

# COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY  
GRADES 9-12



2021  
2022

**Notre Dame Academy**

**Course Catalog**

**Grades 9-12**

**2021-2022**

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The information provided in this Course Catalog is intended to guide students in making appropriate educational choices. Students and parents are encouraged to carefully read the descriptions, to confer with teachers and guidance counselors, and to evaluate past academic performance in determining course selections. Please refer to college websites for course requirements as many selective colleges require or strongly recommend four years of mathematics, three or four years of science, three or four years of a modern world language, and three or four years of history/social studies.

## **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

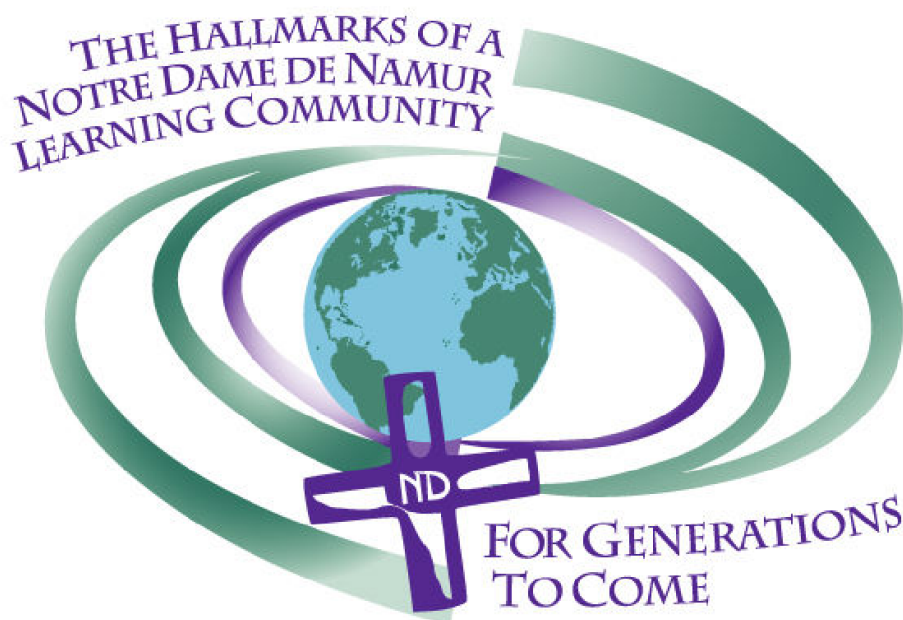
Grade 8 -- Discovery

Grade 9 -- Transitions

Grade 10 -- Choices

Grade 11 -- Leadership

Grade 12 -- Reflection and Preparation



The Notre Dame de Namur Learning Community Hallmarks describe the essential characteristics, values, and activities of a Notre Dame learning community. The Notre Dame Hallmarks emerged in response to the question from both the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and their co-workers: “What makes our school a Notre Dame school?”

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, in collaboration with the learning communities, began a process to explore this question. The process gave birth to these “living statements”, statements that will continue to develop over time and are relevant to the times, ones which inspire faithfulness to the spirituality and mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur for generations to come.

These Notre Dame Hallmarks are used through a reflection-action-reflection process, whereby each learning community, on a regular basis, metaphorically takes a look in the mirror and based on what it sees, makes choices for its continued development. Thus, the Hallmarks give values-based direction for decisions and activities so that the learning community continues to express the spirituality and mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

**HALLMARK ONE:**

We Proclaim By Our Lives Even More Than By Our Words That God Is Good

**HALLMARK TWO:**

We Honor The Dignity And Sacredness Of Each Person

**HALLMARK THREE:**

We Educate For And Act On Behalf Of Justice And Peace In The World community.

**HALLMARK FOUR:**

We Commit Ourselves To Community Service

HALLMARK FIVE:

We Embrace The Gift Of Diversity

HALLMARK SIX:

We Create Community Among Those With Whom We Work And With Those We Serve

HALLMARK SEVEN:

We Develop Holistic Learning Communities Which Educate For Life

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Curriculum

The Core Curriculum consists of college preparatory courses in English, history/social studies, mathematics, religious studies, science, and world languages, with two levels, Honors and Advanced Honors. AP courses are also offered. Students are required to carry the equivalent of six full-credit courses per year. Juniors and seniors are encouraged to consider carrying a 7th course. Additionally, diploma requirements include partial-credit courses in creative arts (dance, music, theater, visual arts), guidance seminar, health education, Latin, and physical education. All seniors are required to complete a non-credit Senior Project for graduation.

### Academic Levels

All courses are college preparatory, and many are designated either Honors or Advanced Honors. AP courses are also offered. Please be aware that Advanced Honors and AP level placements are determined by criteria set forth by the specific department and require a teacher recommendation.

## DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

<b>Required Full-Credit Courses</b>	
Course Discipline	Credits
Religious Studies	4
English	4
Mathematics	3
Science	3
History/Social Studies	3
World Languages	2
<b>Required Partial-Credit Courses</b>	
Physical Education/Wellness	Grades 9-10
Creative Arts	Grades 9
Latin	Grade 9
Art and Music in Society/Intro to Engineering	Grade 10
Seminar	Grades 9-12
Love In Action	Grades 11-12
<b>Required Non-Credit</b>	
Senior Project	Grade 12



**COURSE OF STUDY****Grade 9**

- Religious Studies 1
- English 1
- Algebra 1 or 2 (Based on successful completion of Algebra 1 and demonstrated proficiency on NDA Placement Test)
- U.S. History 1 (2021-22) / World 1 (2022-23)
- Biology 1
- French 1 or 2; Spanish 1 or 2 (Based on successful completion of first year of language and demonstrated proficiency on NDA Placement Test);
- Latin
- Physical Education
- Creative Arts
- Freshman Seminar (one quarter)

**Grade 10**

- Religious Studies 2
- English 2
- Geometry
- U.S. History 1 or AP World (2021-22) / World 2 or AP World (2022-23)
- Chemistry 1
- French or Spanish
- Physical Education/Wellness
- Creative Arts/Introduction to Engineering Design
- Sophomore Seminar (one quarter)

**Grade 11**

- Religious Studies 3 (including Love in Action)
- English 3: American Literature or AP Language and Composition (with Am Lit)
- Algebra 2 or Pre-calculus
- U.S. History 2 or AP U.S. History
- Science Elective
- Elective
- Elective (optional)
- Junior Seminar (one quarter)

**Grade 12**

- Religious Studies 4 (including Love in Action)
- English 4: World Literature or AP Literature and Composition (with Brit Lit)
- Elective
- Elective
- Elective
- Elective
- Elective (optional)
- Senior Seminar (one quarter)
- Senior Project

### **Virtual High School**

Notre Dame Academy offers classes through Virtual High School to juniors and seniors who are capable of independent study, have an ability to follow through on expectations, and a desire to experience online learning. First preference is given to students whose schedules have challenges or transfer students who have additional requirements. Students will be assigned a time and place to work on the VHS classes and will be supervised by the Dean of Students. Students are expected to take the VHS classes seriously and courses will be added to their transcripts. For more information about VHS, go to their website: <http://vhslearning.org/> or the Guidance Department.

### **Dual Enrollment**

Juniors and Seniors are able to enroll in an Assumption University course (each semester) to earn college credit and high school credit. There is no tuition cost, but students are responsible for all related fees and for purchasing all course materials. Students are expected to provide their own transportation and follow the Assumption University calendar, attending class even if NDA is on holiday or not in session. The program is open to those exceptional juniors and seniors who have a minimum GPA of 3.0, and the endorsement of the student's teachers and guidance counselor.

### **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

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

### **RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

The Religious Studies Department provides a comprehensive program which is faith-based and academic. The content and philosophy of the program can be found in Scripture and in the rich tradition of the Catholic Church. This program underscores the mission of the School and the learning styles and needs of the students. Through the courses, students are encouraged to develop and strengthen their faith. The teaching methodologies are varied and are continually reviewed to include new technologies, current scholarship, and cooperative learning activities.

The Love-in Action Community Service Program for juniors and seniors complements the religion curriculum by providing students with a tangible opportunity for community outreach. Our Religious Studies is further enhanced by the preparation of seasonal Liturgical celebrations as well as a yearly retreat experience.

#### **Grade 9**

##### **Religion 1 (611): Scripture Studies**

##### **Required/Full Credit/Honors**

Through readings and critical analyses of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, students investigate the history of salvation from Genesis to the development of the early Church in Acts of the Apostles. This course explores the lasting contributions to faith and culture of the most popular and enduring characters of the Bible with a focus on the role of significant women active in the history of salvation. Basics of Catholicism such as traditional prayers, the lives of the Saints, and major celebrations of the Church Liturgical Year will continue to be reinforced, as well as further exploration of the life of St. Julie and the Sisters of Notre Dame.

#### **Grade 10**

##### **Religion 2 (621):**

##### **Growing in Christian Morality/Ethics**

##### **Required/Full Credit/Honors**

This course studies the principles of moral decision-making and explores some of today's complex moral and ethical issues through a Christian lens. Students reflect on the thematic question: "What kind of person am I and what kind of person do I want to become?" There is a special focus on the moral virtues of wise judgment, justice, courage, wholeness, honesty, compassion, peacemaking, respect for persons, creation, and human life. The course concludes with preparation for participation in Notre Dame's Love-in-Action program.

#### **Grade 11**

##### **Religion 3 (631):**

##### **Church History (Scripture Studies until 2023/24)**

##### **Required/Full Credit/Honors**

This course centers on connecting recent events in the Church and the world to a particular period in history. It explores the sanctification and redemption found within the history of salvation. The course will begin by analyzing and including the Church's divine origin and continue to the Church in the 21st Century and beyond. Students will reflect on thematic questions such as: "What is the intersection between Church and history?" and "How has God revealed himself throughout the Church's history?". Topics that will be covered are: the

persecutions within the early Church, the Church Fathers, Catholic Reformation, development of Catholic Social teachings and the Second Vatican Council. It will conclude with looking at the Church in the 21st century and beyond.

## **Grade 12**

### **Religion 4 (641):**

#### **World Religions**

##### **Required/Full Credit/Honors**

This course presents the major religions of the world within the context of the human need for meaning. Students will become familiar with the origins, principle ethical tenets, religious practices, prayer forms, and cultural influences of the major traditions including Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism. This course will assist the students to form a positive and respectful attitude as they compare and contrast the faith responses from the world community. The goal of this course is to develop a more tolerant and informed understanding of religion and religious issues.

### **Love-in-Action Community Service Program (Jr. 635, Sr. 645)**

#### **Required/Partial Credit/Honors/Grades 11, 12**

Students perform service at an approved site for **approximately** 120 hours spread over a two year period. Integrated into the religion curriculum, it includes journal summaries and reflections, participation in ministry, self-evaluation, and supervisor evaluation. This program prepares students to assume their role in the world as women of love and service.

## **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

The English Department provides a comprehensive program that stems from the school's mission, represents the traditional literary canon but also highlights contemporary and progressive literature, and is consistent with the needs of students. During the students' four years of English, they read, discuss, and write about literature of increasing complexity and breadth, from genre units and focused writing as freshmen to universal emphasis and long research papers as seniors. The wide scope of material, encompassing over 3,000 years and cultures from around the world, allows students to consider all aspects of experience, history, trends, and techniques at an appropriate developmental pace. Students are encouraged to connect their personal, cultural, ethical, and spiritual insights to the texts that they read and share their diverse perspectives in the classroom setting. The program is also developmental in its approach to writing. The freshmen journal and compose paragraphs and essays; the sophomores focus on primary source analytical essays and the 5 paragraph form; juniors complete a literary research paper and mini-presentation; and seniors synthesize the multitude of skills they have acquired, completing 10 page analyses and publicly presenting a comprehensive research paper as part of the Senior Project. The English program also maintains continuity in the teaching of grammar and usage, comprehensive in the earlier years, as well as MLA format.

### **English 1 (211): Literary Genres, Advanced Honors**

#### **Required /Full Credit/Grade 9**

This advanced course is more academically challenging than *Literary Genres, Honors* which stresses the development of basic skills in reading, writing, speaking, thinking, and studying. Additional reading assignments and engaging exercises are added into the curriculum.

**English 1 (212): Literary Genres, Honors****Required/Full Credit/Grade 9**

*Literature: Genres and Connections Honors* stresses the development of basic skills in reading, writing, speaking, thinking, and studying. Literature selections introduce the student to the genres of epic, short story, memoir, dramatic tragedy, poetry, and the novel. Use of the *Collections* textbook and interactive features allows for an exploration of comparative pieces and creates connections through multimedia. Students develop writing skills through expository, descriptive, and narrative paragraphs and essays as well as daily journaling. Students also study vocabulary, grammar, usage, punctuation, sentence construction, and paragraph organization.

**English 2 (221) World Literature, Advanced Honors****Required/Full Credit/Grade 10**

This advanced course is more academically challenging and demanding than *World Literature, Honors*. Students will increase their understanding and use of literary terminology to enhance critical analysis and discussion. Additional readings and writing assignments are also added to the curriculum.

**English 2 (222): World Literature, Honors****Required/Full Credit/Grade 10**

*World Literature* stresses the continued development of critical reading and expository writing skills introduced in grade 9, while building students' vocabulary and oral skills. The course is a thematic and comparative examination of world literature from or relating to various countries. Students gain an appreciation for multicultural literature by examining essays, fiction, and poetry, among other genres, and connect analysis to the topics and motifs being studied. Use of the *Collections* textbook and interactive features allows for an exploration of comparative pieces and creates connections through multimedia. The students further develop their writing skills by learning to create an effective 5 paragraph essay. Independent reading as well as individual and collaborative projects are also included in the curriculum.

**English 3 (230):****AP® English Language and Composition with American Literature****Required/Full Credit/Grade 11**

*AP English Language and Composition* is offered to highly motivated students who demonstrate a maturity in work ethic and in analysis of material and expression. The course examines the same subjects as *American Literature Honors* but is more academically demanding and requires additional readings, writing strategies, and rhetorical approaches. Fundamental communication skills that apply to academic curriculum as well as to career development are also incorporated (such as resume writing, verbal and non-verbal communication, identifying types of and developing speeches, and considering personal branding and the effects of social media). Students cultivate their understanding of writing and rhetorical arguments through reading, analyzing, and writing texts as they explore topics like rhetorical situation, claims and evidence, reasoning and organization, and style. It is a rigorous course requiring the same expectations and demands of an introductory level college course. The course also teaches in preparation for the English Language and Composition AP Exam which is required.

**English 3 (232): American Literature Honors  
Required/Full Credit/Grade 11**

This course is a partially chronological and thematic study of the major writers and genres in American Literature. The novels, plays, poems, short stories, and nonfiction that the students read and discuss introduce them to diverse American subjects, ideas, and styles. The course requires students to read additional texts, demonstrate notable sophistication in their writing, and show proficiency in using databases and other library resources. The students further develop their research and writing skills by learning to compose a literary research paper and presentation. Fundamental communication skills that apply to academic curriculum as well as to career development are also incorporated (such as resume writing, verbal and non-verbal communication, identifying types of speech and developing their own speeches, and considering personal branding and the effects of social media). Independent reading as well as individual and collaborative projects are also included in the curriculum. The year culminates with a literary research paper and mini presentation within the classroom.

**English 4 (243):  
AP® English Literature and Composition with British Literature  
Required/Full Credit/Grade 12**

This course is offered to highly motivated students who demonstrate a maturity in work ethic and in analysis of material and expression. The course examines the same subjects as British Literature Honors but is more academically demanding and aligns to an introductory college-level literary analysis class. Students cultivate their understanding of literature through reading and analyzing texts as they explore concepts like character, setting, structure, perspective, figurative language, and literary analysis in the context of literary works. The course engages students in the close reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. It is a rigorous course requiring the same expectations and demands of an introductory level college course. The course also teaches in preparation for the English Literature AP Exam which is required. Additionally, students create an interdisciplinary senior project with the Arts Department.

**English 4 (242): British Literature Honors  
Required/Full Credit/Grade 12**

This course is a comparative and thematic study of the major writers and genres in British and World Literature. It is comprehensive in its selections of genres, styles, representations, and subjects and it explores universal tropes and motifs. The course's comprehensive approach encourages students to discern the value of literary connections as well as individual analytical development. Students learn different movements of literary theory and how to apply them to analysis, as well as engage in literary criticism to develop depth in their analytical and critical approaches to writing. A variety of projects, individual and group, are assigned to assess the students' application of literary comprehension and interpretation. Students also create an interdisciplinary senior project with the Arts Department.

**Women Writers (245)  
Elective/Full Credit/Honors/Grades 11/12**

This senior level elective predominately explores creative writing practices. Students will read predominantly female authors along with representative texts of various genres (such as

memoir, fiction, and poetry). Students will engage in critical and creative writing exercises in order to develop their craft, culminating in a portfolio. Students will also complete individual projects focused on one specific female author. The dynamic of the course requires an open attitude and a willingness to workshop ideas; as such, students must engage in class participation regularly. A creative writing textbook with prompts and questions for self-exploration is used to help develop the writing craft and individual voices.

## **HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

The History and Social Studies Department provides a comprehensive academic program that is consistent with the school's beliefs about teaching and learning, supports the mission of the school, and meets the needs of the students. In grades 9, 10, and 11 students are required to take courses in World and U.S. History. In their junior and senior year electives are offered such as Psychology, Foundations of Business, Economics, and Social Protest and Social Change. The courses and curriculum are reviewed and adapted annually by the department members. The courses are designed to build on previous knowledge, and to develop proficiency in their understanding of historical concepts as well as their critical thinking, writing, and research skills. The developmental levels of the individual students are assessed annually for placement in the leveled courses so that they can achieve success in their studies. Teaching methodologies and the planning of programs are continually assessed to incorporate new technologies, textbook support, cooperative learning activities, library resources, and the strengths of the faculty. The Social Studies department is undergoing a three year realignment of course progression. This design aligns more closely with middle and high schools across the state. Courses affected by this change have an asterisk and explanation.

### **United States History I (325) Advanced Honors\* Required/Full Credit/Grade 9**

This course covers the same content described in United States History I Honors but in greater depth and with an emphasis on essay writing and critical thinking. In addition to the textbook, students examine primary documents, and other secondary sources. Students will create and present a civic action project during the course of the year.

### **United States History I (326) Honors\* Required/Full Credit/Grade 9**

This course traces the history of the United States from pre-contact through Reconstruction. Material is presented chronologically. Topics include politics, diplomacy, economics, social and cultural evolution, government, and intellectual influences. Critical thinking skills are stressed including drawing conclusions from statistics and graphs, analyzing primary sources, and synthesizing evidence from a variety of sources. Brief research projects and a major research paper are required. Students will create and present a civic action project during the course of the year.

### **AP® World History: Modern (310)\* Required/Full Credit/Grade 10**

The AP World History: Modern course focuses on the development of disciplinary practices and reasoning skills and an understanding of content organized around six themes in World History: Humans and the Environment, Cultural Developments and Interactions, Governance, Economic

Systems, Social Interactions and Organization, and Technology and Innovation. The course examines significant events, individuals and movements from A.D. 1200 through the present. It is a rigorous course requiring the same expectations and demands of an introductory level college course. This course is designed to meet the standards of the current AP exam and students are required to take the AP exam.

### **United States History I (324) Honors\***

#### **Required/Full Credit/Grade 10**

This course traces the history of the United States from pre-contact through Reconstruction. Material is presented chronologically. Topics include politics, diplomacy, economics, social and cultural evolution, government, and intellectual influences. Critical thinking skills are stressed including drawing conclusions from statistics and graphs, analyzing primary sources, and synthesizing evidence from a variety of sources. Brief research projects and a major research paper are required.

### **AP® U.S. History (330)**

#### **Required/Full Credit/Grade 11**

The AP U.S. History course focuses on the development of disciplinary practices and reasoning skills and an understanding of content organized around seven themes in American History: American and National Identity; Politics and Power; Work, Exchange, and Technology; Culture and Society; Migration and Settlement; Geography and the Environment; and America in the World. It is offered to students who have excelled in U.S. History I. It is a rigorous course requiring the same expectations and demands of an introductory level college course. This course is designed to meet the standards of the current AP exam and students are required to take the AP exam.

### **United States History II (332) Honors**

#### **Required /Full Credit/Grade 11**

This course traces the chronological development of the United States from the post-Reconstruction period into the 21st century. Focusing on the major political, social, and economic events as well as on the personalities and ideas that have shaped America, students acquire factual knowledge while learning to analyze data, use primary sources, and build critical thinking skills.

\*Please note, 2021-2022 is a transition year for course realignment. Multiple sections are centered on US 1 in order to serve students who have not had the opportunity to study it yet. AP® World History: Modern\* will be offered to qualifying sophomores. In 2020-2021, freshmen studied World History 2, sophomores studied US 1, and juniors studied US 2 or APUSH. During the 2022-23 academic year the Social Studies Department is changing World History I to freshman year and World History II to sophomore year. Foundations of U.S. History and Civics will be taught in eighth grade. Junior year will remain the same.

### **Economics (Semester)(344)**

#### **Elective/Partial Credit/Honors/Grades 11/12**

This course introduces students to the basics of economics. Students will be introduced to fundamental economic concepts, applying the tools (graphs, statistics, and equations) from other subject areas to the understanding of operations and



institutions of economic systems. Students will study the basic economic principles of micro and macroeconomics, international economics, comparative economics systems, and measurement and methods. Students will also develop personal finance skills.

\*\* Please note, economics is open to both juniors and seniors for the 2021-2022 academic year. The course will only be offered to juniors in 2022-2023 and will serve as a prerequisite for Foundations of Business which will be offered to only seniors in 2022-2023.

### **Social Protest and Social Change (Semester)(248)**

#### **Elective/Partial Credit/Honors/Grades 11/12**

This course will explore aspects of social protest and social change through the lens of sociology. Starting with studying the relationship between the individual and society, students will utilize historical case studies to examine society's in and out groups and how protest movements can lead to social justice and change. Social protest movements are both an historical and global phenomenon. Students will examine case studies involving young people and women from movements that include women's suffrage, Holocaust resistance, Ghandi's non-violent protests, the U.S. Civil Rights movement, and Chilean mothers during Pinochet's rule. The class will explore the universality of protest movements, their diversity, and how their legacy inspires social protests of today. Students will reflect on what leads a person to a call to action and how social movements can work to bring about a more just, equitable, and compassionate world.

### **Psychology (346)**

#### **Elective/Full Credit/Advanced Honors/Grade 12**

This course introduces students to psychology, the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. In this course, students will examine the following: an overview of the history of psychology; the methods of research used in psychology; the basic principles of psychology; various approaches to the study of human behavior; the brain, body, behavior connection; sensation and perception; learning and cognitive processes; memory; thinking and learning styles; lifespan development; theories of personality development, moral development, cognitive development, social development, psychological disorders and types of therapy. With extra study, students may elect to take the Advanced Placement Psychology test at the completion of the course

### **Foundations of Business (343)**

#### **Elective/Full Credit/Honors/Grades 12**

The Foundations of Business course is designed to provide a fundamental understanding of business management. The course will explore the areas of finance, economics, entrepreneurship, marketing and advertising, human resources, business law, and communication, within a business environment. Skills taught will include, but not be limited to, the basic business principles of problem solving and decision-making, communication, ethics, financials, and marketing. The course will include a combination of individual and group classwork, external speakers, and internships.

**WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT \*pending possible changes for 2021-22**

The goals of the NDA World Language Department in its French, Spanish, and Latin Studies programs are to teach our students to use and appreciate a language other than English and to value other cultures. With proficiency in the skills of reading, writing, and conversing in another language and with a solid knowledge of other cultures, our students will be better prepared to participate in the multilingual, interdependent communities of the twenty-first century. Although two years of French, or Spanish are required for graduation, we strongly recommend that students continue with their study of French or Spanish in the junior and senior years.

**Latin (404)****Required/Partial Credit/Grade 9**

This course develops the ability to read and understand simple Latin. The study of Latin forms and syntax enhances the understanding of the structure of language while the study of Latin vocabulary expands English vocabulary through the study of roots and derivatives. Topics in classical mythology and Roman culture and history reinforce and amplify themes introduced in Grade 9 history, arts, and English courses.

**French**

All French courses are offered for full credit. Placement is by examination and departmental approval.

**French 1 Honors (412)****Required/Full Credit/Grade 8 or 9**

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.

**French 2 Advanced Honors (421)****Required/Full Credit/Grade 9 or 10**

This course continues to focus on communication skills through the study of grammar, continued vocabulary acquisition, expanded conversations, and through controlled and original composition. Students continue to develop their speaking, listening, and reading skills and continue to expand their knowledge of the varied cultures of French-speaking countries. Students practice their language skills through interactive, communicative activities and through the use of authentic materials appropriate for this level.

**French 2 Honors (422)****Required/Full Credit/Grade 9 or 10**

This course continues to focus on communication skills through the study of grammar, continued vocabulary acquisition, expanded conversation, and through controlled and original composition. Students continue to develop their listening, writing and speaking skills through interactive, communicative activities and through authentic materials appropriate for this level.

Students also continue to expand their knowledge of the varied cultures of French-speaking countries.

**French 3 Advanced Honors (431)****Elective/Full Credit/Grade 10 or 11**

This course develops students' conversational, listening, and writing skills while focusing on the accurate formation and usage of complex grammatical structures and thematic vocabulary. Students practice French through interactive, communicative activities and through the use of authentic materials.

**French 3 Honors (432)****Elective/Full Credit/Grade 10 or 11**

In French 3, students develop their proficiency in French through correct formation of and practice with higher-level grammatical structures and vocabulary. Students practice their newly acquired forms through structured reading, speaking, listening, and writing activities. Students polish their language skills through interactive, communicative activities and through the use of authentic materials appropriate for this level. Concepts from French 1 and French 2 are reinforced.

**French 4 Advanced Honors (441)****Elective/Full Credit/Grade 11 or 12**

Students continue to develop listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills in French through the study of complex grammar and authentic French-language texts using an interactive, communicative approach. Within contemporary and meaningful thematic contexts, students revisit topics studied in previous French courses, master sophisticated grammatical structures, increase their vocabulary, and advance their cultural competency. Students work with AP\* French texts, and students interested in taking the AP exam also meet with the teacher outside of class time for additional preparation.

**French 4 Honors (442)****Elective/Full Credit/Grade 11 or 12**

Students continue to develop listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills in French through more in-depth study of higher-level grammar and authentic French-language texts using an interactive, communicative approach. Within contemporary and meaningful thematic contexts, students revisit topics studied in previous French courses, master higher-level grammatical structures, increase their vocabulary, and advance their cultural competency.

**French 5 Advanced Honors (451)****Elective/Full Credit/Grade 12**

In this class, students continue to increase their proficiency and accuracy in the use of French. Students practice their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills through the study of complex grammar and the use of authentic materials. Students polish their language skills through interactive, communicative activities. Students work with AP\* French texts, and students interested in taking the AP exam also meet with the teacher outside of class time for additional preparation.

**French 5 Honors (452)****Elective/Full Credit/Grade 12**

In this class, students continue to increase their proficiency and accuracy in the use of French. Students practice their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills through the study of higher-level grammar and the use of authentic materials. Students polish their language skills through interactive, communicative activities.

## **Spanish**

All Spanish courses are offered for full credit. Placement is by examination and by departmental approval.

### **Spanish 1 Honors (414)**

#### **Required/Full Credit/Grade 9**

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.

### **Spanish 2 Advanced Honors (423)**

#### **Required/Full Credit/Grade 9 or 10**

This course continues to focus on communication skills through the study of grammar, continued vocabulary acquisition, expanded conversations, and through controlled and original composition. Students continue to develop their speaking, listening, and reading skills and continue to expand their knowledge of the varied cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Students practice their language skills through interactive, communicative activities and through the use of authentic materials appropriate for this level.

### **Spanish 2 Honors (424)**

#### **Required/Full Credit/Grade 9 or 10**

This course continues to focus on communication skills through the study of grammar, continued vocabulary acquisition, expanded conversations, and through controlled and original composition. Students continue to develop their listening and speaking skills through interactive, communicative activities and through authentic materials appropriate for this level. Students also continue to expand their knowledge of the varied cultures of Spanish-speaking countries.

### **Spanish 3 Advanced Honors (433)**

#### **Elective/Full Credit/Grade 10 or 11**

This course develops students' conversational, listening, and writing skills while focusing on the accurate formation and usage of complex grammatical structures and thematic vocabulary. Students practice their language skills through interactive, communicative activities and through the use of authentic materials.

### **Spanish 3 Honors (434)**

#### **Elective/Full Credit/Grade 10 or 11**

In this class, students develop their proficiency in Spanish through the correct formation of and practice with higher-level, grammatical structures and vocabulary. Students practice their newly acquired forms through structured reading, speaking, listening, and writing activities. Students

polish their language skills through interactive, communicative activities and through the use of authentic materials appropriate for this level. Concepts from Spanish 1 and Spanish 2 are reinforced.

**Spanish 4 Advanced Honors (443)****Elective/Full Credit/Grade 11 or 12**

Students continue to develop listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills in Spanish through the study of complex grammar and authentic Spanish-language texts using an interactive, communicative approach. Within contemporary and meaningful thematic contexts, students revisit topics studied in previous Spanish courses, master sophisticated grammatical structures, increase their vocabulary, and advance their cultural competency. Students work with AP Spanish texts, and students interested in taking the AP exam also meet with the teacher outside of class time for additional preparation.

**Spanish 4 Honors (444)****Elective/Full Credit/Grade 11 or 12**

Students continue to develop listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills in Spanish through more in-depth study of higher-level grammar and authentic Spanish-language texts using an interactive, communicative approach. Within contemporary and meaningful thematic contexts, students revisit topics studied in previous Spanish courses, master higher-level grammatical structures, increase their vocabulary, and advance their cultural competency.

**Spanish 5 Advanced Honors (453)****Elective/Full Credit/Grade 12**

In this class, students continue to increase their proficiency and accuracy in the use of Spanish. Students practice their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills through the study of complex grammar and the use of authentic materials. Students polish their language skills through the use of interactive, communicative activities. Students work with AP Spanish texts, and students interested in taking the AP exam also meet with the teacher outside of class time for additional preparation.

**Spanish 5 Honors (454)****Elective/Full Credit/Grade 12**

In this class, students continue to increase their proficiency and accuracy in the use of Spanish. Students practice their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills through the study of higher-level grammar and the use of authentic materials. Students polish their language skills through the use of interactive, communicative activities. Students work with AP Spanish texts, and students interested in taking the AP exam also meet with the teacher outside of class time for additional preparation.

## **MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT**

The Mathematics Department provides a comprehensive program of instruction that is designed to develop student's abilities to prepare them for college level mathematics courses. Incoming students are evaluated by several measures in order to properly place them in an appropriate course sequence. The department collaborates at the end of the year to determine when an individual student's academic growth requires a program change. The teaching in the discipline reflects and reinforces the mission of the school.

### **Algebra 2 (111) Advanced Honors**

#### **Required/Full Credit/Grade 9**

This course is offered to first-year students who have demonstrated an adequate level of mastery of Pre-algebra and Algebra 1 skills. The course begins with an accelerated review of prerequisite topics, and focuses primarily on graphing functions and solving quadratic equations. Logarithms, exponential functions, and complex numbers are also studied. Technology and real-world application problems are integrated into the curriculum. A graphing calculator (T1-84) is required.

### **Algebra 1 (112) Honors**

#### **Required/Full Credit/Grade 9**

This course consists of a comprehensive study of the fundamentals of Algebra. Included in the course are operations with signed numbers, solving equations in one variable, graphing and analysis of linear equations, introduction to functions, exploration of exponents and scientific notation, and solving systems of linear equations. Special emphasis is placed on problem solving and use of technology. A graphing calculator (T1-84) is required.

### **Geometry Advanced Honors (121)**

#### **Required/Full Credit/Grade 10**

This accelerated course covers a complete geometry curriculum that emphasizes deductive reasoning and critical thinking. Students use what they learn about lines, triangles, polygons, and circles to solve numerical algebraic geometry problems. Writing geometric proofs is emphasized in this course. Computer applications are integrated into this program. A graphing calculator (TI-84) is required.

### **Geometry Honors (122)**

#### **Required/Full Credit/Grade 10**

This course emphasizes the development of deductive reasoning and concise creative thinking. Students use what they learn about lines, triangles, polygons, and circles to solve numerical and algebraic geometry problems. The study of right triangle trigonometry and coordinate geometry is included in this course. Computer applications are integrated into this program. A graphing calculator (T1-84) is required.

### **Pre-Calculus (131) Advanced Honors**

#### **Required/Full Credit/Grade 11**

This course begins with a sophisticated algebraic study of all functions and their graphs. A thorough exploration of trigonometry comprises much of the second half of the year, including verifying identities. Also included are an introduction to logarithms, sequences and series, and

the concept of limits. This course is intended for students interested in the study of calculus during senior year. A graphing calculator (TI-84) is required.

### **Algebra 2/Trigonometry (132) Honors**

#### **Required/Full Credit/Grade 11**

This course covers linear and quadratic functions, inequalities, and polynomials. Topics introduced include analytic geometry, exponential and logarithmic functions, and triangle trigonometry. Special emphasis is placed on the use of technology. A graphing calculator (TI-84) is required.

### **AP Calculus (141)**

#### **Elective/Full Credit/Grade 12**

This course covers all topics outlined for Calculus AB in the AP course description. This course is designed to meet the standards of the current AP exam and students may take the AP exam. It is offered to students who have excelled in Pre-Calculus and includes topics on limits, differentiation, and integration. The course will explore the graphical, numerical and symbolic approaches to problem solving. The use of a graphing calculator is mandatory, as is analysis without the calculator. It is an extremely rigorous course requiring the same expectations and demands of an introductory level college course. A summer assignment is a mandatory component of this course as well as completing weekly AP review packets.

### **Calculus (142) Advanced Honors**

#### **Elective/Full Credit/Grade 12**

This course is similar in content to AP Calculus, covering the same topics using the modeling approach and calculators. However, this course does not specifically prepare students to take the AP exam.

### **Pre-Calculus (143) Advanced Honors**

#### **Elective/Full Credit/Grade 12**

This course prepares students for calculus. It covers probability, statistics, functions and their graphs, including trigonometric functions. A study of limits and an introduction to the derivative are offered. A graphing calculator (TI-84) is required.

### **Pre-Calculus (144) Honors**

#### **Elective/Full Credit/Grade 12**

This course includes the study of probability, statistics, sequences, series, graphing of functions, and a basic introduction to calculus. A graphing calculator (TI-84) is required.

### **Statistics Honors (Semester) (145)**

#### **Elective/Partial Credit/Grades 11, 12**

This course is a one semester course that will cover the following topics of Statistics: 1.) data classification, 2.) data representation using graphs, 3.) data interpretation using mean, median and mode, 4.) probability, and 5.) normal distribution and Z-scores. This course requires a TI-84 graphing calculator.

## **SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

The Science Department provides a comprehensive program that strives to make students aware of what is happening in their lives, and how these events relate to the various fields of science. The department prepares students to make responsible and appropriate intellectual, social, physical, emotional, and ethical choices for themselves, and within the community. The department's carefully constructed curriculum assures a continuous flow of information and learning as a student progresses through the program.

### **Biology 1 (521) Honors Required/Full Credit/Grade 9**

This is an introductory course to Biological Science. Topics that are covered include the light microscope as an investigative tool, chemistry of life, the cell and cell processes including biomolecules, enzymatic reactions, photosynthesis, cellular respiration, mitosis, meiosis, Mendelian genetics, punnett squares, heredity, DNA, RNA, protein synthesis, gene and stem cell therapy, an overview of evolution, classification of living things. Teaching methods include laboratory activities, projects, computer simulations, traditional lectures, and group work. Students make use of technology for laboratory measurements as well as an introduction to data collection and analysis.

### **Chemistry 1 (531) Advanced Honors Required/Full Credit/Grade 10**

This is an introductory course that covers the major topics in chemistry: properties of matter, atomic theory, elements, ionic and covalent bonding, compounds, solutions, chemical reactions and stoichiometry, enthalpy, gases, and acid/base interactions while stressing mathematical analysis. This course is intended for the student who is able to handle an accelerated pace; it covers the same topics as Chemistry 1 Honors and places the same emphasis on laboratory analysis; however, each topic is covered with greater depth and mathematical involvement. Laboratory sessions are conducted on a regular basis to help each student develop their analytical skills as well as to become more proficient in the use and handling of laboratory equipment. Proper use of laboratory equipment, laboratory safety, and measurement practices are introduced at the start of the course to allow students the maximum amount of time in the lab. Students make use of technology for laboratory measurements as well as data collection and analysis. Data analysis, research & citation, concise writing, and inference are an integral part of this course.

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Biology, Algebra I, and Algebra II

### **Chemistry 1 (532) Honors Required/Full Credit/Grade 10**

This is an introductory course that covers the major topics in chemistry: properties of matter, atomic theory, elements, ionic and covalent bonding, compounds, solutions, chemical reactions and stoichiometry, enthalpy, gases, and acid/base interactions while stressing mathematical analysis. Laboratory sessions are conducted on a regular basis to help each student develop their analytical skills as well as to become more proficient in the use and handling of laboratory equipment. Proper use of laboratory equipment, laboratory safety, and measurement practices are introduced at the start of the course to allow students the maximum amount of time in the lab. Students make use of technology for laboratory measurements as well as data collection



and analysis. Data analysis, research & citation, concise writing, and inference are an integral part of this course.

**Prerequisites:** Completion of Biology and Algebra I

### **Introduction to Engineering Design (SEMESTER) (350)**

#### **Required/Partial Credit/Grade 10**

Introduction to Engineering Design is a semester-long Grade 10 required course. This course will set the groundwork for problem-solving in a group setting, specifically on the communication of solutions. Learning activities will include teacher-led instruction, cooperative learning, and project-based learning. Technology will be used to enhance student learning, and provide real-world applications. Through the design of solutions to real-world problems, students will learn to develop an engineering notebook, technical drawing skills, process flow diagrams, construction specifications, and modeling (through either 3D computer rendering or the use of a 3D printer).

### **Anatomy and Physiology (541) Advanced Honors**

#### **Elective/Full Credit/Grade 11 and 12**

#### **Prerequisites: Biology 1 and Chemistry 1**

This course specifically addresses the major systems of the human body while building upon some of the basic knowledge acquired in both Biology I and Chemistry I. Initially, topics in medical terminology, histology, and oncology will be covered, then the body systems will be studied in detail. Recent scientific advancements as they relate to the human body and how it functions will be explored, and bioethical issues will be discussed throughout the year. Laboratory experiments in physiology will expose students to techniques such as EKG, blood pressure, and EMG, while the cat dissection will allow for viewing and comparing anatomical structures as they are studied in humans. Participation in lab experiments will enable each student to develop her analytical skills while becoming more proficient in handling and caring for sophisticated laboratory equipment. This course incorporates the use of videos, the microscope, physiological/medical equipment, and techniques, dissecting tools, modeling, computer programs, and Internet research. A summer assignment is an integral part of this course.

### **Advanced Placement® Physics 1 (540)**

#### **Elective/Full Credit/Grade 12**

AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course designed to prepare students for taking the AP Physics 1 Exam. Students cultivate their understanding of physics through inquiry-based investigations as they explore these topics: 1- and 2-dimensional kinematics including free fall and projectile motion, 1- and 2-dimensional dynamics including Newton's Laws of Motion, circular motion, gravitation and orbits, mechanical energy, momentum, rotational kinematics and dynamics, and simple harmonic motion (including springs and pendulums). Laboratory investigations are conducted on a regular basis and involve the use of hands-on experiments as well as computer simulations to allow students to apply these concepts to real-world situations and become familiar with data collection techniques and technology that would be used in a college-level physics laboratory. Analysis of data collected during labs is conducted using graphical analysis techniques to help students understand the correlation between trends in data and the fundamental equations that cover the phenomena. Prior to the start of the course in September, students are required to complete a summer assignment to review vector addition and subtraction, basic trig functions, and right-triangle

manipulation as well as introductory physics concepts used at the start of the course (including displacement, velocity, and acceleration).

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Pre-Calculus

### **Physics (543) Honors**

#### **Elective/Full Credit/Grade 11 and 12**

Honors Physics is an algebra-based physics course designed to provide students with an introduction to the topics covered in a typical first-semester college physics course. Topics that are covered include 1- and 2-dimensional kinematics including free fall and projectile motion, 1- and 2-dimensional dynamics including Newton's Laws of Motion, circular motion, gravitation and orbits, mechanical energy, momentum, rotational kinematics and dynamics, and simple harmonic motion (including springs and pendulums). Laboratory investigations are conducted on a regular basis and involve the use of hands-on experiments as well as computer simulations to allow students to apply these concepts to real-world situations and become familiar with data collection techniques and technology that would be used in a college-level physics laboratory. Prior to the start of the course in September, students are required to complete a summer assignment to review (or preview based on prior math courses completed) vector addition and subtraction, basic trig functions, and right-triangle manipulation as well as introductory physics concepts used at the start of the course (including displacement, velocity, and acceleration).

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Algebra 2 and Pre-Calculus (or concurrent enrollment)

### **Biotechnology (S1) Honors (550)**

#### **Elective/Partial Credit/Grade 11 and 12**

Biotechnology is a semester-long elective course offered to Grades 11, and 12 students. This course will examine the modern technologies used today in the growing field of biology. Topics will include modern laboratory techniques, stem cells, cloning, recombinant DNA technologies, drug discovery, DNA analysis, bioremediation, proteomics, gene therapy, epigenetics, bioethics, genetic engineering, biowarfare and bioterrorism, and the business of biotechnology. The course will take a general overview of forensics as a wrap-up in the connection that exists between biotechnology and forensics. Much of this course will be enhanced using virtual laboratories. This course is designed to prepare students wishing to pursue careers in the ever-growing field of life sciences.

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion Biology and Chemistry

### **Ecological Studies (S1) Advanced Honors (548)**

#### **Elective/Partial Credit/Grade 11 and 12**

Ecological Studies is a semester-long elective course offered to Grades 11, and 12 students. This course will survey some of the many environmental science topics at an introductory level, ultimately considering the sustainability of human activities on the planet. Topics that will be covered in this elective include basic principles of ecology, biodiversity, population dynamics, energy flow through a biosphere, the ecology of communities, exploration of various biomes, ocean ecosystems, and the atmosphere, and conservation ecology. Throughout the course, students will be expected to work independently as well as collaboratively to complete assignments. Emphasis will be placed on critical thinking skills, problem-solving techniques, and practical applications as students focus on finding sustainable solutions to environmental issues. To

understand current environmental problems, we will explore the physical, biological, and chemical processes that are often the basis of those problems. These explorations are accomplished by examining case studies and through laboratory-scale activities. This course will give students the skills necessary to address the environmental issues we are facing today by examining scientific principles and the application of those principles to natural systems.

**Prerequisites:** Completion of Biology and Chemistry

### **World Health and Bioethics (S2) Honors (549)**

#### **Elective/Partial Credit/Grade 11 and 12**

World Health and Bioethics is a semester-long elective course offered to Grade 11, and 12 students. This course centers on contemporary topics in life science, medicine, and biotechnology that require ethical examination; “Just because we can, does that mean we should?” Using case studies based on medical, research, and environmental ethics, often related to current events and popular media, students will explore the ethical dimensions of topics that affect our daily lives. They will learn to differentiate ethical questions from different types of questions, such as legal or scientific questions, and identify the stakeholders involved in ethical questions, carefully considering their values and viewpoints. Students will be tasked to consider whether these ethical questions are based on fact, preference, belief, or reasoned judgment. Finally, students will learn the characteristics of strong justification for their solution and apply them to an ethical decision. Topics included are epidemiology, toxicology, public health systems, eastern and western medicinal practices, stem cell research, gene manipulation, and therapy.

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion Biology, Chemistry, and Biotechnology

### **Green Chemistry (S2) Advanced Honors (533)**

#### **Elective/Partial Credit/Grade 11 and 12**

Green Chemistry is a semester-long elective course offered to Grade 11, and 12 students. This course centers on green chemistry and sustainability as a continuation of the sustainability of human activities on the planet introduced in the Ecological Studies course. The course will center around the twelve Principles of Green Chemistry as well as the decision-making process. Students will initially research specific industries and/or companies based on current operations and any sustainability strategies being implemented to determine if Green Chemistry alternatives are available. Through class discussions, students will debate available alternatives based on corporate public image and financial responsibility (including the effect on consumer pricing and return on investment). The first term of this course will focus on class instruction and small group work; the second term will be devoted to small group projects (1-2 students per group) with an industry/corporation of the students' choosing. The course will end with each group presenting their sustainability solutions for a specific industry/company in front of a “corporate panel” of students and faculty to determine if the alternative should be implemented.

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion Biology and Chemistry and Ecological Studies

### **Fundamentals of Engineering (S2) Honors (351)**

#### **Elective/Partial Credit/Grade 11 and 12**

Fundamentals of Engineering is a semester-long elective course offered to Grade 11 and 12 students. This course exposes students to some of the major concepts that they will encounter in a post-secondary engineering course of study, while also giving

students an opportunity to investigate engineering and high tech careers. Through class activities and group projects, students will develop problem-solving skills and apply their knowledge of research and design to create solutions to various challenges. Topics of study include mechanics, structures, and control systems while also investigating energy sources and materials of construction. Through this course, students will employ the skills they learned in the Introduction to Engineering Design course to document their work and communicate their solutions to their peers and members of the professional community.

**Prerequisites:** Successful Completion of Algebra 2

## **THE VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT**

The Visual and Performing Arts Department has as its goals and objectives the use of the artist's skills and training process as tools for life. A few of these objectives found in all Arts courses include tapping the creativity in the individual, developing skills of concentration and focus, valuing risk-taking as well as learning the world through a variety of artistic media.

### **Creative Arts (918)**

#### **Required/Partial Credit/Grades 9**

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.

### **Art and Music in Society SEMESTER (740)**

#### **Required/Partial Credit/Grade 10**

Taught by the Arts team and hosted by one principle arts teacher. This class will look at the way Art and Music affect societies. Attention will be given to a number of ways the arts are used commercially, politically, and socially. Study will also cover how the arts affect the human brain and how that in turn affects societal perceptions.

### **Visual Arts 1: Theory and Application (712) Honors**

### **Visual Arts 2: Theory and Application (713) Honors**

#### **Elective/Full Credit/Grades 11 and 12**

This course is an introduction to the concepts and techniques of visual art with specific reference to the artists and issues of Classic Art through the twentieth century movements. Lectures, readings and studio classes examine the nature of images in relation to various themes. Students investigate the elements and principles of fine art and applied art as well as learn the basic methods and tools of art making. Field investigations include monthly gallery visits to the Worcester Art Museum, meetings with curators, and visits to artists' studios. Along with studying art elements and principles, students create finished art pieces as well as conduct artistic and personal research in an attempt to develop their personal artistic voices. This course inspires students to adapt the various mediums, styles and methods into their individual visual art projects. Student projects will consist of painting, drawing, sculpture, graphic arts and mixed media.

**Jazz Ensemble (097)****Elective / Partial credit / Grades 9,10, 11, 12**

This instrumental ensemble combines traditional jazz players (trumpet, trombone, saxophone, rhythm section) with less traditional jazz players such as violin & clarinet. The repertoire includes traditional jazz, big band, bop and fusion. The ensemble performs on all major Department concerts and at many functions in the community.

**Chamber Choral (096)****Elective/Partial Credit / Grades 11,12**

This is a small vocal ensemble open to students by audition only. Concentration is on a cappella singing and learning to read music as a vocal ensemble. Music varies from classical to pop and jazz. This group performs at all music department concerts and at many functions in the community.

**Musical Expression (741) Honors****Elective/Full credit/Grades 11,12**

This is a general music class with a focus on understanding how music expresses ideas. The class covers basic fundamentals of western musical notation and surveys various styles including music of other cultures. A good portion of the class is devoted to following the historical progression of music, ancient to modern. There is also time given to jazz, rock, and other popular idioms.

**Music Theory (751) Advanced Honors****Elective/Full credit/Grades 11,12**

Concentrating on the study of western musical practices, students learn the fundamentals of harmony, four-part writing, dictation, and sight singing. A large portion of the class is devoted to a survey of musical form and analysis. An AP Examination is offered as an option in this course with extra study for motivated students.

**Theater Performance (747) Honors****Elective/Full Credit/Grades 11,12**

Fundamentals of Theater is designed to enhance students' previous theater experiences and classes. Students will be familiarized with a variety of theatrical elements including but not limited to creating, analyzing and performing, as well as technical elements. They will examine how theater artists tell stories through various performance styles such as monologues, scenes, and improvisation. Additionally, they will learn to critically examine live theater performances throughout the course. Students are expected to attend and critique two live theater performances.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND WELLNESS DEPARTMENT**

The Physical Education program is designed with an emphasis on incorporating physical activity into life routines for the release of energy, development of a positive attitude, and concern for maintaining a lifetime wellness regime. Students are expected to demonstrate responsible personal and social behavior that reflects good-sportsmanship.

### **Physical Education**

#### **Required/Partial Credit/Grades 9, 10**

##### **9th Grade Physical Education and Wellness**

The 9th Grade Physical Education and Wellness course teaches students to develop competency and proficiency in many movement forms by applying concepts and principles to the learning and development of motor skills. Students will investigate the components of health and skill-related fitness through preventative health and wellness techniques and through participation in recreational activities and team sports. The course will also teach students how to assess and maintain physical fitness through sound principles of training and lifetime activities. In addition, the freshman program will explore the concepts of the mind-body connection through mindfulness. Priority topics include healthy decision-making, nutrition, and the eight dimensions of wellness.

##### **10th Grade Physical Education and Wellness**

The 10th Grade Physical Education and Wellness course will prepare students to make informed healthy choices that positively affect the health, safety, and well-being of themselves and others. Students will participate in recreational and team based activities that require students to work cooperatively and productively in a group to accomplish a set of goals. Students will study health concepts; determine personal values that support health behaviors; develop group norms that value a healthy lifestyle; and develop the essential skills necessary to adopt, practice, and maintain health-enhancing behaviors. Priority topic areas include: the eight dimensions of wellness, women's health, disease prevention and goal-setting.

## **GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT**

The NDA Guidance Department assists students by providing support in their transition to high school, academic counseling, career decision-making, and college planning. To supplement individual meetings with students, the department offers a formalized curriculum that consists of the following courses.

### **Freshman Seminar (984)**

#### **Required/Partial Credit/Grade 9**

This class provides students with scheduled support time during their transition to high school. Students learn to thrive in classroom instruction of active/cooperative education and are empowered to self-advocate and become independent learners.

### **Sophomore Seminar (935)**

#### **Required/Partial Credit/Grade 10**

During this class, sophomores explore the concept of work, both in relation to the students' personal goals and in the context of work as a vocation. Through various self-assessment tools and research, students explore areas of interest and ability.

**Junior Seminar (936)****Required/Partial Credit/Grade 11**

Juniors begin their college search during this class. They more thoroughly explore college entrance exam options available and plan their spring and fall testing. They research colleges and college majors through printed materials and computer programs and learn about the procedures and guidelines for the college application process. Students develop a list of colleges to review with their guidance counselor.

**Senior Seminar (937)****Required/Partial Credit/Grade 12**

Students continue the college application process during this class with special emphasis on understanding the admissions process, completing applications, writing college essays, and interviewing. Detailed instruction is provided to students for online application submission.

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