

NOLAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



2020-2021

ACADEMIC COURSE GUIDE

2020-2021 ACADEMIC COURSE GUIDE

High School Credits

Minimum Requirements for Graduation

(Class of 2021, 2022, & 2023)

A minimum of **30** credits is required for graduation from Nolan Catholic High School. With administration permission, students may take non-credit courses but must be scheduled with a full load of 8 courses per semester.

TRIVIUM PATH		NON-TRIVIUM PATH	
Theology	4 credits	Theology	4 credits
Trivium	4 credits	English	4 credits
English	4 credits	Social Studies	4 credits
Social Studies	4 credits	Mathematics	4 credits
Mathematics	4 credits	Science	4 credits
Science	4 credits	World Languages	2-3 credits <i>(3 for Honors)</i>
World Languages	2-3 credits <i>(3 for Honors)</i>	Fine Arts	1 credit
Fine Arts	1 credit	<i>(Music, Art, Theatre Arts, Dance, Photography)</i>	
<i>(Music, Art, Theatre Arts, Dance, Photography)</i>		Communication App.	0.5 credits
Physical Education	1 credit	Functional Health	0.5 credits
<i>(Athletics, Trainer, Manager, Cheerleading, Dance Team, Marching Band, Dance)</i>		Physical Education	1 credit
Others (Electives)	2 credits	<i>(Athletics, Trainer, Manager, Cheerleading, Dance Team, Marching Band, Dance)</i>	
		Others (Electives)	2 credits

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 PLAN

(CLASS OF 2021, 2022, 2023)

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 30 credits with the opportunity to earn up to 32 credits. Some classes, such as Study Hall, receive no credit.

2020-2021 ACADEMIC COURSE GUIDE

High School Credits

Class of 2024 Minimum Requirements for Graduation

A minimum of **30** credits is required for graduation from Nolan Catholic High School. With administration permission, students may take non-credit courses but must be scheduled with a full load of 8 courses per semester.

Theology	4 credits
Trivium	4 credits
English	4 credits
Social Studies	4 credits
Mathematics	4 credits
Science	4 credits
World Languages	2-3 credits (<i>3 credits for Honors Diploma</i>)
Fine Arts	1 credit
<i>(Music, Art, Theatre Arts, Dance, Photography)</i>	
Physical Education	1 credit
<i>(Athletics, Trainer, Manager, Cheerleading, Dance Team, Marching Band, Dance)</i>	
Others (Electives)	2 credits

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

(CLASS OF 2024)

Ninth Grade:

Theology	(1)
Trivium Grammar & Composition	(.5)
Trivium Human Person	(.5)
English	(1)
Mathematics	(1)
Science	(1)
World History I	(1)
Modern or Classical Language	(1)
Fine Arts	(1)
Total Credits:	8

Tenth Grade:

Theology	(1)
Trivium Logic & Composition	(.5)
Trivium Principles of Ethics	(.5)
English	(1)
Mathematics	(1)
Science	(1)
World History II	(1)
Modern or Classical Language	(1)
Physical Education	(1)
Total Credits:	8

Eleventh Grade:

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

Twelfth Grade:

Theology	(1)
Trivium Senior Seminar /Capstone	(1)
English	(1)
Mathematics	(1)
Science	(1)
U.S. Government	(.5)
Economics	(.5)
Electives	(2)
Total Credits:	8

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

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 about Christian Ministry, please refer to the Nolan Catholic High School Student-Parent Handbook.

JUSTIFIABLE REASONS FOR SCHEDULE CHANGES

1. Administrative 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.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

NCHS does not provide Special Education services. There are occasions when a student with documented disabilities requires additional assistance. Nolan Catholic makes every effort to determine students' educational needs and provide support and accommodations to ensure student success.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Post-secondary institutions have varying entrance requirements. Students should research the type of higher education institution they plan to attend and make course selections accordingly with parental help.

Most colleges require the SAT and/or the ACT. 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/ NMSQT 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.

HONORS DIPLOMA

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, like many independent schools of comparable caliber, does not rank its students. Since admission is highly selective and the tested aptitudes are well above the national average, rank in class cannot be regarded as a valid indication of preparation for college. On rare occasions, administration may decide that providing a class rank is in the best interest of a student's application to a particular school. In such cases, Nolan Catholic will provide class rank once requested by the university or college.

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 mathematics, modern and classical languages, social studies, science, technology, theology, and English. These courses offer the student valuable challenges and enrichments that encourage intellectual rigor and creative discovery.

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 6 full credits in honors, dual credit, or advanced placement (AP) courses by the end of the year.

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
- Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism
- World History
- US History
- US Government
- Macroeconomics
- Government and Politics: Comparative

- European History
- Psychology
- Spanish Language and Composition
- Spanish Literature and Composition
- French Language and Culture
- German Language and Culture
- Computer Science Principles
- Music Theory
- Art History
- Studio Art Drawing
- Studio Art 2D: 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 has partnered with Tarrant County College (TCC), allowing students to earn college credit applicable to any public college or university in Texas. This credit may also apply to in-state and out-of-state private colleges and universities. Students enrolled in Dual Credit make payment directly to TCC each semester in addition to their NCHS tuition. To enroll in Dual Credit courses, students must have an 85 cumulative GPA, teacher recommendation, administrative approval, and meet additional TCC requirements.

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 public 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 (2020-21):

- English Composition
- British Literature II (0.5 credit)
- American Literature II (0.5 credit)
- US History
- US Government

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

At the end of each quarter, students are considered "ineligible" if they meet the following criteria:

- **Grades:** Student fails 2 or more courses at the end of quarter 1, quarter 2, or quarter 3.
- **Christian Ministry Hours:** Student fails at least 1 course AND has not met the minimal, annual Christian Ministry Requirement at the end of quarter 1, quarter 2, or quarter 3.

Students who are ineligible due to grades may regain eligibility if they are failing zero courses on the progress report of the following quarter. Students who are ineligible due to Christian Ministry Hours may regain eligibility as soon as they have achieved the minimum number of approved service hours.

A student failing one or more classes at progress report time of the quarter following a failure will remain ineligible for the duration of the quarter. The Assistant Principal of Academic Affairs reserves the right to invoke academic ineligibility in special cases at any time. While ineligible, students are unable to participate in after school extra-curricular activities.

ACADEMIC PROBATION AND CREDIT DEFICIENCY

A student who is failing two or more classes during one semester is placed on academic probation. A student placed on academic probation must have no failing grades at the end of the probation period (one semester). If, at the end of the probation period, there is a failing grade, the student may be dismissed from Nolan Catholic. A student who has failed a course does not earn credit and therefore has a credit deficiency.

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 on the transcript, but grades are not counted in the cumulative numerical average. Any course taken outside of NCHS must have pre-approval from administration.

OFF-CAMPUS CREDIT

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 enroll in more than one of the following within a semester: Study Hall, Study Skills, Student Aide.

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.

COURSE OFFERINGS

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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 virtues and beliefs, and Christian ministry.

Theology I: The Revelation of Jesus Christ in 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

Trivium: The Human Person

This course introduces students to a philosophical understanding of the human person. Beginning with the foundations of what it means to be a "person," this course includes topics in philosophical anthropology, including the roles of the body and the soul, the intellect, immortality, the passions, human freedom and human action, the nature of human love, complementarity, and discussion that guides students towards a respect and appreciation for human dignity. With this understanding of the human person, this course provides a foundation for studies in all other disciplines throughout the curriculum, especially as it relates to the moral life.

Grade: 9 One Semester - Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None.

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: Moral Life in Christ

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.

Theology IV: Great Theological Controversies (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 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: 93% or above in Theology III.

Theology IV: 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.

Theology IV: 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.

Theology IV: 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 IV: 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.

LIFE (Living in Faith Experience)

This course focuses on the Christian formation of the student as a disciple of Christ by developing their faith 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, discussion, and service opportunities. Students will learn vocational discernment and receive the tools needed to discern God’s call. Students will develop skills that will enable them to follow God’s will in their life.

Grades: 11-12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: Application and interview.

ENGLISH

The English department guides students to understand, appreciate, and love beautiful literature while developing the skills of reading, thinking, discussing, writing, and public speaking. Through literature, authors express truths about our humanity in multiple forms (genres), from epic and tragedy to lyric and comedy, giving form to our dreams, longings, struggles, suffering, aspirations, and joys. As Flannery O’Connor said, “A story is a way to say something that can’t be said any other way.” When students encounter this type of literature, these works have the power to move and order the soul towards the things that are true, good, and beautiful. These experiences help form the poetic imagination of our students, which leads them to see the world and humanity how God created them and thus to see creation for all its beauty and integrity. A well-formed poetic imagination is integral to a well-formed mind and soul.

In English, students write essays at least quarterly. If a student is placed in an advanced course, the level of required selections demands a mature reader and thinker. Parents/guardians need to be aware of the maturity level of their child before agreeing to AP or Dual Credit reading lists. Summer reading is required for all students.

English I

This course introduces students to the study and appreciation of literature through reading foundational works of Western Civilization. Focusing on classics of Greek and Roman literature, students will study the main literary genres and learn how to read a text closely to increase comprehension and vocabulary. With this foundation in Greek and Roman literature, students will then study a Shakespearean play and learn how to evaluate a text that builds upon the achievements of earlier authors. Throughout this course, students will develop the art of literary analysis through seminar-style discussions and written compositions that focus on identifying key themes and developing a persuasive argument.

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. The literary content of this course introduces students to the study and appreciation of literature through reading foundational works of Western Civilization. Focusing on classics of Greek and Roman literature, students will study the main literary genres and learn how to read a text closely to increase comprehension and vocabulary. With this foundation in Greek and Roman literature, students will then study a Shakespearean play and learn how to evaluate a text that builds upon the achievements of earlier authors. Similar to English I but going more in-depth and at a faster pace, students will develop the art of literary analysis through seminar-style discussions and written compositions.

Grade: 9 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: 80% Reading & 80% Verbal Aptitude on placement.

Trivium: Grammar & Composition

This course develops a student’s understanding of the art of language, focusing on the fundamentals of grammar, usage, and mechanics while cultivating style. Students will learn how to use a dictionary and understand the components of word entries. Students will learn Greek and Latin root words. With this foundation, students will develop their writing skills, focusing on the elements of composition and the academic essay. Following the classical mimetic tradition, students will learn how to write effective sentences, paragraphs, and essays by studying well-ordered and beautiful works that are worthy of imitation. This course will provide the foundations for successful academic and personal essay writing.

Grades: 10-12 One Semester - Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None

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 system-

atic 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: 93% or above in previous English course.

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 fiction 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: 93% or above in previous English course.

Dual Credit: English Composition (Honors)

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 - 1 credit

Prerequisite: 85% cumulative GPA.

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 (Honors)

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: 93% or above in previous English course.

Dual Credit: British Literature II (Honors)

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: 85% cumulative GPA.

Dual Credit: American Literature II (Honors)

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: 85% cumulative GPA.

Communication Applications

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.

Grades: 10-12 One Semester - Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None

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.

Grades: 10-12 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.

Grades: 10-12 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.

Grades: 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.

Grades: 10-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None

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.

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: 70% or higher on Department Mastery Exam

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.

Grades: 10-11 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Algebra I and 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.

Grades: 10-11 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Geometry or Geometry (Honors) and departmental recommendation.

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 I, Geometry, and 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 I, Geometry, and 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. This class integrates technology and real-world applications.

Grades: 11-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Algebra II or Algebra II (Honors)

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.

Grades: 11 - 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Algebra II or Algebra II (Honors) and department approval.

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.

Grades: 11 - 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Algebra II or Algebra II (Honors).

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: Pre-Calculus or Pre-Calculus (Honors) and department approval.

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: Pre-Calculus or Pre-Calculus (Honors) and department approval.

AP Calculus AB (Honors)

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: Pre-Calculus (Honors) and department approval.

AP Calculus BC (Honors)

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: Pre-Calculus (Honors) and department 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 that 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 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: 80% Reading & 80% Verbal on placement exam.

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

Prerequisite: None

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.

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

Prerequisite: None

AP Physics I: Algebra-based (Honors)

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.

AP Biology: Cell & Molecular Biology

AP Biology is the equivalent of an introductory college biology course. 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.

Grades: 11-12 All Year – Credit 1

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

AP Chemistry (Honors)

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

Grades: 11-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: 93% or above in Chemistry.

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.

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

Prerequisites: None

AP Physics C: Mechanics (Honors)

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 current science & math and department approval.

AP Physics C: Mechanics / Electricity & Magnetism (Honors)

This calculus-based course focuses on advanced topics in physics with emphasis on Mechanics first semester and Electricity and Magnetism second semester. This class prepares students for both AP exams in May.

Grades: 11-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: 93% or above in current science & math and department approval.

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.

Grades: 11-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: 93% or above in current science course.

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.

Grades: 11-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: 93% or above in current science course.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Social Studies Department seeks to nurture important leadership skills that our students must have in order to make a positive contribution as knowledgeable and virtuous citizens of our society. We expect that our students will participate in society with the Catholic perspective of respect for human dignity, promotion of the common good, and the right use of freedom. Through the study of history, students will gain a better understanding of how the past has been formative for the present and appreciate great persons and events that have contributed to human flourishing throughout time while also studying those figures and events that deviated from this pursuit.

World History (9th Grade)

This course surveys world history from ancient civilizations to the Middle Ages, focusing on the foundations of Western Civilization in Israel, Mesopotamia, Greece, Rome, and Early Christian societies. Students will examine how societies developed, how civilizations formed, and the persons and events that led to human flourishing. This survey course will include the study of art, economics, ethics, geography, inventions, music, politics, religion, as well as the development of the Great Ideas and how these have come to affect the lives of future societies and people.

Grade: 9 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None.

World History (Honors) (9th Grade)

This course surveys world history from ancient civilizations to the Middle Ages, focusing on the foundations of Western Civilization in Israel, Mesopotamia, Greece, Rome, and Early Christian societies. Students will examine how societies developed, how civilizations formed, and the persons and events that led to human flourishing. This survey course will include the study of art, economics, ethics, geography, inventions, music, politics, religion, as well as the development of the Great Ideas and how these have come to affect the lives of future societies and people. This course is a more rigorous version of World History I and focuses heavily on primary source reading, historical research, and written analysis.

Grade: 9 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None.

World History (10th Grade)

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) (10th Grade)

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, 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. This course is a more rigorous version of World History and 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: None.

AP World History: Modern (Honors) (10th Grade)

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 and department 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: World History.

AP U. S. History (Honors)

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% in previous social studies course

Dual Credit: U.S. History (Honors)

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: 85% cumulative GPA.

Economics

The goal of this 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 emphasizes the study of national income and price determination, 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 (Honors)

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: 93% in previous social studies course.

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.

Grades: 11-12 One Semester - Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None.

AP U. S. Government (Honors)

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% in previous social studies course.

Dual Credit: U.S. Government (Honors)

Origin and development of the U.S. Constitution, structure and powers of the national government including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, federalism, political participation, the national election process, public policy, civil liberties, and civil rights.

Grade: 12 One Semester - Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: 85% cumulative GPA.

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

Grades: 10 – 12 One Semester - Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None

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.

Grades: 10-12 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?

Grades: 10 – 12 One Semester - Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: Completion of World History / concurrent or completion of U.S. History.

AP European History (Honors)

This course focuses on European History from 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% in previous social studies course.

AP Government and Politics: Comparative (Honors)

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.

Grades: 11–12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None

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, abnormalcy 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 (Honors)

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.

Grades: 11 – 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: 93% in previous social studies course.

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.

Grades: 11 – 12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None

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.

Grades: 9–12 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 II.

AP Latin IV (Honors)

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

Grades: 11-12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: Latin III

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.

Grades: 9-12 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.

Grades: 9-12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: Placement test.

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.

Grades: 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 comprehensions 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.

Grades: 9-10 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: Placement test.

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.

Grades: 9-12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: Spanish I

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' understating of both language and culture.

Grades: 10-12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: Spanish 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.

Grades: 10-12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: Spanish II

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.

Grades: 10 - 12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: Spanish III

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.

Grades: 11 - 12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: AP Spanish IV

French I

Students develop proficiency in 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, grammatical structures, and an introduction to the culture of French-speaking world are stressed.

Grades: 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.

Grades: 9-12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: French I.

French III - Honors

This course focuses on advanced grammar, the cultures of French-speaking nations, and the development of written and oral proficiency. Reading comprehension and written composition are developed within a multidisciplinary context (geography, history, literature, art, culture, and pivotal figures). 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

This course focuses on advanced grammar, the cultures of French-speaking nations, and the development of written and oral proficiency. Reading comprehension and written composition are developed within a multidisciplinary context (geography, history, literature, art, culture, and pivotal figures). The three models of communication are foundational to this advanced course.

Grades: 11 - 12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: French III Honors.

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 contemporary, international French literature. Students will read and analyze works of prose, poetry, and drama. Students will learn about the cultural context of the works and will identify and interpret the various elements that enter into the composition of a literary text. All readings and lectures are in French.

Grades: 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.

Grades: 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.

Grades: 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.

Grades: 11 - 12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: German II

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

ENGINEERING

Engineering Essentials (Honors)

Engineering Essentials offers a multidisciplinary approach to teaching and learning foundational concepts of engineering practice, providing students opportunities to explore the breadth of engineering career opportunities and experiences and solve engaging and challenging real-world problems. By inspiring and empowering students with an understanding of engineering and career opportunities, Engineering Essentials broadens participation in engineering education and the engineering profession.

Grade: 9 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: None

Introduction to Engineering Design (Honors)

Introduction to Engineering Design builds upon foundational engineering concepts with an emphasis on the application of modeling in the engineering design process to develop mechanical solutions. This enhanced course strengthens student engagement by offering them more opportunities for hands-on experiences and collaboration, ensures access to the most in-demand and relevant experiences, and provides opportunities for a deeper immersion into mechanical and 3D design.

Grades: 10-11 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: None

Computer Integrated Manufacturing (Honors)

Manufactured items are part of everyday life, yet most students have not been introduced to the high-tech, innovative nature of modern manufacturing. This course illuminates the opportunities related to understanding manufacturing. At the same time, it teaches students about manufacturing processes, product design, robotics, and automation. Students can earn a virtual manufacturing badge recognized by the National Manufacturing Badge system.

Grade: 11 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: None

Robotics I-III

Robotics focuses on design processes, 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.

Grades: 10-12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: Department approval.

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

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, WorkFlow, Sway, Skype, Google Suite, LinkedIn, and other programs that prepare students for a diverse professional environment.

Grades: 9-12 One Semester - Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None

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.

Grades: 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.

Grades: 10-12 One Semester - Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: Algebra II.

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 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 One Semester - Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: AP Computer Science A or department approval.

AP Computer Science A (Honors)

This course familiarizes students with the concepts and tools of computer science as they learn a subset of the Java programming language. Students will do hands-on work to design, write, and test computer programs that solve problems or accomplish tasks.

Grade: 10-12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: Programming II.

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 Me-

dia 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.

Grades: 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.

Grades: 10 - 12 One Semester - Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: Graphic Design & Illustration.

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.

Grades: 10 - 12 One Semester - Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: Animation I.

Broadcast I

Students are introduced to all aspects of broadcast production. Students will utilize video editing software such as Final Cut Pro and Adobe Premiere CC.

Grades: 10-12 One Semester - Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None

Broadcast II

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

tion are covered, including on and off-camera video journalism, DSLR camera operation, video production, audio engineering, live broadcast production, and creative short-film production. 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.

Grades: 11-12 One Semester - Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: Broadcast I and department approval.

FINE ARTS

Art I

This is a studio-based course emphasizing the development of skills in a variety of media through the understanding of the elements of art and principles of design. Students will create a wide range of artwork in 2D and 3D. Students will learn techniques for drawing with a wide range of drawing mediums: graphite, charcoal, ink, prismacolors, pastels, chalks, watercolors, and acrylics; as well as, 3D design with plaster, clay and other assorted mixed media. Art history is drawn upon to broaden students' understanding of art and relate their classroom experiences to the wider art world of the past and present.

Grades: 9 - 12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: None

Art & Design (2D)

Art 2D design is a studio based course offering an in-depth study of the areas covered in Art I through more advanced projects. Mediums used include graphite, charcoal, ink, oil pastels, watercolors, prismacolors, and acrylic paints. Students will broaden their knowledge of color theory. Students will learn different ways of painting through the study of painting styles through history and application of those style in class. Students will learn how to combine mediums to create compositions while fine-tuning technique and skills. Historic and current artist will be researched and referenced for project inspiration. More freedom will be allowed to students on projects so they can develop their own style of artistic expression.

Grades: 10 - 12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: Art I

Sculpture (3D)

Art 3D design is a studio based course focusing on the study of form through three dimensional art work. With the knowledge learned in Art I, students will be able to apply the elements of art and principles of design into their work using a variety of different mediums including clay, plaster, wire, paper, and wood. Historic and current artist will be researched and referenced for project inspiration. More freedom will be allowed to students on projects so they can develop their own personal style of artistic expression.

Grades: 10 - 12 All Year - Credit 1

Prerequisite: Art I

AP Art & Design (Honors)

AP art is for the committed art student who seeks to develop

their own artistic style. This is an opportunity to be an authentic artist with minimal restrictions. The goal of the class is to meet guidelines set forth by the AP College Board. A portfolio of advanced artwork, 5 selected works and a year long sustained investigation, will be submitted in May for evaluation. A qualifying portfolio score can earn students college credit. The student may choose which portfolio they would like to submit art work in: Drawing, 2D, or 3D.

Grades: 10 – 12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Art & Design OR Sculpture

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.

Grades: 9-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None

AP 2D Art & Design

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. The AP portfolio which should be recognized by participating universities for college credit.

Grades: 10-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Photography I

Theatre 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 2nd semester.

Grades: 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.

Grades: 9-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None

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: 10-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Theatre I

Choral Music

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.

Grades: 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.

Grades: 10-12 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.

Grades: 10–12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Placement by audition.

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 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None.

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: 10 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None

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.

Grades: 9–12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None.

Wind Ensemble

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 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.

Grades: 9–12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None.

Percussion Ensemble

See Wind Ensemble.

Grades: 9–12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None.

Advanced Music Practicum

Practicum 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.

Grades: 11–12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: One year music ensemble or department 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.

Note: Course may satisfy PE credit if Art credit has already been received.

Grades: 9–12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: None

Dance II - Intermediate Dance

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.

Note: Course may satisfy PE credit if Art credit has already been received.

Grades: 10–12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Dance I or Departmental Approval.

Dance III - Advanced Dance

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.

Note: Course may satisfy PE credit if Art credit has already been received.

Grade 9-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Dance II or Departmental Approval.

FUNCTIONAL HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students are required to earn one Physical Education credit for graduation. Physical Education, Marching Band, Color Guard, Winter Guard, Dance, T.A.P.P.S. Athletics, Dance Team (Royelles), Cheerleading, Norsemen, Athletic Team Managing, Athletic Filming, and Athletic Training may be utilized to satisfy this requirement. 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.

Grades: 10-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None.

Athletic Conditioning

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.

Grades: 9-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None

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.

Grades: 9-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: None

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 – Credit 0.5

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 elective credit.

Grades: 11-12 All Year – Credit 1

Prerequisite: Instructor Approval.

P.E. (Option)

The following activities may count towards PE credit (.5 max): Athletic Conditioning, Athletic Filming, Athletic Team Managing, Ballet Folklorico, Color Guard, Dance, Dance Team (Royelles), German Folk Dancing, Marching Band, Norsemen, and Sailing.

Note: Students must complete a PE substitution "Log" for any of the listed that occur outside the school day.

Grades: 9-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisite: Administrator approval.

SPECIALIZED COURSES

Culinary Arts

Introduction to Culinary Arts will introduce students to the commercial kitchen and allow them to learn how fun and exciting food can be as a career! Students will learn and practice basic knife skills, measuring skills, and how to follow a recipe through weekly practice. Students will also learn and practice basic food safety and sanitation skills. In class, students will research famous chefs throughout history and explore the many careers available in the culinary world. This is an entry level course for students interested in pursuing a career in the foodservice industry.

Grades: 10-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisites: None

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.

Grades: 11-12 One Semester – Credit 0.5

Prerequisites: Administrator approval.

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.

Grades: 9-12 No Credit

Prerequisite: Administrator approval.

Office Aide

Library / front office / guidance.

Grade: 12 *One Semester - Credit 0.5*

Prerequisite: Academic & Behavioral good standing

Student Council

Grades: 9-12 *All Year - Credit 1*

Prerequisite: Application

Study Hall

Grades: 11-12 *One Semester - No Credit*

Prerequisite: None

Study Skills

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.

Grades: 9-12 *All Year - Credit 1*

Prerequisite: Administrator approval.

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.

Grades: 10-12 *All Year - Credit 1*

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