

ST. JOHN'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL

CURRICULUM GUIDE 2021 - 2022



Curriculum Guide
St. John's Prep School
2021-2022

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St. John's Preparatory School

Mission Statement

St. John's Preparatory School, a college preparatory co-educational high school, is dedicated to promoting academic excellence and to instilling the principles and values of the Catholic Faith in a positive, nurturing environment.

Inspired by its Vincentian tradition, St. John's Prep is built upon the profound respect for every individual. Students' character formation is nurtured through a rigorous academic curriculum, an engaging religious program, enriching service experiences and extensive extracurricular opportunities.

St. John's Prep prepares students to be successful in meeting the challenges of the 21st century and in creating a world in which all "have life more abundantly."

150 years of Tradition, Scholarship and Service

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Graduation Requirements

In order to graduate from St. John's Prep, students must earn at least 22 units of academic credit. Freshmen, sophomores and juniors must carry a full program. Seniors must take at least six-course periods of study per semester. The following are minimum requirements for all students:

Theology and Physical Education & Health & Wellness must be taken every year.

- ❖ English 4 Units
- ❖ Social Studies 4 Units
- ❖ Mathematics 3 Units
- ❖ Science 3 Units
- ❖ Language 3 Units (Latin plus second language)
- ❖ Music & Art 1 Unit
- ❖ Electives See Below
- ❖ Computer Science ½ unit (Class of 2024)

Each student must have a complete schedule in order to obtain a St. John's Prep diploma, therefore students are required to take elective courses in order to complete their program. Students must take enough elective courses to complete their course of study.

Suggested College Entrance Course Requirements

Competitive Colleges

- ❖ 4 years of ENGLISH
- ❖ 4 years of SOCIAL STUDIES
- ❖ 3-4 years of MATH
- ❖ 3-4 years of SCIENCE
- ❖ 3-4 years of WORLD LANGUAGE

Very Competitive Colleges

- ❖ 4-5 years of ENGLISH
- ❖ 4-5 years of SOCIAL STUDIES
- ❖ 4-5 years of MATH
- ❖ 4-5 years of SCIENCE
- ❖ 4-5 years of WORLD LANGUAGE
(Possibly a second language)

New York State Regents Diploma Requirements

In accordance with the New York State requirements all students will graduate from St. John's Prep with a diploma that meets all NY State Regents requirements All students will be required to take and pass each of the necessary Regents Exams. St. John's Prep encourages all students to acquire a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation. Students must meet the basic requirements for the NY State Regents Requirement and in addition, successfully pass two or more Math Regents and one more physical and /or one life science Regent exams.

- ❖ English
- ❖ Mathematics
- ❖ Global History & Geography
- ❖ US History and Government
- ❖ Science
- ❖ Language Other than English (LOTE)

Signature Programs

College Advantage Program (CAP)

The St. John's University College Advantage Program provides qualified students concurrent enrollment in their St. John's Prep courses with a comparable college credit-bearing course in SJU. This program is offered to qualified juniors and seniors. The program provides reduced tuition costs to students and parents, and to serve as an assessment of a student's ability to do college-level work. These credits are transferable to many other colleges. Students should check the bulletins of the colleges they are interested in attending for specific details. These courses are also excellent preparation for the Advanced Placement/ SAT II exams offered by the College Board. Scoring well on these tests will assure the student college credit from most colleges. (Additional Course Fee is applicable)

Advanced Placement Program

St. John's Prep participates in the Advanced Placement Program as administered by the College Board. Advanced Placement courses are college-level courses, approved by the College Board, to offer students rigorous, in-depth study. Often, based on the scores earned, students can earn college credit. Advanced Placement exams are administered in early May. Students are required to take the AP exam at the completion of the course. (AP Exam fee is applicable)

Baccalaureate Program

An exclusive Baccalaureate Program in partnership with St. John's University is available to qualified students in the senior year. During 12th grade, students accepted into the SJU Baccalaureate Program, take courses on the SJU Campus. Students interested in this program will be required to take Honor /AP classes throughout their three years at St. John's Prep. In the fourth year of the program, accepted students take their classes at the university and complete their final high school requirements as well as their first year of college study.

Honors and Awards

Student Academic Achievement is recognized at the end of the second semester at a formal academic assembly. Honor certificates are presented to students in the following categories:

- ❖ Principal's List: 95 average or above for the semester
- ❖ First Honors: 90-94 average for the semester
- ❖ Second Honors: 85-89 average for the semester

Academic Support

Students can always make an appointment with a teacher for extra help. In addition, they may sign up in guidance for a tutor to receive tutoring services before or after school. Students who require extra help in a specific subject area or have failed an academic course at the end of a marking period are required to attend the Academic Support.

Academic Policies

- A. The passing grade for all courses is 70%. Any student who fails a course must attend summer school and receive a passing grade in that course.
- B. No student will be readmitted to St. John's Prep in September if he/she has not attended summer school to make up course failures for the previous year.
- C. No course will be rescheduled because of failure unless a student has first attempted to make up the course in summer school. A course would be rescheduled in such a case only if the

Administration, in consultation with the Guidance Department, determined that such rescheduling would be beneficial for the student involved and could be accommodated by the school's program.

- D. If a student fails three courses, and it is only possible to make up two failures during the summer, the student will be readmitted in September only if he/ she makes up two failures and signs an agreement pledging to make up the third failure during the next summer.
- E. Any student who fails four courses during a school year will be asked to withdraw from St. John's Prep.
- F. Students who have failed a Regents exam during the school year must retake the NYS Regents exam in August.

St. John's Prep Curriculum Guide

St. John's Preparatory School is a college preparatory school that offers students a broad array of college preparatory, honors, College Advantage classes, and Advanced Placement (AP) courses, designed to provide students with a solid foundation for lifelong learning. Students have the opportunity to realize their full academic potential in a challenging, value-centered and caring educational environment. The goal of our academic program is to educate the whole person by instilling the values and skills needed in the 21st Century and to shape young men and women of faith, leadership, and character.

Please be aware that enrollment may affect the availability of courses.

The inclusion of a course in the St. John's Prep Course Catalogue does not guarantee that a particular course will be scheduled next year.

ENGLISH

Literature has the power to awaken the reader by addressing profound questions about human identity and values. Because it delights and disturbs, literature not only reflects our existence in the world but also inspires change and the adventure of unforeseen possibilities. By exploring a wide range of literary and cultural works, students are able to understand how the past informs the present and appreciate a wide variety of literary genres that reflect both cultural and classical literary tradition. The English Department seeks to immerse students in the world of writing, the students' own as well as that of great literature. Ultimately, these skills will engender a life-long love of reading and writing that will ensure an active intellectual life beyond St. John's Prep.

That is part of the beauty of all literature. You discover that your longings are universal longings, that you're not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong.
-F. Scott Fitzgerald

English 9 (0120) Foundations of Literature

1 Year 1 Credit

This course explores a selection of novels, myths, plays, films, and poems, united by the theme of the heroic journey. It is literature-based, with a comprehensive writing program. Students respond in oral and written forms to the novels, short stories, poetry, and essays they read, utilizing a variety of writing and presentation modes. Dramatic enactments, collaborative presentations, and creative projects complement the reading. Students focus on skills of close reading in writing creative, reflective and analytical essays. Assignments emphasize the writing process, from brainstorming to drafting to revising. A strong emphasis in grammar includes sentence and paragraph structures. Students build vocabulary through a structured exploration of words in the context of literary works. Students will find their voices as resourceful critical readers and thinkers and deepen their skills as writers.

English 9 Honors (0140) Foundations of Literature

1 Year 1 Credit

The 9th grade Honors English curriculum is an accelerated course of study designed to strengthen students' reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking skills. Students read works that include mythology, drama, poetry, short stories, non-fiction, and the novel. Writing assignments help deepen students' understanding of these texts and strengthen their analytical skills. Students learn to work collaboratively through class discussions and in a variety of group activities improving their ability to understand plot, character, and main ideas, in addition to extending their ability to make inferences and to appreciate figurative language. Writing projects include creative, reflective and analytical essays

English 10 (0220) British Literature

1 Year 1 Credit

This course extends and reinforces students' analytical language skills. British literature includes works of British fiction and nonfiction and other relevant texts that address the development of the self and the connection to various world cultures. Students use writing such as expository, argumentation, and synthesis pieces to explore how they make personal, social and political meaning from the texts that they have read. The study of grammar, mechanics, usage, and vocabulary is also integral to developing life-long readers and writers. In addition to examining and applying grammatical elements during the editing process, students review grammar and usage in preparation for the S.A.T. and A.C.T. exams.

English 10-Honors (0240) British Literature

1 Year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval

The 10th grade Honors English Curriculum is an accelerated course of study that will develop a comprehensive understanding and appreciation of British literature. Students examine the relationship between historical events. They explore the themes of the hero in ancient, medieval and contemporary society; man and nature; encounters with good and evil; war and peace; alienation and the search for personal fulfillment. Critical writing projects are a key component of the curriculum. Various writing experiences expose students to a myriad of ways to communicate their ideas and foster individual growth. Students expand on constructing a thesis from their observations and

understanding of the literature. They complete short research projects designed to increase their ability to locate, organize and synthesize information but which also engage students in sharing findings and communicate effectively through modes such as digital storytelling, videography, web pages, and even virtual reality. In addition to examining and applying grammatical elements during the editing process, students review grammar and usage in preparation for the SAT and ACT exams

English 11 (0320) American Literature

1 Year 1 Credit

English 11 includes a survey of American literature. Students will read selections from American authors, present their findings in large and small group sessions, and write on topics related to their reading and to class discussion. Students will also synthesize ideas from American fiction and nonfiction sources. Students will examine the relationship between **historical events, philosophy, film, art, and literature**. Students will continue to strengthen their writing skills, particularly on composing expository writing in developing the literary essay. During the second semester, students engage in a comprehensive research unit culminating in an extensive research paper. In addition to examining and applying grammatical elements during the editing process, students review grammar and usage in preparation for the S.A.T. and A.C.T. exams. Students are required to take N.Y. State Common Core Regents Exam.

English 11-Honors (0340) American Literature

1 Year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval

In this advanced course, students refine their skills in organizing and interpreting literature. They present their findings in large and small group sessions. Readings are taken from American literature and consist of fiction and non-fiction selections. Students examine the relationship between historical events, philosophy, and literature. The focus in the composition is expository writing, particularly the literary essay.

English 12 (0430) World Literature

1 Year 1 Credit

In this course, students refine their skills in analyzing and interpreting literature. Readings are taken from world literature. Selections include works from African, Asian, European and Middle Eastern writers. Students examine the relationship between historical events, philosophy, art, and literature. They encounter such genres as epic poetry, haiku, drama, short stories, novels, historical accounts, and philosophy. Students continue to develop their skills in writing an analysis of the literature. They also have an opportunity to do creative writing pieces. Students are expected to research, evaluate and present information in a formal literary research paper.

English 12-Honors (0438) World Literature

1 Year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval

In this course, students refine their skills in analyzing and interpreting literature. Selections are taken from world literature and a variety of genres are encountered. Students will explore the relationship between historical events, philosophy, art, and literature. Students examine literary criticism and discover how critical, insightful opinions can expand the dialogue as they think about literature. Students continue to develop their skills in writing as they analyze literary works and in creative writing. Students are required to research, evaluate, and present information in a formal literary research paper. Throughout the year students work on projects that utilize the city's museums and libraries.

English 12-Honors (0450) College English

1 Year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Placement Exam and Departmental Approval

College English is an intensive writing course required by St. John's University undergraduates. The course involves an investigation into various means of composing texts, such as the relationships between brainstorming, reading, research, revising, and editing. Students will work in a workshop setting, sharing their writing and responding to the work of their classmates. The course offers students an introduction to writing studies, an opportunity to experiment with their own developing styles, a chance to explore a range of compositional and rhetorical strategies, and the opportunity to research ideas and topics of relevance to their own lives. During the second semester, students will cover the college's Introduction to American Literature. This is an intensive study of a limited number of texts drawn from the various periods of American literature. It includes critical reading and writing. Two papers are required.

Creative Writing (1042) Jr. & Sr.

1 Year 1 Credit

Students in the creative writing course will develop an understanding and appreciation for writing. Various assignments and personal experiences will help students in expressing their ideas and furthering personal growth. Writing portfolios, projects, discussions, and individual journals will be used to connect students with creative writing processes. Students learn strategies for evaluating and responding to their own writing and the writing of others in a peer-sharing component. Students receive specific training in providing constructive, substantive feedback.

Broadcast & Journalism (1043) Jr. & Sr.

1 Year 1 Credit

An introduction to the field of journalism including a study and analysis of print, broadcast and online media. Students will examine journalistic ethics and will learn to write objectively while informing the public in various formats including world and community news, entertainment, and sports. They will also learn to interview and how to present opinions in professional editorials. Students will gain insight into various careers in reporting, editing, broadcasting, layout, and design.

Speech and Debate (0575) Jr. & Sr.

1 Semester ½ Credit

Students will engage in analyzing the structure and language of politics, business, legal, and social speech. They will study different modes of discourse, both oral and written. Students will also learn to construct and write speeches from a variety of rhetorical modes, including persuasion, process, and extemporaneous. Students will gain insight into training in delivery and presentation. Students will examine elocution, voice projection, and effective use of body language.

Living Bravely in a New World (0556) Jr. & Sr.

1 Semester ½ Credit

Students will explore classic and contemporary dystopian novels, film, and art to identify the artist's shared issues and concerns of life in the modern and postmodern era. Students will be invited to think critically about the antidote to the living whole in a seemingly fragmented world and explore the unique role that Faith plays in solving those problems. Scripture, the writings and art of religious thinkers will be studied as a vehicle for finding beauty and freedom in the often chaotic modern world.

FINE, VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

St. John's Prep believes that the arts have the power to transform young people's lives — to open them to the greatness that lies within them and in others. Our program is integral to our mission of providing a multi-faceted education for our students. The Fine, Visual and Performing Arts Program includes courses and extracurricular opportunities that recognize students as artists with individual strengths to be celebrated in a collaborative environment. Our program helps students build confidence, self-discipline, leadership, collaboration skills, and develops their ability to work independently, take risks and learn from mistakes. Imagine a community that values your creativity.

FINE ARTS

Art education makes students sensitive to their perceived world, more attuned to human feelings, and more aware of the physical and emotional environment in which they live. It is the hope of the Fine Arts Department that students will experience a desire to create, design, express, exhibit, and discover something new and original. Drawing a landscape or sculpting a horse, are as intrinsic to the artistic process as learning to critique a photograph. Students have myriad opportunities to explore coursework in sculpture, photography, collage, drawing, painting, printmaking and mixed media. The hands-on approach to learning lies at the core of St. John's Arts requirement, which emphasizes the value of being actively engaged in a creative process.

History of Art (8019) Soph.

1 Semester 1/2 Credit

This course offers an introductory overview of the history of both Western and Non- Western art from the Renaissance to the present day, including the achievements of artistic giants, significant movements in art as well as how they relate and are directly linked to significant moments in world history. Art History will cover works in a wide array of media, such as painting, sculpture, architecture, drawing, photography, performance, and the moving image. Emphasizing significant stylistic movements from early prehistoric times, Europe, the Americas, and global contemporary art, this class lays the groundwork for understanding art history by introducing visual analysis and other interpretative tools of art historical research. Students will learn how the visual products of a culture relate to historical circumstances, societal values, and shifting personal and collective identities. Skills developed in this class will include visual analysis, writing about art, ways of seeing and how to critically evaluate a work of art based both on aesthetics, its value in a society and its place in the canon of art history.

Studio Art (8005) Soph.

1 Semester 1/2 Credit

This is a basic course designed to familiarize the students with the fundamental elements and principles of art. Through “hands-on” experience various techniques and styles are learned and executed. This course fulfills 1/2 credit toward N.Y. State’s requirement for graduation.

Drawing I (8025) Jr. & Sr

1 Semester 1/2 Credit

Prerequisite: Studio Art & Departmental Approval

Students taking Drawing I engage in sequential learning experiences that encompass art history, art criticism, aesthetics, and art production that lead to the creation of high-quality life drawings. In addition to students experimenting with a wide range of drawing mediums (which include graphite, charcoal, pastel, pastel, and ink) and techniques, they will reflect upon the outcomes of those experiences, explore historical connections, and find a direct correlation to other disciplines. The course builds on fundamental drawing techniques introduced in Studio Art.

Sculpture I (8035) Jr. & Sr.

1 Semester 1/2 Credit

Prerequisite: Studio Art or Departmental Approval

This is an elective course that further explores and develops concepts introduced in the sculptured portions of the Studio Art course. Students experiment with a wide range of subtractive and additive processes (which include carving, modeling, construction, and assembling methods). Students also use organizational principles and functions to solve specific visual problems and develop skills in applying media, techniques, and processes with sufficiency to communicate intended meaning. Three-dimensional thinking and creation is emphasized as students work with a variety of materials to make art.

Painting I (8085) Jr. & Sr.

1 Semester 1/2 Credit

Prerequisite: Studio Art & Departmental Approval

This course will be an introduction to the methods, materials, and history of painting. Students explore a variety of painting techniques through both watercolor and acrylic mediums. They focus on color theory and how to understand and manipulate color through paint. Students look at significant art historical movements and create works based on major themes such as impressionism, cubism, and aspects of modern and contemporary art. Students are expected to recreate masterworks from art history and strive to develop their own unique style through personal projects.

Collage & Mixed Media (8095) Jr. & Sr.

1 Semester 1/2 Credit

Prerequisite: Studio Art & Departmental Approval

Collage allows for the reconsidering and recycling of objects, images, and ideas to create new and exciting forms of expression. Using simple techniques and easily acquired tools students will work to create projects such as self-portrait, landscape or abstract pictures. We will also discuss the art history of collage from folk art to Picasso to modern artists like Joseph Cornell and Romare Bearden.

Portfolio Prep (8075) Jr. & Sr.

1 Semester 1/2 Credit

Prerequisite: Studio Art & Departmental Approval

This elective course is for seniors or juniors who are prepared to work on a series of more demanding art assignments. Students will work on developing their creativity as well as their personal artistic style. The class will give students the opportunity to focus on techniques they enjoyed in their previous studio classes, such as; printmaking, painting or collage, over an extended period of time

PERFORMING ARTS

The St. John's Prep Visual and Performing Arts program provides students with opportunities to discover their talents, to acquire skills necessary for artistic expression, and to develop an understanding and appreciation of the arts. By studying the performing arts, students hone critical thinking skills and learn about self-expression, creativity, and collaboration. Students can also participate in the dance, music and theatre programs as part of the school's afternoon activities. The hands-on approach to learning lies at the core of St. John's arts requirement, which emphasizes the value of being actively engaged in a creative process.

Introduction to Music (8505) Freshman

1 Semester 1/2 Credit

Students will understand aspects of music history and ways in which music fits into the culture from Bach to Rock. They will become familiar with the distinctive musical characteristics that delineate the major historical periods of music and will identify the compositional techniques employed in many styles of music. Students will examine the interrelationships among current events, developing technologies, and music in society.

Visual & Performing Arts I & II (8575 and 8590)

1 Semester 1/2 Credit

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval

This course is intended as a program that incorporates the basic content for music, theater, and the visual arts. Performing Arts and defines the five strands of an arts program: artistic perception, creative expression; historical and cultural context; aesthetic valuing; and connections, relationships, and applications. This provides students with hands-on experience in a number of fields including:

- Musical Theatre: The combination of acting and singing along with the basics of technical theatre and stagehand work. Fashion & Costume Design: Introduction to sewing, fashion illustration and costume making.
- Multimedia Art: Adobe Photoshop & illustrator, animation, game design, and projection mapping.
- Film & Video: Video editing and Screenwriting
- Sound Engineering & Music Production: Recording and editing music.

MATHEMATICS

We live in a time of extraordinary and accelerating change. New knowledge of mathematics continues to emerge and evolve. In this changing world, those who understand and can do mathematics will have significantly enhanced opportunities and options for shaping their futures. The St. John's Prep Math Department is committed to developing the analytical mind of each student as an integral part of educating the whole person by providing students with a conceptual foundation in Mathematics that will assure competency in any university-level course requiring knowledge of the subject. **All Math classes require a TI 84 Plus CE Graphing Calculator.*

Algebra 1 (3002) Freshman

1 Year 1 Credit

This course provides students with the foundation to study mathematics through an integrated approach that follows the Common Core Standards for Algebra 1. It introduces topics in algebra, data analysis, and functions. Real-world applications are used throughout the course. At the conclusion of the year, students will take the Algebra 1 Common Core Regents exam. SAT preparation is started in freshman year.

Algebra 1 Honors (3004) Freshman

1 Year 1 Credit

This course is the honors section of the freshman math program. Students will be given the foundation to study mathematics through an integrated approach that follows the Common Core Standards for Algebra 1. It introduces topics in algebra, data analysis, and probability. Real-world applications are used throughout the course. At the conclusion of the year, students will take the Algebra 1 Common Core Regents exam. SAT preparation is started in freshman year.

Introduction to Computer Science (3095) Freshman

1 Semester ½ Credit

As part of the Amazon Future Engineer program, this introductory course offers students an opportunity to study computer science and programming using the Python programming language. Students strengthen their critical thinking and channel their ideas in creative ways as they learn how to problem- solve and think outside the box. It provides a strong foundation for further study of computer science in AP Computer Science Principles.

Geometry (3206) Sophomore

1 Year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 and Departmental Approval

This course follows the Common Core Standards for Geometry. The topics include Euclidean geometry, triangles and proofs, coordinate geometry, transformations, measurement formulas, and three-dimensional figures. Topics from Algebra will be integrated into the course. At the conclusion of the year, students will take the Geometry Common Core Regents exam. SAT preparation is continued in sophomore year

Geometry Honors (3208) Sophomore

1 Year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 and Departmental Approval

Geometry Honors is an accelerated course that follows Common Core Standards for Geometry. The topics include Euclidean geometry, triangles and proofs, coordinate geometry, transformations, measurement formulas and three-dimensional figures. Topics from Algebra will be integrated into the course. Students take the Geometry Common Core Regents exam in June. SAT/ACT preparation is continued in sophomore year.

Algebra II (3302) Junior

1 Year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Geometry and Departmental Approval

This course follows the Common Core Standards for Algebra II. It includes functions, variation and graphs, logarithms, trigonometry, quadratic relations, and probability statistics. At the conclusion of the year, students will take the Algebra II Common Core Regents exam. SAT/ACT preparation is continued in junior year.

Algebra II Honors (3342) Junior

1 Year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Geometry and Departmental Approval

This is the honors section of the junior math program. This course follows the Common Core Standards for Algebra II. It includes functions, variation and graphs, logarithms, trigonometry, quadratic relations, and probability statistics. At the conclusion of the year, students will take the Algebra II Common Core Regents exam. SAT/ACT preparation is continued in junior year.

Pre-Calculus (3460) Senior

1 Year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Algebra II and Departmental Approval

This course provides the preparation for basic math courses given in college and technical schools. Topics in algebra include factoring, real numbers, complex numbers, theory of equations, linear relations and functions, quadratics, exponential and logarithmic functions, and matrices. Topics in trigonometry include trigonometric functions, graphing and applications of the Law of Sines and Cosines.

Pre-Calculus Honors (3435) Senior

1 Year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Algebra II and Departmental Approval

This course is intended for students with a strong math background to prepare students to study higher-level mathematics in college. Topics covered include functions, linear programming, the theory of equations, matrices, trigonometry, and its applications, sequences, and series, as well as an introduction to calculus. This course is also offered for college credit through the College Advantage program at St. John's University. Students may earn up to 6 college credits. A separate fee charged by the university is required for the college credit.

AP Calculus (3440) Senior

1 Year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Algebra II and Departmental Approval

Calculus AB is a rigorous college introductory course designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Calculus AB exam as well as future university courses in mathematics. Students interested in pursuing programs in mathematical sciences, physics, chemistry, economics, computer science, or engineering are especially encouraged to take this course. The course covers topics including analytic geometry, limits, continuity, differentiation, and integrations of functions, definite integrals, and applications in business and science. This course is offered both as an AP Class and a St. John's University College Advantage course. Students enrolled in the SJU College Advantage Program will be required to pay a university course fee. Students are expected to take the AP Calculus examination in May.

AP Computer Science Principles (6310) - Junior & Senior

1 Year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval

The AP Computer Science course is based on the College Board's curriculum framework that includes problem-solving, design strategies and methodologies, organization of data (data structures), approaches to processing data (algorithms), analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing. The course is project-based and emphasizes writing, communication, collaboration, and creativity. In addition to developing socially useful mobile apps for Android devices using MIT's App Inventor programming language, students create digital artifacts such as videos and mobile apps that have practical, real-world uses. All students will be required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May.

AP Statistics (3450) - Junior & Senior

1 Year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Algebra II and Departmental Approval

AP Statistics is the equivalent to a one-semester introductory course at the college level. The purpose of the AP course in statistics is to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes: Exploring Data, Describing Sampling and Experimentation, Anticipating Patterns, and Statistical Inference. All students will be required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION, HEALTH & WELLNESS

The St. John's Prep Physical Education and Health & Wellness Department seeks to nurture the physical, intellectual, and social-emotional development of every student. We believe that Physical Education and Health play an integral role in the broader educational program and development of all students. To facilitate Health and Wellness throughout a lifetime, our Physical Education, Health & Wellness Department is committed to delivering students a comprehensive curriculum throughout their four-year program. Our goal is to provide each student with the necessary knowledge, values, and skills to maintain personal health and fitness for life.

The St. John's Prep Physical Education Program promotes the enjoyment of physical activity while helping students improve their fitness level, develop their athleticism, practice leadership and sportsmanship. The curriculum strives to build a sense of pride, self-discipline and encourages each student to become healthy, active and responsible members of society.

The St. John's Prep Health & Wellness Education Program teaches students healthy lifestyle habits. Students learn nutrition, stress management, communication skills, coping skills and how the choices they make affect their lives. Students are introduced to the principles of holistic health through nutrition, mindfulness, and emotional wellness. There is a focus on informed decision-making, to provide students with information and activities that will have a positive impact on students' attitudes, behaviors, and choices in life.

Boys' P.E. 9-10 (5500) Fr. & Soph.

1 Year 1/4 Credit

An introduction to calisthenics and body movement exploration. Team sports are introduced and basic skills are taught, followed by skill testing, team strategy, and rules. Written tests are given, and physical fitness tests are administered twice a year. National norms are used for testing and grading. Individual, dual and team sports are stressed for students who can use these activities in later life.

Boys' P.E. 11-12 (5550) Jr. & Sr.

1 Year 1/4 Credit

Emphasis is placed on advanced skills and performance in team sports. Track and field activities are presented on a group or individual basis to develop the cardiovascular system. Approved physical fitness tests are used to motivate and evaluate students. At this level, Physical Education emphasizes skill for life-time sports. Experiences with a wide variety of activities are stressed, and students are encouraged to develop an understanding of body limitations and capabilities. Opportunities for self-testing activities are provided so students can see personal progress. Students participate in various activities that involve the development of the muscles of the arms and legs.

Healthy Lifestyles, Nutrition and Wellness (5705) Soph. Required

1 Semester 1/2 Credit

In the Lifestyle, Nutrition and Wellness course, students will take a look at current nutritional trends, food labels, and the many steps to get our food from the farm to the table. Students will better understand the concept, "we are what we eat", by being introduced to the basic macro and micronutrients (fats, proteins, carbohydrates, vitamins, minerals). This knowledge will then be applied to a variety of topics, including food allergies/sensitivities, fuel for learning, and the effects of malnutrition. Students will research and discuss the most common diets and their advantages and disadvantages. This course will also offer a basic introduction to sports nutrition, stress management, coping skills, yoga practices, and general fitness procedures.

Girls' P.E. 9-10 (5600) Fr. & Soph.

1 Year 1/4 Credit

This course includes participation in physical fitness through body mechanics and conditioning. Lead-up games, as well as the basic fundamentals of track and field, volleyball, flag football, soccer, and lacrosse are introduced. Students are also introduced to the basic skills and knowledge needed in yoga and square dancing. All students are required to take a physical fitness test which assesses their fitness level and is used to provide an individualized exercise program.

Girls' P.E. 11-12 (5650) Jr. & Sr.

1 Year 1/4 Credit

This course involves participation in team and individual sports with an emphasis on lifetime activities. Team sports include floor hockey, softball, lacrosse, team handball, and ultimate Frisbee. The individual sports include gymnastics, self-defense, aerobics, fitness, and weight training. Students are given the opportunity to express themselves through physical activity by preparing their own gymnastic routines and aerobic dances.

ELECTIVES:**Child Development (7305) Jr. & Sr.**

1 Semester 1/2 Credit

In this course, students study the physical, emotional, social and intellectual development of the child from conception to adolescence. Special problems in raising children are emphasized and solutions are examined. The course is designed to bring child development and parenting concepts alive for each student. Discussion in class and guest speakers challenge students' ideas on parenting. This course also explores career opportunities in the child-development field.

Independent Living (7405) Senior

1 Semester 1/2 Credit

This course introduces students to the information that will assist them in becoming self-sufficient and well-informed adults. Students will be challenged to prepare themselves for the world that follows high school. The course focuses on career choice, which includes a research project and job interview strategies, money management, table manners, food preparation, and the development of both character and consumer skills. Special food labs are conducted to enable students to practice their "cooking" and table manners.

SCIENCE

The educational objective of the Science Department is to educate our student population in a broad spectrum of scientific content and ensure they are aware of and prepared for the demands of the emerging fields of science and technology in the 21st century. It is our goal to teach students to think scientifically by offering a variety of classes that support current and future student interests. We hope students will be able to use this knowledge as a springboard for college and career.

Biology (2020)

1 Year 1 Credit

This introductory course will provide a broad understanding of the fundamental principles of biology and build a foundation for understanding how organisms evolve in a changing environment. Topics covered include cell structure and function, cellular reproduction, photosynthesis, cellular respiration, DNA and biotechnology, ecology, genetics, taxonomy, plant and animal diversity, and evolution by natural selection. Students will learn about the relationship of living things to one another and to the environment. Concepts are developed through appropriate exercises and lab experiences, which emphasize the disciplined approach of the scientist. All students take the NYS Living Environment Regents exam at the conclusion of course.

Biology Honors (2040)

1 Year 1 Credit

The Honors Biology course is a comprehensive and in-depth study of biology designed for high achieving students who may be considering a career in science. Topics covered include cell structure and function, cellular reproduction, photosynthesis, cellular respiration, DNA and biotechnology, ecology, genetics, taxonomy, plant and animal diversity, and evolution by natural selection. The honors curriculum covers concepts in greater depth and detail in order to strengthen reading and comprehension across the curriculum and to better prepare students for future AP courses and the SAT II Biology exam. Areas of concentration include research skills, scientific inquiry, biochemical aspects of modern biology, cells, genetics, evolution, ecology, human anatomy, and physiology. This class will prepare students for the NYS Living Environment Regents exam which will be taken in June at the conclusion of the school year

Earth Science (2221)

1 Year 1 Credit

This course involves the study of all phases of the earth's environment, including astronomy, meteorology, oceanography and physical and historical geology. Laboratory exercises expand upon and illustrate the principles covered in the lecture. Students are evaluated on written lab work, homework and unit tests. All students take the NYS Physical Setting/Earth Science Regents exam at the conclusion of the course.

Chemistry (2340)

1 Year 1 Credit

Chemistry is an in-depth study of the behavior and changes of matter, atoms and molecules, and the relationships between science, technology, and the decisions of today's leaders and citizens. The goals of the class include preparing students for college chemistry, arousing interest in the world of matter, providing laboratory experience, and increasing scientific literacy. Topics include matter and energy, atomic structure, bonding, the periodic table, the mathematics of chemistry, kinetics and equilibrium, acid-base theories, electrochemistry, organic chemistry and the application of principles of reactions. All students take the NYS Chemistry Regents exam at the conclusion of the course.

Chemistry Honors (2350)

1 Year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval

Honors Chemistry provides a rigorous analytical and mathematical approach to the study of chemistry. The course is for students who have a significant interest in science and intend as a preparation for Advanced Placement (AP) or college chemistry. The course topics include the development of the major concepts of matter and the changes which matter undergoes, atomic structure, chemical bonding, chemical reactions, thermodynamics, the behavior of solutions, and acid and bases and are enhanced by laboratory experimentation, critical thinking, and problem-solving activities. The laboratory component of the course involves students using techniques that are specific to the principles of chemistry. All students take the NYS Chemistry Regents exam at the conclusion of the course.

Physics (2420)

1 Year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval

This course is recommended for students who have completed Biology and Chemistry and who would benefit from an introductory course in Physics. More emphasis is placed on a qualitative understanding of physics principles than a quantitative one. There are hands-on labs, class projects, and many demonstrations to provide a more well-rounded physics experience. All students take the NYS Physics Regents exam at the conclusion of the course.

Physics Honors (2343)

1 Year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval

Physics Honors is the equivalent to a first-semester college course in algebra-based physics and is important for those intending to major in the STEM fields. Topics covered include motion, forces, Newton's Laws, momentum, energy, waves, gravity, heat, optics, sound, nuclear physics along with an introduction to electricity and electrical circuits. Classroom activities revolve around experiments, critical thinking, and problem-solving. All students take the NYS Physics Regents exam at the conclusion of the course.

AP Biology (2450) Sr

1 Year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval

AP Biology is equivalent to a two-semester college biology course. It is a rigorous, fast-paced course for students with a strong work ethic and the ability to work independently, analyze information and interpret readings. Students cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore the following topics: evolution, cellular processes—energy and communication, genetics, information transfer, ecology, and interactions. The key concepts that define the AP Biology course and exam are organized around a few underlying principles, which encompass the core scientific principles, theories, and processes governing living organisms and biological systems.

- Evolution - The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life.
- Cellular Processes: Energy and Communication - Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce, and to maintain dynamic homeostasis.
- Genetics and Information Transfer - Living systems store, retrieve, transmit, and respond to information essential to life processes.
- Interactions - Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties

All students will be required to take the Advanced Placement Biology Exam in May.

Astronomy (2318) Jr & Sr

1 Semester ½ Credit

Why do stars twinkle? Is it possible to fall into a black hole? Will the sun ever stop shining? Since the first glimpse of the night sky, humans have been fascinated with the stars, planets, and universe. Astronomy is a one-semester introductory class designed for students with a natural curiosity for the wonders of the universe. This course explores a broad range of topics including “The Big Bang” origins of the universe followed by contemporary theories about the composition, formation, and evolution of moons, planets, stars, galaxies, and the universe.

AP Psychology (1450) Jr & Sr

1 Year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval

The AP Psychology course is designed to be the equivalent of the Introduction to Psychology course taken in a student's first year of college. The course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the psychologists and studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with such topics as the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and cognition, motivation, developmental psychology, testing and individual differences, treatments of psychological disorders, and social psychology. Throughout the course, students employ psychological research methods, including ethical considerations, as they use the scientific method, evaluate claims and evidence, and effectively communicate ideas. All students will be required to take the Advanced Placement Psychology Exam in May.

Environmental Science (2321) Jr. & Sr.

1 year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval

This course is designed as an introduction to Environmental Science. This course provides issues approaching a broad range of topics including ecology, public health, wild species preservation, atmospheric pollution, and climate change, ozone depletion, global warming, and energy conservation. Students discuss the economics and public policies that affect these issues. Students will conduct laboratory experiments dealing with air and water quality and other activities that measure pollutants in the environment.

Forensic Science (2315) Jr & Sr

1 Semester ½ Credit

Forensic Science provides an introduction to understanding the science behind crime detection. This challenging course will expose students to many new technological advances in forensic medicine and crime-solving techniques like DNA testing, fingerprinting, blood spatter and identification, toxicology, hair and fiber analysis, ballistics and forensic pathology. This hands-on course will focus on scientific inquiry, logical thinking skills, and problem-solving procedures to understand how science can be crucial in solving crimes and how evidence is gathered and used in a court of law. This one-semester course will combine many types of teaching strategies including scientific inquiry, hands-on laboratories, field trips, guest speakers, and "murder mystery" scenarios that encourage students to utilize their knowledge learned in class to "solve a crime."

Human Anatomy and Physiology (2430) Jr & Sr

1 Year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval

Anatomy/Physiology is a comprehensive study of the structure and function of the human body. This course is preparation for advanced biological studies, biomedical nursing, occupational therapies, nursing, and other science-based careers. Topics include the study of cells, tissues, integumentary, skeletal, muscular, and nervous systems. Emphasis is placed on the integration of systems as they relate to normal health. In addition to learning how our bodies normally work, we will study the many diseases and disorders within each system.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies is at the heart of civil society. Our primary goal as a department is to empower students to enter our increasingly diverse world as active, thoughtful, and passionate citizens. We believe that an understanding of the past is the most important means by which our students will comprehend the complex world they will someday lead. Classes in the St. John's Prep Social Studies Department will engage students in the study of both the history of the world and the United States, as well as, a wide array of social sciences. Students will develop their historical thinking skills and engage in an in-depth understanding of history from diverse perspectives through the reading and interpreting of primary sources such as letters, speeches, laws, court cases, and artwork. In their studies, students will be encouraged to connect the past historical events with the contemporary world. Most importantly, students will develop an awareness of enduring and evolving societal issues and envision solutions in order to understand what it means to be a global citizen.

Global History & Geography 9 (1120) Freshman

1 Year 1 Credit

Global History and Geography 9 is the first part of a two-year course in Global Studies. In Global Studies 9, students will explore and examine history periods from the Ancient Civilizations to the Enlightenment. Throughout the year, students will focus on several important enduring issues including the impact of geography, belief systems, power, conflict, trade, technology, and migration. Students will develop an understanding of world history from diverse perspectives through reading and interpreting primary sources including documents, eyewitness accounts, speeches, records, artwork, and artifacts. Through engaging activities, students will hone the essential social studies practices such as gathering, interpreting, and using evidence; chronological reasoning and causation; comparison and contextualization; geographic reasoning; economics and economics systems; and civic participation. Students will develop writing with a focus on organizing effective essays that have a clear thesis, use supporting evidence, and analysis. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to make connections between history and their own lives and cultivate an understanding of the notion of what it means to be a global citizen.

Global History & Geography 9 Honors (1140) Freshman

1 Year 1 Credit

Pre-AP World History 9 is a challenging, college-level course that prepares 9th-grade students for the rigors of AP World History, which they take during sophomore year. The class primarily focuses on a variety of African, Asian, European, and American civilizations, empires, and cultures from the "Dawn of Civilization" (8,000 B.C.E.) through the beginning of the early modern era (1450 C.E.). Using an array of primary and secondary sources, students "make history come alive" by examining, interpreting, and analyzing different historical figures, events, cultures, movements, and ideas. Through these historical connections, students learn and understand a more clear picture of the past on both macro and micro levels.

Global History & Geography 10 (1220) Sophomore

1 Year 1 Credit

Global History and Geography 10 is the second part of a two-year course in Global Studies whereupon completion of their sophomore year all students will take the Global History and Geography II Regents Examination. In Global Studies 10, students will explore and examine the following ages in World History: the World in 1750 C.E., the Enlightenment and Age of Revolutions, Industrialization, Imperialism, and a New Global Age, The World Wars and Political Revolutions of the Twentieth Century, Decolonization and Independence Movements, the Contemporary World: Modernization and Globalization. Throughout the year, students will focus on several important enduring issues including the impact of geography, belief systems, imperialism, nationalism, power, conflict, technology, human rights, and globalization. Students will develop an understanding of world history from diverse perspectives through reading and interpreting primary sources including documents, eyewitness accounts, speeches, records, artwork, and artifacts. Through engaging activities, students will hone the essential social studies practices such as gathering, interpreting, and using evidence; chronological reasoning and causation; comparison and contextualization; geographic reasoning; economics and economics systems; and civic participation. Students will develop writing with a focus on organizing effective essays that have a clear thesis, use supporting evidence, and analysis. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to make connections between history and their own lives and cultivate an understanding of the notion of what it means to be a global citizen.

AP World History Honors (1240) Sophomore

1 Year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval

AP World History 10 is the second part of the two-year, college-level academic exploration of global history. Picking up in 1450 C.E., students continue to examine, analyze, and interpret different empires, civilizations, and nation-states up through the early 21st century. By continuing to use a variety of both primary and secondary sources, students not only make strong connections back to material from the Pre-AP World History 9 curriculum, but also think about, debate, and discuss how past figures, events, and ideas have shaped more modern history as well as the present day. Students must take the AP World History exam in May of their sophomore year, which potentially allows them to earn up to 3 college credits. The New York State Board of Regents also requires that all high school sophomores take and pass the Global History and Geography Regents Exam, which is administered in June.

U.S. History & Government (1320) Junior

1 Year 1 Credit

US History and Government 11 is a one year course that focuses on the study of the history of the United States whereupon completion of their junior year all students will take the US History and Government Regents Examination. In US History and Government 11, students will explore and examine the following periods in United States History: the Colonial Foundations, the Constitutional Foundations, Expansion, Nationalism, and Sectionalism, the Post-Civil War Era, Industrialization and Urbanization, the Rise of American Power, Prosperity and Depressions, World War II, the Cold War, Social and Economic Change, and the United States in a Globalizing World. Throughout the year, students will focus on important civic and Constitutional issues such as the limitation and expansion of rights of various groups throughout the course of American History and the efforts of individuals and the government to resolve problems in American society. Students will develop an understanding of United States history from diverse perspectives through reading and interpreting primary sources including documents, eyewitness accounts, speeches, records, artwork, and artifacts. Through engaging activities, students will hone the essential social studies practices such as gathering, interpreting, and using evidence; chronological reasoning and causation; comparison and contextualization; geographic reasoning; economics and economics systems; and civic participation. Students will develop writing with a focus on organizing effective essays that have a clear thesis, use supporting evidence, and analysis. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to think about the responsibilities and of citizenship and how they can meaningfully participate in democratic institutions.

AP U.S. History & Government (1340) Juniors

1 Year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval

Advanced Placement United States History is designed as a college-level survey of American History. The course will begin with the study of Pre-Columbian societies in the Americas and will continue to the present day. Students will be introduced to historical inquiry and develop an understanding of the discipline of history where students will be asked to use historical content knowledge to analyze and develop arguments, to place historical events within their historical context, to analyze and evaluate competing interpretations, and to understand the complex nature of causation. Students will develop an in-depth understanding of United States History from diverse perspectives through

reading and interpreting primary sources including documents, eyewitness accounts, speeches, records, court cases, artwork, and artifacts and secondary sources including the interpretations of historians. Students will develop will learn to write argumentative essays that have a strong thesis, use supporting relevant evidence, and demonstrate the analysis. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to draw connections between the past and contemporary American society, to think about the responsibilities and of citizenship, and how they can meaningfully participate in democratic institutions. One of the central goals of this course will be to prepare to take the Advanced Placement Exam in United States History in May. At the conclusion of the course, students will also be required to take the United States History and Government Regents Exam.

Government (1435) Sr. Required

1 Semester ½ Credit

In Government, students will focus on current events and issues in order to understand the significant functions of government on a federal, state, and local level. Students will develop an understanding of five major themes: Foundations of American Democracy, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Rights, Responsibilities, and Duties of Citizenship, and Public Policy through an examination of current events/issues and historical examples. Students will explore various primary and secondary sources and hone the skills to critically evaluate the sources that they encounter. Students will develop essential skills for college, such as developing their academic research and writing and learning to participate meaningfully in classroom discussions. Students will have opportunities to present their findings in various formats such as in a letter or class presentation. Throughout the course, students will develop an awareness of significant issues facing their city, state, country, and the world and contemplate solutions to these problems. Finally, students will explore the different ways to engage in the political process and meaningfully participate in our democracy as active citizens.

Economics (1436) Sr. Required

1

Semester ½ Credit

In this currently complex world of globalization, automation, outsourcing, intense competition, and a changing environment the study of economics is more important than ever. Our students are entering a highly competitive and rapidly changing university and the job market. A practical study of the functions and features of the American, and Global economic system will prepare the students to become astute consumers, educated business people and informed, concerned citizens and voters. Our political questions are nearly always economic. Economic questions underpin our election cycles. Therefore current events and trends, world economic patterns and issues will be examined along with a study of economic systems, theories of supply and demand, employment trends and a rapidly changing consumer approach to goods and services. Students will pursue such topics as the cost of college education and student loans, the toll of automation on the worker, the effect of climate change on the economy, the shift to an internet-based economy, and the ultimate value and worth of work itself as it applies to human dignity.

ELECTIVES

Introduction to Law (1585) Jr. & Sr.

1 Semester ½ Credit

Introduction to Law is designed to provide students with a practical understanding of the legal system. This course is an excellent opportunity for students who are interested in exploring the field of law as a career or who would like to understand the impact of the law on their lives. Students will have opportunities to work in small groups, engage in visual analysis activities, and investigate famous United States cases. This class will investigate the role of the legal system, law enforcement, and jury selection. Students will also explore issues and topics such as search warrants, white-collar crimes, quality of life crimes, human rights, search and seizure, eyewitness testimony, jury duty and sentencing.

The New York Story (1555) Jr. & Sr.

1 Semester ½ Credit

New York City is one of the most competitive and complex cities in the world. It functions as one of the capitals of world finance and one of the most creative cities in human history. The New York Story Class attempts to grapple with the ever-elusive and fascinating story of this city. The literature, history, art, music, architecture, politics and people of this city are closely examined in the course. The course is designed to give both native New Yorkers and those newer to the city a thorough grounding in the life, history, culture, and business of New York City. Readings, podcasts, blogs, museum websites, films, guest speakers, walking tours and museum visits form the core of the class. Students will engage in various independent projects regarding the history, economics, infrastructure, and culture of New York City.

Personal Finance & Wealth Management (1560) Jr. & Sr.

1 Semester ½ Credit

Real-world topics covered will include income, money management, spending, and credit, as well as saving and investing. Students will design personal and household budgets utilizing checking and saving accounts, gain knowledge in finance, debt and credit management, and evaluate and understand insurance and taxes. This course gives students an overview of how to manage their individual financial circumstances. Topics covered will include basic financial recordkeeping, personal, auto, mortgage, and home equity loans, investing fundamentals, property and casualty insurance, life insurance, health insurance, and tax planning. Students learn core skills in creating budgets, developing long-term financial plans to meet their goals, and making responsible choices about income and expenses. They gain a deeper understanding of capitalism and other systems so they can better understand their role in the economy of society. Students are inspired by the experiences of finance professionals and stories of everyday people and the choices they make to manage their money.

Psychology (1535) Jr. & Sr.

1 Semester ½ Credit

This one-semester course provides an introduction to the science of psychology. Students will investigate theories, topics, and applications in the field of psychology across biological, cognitive, social, developmental, and clinical areas. Students learn to identify ways in which the science of psychology affects everyday lives and gain knowledge in multiple areas of psychology that help students better understand themselves and the people around them. The course will highlight connections among different areas of psychology and identify ways in which different perspectives contribute to a fuller understanding of human behavior.

Sociology (1545) Jr. & Sr.

1 Semester ½ Credit

Sociology is the study of group behavior and society. The realization that our social world - be it a family, a school, a city, a nation, an entire world - guides our actions and life choices is an essential lesson of the discipline. How is society structured? Is inequality an inherent part of human life? How and why do societies change? This course introduces the central concepts and principles of major sociological perspectives. It provides an overview of the study of social institutions, social stratification, and social change. Students will engage in critical thinking about social and cultural issues and gain exposure to different types of sociological research. This class will help the student see the world more clearly and with greater empathy for others.

AP European History (1550) Sr.

1 Year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval

Advanced Placement European History is designed to give the St. John's Prep student a college-level, in-depth study of European history from the Middle Ages to the present. (1350-2020). Students will examine and trace the important themes in political, economic, diplomatic, intellectual, social and cultural history throughout the European nations. Primary sources are heavily emphasized, as are extensive outside readings and museum explorations. Writing in a collegiate style is taught extensively. Oral presentations, historical texts, the development of historical research skills using primary sources, group work, art, literature, and philosophy are all key components in the curriculum. Analytical thinking, philosophical questioning, and a love of history are at the heart of the course. Each student will be prepared to take the A.P. Examination in May.

THEOLOGY

St. John's Prep is rooted in a rich tradition of faith, community, and service. The Theology Department encourages students to pursue an understanding of their faith and to respect the religious beliefs of others. Through the curriculum, the department seeks to inform students about the nature of religion and religious traditions in a diverse and changing society. In the spirit of ecumenism fostered by the Catholic Church at Vatican II, and a hallmark of our age, the curriculum remains faithful to the Roman Catholic and Vincentian heritage of St. John's Prep and fosters dialogue and understanding among all students. The chaplain and the associate spiritual directors are available to help students to develop their faith. Service, retreat, prayer groups, school liturgies, and afterschool programs are available to help students to foster their spiritual growth and their personal spiritual journey.

Theology 9 (5100) Freshman

1 Year 1/2 Credit

An exploration of the biblical and historical background of the Christian faith. The fall semester is an intensive study of the Old Testament. It emphasizes a close examination of salvation history and includes themes such as God's covenant with the people, goodness and creativity, and undying love and faithfulness. The spring semester is an in-depth study of the New Testament with emphasis on the life and meaning of the person of Jesus. Students focus on their encounter with Jesus as the living Son of God.

Theology 10 (5200) Sophomore

1 Year 1/2 Credit

The theme of this course is relationships. Students are invited to examine their relationships to self, God, and others. Using insights provided by faith, Christian tradition, and modern psychology, students probe the questions "Who am I as a developing human person?" and "Who am I as a Christian?" Students examine these questions in light of their dignity and value as persons loved by God. Students are introduced to the skills that enable them to develop and maintain relationships with others. They examine the significance of Christian values in these relationships and explore the formation and nature of relationships between family members, friends and members of the opposite sex. Students study the ways in which the liturgical celebrations of the Church influence their relationship to God and the Christian community. They examine the history and traditions of Church worship and the sacramental rituals that are part of the Christian identity. It is the purpose of this part of the course to help students to integrate all aspects of their relationships within the context of the Christian community and the world in which they live.

Theology 11 (5300) Junior

1 Year 1/2 Credit

The first semester of this course begins with the study of Christian morality. Through an examination of moral principles and an emphasis on the development of an informed Christian conscience, students are encouraged to develop attitudes about life, themselves and others that are based on the Christian vision of the human person and the meaning of life. Contemporary moral issues are presented and discussed in light of Catholic teachings. Students examine both traditional dogmatic teachings and current theological scholarship. In the second-semester students examine the social responsibilities of committed Christians in the world today. Issues relevant to society as a whole and articulated in the pastoral documents of the Church are studied. Such issues include war and peace, poverty, nuclear arms, human rights and dignity of all. The prevalent problems of hunger, AIDS, the homeless, racial discrimination, sexual abuse, and drug abuse are addressed in light of conscience and Catholic teaching.

Theology 12 (5400) Senior

1 Year 1/2 Credit

The purpose of this course is to support students in meeting the challenges encountered by Christians living in a pluralistic society. They will examine the meaning of a Christ-centered morality. Students will learn to appreciate the role of Christians in today's society; as persons who act to transform not only themselves but also the world. One aspect of this transformation involves developing mature relationships, especially in marriage. Therefore, a major strand of this course emphasizes the preservation of marriage as a sacred bond, parenting as a sacred responsibility and family life as a community truly expressive of God's love on earth. Students will also be presented with choices of other vocations including the religious life and the single state. It is the purpose of Religion 12 to give students insight into lifestyles that enable them to live as responsible, committed adults and models of mature Christians

WORLD LANGUAGE

The study of World Language is an integral part of the St. John's Prep curriculum. By learning to speak a second language, St. John's students open windows to other peoples and to other cultures. Our curriculum offers students the skills needed to speak, read, write, and understand other languages, and enables students to be well-prepared for college courses or for opportunities to study abroad. Students learn skills needed to take tests such as the Advanced Placement examinations or SAT II, Subject Tests. Our language teachers are passionate and dedicated and use innovative teaching methodologies in the language acquisition process. Students may choose to study French, Italian, Spanish, or Mandarin.

French I (4100)

1 year 1 Credit

This class lays the foundation for language study. Classes are conducted largely in French in order to develop strong oral, listening reading and writing skills. Students are expected to make an effort to use French as much as possible in class. An intensive vocabulary study is based on the most common words of the language. As for grammar, students are introduced to past, present, and future tenses.

French II (4120)

1 year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: French I & Departmental Approval

In the second year of French, there is an increased focus on grammar, verb form and usage, and vocabulary. Vocabulary expansion is a priority. Cultural conversations, small skits, and oral drills are designed to encourage students to speak French as much as possible. Vocabulary is introduced in the text, in class, through short stories, simple poems, and through digital learning. This course continues to strengthen the four skills of the language: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

French III (4140)

1 year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: French II & Departmental Approval

The third year of French continues to foster students' development in reading, writing, listening, and speaking the language. At the onset of the year, students review important grammatical concepts from years 1-2. Oral skills are stressed, including pronunciation, conversation, and dramatic presentations. Students reinforce their growing command of grammar through daily partner and group speaking activities, frequent personal and collaborative writing exercises, and regular engagement with authentic print, audio, and video sources.

French IV-V (4150)

1 year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: 85% in French III & Departmental Approval

This reading, conversation, and composition course aims to maintain and increase proficiency in the four language skills. Readings of short stories, plays, French news as well as French films allow for discussions and conversational practice on various topics of French civilization, literature, and culture. Teachers will make use of situational vocabulary, oral presentations, essay writing, reading comprehension practice, and a thorough review of complex grammatical structure when needed, with an emphasis on making vocabulary and grammar practical both orally and in writing.

Italian I (4200)

1 year 1 Credit

This beginning course in Italian introduces the student to reading, writing, speaking, and understanding the target language. Basic functional vocabulary and fundamental grammatical structures are stressed. Students are also introduced to Italian culture.

Italian II (4220)

1 year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Italian I and Teacher Recommendation

Italian II reviews the concepts covered in Italian 1 and develops further speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills in the foreign language. More advanced grammatical structures are studied, and a student's vocabulary is enhanced. Cultural units continue to play a major role in this course. The course is conducted in Italian as much as is feasible.

Italian III (4240)

1 year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Italian II and Teacher Recommendation

The third year of Italian study is designed to improve the student's knowledge in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Oral and written communication skills are stressed. The third-year language course is conducted primarily in Italian. Grammar review plays an important role in the course. This course teaches the language skills necessary to function in an environment where the target language is spoken

Latin I (4505) (Not available in 2020)

1 Semester ½ Credit

First-year Latin introduces the fundamentals of the language, with emphasis on the acquisition of the grammar and vocabulary necessary for reading original passages of Latin prose and poetry. The reading instills an appreciation of Latin literature and Roman culture and a recognition of their influence upon the literature and cultural patterns of Western civilization.

Mandarin I (4700) Freshmen

1 year 1 Credit

This beginning course will lay the foundation for future Chinese language study. Speaking, listening, reading and writing/typing will all be components of the course. There will be an emphasis on pronunciation, especially the mastery of tones, on the Hanyu Pinyin—Romanization system for Mandarin. Students will learn to use practical vocabulary in class, related to greetings, family, dates and time, hobbies, and school life. Throughout the year, cultural elements and activities will be introduced.

Spanish I (4300)

1 year 1 Credit

This course lays the foundation for language study. Students learn the three tenses and practical vocabulary words related to families, houses, school, food, and transportation. Writing, speaking, listening, and reading are all key components of this course. Classes are largely conducted in Spanish, and students have numerous opportunities to speak.

Spanish II (4320)

1 year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Spanish I and Departmental Approval

In second year Spanish, students expand their grammatical foundation with extensive practice and drill work in the four skills of the language: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Vocabulary expansion is a priority. Students give oral presentations, participate in skits, listen to dialogues and songs, and speak and write extensively

Spanish III (4340)

1 year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Spanish II and Departmental Approval

Spanish III aims to improve written and oral expression, along with listening and reading comprehension. The course, which includes an intensive review of verbs, grammar, and vocabulary, also requires compositions and short oral presentations. Students will also be expected to be able to answer questions in Spanish, conduct short conversations and write essays.

AP Spanish (4350)

1 year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: 85% in Spanish III and Departmental Approval

The AP Spanish Language and Culture course emphasizes communication by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. To best facilitate the study of language and culture, the course is taught almost exclusively in Spanish. The AP Spanish Language and Culture course engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. The course develops students' awareness and appreciation of cultural products (e.g., tools, books, music, laws, conventions, institutions); practices (patterns of social interactions within a culture); and perspectives (values, attitudes, and assumptions). Students are required to take the AP Spanish Exam in May.



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