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 selecting 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**
        - **Any exceptions to the above would require teacher recommendation and/or administrative approval**
    - **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 school 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 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.

MINIMUM GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Theology	4 years
English	4 years
*Math	3-4 years
Science	3 years
Social Studies	4 years
World Language	2 years
Creative Arts	4 terms
Physical Education	1 term each year
Health	3 terms
Research and Speech	1 term
Electives	12 terms

A minimum of twenty-five hours of community service is required each year.

*The class of 2026/2027/2028 are required to complete 3 math credits. The class of 2029 is required to complete 4 math credits.

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

All MPS students are encouraged to pursue the internationally-recognized IB Diploma. Alternatively, any student may earn IB certificates in individual subjects at the Standard Level or Higher Level.

I. Requirements for IB Diploma:

Students must complete subject assessments 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
- Sports, Exercise and Health Science-Standard or Higher Level

E. Mathematics (1)
- Applications and Interpretations-Standard Level
- Analysis and Approaches-Standard and/or Higher Level

F. One of the following:
- Visual Arts-Standard or Higher Level
- Religions of the World-Standard Level
- Art History-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, Activity 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.

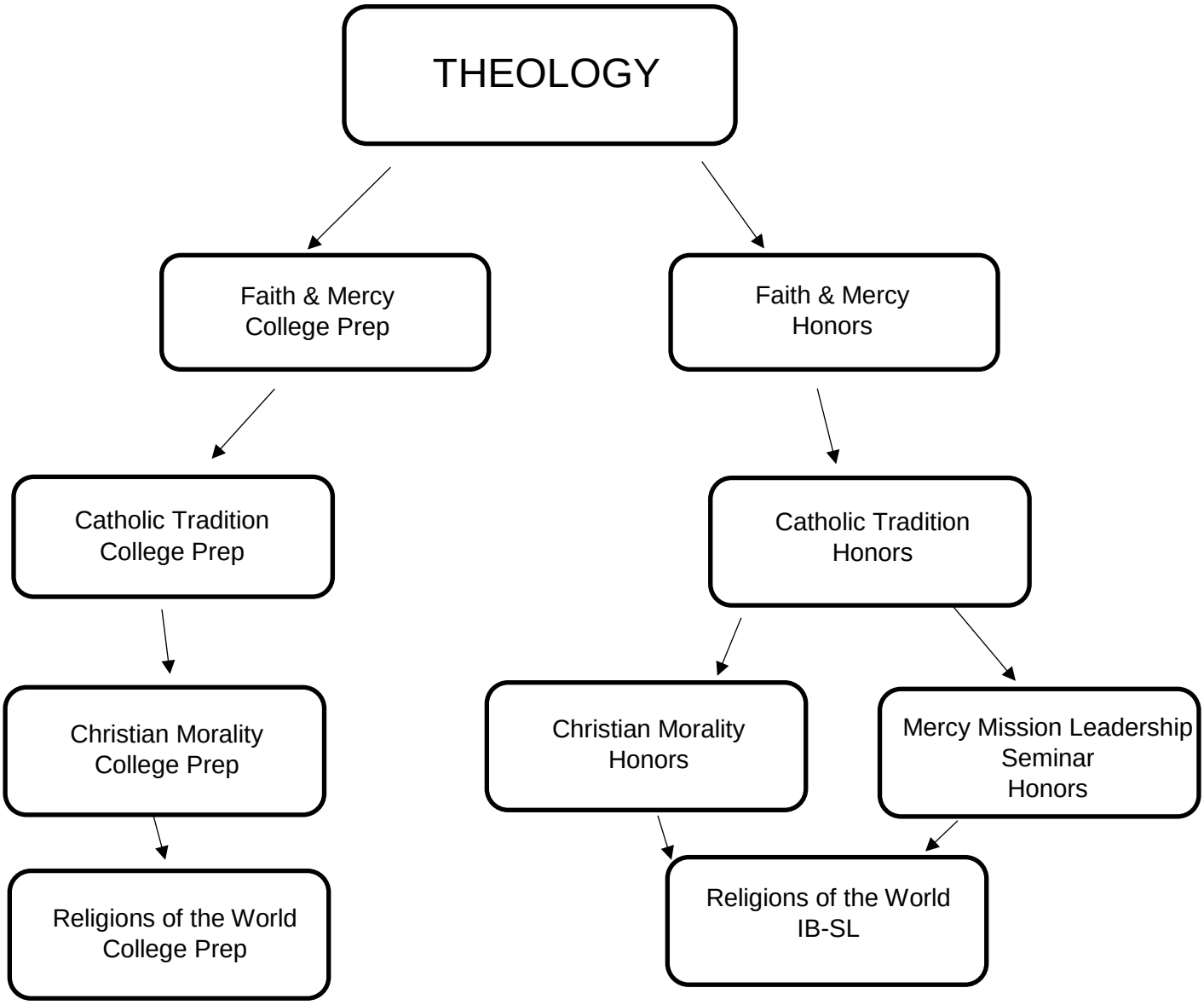
THEOLOGY

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 rooted in the Catholic Tradition. A thorough understanding of faith, revelation, and our Mercy heritage is the foundation upon which all other theological inquiry is built.

Each course also provides a forum where students can engage in guided classroom discussions involving their personal growth and development. Identity, healthy relationships, communication skills, sexuality, drug/alcohol use, and the quest for spiritual integrity are issues that surface in deep conversations 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.

FRESHMAN THEOLOGY

FAITH AND MERCY – COLLEGE PREP

#0019 Freshman 1.00 credit Yearlong

Theology has been described as "faith seeking understanding." Recognizing that students arrive at MPS from a variety of educational, cultural, and religious backgrounds, we begin our study of the Christian faith by examining the human search for meaning and purpose. From this springboard, we launch into an intensive study of the fundamental beliefs of Catholic Christianity, exploring the concept of divine revelation, the life and mission of Jesus, and the way in which the world's 1.3 billion Catholics participate in God's saving work. Throughout this course, students will reflect on their own opinions and experiences to help prepare them to engage in robust and respectful dialog in a religiously diverse world. The course concludes with a brief survey of Church history, Sacramental Theology, and Moral Theology to prepare students for their future studies at MPS.

FAITH AND MERCY – HONORS

#0018 Freshman 1.00 credit Yearlong

Concurrent with English Honors

Theology has been described as “faith seeking understanding.” Recognizing that students arrive at MPS from a variety of educational, cultural, and religious backgrounds, we begin our study of the Christian faith by examining the human search for meaning and purpose. From this springboard, we launch into an intensive study of the fundamental beliefs of Catholic Christianity, exploring the concept of divine revelation, the life and mission of Jesus, and the way in which the world’s 1.3 billion Catholics participate in God’s saving work. Throughout this course, students will reflect on their own opinions and experiences to help prepare them to engage in robust and respectful dialog in a religiously diverse world. The course concludes with a brief survey of Church history, Sacramental Theology, and Moral Theology to prepare students for their future studies at MPS.

SOPHOMORE THEOLOGY

CATHOLIC TRADITION – COLLEGE PREP

#0003 Sophomore 1.00 credit Yearlong

This course will utilize an interconnected web of studies to examine the long, rich history of the Catholic Tradition up to the present day. We will explore the New Testament, Church History, and the Sacraments. The Catholic Tradition is complex and alive. We will look deeply into how the Church lives and moves in our world to see how we can have an encounter with the living Jesus Christ in and through the Church.

CATHOLIC TRADITION – HONORS

#0004 Sophomore 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: English Honors/Pre-IB and teacher recommendation.

This course will utilize an interconnected web of studies to examine the long, rich history of the Catholic Tradition up to the present day. Students will dialogue with primary sources and each other as they explore the New Testament, Church History, and the Sacraments. The Catholic Tradition is complex and alive. We will look deeply into how the Church lives and moves in our world to see how we can have an encounter with the living Jesus Christ in and through the Church. Regular reflective essays will enable students to process their own experience of this living tradition.

JUNIOR THEOLOGY

CHRISTIAN MORALITY – COLLEGE PREP

#0021 Junior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Rooted in the Catholic moral tradition, this course explores complex questions of both personal morality and social justice. Students will learn the moral concepts and principles that govern the Christian life while reflecting on what they value most. Case studies and current events facilitate lively classroom discussions. The end sought through this critical reflection on moral issues coupled with introspection is commitment to right living in light of the Gospel.

CHRISTIAN MORALITY – HONORS

#0022 Junior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Junior English IB or Honors and teacher recommendation

Rooted in the Catholic moral tradition, this course explores complex questions of both personal morality and social justice. By considering primary sources such as papal encyclicals and the documents of Vatican II, students will learn the moral concepts and principles that govern the Christian life while reflecting on what they value most. Case studies and current events facilitate lively classroom discussions. The end sought through this critical reflection on moral issues coupled with introspection is commitment to right living in light of the Gospel.

MERCY MISSION LEADERSHIP SEMINAR - HONORS

#0028	Junior (Application Required)	1.00 credit	Yearlong

The goal of this dynamic and demanding honors-credit course is to empower inspired leaders among the Mercyhurst Prep student body at the service of their peers and future generations of Lakers. Rooted in the Mercy Education Core Values, students will embark on a process of self-discovery, dialogue, and leadership development in the context of theological studies. Commitment to one's studies is a must in this seminar format, as students will read, research, reflect, write, and dialogue with each other regularly throughout the year. Prospective students' applications will be evaluated by a committee of theology faculty, guidance staff, and administrators.

SENIOR THEOLOGY

THE ODYSSEY OF FAITH-COLLEGE PREP

#0025	Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong

Faith is a journey – a lifelong adventure that takes us through peaks and valleys as well as simply along the plain. This course will address the grounds for faith as well as the many challenges to it, intellectual as well as emotional, that confront us along the way. After a deep exploration of theism, we will move onto a consideration of Jesus as an unequalled revelation and live its implications. Those firm in their faith, those who are struggling with it, and those who believe themselves without it and are all welcome to join in this robust and respectful dialogue.

RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD – COLLEGE PREP

#0011	Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong

Building on a firm foundation in the study of Christianity, this course explores the origins and beliefs of religious traditions from every continent and era. Discover how they address the important issues of life and death, prayer and worship, and morality. Students will pay special attention to dialogue with the Catholic Church while studying the origin and development of Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, and Taoism, as well as Orthodox and Protestant Christianity.

RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD – IB STANDARD LEVEL

#0012	Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

World Religions-IB will explore the origin and development of Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Taoism, and Christianity, with in-depth emphasis on Buddhism and Judaism. During 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.

ELECTIVES IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

MINDFULNESS: PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORY AND CHRISTIAN PRACTICE – COLLEGE PREP

#0539	Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credits	Term course

"The present moment holds infinite riches beyond your wildest dreams." – Jean-Pierre de Caussade
Mindfulness is focused attention on the present moment and a proven method of treatment for mental health conditions and chronic pain. It also provides fertile ground for the spiritual life. This experiential course will introduce students to the ideas and practices of mindfulness and explore connections with Christian spiritual masters such as Saint Teresa of Avila, John the Cross, and Ignatius of Loyola.

SACRED SPACE AND TIME – COLLEGE PREP

#0541 Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credits Term course

This course explores sacred spaces and seasons of Catholic life. Delve deeply into the Church's liturgical celebrations to understand why and how we worship God. Learn the theological foundation for church architecture, tour area churches, and experience awe by taking in their beauty. Consider how ornate churches and the liturgies within them connect the Church to the poor. Students will spend several class periods with guest speakers and on field trips to understand that "the liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time, it is the font from which all power flows" (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 10).

CALLED TO HOLINESS – COLLEGE PREP

#0553 Junior, Senior .33 credits Term course

The purpose of this course is to help students to understand and live the universal call to holiness. Students will take an in depth look at the primary vocations of Christian life: marriage, priesthood, and consecrated life. Along the way, students will experience the diversity of Christian prayer and spirituality, aiding the students to discern God's call in their lives.

THE CHOSEN – COLLEGE PREP

#0554 Junior, Senior .33 credits Term course

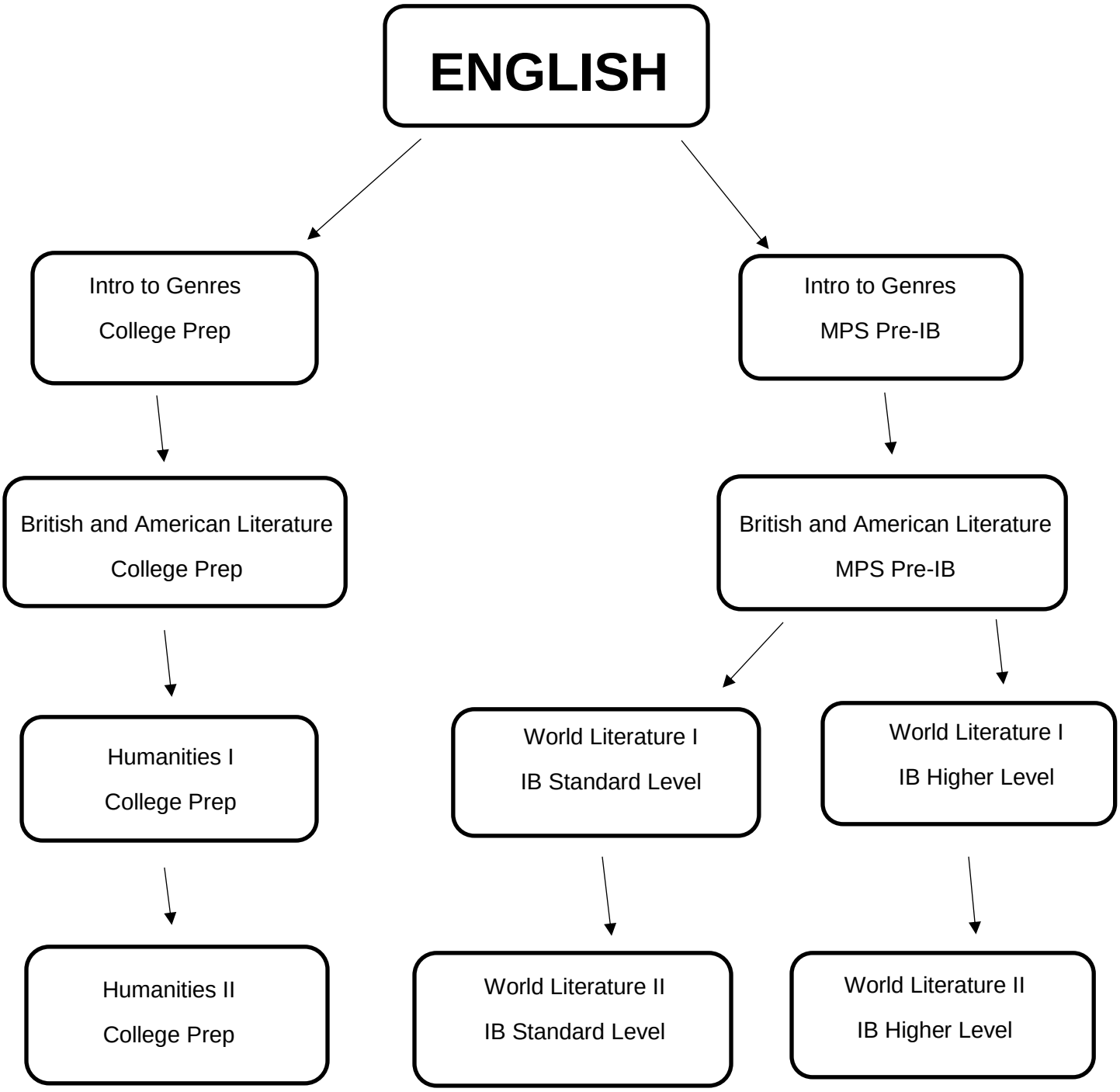
This course invites students to explore the life and mystery of Jesus Christ through the lens of *The Chosen* series. By engaging with Scripture, historical context, and selections from the series' portrayal of Christ's humanity and divinity, students will deepen their understanding of His teachings, relationships, and mission. Discussions, reflections, and creative projects will challenge students to connect faith with everyday life, fostering a personal encounter with Jesus as both transcendent Lord and intimate Friend.

ENGLISH

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 research, analytical, 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 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, can expand their world views, and promote 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 and Speech

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: short stories, novels, 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 – 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 AND SPEECH – 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. The public speaking portion will address the students' 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 by 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 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 – 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- 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 – IB HIGHER LEVEL

#1036 Junior 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 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 the IB-mandated internal assessment 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 Critical Concerns, a process begun in their 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 – 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. 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 – 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 literary works including fiction, non-fiction, drama, and poetry. 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 masterpiece 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 Ms. Stevens 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 worldwide mythologies. Designed to support the study of literature in the core English classes, this course includes individual and collaborative projects that will familiarize students with the archetypes and allusions that are omnipresent in Western culture.

COMMUNITY OF READERS – COLLEGE PREP

#1557 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term Course

What does it mean to read for enjoyment, and how do we share that joy with each other? This term elective class will explore how to engage with reading both as a fun pastime and as a method of public discourse. Students will participate in a term-long “Reading Challenge” with the goal of discovering and diversifying their taste in literature, placing an emphasis on works from the 21st century. While reading and discussing books of their choice, students will also explore vital questions about how society and individuals engage with reading. These topics include the role of book reviews and social media, public and school libraries, book banning, movie and television adaptations, and more.

GEN AI: UNDERSTANDING AND USING GENERATIVE ARTIFICAL INTELLIGENCE – COLLEGE PREP

#1559 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term Course

Explore the rapidly evolving world of Generative Artificial Intelligence and develop critical skills to become literate users of this transformative technology. Students will become familiar with the mechanisms behind Large Language Models (LLMs) and how GenAI works. While students learn to navigate academic integrity, citing GenAI, and crafting prompts, they will also critically reflect on the societal implications of this technology, including the environmental impact, effects on labor, and the potential for bias.

Prerequisite: Research and Speech

SAT PREPARATION - COLLEGE PREP

#8920 Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

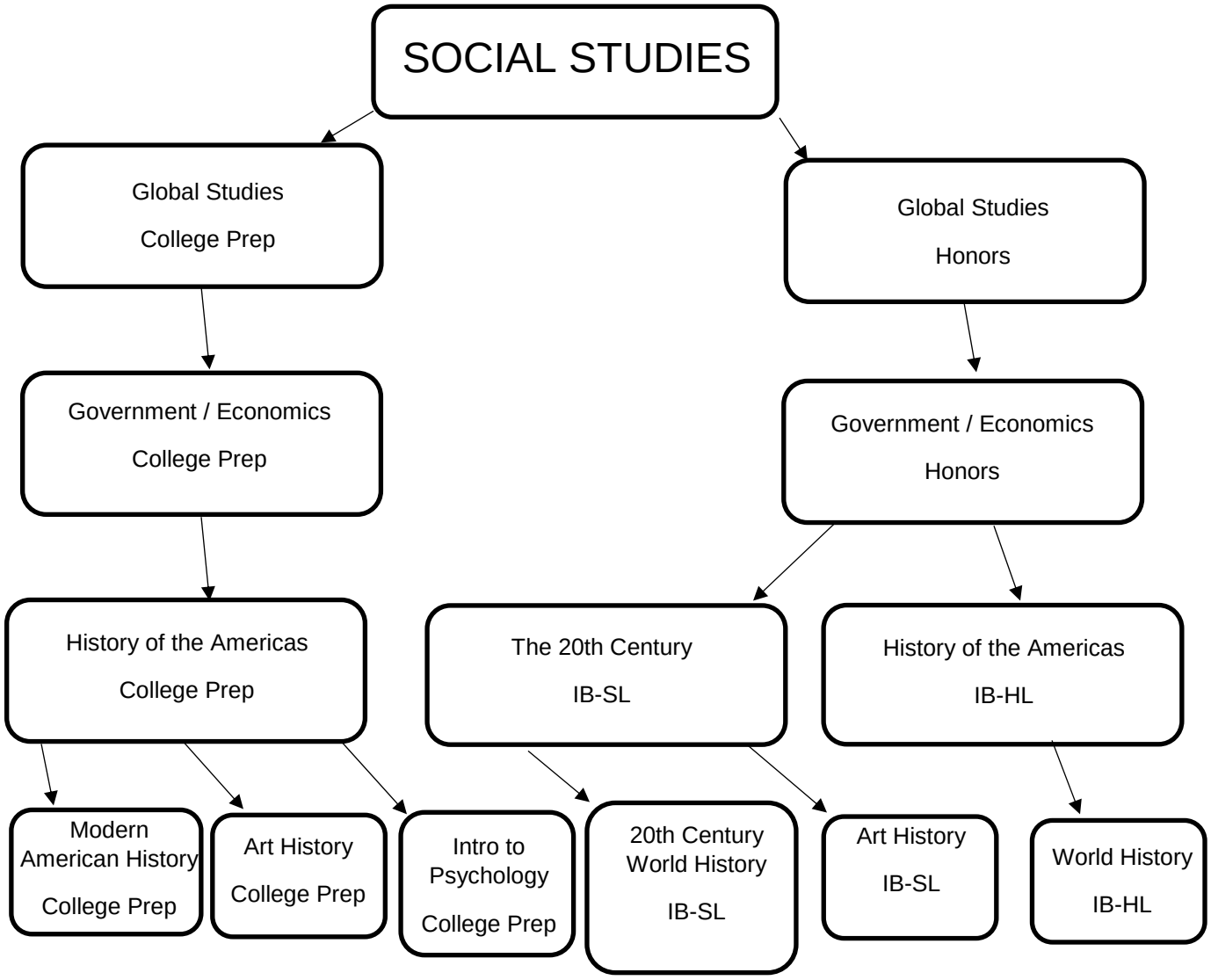
This course is designed to prepare students to take the SAT and other standardized tests for college entrance. It will familiarize students with good test taking strategies and will review math and English concepts contained in the SAT test. The course will allow students to understand how the test is 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 will have access to additional resources to help them prepare to take the digital SAT**.**

SOCIAL STUDIES

As residents of a global village our common future depends on understanding each other.

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.



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

GLOBAL STUDIES – COLLEGE PREP

#2023 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. (Core curriculum)

GLOBAL STUDIES– HONORS

#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

#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– IB-SL

#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 – IB-HL

#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)

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.

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.

2OTH CENTURY WORLD HISTORY – IB-SL

#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 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 – IB-HL

#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 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 IB-SL

#6031 College Prep	Sophomore, Junior, Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong
#6032 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 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 or HONORS

#2503	College Prep	Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course
#2504	Honors	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: NON-WESTERN ART TRADITIONS - COLLEGE PREP or HONORS

#6033	College Prep	Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course
#6034	Honors	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.

ERIE EXPERIENCE-COLLEGE PREP

#2505	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course

This course is designed to provide students with an in-depth survey of the Erie Region (city and county of Erie, Northwestern Pennsylvania, and the North Shore). The class will examine the historical development of the area from its inception up to its current condition today, the goal being to create a greater awareness of the region's heritage and culture, which will enable the students to analyze the future needs and aspirations of Erie County. This study will include historical and natural resources that have shaped the region's growth in terms of economic, political, and cultural development. *Class size will be limited to 20 students!

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 is portrayed in the movies.

HISTORY'S MYSTERIES – COLLEGE PREP

#2527	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course

Why did around 400 people in French city of Strasbourg erupt into sudden, unexplained dancing in July 1519? What happened to the "lost colony" of Roanoke in 1587? Who is the 19th century murderer known only as "Jack the Ripper"? Who was the mysterious man who donned a parachute and leapt from a Boeing 727 with $200,000 in stolen cash? These and other mysteries will be explored in "History's Mysteries." Students will choose an unsolved, historical cold case; research its history; and develop a well-written paper advancing their theory as to what may have occurred.

AMERICA IN THE NUCLEAR AGE– COLLEGE PREP

#2537	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course

Emerge from your fallout shelter and check out this class! 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

ORIGINS AND OPERATIONS OF U.S. LAW- COLLEGE PREP

#2545 Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

This course provides students with an introduction to the origins and operations of laws in the United States. It is designed to inform students about those laws, which in the future will almost certainly have an impact on their lives. This course is not designed to confer upon students the expertise in the application and execution of all or some of the laws discussed. Rather, its purpose is to create in the students a basic awareness of the laws introduced.

HISTORY THROUGH BOARD GAMES -COLLEGE PREP

#2555 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

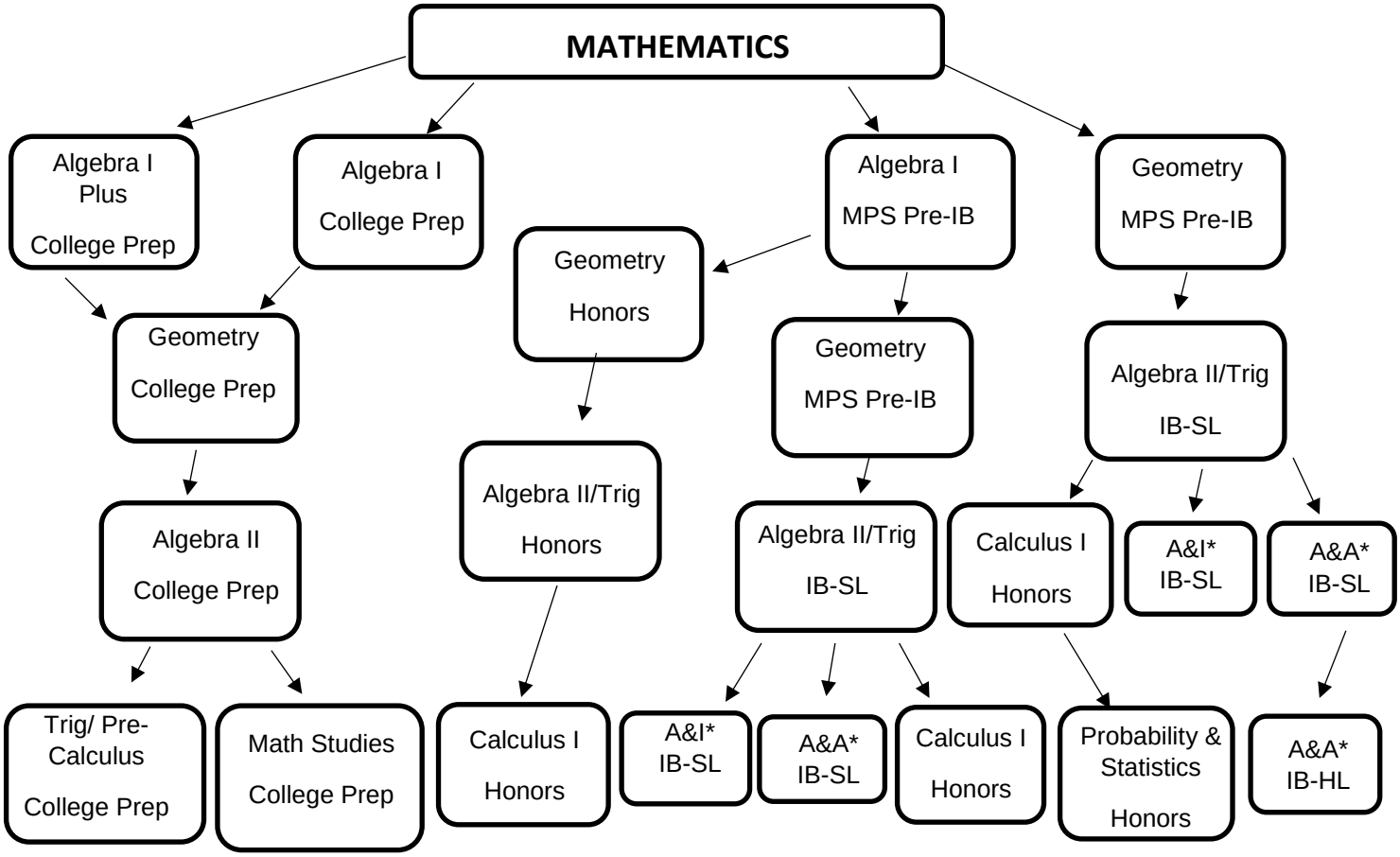
Can we learn about history through something like games? Often, learning is associated with the traditional classroom. However, game designers and players have been using tabletop board gaming as a tool to teach history as a fun, social experience. This course will examine historical topics through the lens of board games. How historical are they? What kind of history do they portray? Whether you're a novice or veteran gamer, this class will appeal to students looking for a fresh way to engage with history. Games will cover various time periods and game mechanics, so each play session will be a new experience!

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics is the alphabet with which God has written the Universe. - Galileo
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 a placement test 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.



A&I IB-SL* = IB APPLICATIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS STANDARD LEVEL
A&A IB-SL* = IB ANALYSIS AND APPROACHES STANDARARD LEVEL
A&A IB-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.

ALGEBRA I PLUS - COLLEGE PREP

#3000 Freshman 1.00 credit Yearlong

The students taking this course will meet daily and will begin with a pre-algebra refresher course. Students will spend the first term studying topics such as fractions and decimals, operations with positive and negative integers, percent, ratios and proportions, and strategies for solving word problems. The 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 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 – 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 Freshman, 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 will be 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 practice problems from past IB tests.

ALGEBRA II – COLLEGE PREP

#3013 Sophomore, 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, Senior 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 STANDARD LEVEL YEAR 1

#3016 Sophomore, Junior, Senior 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 principal 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**.**

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/Trigonometry 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 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 be required to write a mathematical exploration paper which will be submitted to IBO. This course is for a serious and dedicated student of mathematics. An IB approved graphing calculator is **REQUIRED**. A TI-84 is strongly recommended.

MATHEMATICS ELECTIVES

These courses do not count towards 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 PREPARATION - COLLEGE PREP

#8920 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 and English 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 will have access to additional resources to help them prepare to take the digital SAT**.**

ELECTIVE TECHNOLOGY COURSES

Mercyhurst Prep 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.

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.

INTRODUCTION TO 3D PRINTING AND DESIGN -COLLEGE PREP

#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 word. 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 -COLLEGE PREP

#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!

GRAPHIC DESIGN - COLLEGE PREP

#3553 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

This course is designed as an introduction to the field of Graphic Design. During the term, the students will explore this field using Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator. Our digital assignments will be geared to focus on the basic Principles of Design. Visual Art specific knowledge, including the elements of Art and Gestalt Theory will be the primary focus of our studies.

GRAPHIC DESIGN II: PRACTICAL GRAPHICS- COLLEGE PREP

#3561 Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

PREREQUISITE: GRAPHIC DESIGN

Graphic Design II is designed to provide students with a more in-depth graphic design experience utilizing Adobe Cloud. While continuing to develop Photoshop proficiency, Adobe Illustrator and InDesign will also be introduced and explored. Students will investigate topics such as typology, branding, pattern making, and generative AI for the purpose of producing publications, web posts, and advertisements. Students will work in conjunction with the MPS Marketing Department, Athletic Department, as well as various clubs and activities, to approach real-life graphic design scenarios. Students will have the chance to show their work through department-specific projects and marketing.

VIDEO PRODUCTION, EDITING AND DESIGN – COLLEGE PREP

#3555 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

The basis of this course will provide students with the opportunity to learn the art and skill of video production. This introductory class will provide all the basics needed to tell a story visually including writing, story boarding, directing, filming, and editing; along with adding basic visual effects, transitions, and credits. If you have an interest in commercials, television, film, or simply a social media or school project, this course is designed to get you started.

ELECTIVE BUSINESS COURSES

THE FOLLOWING COURSES 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 aspire to someday own or work 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 do not 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 -COLLEGE PREP

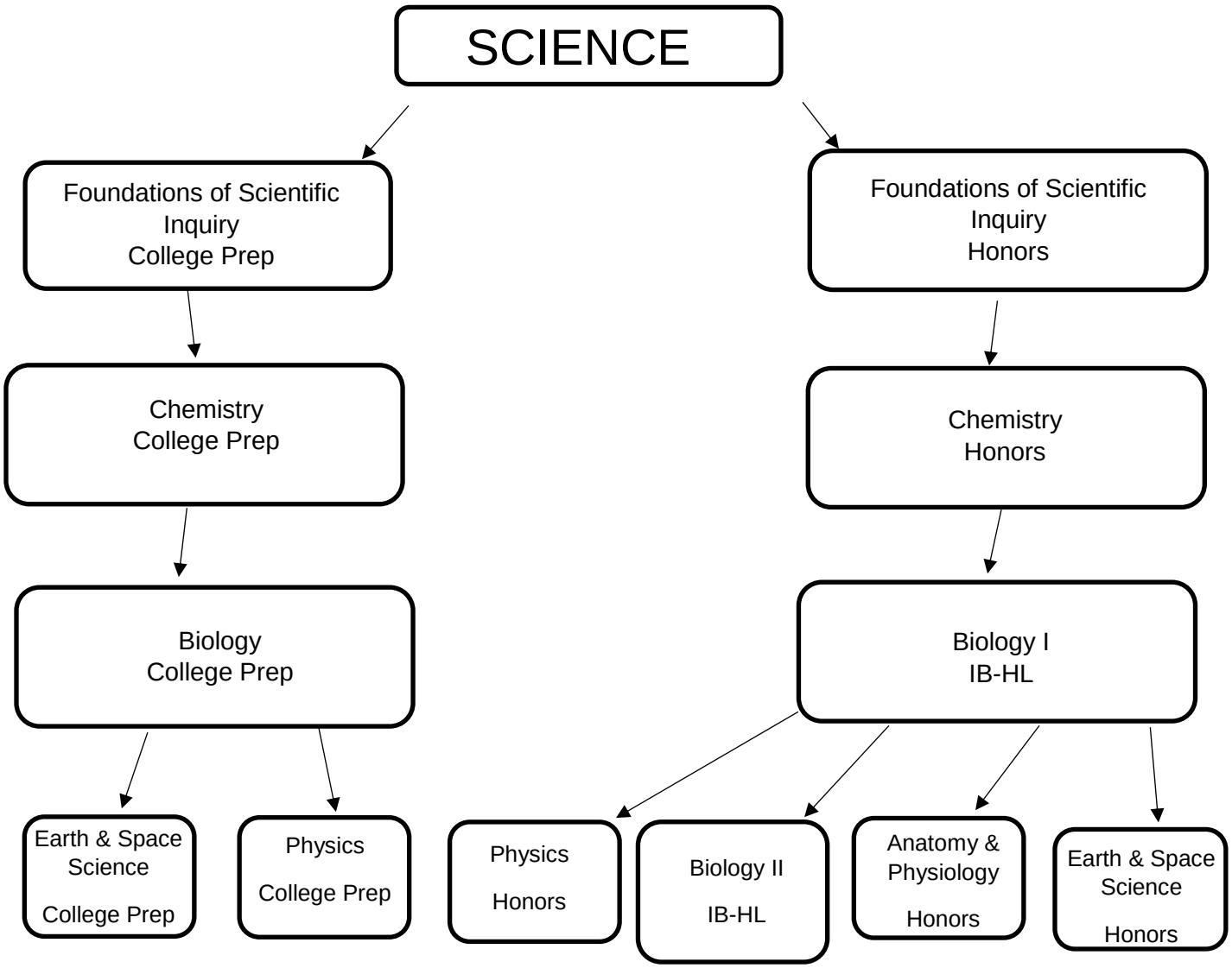
#3711 Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

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.

SCIENCE/ENGINEERING

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 the Foundations of Scientific Inquiry and Biology, and a minimum of one year in 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.

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

#4022 Freshman, Sophomore 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Honors/pre-IB algebra (can be concurrent) and MPS counselor recommendation

The study of higher-level science requires a solid 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.

INTRO TO CHEMISTRY – COLLEGE PREP

#4035 Sophomore 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Students need to get approval from their guidance counselor to take this course.

This course is designed to provide tenth grade students with a background in the physical science discipline of chemistry. It encompasses studies of thermodynamics, matter, atomic theory, bonding, chemical compounds, chemical reactions, and an introduction to carbon-chemistry. Special attention will be given to developing technical writing and honing math related skills such as measuring and data presentation. Laboratory techniques will be introduced, and lab skills will be expanded.

CHEMISTRY – COLLEGE PREP

#4003 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior 1.00 credit Yearlong

Prerequisite: Foundations of Scientific Inquiry

Since atoms make up all matter, living and non-living, 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 with the study of chemistry to prepare the student for potential 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 modeling software, spectrophotometers, and Vernier data collection equipment. They will also develop skills in the interpretation, analysis, and application of collected data to strengthen their technical writing and math skills.

CHEMISTRY I – HONORS

#4004 Freshman, 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 potential 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 modeling software, spectrophotometers, and Vernier data collection equipment. They will develop skills in the interpretation, analysis, and application of collected data to strengthen their technical writing and math skills.

BIOLOGY – COLLEGE PREP

#4007	Junior, Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong

Prerequisite: Chemistry

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 with 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. These concepts will be framed with an emphasis on the connections between structure and function.

BIOLOGY I –IB-HL

#4008	Junior, Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong

Prerequisite: Chemistry I–H and teacher recommendation.

The curriculum is based on the International Baccalaureate biology program; therefore, students must have demonstrated proficiency in prior science courses. In order to earn IB credit for biology, the second year (Biology II) must be taken after successful completion of this course. Students will apply their understanding of chemistry to the study of life from the molecular level to cells and eventually populations and ecosystems. Laboratory skills will be introduced and honed including the use of digital microscopes, Vernier sensors, modeling software, among others. Students will also dissect a selected vertebrate specimen to gain an appreciation of their own mammalian systems. This not only gives students a perspective on their own anatomy, but also provides them with a laboratory experience typical of courses at the college level.

BIOLOGY II – IB-HL

#4010	Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong

Prerequisites: Chemistry I-H, Biology I-IB, and 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 way science pursues the answers to life's questions. All course content will stress the connection between form and function across all species. A significant amount of time will be devoted to laboratory investigations and all students will complete an individual investigation of their own creation according to the guidelines for the IB required internal assessment (IA). 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) and Algebra II.
Students need approval from their current science teacher AND current math teacher.

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.

PHYSICS – HONORS

#4012	Junior, Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong

Prerequisites: Chemistry I H/IB, Biology I-H/IB (previously or concurrently), Algebra II.
Students need approval from both their current science teacher AND current math teacher.

For students interested in a scientific career in the health, engineering, or physical science fields, a solid background in physics is vital. 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.

HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY – HONORS

#4024	Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong

Prerequisite: Biology and 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 lectures 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 pursuing further study of health science at the college level.

SPORTS, EXERCISE and HEALTH SCIENCE I and II – IB-SL/HL

#4026 I SL / #4027 I HL	Junior	1.00 credit	Yearlong
#4028 II SL / #4029 II HL	Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong

Prerequisite: Foundations of Scientific Inquiry and Algebra I, as well as science and math teacher recommendations.

This is a two-year course that explores the science behind physical performance, exercise, and human health. Grounded in biology, chemistry, physics, and psychology, the course examines how the human body responds and adapts to physical activity, training, and lifestyle choices. Students develop both theoretical understanding and practical scientific skills through laboratory investigations, data analysis, and real-world applications related to sport and health. Throughout the course, students study core topics including anatomy and physiology, exercise physiology, biomechanics, sport psychology, performance nutrition, energy systems, athletic training, and research-based analysis. Students will also engage in experimental design, critical evaluation of scientific research, and application of scientific principles to athletic performance, injury prevention, and public health. IB Sports, Exercise, and Health Science prepares students for further study in kinesiology, exercise physiology, sports medicine, physical therapy, health sciences, biology, athletic training, and related fields, while also promoting lifelong understanding of physical activity, wellness, and human performance.

All students will register for IB course certification in either the IB-SL or IB-HL SEHS.

EARTH & SPACE SCIENCE – COLLEGE PREP or HONORS

#4101-College Prep	Sophomore, Junior, Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong
#4102-Honors	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 geological processes, 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 for each of the individual terms. Students who sign up for this yearlong course should also not 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: 4129, #4107, #4109 / Honors: #4130, #4108, #4110)

GEOLOGIC PROCESSES-COLLEGE PREP or HONORS

#4129-College Prep	Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course
#4130-Honors	Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course

Prerequisite: Foundations of Scientific Inquiry.

What makes Lake Erie so Great? Will a volcano under Yellowstone destroy us all? What is a tsunami, and should we be afraid? This class aims to address those questions and many more. Students in this course will investigate the formation and structure of a dynamic earth including a detailed study of our planet's water resources and how they shape our planet and our lives. Plate tectonics will also be studied with relation to earthquakes, volcanoes, and mountain building. Our impact on the physical environment and our responsibility to maintain our home planet will also be addressed. Students desiring to take the honors level course should have a genuine desire to study the material in more depth.

INTRODUCTION TO ASTRONOMY – COLLEGE PREP or HONORS

#4107-College Prep	Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course
#4108-Honors	Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course

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 the 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 the 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

#4109-College Prep	Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course
#4110-Honors	Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course

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 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 the honors level course should have a genuine desire to learn at a faster pace and study material in more depth.

FORENSIC SCIENCE – COLLEGE PREP

4031	Junior, Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong

Prerequisite: Biology CP or Biology-H/IB (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 for each of the individual terms. Students who sign up for this yearlong course should also not 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 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	.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	.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	.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 cyber-crime.

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 for each of the individual terms. Students who sign up for this yearlong course should also not 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.

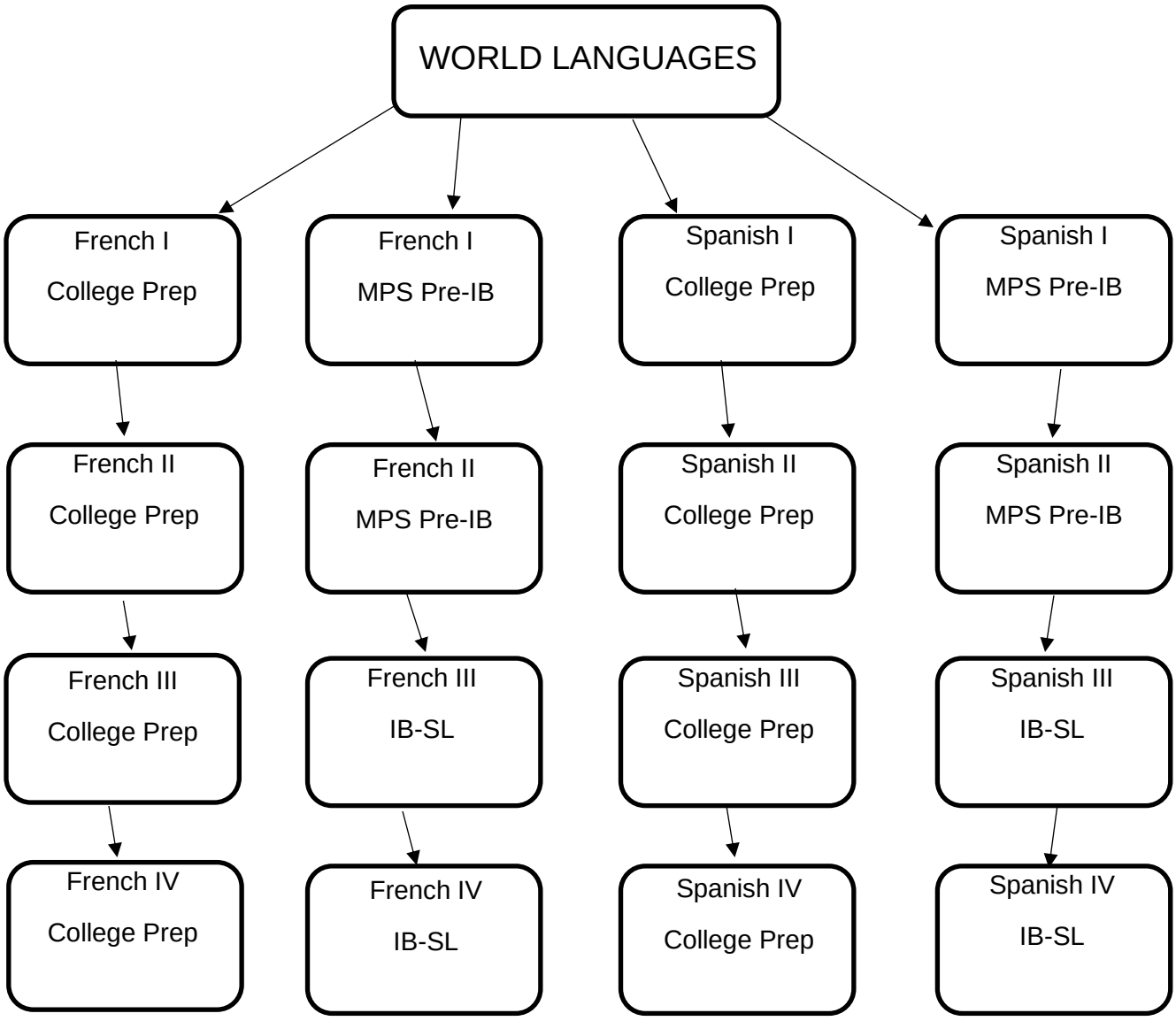
This term course will finalize the engineering trifecta by providing the students with an opportunity to research and develop their own design project. This term-long project will be centered on improving Mercyhurst Preparatory School in some way. A strong focus of 3D modeling or CAD design will be used 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.

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



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

FRENCH

French is the 2nd most 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 basic 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 vocabulary topics, holidays, and current events.

FRENCH I – 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 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 also learn grammar structures needed for conversations 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 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 describe one's home and house chores. 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 a variety of media.

FRENCH II – 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 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, 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 various 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 also be observed through a 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 material previously learned in the first two years of French, as well as to introduce new topics of study. Students will continue working on their communication skills, using new vocabulary and grammar

structures. They will learn how to talk about practical everyday topics like food and cooking, daily routine, health, cell phones and texting, and city life. Relevant authentic cultural readings, videos, and discussions will complement each unit.

FRENCH III – IB-SL

#5006	Sophomore, Junior, Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong

Prerequisite: French II Honors and teacher recommendation.

This course is intended for students who are able to continue their language studies at an accelerated pace. The course is required for those students who wish 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. Students will learn how to speak about their childhood experiences, food and cooking, everyday life and routine, health and healthcare, technology, and life in the city. 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 speaking, listening, writing and reading, students will engage in class discussions, will be exposed to various types of authentic written and audio texts, 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, students will expand their vocabulary so that they can discuss their future plans for university and work, explore current events and issues facing the world today, and take a more in-depth look at arts and leisure-time activities in the francophone world. Students will be able to watch, read and interpret authentic materials on these topics, and discuss or give their opinions about what they have read/watched.

FRENCH IV – IB-SL

#5008	Junior, Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong

Prerequisite: French III IB-SL and teacher recommendation.

This course is the second part of the two-year sequence required for all students pursuing the IB certificate in French. The focus of the course is on language acquisition, development of language skills, and intercultural understanding. The areas of study will focus on the IB themes introduced during the previous year: identities, experiences, human ingenuity, social organization, and sharing the planet. In addition to perfecting their pronunciation, students will expand their vocabulary so that they can discuss their future plans for university and work, explore environmental issues facing the world today, reflect on one's identity and its expression in social medias, and take a more in-depth look at arts and leisure-time activities in the francophone world. Mastery of language skills will be developed through the study and use of various authentic written and spoken material, all of which relate to the francophone culture. In preparation for the IB assessments, students will 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 added 11.6 million who are bilingual.

SPANISH I – COLLEGE PREP

#5101	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong

Prerequisite: This course is designed for true beginners. Students with significant environmental exposure to Spanish, via home or previous instruction, must contact the World Languages Department Chair to ensure an appropriate language placement.

Through stories, articles, images, songs, and videos, you will explore the Spanish language and aspects of various Spanish speaking cultures. Focus will be on acquiring high frequency words and phrases used in the language in order to maximize your ability to communicate and understand quickly. In this introductory course, the primary objective is Spanish

comprehension (reading and listening), giving your brain lots of 'food' to process and turn into language in your head. This will help you develop Spanish production (writing and speaking) more naturally. This course will be taught using TPRS: Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling and the SOMOS curriculum.

SPANISH I - 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 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. Be advised that, due to differences in curriculum and instructional goals, mobility from Spanish I Honors to Spanish II College Prep is limited. Students and School Counselors must consult the World Languages Department Chair prior to requesting a transfer.

Students will continue their experience acquiring Spanish in an immersive yet comprehensible environment. We will continue to build proficiency in listening, reading, writing, and speaking novice level Spanish rooted in high-frequency, practical vocabulary. Spanish stories, articles, images, videos, and novels written for novice-intermediate level learners will be used along with TPRS: Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling and the SOMOS curriculum.

SPANISH II – 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 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, and various pronouns and adjectives. This course incorporates culture pertaining to a variety of Spanish-speaking countries.

SPANISH III – COLLEGE PREP

#5105	Sophomore, Junior, Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong

Prerequisite: Spanish II and teacher recommendation. Be advised that, due to differences in curriculum and instructional goals, mobility from Spanish II Honors to Spanish III College Prep is limited. Students and School Counselors must consult the World Languages Department Chair prior to initiating a transfer.

Students who elect to take Spanish 3 are committed students who engage in class almost exclusively in Spanish. Using methods that support natural acquisition, students of Spanish 3 will gain proficiency in more advanced grammar structures, including discussing the past. With two years of comprehensible input (reading and listening to lots of Spanish at a comprehensible level) under their belts, students will now have increased opportunities to speak and write in Spanish and will enjoy some individuality in the learning process with increased Free Voluntary Reading.

SPANISH III – IB-SL

#5106	Sophomore, Junior, Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong

Prerequisite: Spanish II MPS Pre-IB 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.
Students who elect to take Spanish 4 are committed students who engage in class almost exclusively in Spanish. Using methods that support natural acquisition, Spanish 4 will expose students to a variety of advanced grammar concepts, such as the future, conditional, and subjunctive tenses. Various themes will be explored such as beauty and aesthetics, family and communities, global challenges, personal and public identity and science and technology.

SPANISH IV – IB-SL

#5108	Junior, Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong

Prerequisite: Spanish III IB-SL 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

LITERATURE OF HISPANO AMERICA- COLLEGE PREP

#5325	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Seniors	.33 credit	Term course

Prerequisite: This course is designed for students who speak Spanish with native or near-native fluency who possess an advanced understanding of the language. The class will be given in Spanish.

This elective course will support students to develop and expand their vocabulary and reading skills in Spanish. Students will travel in time and read classical writers from Spanish speaking countries, learning about literature from different periods and Hispanic countries. Students will challenge themselves by reading different styles, and will be able to explore what they enjoy. We will read fragments from older works, such as *Don Quijote de la Mancha*, as well as explore contemporary writers such as Isabel Allende. Students will write a short review for each period of literature that is explored.

ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE – COLLEGE PREP

#5301	Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course

Would you like to read a menu in Italian, understand what you're ordering, and how to pronounce it correctly? 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 *Italian Language and Culture* and learn the tools that you will need to travel and communicate in Italy! There will be and emphasis on speaking and translating in the present tense, and the vocabulary and conversations most needed for travel. Cultural focus includes art, architecture, cinema, geographic regions, music, and of course – food! Let's go: *Andiamo!*

VISUAL ARTS

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 students 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 creative arts appreciation.

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:

	RECOMMENDED COURSES
FRESHMAN YEAR	Drawing I and Drawing II
SOPHOMORE YEAR	Painting, Ceramics
JUNIOR YEAR	Art Seminar Additional courses recommended include Photo I and Photo II, Ceramics 2 or Sculpture, Oil Painting, Printmaking
SENIOR YEAR	Art Seminar Additional courses recommended include Art History, Photo or Publication Graphic Design, Yearlong Ceramics or Sculpture, Oil Painting, Printmaking

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, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

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

This is an introductory course and is required prior to signing up for any additional visual arts classes. The students will be introduced to the elements of art and principles of design and will apply these to a variety of hands-on art projects-such as 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.

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 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

Prerequisite: Art Foundations.

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 cannot 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 the 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

Prerequisite: Drawing I.

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

Prerequisite: Art Foundations.

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

Prerequisite: Art Foundations.

In Printmaking I, students will be introduced to the production of printing multiple images from a single design. A wide variety of approaches to printmaking will be introduced. Concepts of positive and negative space will be studied. Along with this, students may explore Mono printing techniques, block printing, collagraphs, or Dry point. Students will learn about past and professional printmakers. Students will learn to print by hand and using a printing press. Students will 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 refine skills from Printmaking I and 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 color relief reduction print using linoleum block. Study will include past and present printmakers, their approaches, and series of work.

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 materials 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 open to all students who would like to learn a variety of jewelry making techniques. Students will explore diverse 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.

INDEPENDENT STUDIO IN ART – COLLEGE PREP

#6037	Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course

Prerequisite: Student must get permission from cooperating teacher.

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 yearlong 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 to enrich their introduction to painting.

This course is a prerequisite for junior and senior Art Seminar.

BEGINNING OIL PAINTING - COLLEGE PREP

#6045	Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course

Prerequisites: Drawing I and Painting.

This is a course for advanced art students. This course is designed to teach the student painter how to use oil paints and oil 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 shall research and present one famous oil painter-past or present. Projects may include Reproduction/Copy-Work, Still Life, Portrait, and Landscape. If held during Term 1 or Term 3 class may complete Plein Air paintings outdoors to paint from the landscape (weather permitting). Focus is on establishing a consistent and safe studio setup, practice, and cleanup, as well as appreciation for the medium.

Note: students with allergies should consult with instructor due to the nature of the materials required.

ILLUSTRATION - COLLEGE PREP

#6047	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course

Prerequisite: Art Foundations.

Do you enjoy watching cartoons or reading comics and graphic novels? Try taking a class in Illustration to get some experience drawing your own stories and characters. In this introductory level course, students will learn basic approaches to drawing and composition as a means of storytelling. Students will experience multiple facets of illustration today, such as comic making, book illustration, sequential art, and character development. Both traditional media and the computer are used.

ART HISTORY - COLLEGE PREP or IB STANDARD LEVEL.

#6031 College Prep	Sophomore, Junior, Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong
#6032 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 throughout art history. The course is designed to familiarize the student with artists and their works 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 or HONORS

#6033	College Prep	Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course
#6034	Honors	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.

ART SEMINAR - 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 the skills that they have developed to date and take them to the next level 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	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. Effective communication skills required. An interest in pursuing graphic design, photography, or journalism is helpful but not required.

Make memories that last a **lifetime** 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 computer, layout, copy writing, photography, and commercial art techniques. Students will work with state-of-the-art computer programs while building the yearbook.

PHOTO I - COLLEGE PREP

#6209	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course

In this art course, students will study the mechanics of and learn how to use a 35mm digital camera in creating studio-based projects utilizing modern and traditional art media. Students will also study art history & famous photography work of the past and learn how and when photography was adopted into the genre of fine and/or studio "art". Students will also be introduced to the wide array of photography careers.

Other topics may include basic and experimental digital single lens reflex action camera techniques, shutter speed and aperture-based assignments, digital/smart phone camera use (optional) with apps, and the use of platforms such as Photoshop for an expanded understanding of photography as a visual language. Many of the concepts and techniques learned in this course can be applied to traditional film-based photography as well.

PHOTO II - COLLEGE PREP

#6211	Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course

Prerequisite: 90% average in Photo I or instructor's permission.

This course is a darkroom, film, and chemical-based photography course with the prerequisite of a 90% or above in Photo I or instructor-permission. Focus on safety, setup, cleanup, and storage will be taught and expected of all students. Students will build upon skills learned in Photo I. Topics may include documentary photography (photojournalism), narrative-based series, fine art photography, landscape, portraiture, and light studies. Students will use a non-digital single lens reflex action camera (film).

Students are highly encouraged to bring their own 35-mm film-based camera. Students will develop their own personal vision and style while considering ways to apply photography to a broad spectrum of hobbies and careers.

ADVANCED PHOTOGRAPHY - COLLEGE PREP

#6213 Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

Prerequisites: 90% average in both Photo I and II.

In this course, students will refine their knowledge of film photography and darkroom practices as well as digital photography techniques. They will learn and apply advanced technical skills in film development and manipulation, controlling natural and artificial light, perspective, and lenses. Students will focus on a select # of series to extend the length of the term.

A detailed photographic portfolio complete with notes on process and artist's journal will be the basis for this technical exploration. An independent research project on a historical or contemporary figure in photography is also required-which may be presented digitally or in printed format.

GRAPHIC DESIGN - COLLEGE PREP

#3553 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

This course is designed as an introduction to the field of Graphic Design. During the term, the students will explore this field using Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator. Our digital assignments will be geared to focus on the basic Principles of Design. Visual Art specific knowledge, including the elements of Art and Gestalt Theory will be the primary focus of our studies.

GRAPHIC DESIGN II: PRACTICAL GRAPHICS- COLLEGE PREP

#3561 Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

Prerequisite: Graphic Design

Graphic Design II is designed to provide students with a more in-depth graphic design experience utilizing Adobe Cloud. While continuing to develop Photoshop proficiency, Adobe Illustrator and InDesign will also be introduced and explored. Students will investigate topics such as typology, branding, pattern making, and generative AI for the purpose of producing publications, web posts, and advertisements. Students will work in conjunction with the MPS Marketing Department, Athletic Department, as well as various clubs and activities, to approach real-life graphic design scenarios. Students will have the opportunity to showcase their work through actual department-specific projects and marketing endeavors.

CREATIVE ARTS APPRECIATION - COLLEGE PREP

#6002 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

This Visual Arts portion of 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.

The Music portion of this course will have the students learn to recognize the seven basic elements of music through listening and the hands-on study of the fundamentals of music. The course will also introduce the students to the music from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century.

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 four terms of creative arts courses. All sophomores must take Creative Arts Appreciation class to fulfill one-fourth of their 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 school 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 Ms. 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) All voice majors are expected to audition for all musical productions. (Majors need to discuss course selections with Mr. Miele or Mrs. Miceli.)
Theatre	All Theatre majors are expected to audition for all musical productions and the Winter play. (Majors need to discuss course selections with Mrs. Miceli and Mr. Mitchell.)

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.

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

CREATIVE ARTS APPRECIATION - COLLEGE PREP

#6002 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

This Visual Arts portion of 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.

The Music portion of this course will have the students learn to recognize the seven basic elements of music through listening and the hands-on study of the fundamentals of music. The course will also introduce the students to music from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century.

MUSIC THEORY – HONORS

#6606 Freshman, 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	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course

Prerequisite: Audition required.

Musical production is a one-term course which will produce the fall musical. 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	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course

This class is designed for beginners only who have 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: The school will provide your textbook; Glover Adult Piano Book

ADVANCED PIANO - COLLEGE PREP

#6611	Freshman, 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 the notes on the guitar, basic guitar chords, 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.

CONCERT CHOIR - COLLEGE PREP or HONORS

#6631-College Prep	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong
#6632-Honors	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong

Prerequisite: Vocal interview/audition required. (Present 9th-11th grades should contact Mrs. Miceli; incoming students have a scheduled audition date).

Prerequisite to participate in Concert Choir Honors: The student must plan to be responsible to do Music coursework outside of the class working in various areas of Music Theory.

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.

SHOW CHOIR - COLLEGE PREP or HONORS

#6637-College Prep	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong
#6638-Honors	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong

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

Prerequisite to participate in Show Choir Honors: The student must plan to be responsible to do Music coursework outside of the class working in various areas of Music Theory.

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 be required

to participate in performances for various children, adult, and Senior Citizen events in the Erie area both during the class period AND outside of regular school hours

ORCHESTRA - COLLEGE PREP or HONORS

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

Prerequisite to participate in Orchestra Honors: The student must plan to be responsible to do Music coursework outside of the class working in various areas of Music Theory.

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** 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.

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.

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 an interview or an email conversation with Mr. Mitchell.

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. Students in Tech Theatre are required to be a part of the stage crew for our public theatre performances – the Fall Musical, Winter Play, and Spring Musical.

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. The students will learn blocking, vocals, and some movement. The class will also be expected to rehearse after school and perform in the fall.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH EDUCATION

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 using 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.

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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 fulfil 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 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.

SPECIAL INTEREST COURSES

THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE-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, and the arts. The TOK course examines how we know what we claim to know. This exploration of knowledge connects specific areas of knowledge with the core theme of knowledge and the knower as well as additional themes of particular interest to the cohort. Application of the knowledge framework facilitates the exploration of knowledge questions. Students should thus be able to critically explore the relationships among areas of knowledge and the real-life decisions we make based upon our knowledge.

Evaluation is based heavily upon seminar preparation and participation with written assignments and exhibitions 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 firsthand experience with professionals in a specific career field. Its primary objective is to introduce 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) supplying 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.

LEADERSHIP I – COLLEGE PREP

#8916	Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course

What is leadership? What motivates people? What are the character qualities of a leader? If you want to learn more, then taking a course in leadership is for you! Leadership I is designed to introduce students in grades 10-12 to the concepts of personal development and leadership, teach leadership skills, and offer realistic opportunities in which to implement these skills. The course is active "hands-on, minds-on" experiential learning that incorporates the Mercy Core Values to develop a well-rounded leader. The course will provide the opportunity to develop essential leadership skills through activities, study, discussion, composition, and observation. This course (and Leadership II) is strongly recommended for students who are seeking a class officer or student council officer position. Leadership training in this course can be continued in the Leadership II course.

LEADERSHIP II – COLLEGE PREP

#8918	Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course

Leadership II is a continuation of Leadership I. It is designed to provide a strong foundation for leadership education. This course will provide an advanced, in-depth study of the leadership techniques of self-esteem, team building, group dynamics, ethical decision making, problem solving, group conflict resolution, evaluation and the role and responsibilities of leadership. In addition to class experiences, students have academic responsibilities as they explore, practice, and understand their own leadership within and outside of the school community. Peer leadership training gained from taking the leadership I and II courses will enable students to be in a cohort that travels to some of the Erie Catholic School System schools and share some of the leadership, conflict resolution, and self-esteem skills with younger students.

INTELLIGENCE STUDIES -COLLEGE PREP (Taught by Mercyhurst University Professor at MPS)

#2549 Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

This course introduces students to the discipline of intelligence. It includes historical and real-world perspectives as to how the U.S. Intelligence Community works, and how it fits within the policymaking systems of free societies. The course will provide students with an operational overview of intelligence, including the psychology of intelligence and the types of intelligence methods, as well as tools and techniques used by the private and public sectors in gathering intelligence. In the course of the class students will work on projects, learning how to gather and assess intelligence.

INTRODUCTION TO SEWING – COLLEGE PREP

#8922 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

Introduction to Sewing is a hands-on course that teaches students the students the basics of both hand and machine sewing through creative, practical projects. Students learn essential stitches, safe sewing machine operation, fabric selection, and construction techniques such as measuring, cutting, and finishing. As skills develop, students practice reading patterns, solving common sewing challenges, and applying simple design principles. Throughout the term, students will finish several projects and by term's end, students will be able to confidently and independently complete a finished sewing project.

INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE – COLLEGE PREP

#8924 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

This course is an introduction to American Sign Language (ASL). Students will learn fingerspelling, numbers, gestures, and signs related to a basic level of ASL. Students will learn important aspects of ASL grammar and will gain a deeper understanding of American Deaf culture. Students will be able to identify the meaning of ASL gloss and will know the five parameters of ASL. Deaf presenters, written articles, and YouTube videos will be utilized during class. American Sign Language enables a unique way of communicating complex thoughts and feelings without speaking and enhances appreciation for social justice in everyday life.