



**HOLY
GHOST
PREPARATORY
SCHOOL**

**2017-2018
PROGRAM
OF
STUDIES**

Holy Ghost Preparatory School

Program of Studies

Mission Statement

Holy Ghost Preparatory School, founded by members of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, the Spiritans, is a private Catholic school dedicated to the quality education of college-bound young men.

With Christ at the center, Holy Ghost Preparatory School aspires to form young men morally, intellectually, and spiritually in the Spiritan tradition.

This tradition fosters the development of community in “one heart and one mind,” the cultivation of each student’s unique gifts, academic excellence, and generous service to the poor.

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Academic Philosophy

Academic life at Holy Ghost Prep articulates the pastoral message on Catholic education "To Teach as Jesus Did," a message which fulfills the dignity of the person and the building of community, a message which equates that community with service. Therefore, Holy Ghost Prep students are exposed to a rigorous liberal arts and sciences core curriculum which teaches critical thinking skills, enabling students to critique moral issues through the Gospel message, fellowship in the life of the Holy Spirit, and service to the human community.

In keeping with our mission statement, Holy Ghost Prep seeks academic excellence by challenging all students to strive to reach their maximum level of academic ability and to make use of the unique gifts given to them by God. As a college preparatory school, Holy Ghost Prep is committed to preparing students for the rigors of a competitive and demanding collegiate career. Holy Ghost Prep students will be expected to think rationally, to compute patiently and accurately, and to reason creatively. They will understand the importance of technology in today's society and will become comfortable with the use of this technology. They will learn to appreciate the beauty of creation through a comprehensive program in the humanities. They will learn to communicate clearly and effectively while always being sensitive to the needs of their fellow men and women. They will strive for an understanding of and an appreciation for people different from themselves. They will seek to understand their particular role in God's master plan.

Holy Ghost Prep provides an environment whereby students and teachers positively challenge themselves and one another through a variety of activities both academic and extracurricular. As true education requires interaction, teachers and students thrive in the atmosphere of interaction and mutual respect cultivated at the School.

Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

As each course in our curriculum would be considered an honors course at many other schools and as many academically talented students attend Holy Ghost Prep, Honors or Advanced Placement courses are not for everyone. For incoming students, enrollment is limited to those students who have performed well on our placement test, our entrance test, on standardized tests administered at their elementary schools and who have achieved high standards of performance in their elementary school as evidenced by their elementary school transcript. For rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors, Honors and Advanced Placement courses are limited to those students who have demonstrated in their course work at Holy Ghost Prep a commitment to the highest level of achievement possible. Specific placement decisions are made by department members and their chairs, and are approved by the Placement Committee, in consultation with present subject teachers, department chairs, and members of the Academic Committee. Any student approved for admission into an AP course must take the corresponding AP exam offered in the spring. A minimum grade of "3" on the AP test is normally required for subsequent enrollment in an AP course in the same subject area. Students in an AP class must demonstrate success in the class by achieving a grade above "C" at the end of semester one or they will be asked to withdraw and will be enrolled in another class.

Student Class Schedules and Changes

In an effort to allow students a wide range of possible success, they may change their schedules to fit their needs given constraints of class size. Schedule changes are made at the discretion of the Principal considering class sizes and appropriateness of a course for a student. Most schedule changes should occur during the summer. Schedule changes beyond the first two full schedule cycles in the first semester (i.e. 16 class days) will generally not be made, unless the school views it to be in a student's best interest to move to a lower level course within the same department and no courses from other departments are affected. At the start of the second semester, schedule changes will not be made beyond the first full cycle (i.e. the first 8 class days). To receive AP credit, students in AP courses are required to complete the full course and take the appropriate AP test for that course.

Graduation Requirements

The minimum requirement for graduation at Holy Ghost Preparatory School is 24 core course units. A unit is earned by completing assigned work satisfactorily. All students are required to take a minimum of six full core credit subjects each semester.

A senior who fails a course in his senior year may not graduate from Holy Ghost Prep. All students must fully participate in Christian Service, non-credit guidance courses, and the following to fulfill our academic requirements for graduation:

SUBJECT AREA	SEMESTERS REQUIRED	# OF UNITS
English*	8	4
Mathematics*	8	4
Religion*	8	4
World Language**	6	3
Science	6	3
Social Studies	6	3
Electives	6	3

**Minimum of 2 semesters of core courses required per year*

***6 semesters of the language begun upon entrance to HGP*

Additionally, as part of our liberal arts education, all freshman students are required to have exposure to the Fine Arts in our curriculum. All freshmen are required to take either Introduction to Studio Art or one of the other Fine Arts Department offerings to fulfill the ninth grade Fine Arts requirement. Instrumental Music, Jazz Band, or Chorus/Music Theory may not be included in the required 24 units, although they are credit courses.

All students must take a minimum of 6 full credit (0.5 unit) courses per semester during each year of their attendance at Holy Ghost Prep. Except for Portfolio Art and AP Music Theory, music and art courses are given transcript credit, but are not included in the calculation of a student's grade point average.

All students must take Biology, Chemistry, and Physics to meet our graduation requirements in the sciences.

All seniors are required to take either a science course, computer science course or a world language course as part of their senior curriculum.

Computer Science Department

Web Design with JavaScript

¼ Credit – Fall Semester

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12

This co-curricular course provides an introduction to scripting and design concepts used in the creation of web pages. Java scripting techniques will be used to enhance web page development. HTML and web page development software will be utilized. This class meets three periods per cycle.

Interactive Web Page Programming with Forms Processing

¼ credit - Spring Semester

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12

This course provides a more in-depth look at using websites to gather and process information, as well as making web pages more dynamic. Java scripting techniques will be used extensively to enhance web page development and forms handling. Web Page Design with Java Scripting is a pre-requisite for this course. This class meets three periods per cycle.

Introduction to Programming in Visual Basic

¼ Credit – Fall Semester

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

This co-curricular course deals with the concepts of computer programming. Students will develop solutions and create programs to solve problems, while learning the Visual Basic language and object-oriented programming concepts. Successful completion of Algebra I is required. This class meets three periods per cycle.

Introduction to Information Systems

¼ Credit – Spring Semester

Grades 10, 11, 12

This co-curricular course prepares students to understand information systems. This course is designed for students who wish to pursue work with computers as a tool to accomplish tasks using pre-designed software. Topics will include, but not be limited to, all Microsoft Office programs, as well as similar open source programs. Database management and design will also be discussed. Students will learn how to write macros for spreadsheets and use a database command language to accomplish tasks. Students will be introduced to basic web page creation techniques and programs. This class meets three periods per cycle.

Introductory Computer Science

1/2 Credit - Fall Semester

Grades 10, 11, 12

This elective core course offers students with interest in computer science an opportunity to learn programming. The course is taught from a liberal arts perspective; therefore, students need only to have studied Algebra I and one year of world language as prerequisites. Throughout the semester, students are required to write programs to solve

problems while learning the Java programming language. This course is especially appropriate for those students interested in learning problem solving skills and logic. This course is not appropriate for those students who “want to learn more about computers.” General knowledge of current Windows operating systems, and the Holy Ghost Prep network environment is required. Enrollment preference is given to upperclassmen.

Information Systems

½ Credit – Spring Semester

Grades 10, 11, 12

This elective prepares students to handle all levels of information systems. This course is designed for students who wish to pursue work with computers as a tool to accomplish tasks using pre-designed software. Topics will include, but not be limited to, all Microsoft Office programs, as well as similar open source programs. Database management and design will also be discussed. Students will learn how to write macros for spreadsheets and use a database command language to accomplish tasks. Use of the World Wide Web will be covered in detail, assuring students are prepared to make presentations and projects on their own websites through basic web page creation techniques and programs.

Microcontrollers with Robotics Applications

1/2 Credit – Spring Semester

Grades 10, 11, 12

This is a self-directed, project-oriented course designed to introduce students to the programming and application of microcontrollers. Students will learn to use the Arduino C language and the microcontroller development board to create autonomous applications for wheeled robots, and other embedded control systems. Topics include sensor input and output, relays, electronic components, and motor control. All students will be required to design, build, and present one major project of their choosing by the end of the semester.

Prerequisites: Computer Science, Visual Basic or extensive programming experience.

Graphic Design

1/2 Credit – Either Semester

Grades 10, 11, 12

This course teaches students design concepts and principles through the use of Photo Editing Software and CAD. Students will learn to apply design principles through the structure of a visual hierarchy and discover how to use both space and type to create effective designs. Students will develop skills that translate to design for web, apps, marketing campaigns, print designs, 3D printing and more.

AP Computer Science Principles

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 10, 11, 12

This advanced placement elective introduces students to the central ideas of computer science. This course focuses on fostering students to be creative and encourages students to apply creative processes when developing computational artifacts. In this course, students design and implement innovative solutions using an iterative process similar to what artists, writers, computer scientists, and engineers use to bring ideas to life. By the end of the second semester, students are sufficiently prepared to take the Advanced Placement Exam of the college Board.

AP Computer Science A

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 10, 11, 12

This advanced placement elective prepares students for entry-level college courses in computer science. Topics include preconditions and postconditions, assertions, and informal analysis of algorithms, as well as many standard searching and sorting algorithms using static data structures. There is a heavy emphasis on recursion. By the end of the second semester, students are sufficiently prepared to take the Advanced Placement Exam of the College Board, Level A. Enrollment in this Advanced Placement section is limited to those students who have shown high aptitude in Math and Science and have departmental approval.

AP Computer Science A

1/2 Credit - Spring Semester

Grades 10, 11, 12

This advanced placement elective prepares students for entry-level college courses in computer science. Topics include preconditions and postconditions, assertions, and informal analysis of algorithms, as well as many standard searching and sorting algorithms using static data structures. There is a heavy emphasis on recursion. By the end of the semester, students are sufficiently prepared to take the Advanced Placement Exam of the College Board, Level A. Enrollment in this Advanced Placement section is limited to those students who have shown high aptitude in Math and Science, or who have demonstrated sufficient programming proficiency through the successful completion of Introductory Computer Science with a grade of “A” and have departmental approval.

Computer Science Advanced Topics Honors

1 credit – Two semesters

Grade 12

This honors elective is for those students who have shown an exceptional interest in many different aspects of the computer science field and have taken the other departmental courses. Students will explore various advanced current topics in Computer Science, including networking, web site design, and advanced development techniques used in web site creation. In the first semester, students will continue their study of

collegiate level advanced computer science topics formerly featured on the College Board's AP Computer Science AB Exam. In the second semester, students will learn PHP programming and interaction with a MySQL database, all while developing websites. Enrollment in this honors section is limited to those students who have shown a high aptitude in AP Computer Science or have departmental approval, and have approval of the Placement Committee.

English Department

Introduction to Literature and Composition

Honors Section Available

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 9

In this full-year core course, students explore the various conventions intrinsic to literary genres, such as the novel, short story, poetry, and drama. Vocabulary is taught as an outgrowth of the literature as well as through vocabulary texts; grammar is taught as a means of writing effective prose. Composition is integrated with reading, listening/speaking, and thinking skills. Students in the course learn the process approach to writing and strive for clarity and conciseness of expression in written and oral assignments. They begin the process of citing sources, using the Modern Language Association (MLA) format.

The honor section of this core course moves more rapidly and covers more material than the regular course. Though it includes those goals articulated for the non-honors sections, the honors-level course also includes enrichment in reading, composition and vocabulary. The Placement Committee, considering entrance test scores, other standardized testing, and elementary school grades, determines enrollment in this honors section.

Communication Skills

Honors Section Available

1/2 Credit - Either Semester

Grade 10

This core course improves skills in speaking, listening, writing, and reading. Some activities covered include outlining, writing and presenting speeches, as well as expanding vocabulary knowledge and literature appreciation. In addition, students participate in Student Congress, utilizing parliamentary procedure and, at the end of the semester, will perform an oral interpretation of literature and a PowerPoint presentation.

The honors-level section covers the material of the regular section of this course at a faster pace and requires students to compose and deliver an extra speech, a ten minute oratory, and read an additional literary work. In addition, students attend a forensic tournament and present a seminar paper. This course is taught in tandem with Academic Writing. Enrollment in the honors section is limited to those students who have shown high aptitude in English, have departmental approval, and have approval of the Placement Committee.

Academic Writing

Honors Section Available

1/2 Credit - Either Semester

Grade 10

The course's goal is to familiarize students with the elements of composition, the potential of language, and the types of essays required for high school and college writing. This course introduces students to the writing process of prewriting, drafting and editing. The course uses a series of model essays that emphasize structure, style and subject matter of various essay modes. Then, students will write papers using these modes. These essays will culminate in the final assignment, a five-page research paper that uses the MLA format. In order to enhance language use, the students will also study vocabulary and incorporate writing-based grammar exercises.

The honors level of this course covers a greater number of more difficult reading and writing assignments. Enrollment in the honors section is limited to those students who have shown high aptitude in English, have departmental approval, and have approval of the Placement Committee.

Advanced Communications I and II

1 Credit – Two Semesters

Grades 11, 12

This elective course is designed to improve skills in speaking, listening, writing, and reading. Students in this class frequently participate in forensic tournaments and use the class to refine their skills. Enrollment in this section is limited to those students who have shown high aptitude in English, have departmental approval, and have approval of the Placement Committee. This course must be taken as a seventh class.

American Literature

Honors Section Available

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 11

This core course will focus on a selection of themes in a variety of genres, including novel, short story, poetry, and drama. The first semester deals with American literature to 1869; the second continues to the present. Readings will examine the human condition as found in the common conflicts, emotions, and ideas that challenge American people. Students will be asked to do a close and critical reading of literary works in order to comprehend their social, political, and cultural contexts. In addition, students will enrich their vocabulary and literary terminology as well as refine their formal writing and communication skills.

The honors level of this course covers a greater number of reading and writing assignments than the non-honors sections. Enrollment in the honors section is limited to those students who have shown high aptitude in English, have departmental approval, and have approval of the Placement Committee.

AP English Language and Composition

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 11

This advanced placement honors level course is offered to juniors who have a proven background in the study of English and writing who wish to work at the college level. This course will be taken instead of American Literature. The course will advance the students' critical reading skills in prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts; furthermore, it will help them to become skilled writers who can compose for a variety of purposes. American Literature will be emphasized. By their writing and reading in this course, the students should become aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects, as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effective writing. Enrollment is limited to students who have shown high aptitude in other English honors courses, have departmental approval, and have approval of the Placement Committee.

World Literature

Honors Section Available

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 12

This core course fulfills the senior literature survey requirement. This course introduces students to a variety of cultures and to the themes and values that preoccupy their writers. Voices from Greece, Italy, France, Ireland, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Russia, China, South Africa, South America, and the U.S. are represented in this course. Special emphasis is given to British writers. The written and oral assignments emphasize critical thinking, reading, and writing, as well as the use of the MLA format. Vocabulary and literary terminology are studied as adjuncts to the readings.

The honors level of this course covers a greater number of reading and writing assignments than the non-honors sections. Enrollment in the honors section is limited to students who have shown high aptitude in English, have departmental approval, and have approval of the Placement Committee.

AP English Literature and Composition

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 12

This advanced placement honors level course is offered to seniors who have a proven background in the study of English and who wish to work at the college level. The course is focused thematically and includes the study of genre, language, meaning, and gender through a diverse array of texts. The course stresses a close reading approach to the study of literature, precision and economy in the written analysis of texts, and the knowledge of terms and strategies needed for the AP English Literature Test. Enrollment is limited to students who have shown high aptitude in other English honors courses, have departmental approval, and have approval of the Placement Committee.

Journalism

1/2 Credit - Spring Semester

Grades 11, 12

A semester elective, this course offers a range of educational opportunities including reporting, interviewing, writing and editing. Students in the course are introduced to the journalistic styles including news, editorial, feature, column, and review, with complete assignments in each type. In addition, elements of layout design, photography, art/cartooning, computer use and desktop publishing are taught. The class emphasizes the development of critical reading skills, problem solving, social awareness, interpersonal relationships, responsibility, objectivity, and a willingness to deal with timely and/or controversial topics. At the same time, the course demands a practical approach to "on-the-spot" writing and the continued use of good grammar and punctuation. Enrollment preference will be given to students who already serve the school community as editors and contributors to school publications.

Creative Writing

1/2 Credit - Fall Semester

Grades 11, 12

A semester elective, this course will cover the study and practice of various forms of creative writing. Students will compose assignments in short fiction, poetry, drama, and creative non-fiction. Assignments will be assessed for both style and content; for the purposes of grading, the originality of students' ideas will be considered, but so too will their ability to master the form of expression. We will begin each unit by reading models of published works. Course readings will include mostly contemporary examples of short fiction, poetry, personal essays, plays, and film and television scripts. Students' final grades will be determined by assessments of the readings and a portfolio of their best creative work.

No one composes a masterpiece in a first draft. Successful pieces will be those that abide by each step of the writing process, from the initial reflection to the final proofread. Students will be expected to revise, edit, and rewrite assignments with the goal of submitting polished, completed drafts. Once they have reached that point, students will be encouraged to pursue publication of their work through various channels, such as writing contests, the school literary magazine, and professional publications that accept this kind of work.

Dramatic Performance

1/2 Credit - Fall Semester

Grades 11, 12

This course introduces students to the basics of acting. Initially, it focuses on the detailed literary analysis of dramatic works; subsequently, it takes students through the necessary steps that bring the text to the level of believable performance. Those opting to take this course should expect to read critically, to explicate constantly--plummeting for theme, situation, character, and subtext--and to perform frequently, and honestly. For those interested in the HGP theater program and/or the dramatics component of forensics, this course will prove valuable.

Acting Shakespeare
1/2 Credit - Fall Semester
Grades 11, 12

This acting studio course is designed to engage students at all skill levels in reading, discussing, and ultimately performing Shakespeare's works. This kind of class takes 400 year old texts that are often times only "read" in class and brings them to life. Macbeth is not just a way to study hubris and ambition, but a chance for an actor to explode on stage in a fit of fury. Students and teacher begin by breaking down the misconceptions through the art of play and improvisation; Shakespearean texts become a tool to use rather than a daunting challenge to wrestle with. Students will study the background of plays, view examples of plays (filmed and possibly live,) and rehearse monologues and scenes.

Short Story
1/2 Credit - Spring Semester
Grade 12

A semester elective course, Short Story will cover a variety of short works of fiction, reinforcing the academic skills which are taught through the study of literature: reading, analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating texts. The course will cover international writers of short fiction, including Garcia-Marquez, Tolstoy, Chekov, Borges, Kafka, Proust, Lawrence, Joyce, Malamud, Melville, Hawthorne, Baldwin, Wright, Carver, Chopin, Ford and Perkins-Gilman, as well as many others. In conjunction with the works of short fiction, the students will be required to read and discuss criticisms of each work. Additionally, the students will be required to write several papers, one of which will entail an in-depth, researched study of a work, the other of which will be the students' choice of a creative, original work.

Myth in the Ancient World
1/2 Credit – Fall Semester
Grades 11, 12

This elective course is designed to build upon students' prior work on classical mythology in earlier classes at Holy Ghost Prep. Through an expanded reexamination of the familiar tales of the ancient Greeks and Romans students will learn to appreciate these myths not simply as entertaining stories but as windows into the culture and mindset of the ancients. Though Greek and Roman myth will form the backbone of this course, abundant time will be devoted to the subject of comparative mythology through exploration of parallel stories taken from other ancient cultures such as the Egyptians, Norse, and Sumerians, to name a few. Additionally, students will apply the information they learn in this class to re-envisionings of ancient myths in modern media (movies, graphic novels, etc.) and will explore the lasting impact of ancient myth on contemporary religions.

Cinematography

1 Credit – Two Semesters

Grades 11, 12

This course is designed for students who wish to pursue filmmaking, communications or related fields in college. Initially, it focuses on the camera and camera shots. Elements of the class will include storyboarding, filming and computer editing. Students will create their own short films. The class emphasizes the development of critical thinking skills, problem solving, planning, writing and speaking. Using the camera, students should refine common elements found in good writing and speaking such as awareness to audience, purpose and subject. Students opting to take this course should be highly motivated and organized. They should also plan to spend time outside of class to complete assignments.

Writing and Publishing

1 Credit – Two Semesters

Grades 11, 12

This course gives the students opportunity to learn about journalism while producing the *Firebird*, Holy Ghost's yearbook. The student will learn to express himself clearly and creatively, become adept at interviewing and working within the confines of deadlines. Additionally, students will refine their editing and writing skills while using a professional publishing package. This course must be taken as a seventh class.

Fine Arts Department

Art

Any student who takes art will have work exhibited in the school during the academic year. Only Introduction to Studio Art is graded “E”—Excellent, “S”—Satisfactory, or “U”—Unsatisfactory. All other art courses are given letter grades according to the Holy Ghost Prep Grading Scale, though only Portfolio Art is included in a student’s Grade Point Average.

Introduction to Studio Art

1/10 Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 9

Studio Art introduces the students to a variety of media in a program that encompasses art for art's sake and educational relevance. This introductory course is designed to give students a taste of many ways of doing art, including design, drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. This course meets one period per cycle and fulfills the ninth grade Fine Arts requirement.

Painting and Printmaking

1/10 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 10, 11, 12

Students concentrate on different ways of making prints and painting. Acrylic, watercolor, gouache and mixed media are methods of painting that students can employ. Printmaking can include linoleum, silk-screening, collagraph, intaglio, and many ways of using monotype to produce images. This course meets one period per cycle. This class is a suggested pre-requisite for Portfolio.

2D & 3D Design

1/10 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 10, 11, 12

In this course students explore line, form, color, space, shape and texture in as many ways and with as many materials as possible. Materials such as paper, wood, plaster, wire, paint and markers are used to answer problems of relief, logo design, typography, bookmaking and sculpture, to name a few. This course meets one period per cycle. This class is a suggested pre-requisite for Portfolio.

Drawing

1/10 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 10, 11, 12

This course is designed to help students develop a "good eye" and confidence in their drawing skills. Students are introduced to drawing in a variety of media, including pencil, *conte*, charcoal and pastel. Skills are built through blind, contour and value drawings of objects, still life, interior and landscape drawing. This course meets one period per cycle. This class is a pre-requisite for Portfolio.

Advanced Drawing

1/5 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 11, 12

This course is designed for students who have had experience drawing. The students who elect to take this course have demonstrated above average drawing skills, have had at least one year of drawing and are ready to further explore different media, surfaces and compositional challenges. Work will include long-term drawings, still life, interiors, and portraiture. Figure drawing is offered in a special one time after school class. This course meets two periods per cycle. Students in grade 10 may take this course with departmental approval.

Junior Portfolio Art

1/5 Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 11

Junior Portfolio is a process course. Students experience drawing, intaglio, relief and monotype printmaking. In the second semester, students do watercolor, acrylic and oil paintings. The last work is a collaborative sculpture project. The goal is for the students to have a “hands on” experience with most of the materials available in the studio. Assignments are presented in the aforementioned sequence. Materials and methods are taught through demonstration and experimentation. Junior Portfolio is a pre-requisite to Senior Portfolio. This course meets three periods per cycle.

Portfolio Art

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 12

Portfolio Art is designed for students who plan to pursue the visual arts or architecture at the college level. Portfolio students are students who have demonstrated initiative and artistic curiosity. Any student electing this course, who is not planning to pursue an arts program in college, will be held to the same requirements and expectations as those who are. Drawing, printmaking, self-portrait, painting, learning about art, artists and visiting museums are elements of this course. The independent aspect of this course allows students to develop a personal artistic vision. Within the context of this course, some students prepare AP Portfolios.

Students electing this course must be motivated artists, must have taken art every year of high school, and must have taken at least one year of drawing. This course is graded as other credit bearing courses and is calculated as part of the grade point average.

The recommended sequence for Portfolio Art is the following:

- 9 - Introduction to Studio Art
- 10 - Drawing, 2D/3D Design, and/or Painting and Printmaking
- 11 - Advanced Drawing, Painting and Printmaking, and/or Junior Portfolio
- 12 - Portfolio

Drama

Introduction to Drama

1/4 Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 9

This course is designed to give students an overview of drama. The class includes drama exercises, vocal training, body movement and diction practice. Students will learn correct stage, theater and drama terminology. Students will interpret written texts through a series of theater games and scene performances. The course culminates with a production of a short play presented to the ninth grade. This course meets three periods per cycle. This course fulfills the ninth grade Fine Arts requirement.

Drama Overview

1/4 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 10, 11, 12

This course is designed to give students an overview of drama. The class includes drama exercises, vocal training, body movement and diction practice. Students will learn correct stage, theater and drama terminology. Students will interpret written texts through a series of theater games and scene performances. The course culminates with a "black box" production of a short play in the Geruson Gallery. This course meets three periods per cycle.

Music

All music courses are given letter grades according to the Holy Ghost Prep Grading Scale, though only AP Music Theory is included in a student's Grade Point Average.

Music Technology and Creation

¼ Credit – Two Semesters

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

This course uses computer and music software in the creation of music. There are two aspects to the course of study. The first aspect is the creation of music through entirely computer generated sounds and sequencing. Students would learn to compose music using sounds generated by digital sources. Students who do not play acoustic instruments would be able to compose music through the knowledge of music sequencing.

The second aspect of the course would be digital recording of acoustic and/or electric instruments. Students would learn how to record and digitally manipulate live performances. They would learn how to incorporate sound from both digital and acoustic sources to create and record musical compositions.

Chamber Ensemble

¼ Credit – Two Semesters

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

This course is for students who play string instruments (violin, viola, cello, and upright bass). The class studies small ensemble music as well as the literature performed by the large ensembles at Holy Ghost Prep. The class meets three times per cycle. This course fulfills the ninth grade Fine Arts requirement.

Introduction to Guitar

1/10 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Introduction to Guitar is a course designed to introduce students to basic guitar playing and basic music theory. Students must supply their own guitar. This course meets one period per cycle. This course fulfills the ninth grade Fine Arts requirement.

Intermediate Guitar

1/10 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Intermediate Guitar is a course designed for students who have some background playing guitar but may not have yet been fully introduced to music theory. Students will have an opportunity to advance guitar playing skills. Intermediate guitar is designed to be a follow-up to students who have completed Introduction to Guitar. Placement is at the discretion of the instructor. This course meets one period per cycle. This course fulfills the ninth grade Fine Arts requirement.

Guitar Ensemble

1/10 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Guitar Ensemble is a performance course designed for students with knowledge of the guitar and music theory. Students in the Guitar Ensemble take part in school concerts and various school liturgies or other events. This course meets one period per cycle. Enrollment is limited to those approved by the instructor. This course fulfills the ninth grade Fine Arts requirement.

Chorus and Music Theory

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

The goals of this course include an appreciation of music as an expressive art, an understanding of musical terminology and music theory, and an understanding of choral music in history. This course also provides students with another performing experience and can serve as training for the annual musicals. The chorus class will serve the school community at liturgy. This course can fulfill the ninth grade Fine Arts requirement.

Jazz Band**1 Credit – Two Semesters****Grades 10, 11, 12**

This is a performance-based course, which focuses on the study of Jazz. Enrollment is limited to the instrumentation of a jazz band and is by audition only.

Instrumental Music**1 Credit - Two Semesters****Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

Instrumental Music has a number of goals, which include an appreciation of great music of all time periods, a development of performance potential within each student and an appreciation of his classmates' talents as well as those of professional musical artists. The group serves as a performing ensemble within the Holy Ghost Prep community. This course can fulfill the ninth grade Fine Arts requirement.

AP Music Theory**1 Credit - Two Semesters****Grade 12**

AP Music Theory is a college level course, which introduces musicianship, theory, harmony, dictation, and the structure of music, integrating music history and style. Dictation and other listening skills, such as solfeggio and keyboard harmony are important parts of the course. Students must be able to read music and have acquired basic performance skills in voice or an instrument.

Mathematics Department

Students in the Class of 2021 are required to purchase a TIInspire for use in mathematics classes. Students from the Class of 2020, the Class of 2019 and the Class of 2018 are required to have a Texas Instruments TI-83 or TI-84 Graphing Calculator (plus or silver editions acceptable) for use in mathematics classes. TI-89 Graphing Calculators are not acceptable.

Algebra I

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 9

This core course lays the foundation for the rest of the courses in high school mathematics. Its primary goal is the acquisition of the necessary manipulative skills in algebra and the attainment of an adequate understanding of concepts by the methods of self-discovery and generalization. Students who have had limited or no exposure to algebra will be placed in this course.

Intermediate Algebra

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 9

This core course is intended for students who have had exposure to Algebra I. The basic concepts of Algebra I will be covered quickly and students will move on to advanced Algebra I topics and introductory Algebra II concepts, if time permits. The graphing calculator will be used extensively to enhance the student's base of understanding by showing the graphical aspect of the algebraic concept. Students will also use the calculator as an exploratory tool prior to learning a specific topic. Placement in this course will be based on student achievement in the Algebra Placement test.

Algebra II Honors

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 9

This core honors section is limited to those students who not only have a solid background in Algebra I, but also have consistently demonstrated a high aptitude for achievement in mathematics. Students who are placed into this section and perform successfully will have the opportunity to accelerate their math curriculum so that they will be able to take both AP Calculus AB and BC. Students in the Algebra II Honors section will move more quickly and deeply into regular and advanced Algebra II topics. The graphing calculator will be used extensively. The Placement Committee considering entrance test scores, other standardized testing, elementary school grades, and an Algebra placement test determines enrollment in this honors section.

Geometry**1 Credit - Two Semesters****Grade 10**

This core course introduces students to the fundamental principles of geometry and its presence in the world. Through problems and formal proofs, students are encouraged to think logically and rigorously. Students will be exposed to the study of circles, triangles, parallelograms, and other polygons, and will be introduced to the trigonometric ratios. Attention will be paid to topics covered in the Scholastic Aptitude Test. Students are placed by the Mathematics Department and the Placement Committee according to their past performance.

Geometry/Algebra II**1 Credit - Two Semesters****Grade 10**

This core course completes the study of Algebra II topics begun in Intermediate Algebra. This student will also study the fundamental principles of geometry, including some study of formal proofs. Attention will be paid to topics covered in the Scholastic Aptitude Test. Students are placed by the Mathematics Department and the Placement Committee according to their past performance.

Geometry Honors**1 Credit - Two Semesters****Grade 10**

This core course approaches a traditional Plane Geometry course with greater sophistication of proof and more challenging problems than regular Geometry. Both 2- and 3-dimensional topics are covered. Some time is spent on coordinate (analytic) geometry and trigonometry. Problem solving and critical examinations of the theories involved are the most important elements throughout the course. Enrollment in Geometry Honors is limited to those students who have shown high aptitude in Math, have previously taken or are concurrently taking Algebra II Honors, have departmental approval, and have approval of the Placement Committee.

Algebra II**1 Credit - Two Semesters****Grade 11**

This core course reinforces the concepts of Algebra I with greater emphasis on applications. In addition, all the remaining topics of high school algebra are covered. Problem solving plays an important part in the mastery of this course. Students are placed by the Placement Committee according to their past performance.

Math Analysis

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 11

This core course reinforces the concepts covered in previous math courses with greater emphasis on applications. In preparation for Calculus, the topics of function analysis, trigonometry, exponential functions and analytic geometry will be studied. Students are placed by the Placement Committee according to their past performance.

Math Analysis Honors

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 10, 11

This honors core course fully prepares students for AP Calculus. It provides a broad overview of the various topics and ideas covered in an introductory course in college mathematics. Enrollment is limited to those students who have shown high aptitude in the Honors Algebra and Geometry courses, have departmental approval, and have approval of the Placement Committee.

Pre-Calculus

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 12

This core course lays the foundation for college mathematics. Algebra topics will be reviewed with emphasis on function analysis topics, trigonometric functions, and exponential and logarithmic functions. This course will end with an introduction to calculus, if time permits. Students are placed by the Placement Committee according to their past performance.

Calculus Honors

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 12

This core course provides the students with a foundation in college-level calculus. While not as rigorous as the Advanced Placement sections, this course moves quickly and thoroughly through introductory Calculus topics. Students are placed by the Placement Committee according to their past performance.

AP Calculus AB

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 11, 12

This college-level core course deals with elementary functions and with differential and integral calculus and their applications. Enrollment is limited to those students who have consistently shown high aptitude in math, have departmental approval, and have approval of the Placement Committee. Because of the amount of material that the course covers, students will be required to attend occasional sessions outside normal school hours.

AP Calculus BC

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 12

This core course covers the Calculus AB topics together with advanced topics in Integral Calculus and an in-depth study of sequences and series including convergence, divergence and Taylor Series with remainders. The Calculus BC topics are typically included in a two-semester sequence, Calculus I and Calculus II at the college level. Enrollment is limited to those students who have consistently shown high aptitude in math, have departmental approval, and have approval of the Placement Committee.

Statistics and Probability

1/2 Credit - Fall Semester

Grades 11, 12

This elective course deals with the study of the fundamental concepts of descriptive statistics and probability. Additional topics include curve fitting, sampling and surveys. Use of the TI-83+ calculator allows students to explore real-life data without doing tedious calculations. Students should have a strong mathematics background in order to fully comprehend some of the more sophisticated topics covered. Good writing skills are also required to communicate statistical results intelligibly. Departmental approval is required.

Statistical Applications

1/2 Credit - Spring Semester

Grades 11, 12

This elective course is designed to develop a greater understanding and appreciation for the study of statistics. Students will work with probability, data collection, descriptive and inferential statistics, and technological tools to analyze statistics. The course will focus primarily on real world applications in topics such as business, sports, social sciences, and accounting. This course will follow a project based outline in which students will investigate and analyze studies and create complex questions to answer through the study of statistics. Departmental approval is required. *Statistics and Probability* must be successfully completed in the Fall Semester.

Discrete Mathematics

1/2 Credit - Spring Semester

Grades 11, 12

This elective course will be an introduction to a formal, college level discrete course. The goal of the course is to introduce students to ideas and techniques from discrete mathematics that are widely used in science and engineering. This course teaches the students techniques in how to think logically and mathematically and apply these techniques in solving problems. To achieve this goal, students will learn logic and proof, sets, functions, as well as algorithms and mathematical reasoning. Key topics include relations, graphs, trees, and formal languages and computability.

AP Statistics**1 Credit – Two Semesters****Grades 11, 12**

This elective course involves the study of four main areas: exploring data, sampling and experimentation, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference. According to the College Board, upon entering this course students are expected to have successfully completed second-year course in algebra and possess sufficient mathematical maturity and quantitative reasoning ability. Students are expected to have a complete working knowledge of graphical and algebraic concepts, including linear, quadratic, exponential, and logarithmic functions. The AP Statistics course consistently engages students in constructing their own knowledge and includes use of technology, projects, laboratories, cooperative group problem solving, and writing. Students will regularly build interdisciplinary connections with other subjects and with their world outside of school. Departmental approval is required.

Religion Department

Church History

1/2 Credit - Either Semester

Grade 9

This core course surveys the major time periods in the history of Christianity from the advent of Christ to the present. In doing so, the course familiarizes students with the events, people, and mindsets that define each age.

Fundamentals of Catholicism

1/2 Credit - Either Semester

Grade 9

This core course provides students with a common foundation in Roman Catholic teachings since they enter Holy Ghost with a variety of religious educational experiences. Specifically, the course examines such topics as faith, Scripture, the Trinity, prayer, sacraments, and basic morality.

Bible

1/2 Credit - Either Semester

Grade 10

This core course introduces students to the profound tradition of Biblical studies and seeks to develop an appreciation of Sacred Scripture as both divine revelation and literature. Beginning with an overview of scriptural terms and the structure of the Bible, this course surveys the principal events, persons, and genres of literature used to tell the story of salvation history in Sacred Scripture.

Sexuality and Dating

1/2 Credit - Either Semester

Grade 10

This core course examines the dynamics of relationships and explores the physiological, psychological, and sociological dimensions of human sexuality from the perspectives of natural law morality, Scripture, and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

World Religions

1/2 Credit - Either Semester

Grade 11

This core course seeks to introduce students to the beliefs, writings, and cultures of the world's major religious movements. It also hopes to promote appreciation for the diversity of religious experience in the world and to help students to better understand their Catholic Christian faith in comparison to other faith traditions. Finally, this course attempts to better fulfill the Spiritan mission by preparing students to engage in inter-religious dialogue.

Catholic Morality

1/2 Credit - Either Semester

Grades 11, 12

The core course in Catholic morality seeks to familiarize students more deeply with the sources of Catholic moral teaching that emerge from the teachings of Jesus, Sacred Scripture, and Sacred Tradition. A primary goal of the course will be to make students more conversant with the content of Section 3 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (“Life in Christ”). Students will be encouraged to critique their own behavior and the behavior of our culture via the principles taught in this course as a means of helping them to grow as Christian young men who take seriously the call to holiness that comes through faithfulness to Christ.

The Question of God in Modern Life

1/2 Credit - Either Semester

Grade 12

This core course will consider the topics of the existence of God, the problem of suffering, and the search for religious truth in modern culture. Students will analyze films, read and analyze shorter texts, and engage the instructor through classroom discussions. By doing so, students will become acquainted with how those who have preceded them have wrestled with these issues and questions as well as the answers at which they have arrived.

Spiritan Seminar

1/2 Credit – Either Semester

Grade 12

The goal of this course is to study the history, activities, and charism of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Spiritans) and then develop a program of advocacy/action addressing a social justice concern in a Spiritan context. This course stresses student lead activities and will require students to enact a program that is developed by members of the class. Students will be given opportunities to meet with various members of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit and attend Spiritan events. Within this context students will be challenged to bring to life Gospel values and the movement of the Spirit within their own lives, and encourage others to do the same.

Social Justice

1/2 Credit - Either Semester

Grade 12 (starting 2016-2017)

This core course seeks to educate students about not only the structural injustices present in society but also the Christian vision that opposes those injustices. Through study, reflection, discussion, and action, students will be encouraged to develop and apply solutions that are inspired by the Gospel values of human dignity and global community.

Peer Ministry

Non-Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 11

Students in the junior year may apply to the campus minister for inclusion into this co-curricular course, which will meet one period per cycle. Students will minister to the school community in various service capacities according to their interests. Students will be trained in listening, facilitating group discussions, and other leadership skills. The Chaplain will select some students to assist with the Senior Retreat and the Junior and Sophomore Days of Renewal.

Science Department

Biology

Honors Section Available

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 9

This core course begins the science cycle of courses. The scope of the course includes the development of an understanding and appreciation for the living world around us. Course methodology includes lecture, laboratory work, film presentations, field trips and group discussion of current biological issues. Topics include the principles and processes of life, genetics, evolution, microbiology, botany, and the development of the animal kingdom.

The honors section of this course approaches the living condition using the fundamental principles of Physics and Chemistry. The course emphasizes energy storage and flow, basics of bioorganic chemistry, including coding and flow, and control mechanisms as applied to living systems at all levels, from cell to ecosystem. A survey of the major groups of organisms is included, as are treatments of population biology, ecology, and other current topics. Enrollment for the honors section is limited to those students who have shown high aptitude in math and science, both in their elementary school courses and on the entrance exam, who will be concurrently taking a math honors course, have departmental approval, and have approval of the Placement Committee.

Chemistry

Honors Section Available

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 10

This core course is designed to help students understand how chemical principles and concepts are developed from experimental observations and data and how these principles can be used to explain phenomena in daily life as well as in the laboratory. Special attention is given to problems faced today and to attitudes, procedures and skills that will help students analyze carefully and respond wisely to issues that will confront them as citizens in our technological world.

The honors section of this course focuses more on the nature of matter. Topics covered include matter and energy, measurement, atomic theory from a historical approach, the Periodic Table and Periodic Law, bonding, stoichiometry, special properties of solids, liquids, and gases, kinetics and equilibrium, acids, bases, and hydrolysis. If time allows, the special chemistry of carbon and nuclear chemistry will be covered. Enrollment for the honors section is limited to those students who have shown high aptitude in Biology and Algebra as freshmen, have departmental approval, and have approval of the Placement Committee.

Physics

Honors Section Available

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 11, 12

This is a core course that introduces students to traditional topics in Physics. Physics enables students to solve simple word problems and to gain an appreciation for the simplicity, order and beauty of God's physical creation as revealed in natural laws. The course's activities include lectures, demonstrations, in-class problem solving, and student lab work.

The honors section studies a similar text but covers more topics in greater depth in the same time frame. Students should have at least concurrent registration in Math Analysis Honors. Enrollment is limited to those students who have shown high aptitude in all previous science and mathematics courses, have departmental approval, and have approval of the Placement Committee.

AP Physics

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 12

This course is a college-level course that focuses on the study of Mechanics and Electricity & Magnetism. Emphasis is placed on problem solving and analysis, and on preparation for the Advanced Placement Physics C Exam of the College Board. AP Physics C is a very mathematics-intensive course. This class will meet two additional class periods in the cycle. Enrollment is limited to those students who have shown high aptitude in previous science and mathematics courses, who will be concurrently taking or who have already taken AP Calculus, have departmental approval, and have approval of the Placement Committee.

AP Chemistry

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 11, 12

This college-level course uses the College Board Curriculum to cover a full first-year college course. Students take a three-hour College Board AP Chemistry exam in May and can receive up to 8 college credits for this endeavor. The course includes extensive individualized laboratory work. This class will meet two additional class periods in the cycle. Enrollment in the Advanced Placement section is limited to those students who have shown high aptitude in their previous science and math courses, have departmental approval, and have approval of the Placement Committee.

AP Biology

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 11, 12

Organized according to the College Board Curriculum, AP Biology is the equivalent of an intense undergraduate first-year course. Topics emphasized include biochemistry, cell biology, classical and molecular genetics, evolution, phylogeny, organism and population biology, and ecology. This class will meet two additional class periods in the cycle. Enrollment in the Advanced Placement section is limited to those students who have shown high aptitude in all previous science courses, have departmental approval, and have the approval of the Placement Committee.

Fundamentals of Electronic Circuits

1/2 Credit - Fall Semester

Grades 10, 11, 12

This course is a basic course in electronics and electricity theory that investigates the behavior of resistance, capacitance, inductance, and transformer action in direct and alternating current circuits. Network analysis of series, parallel and series-parallel circuits is accomplished through basic circuit formulas according to Ohm's and Kirchoff's laws, nodal analysis, loop equations, and by using Thevenin's, Norton's, and superposition theorems. Circuit construction techniques, and utilization of electronic equipment in circuit construction are covered.

Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology

1/2 Credit - Fall Semester

Grades 11, 12

The goal of this elective course is to familiarize students with the structure and function of the major organ systems of the human body and to create an appreciation for the complexities and interrelationships among these systems, thus forming a new respect for life. At the completion of the course, students will be able to: 1) List the ten organ systems and the major structures of each; 2) Discuss the functioning and interplay between these various organ systems, as well as possible malfunctioning; 3) Exhibit good dissection techniques in the laboratory; and 4) Demonstrate through labs their ability to apply factual knowledge to structural manifestations.

Forensic Science

1/2 Credit - Spring Semester

Grades 11, 12

The Forensic Science Course will facilitate student understanding and appreciation for the true nature of forensic science problem-solving techniques. The course material will integrate science, math, and writing skills as well as a working knowledge of the criminal justice system by using real-life applications and case studies. Scenarios taken from the headlines and popular media sources will serve to introduce students to the historical development of current technologies.

Topics such as crime scene investigation and evidence collection will promote critical and logical thinking skills as students learn the scientific methods of topics including fingerprint and blood analysis, determination of death, and entomological and anthropological data.

Introduction to Astronomy

1/2 Credit - Either Semester

Grades 11, 12

This elective is an introductory course in astronomy and astrophysics. The class covers most aspects of astronomy, including the solar system, stars, galaxies, and cosmology.

Introduction to Ecology

1/2 Credit - Spring Semester

Grades 11, 12

This course will be laboratory and activity oriented, using the grounds of Holy Ghost Prep as a field of study. Topics will include: Issues in Environmental Science, Biogeochemical cycles, Ecosystems, Biological Diversity, Populations, Restoration Ecology, the atmosphere and climate and pollution. Successful completion of Biology and Chemistry is required.

Introduction to Genetics

1/2 Credit - Fall Semester

Grades 11, 12

This course will be laboratory and activity oriented. Topics will include: Structure of DNA and RNA, chromosomal structure, how traits are passed on, probability laws, solving genetics problems, influence of environment on genes, comparative genetics, genetic engineering, uses of genetic technology. Emphasis will be on human genetics, but study techniques will be with other organisms. Major Laboratory Assignments will include: *Drosophila* Technique and Mating, Human Karyotypes, DNA Extraction, Transformation of Bacteria, Gel Electrophoresis, Restriction Enzymes, Making Cheese, Plant Cancer. Biology and Chemistry are pre-requisites.

Introduction to Microbiology

1/2 Credit - One Semester

Grades 11, 12

This course consists of a lecture/ laboratory approach. Topics may include: basic naming and classification, history of microbiology, Microbes and Human Welfare, Microbes and Disease (Host response), Applied Microbiology. Laboratory Experiments will include: basic use of microscope, staining and identification techniques, factors controlling growth, making cheese. Biology is a pre-requisite.

Social Science Department

Introduction to Psychology

1/2 Credit - Spring Semester

Grades 11, 12

This course explores what people do, how they think and why they act as they do. Among topics explored are a biological framework for behavior, sensation, perception, consciousness, conditioning, learning, memory, language, as well as problem solving, intelligence, motivation, emotion, childhood, personality, stress, abnormal psychology, therapy, social perception and interaction. Pioneers in psychology as well as contemporary psychologists are researched.

AP Psychology

1 Credit – Two Semesters

Grades 11, 12

“The AP Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the methods psychologists use in their science and practice...The aim of the course is to provide the student with a learning experience equivalent to that obtained in most college introductory psychology courses.” (The College Board) As determined by the college board topics will include the following: psychology as a science, research methods, the biological basis of behavior, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, learning, cognition, motivation and emotion, human development, personality, testing and intelligence, abnormal behavior, treatment of psychological disorders, and social psychology/group behavior.

Students will prepare to do acceptable work on the Advanced Placement Examination in Psychology. Students will study the major concepts and theories of psychology, incorporation psychological vocabulary in applying these theories to their everyday life. Students will learn basic psychological research skills and be able to analyze the validity of psychological claims through careful examination.

Spiritual Psychology

1/2 Credit - Either Semester

Grade 12

The goal of this course will be to assist the student in discerning and understanding his unique path to God, namely by examining each student's unique gifts and challenges in life and the practical application of these to his future studies and career choices. Specifically, the course will consider both the role and psychology of religion along the spiritual path. Utilizing a variety of religious and psychological perspectives, particular attention will be paid to the role of prayer, meditation, and dreams in the student's quest for spiritual health and well-being.

Social Studies Department

World History and Culture I

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 9

Understanding that the United States does not exist as an isolated country but as part of a world community presents a great challenge to the informed citizen. World History and Culture I is part of a two-year history sequence for freshmen and sophomores. Students study the development of the major civilizations and their impact on our multi-cultural modern world. Since physical size, shape, location, climate and natural resources of countries and regions play an integral role in shaping history, geography is an essential component of the cycle. Students are challenged to analyze historical developments through a variety of learning activities designed to develop research, writing, and critical thinking skills. The freshman course covers ancient history through the sixteenth century.

World History and Culture II

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 10

This sophomore course is a survey of the origins of world civilizations from the Renaissance to the present day. Emphasis will be on themes in history including gender, race, religion, popular culture, industrialization, and modernization. Particular attention is given to the multi-cultural nature of the global community.

United States History

1 Credit - Two Semesters

AP United States History

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 11, 12

To be informed and productive citizens, students require an understanding of the evolution of American society. This junior-level core course surveys United States history from the arrival of European fortune settlers to the present and emphasizes cultural and governmental development, the role of minorities and special interest groups and the creation or myth of an American identity. Through writing, reading, research and discussion, students become historians, developing their own interpretations of the United States and evaluating implications for the future.

The Advanced Placement Program in United States History is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with problems and issues in American thought, culture and events. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those of full-year introductory college courses in United States History. Course objectives include assessment of historical materials and their importance to interpretive problems, critiquing interpretations presented in historical scholarship, analysis and interpretation of primary sources, and critical and analytical writing.

Enrollment is limited to those students who have shown high aptitude in social studies, have departmental approval, and approval of the Placement Committee.

AP European History

1 Credit – Two Semesters

Grades 10, 11, 12

The purpose of Advanced Placement European History is to introduce the student to the major themes and historical achievements of people of European heritage. By critically examining the major political, cultural, economic, and religious movements of the past, the student will gain a better understanding of Europe's historical identity. The course will explore these events not only to look at the past, but as a means to gain insight into the causes of contemporary social issues that affect present European people. Thus, it will be important for each student to look at past issues with an eye toward the present. The purpose of this will be to help the student realize that certain recurring problems continue to influence people of today like their predecessors from the past.

More importantly, students will endeavor to uncover areas of continuity and change over time while simultaneously trying to judge various European actors from within the confines of their historical traditions. This will minimize placing anachronistic values on people from the past and it will make the student more aware of the various social and political events that helped shape our European ancestors. Finally, each student must understand the commitment and academic vigor of this course. Advanced Placement European History is for mature students who are willing to spend much time researching papers, homework assignments, and other materials in preparation for the Advanced Placement Exam and other comprehensive exams.

AP World History

1 Credit – Two Semesters

Grades 11, 12

The purpose of the Advanced Placement World History course is to develop greater understanding of the evolution of global processes and contacts, in interaction with different types of human societies. This understanding is advanced through a combination of selective factual knowledge and appropriate analytical skills. Assessment of historical materials, primary sources, critique of historical pieces, knowledge of geographical content, along with critical and analytical writing, will be at the core of the class objectives.

The course highlights the nature of changes, international frameworks and their causes and consequences, as well as comparisons among major societies. The course emphasizes relevant factual knowledge in conjunction with interpretive issues and types of historical evidence. Focused primarily on the past thousand years of the global experience, the course builds on an understanding of cultural, institutional, and technological precedents that, along with geography, set the human stage prior to 1000 CE. Periodization, explicitly discussed, forms the organizing principles addressing change and continuity from that point to the present. Specific themes provide further organization to the course, along with consistent attention to contacts among societies that form the core of world history.

Major emphasis is placed upon vigorous reading, writing, research, and discussion. Students will be required to purchase several supplemental texts. The course is equivalent to the demands and curriculum of a full year college course in World History. Enrollment is limited to those students who have maintained at least a “B+” in their World History courses, have strong recommendation from their former world history teachers, have departmental approval, and have approval of the Placement Committee. Students successfully completing AP European History are also eligible.

AP U.S. Government & Politics

1 Credit – Two Semesters

Grades 11, 12

The Advanced Placement Government & Politics: United States course provides an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific case studies. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. political reality.

AP Economics

1 Credit – Two Semesters

Grades 11, 12

Advanced Placement Economics is a yearlong experience at Holy Ghost Prep. The fall semester Microeconomics course is followed by Macroeconomics in the Spring. Both semesters are required for the successful completion of the AP Economics Exams in May.

The long-term goal of this course is to aid student understanding of economic concepts such as supply and demand, opportunity cost and elasticity. This knowledge will provide a basis for future decision-making. The short-term goal of this course is to aid student understanding of those concepts tested on the AP Economics Exams. Enrollment is limited to those students who have demonstrated superior performance in Social Studies courses and strong performance in Math Analysis or higher level mathematics courses.

Economics and Political Science

1/2 Credit - Spring Semester

Grades 11, 12

Economics and Political Science is a semester elective designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge to understand everyday news and to analyze issues related to economics and government at the local, state, national and international level. Students leave the class familiar with major disciplinary concepts and a framework for understanding how democratic government in the United States works. Ethical and international issues are also explored. The course aims to provide students with the knowledge, skills and values to be informed, active citizens of the United States and the world. It will provide a foundation for students who pursue courses in economics, finance, political science or government at the university level.

Constitutional Law
1/2 Credit - Fall Semester
Grades 11, 12

This course is a one semester introduction to the structure and function of the legal system of the United States. The main objectives of the course will show how legal ideas developed in conjunction with specific historical events creating a legal culture unique to America. We will examine the relationship between the development of American society, politics, and economy, and how it relates to the evolution of American law.

Content will cover a broad range from constitutional law and the litigation process to tort law, contract law, property law, and criminal law.

Legal concepts will be discussed in the context of many outrageous, and infamous legal cases, from the scalding coffee case that cost McDonald's half a million dollars, to the sensational murder trial in Victorian London that led to the legal definition of insanity, to the epochal decision in *Marbury v. Madison* that gave the Supreme Court the power to declare state and federal law unconstitutional.

Most importantly, students will learn that though the law is voluminous and complex, it is accessible to all.

World Language Department

Spanish I

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

This course is designed to offer beginning Spanish language students comprehensive coverage in the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills, which are involved in the effective use of basic Spanish. A systematic study of Spanish grammar and syntax, a word-building program, basic composition instruction and the study of civilization relating to Spanish-speaking areas are covered in the course.

Spanish II

Honors Section Available

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 10, 11, 12

This course is designed to offer students who have completed Spanish I a continuation of the coverage of the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills that are involved in effective use of the Spanish language. A systematic study of Spanish grammar and syntax, a word-building program, composition instruction, and the study of civilization relating to Spanish-speaking geographical areas are covered in the course.

Spanish III

Honors Section Available

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 11, 12

The Spanish III program of study continues to place strong emphasis on listening and speaking skills with increased emphasis on reading and writing. Writing exercises are provided in the form of paragraphs, letters, postcards, messages, stories, newsletters and diaries. Readings are selected that are culturally informative, enhancing students' understanding, respect and appreciation for Spanish culture. Ultimately, the program attempts to convince students that as individuals all of our created differences count far less than our shared humanity.

Spanish IV

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 12

In the Spanish IV program there is little dependence on English. Students are at a level where they choose to communicate their ideas, attitudes, and feelings in Spanish. Students are able to assimilate information in Spanish and are able to respond to the spoken and written word in a critical, analytical, and personal manner. A variety of techniques and activities are provided such as cultural readings, oral presentations, class discussions, and improvisational conversations.

AP Spanish Language

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 12

This Advanced Placement section is offered to those students who have exhibited a high level of proficiency in the four basic language skills. Students will be able to comprehend both formal and informal Spanish; they will be able to speak, read, and write on an intermediate college level. Enrollment is limited to those students who have shown high aptitude in their previous years of Spanish language study, have departmental approval, and have approval of the Placement Committee.

French I

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

The aim of this course is to provide first-year students with a working knowledge of the mechanics of French. Emphasis is placed on building vocabulary, verb conjugations, simple conversation and readings. The course also illustrates the culture of France.

French II

Honors Section Available

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 10, 11, 12

This level is a continuation of the first year. Readings that are culturally oriented become more detailed. Vocabulary development and conversational fluency are at the core of this level. The areas of grammar, reading, and conversational fluency build on the foundation laid in French I.

French III

Honors Section Available

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 11, 12

This course focuses on reading comprehension, listening comprehension, speaking and writing based on the basics of French I and II. Vocabulary building and grammatical structures are an important part of this course. The program also covers the cultures of a variety of French-speaking countries. The emphasis is on increasing the ability to communicate orally and in writing.

French IV

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 12

This course focuses on the culture, history, and literature of French speaking countries. Students are expected to read independently, participate in class discussions and complete oral reports and short papers in the foreign language.

AP French Language and Culture

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grade 12

This Advanced Placement course is intended for students who already have a very good command of French grammar and vocabulary and have reached a high level of competency in listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Students will develop the ability to understand spoken French, read a newspaper, magazine articles and literary texts, and express themselves accurately and fluently in both written and spoken French on an intermediate college level. Enrollment is limited and students must have departmental approval and the approval of the Placement Committee.

Latin I

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

This course aims to situate the Latin language within the family of Indo-European languages and underline its importance as the root of the modern romance languages. Basic grammatical structure and syntax are emphasized, especially in comparison with those of English and Western languages. Vocabulary study stresses the many English words derived from Latin.

Latin II

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 10, 11, 12

This course continues and consolidates the work of Latin. Students complete the study of verb tenses, voices and moods, and all forms of nouns and adjectives. Translations prepare students to read Latin written by Roman authors including Eutropius, Asconius, Cicero and others.

Latin III

Honors Section Available

1 Credit - Two Semesters

Grades 11, 12

The third level of Latin study builds on previous knowledge and develops in students the ability to translate at sight by developing a working Latin vocabulary, by improving facility with Latin syntax and grammar through review and practice of translation. The class also explores Roman history and culture.

Latin IV**1 Credit - Two Semesters****Grade 12**

This course provides students with the ability to read natively written Latin at a level that corresponds to that traditionally expected for Latin IV. The course also presents background knowledge and information on Roman history and culture, particularly regarding the growth and development of the Republic to Empire.

AP Latin**1 Credit - Two Semesters****Grades 11, 12**

The Advanced Placement Latin course is offered to students who have achieved a high level of proficiency in reading, translating, understanding and interpreting Latin. The course follows the College Board's curriculum which includes readings in Julius Caesar's *Gallic Wars* and Vergil's *Aeneid*. The course also includes a study of the cultural, social and political context of the literature on the syllabus. Enrollment is limited and students must have departmental approval and the approval of the Placement Committee.

Guidance Department (Non-Credit Courses)

Guidance

Two Semesters

Grade 9

Guidance offers both personal and group counseling with the guidance counselors in a classroom context as well as a personal setting. Students can confront their personal feelings about school and its challenges as well as broaching topics that they share with their peers. It also explores such issues as goal setting, success principles, self-image, time management and motivation. This course meets one or two periods per cycle.

Guidance 10

Two Semesters

Grade 10

Students meet in small groups once each rotation to discuss relevant personal and academic issues. During the year, each sophomore will be required to complete a career networking project and present his findings to the class. All students will acquire detailed knowledge about a wide variety of careers and will be challenged to explore their communication skills in the context of a real networking experience.

College Guidance for Juniors

Two Semesters

Grade 11

This course focuses on steps in the college admission process. Such steps include college essay writing, visitation and interview procedures, formation of a list of prospective colleges through use of the College Board's EXPAN Program and the Guidance Information System (GIS), career exploration, and preparation of a resume. This course meets one period per cycle.

College Guidance for Seniors

Fall Semester

Grade 12

This course explores available student financial aid, further refines the college application and eventual decision-making selection process and discusses various aspects of the adjustment to college during the freshman year. This course meets one period per cycle.

Other Co-Curricular Courses

Information Literacy

Grade 9 – Fall Semester

The objective of this course is to ensure an educated technological transition of students from elementary school to high school. Students begin with an introduction to technology at Holy Ghost Prep: the computer network, operating systems, authentication, passwords, file and print sharing, as well as personal data storage and transfer options, and, of course, common use of Microsoft Office programs. Students are introduced to concepts in computer applications that they will be expected to know for the composition of their papers and science labs. This course meets one period per cycle.

Wellness Education

Grade 9 – Spring Semester

The objective of this course is to review and expand the student's knowledge in the range of wellness topics. Students will start with the introduction of basic anatomy as well as a review of proper postures. The class will also cover a basic overview of nutrition, hydration and sports supplements. Students will also be required to know how to read a nutritional label and maintain a nutritional log. A quiz will be given each class and students will be expected to complete group work and in-class presentations. The course meets one period per cycle.

Introduction to Engineering Design

¼ Credit – Fall or Spring Semester

Grade 9

This course focuses on the engineering design process. Working within predetermined parameters, and using the resources of the Innovation Center, students will learn and participate in the engineering design process: identify the problem, brainstorm ideas, test the solutions, analyze the results, and iterate the process. By the end of the course, students will have produced an engineering notebook to be used for future curricular or personal designs.

SAT Prep

Grade 10 – Fall Semester English, Spring Semester Math

In this self-directed course, students will begin to prepare for the SAT test by completing English and Math assignments available through Khan Academy and various supplemental materials. Students will individually assess their needs and develop their skills through multiple levels of achievement. The first semester will focus on English development, and the second semester will feature Math progression. The course meets one period per cycle.

Summer Semester Offerings

Holy Ghost Preparatory School began offering summer sessions in 2013. The purpose is to provide students with an opportunity to enrich their curriculum through additional elective courses. Depending on the course, the classes will meet two or three times a week. Each course is designed to have unique field experiences related to the area of study.

These courses are not intended to replace any of the core courses or electives that students are required to take during the school year. These classes would be additional to the required six credits that students must take each semester. Sufficient enrollment is also necessary to run each class.

US Government and Politics

Grade 12

½ Credit – Summer Semester

This course provides an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific case studies. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. political reality.

Summer field trip experiences will include trips to the US Constitution Center in Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania state capitol in Harrisburg. Students will also travel to Washington D.C. where they will meet with Congressman Fitzpatrick and Congressman Sessions as well as visit the White House, Congress and the Supreme Court.

Finance

Grade 12 (students must be registered for AP Economics)

½ Credit – Summer Semester

Students in this course will evaluate various investment theories; analyze technical investment data and evaluate conflicting expert investment analysis; perform long-rang investment strategy while balancing investment risk. Students will participate in a seminar setting discussing famed Princeton Economics professor, Burton Malkiel's classic guide to investing *A Random Walk Down Wall Street*. In addition to reading Malkiel's seminal work on financial investment students will be learning by doing. Students will be interacting with the world of financial investment by developing their own investment strategies and testing them using real-world data. All students enrolled in this class must be registered for AP Economics in their senior year. This course will prepare students for participation in the Holy Ghost Student Managed Investment Fund which requires students to be enrolled in AP Economics.

Summer field trip experiences will include the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and Philadelphia Stock Exchange; several trips to financial investment offices including the financial advisor of the HGP Student Managed Investment Fund; and an extended trip to world finance capital, New York City which will include the Museum of American Finance, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and meetings with several financial experts.

Journalism

Grades 10, 11, 12 (Preference given to students in Grades 11 and 12)

½ Credit – Summer Semester

This course offers a range of educational opportunities including reporting, interviewing, writing and editing. Students in the course are introduced to the journalistic styles including news, editorial, feature, column, and review, with complete assignments in each type. In addition, elements of layout design, photography, art/cartooning, computer use and desktop publishing are taught. The class emphasizes the development of critical reading skills, problem solving, social awareness, interpersonal relationships, responsibility, objectivity, and a willingness to deal with timely and/or controversial topics. At the same time, the course demands a practical approach to "on-the-spot" writing and the continued use of good grammar and punctuation. Enrollment preference will be given to students who already serve the school community as editors and contributors to school publications.

Summer field trip experiences will include several visits to the Philadelphia Magazine office where students will meet top editors to get a sense of the inner workings of the world of journalism. A trip is also planned to the ESPN campus in Connecticut.

Cinematography

Grades 10, 11, 12 (Preference given to students in Grades 11 and 12)

½ Credit – Summer Semester

Cinematography has a double focus. It teaches an object, or toolbox – a set of films and theoretical concepts that students will learn and know about; it also teaches methods – ways of thinking about cinema – and skills that the student is expected to use in both critical analysis and creative practice. This course explores the ways in which analytical approaches seek to illuminate the meanings and pleasures of film. Thus, it traces the cinematic production process from both production and studies perspectives in order to create a dialogue between both practices. In addition to an overarching "film text" for each topic to be screened in its entirety at the start of the week, we will analyze a range of relevant films in conjunction with critical and analytical texts. This will provide the student with critical tools that will inform the creative approach to their own short film – which is one of the course's outcomes and assessments) – with the hope that their creative experience will fold back and influence and develop their own critical approach to film analysis.

Summer field trip experiences include tours of two animation studios in New York City where students will meet with storyboard artists and directors. In the Philadelphia area students will go on-location to a Hollywood film currently in production. A trip to the ESPN campus in Connecticut is also planned.

Indie Film, Theater, and Creative Writing

Grades 10, 11, 12

½ credit – Summer Semester

This course seeks to engage students in the literary and lively arts as they are created in our two closest cultural centers: Philadelphia and New York City. The class will be structured around trips to see the best examples of independent film, theater, and creative writing in each of these cities. We will begin in the classroom, where we will

read the text (screenplay, play, novel, short story), as well as secondary sources about the author and the production. Then we will make the trip to experience the story live. The course will provide many opportunities for valuable cultural experiences in Philadelphia and New York City. Possibilities include trips to the following events and places: independent films at the Ritz theater in Philadelphia or the Film Forum in New York; plays by performing arts companies in both cities; readings by contemporary authors at the Rutgers Summer Writing Conference and Free Library of Philadelphia Reading Series; and story slams at venues like First Person Arts and the Moth.

This kind of learning experience will allow students to strengthen both their critical and creative skills. Students can improve their critical reading and writing skills by engaging in a more meaningful way with contemporary plays, screenplays, short stories, poems, and essays. Then, informed by the filmmakers, playwrights, poets, and novelists they have encountered, students can enhance their critical and creative writing skills by producing both critical and creative work of their own. The class is intended to make students aware that reading and writing are shared pursuits that are personal, immediate, and meaningful to their daily lives.

Statistics in Sports

Grades 10, 11, 12 (Preference given to students in Grades 11 and 12)

½ Credit – Summer Semester

Appropriate applications of statistical methods have changed the way some Major League Baseball teams manage the game, see *Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game*. Statistics are used in other sports to evaluate the performance of individual players or teams. Students will use appropriate methods to examine interesting questions such as: Are there unusual patterns in the performance statistics of "steroid sluggers" such as Barry Bonds and Mark McGwire or the pitcher Roger Clemens? The focus of this course will be on the proper application of statistical models in sports. Investigating the impacts of a penalty kick in soccer, home field advantage in football, technological improvements in golf or cycling or training methods on marathon times are other possible topics. Although the sport and question of interest will change, the focus on proper applications of appropriate statistical methods will remain the same. Students will analyze data and present their results to the class. Oral and written reports will be expected.

Summer field trip experiences include visits to the Phillies and the Eagles home offices where students can interact with employees to learn about statistics in relation to the games of baseball and football. In addition, students will have the opportunity to see how statistics are used not only in the sport, but also in office management. A trip to a casino is planned in which students will learn how statistics are used in the many different aspects of the business.