

# Austin Catholic High School

A Comprehensive Augustinian School

## Course Catalog 2024-2025

(revised 4/15/2024)



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# VISION STATEMENT

Austin empowers students spiritually, morally, intellectually, and physically for college, career, and life in the Augustinian tradition resulting in minds to lead, hands to serve, and hearts to love.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Guided by the Augustinian core values of truth, unity, and love and embedded in a vibrant faith community, Austin Catholic High school is open to young men and women of diverse backgrounds in the tri-county area. Qualified, dynamic and supportive staff unite with students and families to create a safe and supportive environment that embraces individuality and celebrates community. Comprehensive, rigorous curriculum maximizes each students' potential to inspire thinkers and visionaries for college and career. To foster the development of the whole person, we provide extensive programs for all levels in academics, arts, athletics, and activities to inspire self-worth, and motivate leadership. Looking beyond ourselves, Austin provides spiritual programs that promote a lifelong commitment to loving and grateful service to each other, to society, and to God.

## PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

We believe that human beings were made by God to share life ultimately with God and with one another in God. Created for God we were made in God's image and likeness.

We have an intellect capable of moving from sense data to the deepest levels of abstraction. We are driven in our pursuit of truth to see and know gradually the vision and experience of ultimate truth – God Himself. Students and teachers are united in the common task of knowing, understanding, and appreciating truth.

A liberal arts curriculum is believed to be the best vehicle for assisting students to pursue the kind of truth described above. As demanding as it may be, it helps free students to know truth and it entices them to come to love it. It leads to the union of truth and love – love being the third dynamic principle of Augustinian education (the first being truth).

The thrill of knowing draws students into the admired inner circle of God's love and life. But that inner circle is also directly accessed through the Augustinian school family community in which all the activities of the school take place. By assiduous cultivation of interpersonal relationships students learn more clearly about the ultimate love to which they are called – love of God.

The school community embraces all the members: Augustinian Religious, administrators, teachers, staff, students, and parents. All are drawn into the multiple tasks of helping one another learn and grow. This is a community effort.

Austin Catholic High School teachers do not see themselves as imparting knowledge and wisdom to students. Rather, with profound respect for their students, the teachers structure lessons and provide example so that students can relate newly offered learnings to their inner dictates of truth. Thus, they are gently led to embrace new insights enthusiastically.

Learning takes place in the many extracurricular activities of the school: in social settings, on the athletic fields, during Religious and Liturgical services, and through social service to others in need. These various learning situations foster interpersonal relationships, community building, a sense of teamwork, a commitment to others, and a realization of the responsibilities of citizenship.

The core values of Augustinian education are: Truth, Unity, and Love.

# GOALS OF AN AUSTIN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

## **Austin Catholic will form Christian men and women who:**

- ✓ Realize the union with God is the ultimate reason for being and the ultimate goal for all love
- ✓ Know the life and teachings of Jesus Christ as reflected by beliefs of the Catholic Church
- ✓ Live and share the Augustinian Core Values of Truth, Unity, and Love
- ✓ Experience a vibrant Catholic Faith Community
- ✓ Organize a Catholic Christian value system for further development in adult life
- ✓ Participate in Christian service and embrace its value

## **Austin Catholic will develop physically and emotionally young adults who:**

- ✓ Understand and practice healthy life choices
- ✓ Utilize resources to become responsible decision makers and effective problem solvers
- ✓ Form supportive and positive relationships
- ✓ Participate in activities that strengthen their minds, hearts, and bodies
- ✓ Strive to achieve a healthy balance in their lives

## **Austin Catholic will empower well-rounded intellectual graduates who:**

- ✓ Will perform well at post-secondary opportunities (college/university/trade/military/career) through a comprehensive liberal arts education
- ✓ Can think clearly, critically, and creatively
- ✓ Have the ability to move from sense data to abstraction
- ✓ Communicate clearly and effectively in the spoken and written word
- ✓ Appreciate literature in all forms and to read with a critical and analytical eye
- ✓ Appreciate the visual and performing arts
- ✓ Utilize technology for research, communication, production, and appropriate entertainment
- ✓ Have a passion and skill for lifelong learning

## **Austin Catholic will develop mature young men and women who:**

- ✓ Use their God-given talents for loving and grateful service to each other, to society, and to God
- ✓ Are prepared through rigorous study of math, science, and technology to meet the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and beyond
- ✓ Welcome, appreciate, and respect other cultures and faiths
- ✓ Employ collaborative leadership to make a difference in an ever changing world

# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

(3/25/14 ACHS Executive Board Approved)

<b>Austin Catholic High School Graduation Requirements</b>	
<b>Subject Area</b>	<b>Description</b>
English <b>4.0 Credits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory requirement for all four years.</li> </ul>
Mathematics <b>4.0 Credits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory requirement for all four years.</li> <li>• Must include Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and one other.</li> <li>• Or Dual Enrollment equivalent experience may apply.</li> </ul>
Theology <b>4.0 Credits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory requirement for all four years or one credit for each year at ACHS.</li> </ul>
Science <b>3.0 Credits**</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory requirement for three years.</li> <li>• Must include Biology and, Chemistry or Physics.</li> </ul>
Social Studies <b>4.0 Credits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory requirement for four years.</li> <li>• Must include 1 full credit of American History and 1 full credit of World History</li> <li>• Must include ½ credit each of economics and U.S. Government</li> <li>• Must include Ethics II (cross curricular).</li> </ul>
World Language <b>2.0 Credits**</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students enrolled as ESL are not required to learn a third language.</li> <li>• Dual Enrollment Equivalent experience or additional Vocation or Arts may be substituted. Computer Programming satisfies the language requirement</li> </ul>
Health & Physical Education <b>1.0 Credit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-half PE or <i>waiver available for those participating in a Varsity sport for 2 years.</i></li> <li>• One-half credit of health in freshman or sophomore year.</li> </ul>
Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts <b>1.5 Credits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should include courses across disciplines that display understanding of a variety of “Arts” and experiences.</li> </ul>
Public Speaking <b>0.5 Credit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students must take one semester of public speaking</li> </ul>
Electives <b>2.0 credits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Various courses.</li> <li>• Includes required seminar courses.</li> </ul>
Online Learning Experience <b>.5 Credit</b>	Being a technology rich school is not enough for today’s graduates. At Austin, we understand the challenges of today’s college student and see the value in preparing each student for virtual learning. Every Austin student will enroll and complete one online/digital course (one semester/. 5 credits).
<b>Total: 26.5 Credits</b>	<p><b>Christian Service</b> = approx. 100 Hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory requirement for graduation from ACHS.</li> <li>• Students must complete a Social Justice/Service project and reflection paper to meet the requirement.</li> </ul>

*\*\*Most colleges recommend 4 years of science; students are encouraged to take additional science courses.*

*\*\* Most colleges recommend 3 years of the same language; students are encouraged to take additional years.*

## ACADEMIC POLICIES

The traditional Austin program is college preparatory and seeks to educate the whole person; therefore, the requirements go beyond the scope of state and national guidelines. Within the scope of this goal, there are different courses, whose successful completion prepares the student for entrance into college and/or personal growth. All Austin students are expected to meet their potential and achieve academic success. Parents/students concerned about academic performance should contact a faculty member for support and assistance.

- A student must be enrolled in a **minimum of seven courses each semester** that will include English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Theology.
- Credit is the term used to describe a course that has been passed with a grade of “D” or better. Exceptions to this policy are managed through the counseling office and Principal. Some special programs such as dual-enrollment require attendance off campus.
- For credits to be counted for graduation, students must successfully complete both semesters of a full year course.
- To be considered a sophomore, students must have earned seven (7) credits; fourteen (14) for junior status; and twenty-one (21) for senior status.
- Academic honesty is expected of all Austin students. *(See section on Intellectual Integrity & Academic Honesty in the Student & Parent Handbook)*
- All students must take a final exam if one is required. All final exams should be taken at the scheduled times. Parents should not schedule vacations during the days of exams. Please check the school calendar for exam dates. Students who miss an exam without permission/excusal may receive an ‘F’ grade for that exam.
- The Principal is authorized to substitute appropriate Advanced Placement Courses, Dual Enrollment, Study Hall, or Online Courses when necessary and available. Students must have approval from the department chair and Principal to enroll in these courses.
- Grades are computed on a 4.0 scale with AP and honors classes weighted. A student’s GPA reflects only grades earned at Austin.

## GRADING SCALE

Letter Grade	Percentage	GPA Points	Honors Weighted GPA	AP Weighted GPA
A	100-95%	4.00	4.50	5.00
A-	94-90%	3.75	4.25	4.75
B+	89-87%	3.50	4.00	4.50
B	86-84%	3.00	3.50	4.00
B-	83-80%	2.75	3.25	3.75
C+	79-77%	2.50	3.00	3.50
C	76-74%	2.00	2.50	3.00
C-	73-70%	1.75	2.25	2.75
D+	69-67%	1.50	2.00	2.50
D	66-64%	1.00	1.25	1.50
D-	63-60%	0.75	0.00	0.00
F	59-0%	0.00	0.00	0.00

## ACADEMIC PROBATION

When the following conditions occur, a student will be placed upon academic probation:

- Student's cumulative GPA falls below a 2.25
- Student fails any core subject (English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Theology)
- Student engages in plagiarism/academic dishonesty

Academic Probation consists of the following:

- Student is placed on academic probation and parents are contacted to discuss a plan for improving the student's academic performance.
- Student is required to a) attend tutoring sessions with teacher(s) and/or peer groups; or b) stay after school for X amount of time/days each week; or c) lose free-lunch time and use time for make-up/tutoring.
- Student is given one semester to rectify the deficiency.
- Students who fail to meet the minimum requirements for two consecutive semesters will not be allowed to return to Austin Catholic the following year.

The purpose of the Academic Probation policy is to encourage the discipline and study skills necessary to achieve academic success at Austin.

## COURSE REGISTRATION

Registration for courses for the following year occurs during the third quarter. The student, along with his/her parent/guardians, prepares the next year's schedule by reading the information in the curriculum guide and reviewing graduation requirements and course requirements for admission to the college of his/her choice. Students must have a minimum of seven courses scheduled during the eight period day. No more than two periods may be study halls.

### Course Request Process:

1. Read the Course Guide and share it with parents/guardians
2. Check courses and graduation requirements on page 8
3. Complete the course selection process via FACTS and/or paper form by specific deadline
4. Obtain faculty approval for special courses (honors, AP, online, dual-enrollment, etc.)

### Timeline:

- February/March: Students review Course Guide and graduation requirements with Counselor or Assistant Principal of Academic Affairs.
- Early April: Students complete course selection sheet and return by deadline
- August Orientation: Students are given schedules and course syllabi
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week of School: Students wishing to change (add or drop) courses must complete necessary form by deadline. A course change request fee may be applied.
- Mid December: 2<sup>nd</sup> semester schedules released. Students have until end of 1<sup>st</sup> week of classes to request schedule change.

### Request for Course or Teacher Changes:

All student schedules are generated on a personal basis and individually scheduled. In order to maintain proper class balance and fairness to all, students/parents may not request a schedule change to accommodate a teacher of their choice.

Students may request to drop a course during the first two weeks of each semester. The course change form must be completed prior to deadline with all required signatures. The student is responsible for all of the work that was previously assigned in the new course.



# Theology Department Courses

## **Faith & Church**

Course length: 1 Semester / ½ Credit

Grades Offered: 9

Prerequisite: *None*

This course is an introduction to the study of Catholic Theology, the Church, Augustinian pedagogy, and a survey of students' own faith. Presenting a solid foundation for understanding the structure, rituals, prayers, timelines, and sacraments of the Catholic Church, the course examines both history and symbol; principle and practice.

## **Old Testament**

Course length: 1 Semester / ½ Credit

Grades offered: 9,10

Prerequisite: *none*

This course guides the students to a better understanding of the Old Testament. The Old Testament is related to their social, moral, sacramental and spiritual growth. The course also examines the topics and themes of the creation story, sin and temptation, morality, God's will, vocation, Exodus, Ten Commandments, the Kingdom of God and the prophets.

## **New Testament**

Course length: 1 Semester / ½ Credit

Grades Offered: 9, 10

Prerequisite: *Old Testament*

This course guides the students in a study of the content and development of the New Testament, in the message of the Gospels, the revelation of Jesus, and the experience of the early Christian community. Students will learn the historical background of the New Testament and how to use it as a primary source. Through reflection, students are encouraged to find the meaning of Jesus in their lives.

## **Ethics I: Morality**

Course length: 1 Semester / ½ Credit

Grades Offered: 10

This course gives the students practical assistance and experience in making intelligent, logical and compassionate moral decisions. By introducing the concept of ethics from philosophical and theological viewpoints, students will examine a variety of civics-based dilemmas encountered in society: medicine and healthcare, professions and business, personal vs. community rights, etc.

## **Augustinian Philosophy**

Course length: 1 Semester / ½ Credit

Grades Offered: 11, 12

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course covers Augustinian philosophy, the history of the Order of St. Augustine, and St. Augustine's book, *The Confessions*. Possibly one of the great books of all times, students will study the manner in which St. Augustine viewed human nature and life; relationships with God, self and others; and, the interior struggle of every person to achieve fulfillment, search out and discover the truth, and accept the gift of faith.

## **Ethics II: Catholic Social Teaching**

Course length: 1 Semester / ½ Credit

Grades Offered: 11,

Prerequisite: *Faith & Church, Ethics I*

Ethics II is a tandem course taken with Global Issues (social studies) picking up where Ethics I ends. Taking a more global perspective by examining major social, political and economic issues/problems facing the world through a moral and ethical lens, students will become familiar with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Human Rights Watch as a correlation to the seven pillars of Catholic Social Teaching. Students will discern how they are being called to act as citizens of a global world and how they will use their gifts and talents to make a difference. By the end of the course students will have developed a focus for their Senior Caritas[service] project.

## **Church History**

Course length: 1 Semester / ½ Credit

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: *Faith & Church, New Testament, Old Testament*

This course traces the history of the Catholic Church from its origins to its evolution in modern society. Within the context of history, themes including the development of scripture, the evolution of the sacraments, and the presence of the Church within the global society will be explored. Students will learn about the important issues and people that have shaped the Church into what it is today. Specific attention will be given to the early Church, the Catholic Reformation, and the Church in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **World Religions**

Course length: 1 Semester / ½ Credit

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Prerequisite: *Faith & Church, Old Testament, New Testament*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course examines the basis of religious belief and the major religions of the world. Students will explore the relationship among religion, science and culture, as well as the role of faith in facing life's ultimate questions with the purpose to maintain an ongoing dialogue between the Catholic faith and other faiths.

## **Faith, Science, and Reason**

Course length: 1 semesters / .5 credit

Offered to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisites: *Completion of Biology & Chemistry I; Faith & Church; Ethics I & Ethics II; Recommendation of a Science or Religion teacher*

This course focuses on the relationship between all areas of scientific inquiry and discovery with religion and faith. Students will examine and seek to destroy the myths that they [science and religion] are incompatible and do not require an interaction. This course aims at creating a truly educated Catholic, one who is able to integrate the different kinds of knowledge he or she has and keep them in proper balance and perspective. Students are required to develop deeper reasoning skills and examining philosophical perspectives through history and current public opinion.

Note: *This course is team taught with students earning a semester credit in theology or science at completion*

## **Christian Leadership**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1.0 credit

Offered to Grades:12

Prerequisites: *Ethics I, Ethics II, faculty recommendation*

This course is designed to give students a competitive advantage in the working world by honing valuable leadership and communication skills. Further developing skills as a Christian servant leader with an emphasis on the churches call for a New Evangelization, students will develop a service-learning project to make an impact in their community. Students will apply leadership skills within context of service to the local community and retreat leadership among peers, through speaking and reflection presentations, special event planning, and service to the community. This course satisfies the Senior Caritas requirement.

Focus Areas: goal setting, team building and teamwork, personal relations, problem solving and decision making skills, event planning, leadership styles, communication skills, and much more.



# English Department Courses

## **Literature & Composition**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Grades Offered: 9

Prerequisite: *None*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course is a survey of literature and composition intended to create an awareness of the universality of the human experience as seen in literature (short stories, novels, poems, essays, non-fiction, etc.) and to deepen the students' ability to express himself/herself through expository and analytical writing for varied audiences and purposes. Students will explore the theme of discovery and personal journey through close reading, rhetorical writing, and oral communication.

## **Honors Literature & Composition**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Grades Offered: 9

Prerequisite: *minimum 80% HSPT scores in verbal, reading and language; 'A' average in Language Arts in seventh and eighth grades; teacher recommendations*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course is designed for students who have shown evidence of a deeper understanding of the fundamentals of analytical, critical reading and grammar. Students in English I and Honors English I may use the same texts; however, the expectations in the honors class are much greater and demand a more mature attitude toward the material. Additional assignments and novels will be examined. Students in this course should be prepared and comfortable working at a fast pace and be able to discuss and interpret readings with independence. This course lays the foundation for AP English courses.

## **Language & Composition (MiniMester)**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit

Grades Offered: 10, 11

Prerequisite: *None*

Students will refine grammatical and rhetorical skills for writing. Students will master grammar concepts that involve sentence structure, punctuation, and mechanics. In addition, students will fine tune essay structure and organization required for successful high school and college performance. This course will highlight SAT/ACT grammar, rhetorical, and essay structure and culminate in the freshman research paper.

## **American Literature & Composition**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Grades Offered: 10

Prerequisite: English I or equivalent

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course provides grounding for students in American literature from our earlier beginnings to contemporary times. Students will discover the roles of individuals in society through an examination of a variety of texts. This course will focus on improving writing, critical thinking, close reading, and speaking skills. Students will also benefit from intensive writing practice as they continue to write essays as well as an extensive research paper.

## **Honors American Literature & Composition**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Grades Offered: 10

Prerequisite: *minimum 'B' in English I/Honors English I; Freshman English teacher recommendation*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course provides an in-depth study of American Lit. from pre-colonial to modern times while strengthening their course reading, rhetoric, writing, and oral communication skills. Students in English II and Honors English II may use the same texts as English II; however, the expectations in the honors class are much greater. Honors English II offers the college-bound student the opportunity to develop his/her writing skills and ability to read, write, and think both critically and analytically in preparation for AP English courses.

## **Contemporary World Literature & Composition**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Grades Offered: 11

Prerequisite: *English I, English II, English III, or equivalent*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course will examine various works of contemporary (1980-current) world literature, identify themes, and analyze relevant global issues. Students will strengthen their close reading, rhetorical writing, and oral communication skills. Augmented with lessons in geography and culture/current events and topics of social justice, this course challenges students to use literature as a lens and a window into the human experience.

## **British Literature & Composition**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Prerequisite: *minimum 'B' in English II/Honors English II; Sophomore English teacher recommendation*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course will survey British Literature from its Anglo-Saxon roots to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century while strengthening their close reading, rhetorical writing, and oral communication skills. Honors English III offers pre-AP opportunities to strengthen his/her skills. Students enrolled in this course should expect significant amounts of reading and writing in class and at home.

## **AP Language & Composition**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Prerequisite: *Teacher recommendation; minimum 'A' in English II or III \*\* students must take a pre-test prior to acceptance into the course and commit to the entire year and sitting for the AP Exam.*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course, which is structured by the College Board, is designed to be the equivalent of a college composition course and will engage students in close and extensive reading outside of class in non-fiction texts, analytical writing about literary themes and rhetorical devices, argumentation writing regarding contemporary social issues while synthesizing primary and secondary sources, and essay writing. Essays and time writing of 30-40 minutes is mandatory. Students will carry out a vocabulary study, write timed essays, and annotate multiple choice passages, plan and compose independent essays, and write research papers. Students will focus primarily on the writing of rhetorical analysis, argumentation, and the synthesis essay—the three modes of discourse required on the AP

## **AP Literature & Composition**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Prerequisite: *Teacher recommendation; minimum 'A' in English II or III \*\* students must take a pre-test prior to acceptance into the course and commit to the entire year and sitting for the AP Exam.*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course, which is structured by the College Board, is equivalent to a first- or second- year college English course. Students must be prepared to read, analyze, and evaluate complex literary texts, including novels, plays, short stories, poetry, and essays. Students will focus their study on a work's structure, style, characterization and themes as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of diction, figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. Students will also focus on stylistic maturity in their writing. To achieve this, the class requires increasing vocabulary, varying sentence structure, organizing cohesive essays, supporting generalizations with specific details, and maintaining an effective use of rhetoric through focus on tone and voice. Students must work independently outside of class to read mature texts and write essays. Timed essay practice is an essential part of the course.

## **Film & Literature**

Course length: 1 semester / .5 credit

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Prerequisite: *English II or Honors English II; teacher recommendation*

This course introduces students to the cinematic, theatrical, and literary elements found in film to examine how and why significant literary works are translated into film. Students will explore various genres of literature and film including Children's, Horror/Gothic, Fantasy/Science Fiction, Biopics, Dramas, and Comedy. Students will explore the respective strengths and possibilities as well as the unique challenges of literary and cinematic communication. Students will examine how time period and popular culture affect a film's interpretation of literature. Novels & Films: TBD

## **Public Speaking**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit

Grades Offered: 10, 11,12

Prerequisite: *Language & Composition*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

Students will understand speaking is a two way process. Effective speaking and listening skills involve critical thinking and writing. Students will demonstrate mastery in the selecting, organizing, outlining, developing, and presenting a variety of speeches for multiple audiences and purposes. Through the use of clear, effective language students will develop the skills of poise, confidence and self-control. Students will be assessed through the entire speech development, participation, in-class and public speaking engagements, as well as critiques, research and written assignments. Basic writing skills and audience etiquette are required. This class is a graduation requirement.

## **Reading Strategies for Digital Age / Essentials for College Reading**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: *None*

This course will help students answer the following questions: 1) How will reading affect my future? and 2) How does reading shape the world around us? This course will focus on preparing students for reading in and beyond high school. Students will learn to determine and comprehend the main ideas as imperative to success both in the academic world and professional world. Learning to discern fact from opinion and bias from objectivity will empower students to make better life and work decisions; while effective note taking and summarizing skills help students achieve their goals.

## **Creative Writing**

Course length: 1 semester / .5 credit

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: *English I or Honors English I; and Language and Composition*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course will provide students with the opportunity to develop their literary talents. By experimenting with various forms of poetry and prose, they will gain confidence in their written voice. By expanding on literary techniques such as characterization, dramatic scenes, imagery, irony, etc. students will strengthen their ability to reach a particular audience. Students will submit their writing to publications and contests, as well as share their work with their classmates for constructive feedback.

## **Multi Media/ Journalism**

Course length: 1 year / 1 Credit

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: *Students must complete application from instructor.*

Students will hone their journalistic skills to create and publish the school yearbook, student newspaper, and various multi-media tasks. This course focuses on reporting and interviewing, photography, and graphic design. The goal of this class is to learn the needed skills to become a journalist and to produce a piece on time and within budget.

## **Advanced Composition**

Course length: ½ year / .5 Credit

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Prerequisite: *English I/Honors English I*

Students will hone their ability to write for college and/or career. From general rhetorical analysis to in-depth research papers, memos, letters, reports, etc.; students in this class will produce documents that are grammatically correct, formatted appropriately in both MLA and APA format, and are sound in content (unity and coherence) to be capable and ready to write for all college classes and career paths.

## **English Essentials**

Course length: 1 year / 1.0 Credit

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Prerequisite: *English I; counselor or teacher recommendation*

Students will focus on further development of basic skills for post high school. This course is for students in need of support in the areas of Reading comprehension, vocabulary, grammar mechanics and expression of ideas. Focus is on joining the workforce, attending community college or entering the trades.



# Mathematics Courses

**Note:** All students are required to purchase the department-selected graphing calculator for use in Algebra I and all subsequent courses. **The TI-84 Plus Edition calculator will be used.**

## Algebra I / Honors Algebra I

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 Credit

Offered to Grades: 9, 10

Prerequisite: *Placement is based on the results of the HSPT and the student's 8<sup>th</sup> grade profile.*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

Algebra I utilizes a problem-solving/critical-thinking approach and student collaboration. Students analyze and create different representations of linear, exponential, and quadratic functions. They also learn to make connections between various math concepts such as geometric sequences and exponential functions. Successful completion of this course will leave students prepared for the study of Geometry and Algebra 2.

Honors Algebra I is designed for hardworking mature students who excel at and enjoy mathematics. Honors Algebra I is an intensive study of algebra; the course covers more material, is more in-depth, has more homework, and moves at a much faster pace than Algebra I.

## Integrated Math

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 Credit

Offered to Grades: 9 or 10

Prerequisite: *Placement in this class will be based on results of the HSPT and the student's 8<sup>th</sup> grade profile.*

The purpose of Integrated Math I is designed to formalize and extend mathematics from previous grades and prepare students for the next course in high school math. **Topics include:** integers, fractions, mixed numbers, and decimals; using properties of real numbers and order of operations; graphing on a number line and the coordinate plane; using divisibility rules; solving simple exponent, square root, absolute value, ratio, proportion, percent, and scientific notation problems; and setting up and solving word problems.

## Algebra II / Honors Algebra II

Course length: 1 year / 1 credit\*\*

Offered to Grades: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: *Algebra 1 and Geometry, except with special permission*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course approaches Algebra II from a problem solving perspective, which integrates the Common Core State Standards for Mathematical Practice into each lesson. The principals of course design-- problem-based lessons, collaborative student work and spaced practice—are based on the methodological research for teaching mathematics that leads to conceptual understanding. Students will create models, make connections and explain their work regularly, will be held responsible to high academic rigor, analysis, and critical thinking, and will communicate their mathematical findings in writing and/or oral presentations in a clear and convincing manner. Successful completion of this course will leave students prepared for the study of Pre-Calculus.

## Geometry / Honors Geometry

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 Credit

Offered to Grades: 9, 10

Prerequisite: *Algebra 1, or placement*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course approaches geometry from a problem solving perspective that builds spatial visualization skills, conceptual understanding of geometry topics, and an awareness of connections between different ideas. Students are encouraged to investigate, conjecture, and then prove to develop their reasoning skills. Successful completion of this course will leave students prepared for continuing their study of higher mathematics including Algebra II/Trigonometry.

Honors Geometry is designed for hardworking mature students who excel at and enjoy mathematics. The Honors Geometry is an intensive study of geometry; the course covers more material, is more in-depth, has more homework, and moves at a much faster pace than regular Geometry.

### **Pre-Calculus**

Course length: 1 year / 1 credit

Offered to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisites: *Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra II*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course provides the tools students will need for college mathematics courses, particularly calculus. Students will build on their learning from Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry to construct a deeper understanding of functions. As students will investigate functions in new ways and work with more abstract forms to develop a deeper understanding of the concepts of limits, area, and slope that are essential in the development of calculus. Successful completion of this course will leave students prepared for the study of calculus and other college level mathematics courses.

### **AP Pre -Calculus**

Course Length: 1 year / 1 credit

Offered to Grades: 10,11, 12

Prerequisites: *Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, teacher recommendation*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class

This course covers the required topics included in the College Board's AP Precalculus description. Students should be prepared for a fast-paced course with the intention of testing to earn credit at their desired college or university. This course prepares students for college-level mathematics and sciences by teaching fluency in algebraic manipulation of functions, equations, and expressions as they learn to constrain functions using transformations, compositions, inverses and regressions. Students will be able to identify and construct graphical, numerical, analytical, and verbal representations of functions as they are applied in context to various mathematic fields. This course context and skills will provide students with the necessary foundation for math, engineering, chemistry, physics, etc. courses in higher education.

### **Survey of Statistics**

Course length: 1 semester / .5 credit

Offered to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisites: *Algebra II; teacher recommendation*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course will introduce the major concepts involved in collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students will perform tests on significance in order to draw inferences, make predictions and decisions. Topics include organization of data, sampling, chance and probability, and the normal distribution. Calculations will be done both by hand and with electronic devices. This one-semester course is intended for students desiring a fourth year of mathematics but who do not wish to take pre-calculus or calculus.

## **Personal Finance**

Course length: 1 semester / .5 credit

Offered to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisites: *Algebra II*

This one-semester course will explore mathematical concepts associated with personal finance. Topics include simple and compound interest, income tax, consumer credit, college finances, investments and insurance. This course is intended for students desiring a fourth year of mathematics but who do not wish to take pre-calculus or calculus. Students may also wish to take this course concurrently with pre-calculus or calculus. NOTE: students should check with their intended college to verify that a pre-calculus course is not required for their college entrance or intended major.

## **Calculus**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Offered to Grades: 12

Prerequisites: *Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

The course is recommended for students with high mathematical ability. Students who take this class must be responsible, hardworking, and motivated students who enjoy mathematics. Calculus is an intensive study of calculus; the course covers a vast amount of material, is in-depth, and moves at a fast pace. This course will cover the basic concepts of Calculus, including limits, continuity, derivatives, differentials, integrals and applications to a wide variety of problems. Students are taught to think analytically, working with functions represented graphically, numerically, analytically and verbally. The purpose of Calculus is to prepare students advanced college mathematics.

## **A.P. Calculus, AB**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Offered to Grades: 12

Prerequisites: *Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus; previous math teacher recommendation*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course covers the required topics included in the College Board's AP Calculus AB Course Description. Students interested in this course should be prepared to move at a fast-paced, independent level with the intention of testing to earn credits at their desired college/university. This end may be realized by earning a 3,4 or 5 on the AP Exam. AP Calculus is intended for the students who desire to learn math and expand toward college level thinking and performing.

## **Advanced Math Concepts**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Offered to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisites: *satisfactory completion of Algebra II and recommendation of previous teacher*

This college prep course is intended for the student who successfully completes Algebra II but who is not confident to advance to pre-calculus. This course provides the opportunity to master concepts from Algebra I and Algebra II and prepare students to take a college pre-calculus course.

**Math Lab**

Course length: 1 semester / .5 Credit\*

Offered to Grades: 9, 10, 11

Prerequisite: *Requires approval of Math Department and Dean of Academic Affairs.*

This multiyear mathematics course is designed for those students requiring remediation of skills and/or needing extra support in their current math course. The course relies on individualized curriculum offering support in the student's mathematics course, while integrating basic math concepts to fill gaps and areas of remediation. Normally taken along with Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II, this course may be taken for more than one semester and in repeating years. Students utilizing this course as a "math study hall" will not receive academic credit. *\*Academic Credits for this course require the Dean of Academic Affairs.*

# Science & STEAM Department



## **DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY:**

We are an Augustinian school that seeks to graduate scientifically literate students who also have a strong Christian foundation, and are prepared to participate in an ever changing world. We want our students to be strong in the process of scientific inquiry, scientific analysis and communication, scientific reflection, and the social implications of science in our world. Our curriculum is designed to develop both critical and analytical thinking skills while encouraging curiosity and exploration and investigation of the world we live in.

## **DEPARTMENT OBJECTIVES:**

**Critical thinking:** Critically evaluate and analyze relationships and scientific data to make informed decisions.

**Communication:** Promote communication between science students and their community.

**Spiritual:** Recognize and validate that the complexity of the world can be clarified by combining Science and Religion.

**Literacy:** Prepare scientifically literate students who can use science to improve their lives.

**Research:** Understand scientific research is undertaken with the explicit goal of solving a problem or developing a new technology.

**Stewardship:** Recognize and employ scientific principals and ethics to understand societal issues and influence decisions. Appreciate the world as an interaction between systems.

**Technology:** Understand the relationships among science and technology in both historical and contemporary contexts.

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENT:**

Three credits are required for graduation. Students are required to take Biology, Chemistry or Physics, and one additional course. It is highly recommended that all students pursuing college take a fourth year course, and those students interested in a science or technology based field of post-secondary study take additional courses as electives.

# Science & STEAM Department Courses

## **Biology / Honors Biology**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Offered to Grades: 9

Prerequisites: *none // Placement in Honors will be based on results of the HSPT and the student's 8<sup>th</sup> grade profile.*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course and curriculum will follow the Michigan State Standards for Biology. Students will study the nature of biology, energy and cells, cellular reproduction, heredity, the structure and role of DNA, human genetics, evolution, the classification of organisms, life functions of organisms, various processes by which organisms obtain their food, the relationships and interactions between organisms, compare and contrast living and nonliving factors, and the environmental impact of organisms. Some dissection is included

Honors Biology is designed for the highly motivated student with a strong interest in the field of science. Students will study at a faster pace and examine concepts more in-depth. This course will emphasize higher order thinking skills using laboratory investigations, collaborative learning projects, problem solving activities, and bioethical discussions.

## **Chemistry I / Honors Chemistry I**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Offered to Grades: 10-12

Prerequisites: *Completion of Algebra I; Honors requires teacher recommendation*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course and curriculum will follow the Michigan State Standards for Chemistry. Students will study the nature of chemistry, matter and change, scientific measurement, atomic structure, electrons in atoms, periodic table, ionic and metallic bonding, covalent bonding, chemical names and formulas, chemical quantities, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, states of matter, behavior of gases, water and aqueous systems, solutions, thermochemistry, reaction rates and equilibrium, acids, bases, and salts, oxidation-reduction reactions, electrochemistry, hydrocarbon compounds, functional groups, the chemistry of life, and nuclear chemistry.

Honors Chemistry is designed for the highly motivated student with a strong interest in the field of science. Students will work at a faster pace and study concepts more in-depth. Students must have teacher recommendation from Biology and math teacher to be placed in honors.

## **Advanced Chemistry II**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Offered to Grades: 11-12

Prerequisites: *Completion of Chemistry I, Algebra I, and Geometry*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

Chemistry II is a second year chemistry course that will cover more advanced topics than those covered in the first year chemistry course. The course is designed to enrich a student's knowledge of inorganic and organic chemistry and should be considered by students desiring to major in science in college or considering a career in the medical field. Topics such as the structure of matter, kinetic theory of gases, chemical equilibria, chemical kinetics, and the basic concepts of thermodynamics are presented in considerable depth through extensive lab experiences and inquiry.

## **Physics / Honors Physics**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Offered to Grades: 11-12

Prerequisites: Completion of Algebra I and Algebra II & Trigonometry.

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course and curriculum will follow the Michigan State Standards for Physics and Physical Science. Students will analyze patterns of force, energy, and motion. Students will learn the following topics: motion, speed, and acceleration, inertia, simple and complex machines, Newton's Laws, potential and kinetic energy, electrical energy, gravitational potential energy, heat energy, and radiation. Students will discover the properties of sound and study pitch, volume, frequency, amplitude, and velocity. Students will also learn about the characteristics of light and how objects interact with light by emission, reflection, absorption, transmission and scattering.

## **Faith, Science, and Reason**

Course length: 1 semesters / .5 credit

Offered to Grades: 12

Prerequisites: Prerequisites: *Completion of Biology & Chemistry I; Faith & Church; Ethics I & Ethics II;*

This course focuses on the relationship between all areas of scientific inquiry and discovery with religion and faith. Students will examine and seek to destroy the myths that they [science and religion] are incompatible and do not require an interaction. This course aims at creating a truly educated Catholic, one who is able to integrate the different kinds of knowledge he or she has and keep them in proper balance and perspective. Students are required to develop deeper reasoning skills and examining philosophical perspectives through history and current public opinion.

Note: *This course is team taught with students earning a semester credit in theology or science at completion*

## **Forensic Science**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Offered to Grades: 11-12

Prerequisites: *Completion of Biology & Chemistry I; Co-requisite: Algebra 2; Ethics I*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course focuses on an introduction to forensic science and the application of scientific methods for the examination of physical evidence in the criminal justice system. Students will learn an overview of the forensic analysis of firearms, fingerprints, DNA, drugs, blood, hair, fibers, paint, glass, arson debris, etc.

Note: *This course may be team taught with Street Law – with students earning a credit in both science and social science.*

## **Environmental Science**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Offered to Grades: 10-12

Prerequisites: *Completion of Biology*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course focuses on an introduction to environmental science including understanding the importance of ecosystems, biodiversity, and natural resources. Factors that cause pollution, loss of biodiversity, and resource depletion within ecosystems are also introduced.

## **AP Biology**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Offered to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisites: *Completion of Biology, Chemistry or Physics and Department Approval*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course is equivalent to a first year, college-level Biology Course and goes beyond the concepts studied in Biology and examines interaction of systems and complex properties. Emphasis is on Scientific Inquiry, and some dissection is included. Students are required to take the Biology Advanced Placement Examination.

Exam: The AP Biology Exam is a 3-hour exam covering a full-year introductory college course in biology with laboratory.

## **AP Environmental**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Offered to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisites: *Completion of Biology, Chemistry or Physics and Department Approval*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course is equivalent to a first year, college-level Environmental Science course and goes beyond the concepts studied in Environmental Science. The goal of the AP Environmental Science course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them.

Exam: The AP Environmental Exam is a 3-hour exam covering a full-year introductory college course with laboratory.

## **Anatomy & Physiology**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Offered to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisites: *Biology*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

Anatomy and physiology is a course that will enable students to develop an understanding of the relationships between the structures and functions of the human body. The curriculum provides a basis for students to develop a strong conceptual understanding of the following human body systems: integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, cardiovascular, respiratory, digestive, urinary, and reproductive. Students have the opportunity to integrate that knowledge through inquiry-based activities and laboratory investigations. This course is designed for college preparation, especially for biology and health career majors. This course requires students to perform multiple dissections and take vitals on each other.

## **Intro to STEAM**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit

Offered to Grades: 9,10

Prerequisites: *none*

Students will engage in interdisciplinary learning of science, technology, engineering, art, and math/manufacturing through a hands-on project based approach. The core of the class will be learning problem solving as a design/engineering process. Acquiring of knowledge will be demonstrated through a series of projects geared toward solving real-world problems

## **STEAM Innovation**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit

Offered to Grades: spring 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Prerequisites: *Ethics II & Global Issues, Intro to STEAM, Biology, Chemistry or Physics or concurrent*

Students will expand on concepts began in the Introduction to STEAM course and their Ethics II investigation of global issues to identify an issue, problem, or need. Taking a more comprehensive look at addressing a global and local issue according to the UN Goals, students will learn the engineering design process, research and develop a plan. This course requires problem solving, out-of-the-box thinking, and a passion to create something that will make a difference. This is a fast-paced group cohort course that requires strong independent and peer working skills. Students will remain in their cohort through senior year.

## **STEAM Capstone**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credits

Offered to Grades: 12

Prerequisites: *STEAM Innovation, teacher recommendation to continue from STEAM Innovation*

Students in this capstone will work as a cohort taking the project they designed in the STEAM Innovation course and put it to production. Students continue using the engineering design process to further research, design, build, test, and present their solution to a panel of peers, faculty, and/or professionals. In addition, students will partake in a practicum where they will choose a career interest at a related company and spend time gaining field experience. Students in the STEAM Innovation cohort are also responsible for maintaining prior projects created by other cohorts.

## **Intro to Robotics**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit

Offered to Grades: 9,10,11

Prerequisites: *none*

Are you interested in robotics or learning more about robotics? Then this course is for you. Students will get an introductory look at what it takes to plan, build, program, and drive a workable robot. Covering such things as safety, tools and materials, machinery use, gears, wiring, and basic drafting and programming, this course is a “hands-on” course with more lab-work than lecture. No previous experience is necessary.

## **Advanced Robotics**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit

Offered to Grades: 10,11,12

Prerequisites: *intro to robotics; computer programming or experience with robotics*

This is for the experienced Robotics students who have a passion for going further. Students will focus on specific areas and expand knowledge in computer aided drafting, computer programming, electrical and hydraulic systems, and more. Students enrolled in advanced robotics are expected to attend evening, weekend, and competitions as members of the Platinum Peacocks First Robotics Team. Experience and a high interest level is necessary.



# Social Studies Courses

## **World Geography**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit

Offered to Grades: 9-12

Prerequisites: *None*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

In this course, students will learn about the relationship between humans and the environment. Topics to be studied include: map reading; physical, cultural and economic geography; geographic processes; geo-politics; resource use and management. The components of this course will include outside readings, classroom discussion and map analysis.

## **Contemporary World History**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Offered to Grades: 9-10

Prerequisites: *None*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

Area of Study: 14<sup>th</sup> Century to the Modern Age

In this course students will expand their ability to recognize important world events, trends, and issues from a global perspective. Students will study the past to be more aware of the challenges of the present as well as the major issues of the future. (History does repeat itself.) A chronological approach will be used, along with integration of the history and culture of Western Europe. Students will practice inquiry, research, and analytical skills. They will utilize a variety of media, technology, and resources to analyze, discuss, create, and present information. Successful completion of this course will leave students prepared for United States History or Honors United States History.

## **United States History**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Offered to Grades: 9-10

Prerequisites: *None*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

Area of Study: Reconstruction to the Modern Age

United States History will familiarize the student with the common experiences shared by U.S. citizens as well as the diversity within the nation. Students will look at important national events, trends, and issues from the past 150 years that have helped shape the nation we are today. Students will think critically about the current state of the nation through the lens of the past. Students will practice inquiry, research, and analytical skills. They will utilize a variety of media, technology, and resources to analyze, discuss, create, and present information.

## **Honors U.S. History & Geography**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Offered to Grades: 10

Prerequisites: *teacher recommendation*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

Area of Study: Reconstruction to the Modern Age

This honors course will look at important national events, trends, and issues from the past 150 years that have helped shape the nation we are today. Using a chronological approach, Students will think critically about the current state of the nation through the lens of the past. Geography, research and ethnic awareness are built into the course. Students will utilize a variety of media, technology, and resources to analyze, discuss, create, and present information. Because this is an honors course, the critical thinking and research components receive heavy emphasis.

## **A.P. World History**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Offered to Grades: 10-12

Prerequisites: *counselor approval*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course is an intensive study of World history since 1450 with the goal to prepare students for the A.P. World History exam. The principal ideas, ideas, and events that have shaped the world will be identified and analyzed using college level texts, discussions and supplementary materials. Essential skills will be practiced and developed through historical writing, source evaluation, critical thinking, and communication skills. Students will be expected to engage in extensive and intensive reading, writing, and discussions. The course will include a variety of lectures, presentations, individual work, and group work. **Exam:** The Exam is a 3 hour exam and covers a full-year introductory college course. Students must take the exam to earn the additional A.P. honor points.

## **A.P. United States History**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Offered to Grades: 10- 12

Prerequisites: *teacher recommendation*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class

This course is intended to prepare students for the American History Advanced Placement exam, It uses a college level textbook to cover the major themes of American History. The course is designed to encourage students to become apprentice historians who are able to use facts and evidence in the service of creating deeper conceptual understandings of critical developments in U.S. History. **Exam:** The AP US History exam is 3 hours and 15 minutes in length and covers a full-year introductory college course. Students must take the exam to earn the additional AP honor points.

## **Global World Issues**

Course length: 1 Semester / ½ Credit

Grades Offered: 11 \*\*Required Course

Prerequisite: *concurrent with Ethics II*

Global Issues is a tandem course with Ethics II. Taking a more global perspective by examining major social, political and economic issues/problems facing the world through a moral and ethical lens, students will become familiar with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Human Rights Watch as a correlation to the seven pillars of Catholic Social Teaching. Students will discern how they are being called to act as citizens of a global world and how they will use their gifts and talents to make a difference. By the end of the course students will have developed a focus for their Senior Caritas[service] project.

## **U.S. Government**

Course Length: 1 semester / ½ credit

Offered to Grades: 11-12

Prerequisites: *U.S. History or Civics*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This class presents students with the essentials of American government. Students will study the origins of our government, its creation, its structure, and the importance of an active and informed citizenship. Students will work on reading, critical thinking, persuasion, and discussions. Area of Study: Founding period, Core Democratic Values, structure of government, responsibilities of citizenship, and current events

## **A.P. U.S. Government**

Course Length: 1 semester / ½ credit

Offered to Grades: 11-12

Prerequisites: *U.S. History*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This course is intended to prepare students for the A.P. exam through extensive and intensive examination of the U.S. constitutional government. Students will examine the philosophy, political beliefs and behaviors, political parties and interest groups, national institutions, and policy processes and law through college level texts, discussions and outside readings. This course is designed to challenge students through independent reading, intense writing and discussions, and projects. **Exam:** The AP U.S. Government & Politics is a 3 hour exam and covers a full-year introductory college course. Students must take the exam to earn the additional A.P. honor points.

## **Economics**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit

Offered to Grades: 11-12

Prerequisites: *Algebra I*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

Students will study basic economic principles and the role of active and conscientious consumers in the economy. Students will build on reading, critical thinking, persuasion, and data interpretation skills. Areas of Study: Basic economic principles, economic systems, market systems, demand, supply, labor, responsible consumerism, and current events.

## **Psychology**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit

Offered to Grades: 12

Prerequisites: *Health*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

Students will develop a practical and theoretical base for understanding the psychological dynamics of humanity. This approach encourages critical thinking in its treatment of subjects such as: human development, behavior and mental processes, personality and psychological disorders. Successful completion of this course will allow the student to understand human behavior, including their own actions, more fully.

## **Principles of Law (formerly titled Street Law)**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit

Offered to Grades: 11, 12

Prerequisites: *government*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

Principles of law is a one semester elective course and is intended to provide students with an opportunity to study the legal, judicial, law enforcement, and corrections systems of the United States. This class will focus on constitutional law, general legal principles, and the laws and procedures derived from them. We will also examine civil and criminal laws, court procedures, and civil rights.

## **Multi Media/ Marketing**

Course length: 1 year / 1 Credit

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: *Students must complete application from instructor.*

Students will be introduced to marketing and the role of multi-media platforms. Demand for skilled digital marketers has dramatically due to social media platforms. Students will learn of the eight most important digital marketing domains such as Content Marketing, Mobile Marketing, Search Engine Optimization, Web Analytics, Email Marketing and Social Media Marketing. The course also includes real-world projects for practical experience. Students will learn more about the various digital marketing platforms such as Google, Meta, LinkedIn and Instagram.

## **Current Events**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ Credit

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Prerequisite: *Global Issues, US History & World History*

This class is designed to provide students with the opportunity to discuss, understand, and explore local, national, international, political, economic and social issues in a respectful, meaningful, and active way. Throughout the term, students will stay up to date on current issues and trends. Because the subject of this class is “contemporary,” topics will vary considerably depending on the current news cycle. Students will be challenged to read, analyze, and defend their opinions [verbally and written] on various issues.

## **AP Human Geography**

Course length: 2semesters / 1 Credit

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite:

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

AP Human Geography is an introductory college-level human geography course based on the College Board curriculum. Students cultivate their understanding of human geography through data and geographic analyses as they explore topics like patterns and spatial organization, human impacts and interactions with their environment, and spatial processes and societal changes. Students must commit to the full year of the course and sit for the AP exam in May.

## **Electives Offered in Rotation:**

### **The World at War**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit

Offered to Grades: 10,11,12

Prerequisites: *None*

\*\*\*NCAA approval pending.

Area of Study: World Wars and Major International Conflicts

This section of World History familiarizes students with the history of major international conflicts and world wars. Beginning with World War I, the class will analyze global conflicts and atrocities against international human rights with the intent to have a better understanding of what incites global conflict, how nations and governments react, and how we as a world people can move toward a more peaceful world. Students will utilize a variety of media, technology, and resources to analyze, discuss, create, and present information.



# Health & Physical Education Courses

## **Health**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credits

Grades Offered: 9, 10

Prerequisites: *None*

This course considers the basic concepts of health and wellness. It will encourage students to examine their own behavior and lifestyle, while providing them the opportunity to gather knowledge that will help them make the reasonable choices and decisions necessary to effectively change negative health behaviors and lead a healthier life. Health will ask students to identify relationships between nutrition and disease, and help students to integrate healthy thinking into their daily lives.

## **Physical Education**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: *None*

This course is an introduction to personal fitness and will introduce students to strength training, aerobic conditioning, and team sports. An emphasis will be on good sportsmanship, rules, performance techniques, and personal fitness principles. This course will promote a variety of planned physical activities to better optimize each student's physical and mental development.

## **Weights & Personal Fitness**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: *Physical Education*

This course will emphasize strength training and aerobic conditioning. An understanding of the physiological principals of strength training will be stressed in addition to understanding the proper safety and techniques of free and machine assisted weights. This course may not be repeated.



# Visual and Performing Arts Courses

## **Survey to Studio Art**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit

Grades Offered: 9, 10

Prerequisites: *None*

Studio Art would be an introductory survey course which aims at giving students with limited art experiences an opportunity to determine if they would like to take the more demanding Studio One Art class. This would be a one semester class offered to Freshman and Sophomores. Upper classman would be exempt from this class, but would need to speak with the art instructor before signing up for Art One Studio, Art Two Studio, Art Three Studio, or Independent Study.

## **Art I – Studio Art A**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: *Survey to Studio Art or Instructor Recommendation*    **Offered in the Spring Semester Only**

Studio Art is the first class in a sequence of hands-on art classes that are built around the student's needs and interests. The Studio class will introduce students to basic lessons in linear perspective, composition, art elements, abstract design, color theory, acrylic painting and clay tile and/or functional pottery. Students will be taught to create, display, analyze, and discuss their images. Critiques, which help students analyze visual work, are held during and at the end of every lesson to further a student's understanding of the lesson. Art History is used as a reference point and as a way for students to start thinking about how to solve the same type of problems other artists have dealt with in previous years or centuries. Learning will be assessed through projects, homework, critiques, and written assignments.

## **Art II – Studio Art B**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: *Art I, or approval by instructor and/or Dean of Academic Affairs*

**Studio Art** is the second in a sequence of hands-on art classes that continues and deepens the traditions started during the Studio Art class. New media such as ink, charcoal, and printmaking will be introduced. A more in-depth understanding and use of previously experienced media will also be taught. Students will continue to be taught to create, display, analyze, and discuss their images. Learning will be assessed through projects, homework, critiques, and written assignments.

## **Art III – Advanced Studio**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: *Art I, or approval by instructor and/or Dean of Academic Affairs*

**Advanced Studio** builds on the traditions started during the Studio Art classes through the stress of interpreting new lessons and creating personalized images. Lessons in higher lever linear perspective, realistic painting, advanced portraits, and 3d (ceramics and sculpture) work will be taught. Advanced Studio will be similar to Studio Art (A&B) in the use of critiques and art history. There will be room in the curriculum for some student-directed lessons as a preparation for taking Independent Study. Learning will be assessed through projects, homework, critiques, and written assignments.

## **Art IV - Independent Study**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Prerequisites: *Art III, or approval by instructor and/or Dean of Academic Affairs*

This class is for the artistic and committed student that desires to study art in college and explore the possibility of an art career. Lessons and media will be based on the student's need and the instructor's knowledge of what the individual student needs to work on. Research on career choices will be part of the curriculum. A portfolio will be prepared and readied for submission to colleges for possible scholarships. Learning will be assessed through projects, critiques and in-depth writing by each student on his/her projects and learning. Class can be repeated with permission of instructors and/or Dean of Academic Affairs.

## **Intro to Photography & Photoshop**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit \*

Grades Offered: 9, 10,11,12

Prerequisites: *Survey of Art*

Students in this course will learn the fundamentals of photography and the application and manipulation of photos in the Adobe Photoshop program. **Students will need access to their own camera (school has limited cameras for use)** and purchase a subscription or product license for a specific version of Adobe Photoshop. (details TBD)

## **Art History /Art Appreciation**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: *Survey of Art*

This course will offer an intriguing look at what all encompasses a work of art whether a painting, a building or a movie. In order to fully appreciate and gain an understanding of what makes for a good design, it is important to study art history, perform critiques to study the elements and principles of design, discuss aesthetics, and perform art production. Students will examine major forms of artistic expression from the past and present and from a variety of cultures and will learn to look at these works of art critically, with intelligence and sensitivity, and to articulate what they see or experience.

## **AP Art History I / AP Art History II**

*Currently offered as On-Line option*

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit \*

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Prerequisites: *Art I, Art II, Art Appreciation or endorsement of department chair.*

Intended for students with an intense interest in Art, the course is aligned to the Advanced Placement curriculum for Art History. Students will examine major forms of artistic expression from the past and present and from a variety of cultures and will learn to look at these works of art critically, with intelligence and sensitivity, and to articulate what they see or experience. Students wishing to take the AP exam must take both semesters and work with their academic counselor to schedule the test.

## **Instrumental Study – Beginning Band**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11

Prerequisites: *Students must provide their own instruments.*

This class is open to students wishing to begin study of a traditional brass, woodwind or percussion instrument. Students must provide their own instruments. The goal of this class is to make everyone a part of the Austin Catholic High School band for the next semester.

## **Choir**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: *some basic knowledge of musical notation and prior choir/vocal experience, or instructor recommendation.*

Students will acquire individual vocal skills while developing a school performance group. Members will be responsible for all scheduled performance commitments outside of the school day; however students participating in sports and other activities are still able to take part. Students must remain in class for entire year, 1/4 credit cannot be given.

## **Band**

Course length: 2 semesters /1 credit

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: *Open to students already playing a traditional brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument.*

This class is the primary instrumental performance ensemble of Austin Catholic High School. The band studies traditional band literature/repertoire and has performances throughout the year. Students will participate in required performances during the school day (mass) and outside of the school day (concerts, open house, special events). Additional performance opportunities available include participation in MSBOA District & State Solo-Ensemble Festivals, MSBOA Honors Bands, MSBOA Band Festival, and American Guild of Music competitions. This class is a continual from grades 9 thru 12.

## **Pep Band**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit \*

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: *Band or with instructor approval*

TBD teacher and curriculum committee development during trial course 2019-2020. *This course will be for the knowledgeable band student that is able and interested in performing at school events, sporting events and special events. If interested in being a part of the trial phase for this course, please see instructor or guidance counselor.*

## **Music Appreciation**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: *None*

Music appreciation is a streamlined course that introduces students to the history, theory, and genres of music, from the most primitives surviving examples, through the classical to the most contemporary in the world at large. The first semester covers primitive musical forms, classical music, and American jazz.

## **Introduction to Theater Arts /Drama**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: *Public Speaking is recommended but not required.*

This course will give the student an introduction to the theater to develop a further appreciation for the art of theater. The student will be exposed to the history of theater, basic acting and directing techniques, basic theatrical design, play analysis, and dramatic criticism through the production of one act plays, theater attendance, extensive reading and writing, and creative expression experiences. Projects will include mime, improvisation, directing and acting scenes, and a final performance outside of class for a general audience.

### **Advanced Drama / Improv**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: *Public Speaking is recommended but not required.*

This course will further develop a student's understanding and ability to perform for an audience, with specific attention on Improvisation and impromptu speaking. Student will also delve deeper into the history of theater, acting and directing techniques, theatrical design, play analysis, and dramatic criticism. Projects will include mime, improvisation, directing and acting scenes, and a final performance outside of class for a general audience.

## **Applied Arts & Technology Courses**

### **Multi-Media / Broadcasting**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: *Multi Media/Journalism*

This course is designed to introduce students to the production side of television, radio, and related careers in broadcasting. Core requirement classes strive to provide real world experience within the schools' marketing department. As broadcasting transitions to digital delivery and expands to web and other new media methods of reaching listeners and viewers, this curriculum requires students to broaden their experiences to also try web design and social media platforms.

### **AP Computer Programing -- O.L.**

Course length: 2 semesters / 1 credit

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: *Students must complete application from instructor.*



# World [Foreign] Language Courses

## **Spanish I**

Course length: 2 Semesters / 1 Credit

Grades offered: 9, 10, 11

Pre Requisite: *None*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

Spanish I emphasizes pronunciation, vocabulary building, verb usage, and sentence structure. First-year students will learn to express themselves on everyday topics of simple people-to-people conversations and social interactions. Students will also study the culture of Spanish-speaking countries using different classroom techniques such as teaching aids, discussions, singing, dramatizing, cooking, and other enrichments drawn from community resources. Students should plan to study a minimum of 15-30 minutes per day to acquire proficiency in the language.

## **Spanish II**

Course length: 2 Semesters / 1 Credit

Grades offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: *Spanish I*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

Students will expand the study of the verb tenses of the indicative mood (present, past and future). Activities will focus on the practice of the writing, reading, listening and speaking skills with everyday situations as well as more specific topics related to culture, art, geography and history of Spanish speaking countries. Different aspects of the Hispanic culture will be presented using videos and Internet sources. Students should study a minimum of 15-30 minutes per day to acquire proficiency in the language.

## **Spanish III**

Course length: 2 Semesters / 1 Credit

Grades offered: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: *Spanish II*

\*\*\*NCAA approved class.

This level reviews and continues the material covered in Spanish I and II. Vocabulary knowledge will be expanded by adding idiomatic expressions used in traveling, celebrating with friends, using technology, and in other group situations. Writing, speaking and listening skills will be practiced using a variety of projects including videos, oral presentations and Internet sources. Students should study a minimum of 15-30 minutes per day to acquire proficiency in the language.

## **Online Language Options**

\*\*French I & II – note these are no longer offered in person after 2022-23

Latin I, II, III

American Sign Language I, II, III

Japanese I, II, III

# ACADEMIC SUPPORT & ENRICHMENT

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) COURSES

These rigorous courses are designed for hardworking students who excel at and enjoy that specific course or content area. The Advanced Placement (AP) program plays an integral role in the curriculum of Austin Catholic. As a college preparatory school, Austin offers AP courses as its highest and most challenging academic experiences. These are truly college-level courses, and, as a result, many colleges and universities offer placement or credit based on students' scores on the AP Exams. Criteria for assigning college placement or credit vary from course to course and from college to college. The College Board provides an index of these policies on their website. However, whether or not a student earns college credit for an AP course, the true value of the AP experience lies in the college-level skills and content the student learns.

More information about the AP program is available at <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com>.

Austin Catholic recognizes the advanced nature of these courses with a weighted GPA calculation. Admission to AP courses at Austin Catholic is based on teacher recommendations, PSAT scores, and grades in previous classes. By enrolling in the AP program, a student acknowledges its rigorous nature and agrees to give his or her best effort to succeed in it; agreeing to remain the full year in attendance and sit for the exam. **All students enrolled in an AP course will take the AP exam.**

Austin Catholic students also have access to all AP courses offered on Michigan Virtual High School

## DUAL ENROLLMENT AT MACOMB COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Course length: 1 Semester

Grades offered: 11, 12

Prerequisite: Counselor and Principal Approval

Number of Credits: varies, depending upon amount of time student is off-campus

Prerequisites: *Counselor Approval*

This program is an opportunity for qualified high school students to earn college credit while attending Austin, which may count toward a degree program and transfer to their university/college of choice.

Open to all juniors and seniors, students must apply to the Principal prior to the beginning of the dual-enrollment process. After ACHS approval (based on test grades, school performance, maturity, and teacher recommendations), the student and family will work with counselors and admissions staff at Macomb to process enrollment. Students must be enrolled at ACHS for full-time status and maintain academic standards throughout the program.

Students are eligible for one class period release time from Austin for each 3-5 credit course enrolled in at Macomb. (1-5 credit class = 1 period release time; 6 credits at Macomb = 2 periods release). Students must be enrolled at Austin for the remaining class periods with no more than one period a non-academic class (study hall, aides, etc.) The Austin class periods and release time periods together must equal eight. The minimum class load at Austin for dual enrollment is five periods. Release times may vary depending on a student's schedule.

# Pankow CTE Programs @ L'Anse Creuse

Course length: 2 Semesters

Grades offered: 11, 12

Prerequisite: Counselor and Principal Approval

Number of Credits: varies, depending upon amount of time student is off-campus

Prerequisites: *Counselor Approval*

The Frederick V. Pankow Center offers Career and Technical Education programs that are designed to foster pathways into potential career choices. These elective experiences provide students with entry level skills and a survey level understanding of the opportunities in each career pathway. Many of the programs begin as early as the tenth grade and continue toward a two or four-year degree at a technical school, community college, or university. Students enrolled in Career and Technical Education will be prepared to enter fields of work, which lead to more economically rewarding positions.

The programs offered at the Pankow Center are staffed by certified instructors and supported by a Career Development Facilitator and a Work-Based Learning/Externship Coordinator. Externship is available for most programs.

## Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses:

### Arts and Communications

- Graphic Arts & Design Technology
- TV and Broadcast Media/English Broadcast Journalism

### Computer Technology

- C# Programming and Game Design
- JAVA Programming
- PC Servicing and Networking/Intro to Cyber Security

### Engineering / Manufacturing & Industrial Technology

- Automotive Collision & Refinishing
- Automotive Technology 1 & 2
- Computer Aided Design (CAD)
- Construction Technology
- Mechatronics

### Health Sciences

- Health Occupations 1
- Health Occupations 2
- Medical Assisting
- Medical Investigations
- Sports Medicine, Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy

### Human Services

- Criminal Justice
- Culinary Arts
- Early Childhood Education

### Natural Resources & Agri-Science

- Horticulture Science
- Food Science

For detailed listing of courses and descriptions available at Pankow, please visit their website.

# SEMINAR COURSES

Revised Spring 2023

**NEW PROGRAMMING!** We continue to adjust our Seminar courses to fit the needs of our changing student needs. For 2024 students in grades 9, 11 and 12 will enroll in Seminar Courses. This is a change from our previous programming that required students to attend a ¼ credit course Seminar Course every year. The new programming fits our current student needs and reflects our staff expertise.

Each New Seminar Course focuses on specific social and academic skills necessary for the grade level/age of students. Students will engage in activities, lessons, projects, and readings that appropriately fit their needs and support the “whole child” education approach of Augustinian Education. Focusing on skills that are sometimes passed by in core academic classes, the Seminar Course seeks to fill gaps in skills, competencies, and knowledge that supports not only academic progress but also the social/emotional progress of all students. The diagnostic feedback given by teachers, counselors, and peers can help students anticipate pitfalls that could occur as they progress through high school, when they begin college, enter the workforce or in general just work more independently. Clear and consistent feedback and teamwork are hallmarks of the Seminar courses.

## **Freshman Success Skills**

Course length: 1 semester/ ½ credit

FALL & MiniMester

Grades Offered: 9

This course provides academic and social emotional support for the success of first year high school students. Supporting students to perform successfully across the curriculum and handle social/emotional topics is key to the development of the whole student. Character education and academic support topics include: study skills, time management, critical thinking activities, note taking, introduction to high stakes testing, exploration of post-secondary education and career options, social skills, stress and anxiety workshops, etc.

## **College & Career Readiness**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit

SPRING & MiniMester

Grades Offered: 11

This seminar is focused on providing the academic and social support to get students “ready” for college and beyond. Students will hone the skills necessary for success academically, socially, spiritually, and culturally as they continue researching and planning for post-secondary. Intense focus will be on post-secondary education and career exploration, high-stakes test preparation, and the various competences for successful post high school endeavors. Students will prepare a personal portfolio of a resume, personal statement, and applications for colleges. Students will also take college tours, research possible careers, shadow careers, attend seminars and speakers on topics of stress, anxiety, depression, etc.

## **College & Career Preparation**

Course length: 1 semester / ½ credit

FALL & MiniMester

Grades Offered: 12

This seminar is focused on giving senior students the structured time to finalize college applications, scholarship applications, senior projects, and receive social support in preparing to graduate.

# MINI MESTER PROGRAM & COURSES

Revised Fall 2023

## What:

Unique to Austin is an interim term in the first few weeks of January called “MiniMester”. This program has been successfully implemented in Augustinian Schools across the U.S. for over four decades. MiniMester offers the students an opportunity to explore various avenues of learning within and beyond the classroom. As part of the Augustinian mission of educating the whole person, the MiniMester experience extends learning beyond the classroom for the students to gain experiences in their role as members of the business world, as leaders, and thinkers/learners, and to be concerned, compassionate global citizens.

The Augustinian pedagogy and philosophy is teacher and student learning together on a journey of inquiry together. “The teacher is, fundamentally, a fellow student, a companion in the search. The school is a community where dialogue, interaction and sharing between the different members of the educational community make the educational process work.” We want to instill a love for learning in all regards into our students. We want to inspire them to love inquiry, to ask questions, to continue seeking answers and knowledge and that it doesn’t just happen in a classroom.

Some courses require an additional fee. (\*\*denotes fee)

All AP Courses, Dual Enrollment, and many clubs will still be required to meet due to the nature of the requirements set forth.

## When:

MiniMester is held during the first two weeks in January.

## Courses Offered in 2023 & 2024:

- **Bell Choir** [music] – Have you ever wanted to play in a musical ensemble, but didn't play an instrument? Try Bell Choir! We will learn basic music notation, rhythm, and bell ringing techniques. No prior experience necessary. By the end of the mini-mester, we will perform several pieces of music together.
- **Business Start-Up** [math/business] – do you dream of becoming your own boss and starting a business? Do you wonder how Food Trucks make money? If you do, than this MiniMester is for you. Using Food Trucks as a model, learn about the business and math associated with starting a business. Meet with a panel of Entrepreneurs and begin to develop your own business plan.
- **Caritas & Service** [Christian service] – spend your MiniMester out completing service around the community at various locations and organizations serving a wide array of needs. \*\*
- **CPR & AED** [health/phys. Ed.] – become certified in CPR and using an AED. Learn how to properly administer and care in a time of emergency and employ an AED. \*\*
- **Career Exploration** –
- **Calligraphy OR Illuminated Manuscripts** [art and history] – learn the art of calligraphy and study the art of illuminated manuscripts (hand-written books with painted decoration that generally includes precious metals such as gold or silver). \*\*
- **Improv** [speaking/drama] – Learn the art of "we're making it up as we go along!" and to react-in-the-moment with skills of improvisation. Learn the skills to build a scene/skit that audiences will care about like the comedians use on SNL, at Second City, and more
- **Let's Swing!** [dance] – learn the basics of Swing Dance from certified instructor of dance.
- **Leisure Sports**
- **Labs** [science] – Labs, you just can't get enough - did you ever wish for more lab time? Here is you chance to get some additional hands-on experience in the lab. \*\*
- **Marketing in a Digital World** [business] – learn how to tell a story and create video content for social media that catches attention from former TV Sportscaster, Justin Rose. Students will create content for Austin social media.
- **Movie MashUp** [English/history] – Using the movie “Back to the Future” learn a little about pop culture and elements of movies as literature to tell a story. Students will work on presentation skills and language development.
- **Museum Excursion** [history, gov't] – spend your minimester visiting a handful of museums – The Henry Ford, Rouge Plant Tour, Detroit Historical Museum, Thomas Edison Museum, etc. \*\*
- **Sew Good!** [life skills] – want to learn to sew? Well this MiniMester is for you! Spend your time learning to sew and produce not only a pair of lounge/pj pants but also some items for charity. \*\*
- **Speed & Agility** [health/phys. Ed.] – improve your speed and agility to make the most of your time on the court or field.
- **Statistics of Sports** [math] – learn to take stats in basketball and understanding how Vegas and all these online betting sites use math to be successful.
- **Spanish Immersion** [foreign language] –

# CRUSADER FLEX TIME

*“Stretching the possibilities to learn, explore, advise, and lead”*

## **What is Flex Time?**

Flex Time is 35 minutes of time built in where students can self-regulate and prioritize their learning and advancement. It is a program that offers additional instructional time for interventions or enriched learning such as tutoring or advanced lab time; time for counseling and mentoring programs; spirituality and faith; and leadership opportunities for students such as clubs and groups.

Flex Time comes in response to various needs in our school day. 1) protecting of lunch period for staff and students who need that time to socialize and decompress; 2) finding time for supports and activities during the day instead of at lunch or after school when students are also in activities; 3) guiding students toward self-regulation and time management in a structured way.

## **When is Flex Time held?**

Every day [except Fridays] from 8:55am—9:30am in between 1st and 2nd Block.

## **What types of services are available during Flex Time?**

The list of services and options is broad and designed to meet the various needs of our student body.

- **Prayer & Faith** – *each grade will be assigned twice weekly mandatory chapel time that will be student led prayer, meditation, and faith development experiences. Students may attend additional or alternate days due to other scheduled activities but must attend at minimum twice a week.*
- **Writing Lab** – *ability to submit papers to be edited and reviewed by peers and/or staff*
- **Academic Study Hall** – *additional time to complete homework or complete missing tests or assignments.*
- **Individual and Small group Tutoring** – *time structured in the day for students to meet with individual tutors, or in small group tutoring sessions led by NHS and/or staff.*
- **Opportunities to meet with teachers (office hours)** – *many students cannot meet with teachers after school or before, therefore this time allows for students to catch teachers during their “office hours” to ask questions or get additional support.*
- **Counseling Services** – *Guest speakers and small group mini sessions on peer relationships, stress, anxiety, or other social emotional topics will be held by the counseling dept.*
- **College Counseling/Advisory** – *come meet with college representatives during their visits, or attend a session on scholarships, college applications, or career exploration.*
- **Clubs and Activities** – *all clubs and activities [Student Government, NHS, RAK, Theatre Club, Newspaper, Book Club, Archery, Martial Arts, Environmental, etc.] will have a set day to meet.*

## **FlexTime FAQ's**

### **Are students required to participate in Flex Time?**

Yes, ALL students will be both assigned to some flex-time activities and also allowed freedom to select offerings based on their individual needs. Attendance will be taken, so everyone must attend Flex-Time offerings every day. **The only requirement during flex time will be twice weekly attendance at Chapel.** Students may also be required to attend tutoring for class grades lower than a C by specific teachers or counselor.

### **What if a student has not been assigned to a specific Flex Time activity?**

The library and commons will always be open for students for study hall. Eventually options such as intramural sports, open weight room, and more clubs will be added to the program. We encourage students to become involved in a club or activity to take advantage of this time to broaden leadership or interest in outside activities.

### **What rules apply to the Flex Time Program?**

- Students are not allowed to roam around the building and must be in a specific location as assigned or selected.
- Students may not leave campus
- Flex-time is not for socializing, or using e-devices to waste time.
- Twice weekly attendance at Chapel.

### **Sample Flex Time Schedules:**

Mon – Chapel

Tue – study hall time/tutoring/office hour visits

Wed – Chapel

Thur – Student Government meeting

Mon – Chapel

Tue – Book Club

Wed – (supposed to attend Chapel for Prayer but will sub Thur) NHS Meeting

Thur – Chapel

Mon – Tutoring in math or work on senior project/college applications // attend Chapel 2nd & 4th week

Tue – Student Government meeting

Wed – Chapel

Thur – 1st and 3rd attend chapel; 2nd & 4th newspaper club

Mon – study hall/ tutoring/meet with teachers

Tue – Chapel

Wed – Chapel

Thur – Chapel (meet with tue/thur teachers if need to / study hall or tutoring)

# SUMMER READING

As part of Austin Catholic High School's goal to prepare all students for the academic demands of college and our strong literacy goals we expect students to prepare themselves to read outside the classroom and during the idle months of summer. These outside and summer reading assignments require students to learn to budget their time, to read independently for meaning, content, and point of view, and to make themselves ready to engage a larger world through this experience. Research shows students who read consistently have higher S.A.T. and ACT scores and are better writers in college. With the strong desire to improve reading fluency, prepare for college, and strengthen academic performance, reading must be a high priority throughout the curriculum.

All outside reading is intended to supplement and expand instruction. Each text, selected by course instructors, reflects varying viewpoints, experiences, purposes, genres, and values that will inspire students to think critically and respond ethically. Austin's Summer Reading Program is designed to foster reading habits while introducing students to themes, concepts, or parallel content they will encounter during the year. Faculty members select the required materials with the following objectives in mind:

- Encourage independent reading while developing lifelong habits of reading for knowledge and enjoyment.
- Engage students in the joy of reading while promoting growth through increased interaction with texts, vocabulary, and themes.
- Introduce students to material and/or themes that will be explored in the upcoming school year.
- Expose students to thoughts, ideas, and life experiences beyond their own. Each selection is a catalyst for self-discovery.

**All summer reading and assigned outside reading are required and part of course grades.** Many of the required books are on reading lists recommended for college bound students, and library or literary award reading lists. Reading assignments are selected for their educational value. The texts may address challenging topics, important social justice issues, values issues, or other aspects of life which require thought and reflection. These readings are intended to provoke discussion and thought by the student. Many selections allow teachers to address difficult and challenging cultural, religious, and moral issues within the safe and value-oriented environment of Austin Catholic. Some books are considered classics; others are up-and-coming classics or young adult novels. Some books are chosen because they are written by minority authors and show a different point of view on life or values. Outside reading also promotes cross-curricular teaching and a more integrated and thorough approach to education.

Throughout the curriculum Austin students are taught to interact and respond to text and recognize and understand how each text reflects a culture, society, or historical period. Students should be able to read and interpret a variety of literary works and texts understanding their time, place, and circumstances. All reading assignments should be understood within their historical time period or frame of reference. The context of each text should be examined and understood seeking its educational value, its historicity, the moral lessons presented, and the life lessons which can be learned. Students are taught to analyze, interpret, and make good decisions about points of view advocated in books and in today's society, through the context of character formation. Controversial issues are evaluated within the context of our values and beliefs, so that differences may be explored, discussed, and evaluated, affirming our Catholic values and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Summer and outside reading may occasionally contain offensive language, sexual situations or language, or morally unacceptable activities or choices not consistent with our values. These elements, which are in conflict with our values, are not presented to undermine our strong values, nor to endorse these unacceptable behaviors. Rather, they are presented through the text and author's voice, so that students may think issues through and come to an appropriate moral response.

Guided by a competent and qualified teacher, students are taught to cope with these moral issues, to affirm a strong sense of values and morals, and to face a complex world as responsible Catholic Christian young adults.

Austin Catholic works to fully integrate the core Augustinian values of Truth, Unity and Love into all dimensions of student life. To accomplish this, we teach students to evaluate reading texts within the context of the values of our school and our faith and their personal family values. Students are encouraged to learn about those who may or may not share our core values and are exposed, through reading assignments, to those who have different opinions and values than our own. Summer and outside reading assignments are carefully chosen by our faculty; substitutions will not be made.