

NOLAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



2019-2020

ACADEMIC COURSE GUIDE

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High School Credits

The school term is divided into two semesters, which are 18 to 20 weeks in length. At the completion of each semester, credits are awarded for successfully completed course work. Successfully completed course work for one-semester courses earns one-half credit. Course work completed for courses lasting one year results in one full credit.

Requirements for Graduation

A minimum of **28** credits is required for graduation from Nolan Catholic High School.

Theology	4 credits
English	4 credits
Social Studies	4 credits
Mathematics	4 credits
Science	4 credits
Modern and Classical Languages	2-3 credits (<i>3 credits for Honors Diploma</i>)
Fine Arts	1 credit
<i>(Music, Art, Theatre Arts, Dance, Photography)</i>	
Technology	1 credit
Communication Applications	0.5 credits
Functional Health	0.5 credits
Physical Education	1 credit
<i>(Athletics, Trainer, Manager, Cheerleading, Dance Team, Marching Band, Dance)</i>	
Others (Electives)	1-2 credits (<i>1 credit for Honors Diploma</i>)

Students must complete 75 hours of Christian Ministry service hours and attend Campus Ministry retreats each year in attendance in order to graduate.

SAMPLE COURSE SELECTION PLANS

Ninth Grade:

Theology	(1)
English	(1)
Mathematics	(1)
Science	(1)
World Geography Cultures	(1)
Modern or Classical Language	(1)
Physical Education	(1)
Functional Health	(.5)
Comm. App. (Speech)	(.5)
Total Credits:	8

Tenth Grade:

Theology	(1)
English	(1)
Mathematics	(1)
Science	(1)
World History	(1)
Modern or Classical Language	(1)
Fine Arts	(1)
Elective	(1)
Total Credits:	8

Eleventh Grade:

Theology	(1)
English	(1)
Mathematics	(1)
Science	(1)
U.S. History	(1)
Technology	(1)
Electives and/or	
Modern or Classical Language*	(2)
Total Credits:	8

Twelfth Grade:

Theology	(1)
English	(1)
Mathematics	(1)
Science	(1)
U.S. Government	(.5)
Economics	(.5)
Electives	(3)
Total Credits:	8

*Nolan Catholic requires students to take a minimum of 28 credits with the opportunity to earn up to 32 credits. Some courses, such as Study Hall, receive no credit.

JUSTIFIABLE REASONS FOR SCHEDULE CHANGES

1. Administrator or teacher request.
2. The student enrolled in a course before earning the necessary prerequisite(s).
3. The student was recommended for a specific course but not enrolled in it.
4. The student was scheduled for a course in which he/she has already received credit.
5. A senior requires a specific course for graduation.
6. A physical disability prevents a student from adequate participation in a class.

LEARNING SUPPORT AND FORMAL ACADEMIC PLANS

Nolan Catholic provides formal academic plans for professionally diagnosed medical, academic, and social emotional needs. Families with outside diagnostic evaluations may submit documentation to the Director of Learning Support. The Director of Learning Support will work with each family to facilitate a formal accommodation plan specific to each student. Nolan Catholic does not have a Special Education program but makes every effort to determine a student's educational needs and provides support and accommodations to assist with student success.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Post-secondary institutions have varying entrance requirements. Most colleges require the SAT, the ACT, and/or the CLT. Students should carefully check the requirements at prospective colleges to determine which tests are required. Juniors are encouraged to test early in the second semester. This permits early admissions at selective schools and time to re-take the test(s) should they want to attempt to improve their score. Consult the Counseling Office for the dates and registration materials.

To prepare for college entrance examinations, freshmen, sophomores, & juniors are given the PSAT in October. This competition is instrumental in qualifying juniors for scholarships administered through the National Merit Program.

ACADEMIC REPORTING

Report cards are available at the end of each quarter. Grading is numerical only; no equivalents are given. Grades of 70 and above are passing. Grades of 69 and below are failing. Semester grades are comprised of 40% for first and second quarter grades, plus 20% for semester exam grade.

Certain course grades are not included in the cumulative numerical average; see course description for verification.

Eight points will be added to each semester grade in Honors, Pre-AP, Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses when computing grades. Students must earn a 70 or higher in order to receive eight points on their semester grade. Honors, Pre-AP and AP courses are listed under the Honors Diploma section and departmental course descriptions.

HONOR ROLL

Highest Honors – Cumulative numerical average of 96.000 or above, having received no grade below a 70 and no “incompletes” as of the last day of the semester.

High Honors – Cumulative numerical average of 90.000 – 95.999, having received no grade below a 70 and no “incompletes” as of the last day of the semester.

Honors – Cumulative numerical average of 85.000 – 89.999, having received no grade below a 70 and no “incompletes” as of the last day of the semester.

At the end of each semester, students are recognized for achieving outstanding academic scores and are designated as an honor student.

GRADUATE HONORS

Amon G. Carter Scholars – Cumulative numerical average of 95.000 or higher for seven consecutive semesters and six or more credits in Honors/AP courses completed.

Summa Cum Laude – Cumulative numerical average of 96.000 and above with no grade below 70.

Magna Cum Laude – Cumulative numerical average of 90.000 to 95.999 with no grade below 70.

Cum Laude – Cumulative numerical average 85.000 to 89.999 with no grade below 70.

Students maintaining high achievement will receive honors as described above. The first seven semesters at NCHS are used to determine these honors.

RANKING

Nolan Catholic High School ranks only the top 6% and 10% at the completion of a student's 6th semester. Students in the top 6% and 10% have a certified rank letter attached

to their transcript.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The St. Thomas Aquinas Chapter is the chapter of the National Honor Society at NCHS. Membership in the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapter is a privilege which is not solely based on academic achievement. Students having a cumulative numerical average of 94.00 or higher are invited to apply in the second semester of their sophomore year. Applications are distributed to those who are academically eligible and must be returned by a specified date. The final decision is made by the NHS Moderators based on the qualities of leadership, service and character, in addition to the cumulative grade requirement.

To remain a member in good standing of the National Honor Society, students must maintain a numerical grade average of at least 94.000, attend quarterly meetings, and complete enough service projects to fulfil the required hours of service. Transfer students must apply to the chapter upon enrollment to maintain membership.

HONORS COURSES

Nolan Catholic High School offers Honors courses in English, mathematics, modern and classical languages, social studies, science, technology, and theology. These courses offer the student valuable challenges and enrichments that encourage intellectual rigor and creative discovery.

HONORS DIPLOMA

Qualified students may earn an Honors Diploma with Honors designation on the transcript. An Honors Diploma includes a minimum cumulative average of 93.000 by the end of the fall semester of the senior year. The student must have taken biology, physics, and chemistry, as well as three consecutive years of the same foreign language. In addition, the student must successfully complete one full credit in six (6) or more of the following courses:

- Great Theological Controversies Honors
- English I Honors
- English II Honors
- Pre-AP World Geography Studies
- World History Honors
- Geometry Honors
- Algebra II Honors
- Pre-Calculus Honors
- Scientific Research & Design Honors (Ecology)
- Biology Honors
- Chemistry Honors

- Anatomy and Physiology Honors
- Spanish III or Spanish III Honors
- French III Honors
- German III Honors
- Latin III Honors
- Advanced Programming Honors (JAVA)
- All Advanced Placement and Dual Credit Courses

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

Advanced Placement (AP) courses offer qualified, 10th-12th grade students an opportunity to do college-level work while in high school. Students enrolled in AP courses are encouraged to take the AP exam to potentially earn college credit.

Based on performance on the AP exam, a student may receive up to six college credit hours for each exam he/she takes. Exams are administered in May at a cost set by CollegeBoard and paid by the family. NCHS cannot guarantee acceptance of AP scores or the number of college hours granted by any college or university. For a current list of post-secondary institutions that accept qualifying grades for AP exams, consult the Guidance Office.

All AP and Dual Credit courses are considered college-level classes and are taught with equal rigor. Students determining whether to take AP or dual credit coursework should consider many factors and do research about the benefits of each with respect to the colleges and universities they are considering. The Guidance office can provide support.

Advanced Placement courses offered:

- English Language and Composition
- English Literature and Composition
- Calculus AB
- Calculus BC
- Statistics
- Biology: Cell & Molecular Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics I: Algebra-Based
- Physics C: Mechanics
- World History: Modern
- US History
- US Government
- Macroeconomics
- Government and Politics: Comparative
- European History
- Psychology
- Spanish Language and Culture
- Spanish Literature and Culture
- French Language and Culture

- German Language and Culture
- Latin
- Computer Science Principles
- Music Theory
- Art History
- Drawing
- 2D Art & Design (Photography III)

DUAL CREDIT COURSES

Dual Credit courses offer qualified students the opportunity to simultaneously receive credit for a high school course while being officially enrolled in a college course.

NCHS partners with four-year universities, allowing students to earn college credit applicable to in-state and out-of-state colleges and universities. Students enrolled in Dual Credit make payment to Nolan Catholic each semester for the Dual Credit enrollment with the college in addition to their NCHS tuition. To enroll in Dual Credit courses, students must have an 85 cumulative GPA, teacher recommendation, and administrator approval.

As individual colleges and universities have their own criteria, NCHS cannot guarantee acceptance of dual credit coursework by any college or university (i.e. some institutions will not accept Dual Credit if the course is a requirement of a student's major).

All AP and Dual Credit courses are considered college-level classes and are taught with equal rigor. Students determining whether to take AP or dual credit coursework should consider many factors and do research about the benefits of each with respect to the colleges and universities they are considering. The Guidance office can provide support.

Dual Credit courses offered (2019-2020):

- English III
- British Literature II (0.5 credit)
- American Literature II (0.5 credit)
- US History
- US Government
- Engineering I (students must apply for Dual Credit status through the University of Texas)

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

If a student is failing or has Incompletes in two or more courses at the end of a quarter, he/she is considered ineligible and remains ineligible until progress report time of the following quarter. Students may regain eligibility at progress report time of the following quarter if the student is

passing all classes according to the records of the Assistant Principal of Academic Affairs. In the case of Incomplete(s), once a student fulfills all completion requirements, that Incomplete will be considered corrected. If the student is failing one or more classes at progress report time in the quarter following a failure, the student will remain ineligible for the duration of the quarter. Eligibility for the third quarter will be determined by a student's semester grades. The Assistant Principal of Academic Affairs reserves the right to invoke academic ineligibility in special cases at any time.

FAILING GRADES

All students must maintain good academic standing and remain on target to graduate with their classmates. If a student fails a course in either semester, credit for each semester failure must be recovered during the summer months. **A student will be denied readmission if all deficient credits are not recovered by the start of the following school year.** Failure in three or more courses in one semester, or a number of failures exceeding the amount that can be made up by the start of the following school year, will be cause for denial of readmission to Nolan Catholic High School. In the event of academic failure, students and parents should work closely with the student's guidance counselor.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

If a student fails two or more classes at the end of one semester, the student is placed on academic probation for at least one quarter. A student placed on academic probation must have no failing grades at the end of the probation period. If, at the end of the probation period, there is a failing grade, the student may be dismissed from Nolan Catholic. If a student is placed on academic probation, the Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs will contact the parent(s) and student, informing them that the student has been placed on probation, and communicate the terms of the probation. At the end of the probationary period, the Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs will review the student's status and recommend to the Principal whether a student should be dismissed or denied readmission.

CREDIT RECOVERY

Students who have a credit deficiency must present an official transcript showing that, through summer, night school or online courses, credit has been recovered. If the deficiencies are not made up, the student may be denied readmission. All credit recovery classes must be completed through NCHS first (if offered) or, with approval, through an accredited institution approved by NCHS.

When evidence (official transcript of credits) is received by Nolan Catholic, the credit deficiency is removed from the student's record. Recovered credits are recorded with their grade points on the transcript and factored into the cumulative GPA. Any course taken outside of NCHS must have pre-approval from administration.

APPROVED CREDIT OUTSIDE OF NCHS

With prior approval, students may earn required credit outside of NCHS in Technology, Health, P.E., and Communication Applications (Speech). These are the only non-remedial courses approved for such consideration. In some cases, students may find it advantageous to take one or more of these courses outside of NCHS in order to create scheduling space for advanced study in particular subject areas, Study Skills, or Study Hall. Students may not be enrolled in multiple Study Halls in one semester, regardless of availability.

Successful completion of pre-approved, non-remedial, courses taken outside of NCHS will receive credit and be calculated in the grade point average, with the exception of P.E. (in most cases, only credit will be granted for P.E. taken outside of NCHS). The cost and any risk associated with taking a course outside of NCHS is the responsibility of the parent/guardian. Students seeking this option should work closely with their guidance counselor.

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

*Because one is called in Baptism and gifted by the Holy Spirit, the life of the Christian is one of loving service to those in need. The Christian Ministry program of Nolan Catholic High School is an opportunity to explore the many ministry opportunities of the Church and the wider community. **Seventy-five hours of Christian Ministry are required for graduation.** Students may begin their Christian Ministry in June prior to their freshman year. It is expected that students complete all hours prior to the beginning of the senior year. Students are required to complete 25 hours of ministry each school year, with the exception of the senior year. Students who do not complete their required hours by the end of the year may be placed on academic probation. For more information, refer to the Nolan Catholic High School Christian Ministry web page.*

COURSE OFFERINGS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>PAGES</u>
Sample Four-Year Plan	3
Theology	8 - 9
English	9 - 11
Mathematics	11 - 12
Science	12 - 14
Social Studies	14 - 17
Modern & Classical Languages	18 - 20
Career & Technical Education	20 - 22
Fine Arts	22 - 25
Functional Health & Physical Education	25-26
Specialized Courses	26-27

The course descriptions contained in this booklet are intended to provide you with pertinent information concerning course content, length, prerequisite(s), and credit value for each course. **Nolan Catholic High School reserves the right to withdraw a course offering due to insufficient enrollment or unexpected staff changes.**

THEOLOGY

In the spirit of St. Anselm of Canterbury, "Theology is faith seeking understanding." NCHS students embark on a four-year journey in which they engage in theological discussions with the hope that, through their understanding, they may further nurture their faith, life, and religious practice.

The theology program presents a comprehensive study of the Catholic faith and practice. Working with Campus Ministry, the theology program provides opportunities for development of one's prayer life, participation in the sacraments, integration of Christian values and beliefs, and Christian ministry.

Theology I: Scripture

This study of our Jewish roots and the Christian Scriptures enables students to understand God's word as it comes to us in a variety of literary forms. The stories of scripture are our stories; we are called to a relationship with God in community. With the background knowledge of the scripture texts, students can reflect individually on their relationship with God and apply the Gospel message to their daily lives. This scripture course provides the theological and moral foundation for subsequent courses.

Grade: 9 All Year – Credit 1

Theology II: Church & Sacraments

Theology II is a study of the history, nature, and practices of the Catholic Church as both the "Mystical Body of Christ" and "People of God." The nature, purposes, and ritual practices of each of the sacraments will be studied within a doctrinal and historical context. Special emphasis is given to the Mass as the central expression of our faith and worship.

Grade: 10 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Theology I.

Theology III: Catholic Morality

The major focus of this course is to enable students to know and understand the principles of Catholic moral teaching and practice. The course will cover the Cardinal Virtues, natural law, Catholic social teachings, and their application to our daily lives. The hope is to help our students form strong consciences in accordance with Catholic teaching.

Grade: 11 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Theology II.

World Religions

In our global community, it is imperative to understand the beliefs, practices, and cultures of the other major religions. The great world religions will be studied with regard to their origins, theologies, practices, and roles in the world today. The religions studied include Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, and the major bodies of Christianity.

Grade: 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Theology III.

Great Theological Controversies: Shaping the Western Mind - Honors

This Honors course is designed to enable students to address the primary texts of the great theologians and philosophers from the second century to the present. The purpose of the course is to help the students enter into the world's most important discussions by way of a close reading of the texts, analyzing them, and forming their own views in response to the great ideas. The Honors designation for the course indicates the deeper investigation of reading, higher-level scholarship of discussion and writing, and greater expectation of academic performance.

Grade: 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: 90% or above in Theology III or Departmental Approval.

New Testament: Writings of St. John and St. Paul

This course affords students an opportunity to explore God's revelation through an in-depth reading of these books and thoughtful analysis of each in the context of the whole of Scripture and Sacred Tradition. This course will challenge students to discover how the divine message and truths revealed in the Scriptural books are as relevant today as when they were written.

Grade: 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Theology III.

Bioethics

This course explores how our Catholic faith and science complement and challenge one another in practical, real-life situations. By learning scientific techniques and reading papal encyclicals and other documents, students will learn how to respond to complicated beginning and end-of-life issues, as well as proper moral responses to different kinds of scientific research. From contraception to cremation; from the Big Bang Theory to organ donation, this course invites students into the ongoing dialogue between theologians and scientists about some of the most important and challenging topics of our time.

Grade: 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Theology III.

Theology of Loss and Hope

This course explores issues of loss and the Christian approach and response to such losses in light of the Paschal Mystery. Particular attention will be focused on suffering brought about by certain losses we go through in life; grief and the grieving process; death; cultural practices related to death and burial; the dignity of human life; terminal illness; adolescent suicide; divorce; euthanasia, eschatology, and the

Theology of Hope. Students will examine these topics in light of Catholic doctrines and traditions.

Grade: 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Theology III.

Introduction to Sacred Liturgy

This course helps the student understand that the “Sacred Liturgy is The Source and Summit of life: the beginning and the end of who we are and who we can become.” For a deeper understanding and reverence of the liturgy, the course focuses on scriptural references, the Church’s document, The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, and the ‘why’s’ of ‘what’ we do at Mass. This one-semester elective course is not a substitute for required Theology credits.

Grade: 11 - 12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None.

ENGLISH

The goal of the English department is to develop an enlightened, literate, and persuasive graduate who reads, thinks, writes, and speaks effectively. Good writers and thinkers develop language awareness by reading authors of beautiful literary works. Students write essays quarterly. Course placement of a new incoming student is determined by the department chairperson, who uses all pertinent data available at the time of registration. If a student is placed in an advanced course, the level of required selections demands a socially, emotionally, and spiritually mature reader and thinker. Parents/guardians need to be aware of the maturity level of their children before agreeing to AP or Dual Credit reading lists. For all honors courses, teachers have high expectations and rigorous homework requirements. Summer reading is required for all non-Dual Credit courses.

English I

This course develops reading and writing skills along with strengthening of vocabulary and grammar in order to gain literary acumen. Reading aims at “close reading” for increased comprehension. The texts progress from contemporary recognized works to classics, including Shakespeare and ancient Greek writings. Writing consists of argumentative reasoning and creative expression. The former develops with standard argumentative structure from single paragraph to multi-paragraph papers, including a major paper each quarter. The latter enables the writer to explore stories in a personal way. The student builds vocabulary from instruction and quizzes on selected words from each text. The course refreshes and enhances skills in grammar with exercises that challenge students to improve vocabulary and sentence structure.

Grade: 9 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None.

English I - Honors

This course is designed for students who have demonstrated a desire to achieve mastery in both literature and composition. Multi-paragraphed compositions of exposition and argumentation are fused to literary study throughout the year. Thus, the goal of the honors class is to enable each student to initiate a search for literary acumen and expertise. A mastery of basic grammar skills is a preferred, but grammar will be taught in order to refine mechanics.

Grade: 9 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval.

English II

This course continues the development of literary analysis skills begun in English I and focuses on the search for truth and the argumentative process. Underlying this focus is the development of critical thinking skills, which will aid literary study, writing, and argumentation. Composition arises from literary study, while the grammar refinement and vocabulary enrichment are integrated into the writing process. The result is growth in critical thinking from close reading of a variety of texts such as novels, poems and plays.

Grade: 10 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: English I.

English II - Honors

This course is designed for students who have demonstrated superior skills and motivation in their literature studies, as well as those who illustrate insight and critical thinking skills beyond the average student. The content in literature is similar to English II; however, the texts present a greater complexity and depth of study at a quicker pace. Composition arises from literary study while the refining of grammar and a systematic enriching of vocabulary are integrated into the writing process. The result is growth in critical thinking from close reading and coherent writing.

Grade: 10 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: 92% or above in English I or English I Honors, or Departmental Approval.

English III

This course includes literature-based compositions including a quarter essay. Literary selections are presented thematically or chronologically to help students develop a greater understanding of and appreciation for literature and culture.

Grade: 11 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: English II

AP English Language and Composition

This is a college-level course, and students can, by good performance on the Advanced Placement Examination, earn college credit hours based on universities’ criteria. The course includes both close reading and analysis of both fic-

tion and non-fiction source materials and the study of the process of analytic writing. Students will study examples of writing from various sources, genres, and time periods. These examples will be used to produce academic essays in three modes: Agreement, Disagreement, or Qualification; Rhetorical Analysis; and Synthesis of a new position based on primary sources. Students will also engage in academic research in order to support an argument. Through study and practice, students will gain an understanding of the principles of effective analytic writing and become more proficient academic writers. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 11 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: 92% or above in English II or English II Honors and Departmental Approval.

DUAL CREDIT English III

This course provides students intensive study of and practice in writing processes, from invention and researching to drafting, revising, and editing, both individually and collaboratively. Emphasis on effective rhetorical choices, including audience, purpose, arrangement, and style. There is a focus on writing the academic essay as a vehicle for learning, communicating, and critical analysis. Intensive study of and practice in the strategies and techniques for developing research-based expository and persuasive texts. Emphasis on effective and ethical rhetorical inquiry, including primary and secondary research methods; critical reading of verbal, visual, and multimedia texts; systematic evaluation, synthesis, and documentation of sources; and critical thinking about evidence and conclusions.

Grade: 11 All Year – .5 credit each for 1 credit

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval.

English IV

As the culmination of students' study of literature, this course seeks to hone the skills of analysis and argumentative writing developed over the previous three years. Students will spend greater time with fewer works of literature in order to delve into them more deeply and thoroughly; this will also allow more time for composition. While there is no overarching theme or cultural focus for the year, many of the works treated contrast the inner moral life of man with his role in society, highlighting the conflict between a character's desires or beliefs and his responsibility to his fellow man.

Grade: 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: English III.

AP English Literature and Composition

Students in Advanced Placement Literature and Composition should expect to analyze critically classic works of literature as to language, themes, characters, and action, as well as discover structure, meaning, value, and relationship

of said literature to contemporary experience. The AP student should develop critical standards for the independent appreciation of any literary work, thus creating student synthesis through scholarly writing. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: 92% or above in English III or English III Honors and Departmental Approval.

DUAL CREDIT British Literature II

A survey of the development of British literature from the Romantic period to the present. Students will study works of prose, poetry, drama, and fiction in relation to their historical and cultural contexts.

Grade: 12 One semester – 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval.

DUAL CREDIT American Literature II

A survey of American literature from the Civil War to the present. Students will study prose, poetry, drama, and fiction in relation to their historical and cultural contexts.

Grade: 12 One semester – .5 credit

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval.

Communication Applications (Required For Graduation)

This course introduces the art of public speaking, including speaking techniques, speech structure, and outline formation. Students write and present speeches and learn to gain confidence in public speaking.

Grade: 9-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Creative Writing

This is a course in reading and critiquing a variety of works by contemporary authors; however, the main focus will be writing flash fiction, also known as sudden fiction, postcard fiction, or the short-short story. Students who successfully complete the course will gain a better understanding of the contemporary short-short story; practice in guided and workshop environments in the techniques of writing; and an opportunity to create a portfolio of finished stories.

Grade: 9-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None.

Film Studies

This elective course is an introduction to the art and craft of film, with a particular focus on American Film. Students will be introduced to the medium of film from a technical perspective, as a narrative text to be "read," as well as social criticism and cultural reactions. Through screenings, discussion, and individual reflection, students will learn to analyze critically the anatomy of film according primarily to technique, composition, and theme, and to a lesser degree style, genre, and relationship to (or interpretation of)

American, European, and Asian life and culture.

Grade: 11-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None.

Irish Literature

Students will learn about the political, historical, and religious climate of Ireland, which will help them understand the context of works by influential writers such as James Joyce, W.B. Yeats, and Seamus Heaney. Students will also learn about important figures in Irish literary history, such as Lady Augusta Gregory and Maud Gonne. Students will read plays, poems, prose, and folklore, and will strive to understand how literature played an integral role in the Irish reclaiming their cultural identity after years of British colonial rule.

Grade: 10-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None.

Journalism

This course offers instruction in basic reporting, editing, interviewing, writing, photography, design, and broadcast basics. In addition, students will understand the ethics and law of the ever-changing media industry. Students interested in a career in journalism will find opportunities for advanced work involving interviewing, in-depth research, editorial writing, and the rudiments of desktop publishing.

Grade: 10-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5 (English)

Prerequisite: English I.

MATHEMATICS

The goal of the Mathematics Department is to provide 21st Century mathematical content and skills. Emphasis is placed on process standards including problem solving, analysis and organization of data and quantitative ideas, selection of appropriate tools, mathematical communication skills and collaboration, and argumentation using precise mathematical language. Departmental approval for enrollment in courses is based upon established objective criteria. Students are required to take mathematics courses sequentially and for each year of attendance at Nolan. Technology is integrated throughout the mathematics curriculum using the required TI84+ calculator and various online learning platforms. Students enrolled in Algebra I in 8th grade will be required to take the Algebra I Mastery Test to determine placement in either Algebra I, Geometry, or Geometry Honors.

Algebra I

Algebra I is the first course in the college preparatory program. Algebra I emphasizes the study of arithmetic laws applied to algebraic structure and uses variables, equations, and graphs to provide a firm foundation in skills that are necessary to be successful in future high school and college

mathematical courses. The use of a graphing calculator will supplement learning throughout the course.

Grade: 9 All Year – Credit 1

Geometry

This course emphasizes critical thinking skills as they relate to logical reasoning and argument. The course includes: logic and proofs; parallel and perpendicular lines; quadrilaterals, triangles and right triangles; circles and trigonometry; and surface area and volume. This course incorporates real-world applications. Web-based software and the TI-84 calculator will be integrated throughout the course.

Grade: 9-10 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Algebra I; for incoming freshman, proficiency on the Algebra I Mastery Exam.

Geometry - Honors

Honors Geometry challenges superior students by emphasizing logic via mathematical proof. Critical thinking and creative problem-solving are similarly emphasized. Topics include: geometric figures, deductive reasoning using postulates, theorems, corollaries and definitions, parallel lines and planes, triangles, quadrilaterals, geometric inequality, trigonometric ratios, circles, constructions, area, volume and introduction to coordinate geometry.

Grade: 9-10 All Year – Credit 1

*Prerequisite: Algebra I with a minimum semester grade of 93%. *9th-grade students must have a 9.1 grade equivalent or higher on the HSPT and demonstrate mastery of Algebra I on the Algebra I Mastery Test, and /or Departmental Approval.*

Algebra II

This course reviews the essentials of Algebra I, then continues the following: linear functions and relations; solving systems of linear equations or inequalities; radicals and irrational numbers; functions; quadratic relations and systems; exponents and logarithms. All concepts are examined as tools for modeling real-world situations. This course applies geometrical ideas learned in the previous years, including transformation and measurement formulas. Web-based software and the TI-84 calculator will be integrated throughout the course.

Grade: 10-11 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Geometry.

Algebra II - Honors

This course is a study of special classes of functions. Relationships between theory and real-world applications are thoroughly explored. Critical thinking is developed by a strong emphasis on graphing and creative problem solving. Topics include: functions and relations; linear functions; systems of linear equations and inequalities; quadratic functions and complex numbers; exponential and logarithmic functions; rational and irrational algebraic functions;

quadratic relations and systems; higher degree functions and complex numbers; sequences and series; and an introduction to probability. Technology is integrated throughout this course.

Grade: 10-11 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Geometry/Geometry Honors with a minimum semester grade of 93%, and/or Departmental Approval.

Algebra III

This course reviews and builds upon concepts and skills learned in Algebra I and Algebra II. Topics include linear functions and relations; solving systems of quadratic relations and systems; exponents; and logarithms. Integration of the TI-84 calculator is included.

Grade 11-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Algebra II.

Probability and Statistics

This course approaches the same topics as those offered in AP Statistics, but in a less formal setting. Topics to be covered include: organizing data, the normal distribution, experiments, probability and inference.

Grade: 11-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Algebra II.

Pre-Calculus

This course covers relations, functions and graphs; inequalities; polynomial functions; exponential and logarithmic functions; trigonometry; sequences and series; and conic sections. Technology and real-world applications are integrated throughout this course.

Grade: 11-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Algebra II/Algebra II Honors with a minimum semester grade of 77%, and/or Departmental Approval..

Pre-Calculus - Honors

This course prepares students for AP Calculus. Topics include: functions, trigonometric functions, polynomial functions, inequalities, exponential and logarithmic functions, polar coordinates and complex numbers, conic sections, and counting principles and probability.

Grade: 11 – 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Algebra II/Algebra II Honors with a minimum semester grade of 93%, and/or Departmental Approval.

AP Statistics

This course will prepare students for the AP Statistics exam in the spring. It is divided into four major themes: exploratory analysis of data to study patterns and departure from patterns, data collection using a well developed plan to ensure the validity of the information to be obtained, anticipation of what the distribution of data should look like under a given model using probability as a tool, and selection

of appropriate models using statistical inference as a guide.

Grade: 11 – 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Completion of Pre-Calculus with a grade of 90% or above or must have completed Algebra II with a grade of 90% or above and concurrently taking Pre-Calculus.

Business Calculus

This course covers the fundamental concepts of calculus from a non-physics perspective to prepare students for college-level calculus. This course is for students who have demonstrated mastery of algebra, geometry, and pre-calculus. Though not as rigorous as AP Calculus, this course covers the same fundamental topics of limits, differentiation, and integration, as well as applications of these concepts. You may use a TI-83 or TI-84 (TI-89 will not be allowed).

Grade: 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Minimum semester grade of 77% in Pre-Calculus/Pre-Calculus Honors.

AP Calculus AB

This course includes the study of elementary functions with analytic geometry, limits, derivatives, integrals, and the application of these topics as outlined in the advanced placement calculus curriculum. The course is equivalent to at least the first semester of calculus at most universities. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Minimum semester grade of 93% in Pre-Calculus/Pre-Calculus Honors and/or Departmental Approval.

AP Calculus BC

This course includes the study of single-variable calculus that includes all the topics of Calculus AB plus additional topics including parametric functions, polar functions, vector functions, and sequences and series. The course is equivalent to at least a year of calculus at most universities. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Minimum semester grade of 103% in Pre-Calculus Honors or AP Statistics, and/or Departmental Approval.

SCIENCE

All students are required to earn 4 credits in Science, including a credit in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Based on Nolan Catholic placement test scores, standardized test scores, and grades, freshmen will be enrolled in Biology or Biology Honors. From there, they progress into Chemistry as sophomores, Physics as juniors, and can choose from many classes for senior credit based on their interests. Students who are considering a career in science are encouraged to take additional courses their junior and/or senior year as schedules allow.

Biology

Biology is a laboratory-oriented survey of the structure and function of living organisms. Topics include biochemistry, cell anatomy and physiology, genetics, evolutionary theory, and a comparative survey of major Kingdoms & Phyla in the 3-domain / 6 classification system.

Grade: 9 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None.

Biology - Honors

This course is designed for students who have demonstrated superior verbal and linguistic skills. It elaborates on basic concepts, uses more technical vocabulary, and includes labs that require more skill and analysis than biology. Students will explore scientific phenomena in the laboratory as well as read about the questions pursued by other scientists as published in scientific journals. Classroom investigation and experimentation emphasize scientific skills, such as observing, measuring, replicating experiments, manipulating equipment, and collecting and reporting data. Experimentation will be both directed and open-ended.

Grade: 9 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval.

AP Biology: Cell & Molecular Biology

AP Biology is the equivalent of an introductory college biology course usually taken by biology majors during their first year. This course focuses on the chemical and molecular bases of life, including metabolism, cell structure and function, and genetics. Laboratory experiments are designed to complement theory presented in lecture. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 11-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Average of 93% or above in Chemistry and Departmental Approval.

Introduction to Human Anatomy & Physiology

This is a semester long course that provides students with an opportunity to explore the structure and function in the human body. Students will use models to learn the parts of each of the major body systems and how they are connected. The strong focus on anatomical terminology will support the goal of preparing students for success in future science or health related classes.

Grade: 10-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: Biology.

Human Anatomy & Physiology - Honors

This college-level course prepares students interested in health care and pharmacy. Students learn form and function of the human body through the levels of organization; support and movement, control and regulation, fluids and transport and environmental change. Clinical aspects and

terminology of all eleven body systems are covered. Models of human organs, along with dissections of animal organs, enhance the lab experience for comparative anatomy.

Grade: 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Average of 93% or above in current science course or Departmental Approval.

Chemistry

This course studies the relationship between the structure and properties of matter. Lab work applies theoretical concepts and the scientific method. This college-preparatory course requires sound reading and mathematics skills.

Grade: 10 All Year – Credit 1

Chemistry - Honors

This course covers the structure & properties of matter in more depth than in Chemistry. Critical thinking and problem-solving skills are used extensively. Successful completion of this course prepares the student for AP Chemistry.

Grade: 10 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: 93% or above in biology and current math, or Departmental Approval.

AP Chemistry

This course is equivalent to general chemistry taken during the first college year. Students will focus on chemical problem solving. Atomic structure, kinetics, chemical equilibrium, and basic thermodynamics are all presented in depth. Lab procedures and techniques are also emphasized and are equivalent to a college lab course. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 11 or 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Average of 93% or above in Chemistry and Departmental Approval.

Physics

Physics is a math-based study of Newton's laws of motion, energy, momentum, heat, light, sound, electricity, and magnetism. Critical thinking and problem solving are required as student apply physics concepts and algebra to solve real world problems. Students will complete lab work to demonstrate proficiency in accurate and precise measurements and analysis of data to support scientific conclusions.

Grade: 11 All Year – Credit 1

AP Physics I: Algebra-based

AP Physics I is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course. Students cultivate their understanding of Physics through inquiry-based investigations as they explore the topics of kinematics, dynamics, circular motion and gravitation, energy, momentum, simple harmonic motion, torque and rotational motion, electric charge and electric force, DC circuits, and mechanical waves and sound.

This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 11 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: 93% or above in Algebra II and Chemistry, and Departmental Approval.

AP Physics C: Mechanics

This calculus-based course focuses on advanced topics in physics with emphasis on mechanics. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: 93% or above in Pre-Calculus and Departmental Approval.

Earth & Space Science

Earth and Space Science is a capstone course designed to build on students' prior scientific knowledge and skills to develop understanding of Earth's system in space and time. This is a survey exploring aspects of astronomy, meteorology, geology, and oceanography.

Grade: 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

Engineering I (Introduction to Engineering)

This course introduces students to the world of technology and engineering as a first step in becoming technologically literate citizens. The course shows students how they will influence technological developments as workers, consumers, and citizens – whether or not they pursue technical careers. Through this course's practical, real-world connections, students will see how science, mathematics, and engineering are part of their everyday world, and why it is important for every citizen to be technologically and scientifically literate. **Grade: 10–12 All Year – Credit 1**

Prerequisite: None.

DUAL CREDIT OPTION - Engineering I may simultaneously be taken for Dual Credit through the University of Texas. Students who wish to earn Dual Credit must apply separately and also submit work to the University of Texas to receive credit in addition to what is received and graded in class.

Engineering II (Projects in Robotics)

Engineering II builds on the skills and knowledge of Introduction to Engineering, namely the design process, interdisciplinary teamwork, and construction skills. Students will apply the design process to robotics. At least one regional competition will be entered. Students must complete an application process with the lead Engineering teacher.

Grade: 10 – 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Engineering I and Departmental Approval.

Engineering III (Advanced Projects in Robotics)

See Engineering II.

Grade: 11 – 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Engineering II and Departmental Approval.

Environmental Systems

This course examines the interaction of humans with the environment and integrates materials from the biological, physical and social sciences. This course is suggested for students interested in applied ecology and related sciences.

Grade: 12 All Year – Credit 1

Scientific Research & Design - Honors

Ecology introduces the biological study of populations, communities, and ecosystems. This research course emphasizes the formulation of hypotheses and acquisition of data based on field work in a variety of habitats. Overnight field trips are required both semesters. Expenses will be incurred each semester to cover the cost of the field trips. The Costa Rica trip is optional but does require an additional fee.

Grade: 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Average of 93% or above in current science course and Departmental Approval.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Social Studies Department at Nolan Catholic High School believes that a proper understanding of the social sciences will nurture the all-important leadership skills that our students must have in order to make a positive contribution as knowledgeable citizens of this democratic society and of the global community. We expect that our students will also use this knowledge to stimulate awareness of the world and society from a Catholic perspective with a solid foundation for future learning and action. Freshmen begin with World Geography, then proceed to World History as sophomores, followed by U.S. History as juniors, and Economics and Government in their senior year. A variety of electives are open to upperclassmen.

World Geography Cultures

This course introduces students to the global regions of the world. Students are responsible for identifying and locating the various nations of the regions as well as correlating the impact of topography on culture. The major challenge of this course involves understanding social organization, traditions/history, language, arts, religion, government, and economy, and applying this template to targeted cultures.

Grade: 9 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None.

Pre-AP World Geography Studies

This ninth-grade course introduces the AP curriculum, skills, and themes which are continued in sophomore-level AP World History. While the material leads to Advanced Placement courses, the pacing of the class, amount of work,

reading, and depth of the content are more suitable to the maturity and education levels of honors ninth graders. The course emphasizes relevant factual knowledge used in conjunction with interpreting current events, types of historical evidence, and appropriate analytical skills. Focused primarily on the history of the global experience, the course builds on an understanding of cultural, institutional, and technological precedents that, along with geography, set the human stage from 8,000 BC to AD 1200. Students should be prepared to read, on average, between half an hour to an hour each night. The majority of student grades come from a combination of writing and objective assessments.

Grade: 9 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval.

World History

This course surveys world history from prehistoric times to the present. Students will examine how societies developed, and how civilizations formed and people prospered by successfully building on the work of those before. In addition to events, inventions, art, conflicts and culture, students will also look at the development of the world's great ideas and how these have come to affect the lives of people today.

Grade: 10 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None.

World History - Honors

This course surveys Western Civilization from the classical civilizations of the Greeks and the Romans to the present. Students will examine how European societies developed, and how these civilizations formed and people prospered by successfully building on the work of those before. In addition to events, inventions, art, conflicts and culture, student will also look at the development of the world's great ideas and how these have come to affect the lives of people today. This course is a more rigorous version of World History that focuses heavily on primary source reading, historical research, and written analysis. The topics will be similar to those in World History but will be covered more in-depth and at a faster pace.

Grade: 10 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: 90% or above in current social studies course and Departmental Approval.

AP World History: Modern

AP World History develops a greater understanding of the evolution of global societies from AD 1200 to the present. The course emphasizes a combination of selective factual knowledge and appropriate analytical skills. Time periods will be compared across common themes of human interaction with the environment, development of cultures, state-building, creation of economic systems, and development of social structures. The course offers balanced global coverage, with Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe,

and Oceania all represented. Students learn to evaluate and construct arguments, critically use primary documents, and analyze global patterns. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 10 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: 93% or above in current social studies course and Departmental Approval.

U.S. History

This survey course examines American development from colonial times to the present. Emphasized are the basic principles of societal and political systems, qualities of individual rights, representative government, and equality of opportunity. The course fosters appreciation for American history and provides insights to relationships among the people, ideologies, and events that have shaped present-day society. Social, political and economic factors are studied in various methodologies. This course aids students in relating the past to the present and projecting events in the future.

Grade: 11 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None.

AP U. S. History

The Advanced Placement course in American History is designed to provide students with knowledge and analytical skills to deal critically with problems and materials in American history. The course explores all dimensions of American societal development – political, economic, and cultural. AP U.S. History is for the motivated, college-bound student and includes a considerable amount of reading and lecture material. Students learn to assess primary source historical material and determine its importance, reliability, and relevance to an interpretive problem. Course work assists the student in developing the skills necessary to arrive at informed conclusions and to present evidence clearly and persuasively in an essay format. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 11 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: 93% or above in current social studies course and Departmental Approval.

DUAL CREDIT U.S. History

A survey of the social, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of the United States from pre-Columbian to the present. This study of multiple eras includes colonial, revolutionary, early national, slavery and sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Post-Civil War topics include industrialization, immigration, world wars, the Great Depression, the Cold War, and post-Cold War eras. Themes that may be addressed include: American settlement and diversity, American culture, religion, civil and human rights, technological change, economic change, immigration and migration, and creation of the federal government.

Grade: 11 All Year – .5 credit each for 1 credit

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval.

U.S. Government (*Required For Graduation*)

U.S. Government is a one-semester course that provides an analytical perspective on the political system. The course covers the U.S. Constitution, the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches, civil rights and civil liberties, political ideology and political parties. The goal of this class is to understand the philosophy, institutions, and practice of government in the United States, so students will be able to participate knowledgeably in a democratic republic.

Grade: 12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None.

AP U. S. Government

This course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. government and politics and the analysis of specific examples. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. government and politics. Students should become acquainted with a variety of theoretical perspectives and explanations for various behaviors and outcomes. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: 93% or above in current social studies course and Departmental Approval.

DUAL CREDIT U.S. Government

This course is a survey course of American Government focusing on fundamental concepts and practices. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States, demonstrate knowledge of the federal system, describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice, demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government, evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system, analyze the election process, describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens, and analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics. Students who successfully complete the course will receive college credit for the course.

Grade: 12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval.

Economics (*Required For Graduation*)

The goal of this one-semester course is to understand the organization and operation of the American free enterprise economy such that the student is able not only to participate knowledgeably in a market system but also to assess the economic ramifications of political initiatives. Primary focus will be on the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. The course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price de-

termination, measures of economic performance, economic growth and a focus on monetary and fiscal policies.

Grade: 12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None

AP Macroeconomics

AP Macroeconomics is a semester-long advanced course that fulfills the requirement for Economics. Macroeconomics focuses on the “big picture” of economics. Topics to be covered include supply and demand, GDP, fiscal and monetary policy, and international trade. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: 90% or above in current social studies course or Departmental Approval.

AP Government and Politics: Comparative

The AP course in Comparative Government and Politics introduces students to fundamental concepts used by political scientists to study the processes and outcomes of politics in a variety of country settings. The course aims to illustrate the rich diversity of political life, to show available institutional alternatives, to explain differences in processes and policy outcomes, and to communicate to students the importance of global political and economic changes. The course also covers specific countries and their governments. Six countries form the core of the AP Comparative Government and Politics course: China, Great Britain, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, and Russia. By using these six countries, the course can move the discussion of concepts from abstract definition to concrete example, noting that not all concepts will be equally useful in all country settings. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: U.S. Government.

AP European History

This course focuses on European History from AD 1450 to the present. The class examines the intellectual, cultural, political, social, and economic development of Europe from the early Renaissance to modern times. Our main goals are to develop an understanding of some of the main themes in European history, analyze historical evidence, and cultivate the ability to express historical understanding through discussion and writing. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grades: 11 – 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: 93% or above in current social studies course and Departmental Approval.

Psychology

This course is a broad survey of psychology as a social science and is divided into three parts. First, the history and the “major schools” of psychology are considered. Second,

this course considers important background knowledge of human development. Finally, this foundation is used to examine such topics as personality, learning and motivation, social psychology, abnormality and treatment, and growth toward personal fulfillment. The course focuses on the student's cognitive understanding and on the student's ability to apply this to his/her experience.

Grade: 11 – 12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None.

AP Psychology

AP Psychology introduces students to the systematic, scientific study of behavior and mental processes in humans and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. Students learn methods used by psychologists in their science and practice. Major areas of study include biological bases of behavior, motivation, emotions, developmental psychology, personality, abnormal behavior, treatment, and learning. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 11 – 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: 90% or above in current social studies and English courses or Departmental Approval.

Sociology

This course will help students to gain a new perspective for looking at themselves in the world. By adopting a sociological view, students are able to look beyond commonly held beliefs to the hidden meanings behind human actions. This perspective will give students insight into how our social environment shapes them and how they, in turn, can shape their social environment.

Grade: 10-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None.

Criminal Justice

The first half of this course will provide the student with an overview of the criminal justice system. It will focus on crime and the laws, the court system and the role of jails and prisons. The second half will be divided between civil and consumer law. We will cover liability, damages, negligence, contracts, warranties, and deceptive sales practices. Special attention will be devoted to exploring careers in the justice system.

Grade: 11 – 12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None.

British History

This course covers the history and culture of England from the Roman period through the Victorian Age. Equal attention is given to political and social/cultural aspects of English history. Through reading of primary sources, film, discussions and lecture, the course deals with the distinct-

iveness of England, as well as exploring the role of Britain and the rest of the world.

Grade 10 – 12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None.

Topics in Current Events

This course will take an in-depth look at current events in all parts of the world. Students will analyze primary and secondary source documents from multiple points of view to synthesize their own opinions for the purpose of engaging in a simulation to debate possible outcomes or solutions for the issues presented. Student opinions will be offered in debate and in formal academic writing.

Grade 11 – 12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: World History.

The Turning Point: Science & Technology Contributions from World War II

This semester-long course provides an in-depth study of the scientific advancements and technological innovations that occurred from 1939-1945. Students will research the history, development, and implementation of the top science and technology contributions which still impact our lives. The main goals of the course are to investigate and understand the characteristics of leadership as it relates to innovation, to track the research and development of specific scientific and technological innovations from inception to implementation, and to identify current areas in our society in need of additional research and development.

Grade: 11-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None.

American Military History

American Military History provides a survey of the American military history from the British inheritance and colonial militias to the new challenging role of American military force in 21st century. This course explores the main events, personalities and technologies related to American military history. It explores the following themes: How has the US military policy changed over time, and in what ways has it remained constant? How have the US armed forces evolved and adapted in peace and war? How have Americans tried to balance their need for national security with civilian control of the military? How has the United States begun, waged, and ended its wars? How has the American public's and the armed forces' interpretation of the "lesson of history" influenced how the US prepares for war?

Grade 11-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: World History and concurrent enrollment in or completion of U.S. History.

MODERN AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

The Recommended Plan Diploma requires two consecutive years of high school-level study within the same foreign language.

The Honors Diploma requires three consecutive years of high school-level study within the same foreign language.

The Texas Education Agency and many colleges and universities encourage students to study three years of the same foreign language. Three consecutive years of study is strongly recommended.

Latin I

This course serves an introduction to the Latin language and ancient Roman culture with a focus on ancient Roman daily life. Students practice interpretive language skills in the translation of elementary Latin sentences and passages, which are designed to allow students an intuitive experience translating Latin into English. Students research and analyze Roman cultural practices, then present their findings to their classmates. Latin I covers vocabulary consistent with the National Latin Exam for first year students.

Grade: 9-11 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None.

Latin II

This course continues the Latin student's progress through the language, adding advanced grammar. Students learn more about the values and customs of the ancient Romans and their impact on modern institutions, such as the U.S. government and the Catholic Church. Students further their interpretive language skills by translating passages of progressive difficulty. Interpersonal and presentational modes of communication are maintained.

Grade: 9-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Latin I.

Latin III - Honors

In this advanced course, students practice interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication. The course consists of extensive reading and translation of authentic Latin texts.

Grade: 10-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Latin I, II, and Departmental Approval.

AP Latin IV

AP Latin is designed to provide students with a rich and rigorous Latin course. Students learn to prepare and trans-

late the required Latin readings with an accuracy that reflects precise understanding of the Latin language. Students interpret both poetry and prose through written analyses that demonstrate the results of critical reading in clear and coherent arguments supported by textual examples. Students relate those readings to the historical, political and cultural contexts of Caesar's Gallic Wars, Vergil's Aeneid and other authentic texts.

Grade: 10-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Latin I, II, III, and Departmental Approval.

Spanish I

This course is designed for the beginner-level student and stresses interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication through oral and listening practice, reading comprehension, and effective writing skills within appropriate cultural contexts. A higher degree of accuracy and consistency is obtained through grammatical review, which occurs textually throughout the year. Selected readings deepen the students' understanding of both language and culture. This course prepares students for the next study level of Spanish.

Grade: 9-11 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None.

Spanish I - Accelerated

Spanish I Accelerated is designed for students with a level of proficiency that enables them to proceed at a faster pace and at a greater level of comprehension. This course stresses interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication. This accelerated class is recommended for students with native-speaking ability and for those whose previous study of Spanish has brought them to a certain level of proficiency. This is not an Honors course.

Grade: 9-11 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval / placement test.

Recommended for students taking Spanish III for Honors Diploma.

Spanish II

Spanish II resumes the development of skills in the interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication through the introduction of more complex grammatical structures and vocabulary in dialogue form. Oral and written competencies are stressed.

Grade: 9-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Spanish I.

Spanish for Heritage Speakers

This course is taught completely in the target language and is for students who have oral comprehension but may still need help in written and formal Spanish. The course develops language skills in the interpersonal, interpretive

and presentational modes of communication with focus on reading, writing, spelling and vocabulary. This course also promotes the learning of the Hispanic culture, literature, and history of the Spanish-speaking world. This course allows heritage speakers to focus on oral and comprehension skills and give them a foundation for the advanced levels of Spanish. After having met all requirements to pass the course, students will be tested and enroll in Spanish III, Spanish III Honors, or Spanish IV AP based on their placement test results. If a student enrolls in this class, they are required to meet all other foreign language requirements for a Regular or an Honors Diploma.

Grade: 9-10 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Spanish Heritage Speaker Teacher Recommendation; Oral Interview; and/or Department Approval.

Spanish II Accelerated

Spanish II Accelerated is designed for students with a level of proficiency that enables them to proceed at a faster pace and at a greater level of comprehension and stresses the interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication. The course is more detailed in content than Spanish II, which is achieved through oral, listening, reading comprehension, and effective writing skills within appropriate cultural contexts. This is not an Honors course.

Grade: 9-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Spanish I and Departmental Approval.

Recommended for students planning to take Spanish III Honors.

Spanish III

This course strengthens listening, reading comprehension, and effective writing skills by means of interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication. A higher degree of accuracy and consistency is obtained through grammatical review, which occurs textually throughout the year. Selected readings deepen the students' understanding of both language and culture.

Grade: 10-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Spanish I, II.

Spanish III – Honors

This course is designed for the advanced student and stresses the interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication through the practice of oral, listening, reading comprehension, and effective writing skills within appropriate cultural contexts. A higher degree of accuracy and consistency is obtained through grammatical review throughout the year. Selected readings deepen the students' understanding of both language and culture. This course grooms students for the advanced study of Spanish.

Grade: 10-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: 90% or higher in Spanish II Accelerated or Departmental Approval; or Spanish for Heritage Speakers,

demonstrated mastery on placement test, and Teacher Recommendation.

AP Spanish IV: Language and Culture

This college-level course stresses the interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication through oral, compositional writing, and reading comprehension skills. Accuracy and fluency in all areas are emphasized. Grammatical review punctuates the topics. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 10 – 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Spanish III Honors or Departmental Approval; or Spanish for Heritage Speakers, demonstrated mastery on placement test, and Teacher Recommendation.

AP Spanish V: Literature and Culture

This course is the second part of the Advanced Placement Spanish program, and it covers the literature of the Hispanic world. This course is a survey of Spanish and Latin American literature beginning with the Golden Age in Spain. Thematic, philosophical, and stylistic issues are examined and stress the interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication. Spanish is the mode of communication in the class and all literature read is in the target language. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 11 – 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Spanish IV AP and Departmental Approval.

French I

Students will develop proficiency in the reading, writing, speaking, and listening in cultural context, along with the three models of communication (interpersonal, interpretive and presentational) defined in the Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century. Basic vocabulary and grammatical structures and an introduction to the culture of French-speaking world are stressed.

Grade: 9-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None.

French II

Students continue to develop proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening within a cultural context. All four components will be weighted equally. Mastery of grammatical structures are highly emphasized for enhanced communication and comprehension. This course further develops students' skills in the interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational modes of communication. Grammar is more advanced, and oral and written expressions continue through guided written compositions and oral interviews.

Grade: 9-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: French I.

French III - Honors

This course focuses on advanced grammar, French culture, and development of written and oral proficiency. Reading comprehension and written composition are developed within the context of current affairs, social issues, and an introduction to classical French literature. The three models of communication are foundational to this advanced course.

Grade: 10-12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: French II.

AP French IV: Language and Culture

Written and oral comprehension, expression of French language, and the three models of communication are further developed through a survey of classical literature, history, art, and music of France and French-speaking countries. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 11 - 12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: French III Honors, and Departmental Approval.

AP French V: Literature and Composition

This course introduces students who have advanced language skills to the formal study of a representative body of literary texts in French. This course is also an introduction to French literature. It prepares students for reading and analyzing works of prose, poetry, and drama from different periods. Students should be aware of the cultural context of the works read by learning to identify and interpret the various elements that enter into the composition of a literary text. All readings and lectures are in the target language. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 11 - 12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: French IV AP and Departmental Approval.

German I

This course is designed for the beginning student using a natural approach to language learning. This method is based on providing a maximum amount of comprehensible German to the students, leading to natural language acquisition. Emphasis is placed on reading and listening to short stories in class to develop students' skills in interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational modes of communication. The course includes an introduction to German culture.

Grade: 9-12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: None.

German II

This course builds on the foundation laid in German I using a natural approach to language learning. This method is based on providing a maximum amount of comprehensible German to the students, leading to natural language acquisition. Emphasis is placed on reading and listening to short stories to further develop students' skills in interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational modes of communication.

The course continues an exploration of German culture.

Grade: 9-12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: German I.

German III - Honors

This course is designed for the intermediate student and emphasizes development of students' skills in the interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication. The course introduces students to increasingly complex linguistic structures and vocabulary and contains a deeper focus on German history and culture. Classes are conducted primarily in German.

Grade: 11 - 12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: German II and Departmental Approval.

AP German IV: Language and Culture

This course prepares the intermediate and advanced student of German for the AP exam and, more broadly, for success in university-level study of German. The course continues to develop students' proficiency in the interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication and involves complex linguistic structures and vocabulary. Topics of study are largely determined by student interest and contain a deeper focus on German history and culture, with an emphasis on contemporary social issues in German-speaking countries and around the world. Classes are conducted primarily in German.

Grade: 12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: German III H and Departmental Approval.

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

Principles of Business Technology

This course increases technology literacy while exposing students to a wealth of contemporary software used in the professional business environment. Students will begin by learning digital file management and an overview of the Microsoft Office Suite. Next, students will segue into emerging, relevant applications that will prepare them for the business world of tomorrow. Though the curriculum will change each semester, potential software includes File-Maker, WorkFlowy Sway, Skype, Google Suite, LinkedIn, and other programs that prepare students for a diverse professional environment.

Grade: 9 -12 One Semester - Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None.

Programming I

This is a one-semester course designed for students with little or no experience in structured programming. Students will learn problem-solving techniques applicable to

all computer software applications and languages. Students will develop simple and moderately complex programs.

Grade: 9-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None.

Programming II

This course is a continuation of Programming I. Students will expand their computer programming skill set and create moderate and advanced applications.

Grade: 9-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: Programming I.

Advanced Programming Honors (JAVA)

This course teaches students advanced problem-solving techniques and strategies. Students will use JAVA to create apps and solve sophisticated programming problems.

Grade: 11 - 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Programming I with at least an 85% average & Departmental Approval.

AP Computer Science Principles

This course introduces students to the foundational concepts of computer science and challenges them to explore how computing and technology can impact the world. Students will create their own mobile apps using the App Lab, build problem solving skills through the use of computational widgets, experience a blend of online, guided tutorials and open-ended project based learning. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 10-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval.

Introduction to Digital Media

This course exposes students to career opportunities in the emerging field of digital art and media presentation. This is an introductory class that is required for advanced Digital Media courses, which will introduce students to principles of Animation, Video Technology, Graphic Design & Illustration, and Photography. Concentrating on the overlap of these four content areas, Introduction to Digital Media explores the Elements of Art; Principles of Design; Color Theory & Digital Color Models; Digital Media Management; and Digital Media Creation. Adobe Photoshop CC and Adobe Premiere CC are used heavily.

Grade: 9 - 12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None.

Graphic Design and Illustration

This course is a platform for students to nurture their creative and artistic skill sets. Students will use Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign in a contemporary digital arts environment. With Adobe Illustrator, students can become designers and visual storytellers by creating digital artwork

for creative and professional outlets. With Adobe InDesign, students will create professional digital products including magazines, books, and brochures.

Grade: 9 - 12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: Introduction to Digital Media.

Animation I

This course exposes students to a wide range of contemporary 2D-animation techniques and workflows. Students will explore the history and evolution of animation while using modern software to create motion graphic content. Students will execute these skills using Adobe Animate CC (formerly Adobe Flash) and Adobe After Effects CC. Animation I provides an overview of every stage of animation, beginning with storyboarding, character creation, stage design, character rigging, and all the way through a completed animation project. Students will also learn basic sound design and audio production fundamentals to help bring animation and motion graphics projects to life.

Grade: 9 - 12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: Introduction to Digital Media.

Animation II

Animation II continues deeper into advanced animation concepts learned in Animation I. This advanced course also adds 3D-animation to the curriculum, which opens new possibilities for digital artistry. Students will use the open-source software Blender to learn 3D animation principles and workflows. Animation II reinforces and builds on key concepts, such as character design and rigging, 3D lighting, texturing, camera controls, and 3D output workflows. Student will also continue their exploration of sound design and audio production fundamentals to bring their animation and motion graphics projects to life.

Grade: 10 - 12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: Introduction to Digital Media, Animation I.

Computer Aided Drafting (CAD)

Students will learn the principles of mechanical drawing including Multi-view projection and dimensioning. This course includes terminology and fundamentals, size and shape descriptions, projection methods, and the visual characteristics of two-and-three-dimensional forms and spaces. The students will learn how to sketch, extrude, shell, add fillets, use a linear or circular pattern as well as extrude holes. They will learn how to import parts from vendors and how to mate parts into assemblies. This class is aimed at supporting robotics design.

Grade: 11 - 12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None.

Broadcast

This course offers the student an opportunity to be a part of the NCHS Broadcast staff. All aspects of broadcast pro-

duction are covered, including on and off-camera video journalism, DSLR camera operation, video production, audio engineering, live broadcast production, and creative short-film production. Students will utilize video editing software such as Final Cut Pro and Adobe Premiere CC. Staff members will also plan and execute the production schedule for weekly broadcasts during the school year as well as special events and sporting events. Reliability and willingness to work outside school hours are required.

Note: Due to the course structure, dropping this class at semester is not permitted.

Grade: 10-12 All Year – Credit 1 (Technology)

Prerequisite: None.

Broadcast Leadership

Second year of this course. Instructor approval needed.

Grade: 11 – 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Broadcast.

FINE ARTS

Theatre Arts I

This course introduces the student to theatre from basic stage techniques to elements of performance. Learned techniques include improvisation, pantomime, blocking, voice and diction, play production, and characterization. In addition to these techniques, students will study theatre by engaging in scenes and script analysis. Students will perform a class play at the end of the second semester.

Grade: 9-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None.

Technical Theatre

Technical Theatre introduces students to concepts and skills related to stage production. These include, but are not limited to, safety, set construction, lighting, sound, set design, stage management, costumes and makeup, properties, and house management.

Grade: 9-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Approval needed for 9th graders.

Theatre Production

Before you make pack up your bags and shuffle off to Broadway, be sure to try out the Theatre Production Class. Work with other actors and people interested in technical theatre to produce several theatrical productions, earn the opportunity to travel and compete against other schools. This course focuses on all aspects of theatrical production: acting concepts and skills, production concepts and skills, student-directed one-act plays and aesthetic growth through appreciation of theatrical events. Students will share in the theatre experience by working in the various areas associated with overall production.

Grades: 9-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: This is an audition-based class. Auditions will be held toward the end of the school year. This course requires after school hours.

Fine Arts Option Credit

A Fine Arts option ½ credit is offered to members of the International Thespian Society who gain credit based on a point system. Points accrue during work on Theatre Nolan Productions, the student-directed play, and Thespian Society projects and conventions. The Chapter Sponsor keeps a strict accounting of these hours. This credit is not earned in the classroom, but after school, evenings, and weekends.

Grades: 9-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: Membership in the International Thespian Society, Departmental Approval.

Art I

This course is primarily a studio-based course emphasizing the development of the skills necessary to produce art in a variety of media. Students will learn techniques for drawing realistically as well as working from imagination with a wide range of drawing materials: ebony pencil, charcoal, pastel, pen, and ink. They will learn painting techniques in both acrylic and watercolor. The students will be introduced to the art of calligraphy. In the three-dimensional area, students will learn hand building techniques for pottery and sculpting in clay. Art history and appreciation are drawn upon to broaden students' understanding of other cultures as well as their own, and relate their classroom experiences to the wider art world.

Grade: 9 – 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None

Art II

Art II offers an in-depth study of the areas covered in Art I with greater expectations for individual motivation, creativity, and accomplishment. More emphasis will be placed on the preparation and display of student work.

Grade: 10-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Art I.

Art III

Art III is for the committed art student who seeks to deepen understanding and further develop skills. Emphasis is placed on greater student involvement in designing projects and choosing good subjects. While close guidance will be provided for students to build a portfolio aiding them in college entrance and scholarship acquisition, the course is open to students who simply wish to continue their pursuit of art at a deeper level.

Grade: 11 – 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Art II.

Art IV

Art IV is for the committed art student who seeks to deepen understanding and further develop skills. Emphasis is placed on greater student involvement in designing projects and choosing good subjects. While close guidance will be provided for students to build a portfolio aiding them in college entrance and scholarship acquisition, the course is open to students who simply wish to continue their pursuit of art at a deeper level.

Grade: 11 - 12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: Art III.

AP Art History

This course helps students deepen their understanding and knowledge of architecture, sculpture, painting, and other art forms within diverse historical and cultural perspectives. Students examine major art works from the past. The course also places an emphasis on understanding art in its historical context which is becoming increasingly important at the college level and in the academic world. Advanced Placement Art History requires students to draw from a wide range of respected sources for their study. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 11 - 12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: Instructor Approval.

AP Drawing

AP Drawing is designed for serious students of art. This AP course is not based on a written exam. The goal is to create a twenty-four piece portfolio of college-level art work and submit it in May for evaluation. A qualifying portfolio score can earn you college credit. This course requires the student to submit twenty-four works of art in any two-dimensional process or medium including, but not limited to, drawing, painting, print-making, mixed media, digital imaging, collage, etc. So this greatly expands the traditional concept of drawing beyond works in pencil on white paper. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 9 - 12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: Departmental Approval.

Beginner Band

Students will learn basic music techniques such as rhythmic notation (beginning levels to advanced). Classical to contemporary pop music is explored while expanding individual sight-reading proficiency. Skills mastered in this course will boost student confidence to face future music challenges. First semester may include marching band.

Grade: 9-12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: None. Placement by Instructor.

Wind Ensemble (Symphonic Band)

The first semester consists of training for Marching Band

performances at football games, pep rallies, and the All-State Band contest. Students review and train musical marching fundamentals with an emphasis on superior discipline in conduct, rehearsal, and performance. Individual musicianship in performance is emphasized. Symphonic band begins in August, and the marching band rehearses daily after school. Concert study begins immediately following football season with students auditioning for placement. Auditions are judged on individual musical proficiency. A thorough fundamental training in musicianship is continued along with the study of concert literature and contests in solo/ensemble and concert/sight reading. Additional rehearsals are called at the discretion of the director for contests. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances throughout the year is an integral part of the student's grade. Marching Band credit may be applied toward Physical Education graduation requirements for the Fall Semester only.

Grade: 9-12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: None. Placement by Instructor.

Beginner Orchestra

Students will learn basic music techniques, such as rhythmic notation (beginning levels to advanced) and using orchestral instruments. Students do not need prior knowledge of instrumental music or music theory. Skills mastered in this course will boost student confidence to face music challenges throughout high school.

Grade: 9-10 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: None. Placement by Instructor.

String Orchestra

This ensemble is for students of the violin, viola, cello, string bass, and/or harp who display an intermediate to advanced level of music proficiency on their instrument. A thorough fundamental training in musicianship is given along with a study of orchestral literature. The group will perform concerts on and off campus, as well as compete in TPSMEA solo/ensemble and concert/sight reading contests.

Grade: 9-12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: None. Placement by Instructor.

Photography I

The purpose of this class is twofold: to photograph and document the activities of NCHS (these photographs will be provided to the NCHS Yearbook and media program), and to engage in photography as an artform. Students will learn the basics of digital photography, digital media management, and digital photo-manipulation. Students will learn to use the DSLR camera, various lenses, and Adobe Photoshop, Lightroom, and InDesign. Students will learn principles of art, design, and color, and will study contemporary and historically significant photographers. Reliability and willingness to work outside school hours are required.

Grade: 10 – 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None.

Photography II

This course is an extension of Photography I. Students are required to take on the role of director, editor, and leader who enhances the classroom with their experience. This course can be repeated. Students are also asked to attend a summer workshop to help prepare for their roles in leadership. Due to the course structure, dropping this class at semester is not permitted.

Grade: 11-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Photography I.

AP 2D Art & Design (Photography III)

Students in AP 2D Art & Design will work toward the three required AP portfolios in breadth, concentration, and quality. Student work should showcase the broadness of skills in design, investigating a visual idea or concept, and executing highest-level work using photography, digital darkroom, and design guidelines. This course culminates in an AP portfolio, which should be recognized by participating universities for college credit.

Grade: 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Photography II.

Choral Music (Men / Women)

Men's or Women's Choir provides training in vocal technique, music reading, and performance opportunities for students who desire to develop and gain confidence in their singing skills and musicianship, regardless of previous experience. Students develop skills in sight-singing, vocal techniques, written music theory work, and performance preparation. Written assignments and tests cover particular concepts related to the skills listed above. Skills are learned, practiced, and transferred to the performance of music selections. Choral performances are required and are graded as tests.

Grade: 9-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None

Intermediate Choral Music

The Junior Varsity class provides an accelerated training in choral music, vocal technique, and performance for those students who are experienced in music and would like to further their knowledge. The student's level of experience and ability are considerations for placement in the appropriate choir class. Students are expected to have previous experience in music. Students will advance their skills in music reading, sight-singing, vocal production, written music theory work, and performance preparation. Junior Varsity choir students are required to participate in the TPSMEA All-State audition process and the TPSMEA Solo & Ensemble competition. Choral performances are

required and are graded as tests.

Grade: 9-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Placement by audition.

Advanced Choral Music

The Varsity Choir class provides the highest level of training in choral music, vocal technique, and performance for those students who are skilled in many aspects of vocal music. The student's level of experience and ability are considerations for placement in the appropriate choir class. Students are expected to have a solid foundation of experience with music and sight-singing. Students will develop, to an advanced level, skills in music reading, sight-singing, singing skills, and vocal production, written music theory work, and performance preparation. Written assignments and tests cover particular concepts related to the skills listed above. Skills are learned, practiced, and transferred to the performance of music selections. Varsity choir students are required to participate in the TPSMEA All-State audition process and the TPSMEA Solo & Ensemble competition. Choral performances are required and are graded as tests.

Grade: 10-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Placement by audition.

AP Music Theory

AP Music Theory develops a student's ability to recognize, understand, and describe the basic materials and processes of music that are heard or presented in a score. Students will learn aural, compositional, and analytical skills in various written and listening exercises in order to fully understand musical construction. Students will learn how to employ and identify aspects of melody, harmony, texture, rhythm, form, and history in order to write their own short pieces of music within given guidelines. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 11-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: One year music ensemble or Departmental Approval.

Dance I - Introduction to Dance

Introduction to Dance is for students with limited or no previous dance training. Instruction consists of daily participation in the fundamentals of various dance techniques. Areas covered include ballet, modern dance, and tap. This class is strongly recommended by the athletic department to increase fine motor skills, flexibility, and injury prevention. There are clothing requirements for dance students. Attendance at NCHS Dance Concerts is mandatory.

Grade: 9-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None

Dance II - Technique Development

This course addresses students who, having studied (if not yet completely mastered) dance technique, find themselves

at the impasse between beginner and advanced dance levels. Areas of training include ballet, modern dance, and tap. Students who have had four or more years of dance instruction should make an effort to enroll in this class rather than Dance I. Students who have completed a year of Dance I may enroll in this class. There are clothing requirements for dance students. Attendance at rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Students purchase their own costumes.

Grade: 9-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Dance I or Departmental Approval.

Dance III - Advanced Techniques

This upper-level course is designed for students who have completed Dance II and wish to advance their dance skills. Students with six or more years of consistent study in dance may enroll in this class rather than Dance I or II. Disciplines taught are ballet, tap, and modern dance. There are clothing requirements for dance students. Attendance at rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Students purchase their own costumes.

Grade 9-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Dance II and/or 6-8 year consecutive training & Departmental Approval.

FUNCTIONAL HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students are required to earn one Physical Education credit for graduation. The following courses and extracurricular programs may be utilized to satisfy this requirement with noted credit differences in parentheses:

- *Athletic Filming*
- *Athletic Team Managing*
- *Athletic Training*
- *Ballet Folklorico (.5 credit maximum)*
- *Cheerleading*
- *Color Guard*
- *Dance*
- *Dance Team (Royelles)*
- *German Folk Dancing (.5 credit maximum)*
- *Marching Band*
- *Norsemen*
- *Physical Education*
- *T.A.P.P.S. Athletics*
- *Winter Guard*

Credits granted in each of these areas will vary based on requirements of the organizations.

Students may earn no more than 2.0 total credits in P.E.. Participation may continue in these areas after 2.0 credits are earned, but additional credits will not be counted.

Functional Health

This course is designed to promote wellness, health literacy, and positive health behaviors in young adults. It focuses on all aspects of health: physical, mental, emotional, and social. Students will learn how to create long-term goals to reach optimal health, as well as how to evaluate their current health. Students will become Heartsaver First Aide CPR AED certified through the American Heart Association.

Grade: 9-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None.

Athletic Conditioning (Boys)

Athletic Conditioning (Girls)

The focus of this class is on physical fitness with strength and cardiovascular training. Our conditioning classes are designed for student athletes so that they may further develop strength and endurance during their competitive seasons, as well as in the off-season. Students will participate in weight training, various cardiovascular activities, and sport specific training. The workouts reflect the sports fitness and conditioning components and is intended to allow the athletes to meet those requirements during the school day.

Grade: 9-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5 or All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None

Fall Semester – Fitness (Boys)

Spring Semester – Fitness (Boys)

The focus of this class is on physical fitness, strength and cardiovascular training. Students will participate in weight training, flexibility and various cardiovascular activities. The programs are designed for novice level students that choose not to participate in competitive athletics, but want to enhance their overall physical fitness.

Grade: 9-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5 or All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None

Fall Semester Fit 4 Life (Girls)

Spring Semester Fit 4 Life (Girls)

This course is designed to develop the student's overall fitness levels with a focus on core body strength, cardiovascular endurance, flexibility, and conditioning. The student will understand the relationship between physical activity and healthy living habits.

Grades 9-12 One Semester or All Year – Credit 0.5 – 1.0

Prerequisite: None.

Sports Medicine

This course is for students interested in learning the application of the main components of sports medicine including sports injury prevention and evaluation, the associated anatomy, the injury process, and immediate care of athletic injuries. Students may be required to serve as an apprentice to the athletic trainers for various sports throughout the

semester. Successful completion qualifies for credit.

Grade: 11-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Instructor Approval. Beginning 2020-2021, this course will be for grades 11-12 and have a prerequisite of Introduction to Human Anatomy & Physiology.

Cheerleading

This P.E. alternative requires successful election by trained cheerleading screening committee and demands yearlong active participation.

Grade: 9-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Selection by Screening Committee.

Outside P.E. Credit

In rare cases, with approval of the Chair of the Health and P.E. Department, and the Assistant Principal of Academic Affairs, P.E. credit can be granted to students for some out of school activities. If seeking this option, students must work with the guidance department after getting approval. In most of these cases, the student will receive credit but a grade will not be recorded.

T. A. P. P. S.

The following T.A.P.P.S. team sports are offered on a competitive basis. Enrollment in any of these sports is subject to the coach's approval. Successful season completion of a T.A.P.P.S. sport may serve as a physical education credit.

- **Boys:** Football, Baseball
- **Girls:** Volleyball, Softball
- **Boys & Girls:** Cross-Country, Track, Basketball, Tennis, Soccer, Swimming, Golf

SPECIALIZED COURSES

Students serving on the Student Council and Living In Faith Experience Team will have an opportunity to foster and promote the spiritual and social well-being of the NCHS student body through their work on these councils. Skills such as effective communication, problem-solving, and motivation will be explored and developed. Application of these skills will occur through the planning and implementation of activities and events for which each council is responsible.

L.I.F.E. (Living in Faith Experience) Leadership Team

This course focuses on the Christian formation of the student as a disciple of Christ by developing leadership skills in a Christian context. Students will examine their baptismal call to serve and cultivate a deeper relationship (“divine intimacy”) with Jesus Christ through the Sacraments, the prayers and devotions of the Church, lectures, service, and community experiences. Students will learn vocational discernment and the tools needed to discern God’s call.

Students will develop skills that will make their own gifts, talents, and leadership abilities more prevalent.

Grade 11-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Application and participation in a Nolan Catholic-approved summer program required.

Leadership [Student Council]

Grade: 11-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5 or All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Moderator recommendation. Does not count toward graduation. Course is not counted in grade average.

Independent Study

In some cases, a student may request an Independent Study with an instructor in certain departments. The student must seek approval from the Assistant Principal of Academic Affairs before proposing an Independent Study.

International Students Transitions

This course is required of all incoming international students. This class introduces students to the unique spirit of our school and prepares them for specific demands of life as an American student. The course offers time for study, individualized conferences, and content subject tutoring.

No Credit

Prerequisite: Learning Support Director Approval.

Introduction to Business

This course addresses practical usage of the economic process. The student connect this process to the development of an economic system with emphasis on private enterprise. The student will research consumer issues, determine financial implications for the individual, analyze employment trends, study career opportunities, formulate a career plan, engage in the employment process, and explain the role of technology in business settings.

Grade: 10-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: Algebra I.

Personal Finance

This course explores the theories and techniques of managing personal income. It provides students with tools and knowledge for short- and long-term financial success. Topics include financial planning, budgeting, building and maintaining good credit, retirement and estate planning, and creating an investment portfolio.

Grade: 10-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: Currently enrolled in, or have taken, Algebra II.

Study Skills I, II, III, IV (One-half to four credits)

This course teaches study skills and strategies, and it also guides individual students to establish daily habits that promote academic success. Students learn techniques for learning from texts, develop organizational skills necessary

to manage their time, keep track of assignments, and monitor their academic progress. In addition, students develop a variety of learning and test-taking strategies and practice these strategies either within the framework of the class or while working on their other class assignments. For high school students whose first language is not English, the students' native language serves as a foundation for English language acquisition and language learning.

Grade: 9-12 *One semester – Credit 0.5 or All year – Credit 1*
Prerequisite: Learning Support Director Approval.

Test Prep Seminar

Test Prep Seminar will help students prepare for the PSAT, SAT, and ACT. The class will include both instruction in the format, scoring, as well as strategies for taking the tests, and an online element to allow for individualized test prep.

Grade: 10-12 – *No Credit*

Prerequisites: Algebra I, Geometry, English I.

Seniors are given priority in the fall and juniors in the spring semester.

Yearbook

This course offers the student an opportunity to be a part of the NCHS yearbook staff. All aspects of yearbook production will be covered, including choosing a theme, designing the cover, designing page layouts, planning the contents, producing pages, photographing events, and delivering the finished product. The basics of digital photography, Adobe Photoshop, and Adobe InDesign will be taught. Reliability and willingness to work outside school hours are required. Students are also asked to attend a summer workshop to help prepare a theme for the school year. Due to the course structure, dropping this class at semester is not permitted.

Grade: 10 - 12 *All Year – Credit 1*

Prerequisite: Intro to Digital Media, Journalism, or Photography I.

Yearbook Leadership

Second year of this course. Instructor approval needed.

Grade: 11 - 12 *All Year – Credit 1 (English)*

Prerequisite: Yearbook