II Honors (722)** *Credits: 5; Year Offered: 10.*

Prerequisites: “B” or better in English I Honors; department recommendation. The Sophomore Honors course offers an intensified study of basic skills. Emphasis is on clear and effective paragraph and essay development, and on the beginnings of the research paper. Reading selections are chosen mainly from traditional American literature. Thirty units of vocabulary are covered.

## **English III (730)** *Credits: 5; Year Offered: 11.*

The Junior English program further develops basic skills. Emphasis is focused on the analytical essay. Fundamental research skills are covered, as well as verbal/writing SAT preparation. Reading selections come from the greatest British masterpieces. Fifteen units of vocabulary are covered.

## **English III Honors (732)** *Credits: 5; Year Offered: 11.*

Prerequisites: “B” or better in English II Honors and/or department recommendation.

The Junior English program further develops basic skills. Emphasis is focused on the analytical essay. Literary research is required. Reading selections are from the British masterpieces. Thirty units of vocabulary are covered.

## **English III: Shakespeare Option (741)**

*Credits: 5; Year Offered: 11.*

This Junior English program further develops basic skills. Emphasis is focused on the analytical essay. Fundamental research skills are covered, as well as verbal/writing SAT preparation. Reading selections come from the greatest British masterpieces, using Shakespeare’s writings as the centerpiece. Fifteen units of vocabulary are covered.

## **English IV World Literature (740)**

*Credits: 5; Year Offered: 12.*

The Senior English program continues to work on the basic skills. Emphasis is placed on the analytical essay and on a literature-based research paper. Reading selections come from the various world masterpieces.

## **World Literature Honors (742)** *Credits: 5; Year Offered: 12.*

Prerequisites: “B” or better in English III Honors and/or department recommendation. The course focuses on clear, effective analytical essays and on the research paper. Readings are selected from classics of world literature and world philosophies. College credit is offered for this course through Seton Hall University’s *Project Acceleration*; see chairperson for details and permission. A literature-based research paper is required.

## **AP English (745)** *Credits: 5; Year Offered: 12.*

Prerequisite: Only by recommendation of the department chairperson. This course focuses on clear, effective analytical essays and on the research paper. Readings are selected from the classics of world literature and world philosophies. College credit is offered for this class. Weekly papers are assigned; a literature-based research paper is required. Students are also required to take the AP exam.

# **Computer Education**

## **Computer Science (850)** *Credits: 5; Year Offered: 9.*

Students are introduced to the personal computer through exploration of hardware and software in an effort to become computer literate. Students are provided instruction in Microsoft Windows operating systems and Microsoft Office applications. The focus of the 1st quarter of the course is building keyboard skills. Student will then develop skills in word processing and spreadsheets. Students are introduced to the use of presentation software.

## **Introduction to Programming (851)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12.*

Prerequisite: “C” or better average in prior math classes.

This course offers an introduction to the concepts of modern object-oriented programming. Topics include basic program construction, analysis and debugging. Lessons include interactive classroom exercises, team lab assignments and individual projects. Although Java is the language utilized in the class, emphasis is on concepts applicable to any language. At completion of the course, students have a foundation in programming in preparation for college level computer science classes.

## **Desktop Publishing (860)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12.*

Understand how to use Adobe In-Design and Photoshop. Learn desktop publishing and graphic design--create flyers, menus, letterheads, promotional material, greeting cards and much more. Design actual jobs for school clubs, organizations; contribute to school related publications.

# **Career Education**

## **Career Education Program (870)**

*Credits: 1.25; Years Offered: 10, 11.*

The Counseling Department extends its services through a supportive and structured classroom program to assist students to become an informed career decision maker and planner. Activities are conducted in and out of school such as interest and aptitude testing; computer search techniques for work, colleges and financial aid; SAT practice exercises; one-day work shadowing; career days with outside resource speakers; mock interviews; college presentations by representatives; college tours and fairs; resume writing and completion of a personal profile. Further career exploration is possible through career clubs.

# **Science**

## **Biology/Lab (120)** *Credits: 6; Years Offered: 9, 10.*

This course presents science through inquiry and develops an appreciation of the characteristics, complexity and diversity of living organisms. Students are introduced to various approaches and techniques of biological research emphasizing the ongoing nature of science. Scientific thinking is encouraged through experiment and problem solving. Topics covered include the history of biology, evolution, cellular structure/activities, DNA, genetics and a general survey of the phylum’s of the six kingdoms.

## **Biology Honors/Lab (122)** *Credits: 6; Years Offered: 9, 10.*

Prerequisites: Determined by High School Placement Test, department referral. This course uses a molecular approach to the study of major biological concepts. Areas of study include atomic structure, chemical bonding, organic molecules, cellular activities, DNA structure, genetics, and evolution. A systems approach is used to study various organisms with an emphasis on human systems. The course concludes with a study of ecology. Laboratory work provides opportunities to reinforce and apply knowledge, to develop scientific procedures, and to think critically.

## **AP Biology (125)** *Credits: 7; Years Offered: 12.*

Prerequisites: “A” in Biology, Chemistry, Physics; or “B” in Honors Sciences; department approval.

This course is designed to be the equivalent of a first year college course taken by biology majors. Areas of study include molecules and cells; genetics and evolution; organisms and populations. Lab work encourages the development of important skills such as detailed observation, accurate recording, experimental design, manipulation, data interpretation, and statistical analysis. Assignments offer the opportunity for students to learn about problem solving, the scientific method, techniques of research, and the use of scientific literature. Students are required to take the AP exam.

## **Chemistry/Lab (140)** *Credits: 6; Years Offered: 10, 11.*

Prerequisites: Biology and department approval.

A study of the properties and changes that occur in the composition of matter. This is accomplished by studying and stressing chemical bonding, periodicity in the behavior of chemical elements, the quantum mechanical model of the atom, molecular structure, the mechanics of a chemical reaction and the concept of the mole. Math skills are employed for the quantitative study of stoichiometry problems. This course includes the study of oxidation-reduction reactions, ionizations and electrolysis.

## **Chemistry Honors/Lab (142)** *Credits: 6; Years Offered: 10, 11.*

Prerequisites: “A+” average in Biology or “B” average in Biology Honors; “A+” in Math or “B+” in Math Honors; department approval. An in-depth course which covers the study of matter, its properties and the changes that occur in its composition. Application and logical interpretation of this knowledge is also stressed. Topics covered include nomenclature, chemical formulas and equations, stoichiometry, atomic structure and quantum mechanics. Other topics include chemical bonding and molecular geometry, phases of matter, solution chemistry, equilibrium, reaction rates, thermodynamics, acid-base reactions and electro-chemistry. Lab experiments serve to illustrate and reinforce these areas.

## **AP Chemistry (145)** *Credits: 7; Year Offered: 12.*

Prerequisites: “A” or better in AP Physics; “A+” in Physics Honors; “A” or better in Chemistry Honors; department approval. Completion of summer assignments is required.

This course is the equivalent of a first year college course for science and engineering majors, with a highly theoretical, in-depth treatment of the fundamental concepts learned in the Honors Chemistry course. Topics covered include chemical reactions and equations including oxidation-reduction and precipitation reactions, stoichiometry, atomic and molecular structures with geometry, chemical bonding, periodic trends, states of matter, and solution chemistry. Equilibrium topics include gaseous, acid-base and precipitate. Chemical kinetics, electro-chemistry and quantum mechanics are covered. Lab experiments are performed to reinforce theory and technique. Students are required to take the AP exam.

## **Physics/Lab (160)** *Credits: 6 ; Years Offered: 11, 12.*

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry. Physics is a problem solving course with an emphasis on mathematical applications involving the properties and behavior of matter. Topics covered include mechanics, heat, waves, optics and electrical circuits. The main objective of this course is to develop critical thinking.

## **Physics Honors/Lab (162)** *Credits: 6; Years Offered: 11, 12.*

Prerequisites: Averages of “B” in Honors Chemistry; “A+” in Chemistry; “B” in Honors Math; “A+ in Math; department approval. This is an in-depth study of the concepts in physics with great emphasis placed on mathematical and physical relationships. Problems are that of a first-year college physics course. Students intending to pursue engineering or science degrees in college are advised to take this course.

## **AP Physics (165)** *Credits: 7; Years Offered: 11, 12.*

Prerequisites: “A+” averages in both Honors Math and Honors Chemistry; department approval.

This course is offered as a first-year Physics course for highly motivated and academically-oriented students. The depth of inquiry is on the level of a first-year college physics course. This is a rigorous, fast-paced course, which covers the topics of mechanics, heat and thermodynamics, waves and optics, electricity and magnetism, and modern physics. Students are required to take the AP Physics exam.

## **Environmental Science/Lab (170)**

*Credits: 5; Year Offered: 12.*

Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry, Physics; department referral.

This course begins with a study of the Earth and factors making it capable of sustaining life. Methods and skills needed to study the environment, especially the steps in carrying out a controlled experiment, are developed. Ecosystem structure and interactions are studied; energy and matter transfer in food chains, food webs and chemical cycles. Aquatic and terrestrial biomes are examined and compared. The relationship of people to the environment is analyzed, emphasizing the exploitation of the global environment.

## Forensics and Human Anatomy (180)

*Credits: 5; Year Offered: 12.*

Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry, Physics; department referral.

This senior year elective focuses on the scientific practices surrounding the field of forensics and crime scene investigation. The first part of the course focuses on the history and development of forensics as a science, including how it has changed with the advent of new technologies. The basics of criminalistics, both in the lab and at the crime scene, are discussed as well as the importance and definition of physical evidence. The second part of the course moves into the anatomy of the human body and how it relates to an autopsy and forensic pathology. The vital organ systems are discussed in detail. Students act as forensic scientists with regard to such specific practices such as fingerprinting, blood serology, toxicology and ballistics.

## Religious Studies

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### Religion 1 (200) *Credits: 5; Year Offered: 9.*

**Foundations of Faith:** This course encourages student understanding of the customs, practices and beliefs of the Catholic Church. During the second semester students will be presented with the fundamentals of the Catholic Faith from the Creed to the Catechism.

*Community Service:* A required component of this course which is equal to 10% of the course grade.

**Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament:** Students will study important Scripture stories and passages with particular emphasis on the Pentateuch (first five books). Careful examination of major themes such as creation, covenant and community helps students realize the relationship between Judaism and Christianity.

*Community Service:* A required component of this course which is equal to 10% of the course grade.

### Religion 1 Honors: Hebrew Scripture/Christology (202)

*Credits: 4; Year Offered: 9.*

Prerequisite: Determined by the High School Placement Test.

This full year course provides an overview of the Hebrew Scriptures. This foundation of the sacred stories of all Hebrew Scriptures integrates the religious roots of Judaism as they unfold in Christian New Testament studies through various projects and researched topics. Community Service is a required component of this course which is equal to 10% of the course grade.

### Religion II (220) *Credits: 5; Year Offered: 10.*

Semester 1 - Christology. This course gives the student a clear presentation of the life, ministry, and message of Jesus. The student builds from the initial study of the historic backgrounds to a later discussion of Jesus' message, death and Resurrection. This course offers reflection on the theological understanding of the role of the Jesus of history and of the Christ of faith. Semester 2 - Sacraments. Students gain a greater understanding of sacramental awareness through the study of symbolism, ritual and prayer. Special emphasis is given to the Sacraments of Initiation, Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. This course guides students to recognize how sacraments relate to their daily lives.

### Religion II Honors: Church History (222)

*Credits: 2.5; Year Offered: 10.*

Prerequisites: Offered only to students enrolled in Western Civilization II. "B" or better in both Religion I Honors & Western Civilization I. This semester course presents the major developments of and the key figures of the Church. Emphasis is given to the Church as a world shaping force profoundly influenced by the message of Jesus and the action of the Church.

### Religion II Honors: Christ & World Religions (232)

*Credits: 5; Year Offered: 10.*

Prerequisites: A required course for students in the modern language honors program or an elective for sophomore high-achievers on the ACRE Test.

**Christology:** This course looks at the Jewish historical, religious and cultural world into which Jesus was born. Using the Gospels as the primary source, students will explore Jesus' birth, early life, ministry, death and Resurrection. Students will be challenged to create individual and group reports.

**Exploring World Religions:** This course examines how questions and issues of life are addressed by the major religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism. The creed, code and culture of each religion are examined and contrasted. The course encourages students to develop respect and tolerance for other faiths. Course study will be enhanced through speakers, trips and research.

### Religion III: Christian Morality/World Religions(240)

*Credits: 5; Year Offered: 11.*

**Christian Morality:** Christian morality occupies a central place in the curriculum of a Catholic high school. The emphasis in this course is on the development of an informed conscience based on Catholic teachings. The students will learn the importance of human needs, faith and critical reflection as a basis for making moral decisions.

**World Religions:** This course presents the five major religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism. Students will gain a greater understanding of the worship, beliefs and practices of these religions while they note the similarities and respect the differences. Multi-media projects and research will be assigned.

### Religion III: Christian Morality/Peace and Justice (241)

*Credits: 5; Year Offered: 11.*

**Christian Morality** occupies a central place in the curriculum of a Catholic high school. The emphasis in this course is on the development of an informed conscience based on Catholic teachings. The students will learn the importance of human needs, faith, and critical reflection as a basis for making moral decisions.

**Peace and Justice:** This course fosters the students' sense of compassion for those who suffer from injustice and enables them to examine society critically, using the values of the Scriptures and Catholic teaching. Specific topics are addressed including abortion, capital punishment, racism, poverty, the environment, violence, and peace.

### Religion III Honors: Christian Morality (242)

*Credits: 5; Year Offered: 11.*

Prerequisites: "B" or better in Religion II Honors, department approval. This course follows the outline of Religion III with emphasis on an in-depth application of principles to contemporary moral issues. This is accomplished through personal research, group work, and formal presentations.

### French III (660) *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12.*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; "C+" or better in French II. Level III begins with an overall review of the most important grammatical concepts, vocabulary and verb conjugations. These are expanded upon as more complex structures, additional vocabulary and verb tenses are introduced. Reading comprehension, oral communication and cultural knowledge are included in assessments as are short compositions, daily assignments, quizzes and unit exams.

### French III Honors (662) *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12.*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; "B" or better in French II Honors.

French III Honors begins with an intensive review of the vocabulary, grammatical concepts, regular and irregular verb conjugations, and verb tenses of French I and II. Students are introduced to more complex linguistic structures, additional verb tenses and idiomatic expressions. Listening and reading comprehension and writing skills remain an integral part of this year's work. Classes are conducted primarily in French. The culture and customs of the French are studied through film, travel videos and computer material.

### French IV Honors (672) *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12.*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; "B" or better in French III Honors. This is an advanced course requiring students to apply all the skills of the previous three years of French study. This course concentrates on the reading, analysis and interpretation of literary articles, short stories and excerpts of longer works by acclaimed French authors. Students are expected to critique the works in oral and written French. Impressionism, surrealism in art & literature, and poetry selections are presented. French films are shown for their linguistic, cultural and visual value.

### Italian I (630) *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9, 10, 11.*

Italian I is an introductory course, with emphasis on the practice of basic skills. Listening, comprehension and speaking are stressed. The study of Italy and its culture is integrated into the course.

### Italian II (631) *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12.*

Prerequisite: Italian I.

Italian II is a continuation of basic structures and development of Italian language skills. Listening comprehension and speaking are stressed. Assignments include individual and group projects on Italian culture. The culture and its influence on the Western world are emphasized.

### Italian III (632) *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12.*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; "B" or better in Italian II. Italian III concentrates on strengthening the four language skills: listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing. More advanced grammar, the study of Italian literature and cultural selections are covered. Classes are conducted in the target language. Italian culture and its influence on the Western world are further explored.

### Italian IV (633) *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12.*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; "B" or better in Italian III. Italian IV continues to concentrate on strengthening the four language skills: listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing. More advanced grammatical structures and more challenging selections from Italian history, literature and cinema are studied.

### Latin I Honors\* (682) *Credits: 5; Year Offered: 9.*

Prerequisite: Determined by the High School Placement Test.

Latin I Honors is an important part of the Honors program. Latin provides a foundation in both vocabulary and grammar for the study of other languages and aids in strengthening the knowledge of English. The study of Latin supports the development of analytical thinking and is helpful in liberal arts, the medical, paramedical and legal fields. Latin I emphasizes the basics of grammar, the study of vocabulary and the rules needed for correct translation. Roman culture is interspersed throughout the course.

### Latin II Honors\* (686) *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10.*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; "B" or better in Latin I Honors. Latin II Honors begins with a review of Latin I concepts. Students then develop their vocabulary and complete the study of basic grammar. Roman culture is integrated into the course.

### Latin III Honors\* (692) *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11.*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; "B" or better in Latin II Honors. The first semester includes a review of basic grammar and acquisition of some finer points through examples of personal writing styles in brief prose texts that highlight Roman history from the fall of the Republic to the rise of the Empire. This is followed in the second semester by close analysis of major Roman authors, most significantly Caesar, Cicero and Vergil.

### Latin IV Honors\* (694) *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12.*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; "B" or better in Latin III Honors. Latin IV covers various texts by classical Latin authors such as Horace, Ovid, Catullus, Cicero, Livy and Plautus. Poetic forms, grammatical structures, figures of speech and metrics are introduced as needed before studying selected readings from Vergil, Ovid and Catullus. Additional units may be added covering Medieval and Renaissance texts to explore Latin beyond the classical period and introductory linguistics, to understand the theoretical foundations of language.

*\*All Latin courses are offered online providing all the traditional class elements of instruction, interaction and testing. Students are in constant contact with the teacher via a "forum".*

## English

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### English I (700) *Credits: 5; Year Offered: 9.*

Prerequisite: Determined by the High School Placement Test.

This first year class focuses on the basic skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening. Emphasis is placed on the sentence—with its various patterns—and on the paragraph—with its various developments. An introduction to the genres of literature is also offered. Fifteen units of vocabulary are covered.

### English I Honors (702) *Credits: 5; Year Offered: 9.*

Prerequisite: Determined by the High School Placement Test.

This Honors course is a challenging program of basic skills of English I. Emphasis falls on clear and effective paragraph development. The basic essay form will also be taught. Readings are selected from the genres of poetry, nonfiction, fiction, drama and the novel. Fifteen units of vocabulary are covered.

## **A History of Women in America (590)**

*Credits: 5; Year Offered: 12.*

Prerequisites: “B” or better in previous history courses and/or department/teacher approval.

The course focuses on the contributions and roles of women in the U.S., from colonial to contemporary America. Primary source documents and writings, as well as an examination of the historical context for each major time period, are used to highlight and explore the social, cultural, intellectual and political evolution of women in America. Major events and issues from the Salem Witch Trials through the radical feminism of the 1970’s are covered. Students should possess an interest in discussing, analyzing and writing about these topics.

## **Language**

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### **Spanish I (600)** *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9, 10, 11.*

Spanish I is an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. This is a foundation course concentrating on the alphabet, correct pronunciation, basic thematic vocabulary, essential grammatical concepts and simple sentence structure. Hispanic traditions and customs and their infusion into American society are discussed.

### **Spanish I Honors (602)** *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9, 10, 11.*

Prerequisites: Determined by the High School Placement Test and grammar school transcript. Spanish I Honors is an introduction to the fundamentals of Spanish. Emphasis is on the recognition of sentence structures, basic vocabulary, reading and listening comprehension. Students are encouraged to use the target language in class discussions in order to develop improvisation and free communication. Compositions and readings are required. Culture units include Hispanic traditions and customs and an introduction to Spain and Spanish American customs.

### **Spanish II (610)** *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9, 10, 11.*

Spanish II is a continuation course that reviews the main grammatical points of Spanish I. Listening, comprehension and speaking are stressed. Assignments include supplemental reading material, as appropriate, and individual or group projects on Spanish and Hispanic culture.

### **Spanish II Honors (612)** *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9,10,11,12.*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; “B” or better in Spanish I Honors. Spanish II Honors is a continuation of the fundamental grammar of Spanish I Honors. Emphasis is on the elaboration of sentence structure, vocabulary, reading and listening comprehension. Students are encouraged to use the target language in class discussions to develop improvisation and free communication. Students are expected to work on independent readings and on special projects concerning Hispanic culture.

### **Spanish III (620)** *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11, 12.*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; “C+” or better in Spanish II. Spanish III is a continuation of the fundamental grammar of Spanish II. Emphasis is on the elaboration of sentence structure, vocabulary, reading and listening comprehension. Students are instructed in the target language in class discussions in order to develop improvisation and free communication. Students are expected to work on independent readings and on special projects.

### **Spanish III Honors (622)** *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10,11,12.*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; “B” or better in Spanish II Honors. Spanish III Honors stresses four skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. The course emphasizes grammar and introduces advanced grammatical structures. Additional cultural readings on Spain and the Hispanic world are presented.

### **Spanish IV (624)** *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12.*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; “C+” or better in Spanish III. Spanish IV is the practical application of all four skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. The course introduces advanced grammar. The reading and discussion of contemporary articles will facilitate the ultimate goal of speaking with fluency. Oral presentations and written compositions are required. Spanish literature is introduced through selected short stories.

### **Spanish IV Honors (625)** *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12.*

Prerequisites: Department chairperson recommendation; “B” or better in Spanish III Honors. This course consists of reading, class discussions and assigned compositions based on contemporary literary selections by authors from Latin America and Spain. Task-based activities via Spanish websites will complement the textbook. A comprehensive review of grammar and vocabulary will be infused through the semester. Middlesex County College credit may be earned through this class for an additional fee. See chairperson for details.

### **French I (640)** *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9, 10, 11.*

French I is an introduction to the language and culture of France. This is a foundation course concentrating on the alphabet, correct pronunciation, basic thematic vocabulary, essential grammatical concepts and simple sentence structure. Cultural information such as the academic and social life of French teens, the city of Paris, and other locations of cultural interest, is studied.

### **French I Honors (642)** *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9, 10, 11.*

Prerequisites: Determined by the High School Placement Test and grammar school transcript. Students of the honors course cover the same material presented in French I but in more depth. The course moves more quickly for some topics. Academic assessment is more varied and comprehensive.

### **French II (650)** *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9, 10, 11.*

Prerequisites: French I. French II is a continuation course that presents additional foundation work in the same areas as French I. Emphasis is placed on speaking skills, listening and reading comprehension. Students prepare simple dialogues and conversations to facilitate original writing in French. Cultural information is presented in greater depth with the aid of video and computer materials.

### **French II Honors (652)** *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12.*

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; “B” or better in French I Honors. Students of the honors course cover the same material presented in French II with additional vocabulary, structures and cultural topics. For some topics the course moves at a faster pace. Assessment tools are varied and more comprehensive.

### **Religion IV: Christian Life Choices (260)**

*Credits: 5; Year Offered: 12.*

This course explores various Christian lifestyles focusing on the single, religious and married vocations with their respective opportunities and challenges. Additional topics include: choices and commitments; work and money; communication; friendship; dating; love and human sexuality. The course encourages personal reflection and discussion through autobiographies, journals and projects.

### **Religion IV Honors: Christian Life Choices/Sacraments (262)**

*Credits: 5; Year Offered: 12.*

Prerequisites: “B” or better in Religion III Honors; department approval. This course follows the same outline and description as Christian Life Choices, but includes the sacraments, with an emphasis on matrimony and the sacraments of initiation.

### **Religion IV: Christian Life Choices / Service Option (263)**

*Credits: 5; Year Offered: 12.*

Prerequisite: Approval of the Religion Chairperson. This course follows a condensed Christian Life Choices curriculum covering the developmental aspects of life choices including the spiritual, emotional, psychological & cognitive preparations for those choices. Students are prepared for, encouraged to volunteer in local hospitals, shelters, nursery schools, nursing homes. They may support the BGA community working on special projects. Students have the opportunity to attend out-of-school service sites or remain in school during this period. A total of twenty-five service hours per quarter is required.

### **Ethics in Society (270)** *Credits: 5; Year Offered: 11, 12.*

Prerequisite: “B” or better in prior Religion classes.

At this time in history, the balance of business growth, power, ethics and politics present unique challenges to the individual. This course is a study of the principles of decision making as they are influenced by business & government policies along with personal morals. We attempt to answer the questions: What does Jesus have to do with eithics and what moral and ethical significance does He have for Christians today? How does Roman Catholicism influence our moral and ethical decision making?

## **Physical Education**

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### **Physical Education (300)**

*Credits: 2.5; Years Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12.*

Physical Education classes help the student achieve both physical and mental fitness. Students have the opportunity to experience and learn the skills required of several team sports. These activities develop sportsmanlike values in our students. Activities like aerobics, dance and recreational games are designed to encourage students to work at their own pace to attain personal physical goals. All activities exercise both the mind and the body in order to develop the whole student. The freshmen year component includes *Project Adventure* activities.

### **Freshmen Health (304)** *Credits: 1.25; Year Offered: 9.*

This course begins with the study of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs and their addictive characteristics. Nutrition, exercise, wellness, male and female reproductive systems are also covered .

### **Freshman Experience (310)** *Credits: 1.25; Year Offered: 9.*

A successful student at any academic level develops good basic study skills. This class covers note and test taking strategies, study habits and public speaking techniques. These skills are incorporated into many other academic classes as well.

### **Sophomore Health: Driver Theory (324)**

*Credits: 1.25; Year Offered: 10.*

This course is designed to familiarize the student with the operation of the automobile. Special emphasis is placed on NJ laws and regulations. The state written test is given at this time. This marking period course is scheduled without regard to the student’s birth date.

### **Junior Health (344)** *Credits: 1.25; Year Offered: 11.*

This course is comprised of two parts: first aid and CPR training. Emphasis is on safety, prevention and emergency care. Students may opt to complete the First Aid/CPR process for certification.

### **Senior Health (364)** *Credit: 1.25; Year Offered: 12.*

This course begins with the study of diseases and disorders including infectious diseases and their prevention. This course covers sexually transmitted diseases, HIV & AIDS. The second half of the course deals with non-infectious diseases and disabilities, diabetes and arthritis.

### **Senior Experience (370)** *Credits: 1.25; Year Offered: 12.*

All senior students are scheduled for this specially designed course which allows seniors to have access to information and counseling in preparation for the college application, visit and interview. Other activities may also be scheduled during this time.

## **Mathematics**

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### **Algebra I (400)** *Credits: 5; Year Offered: 9.*

Prerequisites: Determined by the High School Placement Test and grammar school transcript.

This course is designed to develop the standard axioms of algebra. Operations with signed numbers, integral exponents and linear and quadratic equations are emphasized. Systems of two linear equations are introduced. Various types of word problems are identified for use in science and advanced math courses. Every student must have a graphing calculator (TI-83 or better). Classroom demonstrations will be done on a Texas Instruments graphing calculator.

### **Algebra I Honors (402)** *Credits: 5; Year Offered: 9.*

Prerequisites: Determined by the High School Placement Test and grammar school transcript.

This course is designed to develop the standard axioms of algebra. Operation with signed numbers, integral exponents, both positive and negative and those involving scientific notation are emphasized. Solving equations, inequalities and simplifying algebraic expressions is mastered. Elementary geometry formulas are applied to composite figures. Ratio, proportion problems, scientific notation and unit conversions help prepare students for science applications. Co-ordinate geometry topics are emphasized. Every student must have a graphing calculator (TI-83 or better). Classroom demonstrations will be done on a Texas Instruments graphing calculator.

**Geometry Concepts (441)** *Credits: 5; Year Offered: 10.*

Prerequisites: Algebra I Concepts and/or department approval.

This course introduces geometry concepts such as circles, all polygons and triangles and their properties as well as lines and planes. Students will study the properties of similarity and congruence as well as finding perimeters, areas and volumes.

**Geometry (410)** *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9, 10.*

Prerequisites: Algebra I and/or department approval.

This course introduces and develops multiple geometry concepts and uses a problem solving base with integrates algebra skills. Students will study circles, triangles, polygons, lines and planes.

**Algebra II/Geometry Honors (422)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9, 10.*

Prerequisites: “B+” or better in Algebra I Honors and/or department approval. This course completes the automation of fundamental skills of Algebra. Systems of three linear equations and non-linear equations are included. Right triangle trigonometry, similar triangles, equations of the line, polar coordinates and vectors are emphasized. Problems related to scientific applications of area and volume are covered. This course covers, in depth, all of the concepts of Geometry. Every student must have a graphing calculator (TI-83 or better). Classroom demonstrations will be done on a Texas Instruments graphing calculator.

**Algebra II Concepts (431)** *Credits: 5; Year Offered: 11.*

Prerequisites: Algebra I Concepts, Geometry Concepts and/or department approval.

This course focuses on the skills of algebra as well as solving rational & quadratic equations. The student solves linear equations of one, two and three variables. Linear inequalities are studied. Other topics include graphing, writing equations of lines; operations on radical expressions. Every student must have a graphing calculator (TI-83 or better). Classroom demonstrations will be done on a Texas Instruments graphing calculator.

**Algebra II (430)** *Credits: 5; Year Offered: 11.*

This course covers fundamental operations on real numbers, complex numbers and polynomial expressions. Students are able to solve quadratic equations using several methods and resolve the relationship between roots, factors and coefficients of third and fourth degree equations. Other topics include determining and graphing the equations and inequalities in one, two and three variables. Every student must have a graphing calculator (TI-83 or better). Classroom demonstrations will be done on a Texas Instruments graphing calculator.

**Pre-Calculus Honors (452)** *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11.*

Prerequisites: “B+” or better in Algebra II/Geometry Honors and/or department approval.

This course expands precalculus topics such as polynomial, rational, trigonometric and exponential functions and their graphs to begin the study of calculus. Essential calculus topics include the development of the derivative and integral and their applications. Every student must have a graphing calculator (TI-83 or better). Classroom demonstrations are done on a Texas Instruments graphing calculator.

**Algebra III Concepts (460)** *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12.*

Prerequisites: Algebra II Concepts and/or department approval.

This course offers essential mathematical concepts including exponents, logarithms and general functions. The course emphasizes the skills learned in algebra/geometry courses and applies these skills in problem solving. Other topics studied include polar and rectangular coordinates and interval notation. This course does not satisfy the trigonometry requirement for college. Every student must have a graphing calculator (TI-83 or better). Classroom demonstrations are done on a Texas Instruments graphing calculator.

**Pre-Calculus (450)** *Credits: 5; Year Offered: 12.*

Prerequisites: Algebra II and/or department approval.

Students acquire and master the fundamental skills of algebra and trigonometry. Linear, quadratic, radical, fractional, trigonometric and logarithmic functions are studied. Trigonometry topics include functions of any angle, identities, right triangle applications and the laws of sines and cosines. Every student must have a graphing calculator (TI-83 or better). Classroom demonstrations are done on a Texas Instruments graphing calculator.

**Introduction to Calculus Honors (462)**

*Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12.*

This course reinforces the concepts of Pre-Calculus Honors. Differential & integral calculus topics are introduced and their applications are studied including, but not limited to related rate problems, areas under a curve and minimizing and maximizing problems. Every student must have a graphing calculator (TI-83 or better). Classroom demonstrations are done on a Texas Instruments graphing calculator.

**AP Calculus AB (465)** *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12.*

Prerequisites: Pre-Calculus Honors or Introduction to Calculus Honors and department approval.

AP Calculus AB is intended for students who have a thorough knowledge of college preparatory mathematics, including algebra, trigonometry and analysis. The course introduces the student to the methods and procedures of differential and integral calculus. Every student must have a graphing calculator (TI-83 or better). Classroom demonstrations are done on a Texas Instruments graphing calculator. Students are required to take the AP exam.

**AP Calculus BC (475)** *Credits: 5; Year Offered: 12.*

Prerequisites: AP Calculus AB and department approval.

This course is designed for the student with above average ability in math and the knowledge of basic calculus. The topics of the AB course extend to additional BC topics of differential equations, polynomial approximations, infinite series, and parametric/polar equations. Every student must have a graphing calculator (TI-83 or better). Students are required to take the AP exam.

## Social Studies

**World History (500)** *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9, 10.*

This is a study of past civilizations and their impact upon the present. The course contains a survey of Eastern and Western Civilizations and the development of major religions of the world. The Medieval Period and the role of the Catholic Church as a dominant institution are examined. Emphasis is placed on the transition from Medieval to Modern Europe with special attention paid to the growth of democracy and nationalism. Knowledge of world geography is stressed as well as the study of other cultures.

**World History Honors (502)** *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 9, 10.*

Prerequisite: Determined by the High School Placement Test.

World History Honors surveys major historical themes and cultural patterns woven throughout the fabric of humanity. Political, economic and socio-cultural aspects of all major world cultures are emphasized in their geographical relationships. Activities develop analytical and critical thinking. Additional reading sources and computer research technology are included.

**Western Civilization I Honors (512)**

*Credits: 5; Year Offered: 9.*

Prerequisite: This course is limited to students enrolled in the Honors Program determined by the High School Entrance Test.

This course is a study of the historical and cultural evolution of Western society from its beginning to the Renaissance and Reformation. Institutions and ideas are examined not only as social phenomena, but also as expressions of the human encounter with the world. Students are acquainted with basic historical concepts and art works as introduction to Western culture.

**U.S. History I (530)** *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 10, 11.*

U.S. History I is a study of the development of America from the thirteen colonies to the industrial era. Topics covered are colonization through post-Civil War and the Reconstruction. Also covered are major trends, as per the rubrics of social studies from the era of Reconstruction to the Spanish-American War.

**Western Civilization II Honors (522)**

*Credits: 5; Year Offered: 10.*

Prerequisite: “B” or better in Western Civilization I Honors.

This course is a continuation of Western Civilization I Honors. Modern trends in thought and social organization are appreciated against the backdrop of ancient, medieval and Renaissance history. Emphasis is placed on the Enlightenment and the growth of democratic ideals. Attention is given to modern economic and social theories as well as the development of science, nationalism, colonialism and globalization. This course strikes a balance between the interests of historical study and those of the humanities.

**U.S. History I Honors (532)** *Credits: 5; Year Offered: 11.*

Prerequisites: “B” or better in Western Civilization II. “B+” or better in World History Honors, or “A” in World History and/or department approval.

This is a study of the growth of America from the Age of Discovery to the Spanish-American War. Emphasis is placed upon the relationship of political, economic and social aspects of America’s development. Special emphasis is paid to trends, including the growth of democracy, political parties, nationalism, industrialization and imperialism. Constitutional studies and geography are included. Analytical and critical thinking are applied through essays and other projects.

**U.S. History II (540)** *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 11, 12.*

Prerequisite: U.S. History I.

This course traces the development of the United States from the Age of Imperialism, the Spanish-American War, to the present. This study of America covers social, political, psychological, economic, geographic, military and cultural concepts. Includes historiography and truth versus propaganda in both traditional sources and the Internet.

**U.S. History II Honors (542)** *Credits: 5; Years Offered: 12.*

Prerequisites: “B+” or better in U.S. History I Honors or “A” in U.S. History I and/or department approval.

This course reviews U.S. History I and then focuses on the U.S. from the Age of Imperialism to the present. A chronological study of American History and examination of the political, social, economic, cultural and geographic development of the U.S. is the basis for the course. Students are expected to be able to use their analytical, written and oral skills. Students will be instructed in the process of writing effective essays. Students may optionally take the AP exam.

**AP U.S. History II (545)** *Credits: 5; Year Offered: 12.*

Prerequisites: “A” average in U.S. History I Honors and/or department approval.

This challenging course is taught at the college level with a college level textbook. After reviewing U.S. History I, the course surveys American History from the Age of Imperialism to the present. Areas of study include the political, social, economic, psychological, cultural and geographic development of the U.S. Emphasis is placed on essay writing, research and interpretation of primary and secondary source materials. Extensive reading is required; writing, verbal and analytical skills are necessary to succeed. Students are required to take the AP exam.

**Introduction to U.S. Government and Politics (552)**

*Credits: 5; Year Offered: 11, 12.*

Prerequisites: “B” or better in previous history course and/or department approval. This course introduces students to our national government. It examines at great length U.S. institutions, branches of government and political processes that lead to policies. The current political environment is discussed in depth including the role of the media in influencing politics. In addition to reading, writing and analytical skills, good verbal skills are essential.

**Psychology (560)** *Credits: 5; Year Offered: 12.*

Prerequisites: “C” or better GPA.

Psychology is designed to cover material comparable to an introductory college level course. This course is open to those students who have interest in this social science. The course includes a basic survey of all fields of psychology with particular emphasis on personality as well as abnormal, developmental and social psychology.