



*St. Catherine of Siena Academy  
2020-2021 Program of Studies*



St. Catherine of Siena Academy  
"Upon Knowledge Follows Love"

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## Graduation Requirements

4.0 credits English

4.0 credits Math

3.0 credits Social Studies

3.0 credits Science

4.0 credits Catholic Theology

2.0 credits Latin

1.0 credits Philosophy

1.0 credit Physical Education

1.0 credit Visual/Perf/Applied Art

3.0 credits Additional Electives

**26.0 credits to graduate**

**Service Hour Graduation Requirement:** To create a school culture which prizes the missionary work of the Gospel and introduces our students to the world around them we require service.

**Hours to be Earned Per Year:**

Freshmen: 25 hours

Sophomores: 30 hours

Juniors: 35 hours

Seniors: 40 hours

**Please note:** only 1/3 of hours for each year can be earned in the summer

**Opportunities at SCA which Provide Hours:**

March for Life = 10 hours

Domestic Mission Trip = 15 hours

Dominican Republic Trip = 20 hours

EPOCH Week: each full day of service counts for a total of 4 hours when students attend the full week

Mission Retreat: for seniors and juniors = 10 hours for full weekend

**Hours for EPOCH Week may only be earned if the student is in attendance full days, ALL days that week.**

**Additional Opportunities Include:** Open Houses, High School Nights at the various Catholic grade schools, Gala help, Sacristans, Office Help, food drives or clothing sorting, independent volunteer hours, etc.



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## Standardized Student Assessments

Important standardized achievement tests are given throughout the year. Please check in the Guidance Office for specific dates, times, locations, and costs of the tests you are interested in. Students with specific questions should meet with their counselor. Juniors and Seniors are encouraged to visit the Guidance Office to get help registering for the SAT/ACT.

### PSAT/NMSQT

(Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)

Target: 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders

When: National test date in October

Where: St. Catherine of Siena Academy

Fee: paid for by SCA

### AP Exams

(Advanced Placement Exams)

When: Determined by the College Board, in May

Where: St. Catherine of Siena Academy

Fee: Costs are established by the College Board and collected by your counselor in the fall.

Sign Up: Required by any student enrolled for an AP Course.

Please see your counselor if you have any questions.

### SAT/ACT Tests

When: Throughout the year

Where: National Testing Centers (local high school)

Register: ACT [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) SAT [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

Fee: Costs are established by the testing company; It is imperative to remember that tests must be signed up and paid for well in advance of test date directly to testing company

Purpose: College entrance exams

Code #: **233789**

Note: SCA will administer the State SAT exam for juniors during the state testing window in April for free.

### Khan Academy (Exam Prep Materials)

Target: 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students

When: Throughout the Year

Where: [www.khanacademy.org/sat](http://www.khanacademy.org/sat)

Fee: Free and personalized SAT practice

Purpose: Have access to thousands of interactive questions, four official full-length tests, video lessons, hints, and answer explanations.



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## College Preparation Information

St. Catherine of Siena Academy utilizes online resources Naviance (class of 2020 and 2021) and SCOIR (Class of 2022, Class of 2023, Class of 2024.....) as a college and career preparatory tool for students and families. They are a comprehensive college and career readiness solutions that aligns student strengths and interests to postsecondary goals, improving student outcomes and connecting learning to life.

Once enrolled, students and parents will be given accounts to log-in to the system.

Students will have the opportunity to:

1. Take Career/Personality profile tests
2. Explore career fields and corresponding college majors
3. Research colleges, majors and tuition costs
4. Assess financial aid and scholarship opportunities
5. Use the portal to apply to universities
6. Keep track of community service opportunities and hours
7. Make academic and career plans

We recommend that students begin making their post-secondary plans early. Students should:

**A. List and rank the top five college choices.**

Do they have my major? Are they affordable?  
Can I get in? Can it be "home" away from home?

**B. Visit the College:**

Look into their degree programs, tuition, financial aid, student housing, student activities and admissions requirements. Contact the admissions office to set up.

**Application Process:** Apply to four or more schools in the fall of senior year.

*Know application deadlines!!!!*

**COLLEGE PLANNING WEBSITES**

[bigfuture.collegeboard.com](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.com)

[michigancollegeguide.org](http://michigancollegeguide.org)

[cappex.com](http://cappex.com)

[bls.gov/ooh](http://bls.gov/ooh)

**Financial Aid**

[fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov)

[fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com)

[finaid.org](http://finaid.org)

[ibrinfo.org](http://ibrinfo.org)

**SAT & ACT Prep**

[CollegeBoard.org](http://CollegeBoard.org)

[actstudent.org](http://actstudent.org)

[princetonreview.com](http://princetonreview.com)

[Khanacademy.org](http://Khanacademy.org)



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## To View and Send Transcripts

SCA utilizes an electronic service, **Parchment**, to send transcripts to camps, universities, scholarships and employers. Students have access to transcripts, any time, and anywhere. Parents can access Parchment through their daughters account.

1. Go to [www.parchment.com](http://www.parchment.com)
2. Click on Sign-Up and complete registration info
3. Provide an email address and password (Parchment will send a confirmation email)
4. Click on *My Transcripts*
5. Search for and select destination (Self-View for free, send to colleges for \$2.50 per college).
6. Confirm destination and delivery
7. You will receive a confirmation email once it's sent

**NOTE: Follow instructions depending on the type of institution**

Common Application Schools: use the "Common Application" tab

Other Universities: use the "Academic Destinations" tab

Scholarships: use the "Select Other Destinations" tab

NCAA: use the "NCAA" tab





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## NCAA Eligibility

For those students interested in participating in college athletics, the following requirements must be satisfied.

Those interested should inform their counselor as early as possible.

### DIVISION I-A/ DIVISION 1-AA --- 16 core Courses

4 years of English

3 years of Math (Algebra 1 or higher)

2 years of Natural or Physical Sciences (Including one year of lab)

1 extra year of English, math, or natural/physical science

2 years of Social Science

4 years of extra core courses (these include English, math, natural/physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy)

- Complete 10 core courses, including seven in English, math or natural/physical science, before your seventh semester. Once you begin your seventh semester, you may not repeat or replace any of those 10 courses to improve your core-course GPA.
- Earn at least a 2.3 GPA in your core courses.
- Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching your core-course GPA on the Division I sliding scale, which balances your test score and core-course GPA.
- When a student registers for the SAT or ACT, she can use the NCAA Eligibility Center code of 9999 to send their scores directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center from the testing agency.

(<http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/play-division-i-sports>)



Go To: [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) for more info

### DIVISION II --- 16 Core Courses

3 years of English.

2 years of Math (Algebra 1 or higher).

2 years of Natural or Physical Science (including one year of lab)

3 additional years of English, Math or Natural or Physical Science

2 years of Social Science

4 additional years of English, math, natural or physical science, social science, foreign language, comparative religion or philosophy

- Earn at least a 2.2 GPA in your core courses.
- Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score matching your core-course GPA on the Division II sliding scale, which balances your test score and core-course GPA.
- When a student registers for the SAT or ACT, she can use the NCAA Eligibility Center code of 9999 to send their scores directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center from the testing agency.

(<http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/play-division-ii-sports>)





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## To Do List for High School Athletes Seeking to Play Sports in College

Go To: [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org) for more info

### Grade 9 and Grade 10

Verify with your high school guidance counselor and the online core-course listing to make sure you are on track.

### Grade 11

Register with the eligibility center.

Make sure you are still on course to meet core-course requirements (verify you have the correct number of core courses and that the core courses are on your high school's list with the eligibility center).

After your junior year, send your transcript through Parchment. If you have attended any other high schools, make sure a transcript from each high school is sent to the eligibility center.

When taking the ACT or SAT, request test scores to be sent to the eligibility center (the code is "9999").

### Grade 12

Complete amateurism questionnaire and sign the final authorization signature online on or after April 1 if you are expecting to enroll in college in the fall semester. (If you are expecting to enroll for spring semester, sign the final authorization signature on or after October 1 of the year prior to enrollment.)

Request a final, graduation transcript be sent to NCAA through Parchment.

### Why do I need to register and be certified?

If you intend to participate in athletics at a Division I or II school as a freshman, you must be registered with and be certified as eligible by the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse.

Please note that initial-eligibility certification pertains only to whether you meet the NCAA requirements for participation in Division I or II athletics and has no bearing on your admission to a particular Division I or II institution.

To be classified as a qualifier under NCAA standards, you will need to graduate from high school with a diploma, have successfully completed the core courses, met the GPA/test score requirements, completed an amateurism survey, and have abided by all amateurism rules.



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## Grading System and Honor Roll

Grades at SCA are calculated using the scale as detailed below. Grade point averages are to the .00 decimal place and are not rounded numbers. Cumulative grade point averages are a compilation of each semester a student is in school.

% Score	Letter Grade	Grade Point
93-100	A	4.0
90-92	A-	3.7
87-89	B+	3.3
83-86	B	3.0
80-82	B-	2.7
77-79	C+	2.3
73-76	C	2.0
70-72	C-	1.7
67-69	D+	1.3
63-66	D	1.0
60-62	D-	0.7
<60	F	0

### Honor Roll

A student who earns a 3.50 or higher-Grade Point Average (GPA) for 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester without any C or lower marks, will be placed on the Honor Roll. Honor Roll will be posted each semester. GPA's are calculated on an unweighted 4.00 scale.

Seniors will graduate with honor's based on the following GPA criteria. Students must maintain the GPA for seven semesters.

**3.50 to 3.69 Cum Laude**

**3.70 to 3.94 Magna Cum Laude**

**3.95 to 4.00 Summa Cum Laude**



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## Campus Ministry and Faith Formation Programs

### Retreats and Pilgrimages

To retreat, to "come away with the Lord", is a necessary and valuable use of time in order to grow in relationship with the Lord. With that in mind, each student is provided with retreat opportunities each year. We will also hold retreats for the whole school during Advent and Lent.

### Pilgrimage to Italy

To celebrate our namesake, St. Catherine of Siena, and to grow in our knowledge of our faith and of the many saints who have gone before us, we offer a pilgrimage to Siena, Rome, and Assisi every other year. All students will have two opportunities to pilgrimage to Italy during their tenure at St. Catherine of Siena Academy. A priest acts as spiritual director on the pilgrimage and Mass is part of the daily itinerary.

### Mission/Service Experiences

Each year, we hold Epoch Week. This week is "epoch" because the student body goes on mission. Some students travel out of state or the country to help those in need. The students who don't go away on "mission" serve with organizations in the Metro-Detroit area to help our neighbors in need. Students earn hours toward their service graduation requirement. In addition, students put together a presentation on their service experiences and present to their peers what they have learned.

**Hours for EPOCH Week may only be earned if the student is in attendance full days, ALL days that week.**

### Some mission experiences include:

**March for Life:** The St. Gianna Molla Society (pro-life club) takes part in the annual March for Life in Washington, DC. This pilgrimage for life involves prayer, Mass at the Cathedral Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, a visit to the Holocaust Memorial, and attendance of the March for Life events.

**Out of State/Country Mission Trips:** In the past we have also taken student groups on mission to areas of need such as: the Dominican Republic, Florida, and Washington, D.C. Students have worked in impoverished area with populations such as: children, the homeless, veterans, etc. Each year we try to plan one such trip.

**Local EPOCH Week service locations** (include but are not limited to): soup kitchens, local elementary schools, nursing homes, St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores, food banks, pregnancy resource centers, etc.



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## Interdepartmental Programs

### **Mastery Skills**

**Prerequisite:** Freshmen status

This is a one semester course designed to prepare freshman for high school level work. Time will be devoted to learning study skills, notetaking and organizational strategies. Students needing academic assistance or unprepared for the rigor of high school coursework should enroll in this course. Students may enroll in this course for a full year.

### **Study Skills**

**Prerequisite:** Sophomore, Junior or Senior status

This course is designed for students requiring accommodations in the classroom. Students will have time to complete work, learn study techniques, notetaking skills, time management, and organizational techniques. Grade will be pass/fail. Students need to see their counselor for permission to enroll.

### **Online Learning Lab**

**Prerequisite:** Junior or Senior status

This course is for students wishing to take a course through Michigan Virtual High School. The course must be approved by the student's counselor and parents prior to registration. Grades are assigned based on the percentage achieved on the online course. A SCA teacher proctors the course but is not the course instructor.

### **Leadership Course**

**Prerequisite:** Junior or Senior status and an officer on student council.

This course is designed for students holding office positions in school leadership. Students will learn how to develop and implement projects, communicate effectively, and utilize the skills necessary to be successful in leadership. The course will focus on problem-solving, creating and achieving goals, interpersonal skills and team building. Skills for this course include: motivation, communication, creativity, responsibility, initiative and dependability. Grade will be a pass/fail. Must complete permission slip to enroll in the course. See your counselor!!!

### **AP Study Course**

**Prerequisite:** Senior status

This course is designed to apply the skills necessary for employability and centers on the standards developed by the State for Michigan Career and Employability Skills. Students will learn how to develop projects, utilize organizational technology, and communicate in a variety of settings. The course will focus on organizing school paperwork, creating and maintaining school-wide bulletin boards, and working on various projects throughout the year which service the building. Skills for this course include: communication, creativity, technology, responsibility, initiative and dependability. Students must be recommended by teacher/counselor and are subject to an interview by SCA Personnel. Grade will be pass/fail. Course is one semester only. Must complete permission slip to enroll in the course. See your counselor.

Requirement: Minimum of 3 AP Courses and 3.75 GPA.



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### Dual Enrollment

**Pre-Requisites:** Junior/Senior Status and must meet requirements outlined below.

Students who have advanced in their academic studies or are pursuing unique vocational tracks are eligible to enroll in college level courses for college credit while still in high school. The State of Michigan provides funding for these students up to a certain dollar amount. Students may enroll in any approved college/university. Students will need to see their SCA counselor to complete an application and dual enrollment contract. Please see your counselor!

A student seeking approval for dual enrollment must meet the following criteria:

1. College appropriate test scores on the PSAT, ACT PLAN, ACT or MME Assessment, (see the chart below)
2. St. Catherine’s GPA of 3.7 or higher
3. Must be on track to graduate
4. Must take courses which align with the student’s EDP
5. Student has exhausted highest level of St. Catherine coursework in a given area.

	Critical Reading		Writing		Mathematics		English		Science		Social Studies	
	QS	AS	QS	AS	QS	AS	QS	AS	QS	AS	QS	AS
PSAT	460				510							
ACT	22				22		18		23			
SAT	480				530							



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## Art

### **Artworks [1.0 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** None

In this introductory studio art course, students will develop an awareness and appreciation for visual art through the study of art history, aesthetics, and various artmaking techniques. Through the exploration of various media such as paint, clay, graphite, and ink, students will develop a basic understanding of the elements and principles of art. As the course progresses, students will learn how to use their new skill sets to inform their own unique creativity. This course will provide opportunities to further critical thinking, interpret visual art, and to better understand the work around them and within them.

### **AP Studio Art [1 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Artworks and two additional art courses (pick any two);

**Recommendation from Art Instructor**

This course is focused mainly on the individual students developing their own unique artistic vision, and in building their student portfolios. These portfolios can and should be used for college applications, scholarships and competitive exhibitions. The aim of this course is for the student to create a body of work that is representative of the high school student's art experience and more importantly exhibit an identified direction or working and idea exploration. Students should have completed three prerequisite courses in order to enroll in this course. Students will be responsible for developing their own projects and ideas and will be expected to critically engage in the process of creating work and researching concepts.

### **Pottery I [0.5 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Artworks

This studio course introduces students to the field of ceramics. Students will explore the various artmaking processes within ceramics such as traditional hand-building techniques, develop thrown clay skillsets, and slip casting processes required for making molds. Students will also learn the

scientific properties of clay and glazes and learn how to fire their work. This course is a great opportunity for students to explore the possibilities of creating 3-dimensional art as opposed to the 2-dimensional format in previous courses. We will study the role of ceramics throughout history and focus on design within the arts & crafts movement.

### **Pottery Studio II [0.5 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Artworks and B or higher in Pottery I

This studio course is a continuation of Pottery I, for those students who would like more time with clay. In this class, students will get more time with the throwing wheels and learn advanced hand building and glazing techniques. There will be chances to learn how to recycle clay so that there is no studio waste, how to create your own glaze, and how to work a kiln so that pieces are successfully fired to the right temperatures. The focus of the art created will largely be based on what the student wants to create, so the sky is the limit.

### **Drawing & Painting [0.5 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Artworks

**Required supplies:** Sketchbook (notebook sized, 8"x11" or 9"x12"), paintbrush set. Paints may be purchased if desired but are not required.

A course focused on the fundamentals of painting. Emphasis is placed on color theory and exploration of different mediums, techniques, and subjects. Students will be using primarily acrylic and watercolor paints to experiment and increase artistic self-confidence, increase understanding of the basics of painting, and to produce successful works of art.





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## **Performing Arts**

**Tremble (Choir I, II, & III)** [0.5 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** None

### **Choir I**

Students will learn the basics of reading, breathing, choral singing, theory, music history (Fall), ear-training (Spring), as well as perform at various events. Students sing for mass a minimum of 1 day/week.

Mandatory, graded performances are expected throughout the year.

### **Choir II**

Second year choir students develop all the skills listed above and are expected to perform an additional solo or duet as well as lead sectionals.

Students sing for mass a minimum of 2 days/week.

### **Choir III**

Third- & fourth-year students develop all the skills listed above as well as perform a musical theater song or art song and small group songs with harmonies. Students will be assigned a 1<sup>st</sup> year student to mentor.

Students are held to a higher musical standard and professionalism & memorization is expected. Students are encouraged to take Advanced Choir for the full year. Students sing for mass a minimum of 3 days/week.

**Symphonic Band (Ensemble Music)** [0.5 Credit]

**First Year Music** students will learn the basics of reading, phrasing, ensemble playing, theory, composition, music history (Fall), ear-training (Spring), as well as perform at various events.

Mandatory, graded performances are expected throughout the year.

Students play for mass a minimum of 1 day/week.

**Second, Third, and Fourth Year Music** students develop all the skills listed above and are expected to perform an additional solo or duet each semester as well as lead sectionals and mentor first year students. Students are held to a higher musical standard and professionalism & memorization is expected. Students play for mass a minimum of 2 days/week.

**Praise & Worship Music** [0.5 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** Open to Juniors & Seniors who sing or play an instrument. Students will learn theory, sight-reading, improvisation, and ensemble playing/singing. Students will perform for the school during Praise & Worship small groups, sing for mass a minimum of 3 days/week, perform at the Gala in November, as well as various other events throughout the year.

**Music Technology & Composition (Piano)**

**Beginning Piano** [0.5 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** None

In this introductory piano course, students will develop basic piano technique, theory, sight-reading skills, music history (Fall), and ear training (Spring). Students move at their own pace. The format of the course offers time for private practice in the practice rooms during class time as well as individual instruction.

**Intermediate Piano** [0.5 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** 1-3 Years of previous piano experience

In this intermediate piano course, students will develop their piano technique, theory knowledge, sight-reading skills, music history (Fall), ear training (Spring), and perform at one event per semester. Students move at their own pace. The format of the course offers time for private practice in the practice rooms during class time as well as individual instruction. Students play for mass a minimum of 1x/month.

**Advanced Piano** [0.5 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** 4+ Years of previous piano experience

In this advanced piano course, students will refine their piano technique, build their theory knowledge and sight-reading skills, refine their musicality, research music history (Fall), develop their ear training skills (Spring), and memorize & perform at two events per semester. Students move at their own pace. The format of the course offers time for private practice in the practice rooms during class time as well as individual instruction. Students play for mass a minimum of twice/month.



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## **Business**

**Accounting** [1 Credit]—Satisfies 4<sup>th</sup> year Math Credit

**Prerequisites:** 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade and successful completion of Algebra I

This course introduces students to the basic accounting principles and procedures of GAAP. Covers the accounting cycle for service business (first semester) and retail business and corporation second semester. Includes: Journalizing transactions, posting, petty cash, financial statements, and adjusting and closing entries. Startheregoplaces.com sponsored by the AICPA organization to give real world experiences and use their Accounting resources. Aplia software is utilized along with the Century 21 Accounting text. Also utilized is SCA's business lab, St. Cate's Corner, applying concepts learned first semester to St. Cate's Corner in 2nd semester.

**Applied Computer Technology** [0.5 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** none

This one semester computer course will introduce students to the skills and knowledge of using Windows operating system, Microsoft Office, as well as online educational applications. Students will enhance their technology skills using Microsoft Word & Excel. Online applications are integrated into the course to help students keep current with technology trends including Google and its applications, Weebly or Wix and video-editor. Students will end the semester with a culminating class portfolio website that can be used in the future.

**Business Ethics/Law** [0.5 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade

This course is designed to introduce students to business laws that will affect their daily lives and relationships with the business world. The class will include such topics as: basic structure and sources of law, crimes and torts, court structure, contract law

Business Ethics: Ethics explores and identifies ethical behaviors and what goes into making the right decisions. Ethical decision-making requires skills that will be put to the test in every aspect of life. Using faith and reason

allows one not to divide business and faith and arrive at principled decisions as a for good. The ultimate goal is to form future ethical business leaders. Business that have been identified by The Catholic University of America as Ethical/Principled Enterprises, as a FORCE FOR GOOD, will also be studied. Resources: A Catechism for Business: Tough Ethical Questions and Insights from Catholic Teaching (Abela and Capizzi); Force for Good, the Catholic Guide to Business Integrity (Brian Engelland).

**Entrepreneurship/Intro to Business** [0.5 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade Successful completion of Algebra is required

Do you want to be a successful business owner? This semester course will offer students opportunities and challenges of what business ownership entails. Course topics include: Developing a business Mission/Philosophy, Principled Entrepreneurship, developing business plan, Marketing including social media marketing, Distribution promotion and selling, types of ownership, plan and tracking financial information, operations management, human resource management, risk management, and managing for the future.

Students obtain a loan from SCA's St. Cate's Corner to develop, research their business product concept and "launch" it in St. Cate's Corner. This offers a broad exposure to business operations, work-ethic and practical applications of the in's and outs of owning a business.

**Marketing** [1 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade & successful completion of Algebra I; DECA Membership is **required**. DECA Fee is \$25.00

This year-long course is a study of how a product or service is introduced, developed, priced, advertised, and sold in the marketplace (brick and mortar and online). SCA's Business Laboratory: St. Cate's Corner is used to apply the concepts used in this course. This course also requires students to work shifts in St. Cate's Corner as part of their real-life experience. The





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shifts are: during lunch and after school shifts; as well as at least 2 SCA major events per quarter (e.g. home games, open houses, parent nights and school evening events).

Course topics include: Mission and Philosophy of SCA, Principled Entrepreneurship, Business as a Vocation, business communication; economics; market analysis; product decisions from innovation to production, pricing, and packaging; promotion decisions from advertising to personal selling; placement decisions from channel of distribution to merchandising and visual displays, salesmanship and technology.

**Personal Finance** [0.5 credit]

**Prerequisites:** 11th and 12th grade class and successful completion of Algebra I.

Course Description This course will inform students how individual choices and values directly influence occupational goals and future earnings potential. Real world topics covered will include SMART goals, budgeting, growing wealth, banking (online simulations), financial goal attainment, wise use of credit, insurance, college debt management (goal to be debt free), charitable giving, and stewardship and taxes. The importance of virtuous living and personal ethics are examined as it pertains to consumerism as well as career goals and discerning God's Plan for oneself. Online Budget Challenge simulation is utilized for real-world experiences. The course also uses the Next Generation Personal Finance ([www.NGPF.org](http://www.NGPF.org)) semester course program. Integrating current online data, trends, apps, and banking services as well as simulation completing taxes with "turbotax" simulation. No text is required to be purchased for this class. All materials are provided.





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## **English**

### **English 9 - Foundations of Literature [1 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** 9<sup>th</sup> grade status

This course introduces students to key works of world literature, both classical and contemporary, with a focus on literary terms and techniques. The literature is drawn from a global selection of novels, graphic novels, short stories, poems, and films. As students encounter and discuss the texts, they examine themes of transition, personal identity, alienation, and community. The foundations course is designed to develop the skills of critical reading and literary analysis *before* having students compose longer argumentative essays. Vocabulary is taught primarily through lessons on the common Greek and Latin roots that make up many words in the English language. Furthermore, a public speaking requirement pushes students to practice their rhetorical skills.

### **English 9 - Foundations of Literature: Honors [1 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** students testing in the 80<sup>th</sup>ile and above on 8<sup>th</sup> grade Standardized test scores and earning an A in 8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts

Like the Foundations course, this introduces students to key works of world literature, both classical and contemporary. The literature is drawn from some of the classics of literature like, *The Iliad* and *Self-Reliance*. The course is set at a fast pace, requiring students to already understand the basic literary elements as well as grammatical structures. Students should be prepared for independent reading, research and critical analysis of content as well as development of rhetoric skills and public speaking. Vocabulary is taught primarily through lessons on the common Greek and Latin roots that make up many words in the English language. Students will also be taught the fundamentals of argumentative and research essays.

### **English 10 - American Literature [1 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Completion of English 9 Foundations course

The American Literature course builds upon the critical reading and writing skills emphasized in English 9. The course is designed to further develop

students' fundamental skills in critical reading, discussion, and analytical writing that allows them to be confident, thorough, and effective in expressing their ideas. The driving question for the course is "What does it mean to be an American?" To help answer this question, students read material in a variety of genres set in the Gilded Age through the mid-20th century United States from different "American" perspectives during that era. The themes addressed in these earlier American works are reflected in current issues, on which students will read articles and essays. Students will engage in close textual analysis as they respond to the ideas authors present as well as to the literary devices they employ. In addition to critical reading and discussion, students will write in a number of genres and will share their writings for class use in lessons, models, and/or peer critiques.

### **English 10 - American Literature: Honors [1 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Top 15% of ENG 9 Class OR a maintained B+ average in ENG 9 Honors

The Honors American Literature course builds upon the analytical and writing skills emphasized in Honors English 9. The course is designed to teach advanced reading and writing through the fundamentals of literary analysis, rhetorical theory, and develop skills in grammar, usage, and vocabulary through reading and writing. The driving question for the course is "What does it mean to be an American?" To help answer this question, students read challenging material in a variety of genres set in the Gilded Age through the mid-20th century United States from different "American" perspectives during that era. The themes addressed in these earlier American works are reflected in current issues, on which students will read articles and essays. Students will concentrate on identifying and analyzing the formal literary techniques used by the authors, as well as questions of history's influence on these works. In addition to challenging reading, students will write in a number of genres and will share their writings for class use in lessons, models, and/or peer critiques. The course is designed to prepare students interested in the Advanced Placement track for Language, and Literature and Composition.



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**Juniors and Seniors will have the choice of which English course to take their junior and senior years. AP Language and Composition and AP Literature and Composition are both still options as core English courses for juniors and seniors.**

**Advanced Placement English Language and Composition** [1 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** Completion of ENG 10 Honors with a grade of "B+" or higher; 80%ile and above on standardized test scores. Junior/senior status.

AP English Language and Composition is a two-semester course designed for high-ability students interested in the study of rhetoric, as well as the study of both fiction and non-fiction literature. This class is the equivalent of a first-year undergraduate composition class, with all of the workload that this entails. Students who take this class must have a strong interest in the nuances and uses of the English language; they must enjoy writing in various styles and genres; and they must be strong readers who can read challenging texts independently. This course incorporates the study of fiction and non-fiction texts from a variety of writers whose style and technique will be used as models, in keeping with the recommendations of the College Board. Students will write expository, analytical, and argumentative essays, as well as personal and reflective writing, using a variety of rhetorical skills and patterns of development. This course will also focus on preparation for the AP English Language and Composition Exam in the spring. **Students are required to take the AP exam in May.**

**AP Literature and Composition** [1 credit]

**Prerequisites:** Successful Completion of Honors level Junior English course or 80th percentile or higher in Junior English class.

An AP English Literature and Composition course engages students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style and themes, as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative

language, imagery, symbolism and tone. Students will read deliberately and thoroughly, taking time to understand a work's complexity, to absorb its richness of meaning, and to analyze how that meaning is embodied in literary form. In addition to considering a work's literary artistry, students reflect on the social and historical values it reflects and embodies. Writing assignments focus on the critical analysis of literature and include expository, analytical and argumentative essays. **Students are required to take the AP exam in May.**

**English 11 and English 12: Women in Literature** [1 credit]

This full-year core elective English course will look at the evolution of the "idea" of women in literature over the past century. Students will read a variety of non-fiction and fiction texts from the 18th century to the present day written about women and/or by women from across the globe to exploring the "mystery" of the female. This course explores women's access to power and self-determination – and, at times, the lack thereof. Students will examine how focusing on women's experiences in literature can ignite social and political awareness and progress. By examining literature written about and primarily by notable women, we will explore and ultimately gain a deep understanding of various perspectives on women as individuals, wives, mothers, and friends.

**English 11 and English 12: Contemporary Literature** [1 credit]

This full-year core elective English course is designed to expose students to contemporary literature and expression. The course will provide students with a framework that enables them to respond to literature in personal, critical, and creative ways. Students will read from contemporary works of fiction from the last 40 years, and will also read the latest short fiction, poetry, essays, memoir, art, music and film reviews. Topics under consideration will vary but may include a chronological introduction to the development of contemporary literature, a consideration of a principle theme or themes common to contemporary literature through a number of works, or a consideration of a number of contemporary works in the context of historical events central to the period.



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**English 11 and English 12: British Literature** [1 credit]

In this course, students hone interpretive skills as they are introduced to canonical texts of Britain from a variety of genres. In order to further their expanding vocabulary and solidify their knowledge foundational skills, students study vocabulary and grammar throughout the year. Students demonstrate their knowledge of literary devices and strong argumentative writing skills in their essays based on the literature and themes of the course. At the end of each semester, students showcase a self-designed project as a culmination of their work.

## **English Electives**

**Drama I** [0.5 Credit]

Students in Beginning Acting focus on developing their acting skills through improvisation activities, vocal and physical exercises, character analysis, small group performances, and monologues. Students will deepen their understanding of the craft of acting and build on the skills learned in Introduction to Theatre.

Minimum Enrollment: 5 students

Maximum Enrollment: 15 students

**Drama II** [0.5 Credit] May be repeated for credit

**Prerequisites:** Acting I OR Permission of Instructor

This course focuses on advanced acting techniques and text analysis. Students learn various methods and techniques for preparing a role as well as practical knowledge on how to audition, how to rehearse with actors, and how to give and receive criticism. There will also be a focus on methods and techniques for performing the Shakespeare repertory. Various forms of physical acting, mime, improvisational theatre, and vocal technique will be studied in this class. As part of their training, students will view and critique theatre performances both inside and outside the classroom. Maximum Enrollment: 10 students

**Creative Writing** [0.5 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** Junior/Senior status

The course focuses on student created writing of a non-academic nature. Students will learn and study a variety of fiction and non-fiction writing formats that include letters, narratives, memoirs, short stories, and poems. The course will be instructional and will also follow a workshop format where writers review each other's work. This elective may not be repeated.

**Exploring Poetry** [0.5 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** Juniors/Senior status

In this course, students will study convention and innovation in English-language poetry from the Renaissance to the present day as we seek to understand, analyze, and write poetry. Along with formal explorations, we will consider how poetry speaks to the broader culture – to ideals of community, to times of warfare, and to other public issues. Through in-class writing exercises, reading of model poems, and discussion of student work, this course encourages students to produce poetry of increasing quality. Students will learn the basic elements of poetry, important types of poems, and fundamental poetic techniques and will be expected to write analytically about poetry in addition to writing their own.

**Yearbook** [1 Credit]

**Prerequisites** Open to all 10th, 11th, and 12th graders with a grade B or higher in English. Students may take this class more than once.

Yearbook is a year-long deadline driven course designed to further develop students' journalistic skills in the areas of writing, photography, and design. Students will learn advanced copywriting, editing, headline writing, caption writing, and page design. They will also learn how to market and sell the yearbook. Motivation, responsibility, independence, and self-direction are essential qualities for students interested in taking this class. The goal of the yearbook class is not only to develop real-world skills in marketing, design, and communication, but also to create the finished yearbook for the school year. Students will be expected to spend time outside of class in order to complete the yearbook.



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## **Health & Physical Education**

### **Health [0.5 Credit] Required Course**

**Prerequisites:** It is recommended students take this course in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

This one semester course will enable students to become better informed regarding decisions about the care and maintenance of their personal health. Students will be instructed in the following units:

- Personal Health and Wellness
- Mental and Emotional Health
- Managing stress
- Resolving Conflicts and preventing violence
- Nutrition and Physical Activity
- Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
- Safety and Environmental Health

### **Physical Education [0.5 Credit] Required Course**

**Prerequisites:** It is recommended that students take this course in 9<sup>th</sup>.

This one semester course will allow the student the opportunity to improve her skills in the many sports covered in class. There is a strong emphasis on personal fitness throughout the course. The course emphasizes daily exercise; therefore, the student will participate in cardiovascular fitness, weight & circuit training, work-out videos, running, etc. This class is graded based on participation.

### **Team Sports [0.5 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Physical Education and approval of Physical Education Teacher

This is a one semester course which will allow the student the opportunity to improve her skills, maintain an appropriate level of fitness, and develop stress reduction techniques. The course includes participation in the following sports: volleyball, softball, basketball, soccer, floor hockey, badminton, etc. This class is faster-paced and requires more athletic competitiveness.

### **Personal Fitness [0.5 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Physical education

This class is designed to introduce students to the knowledge, skills, fitness, and attitudes needed to lead a healthy life. Students will be participating in health-related fitness, cardiovascular fitness, and weight training through the class.





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## **Foreign Language**

### **Latin I [1 Credit]**

The course is designed to introduce students to the basic elements of Latin grammar, particularly the inflected forms of verbs, nouns and adjectives, and the normal syntax of a Latin sentence. In addition, students will begin to build a storehouse of Latin vocabulary. The course will emphasize examining grammatical structures and applying them to simple Latin texts to derive meaning. Readings in Latin and English will introduce students to the daily life of the Romans.

### **Latin II [1 Credit]**

As a continuation of the beginner course, Latin II introduces more forms of Latin nouns, adjectives and verbs and continues to build the student's storehouse of vocabulary. Emphasis again will be placed on using grammatical knowledge to read increasingly complex Latin.

### **Honors Latin III [1 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Grade of A in Latin II and instructor's consent

In Latin III, emphasis moves away somewhat from word forms to grammatical structures. Special attention will be given to the variety structures that use the subjunctive mood and the notion of time relationships between dependent and independent clauses. The goal of Latin III is to complete the formal training in grammar, so that students in Latin IV can move on to reading ancient Latin texts. This course will move at a quicker pace and is designed for students who have demonstrated a thorough understanding of the principles learned in Latin I and II.

### **Honors Latin IV [1 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Grade of A in Latin III and instructor's consent

The last course in the sequence aims to give students an experience roughly equivalent to that of a third semester college course. Students will read real Latin texts, both prose and poetry, with the help of vocabularies and commentaries. In addition to the usual emphasis on grammar, in Latin IV students will gain an appreciation for the various types of literature, both classical and ecclesiastical, that Latin writers produced.

## **Latin Electives**

### **The Ancient World [0.5 credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Junior/Senior Status

This class is designed to introduce students to the culture of the Greco-Roman world. As such it will expose students to the various disciplines that classical scholars employ to assess antiquity: literature, history, archaeology, architecture and art history. The first semester of the course will treat ancient Greece, with a special emphasis on the culture of fifth-century Athens; the second half will concentrate on ancient Rome.

### **Classical Mythology [0.5 credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Junior/Senior Status

Single semester course offered in the 1st half of the year. This class is designed to introduce students to the mythology of the Greco-Roman world in Antiquity. It will focus on reading primary sources in translation and some secondary sources on the archaeology, history, and culture surrounding mythology. The 10-13 academic weeks will focus on Greek mythology most common among 5th Century BC Athens. The remaining 5-7 weeks will focus on the Roman mythology of the Late Republic, its similarities and great differences from the Greek equivalent.





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**Ancient Religion** [0.5 credit]

**Prerequisites:** Junior/Senior Status

Single semester course offered during the 2nd semester. "Classical Mythology" is a requirement for this course. This course is designed to introduce students to the religions of Ancient Greece and Rome from the 4th century BC to the advent of Christianity. This course will focus on 5th Century Athens and then Rome's Late Republic and Early Empire. Some primary sources will be used in translation as well as archaeological evidence and scholarly articles.

## **Spanish**

**Spanish I** [1 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** Students should be reading at or above grade level.

This course is an introductory course to Spanish. Students will learn the basics in vocabulary and grammar. Emphasis will be placed on grasping the building blocks of the language to gain confidence in composition and conversation.

**Spanish 2** [1 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** Spanish 1 (must be a Spanish 1 course taught using the high school content standards)

This course builds on the foundation from Spanish 1 with an emphasis on vocabulary, grammar, conversation and composition in Spanish. Students will be learning more about the fundamentals of the language to be able to speak/write it and will learn more about the culture to understand customs.

**Spanish 3** [1 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** Spanish 2

This course builds on the foundation from Spanish 2 with an emphasis on vocabulary, grammar, conversation and composition in Spanish. Students will have the opportunity to read, write and speak in Spanish.





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## **Mathematics**

### **Algebra Essentials [1 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Based on entrance exam scores.

Algebra Essentials is a spiral course, meaning that concepts are constantly repeated and reviewed. It covers basic arithmetic skills involving fractions, decimals, and integers. The first semester requires all homework to be completed without the use of a calculator. Geometric concepts including formulas for area and perimeter, graphing, and the Pythagorean Theorem are studied. The language of algebra is introduced, with emphasis on translating word problems to algebraic equations. All topics help to build a stronger foundational understanding to better prepare the student to successfully study Algebra I.

### **Algebra 1 [1 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Based on entrance exam scores and/or successful completion of Algebra Essentials.

Students will learn and use the language of algebra to solve real world problems involving linear, absolute value, quadratic, polynomial, exponential, radical, and rational functions and inequalities. These functions will be analyzed graphically and analytically, applying the properties of real numbers. Algebra I is a gateway course to all high school mathematics courses

### **Geometry [1 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Algebra II.

Students will learn and use the language of geometry to solve problems involving angles, polygons, and solid shapes. Students will also learn the mechanics of proof writing and have an introduction to logic in mathematics. Triangles will be studied in detail as students discover relationships between angles and sides of a triangle and are introduced to trigonometric ratios as a means to solve problems. Solving of word problems and construction techniques will also be stressed in this course.

### **Honors Geometry [1 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Algebra II Honors and/or entrance exam scores.

Honors Geometry covers the basic concepts that are taught in Geometry at a faster pace and including more in-depth discussion and problems solving skills. Additional concepts will prepare the student to succeed in Honors Precalculus.

### **Algebra II [1 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Algebra I.

Students will review the concepts of algebra I in greater depth and intricacy, and in addition will analyze both graphically and analytically logarithmic and trigonometric functions. The use and operation of matrices will be studied. Complex numbers will be discussed as solutions to quadratic equations. The Factor and Remainder theorems will be used to find solutions of higher order polynomials. Finite sequences and series, both arithmetic and geometric, will be analyzed. Basic trigonometric ratios will be studied and used to solve problems. Extensive use of graphing calculators will enable students to explore these topics in depth.

### **Honors Algebra II [1 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Completion of Algebra I in middle school and entrance exam score.

Honors Algebra II covers the basic concepts that are covered in Algebra II at a faster pace and including more in-depth discussion and problem-solving skills. Additional topics will prepare the student to study Honors Geometry.

### **Precalculus [1 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Geometry.

Precalculus reviews the concepts covered in Algebra II and Geometry in more depth and in addition covers topics in trigonometry, basic conic sections, and statistics. The shape of functions will be studied in detail and paired with the topics of end behavior and continuity. Operations involving complex numbers, series and sequences, matrices, and logarithms will be





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reviewed. The unit circle will be studied, and students will be able to analyze and graph trigonometric functions. Vector operations will be studied and their applications to other concepts will be used in class. Students will be able to give attributes of conic sections and will know basic statistical concepts. Extensive use of the graphing calculator will be used to explore these topics in greater depth.

**Honors Precalculus [1 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Honors Algebra II, Honors Geometry and/or exam placement test.

Honors Precalculus covers the basic topics covered in Pre-calculus at a faster pace while including more in-depth discussion and problem-solving skills. Students also cover more topics in conic sections and limits. Additional topics will prepare students for AP Calculus courses.

**Calculus [1 Credit]**

**Prerequisite:** Pre-Calculus or Honors Pre-Calculus

Calculus is designed to give students an overview of Calculus topics such as limits and continuity, derivatives, anti-derivatives, integrals and differential equations. While this course covers many of the same concepts found in Advanced Placement Calculus, it is not bound by the pace and rigor necessary for success on the AP Calculus exam. Therefore, this course best suits the student who is mathematically ready to learn Calculus but does not want the "stress" of AP Calculus.

**AP Calculus AB [1 Credit]**

**Prerequisite:** Honors Pre-Calculus and/or exam placement test.

Students will prepare for the Calculus AB exam by exploring derivatives and integrals and their applications through related rates and optimization. Thorough knowledge of limits, continuity, trigonometric functions, and the shape and behavior of curves is expected and used throughout the course.

**Students are required to take the AP exam in May.**

**STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics [0.5 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Junior/Senior status

Education provides intentionally designed and linked learning experiences for students to develop and apply understandings of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics concepts and processes. The class will provide a robust teaching and learning framework for the construction of numeracy skills, along with assessments, which incorporate a strong analysis component for meeting individual student needs. This course empowers students to learn to solve complex problems using creativity and problem solving in a fun, collaborative environment. The curriculum supports classroom instruction that includes opportunities for interaction in the classroom, where students carry out investigations; talk and write about their observations and emerging understandings; and discuss ways to test them.

High-Quality STEM Education In Michigan (<http://house.michigan.gov>)  
WHAT IS HIGH-QUALITY STEM?

- Much more than an acronym for "hands-on" or "doing science"
- Culminating, inclusive approach that provides students with practical applications of conceptual material and information
- Enables students to use conceptual knowledge to develop solutions to real world problems in a practical manner

STEM EDUCATION & "STANDARDS-BASED"

**Practices**

- Behaviors that scientists engage in as they investigate and build models and theories about the natural world;
- Key set of engineering practices that engineers use as they design and build models and systems.

**Content**

- Broad Importance across multiple sciences and engineering disciplines or a key organizing concept of a single discipline;
- Provide a key tool for understanding or investigating more complex ideas and solving problems;
- Relate to the interests and life experiences of students or be connected to societal or personal concerns that require scientific or technological knowledge;
- Be teachable and learnable over multiple grades at increasing levels of depth and sophistication.

**Cross Cutting Concepts**



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- Crosscutting concepts have application across all domains of science. Linking the different domains of science: • Patterns, Similarity & Diversity • Cause & Effect • Scale, Proportion & Quantity • Systems & System Models • Energy & Matter • Structure & Function • Stability & Change

**Test Taking Math Prep Course [0.5 Credit]** —Satisfies 4th year Math Credit for seniors only

**Prerequisite:** Junior/Senior Status

Students preparing for any type of high-risk assessment in math for college placement or requirements. Fortunately, most Math only involves topics covered from basic arithmetic to Algebra II/Geometry. Though these math problems may seem more challenging due to the phrasing of word problems, understanding what concepts are and are not covered will allow students to understand the types of questions that will be asked and to solve them more quickly on the test.

**Arithmetic**

These basic concepts, including rational numbers and sets, may appear in the more advanced form of abstract arithmetic problems, but the underlying math required to solve them is not very advanced.

**Algebra**

Normally the largest component of the math section involves algebra and functions. The most advanced algebra concepts on the include quadratic equations, absolute value and inverse or direct variation

**Geometry**

Basic plane and coordinate geometry, including polygons, circles and slope-intercept form. Geometric shapes on these tests are frequently regular and standard, such as right triangles or parallelograms, or complex figures comprised of multiple standard figures.

**Statistics**

A small portion of the test covers data analysis and statistics, largely focusing on interpreting tables and graphs and using mean, median and mode. Skewedness and normal distribution will also be covered. Basic probability can also appear on the test.

**Calculator Skills**

Proper usage and set up of the graphing calculator. Appropriate programs and how-to program will be shown to meet the needs and rules of testing.

**Probability and Statistics [0.5 Credit]** —Satisfies 4th year Math Credit for seniors only

**Prerequisite:** Junior/Senior Status

Students will learn to analyze data using frequency distributions, measures of center, z-scores, scatter plots, stem-and-leaf, box plots, correlation and regression. In addition, students will study probability including addition and multiplication rules and binomial probability distribution. The class will enhance instruction through the use of graphing calculators. Students will design and complete a research project during the semester. A graphing calculator is required.

**Personal Finance [0.5 Credit]** —Satisfies 4th year Math Credit for seniors only

**Prerequisite:** Junior/Senior Status

This class exposes students to best practices for managing their finances. The goal is for students to gain basic knowledge, acquire skills and form good habits (virtues) that lead to successful and charitable personal finance management. The goal of the class is that the students become financially responsible, conscientious, and virtuous members of society through the skills learned and be a “FORCE FOR GOOD”. Lecture, videos, research, project-based learning, simulations, discussion and hands-on activities are utilized throughout the class.

Topics include: S.M.A.R.T. Goals, Budget Formation and management, purchases, growing wealth, banking, financial goal attainment, wise use of credit, insurance, college debt (goal to be debt free), charitable giving and stewardship, and taxes. The importance of virtuous living and personal ethics are examined as it pertains to consumerism as well as career goals and discerning God’s Plan oneself. The HR Block Budget online Challenge Simulation (no cost) is utilized to allow “real-world” application of the classroom topics.



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## **Science**

**Biology** [1 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** None

This is a two-semester college preparatory course. Biology is the study of living organisms and the processes by which they interact with each other and their environment. This course will address the basics of biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, evolutionary theory, ecology, systems dynamics and biodiversity. We will also discuss current issues in biology and the Church's teachings in regard to these issues. This course includes lecture and lab (including dissections), group and individual assignments. Laboratory investigations will include primary data collection and analysis of computer-generated data from simulations, data interpretation and analysis, and student inquiry.

**Honors Biology** [1 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** Placement based on the eighth-grade science teacher's recommendation, eighth-grade final grade in science, and HSPT score in the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile.

This two-semester, college-preparatory course is recommended for those students who are planning to major in science, medicine, or engineering during their college careers. Students will focus on a more in-depth investigation of the biological concepts, including biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, evolutionary theory, ecology, systems dynamics and biodiversity. We will also discuss current issues in biology and the Church's teachings in regard to these issues. This course includes lecture and lab (including dissections), group and individual assignments. Laboratory investigations will include primary data collection and analysis of computer-generated data from simulations, data interpretation and analysis, and student inquiry. A high priority will be placed on critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

**Chemistry** [1 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Biology and Algebra I and/or concurrent enrollment in Algebra I and recommendation of Biology teacher.

This is a two-semester college preparatory course. Students will focus on an understanding of chemistry concepts of the basics of types of matter, chemical reactions, chemical bonding, forms of energy, energy transfer, and laboratory safety. Students will learn to frame chemical questions in algebraic terms and solve problems. We will also discuss current topics in chemistry and the Church's teachings regarding use of technology. This course includes lecture, lab, group and individual assignments. Laboratory investigations will include primary data collection and analysis of computer-generated data from simulations, data interpretation and analysis, and student inquiry.

**Honors Chemistry** [1 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Honors Biology and Honors Algebra I or recommendation of Biology AND Algebra I teachers.

This two-semester college preparatory course is highly recommended for those students who are planning to major in science, medicine or engineering during their college careers. Students will focus on an understanding of chemistry concepts of the basics of types of matter, chemical reactions, chemical bonding, forms of energy, energy transfer, and laboratory safety. Students will learn to frame chemical questions in algebraic terms and solve problems. We will also discuss current topics in chemistry and the Church's teachings regarding use of technology. This course includes lecture, lab, group and individual assignments. Laboratory investigations will include primary data collection and analysis of computer-generated data from simulations, data interpretation and analysis, and student inquiry. A high priority will be placed on critical thinking and problem-solving skills.



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**Conceptual Chemistry** [ 0.5 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Biology and Algebra I, or concurrent enrollment in Algebra 1 and recommendation of Biology teacher.

Conceptual Chemistry is a practical, non-quantitative chemistry course designed for students who desire an understanding of chemical concepts and applications. This course may be used as an introduction to Chemistry. Students will learn about the fundamental properties of matter and energy. Topics will include the classification of matter, states of matter, study of the atom and its components, chemical bonding and chemical reactions. A significant portion of class time will be dedicated to laboratory investigations.

**Conceptual Physics** [ 0.5 Credit]

**Prerequisites** Successful completion of Biology and Algebra I, or concurrent enrollment in Algebra 1 and recommendation of Biology teacher.

Conceptual Physics is a practical, non-quantitative physics course designed for students who desire an understanding of physics concepts and applications. This course may be used as an introduction to Physics. Students will learn about the fundamental properties of matter and energy. Topics will include velocity, acceleration, forces, energy transformations, waves and electricity. A significant portion of class time will be dedicated to laboratory investigations.

**Physics** [ 1 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Biology and Algebra I and/or recommendation of Biology teacher. Sophomore/Junior/Senior status.

Physics is the study of the natural world, the mechanics of motion, and the interaction between electricity and magnetism. This is an introductory course that will address how objects move in various frames, forces, energy, waves and sound, light, electrostatics, and simple electrical circuits. We will also discuss recent findings in physics and how they relate to our beliefs as Catholics and Christians. This course includes lecture and

laboratory experiments. Students are expected to participate in all experiments in order to meet the objectives of the course.

**Honors Physics** [ 1 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Honors Biology and Honors math or recommendation of Biology and math teacher.

This full-year course college preparatory course is highly recommended for those students who are planning to major in science, engineering or medicine. Students will focus on understanding physics concepts including the mechanism of motion, electricity and magnetism. Additional topics include energy, waves and optics. Laboratory experiences are used to introduce and reinforce basic physics concepts, including engineering projects and application of formulas. There is an emphasis on mathematical rigor.





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## **Science Electives**

### **AP Biology [ 1 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Honors Biology and Honors Chemistry with a B+ or better and/or recommendation of Biology/Chemistry Instructor. Junior/Senior status.

AP Biology is an intensive, college level Biology course and prepares students for advanced college coursework in the biological and health sciences. Topics include biochemistry, energetics, genetics, plant and animal anatomy and physiology, cytology, diversity of life, evolution, ecology and animal behavior. Students will do a variety of research projects, independent analyses of current scientific research, and scientific writing. In addition to the AP Biology course curriculum, students will study and discuss the teachings of the Church regarding Creation, as found in the Catechism. At least 25% of course time will be dedicated to laboratory work. Students are expected to participate in all laboratory activities and to do a significant amount of at-home study to meet learning objectives. This class will prepare the student to take the AP Biology Examination in May. Students are expected to spend at least 7 hours each week in individual study outside of the classroom. **Students are required to take the AP exam in May.**

### **AP Chemistry [ 1 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Honors Biology and Honors Chemistry with a B or better and/or recommendation of Biology/Chemistry Instructor. Junior/Senior status.

AP Chemistry is a college level course for students who want to pursue a career in a science field. It is designed to prepare students for the AP exam. There will be a brief review of topics from Honors Chemistry but taking them to a deeper understanding. Additional topics are solutions, chemical kinetics, chemical equilibrium, acid-base equilibria, solubility equilibria, entropy, electrochemistry and nuclear chemistry. A large portion of the class will be devoted to experimentation developing expertise in procedures and practical applications of topics studied. The pacing required to complete all tested topics will be rigorous. Students are

expected to spend a minimum of minimum 7-10 hours of study outside of class time. **Students are required to take the AP exam in May.**

### **AP Physics C [1 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Honors Geometry and Honors Biology or recommendation of Biology and Geometry teachers. Sophomore, Junior, Senior status.

AP Physics C is a college level course and prepares students who do not plan on majoring in a science related field for the first semester of core classes in physics and general science. This course covers the seven big ideas in physics: properties of objects and systems, fields and interactions between objects, interactions between objects and forces, conservation laws, waves and energy, and quantum mechanical systems. Students will complete a variety of investigations and projects to describe and model interactions and properties of objects, fields, waves, and systems. About 25% of the time will be dedicated to laboratory experiments. Students are expected to complete all laboratory experiments and be able to work on their own to complete some experiments or go deeper into the material learned. **Students are required to take the AP exam in May.**

### **Anatomy and Physiology [1 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry and/or recommendation of Biology teacher. Junior/Senior status or permission of instructor.

Anatomy and physiology is designed to prepare students for college coursework in the biological and health sciences. Major topics include body organization, chemistry of life, cell structure and function, cell division, body tissues and organs, and organ systems. Organ systems will include skeletal, muscular, nervous, immune, endocrine, digestive, urinary, and pulmonary. Respect for life and the wondrous beauty of how God made us will be emphasized. This course includes lecture, lab, group and individual assignments. Students may opt to take this course as concurrent enrollment (4 college credit).



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**Astronomy [0.5 Credit]**

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry and/or recommendation of Instructor.

Astronomy is the study of the solar system, stars, galaxies, interstellar bodies, and the universe. This is a one semester course that explores how to use astronomical instruments, the relationship between heavenly bodies, and the origins of the universe. Students learn how to use and interpret the Hertzsprung-Russell Diagram, keep a satellite in orbit, and chart the movement of heavenly bodies. Students will also complete projects on these topics.

**Biomedical Ethics [0.5 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry and/or recommendation of Instructor. Senior Status.

Biomedical ethics studies the reasonableness of human choices and actions that typically occur in medical and science practices. These issues have arisen with the advent of new technology, and include case studies in human experimentation, cloning, reproductive technologies, abortion, end-of-life issues, lying, stem-cell research, the nature of the doctor-patient relationship, life-sustaining treatments, autonomy, and euthanasia. Students will practice their critical thinking, analytical writing, and problem-solving skills in their analysis of case studies. Emphasis will be placed on how students can apply theoretical ethics to actual cases that our society faces today. Students will also debate the role of scientific advancements and the ethics of the cases. Students will explore the Catechism of the Catholic Church and other church teachings as they relate to different ethical issues. Students will be expected to write weekly position papers, provide oral analysis of cases, and write research papers on several topics.

**Environmental Science [1 Credit]**

**Prerequisites** Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry and/or recommendation of Instructor. Junior/Senior status

Environmental Science provides students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and man-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. Environmental Science is a multidisciplinary science. Environmental Science is an applied science that has deep roots in problem solving. In the class, students will be able to apply knowledge from the basic sciences and mathematics to practical real-world problems. At least 30% of course time will be dedicated to laboratory work, field work and projects. Students will explore church teaching with respect to the environment, including Laudato Si by Pope Francis. This is a junior/senior level course, and students are expected to have completed Biology in order to enroll. Students who opt to take the AP Environmental Science exam in the spring should have completed Honors Biology and Honors Chemistry prior to enrolling and expect to do additional at-home study in order to be well-prepared.

**Organic-Chemistry Fuels & Food [0.5 Credit]**

**Prerequisites** Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry and/or recommendation of Instructor is required. Junior/Senior Status  
Food science is the study of the chemistry of food and metabolism. The course is the application of both biology and chemistry in our everyday life. Topics include the structure of different types of food, digestion and absorptions of nutrients, essential nutrition, the environmental aspects of producing food, and cooking basics. Additional topics include the history of spices, taste, vegetarian/vegan lifestyles, and practical kitchen skills. This course is designed for project-based learning, as well as lab and lecture. Additional parent waiver is required.

**Forensic Science [0.5 Credit]**

**Prerequisites** Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry and/or recommendation of Instructor is required. Senior status and completion of Anatomy and Physiology is recommended.





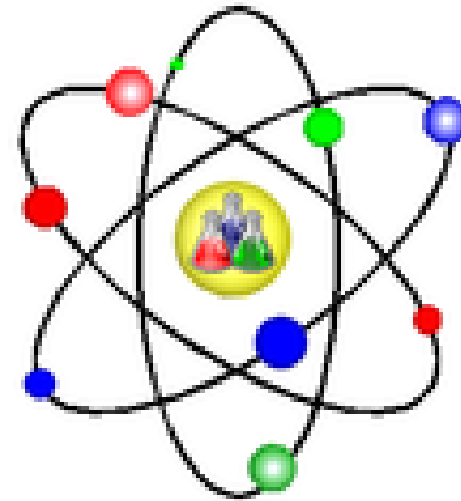
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Forensic science is the application of science to solving crimes. The course is rich in exploration and lab investigations which apply many disciplines of scientific study such as biology, anatomy, chemistry and physics to crime scene analysis. Topics will include observation, crime scene investigation and lab techniques. Students will study death including the meaning, manner, mechanism, cause and time of death. Additional topics will include an introduction to forensic anthropology and entomology, collection and analysis of trace evidence, fingerprints, DNA fingerprinting, toxicology, blood, and arson investigation. Students will discuss and analyze case studies of real historic crimes, including autopsy, toxicology and police documents. Additional parent waiver will be required.

**Health Sciences Internship [2 Credits]**

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Biology, Chemistry, Anatomy and acceptance into the program through an application process. Senior status.

This course provides students with an interest in health care careers to intern at off-site locations and observe and assist health care professionals at work. The internship will also include study of regional anatomy, pathophysiology, and health care careers. First aid and CPR will also be taught. Interns are expected to maintain an overall GPA of 3.4 or higher and to maintain the highest moral character, with excellent attendance, punctuality, behavior and demonstrated generosity. Students in the internship must be willing to submit to a background check, TB testing and be vaccinated. They will participate in HOSA and service projects to support local health care. The internship opportunity counts for two class periods each day. This course is limited to 10-12 students, and selection is competitive. This course is concurrently enrolled, and students earn 5 college credit.





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## **Social Studies**

### **World History [1 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Freshmen Status

This course will focus on the development of reading strategies and study skills through the scope of world history. This course will develop a student's understanding of the political, economic, religious, social, intellectual, and geographic development of civilizations of both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. The course will cover the fall of the Roman Empire to present day. (9<sup>th</sup>)

### **Honor's World History [1 Credit]**

**Pre-requisites:** Freshmen status. Student test scores in the 80<sup>th</sup>ile and above on 8<sup>th</sup> grade standardized test scores and earning an A in 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies.

This two-semester course is designed for students who have demonstrated exceptional performance in social studies. Students are required to read and research intensively in World History. Analytic writing and critical thinking processes are incorporated into the course work. Students will develop an understanding of political, economic, religious, social, intellectual, and geographic development in civilizations of both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. Making use of a variety of resources, the course will cover history Roman Empire to present day.

### **United States History [1 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Sophomore status recommended

This is a two-semester course. The development of the United States from 1865 to the present is emphasized in this two-semester sequential course. Students develop an understanding of political, economic, religious, social, intellectual, and geographic relationships affecting the United States in history and in today's world. Using the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the amendments, and other historical documents, students develop knowledge understanding the application of the core democratic values given in these documents.

### **AP United States History [1 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** At least Sophomore status, successful completion of Honors World History or teacher recommendation. Recommended to be taking Honors English 10.

This is a college-level survey course in U.S. history where students learn to use historical facts and evidence to achieve deeper conceptual understandings of major developments in U.S. history. Higher level writing and critical thinking processes are incorporated in the course work. Students will need to master the kinds of thinking skills used by historians in their study of the past and become familiar with contemporary scholarly perspectives on major issues in U.S. history. Students must engage in a deep study of primary and secondary source evidence, analyze a wide array of historical facts and perspectives, and express historical arguments in writing. **Students are required to take the AP exam in May.**

### **Civics [0.5 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Junior Status

This required one-semester course is a scope on the foundations, structure, and responsibilities of the United States government. The three branches of government will be covered in-depth. An understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens and the election process will be included. Emphasis will be placed on motivating the students to become active in the democratic political process.

### **AP United States Government and Politics [0.5 Credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Junior status, AP US History or teacher recommendation.

This is a one semester course designed for students interested in an intensive study of American Government. Supplemental readings to the textbook are required. Emphasis will be placed on analytical writing and critical thinking to motivate students to become active in the democratic process. Students will engage in political debate and be challenged to form arguments on issues, assessing long-term ramifications for political decision making. **Students are required to take the AP exam in May.**





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**Economics** [0.5 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** Junior Status

This one-semester course is a study on American and global economic systems. The course covers basic economic concepts and a thorough examination of micro and macro-economic theories. Students will gain a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision makers, both consumers and producers within the economic system. It includes study of market factors and the role of government in influencing the economy.

## **Social Studies Electives**

**Law and Justice** [0.5 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** Junior/Senior Status

This one semester elective course is to explore topics of law that are particularly relevant to the lives of students. *Law and Justice* provides a foundation in law by introducing students to the basics of the legal system, ethics, criminal law and juvenile justice, torts, consumer and housing law, family law, and individual rights and liberties. Practical experiences, critical thinking, research, and student involvement are required.

**Psychology** [0.5 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** Junior/Senior Status

This is a one-semester course designed to give students an understanding of psychology including theories of learning and personality development, abnormal psychology, research methods, and other aspects of human behavior.

**Current Events** [0.5 Credit]

**Prerequisites:** Senior Status

This course is designed to be an upper level research and debate course focusing on issues pertinent to today. Topics include: bias in the media, influence of government and politics on society, global terrorism, connecting history to today, and analyzing sources of information. Students will have to stay current on world events, as well as be willing participants in debates and discussions centered on the most challenging issues facing society today.

**Michigan History** [0.5 credit]

**Prerequisites:** Junior/Senior Status

This course is a comprehensive survey of the settlement and development of Michigan with emphasis on major events, movements and personalities. It follows the outline given in the text and develops a chronological approach to history. Through the use of the text, films lecture, reports and projects, the course tries to meet the intellectual curiosity of the students in the history of their own state and to evoke interest and pride in Michigan's varied and rich heritage.





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## **Theology**

### **Theology 9: Jesus Christ: True God and True Man [1 credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Freshman status

This course centers around Jesus Christ and his greatest commandment, given to his apostles at the Last Supper, "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12) Students grow in their relationship with Jesus through encountering him in Scripture, Church teaching, and traditional prayers. They grow in relationship with their classmates through games and praying for each other. And students grow in self-knowledge through journaling.

### **Theology 10: Church History [1 credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Sophomore status

This is your origin story: Church History is your history. Before time, God planned you and wanted you to come into the world. God made you because He wanted to meet you. He always wanted you to exist, and He wanted His Church to be ready for you. Our class will start from beyond the beginning: revisiting the Creation story and discovering reasons why God made the angels, the universe, the human family, and you. We'll then journey through the Fall of Man, how Jesus Christ saves us (Salvation History) and how that all relates to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Fast-forwarding into the future, we'll explore eschatology and preview what the Holy Trinity has in store for us at the end of time--in the New Heaven and the New Earth. Then we'll retrace the Church's epic pilgrimage from Pentecost to present day, focusing especially on the Three Great Crises (Fall of Rome, Great Schism, Protestant Schism) and learning the truth about the Crusades, the Inquisition, Galileo, the major Marian apparitions, the current Church crisis, and the inspiring lives of martyrs and saints from throughout the ages.

Bonus: you'll also get Latin Chantin' lessons! Learn to pray the prayers our many great saints prayed, in the very language and melodies they sung.

### **Theology 11: Moral Theology [1 credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Junior status

This course is intended to help students understand the essential message of Christ's moral teaching and the importance of love of God and love of neighbor. Conscience formation and an understanding of the virtues and the Commandments will assist the students in their ability to make good moral decisions in line with the teachings of Jesus Christ. While exploring current day moral questions, students are presented with ethical and theological principles in order to form individual moral judgments and act uprightly before God.

### **Introduction to Philosophy [1 credit]**

**Prerequisites:** Junior/Senior status (this is a required course)

This course is designed to promote confidence in the human person's ability to grow in wisdom as we ask and answer the important questions all philosophers ask: Who is the human person? What can the human person know? Does truth exist? What is freedom? Is it logical to believe that God exists? What is the meaning of life? What is necessary to live a "good life"? The class begins with an introduction to philosophy as a search for wisdom and continues with a study of the classical philosophers: Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. Students then apply the knowledge gained from the ancient philosophers to consider what it means to be a human person: an eternal being with great dignity given her potential to know truth, freedom, happiness and the life of virtue. Supplementary works by St. Thomas Aquinas and Pope St. John Paul II (Fides et Ratio) will be studied in addition to the main text for the course.



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## **Theology 12**

**Seniors must select two of the four theology courses.**

**Sacred Scripture and Art** [0.5 credit]

**Prerequisites:** Senior status

Because the human heart is constantly seeking that which will fulfill it, this course will unite our study of Sacred Scripture with a study of some of the art it has inspired in order to gain confidence in God's infinite love for each of us. This class will focus on learning to read scripture with the mind of the church as we read individual books of the Bible and reflect on--and produce our own--biblically inspired art! We will consider important questions such as Why does a good God allow suffering? How can I know Jesus Christ is the true God? What is the meaning of life? How does God speak to me? Does Revelation really predict the future? Attention will be focused on a study of typology, biblical women, and specific books of the bible to answer these (and additional questions).

**Prayer and Discernment** [0.5 credit]

**Prerequisites:** Senior status

This course explores the 3 stages of the spiritual life and different styles of prayer as ways to grow in relationship with God. It then studies different tools of discernment in order to discover God's Will in your personal life. The objective is to equip students to pray and discern in the tradition of the Catholic Church.

**Mariology** [0.5 credit]

**Prerequisites:** Senior status

Our Queen is our greatest saint; no human knows the Holy Trinity as she does. The feminine genius manifests in Mary more than any woman, and to love her is to follow her to Jesus, doing whatever He tells us. Countless saints--men, women, and children alike--have devoted their lives following

Mary to her Son. Those in this course will seek to follow Mary with the guidance of her most devout spiritual children and their renowned works: Venerable Maria of Agreda, Venerable Fulton Sheen, and St. Louis de Montfort. We will also explore in depth the many Marian apparitions and miracles demonstrating her continued care for us poor banished children of Eve until we are safe with her Son.

**Apologetics** [0.5 credit]

**Prerequisites:** Senior status

Our first pope says in Scripture to "always be ready to give an answer for the hope that you have" in Christ and His Church (1 Peter 3:15). In this course, we will seek the wisdom needed to not only understand what our faith teaches, but to express those teachings with truth, conviction, beauty, and love. In our current culture, misunderstandings against the Catholic Faith abound among the issues of marriage, family, human sexuality, the priesthood, the Holy Eucharist, atheism, Church Tradition and authority, etc. Discussion and emphasis on these and other topics will help prepare students for the questions, conversations, and confrontations that may happen in their workplaces, college environment, and other settings.

