



Notre Dame Academy
St. Julie Division
7th and 8th Grade
Course Catalog
2020-2021

ST. JULIE DIVISION COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Mission

Notre Dame Academy is a dynamic, independent, Catholic school for girls in grades 7-12 sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Welcoming girls of all faiths, the Academy provides transformational experiences that "teach them what they need to know for life." Our graduates are confident women who are lifelong learners, spiritual seekers, and compassionate global citizens.

Core Values

- Character -- Honesty, compassion, conviction
- Commitment -- Excellence, faith, service
- Community -- Tolerance, justice, leadership

Expected Learning Outcomes/School-Wide Curriculum Goals

Notre Dame Academy's philosophy of education is built on the belief that education should prepare students for their roles as strong women in the world. We wish to provide our students with the opportunity to become more aware of what is happening in their lives and to assume responsibility for themselves and their community. In order to learn to make responsible choices, Notre Dame students have the freedom to learn in a school dedicated to high academic standards and to involve themselves in the community, both utilizing its resources and serving its people.

A Notre Dame graduate is someone who:

- Is able to collect, evaluate, analyze, synthesize, and apply information in a logical way;
- Has the ability to reason, problem solve, develop sound arguments or decisions, and create new ideas by applying the knowledge and skills of a discipline;
- Uses verbal and written language in an effective manner; conveys thoughts and ideas in a clear and accurate way with excellent writing skills and effective speaking techniques;
- Demonstrates competence in using multiple methods to convey information;
- Is technologically literate, accessing and applying information through a variety of electronic media;
- Uses artistic and aesthetic sensibility in day-to-day life situations to perceive and make sense of the world in a manner that stretches the mind beyond the boundaries of the printed text;
- Has the ability to be a productive member of diverse teams through strong interpersonal communication, a commitment to shared success, leadership, and initiative;
- Takes a positive, active role in the community;
- Selects an ethical course of action when faced with choices;
- Respects, understands, and appreciates cultural similarities and differences;
- Recognizes and affirms the dignity and worth of every individual;
- Practices good health habits and physical fitness;
- Accepts personal responsibility for her actions.

The holistic learning experience of the Notre Dame student can be articulated and visualized with the use of the metaphor “The Path to Success”.

The *Path to Success* across the spectrum of the Notre Dame experience is:

- Grade 7 -- Exploration
- Grade 8 -- Discovery
- Grade 9 -- Transitions
- Grade 10 -- Choices
- Grade 11 -- Leadership
- Grade 12 -- Reflection and Preparation

St. Julie Division Course Descriptions

- NDA 7th and 8th graders will follow a curriculum that is fully integrated for grades 7-12, allowing our students to master basic skills before reaching ninth grade classes.
- NDA 7th and 8th graders will study six core subjects, each 80 minutes in length, which meet every other day. They will also have classes in the arts, technology/project-based learning, wellness, and seminar.

- **Grading Scale:**

98 and above.....	A+
93 - 97.....	A
90 - 92.....	A-
87-89.....	B+
83 - 86.....	B
80 - 82.....	B-
77 - 79.....	C+
73 -76.....	C
70 - 72.....	C-
67 - 69.....	D+
63 - 66.....	D
60 - 62.....	D-
59 and below.....	F

GRADE SEVEN COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Pre-Algebra (107)

This course is designed to transition students from arithmetic to algebra by practicing and developing their previously learned mathematical skills, while moving from concrete mathematical applications to an abstract understanding of algebraic concepts. Topics will include integers, solving equations and inequalities, decimals and equations, operations with rational numbers, ratios, proportions and percents

English Foundations in Literature and Learning (207)

This course provides an introduction to the skills used in concise and effective writing, active reading, and clear communication. The foundations of sentence structure and paragraphing will shape the writing strategies, while the ability to process questions and effectively respond will also be nurtured. Grammar and vocabulary skills will be integrated into the curriculum.

Geography/Civics (306)

In the 1st half of the course, students will use the knowledge, skills, and understanding of the five themes of geography (location, place, region, movement, and human-environment interaction) paired with the basic core areas of culture, economics, history, governance and civics, to study the human and nonhuman features of Earth, principally in North and South America. Students will acquire, organize, and analyze geographic information utilizing maps, statistics, graphs, and illustrations. In the 2nd half of the course, students will focus on governance and civics. They will explore the foundations of government, examining the purpose, forms, and limits of government. They will learn how our Constitution was created and what some of its key characteristics are. Students will learn what it means to be a U.S. citizen and how citizenship is obtained. They will compare and contrast personal and political rights with social responsibilities and personal duties.

French 7 (1a)

This course is designed as a Middle School, introductory level of a world language. Its main objective is to lay the foundation for the acquisition of an elementary proficiency in French. Students will learn basic vocabulary and related grammatical structures needed to communicate at an introductory level. Emphasis will be placed on oral and written activities which are the building blocks for learning a world language. Students will also be exposed to the culture and traditions of the French-speaking world. [Note: Students will continue their studies in Grade 8 with French 1b. They will be prepared to move into French 2 as Freshmen]

Spanish 7 (1a)

This course is designed as a Middle School, introductory level of a world language. Its main objective is to lay the foundation for the acquisition of an elementary proficiency in Spanish. Students will learn basic vocabulary and related grammatical structures needed to communicate at an introductory level. Emphasis will be placed on oral and written activities which are the building blocks for learning a world language. Students will also be exposed to the culture and traditions of the Spanish-speaking world. [Note: Students will continue their studies in Grade 8 with Spanish 1b. They will be prepared to move into Spanish 2 as Freshmen]

Integrated Science (507)

Students in grade 7 will study systems and cycles. This course will enable students to build on their knowledge of structures and functions, connections and relationships in systems, and flow of matter and energy. Topics will include plate tectonics, interactions of humans and earth processes, organism systems to support and propagate life, ecosystem dynamics, motion and energy, and technological systems used by society. Students will be encouraged to apply concepts and skills across the disciplines, since most systems and cycles are complex and interactive. This course will create a foundation for exploring cause and effect relationships in more depth in grade 8.

Discovering Faith (607)

This course centers on the person of Jesus: His life, ministry, and invitation to discipleship. Some major questions will be “Who is God?” with a focus on the Creed, our personal relationship with God, and the Trinity; and “Who is Jesus?” with a focus on the Jesus of the Gospels. Basics of Catholicism, such as the Sacraments, 10 Commandments, traditional prayers, the lives of the Saints, and major celebrations of the Church Liturgical Year will also be presented, as well as an introduction to St. Julie and the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

Physical Education and Health (902)

This course develops competency and proficiency in many movement forms by applying movement concepts and principles to the learning and development of motor skills. This course exhibits a physically active lifestyle to achieve and maintain a health enhancing level of fitness and fosters responsible behavior in a physical activity setting with an emphasis on understanding and appreciating that physical activity provides opportunities for enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and social interaction. Students will explore fundamental concepts and skills that foster healthy habits and behaviors.

Creative Arts (907)

Designed to introduce students to the visual and performing arts and to encourage students to experience these arts as participators, this course is team-taught by members of the various arts departments. Students are introduced to the masters of dance, painting, music, and drama while they themselves learn some basics in acting, dance and music performance, and explore pottery, printmaking, painting, drawing, and sculpture.

Seminar (971)

The Student Services Dept. will work with students throughout the year to help them with their study skills, library skills, and with general advising.

Technology/Project Based Learning (972)

This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of software applications for personal use and high school preparation. It will include basic applications of all essential functions of word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation software. These applications are integrated into the classroom. Other topics include an introduction to computer programming, an introduction to robotics, and an introduction to 3D printing. The course will be project based.

GRADE EIGHT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**Math****Math 8 (108)**

This course is designed to transition students from topics in Pre-Algebra to Algebra 1 by practicing and developing their previously learned mathematical skills, while moving from concrete mathematical applications to an abstract understanding of algebraic concepts. Topics will include: linear functions, graphing, powers, nonlinear functions, real numbers, right triangles, and geometry concepts.

or

Algebra 1 (112)

The Algebra 1 course covers the following topics: Simplify and/or evaluate algebraic expressions, solve one-variable equations and inequalities, graph 2 variable linear equations, solve systems of equations by substitution and elimination, properties of exponents, factor quadratic polynomials, word problems. Special emphasis is on the use of technology. A TI-84 graphing calculator is required

English Foundations in Literature and Language (208)

This course will reinforce the literary topics and foundations begun in grade 7. A continued focus on grammar, vocabulary, and writing strategies will be emphasized with writing assignments taking on more variety and depth. The student's ability to respond to concepts and develop ideas will be cultivated through writing tasks as well as verbal communication. There will be an expansion on the skill sets needed for grade nine's genre study

Classical World History (308)

This course traces the development of world events in the Common Era up to 1500. Topics include classical Greece and Rome; the Byzantine Empire and Islamic civilization; the civilizations of Africa, Asia, and the Americas; and Europe in the Middle Ages. In addition to political history, topics include society and culture, and economic changes. Students will learn to use maps and graphs, analyze data, interpret primary sources, and develop critical thinking skills. Attention is given to reading comprehension, taking notes in class, study skills, and using electronic resources. In Grade 9, students will take World History II.

French 1 Honors (412)

French 1 is an introductory course for students who have had little or no French or whose language skills need strengthening before they advance to French 2. In this class, basic grammatical structures, vocabulary, verb forms, and idiomatic expressions are introduced. Students develop basic communication skills in spoken and written French through the use of interactive, communicative activities and through authentic materials appropriate for this level. Students are introduced to the varied cultures of French-speaking countries through readings and class discussions. [Note: This course is for the 2020-21 academic year. Beginning in the the 2021-22 academic year, the 8th grade will take French 1b)

Spanish 1 Honors (414)

Spanish 1 is an introductory course for students who have had little or no Spanish or whose language skills need strengthening before they advance to Spanish 2. In this class, basic grammatical structures, vocabulary, verb forms, and idiomatic expressions are introduced. Students develop basic communication skills in spoken and written Spanish through the use of interactive, communicative activities and through authentic materials appropriate for this level. Students are introduced to the varied cultures of Spanish-speaking countries through readings and class discussions. [Note: This course is for the 2020-21 academic year. Beginning in the the 2021-22 academic year, the 8th grade will take Spanish 1b)

Integrated Science (508)

This course will allow students to use more abstract thinking skills to explain the causes of complex phenomena and systems. Using the foundation built in grade 7, students in grade 8 will gain an understanding of the cause and effect of key natural phenomena and designed processes. This will enable students to explain patterns and make predictions about future events. These will include causes of seasons and tides, causes of plate tectonics and weather or climate, the role of genetics in reproduction, heredity, and natural selection, and the interaction of atoms and molecules to explain matter and change. Developing the ability to analyze phenomena for evidence of causes and processes that often cannot be seen, and developing the skills to conceptualize and describe those, will be significant goals and outcomes for students in grade 8.

The Living Church (617)

This course centers on the Living Church. Some major questions will be “How is Jesus Christ alive in the Church today?” and “How does the Church live as the body of Christ?” The seven Sacraments will be explored in depth, as well as our responsibilities as disciples of Jesus. Basics of Catholicism, such as the 10 Commandments, Works of Mercy, traditional prayers, lives of the Saints, and major celebrations of the Church Liturgical Year will also be covered; as well as the life of St. Julie and the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

Physical Education & Health/Wellness (903)

This course continues to develop competency and proficiency in many movement forms by applying movement concepts and principles to the learning and development of motor skills. This course exhibits a physically active lifestyle to achieve and maintain a health enhancing level of fitness and fosters responsible behavior in a physical activity setting with an emphasis on understanding and appreciating that physical activity provides opportunities for enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and social interaction. This required course for all 8th grade students, will continue to teach fundamental concepts and skills that foster healthy habits and behaviors. The curriculum is developmentally appropriate as well as flexible to allow for the current needs of students and current events.

Creative Arts (908)

Designed to introduce students to the visual and performing arts and to encourage students to experience these arts as participators, this course is team-taught by members of the various arts departments. Students are introduced to the masters of dance, painting, music, and drama while they themselves learn some basics in acting, dance and music performance, and explore pottery, printmaking, painting, drawing, and sculpture.

Seminar (975)

The Student Services Dept. will work with students throughout the year to help them with their study skills, library skills, and with general advising.

Technology/Project Based Learning (974)

This course is a continuation of Technology 7 and is designed to further introduce students to a variety of software applications for personal use and high school preparation. It will include a more in depth look at the basic applications of all essential functions of word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation software. These applications are integrated into the classroom.

Other topics include but are not limited to computer programming, blogs, and Google tools. The course will be project based and will include a summative project in the form of a digital portfolio.