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*A Mercyhurst Prep education emphasizes thinking over memorization, creativity over repetition and ethics over earnings.*
MPS GUIDELINES FOR SCHEDULING

1. You must select the equivalent of eight courses per term. Only in rare cases will a student have a lighter course load.

2. Give thoughtful attention to your course selections. Get advice from your teachers, counselor, and parents. See Course Drop Policy below.

3. Select courses beginning with those required, followed by electives. List electives in order of priority. If you are electing term courses, be sure to select a combination to equal a full year of credit.

4. HONORS/IB courses are for two groups of students: (1) those seeking greater challenge and achievement and/or (2) those pursuing some aspect of the IB program. Mercyhurst Prep offers these courses for students who desire advanced academic challenges. There are certain prerequisites and criteria for each honors course. These are listed before the course description. In general, students desiring to take honors level courses should have a genuine desire to learn at a faster pace and study material in more depth. General criteria are:
   - Knowledge: Any student wishing to enroll in an honors course who is currently in:
     - a college prep course must have a yearlong grade of A
     - an honors course must have a yearlong grade of B.
   - Skills: Proficiency in basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, research, and technology
   - Work Ethic: Self-motivated to learn. The student’s attitude is superior in regard to cooperation, participation, and attendance.
   - Performance: Ability to apply knowledge, skills, and work ethic in various performance-based activities. This ability may be measured in the manner of an audition, essay, portfolio, interview, or teacher recommendation.

   The primary determinant for placement will be teacher/department recommendation. Administrative decisions are final.

5. Your guidance counselor will review your course registration form before you are scheduled. If there are any problems, a meeting will be scheduled with you.

6. Classes with fewer than ten students will not be taught unless required by the state or IB.

7. A copy of this booklet is available online at www.mpslakers.com.

8. Mercyhurst Prep reserves the right to place students in course levels appropriate to their ability and/or academic performance.

Course Drop Policy

Students should select courses carefully, paying close attention to course prerequisites and descriptions. The MPS Master Schedule is built during the summer months based on the spring requests of students. It is important that much thought go into those requests made in March. Parent signatures are required on request forms to ensure that necessary discussion regarding course selection has taken place between student and parent. It is extremely difficult to make changes to a student’s schedule once the master schedule is finalized in late July.

In addition, students are discouraged from dropping classes because we believe that it is in the student’s best educational interest to develop skills to succeed in challenging classes in order to attain the skill level required to succeed in college and in the work world.

In the event of an extreme circumstance, schedule changes will be considered only if the following conditions are met:

- The student has demonstrated sufficient effort in the attempt to succeed, including regular attendance at help sessions with the teacher and/or in or out of school tutoring.
- The student has consistently completed course assignments and tasks and he/she has demonstrated genuine effort on such.
- With input from the teacher and counselor, the academic dean has determined that the course is not the most appropriate placement for the student.
- After dropping the class, the student still has six yearlong courses.
If there is a change in a student schedule, for any reason, the work already completed will be shown on the transcript as WP (withdrew passing) or as WF (withdrew failing).

Students and parents should be aware that in some cases, even if the above conditions are met, a student may be unable to drop a class if the requisite schedule change is not possible or if the replacement course is closed due to high numbers in the class.

Students should select courses carefully, paying close attention to course prerequisites and descriptions.

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A minimum of twenty-five hours of community service is required each year, earning ¼ credit for the student each year.

One full credit in community service is required for graduation.

A summer reading program is required for grades 9-12.
INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE - A UNIQUE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

IB learners strive to be:

- Inquirers: They develop their natural curiosity.
- Knowledgeable: They explore concepts, ideas, and issues that have local and global significance.
- Thinkers: They exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively.
- Communicators: They understand and express ideas confidently and creatively.
- Principled: They act with integrity and honesty.
- Open-minded: They understand and appreciate their own culture and are open to perspectives, values, and traditions of others.
- Caring: They show empathy, compassion, and respect towards the needs and feelings of others.
- Risk-takers: They approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought.
- Balanced: They understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.
- Reflective: They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience.

THE IB AT MPS

MPS students are encouraged to pursue the internationally recognized IB diploma. Alternatively, they may earn IB certificates in individual curriculum areas at the Standard Level or Higher Level.

I. Requirements for IB diploma:

Students must sit for exams in the following 6 subject areas:

A. Language A-English Literature-Higher Level
B. Language B - French or Spanish-Standard Level
C. History-Higher Level
D. Experimental Sciences (1)
   - Biology-Higher Level
   - Chemistry-Higher Level
E. Mathematics (1)
   - Applications and Interpretations-Standard Level
   - Analysis and Approaches-Standard Level
   - Analysis and Approaches-Standard and Higher Level
F. One of the following:
   - Visual Arts-Higher or Standard Level
   - Music-Higher or Standard Level
   - Dance-Standard Level
   - Religions of the World-Standard Level
   - Art History-Standard Level
   - Sports, Exercise and Health Science-Standard Level
   - A second science at Standard or Higher Level
   - A second mathematics at Standard or Higher Level

II. Additional requirements (for diploma candidates)

A. Course in Theory of Knowledge
B. 4,000 word extended essay in a chosen subject area
C. CAS (Creativity, Action and Service)

MPS International Baccalaureate students share with their counterparts all over the world many benefits by their participation in the program, including:

1. Participants are challenged with rigorous academic standards and, in working to meet them, experience personal growth, satisfaction, and increased self-confidence.
2. The IB curriculum challenges students to develop skills in the highest levels of thinking and writing.
3. Students may earn advanced standing and/or college credit in post-secondary level educational institutions.
4. Students may receive scholarships to certain universities.
5. IB student graduates report a very high level of preparedness for even the most rigorous university studies.
The English curriculum provides a comprehensive program of studies in the areas of literature, critical thinking, composition, vocabulary, grammar, oratory, and study skills. Students will become proficient in expressing themselves through a wide variety of expository and creative writing assignments and speech activities. Students will begin the study of literature with a genre format as freshmen and continue their sophomore study using a chronological approach to American and British literature, concluding their junior and senior studies with an overview of world literature. The department strives to encompass the study of language and literature for both creative and functional purposes.

We provide our students with the literary skills not only to judge and evaluate what they have read and heard but also to help them broaden and deepen their personal experiences of the written word. Our students approach great literature with a confident knowledge that it is relevant, is capable of expanding their world views, and promotes critical thinking, which can only lead to intelligent dialogue as our students develop a global perspective. This, in turn, helps the students develop attitudes of tolerance, empathy and genuine respect for stories different from their own.

Each student will take a freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior yearlong English course. We encourage students to take additional electives for educational and personal fulfillment. The English curriculum choices provide excellent background, not only for college, but for enjoyment and a lifelong interest in literature.

Please note: There is mobility among College Prep, Honors, Standard Level IB, and Higher Level IB based on teacher and/or department recommendations.

Required Term Course: Research, Speech and Digital Literacy
Term Electives: Creative Writing, Advanced Creative Writing, Everything Harry Potter, Mythology
INTRO TO GENRES - COLLEGE PREP
#1021  Freshman  1.00 credit  Yearlong
In this foundational course, students are introduced to literary terminology through a study of several genres of world literature: the short story, the novel, drama, non-fiction, and poetry. Students will practice fundamental organizational, study, and test-taking skills and will review English grammar and sentence structure. To develop abilities in academic writing, students will practice composing expository, descriptive, and narrative thesis-driven essays. Students will accumulate vocabulary through a study of roots and will practice expressive oral reading, discussion, and speech techniques.

INTRO TO GENRES – HONORS/MPS PRE-IB
#1022  Freshman  1.00 credit  Yearlong
This accelerated course of study is the foundation for the high school English program. Knowledge of literary terminology will enable students to analyze various genres of world literature: novel, short story, poetry, drama, and non-fiction. Additionally, students will have the opportunity for practice in areas such as note-taking, test-taking, outlining, and academic writing. In preparation for academic writing, the student will become proficient in writing expository, narrative and descriptive thesis-driven essays while oral language activities will encompass general speech techniques, discussion, and dramatic reading. The student will consistently study vocabulary and its roots to enhance written and oral expression.

RESEARCH, SPEECH, AND DIGITAL LITERACY – COLLEGE PREP
#1105  Freshman (required)  .33 credit  Term course
This multifaceted course will give freshmen a foundation in basic public speaking skills, research and writing, as well as an awareness of digital media and library resources in an increasingly digital age. The public speaking portion will address the student’s ability to communicate in interpersonal situations, small groups, and with mass audiences. Not only will students examine the mechanics and development of communication and public speaking, but they will also address the anxiety that may accompany speaking in front of people by practicing ways to alleviate stress in those situations. The research writing portion of the class will allow students to engage in each stage of the research process, ending with the completion of a research paper. Students will practice MLA writing style and gain comfort with using parenthetical citations, formatting their papers in MLA style, and writing a works cited page. They will also explore the use of MPS’s databases and learn to identify credible sources. Prewriting, drafting, proofreading and editing skills will be emphasized. A brief unit on digital literacy will be introduced and practiced, and students will be exposed to the standards for the 21st century learner in terms of digital citizenship, ethics, and information literacy.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE – COLLEGE PREP
#1031  Sophomore  1.00 credit  Yearlong
Through the study of British and American literature and literary history, students will continue this year to develop the skills needed for literary discussion, analysis, and comparison of British and American non-fiction, poetry, drama, short stories, and novels. A consistent focus on vocabulary and etymology will complement the literary study, and students will practice oral communication skills through cooperative activities. Students will be introduced to skills in accordance with standardized testing and will continue to develop mastery of the thesis-driven essay structure through practice of expository, narrative, and descriptive writing. Additionally, with an emphasis on the writing process, students will each develop a persuasive MLA-research essay.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE – HONORS/MPS PRE-IB
#1032  Sophomore  1.00 credit  Yearlong
Through the study of British and American literature and literary history, this course prepares students for IB Standard or Higher Level study during eleventh and twelfth grades. While being introduced to some IB-style coursework such as Socratic seminars and close reading, students will continue this year to develop the skills needed for literary analysis, use of textual evidence, and comparison of British and American non-fiction, poetry, drama, short stories, and novels. A consistent focus on vocabulary and etymology will complement the literary study and begin to prepare the student for standardized testing. Additionally, students will master the structure of the thesis-driven essay and continue to practice expository, narrative, and descriptive writing. Students will also focus on the writing process and will each develop a persuasive, MLA-research essay.
HUMANITIES I – COLLEGE PREP
#1013 Junior 1.00 credit Yearlong

This course will offer the first part of a two-year course in the humanities, which studies human culture through literature, history, philosophy, religion, art, music, and more. Students will analyze world literature chronologically beginning with Mesopotamia in 3500 BC and concluding with the Renaissance and Shakespeare in the 1600s. In preparation for the SAT, students will continue to accumulate vocabulary and to develop thesis-driven essay structure and content. Further, through focusing on the writing process and practicing MLA expository and persuasive writing, students will embark on an investigative process that will culminate in a research and inquiry-based project that is connected to the Critical Concerns.

WORLD LITERATURE I – HONORS/IB STANDARD LEVEL
#1034 Junior 1.00 credit Yearlong

This challenging Standard Level International Baccalaureate study in world literature follows the IB curriculum and requirements. Admission to the program requires two things: 1) Recommendations of both sophomore teachers and the SL-IB World Literature I teacher; 2) The student’s determination to commit to this rigorous two-year program. Junior year study is focused on the oratory and writing skills students need to master to complete the internal IB assessments as they analyze a variety of poems, novels, a graphic novel, and a Shakespearean play. Students will have the opportunity to sit for the Standard Level IB exams at the end of the senior year study, but this is not mandatory.

WORLD LITERATURE I – HONORS/IB HIGHER LEVEL
#1036 Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

This rigorous study of world literature begins the student’s journey toward attaining a certificate for the Higher Level International Baccalaureate English A: Literature course of study. Available for students who plan to sit for all of the IB internal and external assessments through junior and senior years, admission to this program requires three things: 1) Recommendations of both sophomore teachers and the HL-IB World Literature I teacher; 2) The student’s commitment to complete this challenging two-year program; 3) A deposit on the IB exam fee upon registration for the course. Junior year culminates in the student’s completion of two IB-mandated internal assessments for which students will hone their analytical, oratorical, and writing skills as they deeply read multiple poems, novels, nonfiction, and a Shakespearean play.

HUMANITIES II – COLLEGE PREP
#1015 Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

This course will offer the second part of a two-year course in the humanities, which studies human culture through literature, history, philosophy, religion, art, music, and more. Students will analyze world literature chronologically beginning with the Renaissance and Shakespeare in the 1600s and ending with 21st century literature. Students will continue their investigation into the Critical Concerns, a process begun junior year. To create a sense of audience and purpose, students will develop a narrative, which will be explored and extended throughout the year. The culmination of the investigation will be a product or performance in response to an authentic need in a community.

WORLD LITERATURE II – HONORS/IB STANDARD LEVEL
#1038 Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

This world literature course is year two of the Standard Level International Baccalaureate program. Focusing on different types of writing, this IB curriculum teaches students to master the elements of composition as they critically examine three novels and/or short story anthologies and two plays in translation. Additionally, students will continue to master oratory and class discussion skills as they analyze literature. The skills honed during this class will prepare students for the IB external assessments, including the exams in May.

WORLD LITERATURE II – HONORS/IB HIGHER LEVEL
#1040 Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

For those students who want to earn at least an IB certificate in English A: Literature, this highest level English course will prepare students for the IB external assessments, including the IB exams in May. Students will master composition as they practice commentary, argumentative, and comparative analysis of four novels and three plays in translation. Students who enroll in this course are expected to have successfully completed World Literature I – Honors/IB Higher Level. In addition to deep analysis of world literature, students will hone their oratory and class discussion skills as they research unfamiliar cultures.
ENGLISH ELECTIVES

INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE WRITING - COLLEGE PREP
#1509  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit  Term course

This course is designed to teach students the basics of writing creatively by focusing on those elements that make for vivid, effective writing in the genres of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. Each class period, students will focus their efforts to produce short pieces of creative work as they fill their portfolios. Through the term, students will develop one or more of these works into a master piece representative of their efforts and talent. Additionally, students will work through the process to compose a full, 23-minute script for a situational comedy.

ADVANCED CREATIVE WRITING – COLLEGE PREP
#1537  Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit  Term course

Intended for students who have already demonstrated proficiency in the introductory creative writing course, teacher approval by Mrs. Wojciechowski for admission to this class is required. Individualized instruction will enable students to personalize the nature of the projects they will develop, so students who register should have an idea of what genre they want to study.

EVERYTHING HARRY POTTER – COLLEGE PREP
#1531  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit  Term course

Prepare to explore (or revisit) the novels by J.K. Rowling that continue to affect generations of people around the world. In this term course, students will explore a vast array of topics connected with the Harry Potter series: pop culture mythology, censorship, ethics and morality, magic and magical theory, Quidditch, and so much more. Students should expect to read at least one of the novels as part of their coursework.

MYTHOLOGY-COLLEGE PREP
#1535  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit  Term course

Explore stories about heroes, gods, and the universe from Norse, Greek, and Roman mythologies. Designed to support the study of literature in the core English classes, students should expect to engage in individual and collaborative projects that will familiarize them with the archetypes and allusions that are omnipresent in Western culture.
The mathematics department prepares students to cope with their futures. The curriculum is designed to give maximum competency for post high school academia. Graduation requirement: 3 credits

Offering different levels of mathematics, we have designed a curriculum that will fit the needs of any student. Although the titles tend to be typical (Algebra I - Geometry - Algebra II) the courses will integrate other topics of math such as logical reasoning, measurement, probability, statistics, and real life applications.

Incoming freshmen will be given an entrance exam prior to selecting their courses. This test, along with their current teacher recommendation, will determine the level of mathematics recommended by our department. Some students, who show exceptional ability and who have had an eighth grade algebra course, may be retested for appropriate placement in the sequence.

Please Note:
IB AI-SL* = IB APPLICATIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS STANDARD LEVEL
IB AA-SL* = IB ANALYSIS AND APPROACHES STANDARD LEVEL
IB AA-HL* = IB ANALYSIS AND APPROACHES HIGHER LEVEL

There is mobility among College Prep, Honors, Standard Level IB, and Higher Level IB based on teacher and/or department recommendations.

Yearlong Electives: Probability and Statistics -H
Term Electives: SAT Math Prep

**ALGEBRA I PLUS - COLLEGE PREP**
#3000 Freshman 1.00 credit Yearlong

The students in this course will meet daily and will begin with a pre-algebra refresher course. Students will spend first term studying topics such as fractions and decimals, operations with positive and negative integers, percents, ratios and proportions, and strategies for solving word problems. Second and third terms will be spent as a CP Algebra 1 course. Topics such as simplifying algebraic expressions, substitution, solving equations, using formulas, graphing on the coordinate plane, solving systems of equations and inequalities, and factoring will be explored. Students then apply these concepts to real life situations and integrate concepts from other branches of mathematics.
ALGEBRA I - COLLEGE PREP
#3003 Freshman 1.00 credit Yearlong

This course is the foundation for high school mathematics courses. It introduces all of the important concepts in algebra. Topics such as simplifying algebraic expressions, substitution, solving equations and inequalities, using formulas, graphing on the coordinate plane, factoring, and data analysis are explored. Students then apply these concepts to real life situations and integrate concepts from other branches of mathematics.

ALGEBRA I – HONORS
#3004 Freshman 1.00 credit Yearlong

This course is designed for students who have been introduced to a variety of algebraic concepts and have met with success when applying them informally. These academically mature students will now be trained in a more rigorous approach to the subject. Topics such as simplifying algebraic expressions, substitution, solving equations, using formulas, graphing on the coordinate plane, and factoring are covered comprehensively. Students will be challenged to develop levels of competence necessary for success in more advanced areas of mathematics.

ALGEBRA I – MPS PRE-IB
#3006 Freshman 1.00 credit Yearlong

This course is designed for students who already have a good understanding of basic algebraic concepts. In preparation for the IB exam, the entire text - along with supplemental information - is covered. Students will be challenged with an accelerated pace as well as with a penetrating investigation of the curriculum. Topics such as simplifying algebraic expressions, substitution, solving equations, using formulas, graphing on the coordinate plane, and factoring are reviewed. In addition, students also study logarithms, probability, sophisticated algebraic expressions and higher order equations. Students then apply these concepts to real life situations and integrate concepts from other branches of mathematics.

GEOMETRY – COLLEGE PREP
#3007 Sophomore 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Algebra I or department recommendation

This course introduces students to the fundamental properties of geometry. Topics such as angles, lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, and circles are explored. Algebraic concepts and formal proofs are used to examine geometric properties and theorems. Students are able to apply basic geometric principles to real life situations.

GEOMETRY – HONORS
#3008 Freshman, Sophomore 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Algebra I Honors/Pre IB (grade B or above) or department recommendation

This course introduces students to the fundamental properties of geometry. Topics such as angles, lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, and circles are explored in depth. Basic concepts of trigonometry are introduced. Algebraic concepts and formal proofs are used to examine geometric properties and theorems. Numerous types of real life problems will be explored as well.

GEOMETRY – MPS PRE-IB
#3010 Freshman, Sophomore 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Algebra I Honors/Pre IB (grade B or above) or department recommendation

This course introduces students to the fundamental properties of geometry. Topics such as angles, lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, and surface area and volume are explored in depth. Basic concepts of trigonometry are introduced. Algebraic concepts and formal proofs are used to examine geometric properties and theorems. In preparation for the IB curriculum, students will do practice problems from past IB tests.
ALGEBRA II – COLLEGE PREP
#3013 Junior 1.00 credit Yearlong
Prerequisite: Geometry

This course begins by reviewing the important concepts of algebra I. The students will explore the properties and the graphs of special functions such as absolute value, quadratic, and polynomial functions. Other topics include rational and radical expressions, complex numbers, data analysis and matrices. Incorporated throughout the year will be SAT strategies. Students are REQUIRED to have a graphing calculator. A TI-84 is strongly recommended.

ALGEBRA II/TRIGONOMETRY – HONORS
#3014 Sophomore, Junior 1.00 credit Yearlong
Prerequisite: Geometry Honors/Pre IB (grade B or above) and Algebra I Honors/Pre IB (grade B or above) or department recommendation

This course completes and combines the algebraic techniques and the trigonometry needed to prepare students for the study of calculus. Functions will be studied throughout the course, both their properties and their graphs. Linear, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions will be covered in depth. Topics from trigonometry are investigated such as the basic trigonometric functions, radian measure, trigonometric identities, solving trig equations, and solving right and oblique triangles. Students are REQUIRED to have a graphing calculator for course work. A TI-84 is strongly recommended.

ALGEBRA II/TRIGONOMETRY – IB
#3016 Sophomore, Junior 1.00 credit Yearlong
Prerequisite: Geometry Honors/Pre IB (grade B or above) and Algebra I Honors/Pre IB (grade B or above) or department recommendation

This course completes and combines the algebraic techniques and the trigonometry needed to prepare students for the study of calculus. Functions will be studied throughout the course, both their properties and their graphs. Linear, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions will be covered in depth. Topics from trigonometry are investigated such as the basic trigonometric functions, radian measure, trigonometric identities, solving trig equations, and solving right and oblique triangles. Students are REQUIRED to have a graphing calculator for course work. This is the first of a two year sequence to prepare the students for the standard level IB exams in math. A TI-84 is strongly recommended.

MATH STUDIES (WITH TRIGONOMETRY) – COLLEGE PREP
#3027 Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong
Prerequisite: Algebra II (grade C or above) and department recommendation

This course explores a variety of math topics. The trigonometry unit will explore definitions of the trig functions as circular functions, the identities associated between the trig functions, how to solve trigonometric functions including the use of identities in solving these equations, the behavior of these functions through their graphs, and lastly, the definitions of the trig functions as they pertain to right triangles. The probability and statistics unit will work with data: collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions. Specifically, students will look at exploring data, sampling and experimentation, anticipating patterns and statistical inference. The students will also be introduced to the basic probability rules and explore the likelihood of events occurring. The practical life applications unit will include topics such as interest, banking, sequences, and series.
TRIGONOMETRY/PRE-CALCULUS – COLLEGE PREP
#3025          Senior          1.00 credit          Yearlong

Prerequisite: Algebra II (grade C or above) or department recommendation

The main objective of this course is to learn the prerequisite topics important to the study of calculus. The trigonometry unit will explore definitions of the trig functions as circular functions, the identities associated between the trig functions, how to solve trigonometric functions including the use of identities in solving these equations, the behavior of these functions through their graphs, and lastly, the definitions of the trig functions as they pertain to right and oblique triangles. The pre-calculus portion will undertake an in-depth study of several common functions and their graphs. Two important functions that we will focus on are the exponential function and the logarithmic function. A brief study of the conic sections will conclude this unit with an emphasis on the standard form of the equation of each along with the general second degree equation. Students are REQUIRED to have a graphing calculator. A TI-84 is strongly recommended.

PRE-CALCULUS – HONORS
#3038          Junior, Senior          1.00 credit          Yearlong

Prerequisite: Algebra II/Trig Honors

This course prepares students for an honors level calculus class. After a review of trigonometry, this course will focus on a variety of different topics. The topics include but are not limited to the following: systems of nonlinear equations, partial fractions, linear programming, sequences, series, probability, conic sections, vectors and limits. Students are REQUIRED to have a graphing calculator. A TI-84 is strongly recommended.

CALCULUS I - HONORS
#3030          Sophomore, Junior, Senior          1.00 credit          Yearlong

Prerequisite: Algebra II/Trig Honors/IB (grade B or above) and department recommendation

This course is an introduction to differential and integral calculus. Topics will include limits, derivatives of algebraic and transcendental functions, and methods of integration. The outline of a college calculus I course will be followed with topics from a calculus II course also being introduced. The students will learn when and how to apply derivatives and integrals. The use of the TI-83 or TI-84 calculator will be incorporated into the course.

IB APPLICATIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS STANDARD LEVEL
#3044          Junior, Senior          1.00 credit          Yearlong

Prerequisite: Algebra II/Trigometry IB/Honors and department recommendation

This class (along with Algebra II/Trigonometry) prepares the student for the IB Mathematics exam. Topics include sequences and series, sets, probability and statistics, introductory differential and integral calculus, and financial mathematics. Students will be required to write a mathematical exploration paper which will be submitted to IBO. An IB approved graphing calculator is REQUIRED. A TI-84 is strongly recommended.

IB ANALYSIS AND APPROACHES STANDARD LEVEL
#3046          Junior, Senior          1.00 credit          Yearlong

Prerequisite: Algebra II/Trig IB (grade B or above) and department recommendation

This rigorous course (along with Algebra II/Trigonometry) prepares the student for the IB Mathematics exam, which encompasses their four years of study. An investigation of the topics covered in this course includes sequences and series, probability and statistics, and differential and integral calculus. Students will be required to write a mathematical exploration paper which will be submitted to IBO. An IB approved graphing calculator is REQUIRED. A TI-84 is strongly recommended.
IB ANALYSIS AND APPROACHES HIGHER LEVEL

#3048  Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

Prerequisite: IB Analysis and Approaches Standard Level and department recommendation

This advanced course is designed to prepare students to take the rigorous Mathematics HL IB examination in May. The course is comprised of two components: Mathematical Statistics and Calculus. The Mathematical Statistics portion includes probability theory, combinatorics, calculus-based development of statistical theory, and a look at the theory and application of hypothesis testing. The Calculus portion consists of advanced differentiation and integration techniques and their application, vector analysis in two and three dimensions, complex numbers theory and an understanding of a few proof writing techniques. Students will also complete a yearlong research project which will be submitted to IBO. This course is for a serious and dedicated student of mathematics and will be a challenge even to a student with a history of success in previous mathematics courses. An IB approved graphing calculator is REQUIRED. A TI-84 is strongly recommended.

MATHEMATICS ELECTIVES

These courses do not count toward the mathematics graduation requirement.

PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS- HONORS

#3040  Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

Prerequisite: Algebra II and department recommendation

Our society is completely overtaken by data. Today, collecting and analyzing data and drawing accurate conclusions from it are indispensable parts of many human endeavors such as social sciences, laboratory sciences, clinical studies, business, marketing and product quality control. In this course, students will work with data: collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions. Specifically, students will look at exploring data, sampling and experimentation, anticipating patterns and statistical inference. The students will also be introduced to the basic probability rules and explore the likelihood of events occurring. Various types of probability distributions are also discussed. This course is equivalent to a one-semester, introductory, non-calculus based college statistics course. Students are REQUIRED to have a graphing calculator. A TI-84 is strongly recommended.

SAT MATH PREPARATION - COLLEGE PREP

#3103  Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course

This course is designed to prepare students to take the SAT and other standardized tests for college entrance. It will familiarize students with good test taking strategies and will review math concepts contained in the SAT test. The course will allow students to understand how the test is scored and how colleges use that score to determine enrollment. Students will have the opportunity to do practice questions under formal and informal testing situations. Students are REQUIRED to have a graphing calculator. A TI-84 is strongly recommended.
PERFORMING ARTS

Art establishes the basic human truths, which must serve as the touchstone of our judgment.

- John F. Kennedy

The arts provide one of the essential and basic languages that extend the range of communication. Through this language we express our fears, dreams, curiosities, hopes, and discoveries. Such expression is a central force in human existence. Literacy in the arts for all students centers on the idea that each of the arts functions as a tool for creative expression as well as for the development of higher order thinking and problem solving skills.

All students are required to successfully complete one (1.0) credit of creative arts. However, many colleges and universities require two (2.0) credits for admission. All sophomores must take either the Music Appreciation or the Art Appreciation class to fulfill one-third of their arts requirement. Students may indicate a preference for one course or the other, but final assignment to either course will be based on availability and individual schedules. Students with an interest in both areas may take both art and music appreciation, thereby fulfilling an additional arts requirement.

Students who plan to elect the arts as a college major or career choice are requested to identify themselves as ARTS MAJORS to their guidance counselors for scheduling purposes. The students should use the information below to guide them in course selections for their appropriate major.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR PERFORMING ARTS MAJORS:

Dance
All majors are expected to audition for Dance Company each year and participate fully in performances and spring musicals.
(Majors need to discuss course selections with Mrs. Dombrowski or Miss Grisé.)

Music
Voice majors: must elect concert choir or show choir for four years
Instrumentalists: must be a member of the orchestra for four years
Recommended courses: Music Theory (honors), Music History (honors)
All voice majors are expected to audition for all musical productions.
(Majors need to discuss course selections with Mr. Martone or Mr. Miele.)

Theatre
All Theatre majors are expected to audition for all musical productions and the Winter play.
(Majors need to discuss course selections with Mr. Martone.)

DANCE
Dance classes fulfill the PE requirement for grades 10-12.

SOCIAL DANCE - COLLEGE PREP
#6401 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course
This course will explore the evolution of social dance and its impact on American culture. Students in this course will be introduced to important movements in social dance from 1900 to the present day. Some movements that are explored throughout the term include: Waltz, Swing, Salsa, and Hip-Hop. This course is intended for the beginning dance student and requires no previous dance training.

BEGINNING TAP - COLLEGE PREP
#6403 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course
This dance course is designed to introduce the student to basic tap technique and terminology. Students in this class will be introduced to basic rhythm structure, articulation, and timing. This course is intended for the beginning dance student and requires no previous dance training.
TAP II - COLLEGE PREP  
#6405  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course

Prerequisite: Beginning Tap or instructor’s permission

This course is a continuation of the Beginning Tap course and will introduce the students to intermediate level technique, including rhythm structure, articulation, timing and additional styles.

JAZZ - COLLEGE PREP  
#6407  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course

Prerequisite: Previous dance training

This course will provide the opportunity to learn more about jazz technique, terminology, and style. Students will also explore the area of choreography and create their own pieces.

DANCE STYLES - COLLEGE PREP  
#6409  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course

This course is designed to introduce the beginning student to several dance genres. Upon completion of the course, students will have a basic knowledge of tap, jazz and ballet fundamentals. No previous dance training is required to participate.

MPS DANCE COMPANY - COLLEGE PREP or HONORS/IB  
#6420  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

Prerequisite: Audition required

Dance Company is a course designed to strengthen and improve the work of the already trained dancer through in-class work and performance opportunities. The main emphasis of the course is to improve the technical performance of the dancers in several different dance genres. Other aspects such as choreography, terminology, and dance history will also be incorporated. As a member you will have the opportunity to travel to perform next March at Walt Disney World in Florida.

Acceptance into the Dance Company is by audition. Placement of students into the divisions of the Mercyhurst Dance Program is determined by the instructors based on the students’ abilities. All interested students should sign up for course #6420. They will be placed in the appropriate course after all auditions are completed. The dance company divisions include:

- Dance Company (Master)
- Dance Company (Master) – Honors/IB
- Dance Company (Advanced)
- Dance Company (Advanced) – Honors/IB
- Dance Company (Intermediate/Advanced)
- Dance Company (Intermediate/Advanced) – Honors/IB
- Dance Company (Apprentice/Intermediate)
- Dance Company (Apprentice/Intermediate) – Honors/IB

MUSIC  

MUSIC APPRECIATION - COLLEGE PREP  
#6601  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course

This course, designed for the casual listener, is a study of music from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century. Students will also learn to recognize the basic elements of music through listening and the study of the fundamentals of music.

Note: All sophomores must take either the Music Appreciation or the Art Appreciation class to fulfill one-third of their arts requirement. Students may indicate a preference for one course or the other, but final assignment to either course will be based on availability and individual schedules. Students with an interest in both areas may take both art and music appreciation, thereby fulfilling an additional arts requirement.
MUSIC HISTORY – HONORS/IB
#6604 Fairy, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

A detailed study of the history of music from its origins to the twentieth century, this course is designed for those students who have an interest in pursuing a major in music. This course is recommended for those students fulfilling the IB music curriculum.

MUSIC THEORY – HONORS/IB
#6606 Fairy, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

This course is designed for both the student with a strong interest in music and the college bound music major and covers such fundamentals of music as scales, intervals, and how to write chords. The class is beneficial to any student who sings or plays an instrument and wants to know the basics of how to understand or write his/her own music. A student does not need any previous musical experience to take this class.

MUSIC FOR THE MUSIC MAJOR - COLLEGE PREP
#6615 Junior, Senior .33 credit Term Course

Prerequisite: Approval of the instructor

This course is designed for the junior or senior student who is serious about pursuing music as a major at the collegiate level. The goal by term’s end is to give the student an introduction to various concepts they will be studying in college. Beginning theory and ear training, music history, and conducting will be among the skills studied.

MUSICAL PRODUCTION - COLLEGE PREP
#6607 Fairy, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

Prerequisite: Audition required

Musical production is a one-term course which will produce the fall musical (last year the class presented a production of Singin’ in the Rain). The students will learn blocking, vocals, and some movement. The class will also be expected to rehearse after school and perform in the fall.

BEGINNING PIANO - COLLEGE PREP
#6609 Fairy, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

This class is designed for the beginner only who has always had an interest in playing the piano or had a few lessons early on but never pursued playing. The class is set up for individual one-on-one instruction; therefore, there are no public performances required in this class. The student is graded on his/her personal performance progress. Access to a piano at home is not a requirement.

Materials: You will need to purchase the Glover Adult Piano Book

ADVANCED PIANO - COLLEGE PREP
#6611 Fairy, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

Prerequisite: Beginning Piano or previous piano training

This piano class is designed for the advanced pianist or a student who has completed the Beginning Piano class and wishes to continue the study of the piano. The objectives that will be achieved include correct posture and finger position technique. This class also provides individual one-on-one instruction. Access to a piano at home is not a requirement.

Materials: personal or assigned piano book
BEGINNING GUITAR - COLLEGE PREP
#6613  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

This introductory course is for the first-time player who would like to learn the basics of acoustic guitar. Students will learn to read all of the notes on the guitar, basic guitar chords, and basic strum and pick patterns, tuning, guitar string maintenance as well as simple songs for beginners.

Materials: You will be provided with an Acoustic Guitar to use for the Term however you may use your own acoustic if you have one. You are not to use an electric guitar. An assigned guitar book will also be provided.

GENERAL CHORUS - COLLEGE PREP
#6639  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Do you have an interest in singing but would never want to stand up in front of anyone and actually sing? Have you ever thought about being with a group of other students who feel exactly as you do? General Chorus is a class where such a thing happens. You would not only spend part of your school day singing, you would also learn some of the vocal techniques that might just take you farther along in singing than you ever thought you could go. This group would not be part of the mainstream choir programs at the school, but this class might just be the springboard you’ve needed to get you there. Come sing!

CONCERT CHOIR 9/10 - COLLEGE PREP or HONORS/IB
#6651-College Prep  Freshman, Sophomore 1.00 credit Yearlong
#6652-Honors/IB  Freshman, Sophomore 1.00 credit Yearlong

CONCERT CHOIR 11/12 - COLLEGE PREP or HONORS/IB
#6653-College Prep  Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong
#6654-Honors/IB  Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Vocal audition required (present 9th-11th grades should contact Mr. Martone; incoming students have a scheduled audition date).

This is a course designed for any student with the desire to sing. The student will work on music in preparation for performances at MPS, the all-school liturgies and in the community. The student will learn correct techniques for posture, breathing, diction, tone production, and blend as well as how to read music. The music performed will encompass a variety of musical styles from the Renaissance to the 21st century. As a member you will have the opportunity to travel to perform next March at Walt Disney World in Florida.

Prerequisite to participate in Concert Choir at the HONORS/IB level: The student must plan to be present for the after school IB sessions or scheduled IB classes in music. The honors students meet once a week after school to study the IB curriculum. The course content of the Music IB sessions alternates between the History of Music & Music Theory.

SHOW CHOIR - COLLEGE PREP or HONORS/IB
#6637-College Prep  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong
#6638-Honors/IB  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Dance & vocal audition required (Size limit: 14 students)

This course is designed to teach the student to combine the art of dance with singing. The student will be taught the basics of vocal technique, i.e., pronunciation, breathing, tone production, and memorization. Each student will also acquire independence in dance, individually being responsible for knowing his/her movement in relationship to others. This course also fulfills the physical education requirement for the current year for students in grades 10-12. The students will also have the privilege of traveling outside of the school to perform for various children, adult and Senior Citizen events in the Erie area. As a member you will be required to commit to paying for and traveling with the group to perform next March at Walt Disney World in Florida.

Prerequisite to participate in Show Choir at the Honors/IB level: The student must plan to be present for after school IB sessions or scheduled IB classes in music. The honors students meet once a week after school to study the IB curriculum. The course content of the Music IB sessions alternates between the History of Music & Music Theory.
ORCHESTRA - COLLEGE PREP or HONORS/IB

#6643-College Prep  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong
#6644-Honors/IB  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

Prerequisite: Incoming guitar, piano & percussion students need to audition due to limited spaces for these instruments. They need to contact Mr. Miele at mmiele@mpslakers.com.

This ensemble is comprised of competent instrumentalists who perform for liturgies, the school musicals and the Christmas and spring concerts. The objective of this course is to instill the abilities of blend, dynamics, balance, expression, and taking of directions in an ensemble setting. This course is for the student who owns or will rent an instrument and is active in playing that instrument. Some instruments may be borrowed from the music department if we have such on hand. The instruments that can be part of the orchestra are all of the woodwinds, brass, strings and percussion instruments including such “non-orchestra” instruments like the Electric Bass. The class is designed as an outlet for any students who play instruments here at MPS.

Prerequisite to participate in Orchestra I Honors/IB: The student must plan to be present for the after school IB sessions or scheduled IB classes in music. The honors students meet once a week after school to study the IB curriculum. The course content of the Music IB sessions alternate between the History of Music & Music Theory.

JAZZ BAND - COLLEGE PREP

#6649  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term Course

Prerequisite: Incoming guitar, piano & percussion students need to audition due to limited spaces for these instruments. They need to contact Mr. Miele at mmiele@mpslakers.com.

Students will learn the basics of performing jazz music with an emphasis on jazz style and improvisation. Any wind, percussion, keyboard, or guitar player is eligible to take this class. Due to the nature of the music, however, special preference will be given to brass and saxophone players.

Size limit: the number of percussion, keyboard & guitar students

THEATRE/DRAMA

INTRO TO THEATRE AND ACTING - COLLEGE PREP

#6825  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course

This course introduces students to the world of Theatre & the craft of Acting, beginning with basic theatre terminology, plot structure and a basic introduction to acting through performance of scenes, monologues, and improvisation. If you have an interest in theatre, this course will prepare you to step in on the ground floor.

ACTING-STANISLAVSKI Part 1 – COLLEGE PREP

#6829  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term Course

Prerequisite: Intro to Theatre and Acting

This course will build a solid foundation for scene interpretation, character development, preparation, and performance through practical, in-depth analysis and performances of scenes and monologues by applying the system developed by the father of modern acting, Konstantin Stanislavski.

ACTING-STANISLAVSKI Part 2 – COLLEGE PREP

#6831  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term Course

Prerequisite: Acting I-Stanislavski Part 1

This course will be a continuation of the study of Stanislavski’s system using scenes and monologues from a variety of different genres including drama, comedy, and farce.
DIRECTING FOR THE THEATRE-COLLEGE PREP
#6835 Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term Course

Prerequisite: Intro to Theatre & Acting

This course provides the opportunity for students to learn directing, communication skills, and production teamwork. Students will learn how to break down scenes, discover beats, block scenes and give proper notes. Students will work first-hand with their fellow classmates to direct and perform scenes from both plays and musicals over the course of the term. It will also cover all aspects of theatre production from directing, lighting, and set design to production staff collaboration, promotion, and publicity.

SET DESIGN – COLLEGE PREP
#6833 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 Credit Term Course

This course is centered on the technical aspects of scenic/set design for the stage for both plays and musical theatre. If you have an interest in interior design, construction, art, architecture, or model-making, this course will teach you the basic elements. Students will be required to read and design sets for 3 to 4 different shows, including, but not limited to Box Sets, Unit Sets, and Minimalist Sets. Students will learn how to create a scaled drawing, determine sightlines, research period and design elements, budgeting for materials, set dressing, and build a ¼” scale model for each production.

AMERICAN MUSICAL THEATRE - COLLEGE PREP
#6807 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

This course studies the origins and development of a uniquely American art form, the Broadway musical. Students will study the history of this art form from Vaudeville to modern day musical. Up to ten different American musicals will be viewed and dissected for style, script, musical components, plot, characters, etc.

TECHNICAL THEATRE PRODUCTION - COLLEGE PREP
#6823 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course
#6821 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Students will gain admittance through interview or an email conversation with Mr. Martone

This class will be the production crew for our theatre productions. This course may be taken as either a term or yearlong elective. Content includes set design & construction; building materials; tools; set painting; lighting concept, design and implementation; learning our light system; audio design; and use of our audio board. If you ever wanted to take a shop class in High School then this is for you. The student will also be required to crew our public performances outside of the school day.

MUSICAL PRODUCTION - COLLEGE PREP
#6607 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

Prerequisite: Audition required

Musical production is a one-term course which will produce the fall musical (last year the class presented a production of (Singin’ in the Rain). The students will learn blocking, vocals, and some movement. The class will also be expected to rehearse after school and perform in the fall.
The goal of the physical education and health department is to empower students to make choices that lead to an active and healthy lifestyle. P.E. classes promote physical education development and teamwork through exercise and a variety of sports, while the health program provides knowledge of the body that allows discussion of issues that may concern students now or in the future. Students also study techniques for prevention and care of common disorders as part of a holistic approach to physical, mental, and social health. All freshmen are required to take Principles of Fitness and Wellness. The PA state requirement for physical education is fulfilled by cross-training, personal fitness, and all dance classes for students in grades 10-12. Descriptions for dance classes can be found on pages 13-14.

PRINCIPLES OF FITNESS & WELLNESS - COLLEGE PREP
#7001  Freshman (required) .33 credit  Term Course

This course is designed for students to learn the fundamentals of lifetime fitness and wellness through classroom and hands on experience. Each class period is divided into three sessions. Session one is devoted to a warm-up period that includes stretching and flexibility. Session two will address cardiovascular fitness and strength training. Cardiovascular activities will include running, jump rope, biking, and ellipticals. Strength training will be done through the use of both selectorized machines and free weights. Proper lifting technique and program design will be stressed. Session three is devoted to a cool down and discussion period. Discussion topics would include basic exercise science principles, nutrition, weight management, disease prevention, and topics related to lifetime wellness.

CROSS-TRAINING - COLLEGE PREP
#7003  Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit  Term course

Prerequisite: Completion of Principles of Fitness & Wellness

The program aims to develop positive attitudes toward fitness and physical activity by providing students with the basics and fundamentals needed to play and enjoy a variety of team sports, individual sports, and activities. Emphasis will also be placed on the basic components of physical fitness and weight training, assessing the students’ personal levels of fitness, and methods of incorporating ways to build more physical activity into their daily routine.

PE ELECTIVES
The following courses do not fulfill the PA state requirement for physical education.

ADVANCED PE GAMES - COLLEGE PREP
#7101  Junior, Senior .33 credit  Term course

This class is an elective course offering designed to introduce the student to advanced skills, techniques, and strategies of individual and team games. The nature of this course will be competitive games including flag football, volleyball, basketball, badminton, pickleball, and others. Along with practicing and playing various games there will be skill testing to evaluate the development of these advanced skills, techniques, and strategies. This course DOES NOT fulfill the PA state requirement for physical education.

HEALTH

HEALTH I – INTERPERSONAL HEALTH - COLLEGE PREP
#7201  Freshman (required) .33 credit  Term course

A major transition is occurring in your life. Once children, you are about to become young adults capable of making all of your own health decisions. This course will provide some of the knowledge base and skills that will allow you to do this. It begins with awareness of Health as physical, mental, and social wellness. Topics to be covered include structure and function of organs such as skin and eyes, personal hygiene, stress management, and issues concerning sexual activity. As a result, students should develop healthful habits and enjoy positive relationships with peers, parents, and teachers.
**HEALTH II – BODY SYSTEMS - COLLEGE PREP**  
#7203  Sophomore (required)  .33 credit  Term course  

The focus of Health II is the structure, function, disorders, and care of various body systems. Building on the holistic approach to health established in Health I, its goal is for each student to develop the knowledge base in human anatomy and physiology needed to understand health issues and make positive choices to maintain or improve wellness.

**HEALTH III – WELLNESS ISSUES - COLLEGE PREP**  
#7205  Junior, Senior (required)  .33 credit  Term course  

This course promotes the concepts of wellness with information pertinent to physical, emotional, and social growth. Students will learn how to set and achieve goals for healthy living by making responsible decisions. Topics include the skeletal and muscular systems, human sexuality and reproduction, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV/AIDS.
The science program at MPS is designed to aid the student in learning scientific principles and problem solving in a continually changing world. The courses offered allow students to develop both practical and theoretical knowledge in the major disciplines. Three years (3 credits) of science are needed for graduation and four are highly recommended. All students must take Foundations of Scientific Inquiry and Biology, and a minimum of one year in a physical science is recommended. **Teacher approval is required for enrollment in all honor level courses.**

Please note: There is mobility among College Prep, Honors, and IB Levels based on teacher and/or department recommendations.

Year Electives: Earth and Space Science CP and Honors; Anatomy & Physiology-H; Sports, Exercise & Health Science - H/IB Standard Level, Introduction to Modern Engineering; Forensic Science

Term Electives: Astronomy; Environmental Science; Hydrologic Systems; Intro to Modern Engineering: The Design Process; Intro to Modern Engineering: Engineering Disciplines; Intro to Modern Engineering: Capstone Design; Atom and Eve: An Interdisciplinary Look at the World in Which We Live; Introduction to Forensics; Investigations in Forensics; Medical and Cyber Forensics
FOUNDATIONS OF SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY – COLLEGE PREP
#4021 Freshman, Sophomore 1.00 credit Yearlong

In this increasingly connected global community, it is important for our young people to have a solid foundation that allows them to enter any scientific or technological field. This course provides these skills. It is designed to provide students with a background in the physical science disciplines of chemistry and physics. Course material will strengthen reading and study skills in the sciences. Attention will be given to developing technical writing skills and incorporating math skills in the science area. Laboratory techniques will be introduced and lab skills will be expanded. Technology will be utilized both in classroom and lab activities.

Foundations of Scientific Inquiry is a prerequisite for all upper level science classes.

FOUNDATIONS OF SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY – HONORS/MPS PRE-IB
#4022 Freshman, Sophomore 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: A strong background in mathematics

The study of higher level science requires a strong foundation in the fundamentals of physics and chemistry provided by this course. Honors is an intensive course that reinforces the importance of topics like the SI system and basic mathematics from a scientist’s perspective. Students will explore the concept of energy in great depth and use that knowledge to explore atoms, compounds and the periodic table in a new light. Throughout the class analytical and critical thinking skills in the sciences will be honed. Special attention will be paid to mastering laboratory techniques, developing technical writing skills, and incorporating math skills in the science area. Technology will be utilized both in classroom and lab activities. This class will pave the way for success in the higher HONORS/IB science courses.

Foundations of Scientific Inquiry is a prerequisite for all upper level science classes.

CHEMISTRY – COLLEGE PREP
#4003 Sophomore, Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Foundations of Scientific Inquiry

Since atoms make up all matter, living and nonliving, the field of chemistry is the basis of all science. In our expanding global environment, students need to understand how materials respond and react to other materials around them. This course begins the study of chemistry to prepare the student for possible future study in medical fields, science fields, or engineering. It encompasses in-depth studies of matter, atomic theory, nuclear chemistry, periodicity, bonding, chemical compounds, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, states of matter, solutions, and organic chemistry. Students will expand laboratory techniques gaining experience using spectrophotometers, HyperChem, and Vernier equipment, as well as develop skills in the interpretation, analysis, and application of collected data to strengthen their technical writing and math skills.

CHEMISTRY I – HONORS/IB
#4004 Sophomore, Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Foundations of Scientific Inquiry (teacher recommendation) and a strong background in mathematics.

Since all materials are comprised of atoms, the field of chemistry is the basis of all science. This course follows the study of chemistry as outlined by the International Baccalaureate program to prepare the student for possible future study in medical, technological, physical or engineering sciences. It encompasses in-depth studies of matter, atomic theory, nuclear chemistry, periodicity, bonding, chemical compounds, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, states of matter, solutions, acids and bases, and organic chemistry. Students will expand laboratory techniques and gain experience using spectrophotometers, HyperChem, and Vernier equipment. They will develop skills in the interpretation, analysis and application of collected data to strengthen their technical writing and math skills.
CHEMISTRY II – HONORS/IB STANDARD or HIGHER LEVEL  
#4006 Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisites: Chemistry I - HONORS/IB and Biology I - HONORS/IB – previously or concurrently (teacher recommendation)

Students who are continuing their academic studies in a science field, particularly in health professions, will find that one of their first college courses will be chemistry. In preparation for this and for a broader awareness of the impact atoms and compounds have on our global environment, this course will extend material covered in Chemistry I HONORS/IB following the International Baccalaureate syllabus. Areas of study will include stoichiometry, atomic theory, periodicity, bonding, states of matter, energetics, kinetics, equilibrium, acids and bases, oxidation and reduction, organic chemistry, human biochemistry, and food chemistry. Emphasis will also be placed on further development of experimental techniques as chemical principles are applied in laboratory investigations to enhance and strengthen technical writing, data interpretation, and math applications. Students will complete an interdisciplinary lab activity with the Biology II and Sports Exercise & Health II students, as well as an individual lab project on a topic of the student’s choice with teacher approval. All students will take the IB exam upon completion of the course.

BIOLOGY – COLLEGE PREP  
#4007 Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Chemistry

We are the caretakers of this living planet. Consequently, this course will explore key biological concepts within an ecological systems based context. Students will be introduced to the basic requirements for life – with the cell as that basic unit. The life functions and organization of microorganisms, plants, and animals will be compared and contrasted. The dissection of a vertebrate will be a component of this course. This not only gives students a perspective on their own anatomy, but also provides them a laboratory experience typical of courses at the college level. Other lab activities include the use of digital microscopes, Vernier probes and software and electrophoresis equipment. Taxonomy, genetics and biotechnology will be presented and coupled with current evolutionary theory. All of these concepts will be framed in an environmental perspective with an emphasis on the connections between functions and organisms.

BIOLOGY I – HONORS/IB  
#4008 Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Chemistry I – HONORS/IB (teacher recommendation)

The curriculum is based on the International Baccalaureate biology program; therefore, students must have demonstrated proficiency in prior science courses. Humans are bound to this earth and possess an intense and dynamic relationship with all creatures. Students will study those living systems from the very simple to the very complex - from the molecular level to that of the biosphere. Students are introduced to the concepts of biochemistry, cell biology, energetics, Mendelian and population genetics, evolutionary theory, and taxonomy. A comparative study of the structure and function of microorganisms, plants, and animals will follow. Other lab activities include the use of digital microscopes, Vernier probes and software and electrophoresis equipment. Students will also dissect a selected vertebrate specimen to gain an appreciation of their own mammalian systems.

BIOLOGY II – HONORS/IB STANDARD or HIGHER LEVEL  
#4010 Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisites: Biology I - HONORS/IB and Chemistry I - HONORS/IB (teacher recommendation)

This course completes the curriculum outlined by the International Baccalaureate higher level biology program. The earth’s ecology and the impact of humans on this planet require a lengthy investigation. Comparative anatomy, physiology and behavior will also be explored in depth. Historical developments and current research in these areas will give the students a perspective on the manner in which science pursues the answers to life’s questions. Twenty-five percent of class time will be used for pertinent laboratory investigations. Students will complete an interdisciplinary lab activity with the Chemistry II and Sports, Exercise & Health II students, as well as an individual lab project on a topic of the student’s choice with teacher approval. All students will take the IB exam upon completion of the course.
PHYSICS – COLLEGE PREP
#4011  Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

Prerequisites: Chemistry and Biology - previously or concurrently, Algebra II

A solid foundation in Physics is essential in today’s society to understand increasing advances and changes on our planet both technologically and environmentally. In this course students will study and apply the principles of classical and modern physics. Topics include motion, mechanics, heat, electricity, magnetism, and waves with continual references to how they impact our students’ lives. Class activities will include laboratory investigations along with problem solving techniques focusing on the concepts learned.

Students need signatures of approval from their current science teacher AND current math teacher.

PHYSICS – HONORS
#4012  Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

Prerequisites: Chemistry I HONORS/IB and Biology I HONORS/IB – previously or concurrently (teacher recommendation), Algebra II

For students interested in a scientific career in the health, engineering, or physical science fields, a solid background in physics is vital. In order to accomplish this, the physics curriculum will include topics such as motion, mechanics, thermodynamics, electricity, magnetism, waves, and particle physics. These concepts are explored in depth with emphasis on how they relate to current societal issues and future careers in science. Problem solving and laboratory investigations will entail higher level math skills including trigonometry. Students will be required to do independent projects.

Students need signatures of approval from both their current science teacher AND current math teacher.

HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY – HONORS
#4024  Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

Prerequisite: Biology (teacher recommendation)

Occupations in health care are among those with the fastest rate of growth. Students who enjoy biology and chemistry, medical issues, and working with people will find that this course is preparation for a variety of career paths from physician or pharmacist to any of the allied health professions. The class will survey the structure and function of the human body in lecture and laboratory investigations that include dissection of vertebrate organs and human cadaver anatomy. Because of the vocabulary and pace of topics, this is considered a rigorous course and is recommended for seniors who are seriously considering pursuit of further study of a health science at the college level.

SPORTS, EXERCISE and HEALTH SCIENCE – HONORS/IB STANDARD LEVEL
#4030  Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

Prerequisite: Foundations of Scientific Inquiry CP or MPS PreIB/H and Algebra I CP or MPS Pre IB/H, both with minimum grade of B

This is IB Standard Level course for juniors and seniors who wish to explore the scientific aspects of human physical activity and the relationship to health and sport. The arena of Sports Science has exploded in the last 20 years, and many careers can spring from this academic avenue of study. The fields of Athletic Training, Strength and Conditioning, Nutrition, Sports Psychology, Coaching, Physical Therapy, and Sports Medicine require a solid scientific understanding of how physical activity, in its many forms, affects our bodies and overall performance. Within this course we will study Anatomy and Physiology, Biomechanics, Skill Acquisition, Nutrition and Energy Systems, Measurement and Evaluation of Human Performance and Program Design, all with a view to how human performance in sport, exercise, and health are affected. Students will cover a range of core and option topics and carry out practical (experimental) investigations in both laboratory and field settings. This will provide an opportunity to acquire the knowledge and understanding necessary to apply scientific principles and critically analyze human performance. Where relevant, the course will address issues of internationalism and ethics by considering sport, exercise and health relative to the individual and in a global context. Students will complete laboratory studies including one interdisciplinary investigation in cooperation with students in IB chemistry II and biology II and will be eligible to take the IB exam upon completion of this course, as well as an
This elective class may be taken as a yearlong course or by terms. One term will be dealing with Hydrology, one term will focus on Astronomy and one term will emphasize Environmental Science. For more details on each class, please see the course description below the individual course listings. Students who sign up for this yearlong course should not also request one of the term components as an elective. As an honors course, students will be expected to engage with the material, employing a higher level of critical thinking and synthesis throughout the year.

**EARTH & SPACE SCIENCE (BY TERMS)** (College Prep: #4105, #4107, #4109 / Honors: #4106, #4108, #4110)

**HYDROLOGIC SYSTEMS**

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>#4105</td>
<td>Hydrologic Systems</td>
<td>.33</td>
<td>Term course</td>
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<tr>
<td>#4106</td>
<td>Hydrologic Systems (Honors)</td>
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<td>Term course</td>
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Prerequisite: Foundations of Scientific Inquiry

Many analysts have said that the wars of the future will be fought, not over land or oil, but over water. What's the big deal? Water has properties that make it unique and invaluable. This course will investigate the immense role of water in our lives. We will discover some of those interesting properties of water (why is it odd that ice floats and what would happen if it didn't?). Water is also the largest agent of change to the surface of the Earth and we will explore many of those processes. Special attention will be paid to the Great Lakes system and our local watershed in relating the physical and chemical properties of water systems to the organisms they support. We will also address the global social, economic and political roles of water in a rapidly growing population.

**INTRODUCTION TO ASTRONOMY – COLLEGE PREP or HONORS**

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<tr>
<td>#4107</td>
<td>Introduction to Astronomy</td>
<td>.33</td>
<td>Term course</td>
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<tr>
<td>#4108</td>
<td>Introduction to Astronomy (Honors)</td>
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<td>Term course</td>
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Prerequisite: Foundations of Scientific Inquiry

For years people have looked to the heavens in wonder. This class will introduce and explain close to home astronomical topics like Earth and Moon’s place in the solar system and how that affects us all the way through to topics like galaxy formation. The class will include discussions on telescopes, the Solar System, stellar evolution, galaxy structure and exotic phenomena like black holes and dark matter. Students desiring to take honors level course should have a genuine desire to learn at a faster pace and study material in more depth.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE – COLLEGE PREP or HONORS**

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<tr>
<td>#4109</td>
<td>Environmental Science</td>
<td>.33</td>
<td>Term course</td>
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<tr>
<td>#4110</td>
<td>Environmental Science (Honors)</td>
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<td>Term course</td>
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Prerequisite: Foundations of Scientific Inquiry

This course will cover ecological principles and how humans have impacted them. Topics for investigation will include ecosystem analysis, population studies and biomes. This class will put all of the knowledge gained in prior science courses together to look at the big picture. Emphasis on problems in the environment will include land use, pollution and energy conservation. Students desiring to take honors level course should have a genuine desire to learn at a faster pace and study material in more depth.
From the very first pages of Genesis, we see that God has charged humanity with being stewards of creation. Drawing deeply from both the theological and scientific disciplines we will explore exactly what that means. What is our role in creation? How do we live in our world in a way that is as sustainable as it is holy? This course will explore the ways we can answer those questions and many others as we look how best to embrace and honor God’s call.

FORENSIC SCIENCE – COLLEGE PREP
#4031 Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Biology CP or Biology 1 IB/honors (previously or concurrently)

This elective class may be taken as a yearlong course or by terms. One term will be deal with Introduction to Forensics, one term will focus on Investigations in Forensics and one term will emphasize Medical and Cyber Forensics. For more details on each class, please see the course description below the individual course listings. Students who sign up for this yearlong course should not also request one of the term components as an elective.

Forensic Science is the application of scientific principles and techniques to matters of criminal justice especially as relating to the collection, examination, and analysis of physical evidence. This course will be use investigative skills, along with critical thinking skills, to examine and analyze various materials and specimens. It will include areas of science related to physics, chemistry, biology, and environmental. Methodology utilized in forensics will be done with lab activities for the hands-on approach to understanding this field.

INTRODUCTION TO FORENSICS – COLLEGE PREP
#4123 Junior, Senior 0.33 credit Term Course

Prerequisite: Biology CP or Biology 1 IB/honors (previously or concurrently)

This term course will focus on an introduction to the field of forensics, the laws involved, the different types of evidence, and the analysis of the crime scene with a focus on fingerprints, hairs, and fibers.

INVESTIGATIONS IN FORENSICS – COLLEGE PREP
#4125 Junior, Senior 0.33 credit Term Course

Prerequisite: Biology CP or Biology 1 IB/honors (previously or concurrently)

This term course will focus on forensics with the investigations of drugs, trace evidence, soil, glass, firearms, tool marks, impressions, documents, and handwriting.

MEDICAL AND CYBER FORENSICS – COLLEGE PREP
#4127 Junior, Senior 0.33 credit Term Course

Prerequisite: Biology CP or Biology 1 IB/honors (previously or concurrently)

This term course will focus on forensics with the analysis of forensic entomology, blood, DNA, human remains, and cybercrime.

ENGINEERING

INTRODUCTION TO MODERN ENGINEERING – COLLEGE PREP
#4201 Sophomore, Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Foundations of Scientific Inquiry

This elective class may be taken as a yearlong course or by terms. One term will focus on The Design Process, one term will deal with Engineering Disciplines, and one term involves students in Capstone Design. For more details on each class, please see the course description below the individual course listings. Students who sign up for this yearlong course should not also request one of the term components as an elective.
INTRODUCTION TO MODERN ENGINEERING (BY TERMS) (#4203, #4205, #4207)

INTRO TO MODERN ENGINEERING: THE DESIGN PROCESS – COLLEGE PREP
#4203 Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term Course

Prerequisite: Foundations of Scientific Inquiry

This term course will introduce students to a scientific and methodical approach to solving problems. Utilizing engineering principles over a wide range of challenge-based tasks, students will build fundamental skills applicable to all facets of human involvement within modern society.

INTRO TO MODERN ENGINEERING: ENGINEERING DISCIPLINES – COLLEGE PREP
#4205 Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term Course

Prerequisite: Intro to Modern Engineering: The Design Process

This term course will continue constructing skills developed in the first term study by providing opportunities to expand knowledge of the major engineering disciplines. Students will research and experience project-based tasks centered on Mechanical, Chemical, Electrical and Civil Engineering. Experienced members of our Erie engineering community will provide in-class lectures as well as on-site visits to several engineering facilities.

INTRO TO MODERN ENGINEERING: CAPSTONE DESIGN – COLLEGE PREP
#4207 Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term Course

Prerequisite: Intro to Modern Engineering: The Design Process & Engineering Disciplines

This term course will finalize the engineering trifecta by providing the students an opportunity to research and develop their own design project. This term-long project will be centered on improving Mercyhurst Preparatory School in some way. A strong focus of 3D modeling or CAD design will be used to implement and create physical components of this project. A well-documented design journal will highlight all steps taken during the design process. The final design will be presented to a board of faculty members for evaluation.
The Social Studies department provides an interdisciplinary approach to the social sciences, emphasizing global education. The major goal of the department is to help our students develop the values, the knowledge, and the skills that they need to become productive, proactive, and concerned citizens of the 21st century. Four years of social studies core curriculum courses are required for graduation. (Seniors who qualify may fulfill the fourth year requirement by taking a social studies course at the college.) Students also are encouraged to take additional electives to broaden their knowledge in the field of social studies.

Term Electives: Anthropology, Sports and Society, Non-Western Art History, World War II, Nazi Germany, Hollywood and History, The Vietnam Era, America in the Nuclear Age, Model UN, Global Perspectives, and Speech and Debate

GLOBAL STUDIES – COLLEGE PREP

This course is designed to provide the students with an awareness of and appreciation for the issues that our global community faces in the 21st century and for the cultural diversity that exists in our world today. Students will examine the major social, political, geographical, and economic questions of the day and study major cultural regions of our global community. Regions of study include Europe, the Middle East, East Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa. (Core curriculum)
GLOBAL STUDIES—HONORS/MPS PRE-IB
#2024 Freshman 1.00 credit Yearlong

This course is designed to provide the students with an awareness of and appreciation for the issues that our global community faces in the 21st century and for the cultural diversity that exists in our world today. Students will examine the major social, political, geographical, and economic questions of the day and study major cultural regions of our global community. Regions of study include Europe, the Middle East, East Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa. The honors course will also feature an examination of geopolitics and how the world’s states interact with one another. (Core curriculum)

GOVERNMENT/ECONOMICS—COLLEGE PREP
#2003 Sophomore 1.00 credit Yearlong

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a basic understanding of the fundamental principles of our country’s political and economic systems. Substantial class time will be devoted to the development of the students’ understanding of how our government works, the options available to them as United States citizens to be active participants in the political process, and the effects that economics has on their lives. (Core curriculum)

GOVERNMENT/ECONOMICS—HONORS/MPS PRE-IB
#2004 Sophomore 1.00 credit Yearlong

This course is designed to provide the students with an in depth study of the fundamental principles of our country’s political and economic systems. The class will trace the development of democracy from its historical roots to its application in today’s world. The students will receive a broad view of the people and events that have contributed to the formation and smooth operation of government. The class will analyze the capitalist system with emphasis on evaluating its strengths and weaknesses. The goal is to produce students who will be active and informed global citizens. (Core curriculum)

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS—COLLEGE PREP
#2005 Junior 1.00 credit Yearlong

The Americas course is designed to act as a survey of the history of the Americas from the Great Awakening through Pre-Great War. Utilizing a thematic approach, the students will examine the major events of each era for their political, social, and historic importance. (Core curriculum)

THE 20th CENTURY—HONORS/IB STANDARD LEVEL
#2020 Junior 1.00 credit Yearlong

This course is the first part of a two year sequence that prepares students for the standard level history IB exam. Students will examine the topics of conflict and intervention as they shaped 20th century history in different regions of the world. Topics to be studied include the causes and effects of World War I and World War II. There will be particular focus on how authoritarian leaders impacted the events of the 20th Century. Students will also examine how the Cold War impacted Latin America.

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS—HONORS/IB HIGHER LEVEL
#2016 Junior 1.00 credit Yearlong

The Americas IB regional option covers the United States, Canada and Latin America, including the Caribbean. The option extends from the mid- 18th century to 1945. Students will study the key political, social, economic, and cultural events and themes that have had an impact on the Americas. Some of these topics include achievements of independence, slavery and its effects, evolution and changes in governments, causes and effects of the great depression, different paths to and effects of industrialization, and foreign policy of the region. Several themes and a wide range of events in more than one country will be studied. (Core curriculum for IB students)
INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY – COLLEGE PREP  
#2007  Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

Prerequisite: All core curriculum requirements must be met.

This survey course will introduce students to the history, science, and theories of psychology. Areas studied include physiology and philosophy of mind; states of consciousness; developmental processes; methods of learning, remembering, and testing; personality theories and therapies; mental and behavioral disorders. Written reports and projects are an integral part of this course as well as research and experiments involving the formation and testing of hypotheses and the analysis and reporting of results.

MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY – COLLEGE PREP  
#2009  Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

Prerequisite: All core curriculum requirements must be met.

This course is a survey of the crucial events that have shaped United States history during the second half of the 20th century and a study of those events which will play a defining role in shaping the destiny of the nation as it moves through the 21st century. Discussion and the application of critical thinking skills will play key roles in the activities designed for this course.

20TH CENTURY WORLD HISTORY – HONORS/IB STANDARD LEVEL  
#2022  Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

This course will cover the major events, individuals, and issues which shaped the 20th Century. Focus will be on analysis of the military expansion from 1931 to 1941 which led to global war. The origins, ideology, form of government, organization, and impact of single-party states will be a major focus of the course. A detailed study of Hitler’s Nazi Germany and Fidel Castro’s Cuba will allow for comparison and debate. A study of the Cold War from its origins to its significance will be examined in order to promote an international perspective and understanding of world affairs during this era. Students who decide to sit for the IB standard level history exam will complete an individually designed and researched guided coursework project.

WORLD HISTORY – HONORS/IB HIGHER LEVEL  
#2018  Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

This course will cover the major events, individuals, and issues which shaped the 20th Century. Focus will be on analysis of the military expansion from 1931 to 1941 which led to global war. The origins, ideology, form of government, organization, and impact of single-party states will be a major focus of the course. A detailed study of Hitler’s Nazi Germany and Fidel Castro’s Cuba will allow for comparison and debate. A study of the Cold War from its origins to its significance will be examined in order to promote an international perspective and understanding of world affairs during this era. Students will complete an individually designed and researched guided coursework project.

A deposit on the IB exam fee is required for registration.

ART HISTORY-COLLEGE PREP or HONORS/IB STANDARD LEVEL  
#6031 College Prep  Sophomore, Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong  
#6032 Honors/IB-SL  Sophomore, Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

Students will view slides and films and receive background information on the important movements and periods throughout art history. The course is designed to familiarize the student with artists and their works in order to foster a greater appreciation of the arts. Core sequence covers Prehistoric to Medieval, Renaissance to Baroque, and Neoclassic through 20th century. This course may be taken for a credit in art or as an elective in history, but does not supplant core social studies curriculum requirements. Students enrolled in the honors course will be assigned extended essays on tests, three additional reading selections, and a paper/oral presentation is required.
ANTHROPOLOGY AND THE HUMAN CAREER - COLLEGE PREP
#2503 Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

This course is designed as an introduction to the field of anthropology - the study of human origins and development and the rise of culture. It will focus on some of the basic questions and trends in archaeology and anthropology including human origins, gatherer/hunter cultures, and origins of agriculture, the rise of the state and the collapse of civilization. Also addressed will be some basic concepts in physical anthropology. The Classic Maya civilization will be used as a case study for how physical anthropology, archaeology and cultural anthropology can be used to gain a better understanding of a culture.

ART HISTORY II: NON-WESTERN ART TRADITIONS - COLLEGE PREP
#6033 Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

This course is designed to expand the students’ awareness of the arts and cultures of the non-Western world. During the term the focus will be on East Asian cultures (China, Japan), India, the Islamic world, Africa and Pre-Columbian America. Among the topics addressed in this class will be issues concerning cultural property, art theft, forgery and other problems relating to the arts of cultures covered in class. Students do not need to have taken Art History prior to this class.

THE RENAISSANCE - COLLEGE PREP
#6035 Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

This artist didn’t bathe or change his clothes for months at a time, but he created some of the most beautiful images in art. This pope murdered his political rivals to consolidate his power and advance the careers of his illegitimate children. This woman was so brilliant and charming that her death caused the city of Rome to close for a week for her funeral. This poet inspired by the death of his “true love” would pen one of the greatest literary works of all time. What do these people have in common? They lived in one of the most dynamic times of human history—the Renaissance. Experience the heights and the darkest depths of this most fascinating period in time.

SPORTS AND SOCIETY - COLLEGE PREP
#2511 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

This term course is designed to provide the students with an in-depth study of the role sports have played in the development of human culture. The class will examine the historical and cultural events and patterns that led to the growth of sports participation and significance. Particular emphasis will be placed on how sports influence culture, on sport as a symbol of nationalism, on the rise and fall of sports icons, and on the significance of the growth of women’s participation. The students also will learn how sports became enmeshed with the entertainment and business worlds. Each of these topics will be examined through the study of the history and development of sports such as football, baseball, basketball, soccer, hockey, and track and field. Finally, the course will look at what value sports bring to a society and where the evolution of sports is going in the future.

WORLD WAR II - COLLEGE PREP
#2513 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

This course seeks to put the Second World War into the context of world and military history with a special emphasis on U.S. participation and the campaigns of the war. Topics covered include the economic and political causes of the war; military weaponry and doctrine and their development throughout the war; social and cultural implications; significant air, sea, and land campaigns of the war; the aftermath and consequences of the war; and perspectives on the meaning and place of World War II in history and in our lives today.

HOLLYWOOD AND HISTORY - COLLEGE PREP
#2515 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

Does Hollywood tell the truth? Are your favorite movies accurate? How much creative license do directors take? Learn the answers to these questions and much more as we journey through history as it is portrayed in the movies.

NAZI GERMANY – COLLEGE PREP
#2523 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term Course

Did you ever wonder how a well-educated society could support Adolf Hitler’s rise to power? Did you know that Time magazine made Hitler the Man of the Year in 1938? Was the key to Nazi power based on force and fear or were other factors more important? The Nazis were beneficiaries of the conditions that began with the end of World War I and the Treaty of Versailles. However, the Nazis used a variety of methods to win the support of the majority of the German people. Once in power the Nazis attempted to create a totalitarian society that would lead the nation to start the most devastating war in the history of mankind.
The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 shattered America’s sense of invulnerability. Three thousand Americans died that morning. The world awoke to horrific images of planes smashing into buildings and debris clouds sweeping down Manhattan streets. In the months following, the U.S. began an exhaustive hunt for Osama Bin Laden and his accomplices. From the rugged mountains of Afghanistan to the posh capitals of Europe, the U.S. military, CIA, or Special Forces killed and captured Al Qaeda members. This class will explore the history, people, and circumstances that led to the 9/11 attack; the events of September 11, 2001; and the United States’ hunt for Osama Bin Laden. The class culminates with an analysis of the infamous 2011 Seal Team Six raid on Bin Laden’s Pakistani compound.

Global Perspectives is a term course designed for students in their junior and/or senior years to research, examine, discuss, and reflect upon a wide variety of global current events and issues as they are presented in the news (ex: maintaining international peace and security, protecting human rights, providing economic and military assistance, and protecting the environment). Conducted in a seminar setting, perspectives on these topics will be looked at from the reporting of credible news organizations from the United States and other countries throughout the world such as China, Russia, and Great Britain. These issues will be further examined on a more in-depth level through discussions and research in the classroom to better achieve a global understanding and world view. Knowledge of issues, research, and participation will be the key points assessed throughout the course.

This course is designed specifically to prepare students to participate in at least one or two Model UN conferences during the academic year. At these conferences, students will represent diplomats from a foreign country in a simulation of UN committee meetings. In these committee meetings, “diplomats” representing countries around the world will write formal resolutions in an effort to address a wide variety of global problems. Emphasis is placed on the development of the student’s writing, research and speaking skills, which are essential to effective performance at a Model UN Conference.

This course focuses on the relationships between culture, politics, and fear stemming from the growing threat of atomic war during the Cold War. A variety of materials will be used, including music, television, film, literature, and poetry, to investigate the role “The Bomb” played in the lives of ordinary Americans. In addition to culture, the class will explore the tense political relationship between America and its Cold War foe, the Soviet Union, to give context to the cultural artifacts of the Nuclear Age.
The technology department strives to provide students with the opportunity to thrive in a complex digital world. It is our goal to help students develop skills in the analysis, evaluation, and application of the digital tools at their disposal. They will use these skills in all areas of their studies. The course program fosters innovation, creativity, the responsible use of social media, and the ethical gathering and use of information. All registered students have access to Office 365, which allows them to download the Microsoft Office Suite free on up to five devices, including home computers, iPads, and smartphones.

**MICROSOFT OFFICE: INTRODUCTORY CONCEPTS AND TECHNIQUES - COLLEGE PREP**

#3533  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course

Do you want to save time by learning how to construct a research paper for your English or Social Studies classes or how to prepare a chart for a lab report? The Microsoft Office course will teach you the skills to accomplish these tasks. This course introduces students to the new generation of Microsoft Office which uses features that are specifically designed to engage students, improve retention, and prepare them for future success. A step-by-step, screen-by-screen approach encourages students to expand their understanding of the Microsoft Office software through experimentation, exploration, and planning ahead. The course prepares students to become more capable software users by requiring them to use critical thinking and problem-solving skills to create real-life documents.

**ADVANCED COMPUTER APPLICATIONS - COLLEGE PREP**

#3551  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course

Prerequisite: Microsoft Office: Introductory Concepts and Techniques

Do you want to go beyond the basics of MS Office and learn skills that will allow you to efficiently produce high-quality, effective, sophisticated documents? Then this is the course for you. This comprehensive word processing, spreadsheet, and digital presentation course is designed to allow students to develop technology skills needed in all areas of their lives. The course builds on the introductory concepts and techniques learned in the Microsoft Office course and encourages independent study in meeting the following objectives: incorporating tables, charts, and graphics into a Word document; generating form letters, learning to work with a master document; creating indices, and tables of contents. Keynote, PowerPoint, Prezi – what’s the best tool for your project? Students will learn how to create presentations using innovative applications. In addition, they will develop skill in determining the best digital tool for the task and how to apply their knowledge to authentic learning experiences.

Do you need to organize data for a class into lists and then summarize, compare, and present your data graphically? This course builds on the introductory concepts and techniques learned in the Microsoft Office course and encourages independent study in meeting the following objectives: performing What-If analysis, charting, and working with large worksheets; using statistical and financial functions, data tables, and hyperlinks; creating, sorting and querying a worksheet database.

**PHOTOSHOP - COLLEGE PREP**

#3519  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course

Prerequisite: Microsoft Office: Introductory Concepts and Techniques

This is an introductory course to Adobe Photoshop. This class offers creative projects, concise instructions, and complete coverage of basic to advanced Photoshop skills, helping you to create polished and professional-looking artwork. In this course you will learn many skills, including how to work with layers, make selections, adjust color techniques, use paint tools, work with filters, transform type, liquify an image, annotate and automate a Photoshop document, and create Photoshop images for the web.
MODERN CODING/WEB DEVELOPMENT – COLLEGE PREP
#3545 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

“Everybody in this country should learn how to program . . . because it teaches you how to think.” Steve Jobs. Learn how to make your device do what you want it to do as you engage in a hands-on creative development process to code applications. This course develops skills in web development, programming, logical thinking, and problem solving and allows you to make your innovative ideas a reality.

STOP ANIMATION – COLLEGE PREP
#6041 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term Course

Prerequisite: Art Foundations

This is a class designed to introduce the student to the art of stop animation. Various media will be used to produce a series of short animated films. The student will work through a creative process including: storyboard production and development, character creation, sound editing, and final editing. The iPad will act as the primary technology for filming and editing. Art Foundations is a pre-requisite for the Stop Animation class.

INTRO TO MEDIA PRODUCTION
#3542 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term Course

This course is intended to provide students with the ability to create, produce, and effectively work with a variety of production tools for writing, media collection/organization, production, and delivery methods. Students will work as team members on a number of media projects from conception to completion. Projects may include video game production, digital musical composition, promotional campaigns, and social media projects.

INTRODUCTION TO 3D PRINTING AND DESIGN
#3547 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term Course

This introductory course gives students the basics of 3D printing and design. Combining lectures and class discussions along with exciting hands-on projects, students will gain the theoretical and practical knowledge they need to take advantage of 3D printing technology in the real world. By making abstract concepts tangible and real, 3D printing can help students improve their comprehension and motivate them to integrate 3D printing into other areas of their course of study.

INTRODUCTION TO ROBOTICS
#3549 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term Course

Are you interested in science and technology? If the answer is yes, then this class is for you. Students enrolled in this course will be introduced to basic programming and problem solving strategies. Students will work individually and in groups to construct robots using LEGO MINDSTORM EV3 kits and program them to perform real-world tasks. This class is for the student who wants to bring learning to life!

ELECTIVE BUSINESS COURSES

THESE ARE NOT MATH COURSES AND DO NOT FULFILL THE MATHEMATICS GRADUATION REQUIREMENT.

PRINCIPLES OF ACCOUNTING - COLLEGE PREP
#3701 Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Do you have aspirations of someday owning or working for a business? If so, do you want to help that business be successful? Of course you do, because a successful business translates into more money for all involved with that business, including you. Principles of Accounting is an introductory course that will help you understand the role that financial information plays in making decisions to help businesses become successful, and you will find this information valuable even if you don’t have plans to become an accountant. Topics include the accounting cycle with emphasis on analyzing, summarizing, reporting and interpreting financial information as it applies to service and merchandising businesses operated as sole proprietorships and partnerships. You will learn to prepare financial statements, which are the tools of good decision making in business. Technology will be used to demonstrate current accounting procedures along with simulations and worksheets to provide needed hands-on experience that will enhance the learning process.
YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE - COLLEGE PREP

#3703  Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

Did you know that 48% of college students have bounced checks, only 2 out of 5 college students balance their checkbooks monthly, and 67% of college students have credit cards with 71% of those carrying a balance? Why are these statistics important? On average high school graduates may earn more than $1 million dollars during their adult lives. Your Financial Future is designed to prepare high school students to make wise financial decisions in personal situations. This course helps students realize that they are already making financial decisions and shows them how their decisions affect their future. This elective class may be taken as a yearlong or by terms. In Term I financial planning will be covered, in Term II banking and credit will be explored, and Term III will cover saving and investing. For more details see the individual course descriptions below.

YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE (BY TERMS) (#3705, #3707, #3709)

FINANCIAL PLANNING - COLLEGE PREP  

#3705  Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course

This course introduces students to the concept of financial planning and provides the foundation for using personal financial planning techniques. The course will address the six steps of the financial planning process and the relationship between financial documents and money management strategies. Students will also learn how to prepare a federal tax return and how to select the best tax strategies for current and future financial and personal needs. In addition, they will learn how to create a budget and they will discuss how to protect themselves now and in the future through insurance and retirement planning.

BANKING AND CREDIT - COLLEGE PREP

#3707  Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course

This course introduces students to the variety of services available to them through the banking and credit industries along with how these services can help students meet their financial goals. Students will learn how to select and use financial services such as savings and checking accounts. In addition, students will learn the advantages and disadvantages of using consumer credit and how to avoid falling victim to the overwhelming credit crisis that plagues our country. Lastly, students will learn how using credit can help them purchase their own home by informing them of the home buying process.

SAVING AND INVESTING - COLLEGE PREP

#3709  Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course

This course introduces students to investing and how it can help them reach their financial goals. Students will learn about various investment alternatives such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds and how to obtain investment information for each. Students will then use this information to help them prepare for a savings or an investment program.

INTRO TO MARKETING

#3711  Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term Course

This course introduces students to a variety of techniques for promoting, selling, and distributing products and services. Students will explore how brands are created and maintained through research, advertising, distribution, and retailing. The course will also explore the impact of marketing on consumer behavior. Students will use a variety of technologies (computers, iPads, and social media platforms) to explore various forms of social media marketing.

ZULAMA ENTERTAINMENT TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

The Zulama online curriculum was created by educators at Carnegie Mellon University’s Entertainment Technology Center. It gives students experience with problem solving and thinking creatively-skills they need in our digital world. These courses are semester long and delivered through an online platform.

Zulama classes cost $530 each. MPS will pay 50% of the cost of the course and the student/family will pay the other 50%. For the 2020-2021 school year the total cost for the student for each course taken will be $265.

Two Zulama courses taken consecutively in the same year constitute a yearlong elective course. The duration of the first course will be from August until midterm of term II; the second course will begin at midterm of term II and conclude at the end of the school year.
EVOLUTION OF GAMES
#8570  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .50 credit Semester course
Cost: $265

Today’s professional game designers understand and implement dynamics from many different types of games in their blockbuster hits. In this course, you’ll explore ancient cultures, their games, and how they designed games using available technology.

SCREENWRITING
#8573  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .50 credit Semester course
Cost: $265

Prerequisite: Evolution of Games

Why do we cry at movies? Or cheer? Why do thrillers put us on the edge of our seats? This course will help you understand, critique, and write dramatic stories for modern media including movies, games, and television. You’ll develop skills in creative writing, awareness, provisional acting, collaborative storytelling, and creative self-confidence as you craft your own original story.

MOBILE GAME DESIGN
#8577  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .50 credit Semester course
Cost: $265

Prerequisite: Evolution of Games

It seems as if everyone has an idea for an "app" these days! In this course, you will use professional game design techniques to create playable mobile games that you can add to your game design portfolio. Using GameSalad, you will learn the fundamentals of game design, apply competition and playfulness, implement game design elements by modifying game templates from various video game genres, and debug using iterative game design.

INTRODUCTION TO GAMEMAKER™ PROGRAMMING
#8571-Semester I Sophomore, Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Two-semester course
#8572-Semester II
Cost: $265 each semester

Prerequisite: Evolution of Games

Learn the concepts taught in a college-level “Programming 101” course, but all of the projects are games! You will receive an introduction to basic programming by building two dimensional (2D) games. GameMaker™, the 2D game engine you’ll be using, is based on a scripting language that builds techniques that can be transferred to any other programming language such as Python, Java and C++. You will finish complete stand-alone executable games that can be played with friends and added to your digital portfolio.
The whole concern of doctrine and its teaching must be directed to the love that never ends. Whether something is proposed for belief, for hope or for action, the love of our Lord must always be made accessible, so that anyone can see that all the works of perfect Christian virtue spring from love and have no other objective than to arrive at love.

*Catechism of the Catholic Church, ¶ 25*

The Theology Department offers an integrated and sequential approach to faith development. A thorough understanding of Sacred Scripture is the foundation upon which all other theological inquiry is built.

Each grade level also provides a forum where students can engage in guided classroom discussions involving their personal growth and development. Identity, healthy relationships, communication skills, human sexuality, drug/alcohol use and abuse, and the quest for spiritual integrity are issues which surface and are dealt with throughout this four-year course of study.

Please note: There is mobility among College Prep, Honors, and IB Levels based on teacher and/or department recommendations.

Term Electives: Star Wars & Contemporary Myth, Atom and Eve, Christian Spirituality, Death & Dying, and MARVELous Justice
Theology has been described as “faith seeking understanding,” and this course begins the first steps of that journey. Because students arrive at MPS from various grade school experiences, many without a background in theological studies, we begin with an introduction to both philosophy and theology itself. We look at the major questions to which all human beings seek answers. Students are introduced to the elements of the Mercy charism, so important to the Sisters of Mercy whose vision animates our school. And then the Bible becomes our main text and focus of inquiry. The power and beauty of God’s word leads us into the mysteries of both the Old and New Testaments. We look to discover God’s plan of salvation and his love for humanity made manifest by Christ in his Paschal Mystery. Prayer, reflection, and the application of biblical principles to student life are encouraged. Hopefully, the student leaves this course prepared for further theological study and more ready to spiritually engage the challenges of life. This course follows Core Curriculum I. The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture and Option A: Sacred Scripture from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age.

INTRO TO THEOLOGY – COLLEGE PREP
#0020 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior 1.00 credit Yearlong

This class is designed for international students who have had little or no exposure to Christianity. We use the Bible as our principal text and learn the stories of the people of the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and of the Christian Scriptures (New Testament). We will attempt to discover why the Bible is called sacred literature and why it has had such a profound influence on the lives of so many people. Studying the Bible will help us to know better the God who is revealed in the story of salvation, especially emphasizing the person of Jesus Christ. In addition to this, attention will be given to life skills and character building with a focus on the Charism of Mercy instituted by Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. The process of discovery in this course will be based on experiential learning techniques such as journal writing, learning teams, prayer, projects, use of technology, and activities that develop awareness of our responsibilities to God, self, and others. This course corresponds to Core Curriculum I. The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture and Option A: Sacred Scripture from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age.

CATHOLIC TRADITION – COLLEGE PREP
#0003 Sophomore 1.00 credit Yearlong

The purpose of this course is to help students understand that in and through the Church they encounter the living Jesus Christ. They will be introduced to the fact that the Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by him through the Holy Spirit. The students will come to know that the Church is the living Body of Christ today. This Body has both divine and human elements. In this course, students will learn not so much about events in the life of the Church but about the sacred nature of the Church. Finally, this course is to introduce students to the Church’s social teaching. Students are to learn how Christ’s concern for others, especially the poor and needy, is present today in the Church’s social teaching and mission. As a Mercy school, we will focus on the Sisters’ Critical Concerns: women, nonviolence, responding to racism, the environment, and immigration.

This course follows Core Curriculum IV. Jesus Christ’s Mission Continues in the Church, V. Sacraments as Privileged Encounters with Jesus Christ, and Elective Option C. Living as a Disciple of Jesus Christ in Society from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age.

JUNIOR THEOLOGY

CHRISTIAN ETHICS – COLLEGE PREP
#0007 Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

This class will assist you in mastering the process of making sound moral decisions. The method employed in the course's decision-making process is critical reflection centered on Christian moral values. Students will delve into some possible future life decisions by means of small group and class discussions, as well as individual reflection. Students will be encouraged to search for personal answers to such questions as use and abuse of alcohol, premarital sex, the right to live and the right to die, and a host of equally critical contemporary ethical conflicts. There will be an extensive unit on beginning and end of life issues. Throughout this course the process is one of discovery; the end sought is moral commitment, which leads from awareness to action.

This course follows Core Curriculum VI. Life in Jesus Christ from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age.
CHRISTIAN ETHICS – HONORS
#0008 Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Junior English IB or Honors and teacher recommendation

The purpose of this course is to help students understand that it is only through Christ that they can fully live out God’s plans for their lives. Students are to learn the moral concepts and precepts that govern the lives of Christ’s disciples. Students will engage complex issues, often taken straight from contemporary news headlines, addressing topics of our day with the timeless truth of Christ and his Church.

This course follows Core Curriculum VI. Life in Jesus Christ from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ *Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age*.

PEER LEADERSHIP – COLLEGE PREP
#0009 Junior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Application process second term of sophomore year

The Peer Leadership student has been selected to participate in the class and is presumed to be in and/or moving toward an active role of leadership whether in the academic, athletic, social, or parish realms. As the student matures, this course aims to equip the individual with greater understanding and better technique for leadership at Mercyhurst Preparatory School and beyond.

The course depends on various student experiences while affording a variety of possibilities to implement the learned peer facilitator skills in practical ways. The Peer Leadership course will concentrate on four aims:

1. **Understanding self:** We will look at the students’ own growth and stages of development and their giftedness. What is hereditary, innate, and developed?

2. **Relating to others:** We will concentrate on skills in group dynamics, listening, communication, confrontation, and intervention.

3. **Nonviolent conflict resolution:** Rooted in the Gospel and the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy, we will explore nonviolent methods of resolving conflict on personal, social, and institutional levels.

4. **Responding to God:** We will grow in the understanding that our faith is the living out of our daily life in a Christian way. We are all part of the shared ministry of helping one another.

Several members of the peer leadership class will serve the school as peer mediators during their senior year. Faculty members and the administration will monitor the peer mediation process.

SENIOR THEOLOGY

SENIOR RELIGION SEMINAR - COLLEGE PREP
#0013 Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

The purpose of this course is to help students to understand the vocations of life: how Christ calls us to live. In this course, students will learn how all vocations are similar and how they differ. The course is structured around married life, single life, priestly life, and consecrated life. Students will learn what it means to live life for the benefit of others and the value in considering a vocation in service to the Christian community. The course concludes with Death and Dying in Term III (see description below.)

This course follows Option D: Responding to the Call of Jesus Christ from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ *Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age*. 
RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD – HONORS/IB STANDARD LEVEL
#0012 Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Are you curious, focused, intelligent, and an in-depth learner? Would you like to explore five of the world’s religions in a way that will help you better understand other cultures and world views? Would you like to expand your own world view? Then Religions of the World-IB is one vehicle through which you can do just that! Religions of the World-IB will explore the origin and development of Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Taoism, and Christianity, with particular in-depth emphasis on Buddhism and Judaism. During the course of the year you will enjoy movies, scriptures, articles, speakers, and field trips to holy places that will challenge your mind and your present knowledge of the said religions. IB students will be required to research and write a 1500-1800 word Investigative Study and will sit for a two-part final exam in May. The course directly corresponds to the IB syllabus, but daily connections are made to Option E: Ecumenical and Interreligious Issues from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age.

THEOLOGY ELECTIVES

DEATH AND DYING - COLLEGE PREP
#0507 Senior .33 credits Term course

This course will focus on the realities of death and the dying process. It will also examine the grieving process as it applies to all forms of human loss. Through lectures, group discussions, guest speakers, video presentations and field trips, the students will examine the practical, philosophical and theological aspects of death in our time and in our culture and cultures from the past. Final emphasis will be placed on the hope fostered by the Christian belief in resurrection.

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY – COLLEGE PREP
#0521 Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credits Term course

Prerequisite: Sacred Scripture

You’re accustomed to learning about God in Theology class. Have you ever wanted to experience God? This course will help you to come to or deepen a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. We will survey the breadth of Christian tradition, exploring the many dimensions of prayer that have nourished us over the centuries - from the love feasts of the earliest followers of the Way, to monks and medieval mystics, to the devotional and liturgical prayers of the modern Church. We will pray together the Liturgy of the Hours, explore the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet, as well as delve into meditation and contemplative prayer.

ATOM & EVE: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY LOOK AT THE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE – COLLEGE PREP
#4121 Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

From the very first pages of Genesis, we see that God has charged humanity with being stewards of creation. Drawing deeply from both the theological and scientific disciplines we will explore exactly what that means. What is our role in creation? How do we live in our world in a way that is as sustainable as it is holy? This course will explore the ways we can answer those questions and many others as we look how best to embrace and honor God’s call.

MARVELous JUSTICE: EXPLORING THE CRITICAL CONCERNS WITH A COMIC BOOK LENS-COLLEGE PREP
#0533 Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credits Term course

In an age when comic book characters continue to fill more of our cultural landscape – from the comics to movies to TV shows to cartoons to novels – this course will utilize them to explore the Sisters of Mercy’s Critical Concerns. Close readings of the comic books themselves as well as comic book films and TV shows will provide the lens through which we will discuss the Earth, Immigration, Nonviolence, Racism, and Women. As we examine the works we will consider whether or not characters like Squirrel Girl and Spider-Man can do more than entertain us. Can they in fact challenge us to make our world more just?
Using a complex, interdisciplinary approach, this team-taught course will explore George Lucas’ seminal film series for its mythic relevance in culture, both of the 1970’s and today. Drawing on the works of Joseph Campbell and the theologies of all the enduring religions, Lucas created a film, intentionally rich in theology. We will watch the film, examples from The Clone Wars and Rebels, investigate excerpts from novels and comics, and read Campbell’s classic works The Hero’s Journey, The Power of Myth, alongside Mike Klimo’s “Star Wars and Ring Theory.” Lastly, we'll invest the enhancement of myth and legend through thematic musical motifs and their ability to tell a story in and of themselves. Drawing deeply from the academic areas of theology, mythology, literary analysis, poetry, and musical scoring, we will see just how much goes into creating a galaxy far, far away.
Art is like a mirror that when held up, reveals to the viewer what it is to be human.

The arts provide one of the essential and basic languages that extend the range of communication. Through this language we express our fears, dreams, curiosities, hopes, and discoveries. Such expression is a central force in human existence. Literacy in the arts for all students centers on the idea that each of the arts functions as a tool for creative expression as well as for the development of higher order thinking and problem solving skills.

All students are required to successfully complete one (1.0) credit of creative arts. However, many colleges and universities require two (2.0) credits for admission.

All freshmen must take Art Foundations as their initial course in the visual arts unless they are Creative Arts Scholarship participants or art majors. Along with Art Foundations, additional options recommended for freshman year include Ceramics I and Photo I. Creative Arts Scholarship participants should take Drawing I as their initial course freshman year.

All sophomores are required to take one term of art appreciation or music appreciation for 1/3 credit. The yearlong art history course will also satisfy this requirement.

Students who plan to elect the arts as a college major or career choice are requested to identify themselves as ARTS MAJORS to their guidance counselors for scheduling purposes. The students should use the information below to guide them in course selections for their appropriate major.

**SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR VISUAL ARTS MAJORS:**

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<th>SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR VISUAL ARTS MAJORS</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED COURSES</th>
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<td>JUNIOR YEAR</td>
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All Art Seminar students participate in a portfolio review and prepare for an exhibit in the spring of their senior year. (Majors need to discuss course selections with Dr. Borowicz.)

**ART FOUNDATIONS - COLLEGE PREP**

#6001 Freshman .33 credit Term course

All freshmen must take Art Foundations as their initial course in the visual arts unless they are Creative Arts Scholarship participants or art majors.

This course is designed to be the introductory and recommended art class for ninth graders. The students will be introduced to the elements of art and design and will apply these principles to a variety of hands-on art projects when they learn to draw, mix colors when they paint, and make sculpture. Students will also learn about the life and works of a variety of artists throughout the term. The atmosphere in this class is more relaxed so it gives the ninth graders an opportunity to get to know each other and to make new friends.
ART APPRECIATION - COLLEGE PREP or HONORS

#6003-College Prep Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course
#6004-Honors Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

This course is a chronological survey of the history of art from man's earliest beginnings to current art trends. During the term the role of art in various cultures will be examined. The class will also explore important movements and individuals that shaped the development of western art traditions. The class will stress the relationship between art and artists and the cultures and times that produced them. Students desiring to take honors level course should have a genuine desire to learn at a faster pace and study material in more depth.

Note: All sophomores must take either the Art Appreciation or the Music Appreciation class to fulfill one-third of their arts requirement. Students may indicate a preference for one course or the other, but final assignment to either course will be based on availability and individual schedules. Students with an interest in both areas may take both art and music appreciation, thereby fulfilling an additional art requirement.

CERAMICS YEARLONG - COLLEGE PREP

#6005 Sophomore, Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Ceramics I and instructor's approval

The focus of this ceramics course is to offer the student a comprehensive study of the clay medium for one full year. Its aim is to build upon basic skills and techniques each term in order to foster more creative and advanced projects. The first term develops the skills needed for common hand building techniques and explores several decorating devices. The second term continues to hone the skills learned in the first term through creative problem solving techniques as well as a developmental study of the pottery wheel and basic wheel project. The third term is an in-depth study of the ceramic arts and includes advanced and creative hand building projects and the completion of more complicated pottery wheel projects. In addition, students explore technical, scientific aspects of glazes and other decorating devices.

CERAMICS I - COLLEGE PREP

#6007 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

Did you have Play-Doh as a kid? Then you can take this class. This course is designed to introduce the student to hand building techniques in clay such as pinch, coil, slab, and free-forming techniques. Simple glazing techniques will be covered. Clay process, terminology, and some ceramic art history are covered. You just can’t eat the clay.

CERAMICS II - COLLEGE PREP

#6009 Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

Prerequisite: Ceramics I with a B average or better

Want to learn a new skill? Don’t mind getting messy? Then give Ceramics II a try. This course is designed to further the student’s experience in hand building techniques. You will be exploring basic architectural design as well as creating human features in three dimensions. The pottery wheel is also introduced in Ceramics II with the goal of creating several forms. If you dig wearing a clay covered apron, then sign on up.

ADVANCED CERAMICS - COLLEGE PREP

#6011 Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

Prerequisite: Ceramics II with a B average or better

Sick of “easy” ceramic assignments? Advanced ceramics is geared for the experienced and dedicated ceramic student. Its focus is on development of complex hand building projects and advanced level work on the pottery wheel. Research of ceramic art history is mandatory. The study of some scientific aspects of ceramics is expected.

DRAWING I - COLLEGE PREP

#6013 & #6015 Freshman (Creative Arts Scholarship recipients or with permission after viewing a portfolio) Sophomore, Junior, Senior .66 credit Two term course

Drawing I is a two term course. Students must sign up for both #6013 and #6015.

This course will introduce beginning artists to basic concepts of drawing. The students will learn contour, calligraphic and gestural line, and there will be an emphasis on observational drawing using graphite, charcoal and ink as drawing mediums. The students will learn to use linear and atmospheric perspective in landscape drawing and correct bodily proportions when drawing the face and figure. This is a foundation course which is recommended for all students who wish to pursue a career in the visual arts or for those who simply want to learn how to draw better.
DRAWING II - COLLEGE PREP
#6017  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course

This course is designed for the student who enjoys drawing and wants to experiment with materials and techniques that use color. More intricate pen and ink techniques will also be introduced, and students will be required to keep a weekly sketchbook.

SCULPTURE-COLLEGE PREP
#6019  Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course

This course introduces students to fundamental principles of three dimensional arts. It explores papier-mâché, clay, wood, and plaster as means of expression.

PRINTMAKING I - COLLEGE PREP
#6021  Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course

Printmaking was developed in the 14th century so that artists would be able to duplicate individual works of art using a variety of materials and techniques. Printmaking I begins with an introduction to the basic printmaking techniques of monotype/monoprints, additive relief prints (collographs), subtractive relief prints (linoleum block) and one screen serigraph (one color silkscreen design on T-shirt/fabric). Students will learn the Elements of Art and Principles of Design and apply them when creating plates that will be printed multiple times. Students will also be introduced to color theory and be required to keep a sketchbook which will illustrate the creative process that begins with an idea and ends with a completed work of art.

PRINTMAKING II - COLLEGE PREP
#6027  Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course

Prerequisite: Printmaking I

In Printmaking II, students will be introduced to more advanced printmaking techniques such as intaglio (etching into a plate), two-screen serigraph (a design separated onto two screens that when printed produces a two-color print on fabric) and a four-color relief reduction print using linoleum block.

Printmaking II requires students to develop a more sophisticated approach to the creative process when developing ideas in their sketchbooks.

MIXED MEDIA - COLLEGE PREP
#6029  Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course

Prerequisite: Students must have had at least one or more of the following courses before taking Mixed Media:
  - Printmaking I
  - Drawing I
  - Photography
  - Painting
  - Art Seminar
  - Ceramics I
  - Sculpture

This course is designed for art students who will tap into knowledge acquired from previous art classes. Students will be required to do extensive research and must be willing to experiment with a variety of media while they use multiple images to create 2D and 3D works of art. This course also offers students the opportunity to develop a body of work that reflects their individual artistic voice.

JEWELRY/METAL WORKING – COLLEGE PREP
#6039  Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term Course

Prerequisite: Art Foundations

This course is opened to all students who would like to learn a variety of jewelry making techniques. Students will explore different cultures and the evolution of jewelry along with learning to use a variety of materials such as paper, sculpey clay, metal and the 3D printer to create pieces. Students will learn how to manipulate these materials to design wearable pieces.

STOP ANIMATION – COLLEGE PREP
#6041  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term Course

Prerequisite: Art Foundations

This is a class designed to introduce the student to the art of stop animation. Various media will be used to produce a series of short animated films. The student will work through a creative process including: storyboard production and development, character creation, sound editing, and final editing. The iPad will act as the primary technology for filming and editing. Art Foundations is a pre-requisite for the Stop Animation class.
INDEPENDENT STUDIO IN ART – COLLEGE PREP  (student must get permission from cooperating teacher)  
#6037  Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course  

The course is designed so that the advanced art student may further investigate techniques in a particular medium during the term when a similar class is taught using the same materials. (ex. Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, Mixed Media etc.)

PAINTING - COLLEGE PREP  
#6023  Sophomore, Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong  
Prerequisite: Drawing I

This is a course for advanced art students.

Painting is designed as a year-long course so that the art student will learn the transparent properties of watercolor in term I, acrylic painting techniques in term II and pastel drawing in term III. Students will learn and apply extensive color theory to their work and they will be required to keep a sketchbook that will hold all terms, techniques and examples of each medium that has been introduced. Students will also look at a variety of artists and movements throughout the year and have opportunities to go to local galleries and museums in order to enrich their introduction to painting. This course is a prerequisite for junior and senior Art Seminar

BEGINNING OIL PAINTING - COLLEGE PREP  
#6045  Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course  
Prerequisite: Art Foundations

This course is designed to teach the beginner painter how to use oil paints and pastels. Students learn basic techniques along with color theory. During the term, students are introduced to different artists and famous works to aid in the understanding of how the medium is used. Students will be required to keep a sketchbook for the term.

ILLUSTRATION - COLLEGE PREP  
#6047  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course  
Prerequisite: Art Foundations

This is an introductory course in the study of Illustration where students will learn basic approaches to drawing and composition as a means of storytelling. Students will be exposed to and experience the multiple facets of illustration today, such as book illustration, sequential art, editorial illustration, and character development. Both traditional media and the computer are used.

ART HISTORY - COLLEGE PREP or HONORS/IB STANDARD LEVEL.  
#6031 College Prep  Sophomore, Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong  
#6032 Honors/IB-SL  Sophomore, Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

This course will help students gain a greater understanding of the role of art in various cultures and periods in history and allow them to make connections between the arts and socio-political, historical, cultural and religious events of the times being studied. Students will view slides and films and receive background information on the important artists, movements and periods through art history. The course is designed to familiarize the student with artists and their works in order to foster a greater appreciation of the arts. Core sequence covers prehistoric to medieval in Term I, renaissance to baroque in Term II, and in Term III the neoclassic through 20th century. This course may be taken as an art credit or history elective, but all core curriculum courses must be met in social studies. Students enrolled in the honors course will be assigned extended essays on tests and two additional reading selections. Students will also be encouraged to take the IB Art History Exam. Upon completion of this course the student will be well prepared for any college level Art History or Art Appreciation course.

ART HISTORY: NON-WESTERN ART TRADITIONS - COLLEGE PREP  
#6033  Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course

This course is designed to expand the students’ awareness of the arts and cultures of the non-Western world. During the term the focus will be on East Asian cultures (China and Japan), India, the Islamic world, Africa and Pre-Columbian America. The course will also address issues concerning cultural property, art theft, forgery and other problems relating to the arts of cultures covered in class. Students do not need to have had Art History prior to this course.
THE RENAISSANCE - COLLEGE PREP
#6035 Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course
This artist didn’t bathe or change his clothes for months at a time, but he created some of the most beautiful images in art. This pope murdered his political rivals to consolidate his power and advance the careers of his illegitimate children. This woman was so brilliant and charming that her death caused the city of Rome to close for a week for her funeral. This poet inspired by the death of his “true love” would pen one of the greatest literary works of all time. What do these people have in common? They lived in one of the most dynamic times of human history…the Renaissance. Experience the heights and the darkest depths of this most fascinating period in time.

ART SEMINAR - HONORS/IB STANDARD or HIGHER LEVEL
#6036 Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong
Prerequisite: Instructor’s approval
Art Seminar is offered for the serious art student who is contemplating art as a career and for International Baccalaureate art candidates. This is the most advanced studio course offered in the Visual Arts Department. Students will use all of the skills that they have developed to date and take them to the next level in order to build their portfolios in preparation for college. The process of creating art will be a main focus of this class with students developing personal approaches to problem solving through the use of a sketch/research workbook. In senior year, students will participate in the IB Exhibition and interview process. The best student-artists in the school come together in this class to help each other grow as artists. Students must have instructor's permission for admittance.

YEARBOOK - COLLEGE PREP
#6203 & #6205 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .66 credits Two term course
Yearbook is a two term course. Students must sign up for both #6203 and #6205.
Prerequisite: Students will gain admittance by application and interview by the adviser.
Make memories that last a life time by creating the most treasured high school publication. Students will design and lay out the school yearbook during terms 2 and 3. Skills developed during the year involve photography, computer, layout, copy writing, and commercial art techniques. Students will work with state-of-the-art computers and programs.

PHOTO I - COLLEGE PREP
#6209 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course
In this art course, students will learn how to use a 35mm film camera. Students have the opportunity to develop their own black and white film, and enlarge their own photographs. Topics include: basic and experimental darkroom techniques, digital manipulation and how to incorporate traditional art media. Students will also study significant photographers in history. All of the camera techniques learned in this course can be applied to the most advanced digital cameras.

PHOTO II - COLLEGE PREP
#6211 Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course
Prerequisite: Photo I
This course is designed to meet the needs of students who wish to learn advanced techniques in photography. Students will build upon skills learned in the introductory photography course. Topics may include: documentary photography (photojournalism), studio photography (portrait lighting techniques), how to build strong compositions, operation of a DSLR (digital single lens reflex) camera. Students are encouraged to develop their own personal vision and style. Students have the opportunity to submit work to competitions throughout the year.

ADVANCED PHOTOGRAPHY - COLLEGE PREP
#6213 Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course
Prerequisites: Photo I and II
Students will learn advanced technical skills in film development and manipulation, controlling natural and artificial light, perspective, and lenses. An extended photographic portfolio will be the basis for this technical exploration. To further the student’s aesthetic knowledge, an independent project on a historical or contemporary figure in photography is required. This project will be presented as a slide or PowerPoint show.
WORLD LANGUAGES

Life in a global community has heightened awareness as to the value of and the need for effective communication in two or more languages. The World Languages Department believes that everyone must be prepared to meet the challenges of a diverse and changing world. We believe that the study of world languages enhances one’s appreciation of the unique contributions of other cultures - their history, art, music, and literature. We believe that language study strengthens the understanding of one’s native language and introduces opportunities to expand one’s horizons. In addition, recent studies have shown that the study of another language improves cognitive skills and can keep the brain healthy!

**Recommended:** 3 or 4 year sequence in one language

**Required:** 2 consecutive years in one language

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**WORLD LANGUAGES**

- French I College Prep
- French I Honors/MPS Pre-IB
- French II College Prep
- French II Honors/MPS Pre-IB
- French III College Prep
- French III Honors/IB
- French IV College Prep
- French IV Honors/IB Standard Level
- Spanish I College Prep
- Spanish I Honors/MPS Pre-IB
- Spanish II College Prep
- Spanish II Honors/MPS Pre-IB
- Spanish III College Prep
- Spanish III Honors/IB
- Spanish IV College Prep
- Spanish IV Honors/IB Standard Level

Please note: There is mobility among College Prep, Honors, and IB Levels based on teacher and/or department recommendations.

**Term Electives:** Intro to Italian

**FRENCH**

French is the 2nd most commonly taught language in the world. It is the language of cuisine, fashion, architecture, theatre, arts and dance. It is spoken in 43 countries on 5 continents and is the second most used language on the internet. It is the official 2nd language of Canada and the official working language of many international organizations including the U.N., the International Red Cross, and the International Olympic Committee.
FRENCH I – COLLEGE PREP
#5001  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

This is an introductory level course, addressing the skill areas of communication: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will be introduced to basic everyday vocabulary and learn how to greet people, talk about themselves, family and friends, describe their classes, the school day, discuss food, and places in the city. They will learn grammar structures needed for conversation at this level, such as verb conjugations in the present tense, adjective agreement, asking and answering questions and using numbers to tell the date and time. Culture and traditions of the francophone world will be presented throughout the year in relation to the vocabulary topics, holidays, and current events.

FRENCH I – HONORS/MPS PRE-IB
#5002  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

Prerequisite: Student must be in an Honors/IB English class

The Honors level is designed for serious and academically motivated students who are capable of learning at an accelerated pace. Students will regularly work beyond the minimum requirements as they focus on speaking in French. This year they will learn how to greet people, talk about themselves, family and friends, describe their classes, the school day, discuss food, and places in the city. They will learn grammar structures needed for conversation at this level such, as verb conjugations in the present tense, adjective agreement, asking and answering questions and using numbers to tell the date and time. Culture and traditions of the francophone world will be presented throughout the year in relation to the vocabulary topics, holidays, and current events.

FRENCH II – COLLEGE PREP
#5003  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

Prerequisite: French I

This is a year-long course that reinforces the foundation of communication skills introduced in French I. Students will continue to strengthen their abilities in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. They will learn vocabulary for traveling and vacation time. They will be able to discuss the weather, pastimes and sports, talk about clothing, shopping and celebrations, as well as be able to describe one’s home and house chores. The course will continue to present grammar topics with emphasis on the past tense and irregular verb conjugations. Cultural readings and discussions accompany each chapter with a focus on France and its regions, Quebec, and Tahiti. Holiday celebrations, culinary specialties, and unique traditions will also be observed through variety of media.

FRENCH II – HONORS/MPS PRE-IB
#5004  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

Prerequisite: French I and teacher recommendation

The honors level is designed for serious and academically motivated language students who regularly work beyond the minimum requirements and who are capable of learning at an accelerated pace. This course reinforces the foundation of communication skills introduced in French I Honors. Students will continue to strengthen their abilities in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. They will be encouraged to speak in the target language as much as possible. They will learn vocabulary for traveling and vacation time, be able to discuss the weather, pastimes and sports, talk about clothing, shopping and celebrations, as well as describe one’s home and house chores. The course will continue to present grammar topics with emphasis on the past tense, irregular verb conjugation, and the different parts of speech: adverbs, adjectives, and object pronouns. Cultural discussions accompany each chapter with a focus on France and its regions, Quebec, and Tahiti. Holiday celebrations, culinary specialties, and unique traditions will be also observed through variety of media.

FRENCH III – COLLEGE PREP
#5005  Sophomore, Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

Prerequisite: French II and teacher recommendation

This course is designed to reinforce the grammar and vocabulary previously learned in the first two years of French, as well as introduce new topics of study. Students will learn how to describe themselves and their childhood experiences using the imperfect tense. They will learn the grammatical structures necessary to help them communicate, both in writing and speaking. Vocabulary topics include food preparation, daily routines, health care, technology, and city life. They will also begin to talk about the future and future plans. Relevant cultural readings, videos, and discussions complement each unit.
FRENCH III – HONORS/IB
#5006  Sophomore, Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

Prerequisite: French II Honors and teacher recommendation

The course is intended for students who are able to continue their language studies at an accelerated rate. The course is required for those students wishing to pursue an IB certificate in French. The focus of level III Honors courses is the acquisition of a wide range of vocabulary and the study of advanced grammar topics. The IB themes of identities, experiences, human ingenuity, social organization, and sharing the planet will be introduced. As they continue to improve their abilities in the four areas of language acquisition, students will engage in class discussions, will be exposed to various types of written text and audio files, and will produce a variety of writings. Students are expected to speak French in class.

FRENCH IV – COLLEGE PREP
#5007  Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

Prerequisite: French III and teacher recommendation

French IV will continue developing the communicative skills established through the previous three years of study. In addition to perfecting their French pronunciation and knowledge of grammatical structures, students will expand their vocabulary so that they can discuss future plans for university and work, explore environmental issues facing the world today, and take a more in-depth look at arts and leisure-time activities of the francophone world. Students will be able to read and understand material presented on these topics, watch short films and videos relevant to these topics, and be able to discuss and give their opinions about what they have read/watched.

FRENCH IV – HONORS/IB STANDARD LEVEL
#5008  Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

Prerequisite: French III IB/H and teacher recommendation

This course is the second part of the two-year sequence required of all students pursuing the IB certificate in French. The focus of the course is on language acquisition, development of language skills, and intercultural understanding. Mastery of language skills will be developed through the study and use of a range of written and spoken material, all of which relate to francophone culture. The areas of study will focus on the IB themes introduced during the previous year, including identities, experiences, human ingenuity, social organization, and sharing the planet. In preparation for the IB assessments, students will expand their listening comprehension skills and continue to study advanced grammar topics that will allow them to speak, write, and comprehend the language at a more advanced level. The class will be conducted in French.

SPANISH

Spanish is spoken in more than 20 countries, is the 4th most spoken language in the world, and is an official language of many international organizations. Most recent numbers suggest that the United States is home to 41 million native Spanish speakers, with an additional 11.6 million who are bilingual.

SPANISH I – COLLEGE PREP
#5101  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

This class is an introduction to the Spanish language stressing the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through a communicative approach. Students will learn how to greet people, talk about themselves, family and friends, describe their classes, tell what they do during the school day, and discuss pastimes and weather. They will learn grammar structures needed for conversation at this level, such as verb conjugations in the present tense, adjective agreement, asking and answering questions, and using numbers to tell the date and time. Cultural topics include holiday celebrations and information pertaining to various countries throughout the Spanish-speaking world.
SPANISH I - HONORS/MPS PRE-IB
#5102 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Student must be in an Honors/IB English class

The Honors level is designed for serious and academically motivated students who are capable of learning at an accelerated pace. Students will regularly work beyond the minimum requirements as they focus on speaking in Spanish. Students will learn how to greet people, talk about themselves, family and friends, describe their classes, tell what they do during the school day, and discuss pastimes and weather. They will learn grammatical structures needed for conversation at this level, such as verb conjugations in the present tense, adjective agreement, asking and answering questions and using numbers to tell the date and time. Cultural topics include holiday celebrations and information pertaining to various countries throughout the Spanish-speaking world.

SPANISH II – COLLEGE PREP
#5103 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Spanish I

Spanish II College Prep is a year-long course that reinforces the foundation of communication skills introduced during the previous year. Students will continue to strengthen their abilities in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. They will explore vocabulary topics such as sports, clothing, shopping, house, chores, and daily routines. The focus on grammar will extend from Spanish I in describing events in the present as well as using reflexive verbs, expressing ongoing actions in the present progressive, and concluding with an introduction to actions happening in the past. Students will continue their study of cultures of various Spanish-speaking countries around the world, with a special focus on the islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico.

SPANISH II – HONORS/MPS PRE-IB
#5104 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Spanish I and teacher recommendation

This Honors/Pre-IB course is designed for serious and academically motivated language students who regularly work beyond the minimum requirements and who are capable of learning at an accelerated pace. Students will continue to advance in the four areas of language acquisition, i.e. listening, speaking, reading and writing. They will be encouraged to speak in Spanish as much as possible. Some vocabulary topics include sports, clothing, shopping, house, chores, and daily routines. Grammar topics include stem-changing verbs, reflexive verbs, the preterite tense, and various pronouns and adjectives. This course incorporates culture pertaining to the Spanish-speaking world, with a focus on the islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico.

SPANISH III – COLLEGE PREP
#5105 Sophomore, Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Spanish II and teacher recommendation

As the students begin the year, they will continue their study of the preterite tense. Also, they will learn how to describe their childhood experiences and be able to tell what they were like as children using the imperfect tense. Vocabulary topics include ordering food at a restaurant, talking about personal health and well-being, and discussing vacations and traveling. Students will be introduced to necessary grammatical structures as they increase both written and oral abilities. Relevant cultural readings, videos, and discussions complement each unit.

SPANISH III – HONORS/IB
#5106 Sophomore, Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Spanish II Honors and teacher recommendation

The course is intended for students who are able to continue their language studies at an accelerated rate. The course is required for those students wishing to pursue an IB certificate in Spanish. The focus of level III Honors courses is the acquisition of a wide range of vocabulary and the study of advanced grammar topics. The IB themes of identities, experiences, human ingenuity, social organization, and sharing the planet will be introduced. As they continue to improve their abilities in the four areas of language acquisition, students will engage in class discussions, will be exposed to various types of written text and audio files, and will produce a variety of writings. Students are expected to speak Spanish in class.
SPANISH IV – COLLEGE PREP  
#5107  Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

Prerequisite: Spanish III and teacher recommendation

As students enter their final year of Spanish, they will be introduced to vocabulary for outdoor activities, nature, the environment, conservation and life in the city. They will also learn structures that will enable them to express their beliefs and opinions about current events and issues. They will learn how to tell what someone has or had done, give advice to others, give and receive directions and much more. Students will write several essays and prepare oral presentations. By the end of the fourth year students will have a basic command of Spanish in all four language skills: listening, talking, reading and writing.

SPANISH IV – HONORS/IB STANDARD LEVEL  
#5108  Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

Prerequisite: Spanish III IB/H and teacher recommendation

This course is the second part of the two-year sequence required of all students pursuing the IB certificate in Spanish. The focus of the course is on language acquisition, development of language skills, and intercultural understanding. Mastery of language skills will be developed through the study and use of a range of written and spoken material, all of which relate to Hispanic culture. The areas of study will focus on the IB themes introduced during the previous year, including identities, experiences, human ingenuity, social organization, and sharing the planet. In preparation for the IB assessments, students will expand their listening comprehension skills and continue to study advanced grammar topics that will allow them to speak, write, and comprehend the language at a more advanced level. The class will be conducted in Spanish.

WORLD LANGUAGE ELECTIVES

INTRODUCTION TO ITALIAN - COLLEGE PREP  
#5301  Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course

Would you like to order something at an Italian restaurant and be able to pronounce it correctly and know exactly what you are eating? Would you like to arrive at the airport in Rome and know what to do, what to say and where to go? Come and spend a term in Intro to Italian and we’ll give you the tools that you will need to comfortably get around and communicate in the land of amore! There will be an emphasis on speaking and translating in the present tense as well as on the vocabulary which will be the most useful in the area of travel. Come on...let’s go! Andiamo!
SPECIAL INTEREST COURSES

THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE-HONORS/IB (IB DIPLOMA REQUIREMENT)

#8102 Junior 1.00 credit First term of course
#8104 & 8106 Senior Two term course

Theory of Knowledge is a core element of the International Baccalaureate diploma program. This seminar is designed to promote and guide reflection on and synthesis of knowledge generated in the various academic disciplines with a particular emphasis on the students’ personal integration of knowledge into their own lives. This culminating course is an IB requirement for all diploma candidates and prospective candidates.

The course explores various areas of knowledge: mathematics, history, natural sciences, human sciences, the arts, etc. The TOK course examines how we know what we claim to know. This exploration of shared and personal knowledge connects specific areas of knowledge with the primary ways of knowing such as language, reason, emotion, sensory perception, imagination, etc. Application of the knowledge framework facilitates analysis and evaluation of knowledge questions and knowledge claims. Students should thus be able to critically explore the relationships among areas of knowledge and ways of knowing and the real-life decisions we make based upon our knowledge.

Evaluation is based heavily upon seminar preparation and participation with written assignments and oral presentations reflecting the assessment criteria set forth by IB.

Diploma candidates will also receive supervision regarding the 4,000 word extended essay based upon independent research as required by IB. While distinct from the Theory of Knowledge course curriculum, the extended essay is another core element of the IB diploma program.

STUDENTS TAKE THE COURSE FOR A TOTAL OF THREE TERMS, THE THIRD TERM OF JUNIOR YEAR AND THE FIRST AND SECOND TERMS OF SENIOR YEAR.

CAREER INTERNSHIP – COLLEGE PREP

#8207 Senior .33 credit Term course

Career internship will provide a firsthand experience with professionals in a specific career field. Its primary objective is to provide an introduction to the day-to-day roles and responsibilities of a career professional. Student expectations will include: (1) application to the internship program through the counselor, (2) an interview with and approval by the appropriate employment placement supervisor, (3) providing own transportation to and from the job site, (4) commitment to the employer every other day from 1:30-5:00 (or other approved time frame), and (5) undergoing periodic evaluations by the employment supervisor. A limited number of in-house internships are available as well. Please see your counselor for more information.

ACADEMIC DECATHLON

#8533 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

Academic Decathlon is a national scholastic competition designed to stimulate intellectual growth and encourage greater respect for knowledge. The Academic Decathlon curriculum addresses a number of national and curriculum standards and tests students of all skill levels in 10 events: economics, math, science, social science, literature, art, music, essay, speech and interview. Teams consist of nine students from each GPA category: honor (3.75-4.00), scholastic (3.00-3.749) and varsity (0.0-2.999), as well as alternates. Competitions range from local scrimmages to national contests.

This elective course is offered to help students prepare to address theme topics for the upcoming competitions. It is not required to be a member of the Academic Decathlon team. Students may elect to take the course first and/or second term. Students who can’t schedule it during the school day will meet after school on determined days.
COURSES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

INTRO TO THEOLOGY – COLLEGE PREP
#0020  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior  1.00 credit  Yearlong

This class is designed for international students who have little or no exposure to Christianity back home. We use the Bible as our principal text and learn the stories of the people of the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and of the Christian Scriptures (New Testament). We will attempt to discover why the Bible is called sacred literature and why it has had such a profound influence on the lives of so many people. Studying the Bible will help us to know better the God who is revealed in the story of salvation, especially emphasizing the person of Jesus Christ. In addition to this, attention will be given to life skills and character building with a focus on the Charism of Mercy instituted by Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. The process of discovery in this course will be based on experiential learning techniques such as journal writing, learning teams, prayer, projects, use of technology, and activities that develop awareness of our responsibilities to God, self, and others.

THE AMERICAN CULTURE - COLLEGE PREP
#8213  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course

This class is for international students during their initial year at Mercyhurst Prep. Students enroll for 1 or 2 terms based on their level of mastery of English skills related to American Culture or prior experience at an American school.

Topics covered include: orientation to MPS; food, social and etiquette skills; American holidays; intro to U.S. history; the 50 states; American art, music, sports, literature and humor.

ELL WRITING- COLLEGE PREP
#8203 (yearlong)  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  1.00 credit  Yearlong
#8204 (term)  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course

This class is for international students during their initial year at Mercyhurst Prep. Students enroll for 1-3 terms based on their level of mastery of English grammar, writing, reading comprehension and vocabulary skills.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING - COLLEGE PREP
#8215  Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior  .33 credit  Term course

This course is an individualized introduction to basic vocabulary and English comprehension for international students auditing classes at Mercyhurst Prep during the spring term.

IB MANDARIN-SELF TAUGHT –IB STANDARD LEVEL
#5211  Junior  1.00 credit  First term of course
#5214 & 5215  Senior  Two terms

This standard level course is offered to international students who are registered for the IB diploma program and who cannot complete four years of either Spanish or French. Students are required to read ten works of literature - two which were written by non-Chinese authors and eight original Chinese works. Students will work with a mentor to ensure that all IB requirements are met.

STUDENTS TAKE THE COURSE FOR A TOTAL OF THREE TERMS - THE THIRD TERM OF JUNIOR YEAR AND THE FIRST AND SECOND TERMS OF SENIOR YEAR.