



2018-2019

Upper School Curriculum



IMPORTANCE OF THE UPPER SCHOOL CURRICULUM

A college preparatory curriculum requires thorough preparation in literature and composition, mathematics, science and laboratory courses, social studies, and foreign languages. The rigor of the course work a student takes communicates important information to any college admissions personnel. Students are assessed on course rigor, grade point average, and test scores.

All colleges and universities have general requirements unique to their organization. It is important to understand minimum admission requirements at any given institution. It is also important to communicate with admissions departments to better understand expectations in coursework while a student is in high school. This helps inform the student when making choices about course registration. The following chart provides a comparison of typical minimum requirements.

Course	Required by				
	State of MN	Private HS	Public HS	University	St. Croix Prep
Language Arts/English	4	4	4	4	4
Mathematics	3	3	3	4*	4**
Social Sciences	3.5	4	4	2 to 4	4
Science	3	3	3	3 to 4	3
World Languages	Local decision	3	0	2 to 4	2
Arts	1	3	1	1	2
Health/PE	Local decision	.5 and 2.5	.5 and 1	Elective	1
Electives	7	0	6.5	2	4
Service & Yr. End Presentation	—	—	—	While not required, strongly encouraged and considered by admissions	1.5
TOTAL	21.5	23	23	23	25.5

- For public schools, including charter schools, all students must pass a college and career ready assessment that meets Minnesota state law and St. Croix Preparatory Academy School Board Requirements.
- Almost all colleges require you take the ACT and/or the SAT to be considered for admissions. Some institutions have score requirements for entrance.
- Credits: typically classes are held 5 days a week, anywhere from 40-60 minutes. The equivalent of a year long, daily class is 1.0 credit. Semester courses receive .50 credit.
- *While the “minimum” requirements may be “3” mathematics credits to be admitted to a University, typically, as stated on their websites, they mostly admit only those students who have completed 4 credits of Mathematics while in high school.
- **2014 is the first class of students at SCPA to all graduate with the 4 required credits of math.

College Readiness, College Admissions and Four-Year High School Course Plan

College admissions requirements vary. The individual transcript is a powerful piece of information. Colleges look at 3 main criteria that include **rigor of courses taken, a grade point average of 2.5 or higher, and strength of academic electives**. The rigor of the transcript is the most important of these three criteria.

In addition, college admissions personnel like to see student's commitment to activities, clubs, athletics, and leadership positions.

At St. Croix Preparatory Academy, our college counselor meets with each individual student to ensure a solid plan is established that meets his or her individual college aspiration. This process is greatly improved if students identify possible colleges ahead of time and are able to use admission expectations as a guide to Upper School course planning.

The following chart distinguishes schools by "types" and delineates the expectations that are typical or average for successful college admission:

Type of college	Admission Standards	Avg. ACT scores, Enrolled Freshmen, 2013-2014*	% of SCPA Alumni accepted at these institutions	High School GPA Expectation	Typical ACT(36) / SAT in Math & Reading (1600)	AP Course/ Exam Score Expectation
Highly Selective	Majority of freshmen in top 10% of their high school class	Ivy League-33 Vassar-31 Carleton-31 Davidson-30 Macalester-30	16%	3.75	28+/1220+	4+ courses/ Score of 4 or 5 on exams
Selective	Majority of freshmen in top 25% of their high school class	UM-Twin Cities-27 Gustavus-27 St. Thomas-25 UM-Morris-25 UMD-24 UW-Eau Claire-24	40%	3.5	24+/1110+ (ACT Range 21-27)	3+ courses/ Score of 3,4,5 on exams
Traditional	Majority of freshmen in top 50% of their high school class	Winona State-23 Mankato State-22 UW-Stout-22 UW-River Falls-22 St. Cloud State-21 Bemidji-21	34%	3.0	21+/990+ (ACT range 21-23)	Not Applicable
Liberal	Usually accept all high school graduates, some programs are more selective	Normandale Community College, DeVry, ITT Technical Institute, etc.	6%	1.0	18+/870+ (ACT range 18-20)	Not Applicable
Open	All high school graduates are accepted	Century, Rasmussen, etc.	4%	High School Diploma/GED	None required	Not Applicable

Course selection is a critical consideration in the college planning. We have identified more rigorous courses with asterisks "*" indicating coursework that selective and highly selective schools will look for in a competitive Upper School transcript.

St. Croix Prep's College Counselor can assist you with making these determinations.

(Source for information in the chart: State of Minnesota Office of Higher Education and www.naviance.com)

SCPA Upper School Four-Year Course Plan

Graduation Year: (circle one) Class of '19 '20 '21 '22

SCPA Graduation Requirements	9th Grade <i>Freshman Year</i>	10th Grade <i>Sophomore Year</i>	11th Grade <i>Junior Year</i>	12th Grade <i>Senior Year</i>
English Language Arts 4 Credits Required	English 9 OR Honors English 9* 1 credit	English 10 OR Honors English 10* 1 credit	English 11 OR AP Language & Composition* 1 credit	English 12 OR AP Literature* 1 credit
Social Studies 4 Credits Required	Human Geography OR AP Human Geography * 1 credit	<i>World History</i> OR AP World History* 1 credit	U.S. History OR AP U.S. History* 1 credit	U.S. Government & Economics OR AP Government * OR AP Micro & Macro Economics* 1 credit
Science 3 Credits Required	Biology OR Honors Biology* 1 credit	Chemistry OR AP Chemistry* 1 credit	Physics OR AP Physics B* 1 credit	Optional Science* Or Other Elective(s) <hr/> (Your course title here) 1 credit
Math 4 Credits Required	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1 credit	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1 credit	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1 credit	Math or Elective(!) <hr/> (Your course title here) 1 credit
Required: 1 Physical Education Credit (1/2 is general PE; 1/2 elective PE)	Physical Education 9 1/2 credit	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit
2 Fine Arts Credits	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit
2 World Language Credits	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit
4 Other Elective Credits	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit
Each half box is worth half credit. Full credit courses need TWO hash mark boxes filled in.	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit
This is section where you should put a study hall if you desire one. Fill two boxes if you want a study hall all year. Study hall is not worth credit.	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit
	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit	<hr/> (Your course title here) 1/2 credit
Service Hours and Performance	10 Hours: .10 credit 1 Presentation .25 credit	10 Hours: .10 credit 1 Presentation .25 credit	10 Hours: .10 credit 1 Presentation .25 credit	20 Hours: .20 credit 1 Presentation .25 credit
25.5 Credits Total	<hr/> (your credit total here)	<hr/> (your credit total here)	<hr/> (your credit total here)	<hr/> (your credit total here)

If being ready to apply to a certain type of college is important to you, please see the **asterisk** * next to courses throughout the Upper School Curriculum Guide that highlight courses that selective and highly selective colleges and universities will be looking for on your high school transcript.

LANGUAGE ARTS/ENGLISH

Curriculum Overview

Graduation Requirements: 4

Course Offerings:

Grade 9 –	Ancient Literature Honors Ancient Literature*
Grade 10 –	British Literature & Composition Honors British Literature & Composition*
Grade 11 –	American Literature & Composition AP English Language & Composition*
Grade 12 –	Contemporary Literature AP English Literature & Composition*

Elective Course Offerings:

Drama – (9-12)
Debate – (9-12)
Speech – (9-12)
Creative Writing (10-12)
AP Capstone Seminar – (10-12)

LANGUAGE ARTS/ENGLISH

Course Descriptions

Standards

The State of Minnesota requires students in grades 9-12 to be proficient in reading, writing, and speaking. In order to comply with the state standards as well as the academic goals of this high school, the sequence for grades 9-12 in language arts will be as follows:

English 9: Ancient Literature

Grade - 9 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of 8th grade language arts

Description: Ninth grade English will study masterpieces in literature with an emphasis on ancient literature dating from pre-common era through the 1500s, including: *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, *The Odyssey*, *Beowulf*, *Ramayana*, *Journey to the West*, *Inferno*, and *Don Quixote*. Students will develop a deeper understanding of literature through an exploration of Joseph Campbell's hero's journey, while creating and defending their own interpretations and ideas relating to our texts and supplementary material. A focus will be placed on core comprehension of texts, while developing written and spoken rhetorical strategies pertaining to essential question for each text.

Honors English 9*: Ancient Literature

Grade - 9 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite(s): Honors students will study masterpieces in literature dating from pre-common era through the 1500s, including: *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, *The Odyssey*, *Beowulf*, *Ramayana*, *Journey to the West*, *Inferno*, and *Don Quixote*. Students will develop a deeper understanding of literature through an exploration of Joseph Campbell's hero's journey, while creating and defending their own interpretations and ideas relating to our texts and supplementary material. Ninth grade Honors English students are asked to read, write, and discuss ideas at a more advanced abstract level.

English 10: British Literature with Composition

Grade - 10 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: English 9 or the equivalent

Description: Students in English 10 will study major works of literature selected from *Macbeth*, *Canterbury Tales*, *Once and Future King*, *Frankenstein*, *Importance of Being Earnest*, *Things Fall Apart*, *Night*, and *Animal Farm*. Students will focus on the reading skills needed for these complex works. We will examine the relationship between literature and the historical ideas and movements that created them. The writing focus for the year will be on argumentative writing where students will study the types of arguments, different ways to structure and argument, and different rhetorical writing devices.

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Honors English 10*: British Literature with Composition**Grade - 10 Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** English 9 or the equivalent

Description: Students in Honors English 10 will study major works of literature selected from *Macbeth*, *Canterbury Tales*, *Once and Future King*, *Frankenstein*, *Importance of Being Earnest*, *Things Fall Apart*, *Night*, and *Animal Farm*. Students will continue to develop a deep understanding of literature and create and defend their own interpretations and ideas by studying different philosophies and approaches to analyzing literature. The writing focus for the year will be on argumentative writing where students will focus on developing their own ideas and interpretation and then creating cohesive and persuasive arguments. Honors students will be expected to work on a deeper and more abstract level, including themes, historic context, and literary devices. Honors students will need to be able to read complex texts independently and quickly move beyond the literal level of a text to abstract concepts and deep analysis of literary terms. **This course requires summer reading of either *Pride and Prejudice* or *Great Expectations*.**

English 11: American Literature and Composition**Grade - 11 Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** English 9 and English 10 or the equivalent

Description: This course is a chronological survey of American literature designed to engage students in the careful reading and critical analysis of literature. Through the close reading of selected texts from the American Canon, students deepen their rhetorical analysis skills and develop a deeper understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. Works may include: *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Crucible*, *Ethan Frome*, *My Antonia*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Catcher in the Rye*, *The Things They Carried* and a variety of selections from American essays, poetry, and short stories. Students will complete a number of written assignments including a research paper and perform a persuasive speech.

AP English Language and Composition***Grade - 11 Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** English 9 and English 10 or the equivalent

Description: The AP English Language and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Throughout the course, students develop a personal style by making appropriate grammatical choices. Additionally, students read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of text, from many disciplines and historical periods. Students will complete a number of written assignments including a research paper and perform a persuasive speech.

English 12: Contemporary Literature**Grade - 12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** English 9, English 10, English 11 or the equivalent

Description: This course engages students in the careful reading and critical analysis of literature with a focus on pairing contemporary readings with classical models. As we read, students will consider a work's structure, style, and themes as well as the use of schemes and tropes such as figurative language, imagery, and symbolism. As a capstone project, all students will complete an original writing assignment on a contemporary topic raised in our discussion, demonstrating a sophisticated understanding of the research process. Works may include *Hamlet*, *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*, *Slaughterhouse 5*, *Persepolis*, *All the Pretty Horses*, *1984*, and a variety of selections from contemporary essays, poetry, and short stories. Students will complete a number of written assignments including a research paper and a persuasive speech.

AP English Literature and Composition***Grade - 12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** English 9, English 10, English 11 or the the equivalent

Description: This course engages students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style, and themes as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. Students will be well prepared to take the AP Exam in Literature at the end of the year

Drama (Elective) (Fine Arts Credit)**Grade - 9-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** None

Description: This course provides a hands-on study of Drama through the performance of one act plays. During the course, students will learn the fundamental practices, principles, and techniques associated with all aspects of theater including: script analysis and selection, audition process, set/costume design and construction, directing, and acting. Based on each student's skills and interest, students will participate in various roles onstage and backstage culminating in performances. This class can be taken for credit more than once.

Debate (Elective)**Grade - 9-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** None

Description: In this course students will be introduced to the different aspects of formal debate and rhetorical style. Students will develop an understanding of unique critical thinking skills, philosophical approaches to political questions, and impromptu speaking strategies and techniques as methods of defending opposing sides of social issues. Students will learn how to research and evaluate evidence, analyze and counter opposing positions, and debate using formal techniques framed by the National Speech and Debate Association. Students will be required to write argumentative speeches, create files of supporting evidence, and participate in multiple debates in class. Students enrolled in this course will also have the opportunity to join the extracurricular debate team at SCPA.

Speech (Elective)**Grade - 9-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** None

Description: Students in this course will explore techniques and strategies for increasing one's comfort with public speaking, while also focusing on the process of speech writing, delivery, and audience engagement. Students will explore a variety of speeches, based on formats used in the extracurricular speech activity and also more basic speech styles. Students will develop listening and critical thinking skills, while also learning to overcome speaking anxiety.

Creative Writing (Elective)**Grade - 10-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** English 9

Description: Students will read a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts while highlighting and determining: "What makes effective writing?" Students will learn to create writing that exemplifies an original, entertaining narrative voice with careful attention to tone, character description and well-constructed dialogue. In addition students will explore a vast variety of writing forms: short story, one-act play, poetry, narrative, and non-fiction memoir, in an effort to analyze and discuss the writer's intentions and the greater themes found in texts (e.g. to inspire, to teach, to illustrate a universal concept).

AP Capstone Seminar (Elective)**Grade - 10-12 1 Full Year –1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** None

Description: AP Capstone Seminar is a year-long course that has students investigate real-world issues from multiple perspectives. Students learn to synthesize information from different sources, develop their own lines of reasoning in research-based written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Curriculum Overview

Graduation Requirements: 4

Course Offerings:

Grade 9 –	Human Geography AP Human Geography*
Grade 10 –	World History AP World History*
Grade 11 –	U.S. History AP U.S. History*
Grade 12 –	United States Economics & Politics AP Government & Politics: United States* AP Microeconomics & Macroeconomics*

Elective Course Offerings:

AP Comparative Government & Politics* – (11-12)
AP Government & Politics: United States* – (11-12)
AP Micro/Macroeconomics* – (11-12)
Comparative World Religions – (9-12)
Psychology – (10-12)
Philosophy – (10-12)
AP Capstone Seminar – (10-12)
American Law – (11-12)

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Course Descriptions

Human Geography

Grade – 9 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: Human Geography is a yearlong course that focuses on the distribution, processes, and effects of human populations on the planet. Units of study include population, migration, culture, language, religion, ethnicity, political geography, economic development, industry, agriculture, and urban geography. Global case studies as well as local examples will be studied as students practice the spatial thinking skills of geographers. Developing note-taking, writing and study skills will also be a focus in this 9th grade course.

AP Human Geography*

Grade – 9 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: AP Human Geography is a yearlong course that focuses on the distribution, processes, and effects of human populations on the planet. Units of study include population, migration, culture, language, religion, ethnicity, political geography, economic development, industry, agriculture, and urban geography. Emphasis is placed on geographic models and their applications. Case studies from around the globe are compared to the situation in both the United States and locally in our state. Students will practice the types of questions and essays found on the AP Human Geography exam. This college-level course prepares students to take the AP Human Geography exam.

World History

Grade – 10 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Geography **Description:** World History is a yearlong course that focuses on the development, dynamics, distribution, and effects of humankind on the planet. We emphasize knowledge of and appreciation for the contributions of both Western and non-Western civilizations from prehistory through modern times. Using primary documents to explore literature, artifacts, and other social sciences, students will practice evaluating sources and crafting arguments to explain historical phenomena. The course is organized around cultural, political, economic, and social themes. Writing, active reading, note-taking skills, and critical thinking skills will also be developed.

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AP World History***Grade – 10 Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** None

Description: AP World History is a yearlong course that emphasizes the development of historical thinking skills alongside the study of global cultures from 10,000 BCE to the present. AP World History focuses on five basic themes in studying history: interactions with the environment, development of cultures, political state building and conflict, creating economic systems, and transforming social structures. Throughout our coverage of world history, from prehistory and the first human settlements to the present age of globalization and technology, we will explore historical time periods through these themes. AP World History will build the skills necessary to be analytical students of history by focusing on the four thinking skills of AP World History: crafting historical arguments using primary sources, applying chronological reasoning, comparing and contrasting historical processes, and evaluating various historical interpretations. This college-level course prepares students to take the AP World History exam.

U.S. History**Grade – 11 Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** None

Description: United States History is a year long course that provides an essential understanding of the formative events that have shaped us as a people. The course is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and ideas that comprise United States history. Building on prior knowledge and course work, U.S. History focuses on specific touchstones, or topics, that have impacted the development of America. These topics are set within their historical context and presented chronologically. The topics focus not simply on political history, but rather give students an understanding of all facets of US History and culture. Students will examine these topics using all of the disciplines of the social sciences (Anthropology, Geography, Economics, Sociology, Psychology, and Political Science) in order to form deep connections to the topics.

AP U.S. History***Grade – 11 Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** None

Description: The AP U.S. History course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in U.S. History. The program prepares students for college courses. Students learn to assess historical materials—their relevance to a given interpretive problem, reliability, and importance—and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. Students will develop an awareness of multiple interpretations of historical issues in secondary sources and be able to compare developments or trends from one period to another. This course prepares students to take the AP United States History exam.

AP Microeconomics/AP Macroeconomics***Grade – 11-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** None

Description: Microeconomics studies the functions of individual decision makers, both consumers and producers, within the economic system. It includes a study of factor markets and the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. Macroeconomics gives students a thorough understanding of the principles of the economic system as a whole. It emphasizes monetary and fiscal policies that affect unemployment and inflation as well as international trade and the value of currency. This college-level course prepares students to take the AP Microeconomics and AP Macroeconomics Exams.

AP Government and Politics: United States***Grade – 11-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** None

Description: This yearlong course focuses on the discussion of problems and characteristics of the modern United States political system. No prior AP course experience is necessary to be successful in this class. The course emphasizes discussion and analysis of key issues in American politics including the relationships between Congress, the President, the Courts and the Bureaucracy; as well as how the media and interest group impact the political system. The course also focuses on campaigns, elections and an in depth look at civil rights and civil liberties. The class is designed to prepare students for college level coursework in political science and related social sciences and includes frequent discussion of political events and application of key concepts in American politics to current political situations. This course prepares students to take the Advanced Placement exam in Government and Politics: United States.

United States Economics and Politics**Grade – 12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** None

Description: This full year course will cover the fundamentals needed to understand how the United States economic and political systems function. Understanding the principles taught in the economics portion of this course will enable students to have a basic knowledge of the workings of the U.S. economy. We highlight the components of basic economic macro and micro principles, and outline micro-economic principles associated with individual businesses and households including trade-offs and scarcity. The macroeconomics concepts we'll explore delve into the Federal Reserve System and issues associated with inflation, unemployment and a worldwide economy. The course builds on a fundamental knowledge of American government and helps students understand the political process and how individual citizens play a vital role in establishing policy. Students will also explore the problems and controversies prevalent in our republic and evaluate solutions and arguments that often come up in political discourse. A realistic appraisal of government and politics is emphasized and critically analyzed in a constructive way.

AP Comparative Government and Politics* (Elective)**Grade – 11-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** None

Description: AP 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 illustrates the rich diversity of political life, shows available institutional alternatives, explains differences in processes and policy outcomes, and communicates to students the importance of global political and economic changes. Six countries form the core of the AP Comparative Government and Politics course: China, Great Britain (EU), Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, and Russia.

Comparative World Religions (Elective)**Grade - 9-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** None

Description: This course is designed as a comparative approach to studying major world religions and belief systems. Intended for students who have a curiosity and interest in building a global perspective on how different societies understand religion. We will initially build our basic understanding of major world religions including (but not limited to): Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. We will also explore the historic spread of these religions, sacred texts and important people, and the development of sacred rituals and geographic spaces. Students are expected to participate in seminars and discussions. Students will also research and compare religious ways of life in the context of our modern world.

Psychology (Elective)**Grade - 10-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** None

Description: This course is designed to introduce students to the study of psychology. The semester course begins with important concepts and the various fields of psychology. Students will build on that foundation as they study different theoretical approaches and research methods. Major subject areas of this course include: biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, state of consciousness, learning, cognition, motivation and emotion, development, personality, abnormal behavior, treatment of psychological disorders, and social behavior.

Philosophy (Elective)**Grade - 10-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** None

Description: There is a stimulating world of ideas that sits hidden behind the dramatic moments of history, behind the timeless characters of literature, behind the great discoveries of science, and even behind the big and small moments of our own lives. That hidden world is Philosophy. Come examine the beliefs and thought processes that shape and guide individuals and cultures. What is moral behavior? What is the nature of good and evil? What is truth? Can we access it? How? What is reality? What is important? In this class, students will study the views of historical thinkers and reflect upon philosophical issues through discussion and writing. Philosophy can be exhilarating and humbling. It stretches your mind and your emotions, it exposes you to different perspectives, and it challenges you to think more clearly and thoroughly. Students will develop the mental habits necessary for carefully considering arguments and thinking independently and they will develop the communication skills necessary to thoughtfully and respectfully criticize and defend their philosophical positions.

American Law (Elective)**Grade - 11-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** None

Students will study and discuss the foundations and primary content of American law — including everything from freedom of speech and the right to be free from unreasonable searches to issues of personal injury, negligence, and criminal activity. Through reading thought-provoking cases and participating in a variety of practical exercises, students will observe and practice legal reasoning — a sophisticated blend of analysis, logic, rhetoric, and creativity. In seeing what law is, how law works, and how law has changed over time, students will gain a new perspective on American history, political debates, and societal change. Students will also gain an appreciation of just how omnipresent law is in daily life.

AP Capstone Seminar (Elective)**Grade - 10-12 1 Full Year –1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** None

Description: AP Seminar is a year-long course that has students investigate real-world issues from multiple perspectives. Students learn to synthesize information from different sources, develop their own lines of reasoning in research-based written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team.

MATHEMATICS

Curriculum Overview

Graduation Requirements: 4

*Rather than progressing by grade level, Math courses follow a content and skill progression.
Refer to the flow chart on the following page to note the Math course sequence.*

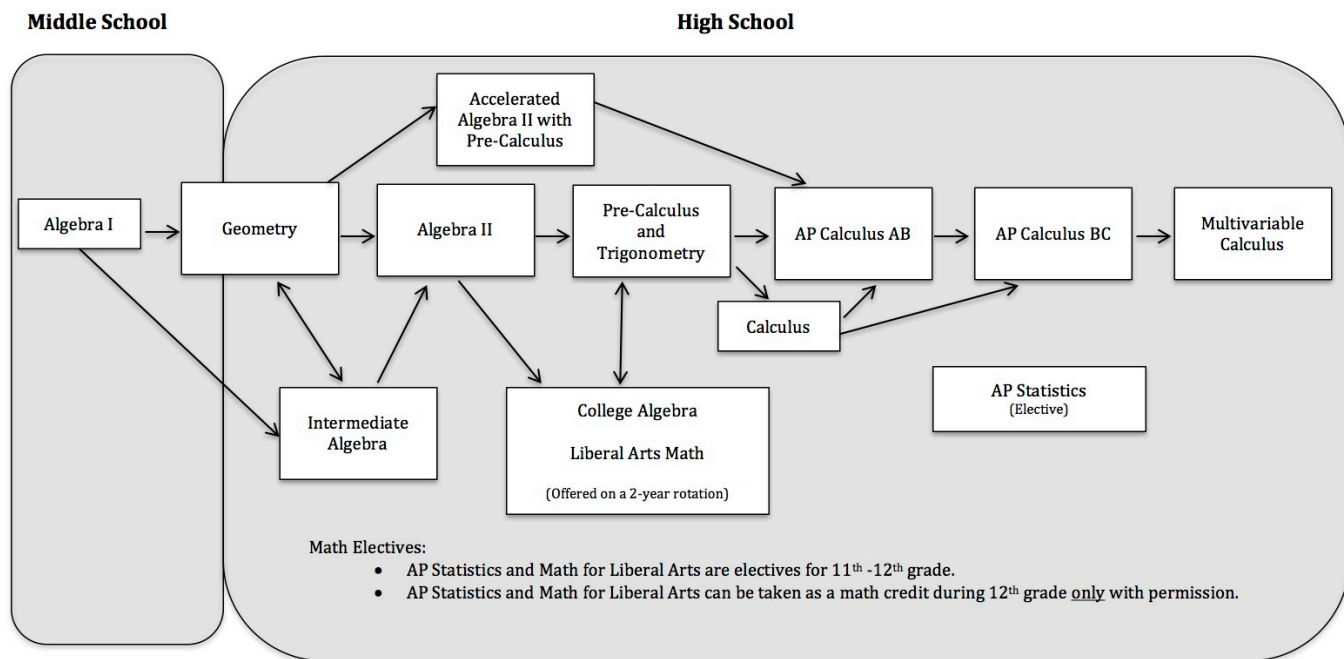
Course Offerings:

Intermediate Algebra
 Geometry
 Algebra II
 Calculus
 Accelerated Algebra II with Pre-Calculus*
 College Algebra
 Pre-Calculus and Trigonometry
 AP Calculus AB*
 AP Calculus BC*
 Multivariable Calculus*

Elective Course Offerings:

AP Statistics *+ - (11-12)
 Computer Science – (10-12)

MATHEMATICS Course Sequence Overview



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MATHEMATICS

Course Descriptions

Intermediate Algebra

Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Teacher recommendation

Description: This course will develop and reinforce algebraic skills. It will begin with a review of the rectangular coordinate system, graphing, and linear functions and move on to other functions, including absolute value, exponential, and quadratic. Students will study data analysis and probability. Further topics will include factoring polynomials, solving systems of equations and inequalities, radicals and rational functions. These topics will be studied using graphic, numeric, symbolic and verbal methods. The course will utilize investigation, projects and presentations to ensure understanding is conveyed through communication.

Geometry

Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Algebra I or Intermediate Algebra

Description: Geometry focuses on spatial relationships, proof, and probability in addition to strengthening algebraic skills. Topics include: transformations, symmetry, relationships between figures, measurements and properties of plane figures, measurements of three-dimensional shapes, tools for analyzing and measuring shapes, and investigation and proof.

Algebra II

Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Algebra I and Geometry

Description: Algebra II covers all topics that are traditionally covered in a second-year algebra course. Real-world problems are included along with application to other subjects. Topics include, but are not limited to, the structure of the real numbers system with an extension into the complex number system, mathematical functions (constant, linear, quadratic, rational, logarithmic, exponential), sequences and series (arithmetic, geometric, quadratic), matrices and determinants, trigonometry, permutations, and probability.

Calculus

Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Pre-Calculus

Description: Calculus is a first year introduction to the topics of calculus including a review of polynomials, trigonometric, exponential, and logarithmic functions followed by a discussion of limits, derivatives, and applications of differential calculus to real-world problems sets. An introduction to integration concludes the course. Upon completion of this course, students are encouraged to take AP Calculus for a more extensive application of Calculus concepts.

Accelerated Algebra II with Pre-Calculus*

Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Geometry and teacher recommendation

Description: This course is intended for the student who would like to participate in an accelerated math sequence. This class combines coursework from Algebra II and Pre-calculus into 1 year of content. Students will deepen their knowledge of functions by analyzing a variety of equations including polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, inverse, and piecewise functions. Students will apply their knowledge of the unit circle and the trigonometric identities to explore advanced trigonometric functions. Additional topics include matrices, vectors, and preparation for Calculus topics such as rates of change and limits.

College Algebra

Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Algebra II

Description: This course will reinforce algebra skills by covering topics such as radicals and rational exponents, factoring polynomials, rational expressions, graphs, solving equations (linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, etc.), linear, polynomial, and rational inequalities, and functions (including inverse functions, exponential functions, and logarithmic functions). Learning outcomes include solving a variety of algebraic equations, creating and understanding graphs, working with a variety of functions and applying a variety of algebraic techniques to real world problems and applications.

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Pre-Calculus with Trigonometry***Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Algebra II

Description: This course fully integrates topics from Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, and Discrete Mathematics. Topics include, but are not limited to: transformations, advanced trigonometry, area under a curve, piecewise functions, exponentials and logarithms, limits, rates of change, vectors and parametric equations, polar and complex numbers, and conic sections.

AP Calculus AB***Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Pre-Calculus

Description: AP Calculus AB is designed for prospective mathematics majors and students interested in engineering, computer science, physics, business, or the life sciences. The course is the equivalent of a first semester college Calculus course. Topics include optimization, limits, differential equations, derivative and integral applications, volumes of revolution, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. Students are encouraged to take the AP Calculus AB exam upon completion.

AP Calculus BC***Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Regular Calculus with teacher recommendation or AP Calculus AB

Description: This course is a continuation of Calculus AB, covering material included in a second semester college Calculus course. The course will also include other advanced mathematical topics such as Differential Equations and Linear Algebra. Students are encouraged to take the AP Calculus BC exam upon completion.

Multivariable Calculus***Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Calculus BC

Description: The material in this course is equivalent to Calculus 3 in a semester college curriculum. Topics include: multivariable functions, three-dimensional analytical geometry, partial derivatives, multiple integrals, curves and surfaces, vector fields, Green's Theorem, Stokes' Theorem, and Divergence Theorem. Applications include but are not limited to science, engineering, economics, and ecology.

AP Statistics*+ (Elective)**Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Algebra II or College Algebra

Description: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. The major themes are exploring data, sampling and experimentation, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference. Students may take the AP Statistics exam upon completion.

Computer Science (Elective)**Grade - 10-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Completed or concurrently enrolled in Pre-Calculus or Accelerated Algebra II

Description: This course is designed to be an introduction to problem solving with computers using the Python programming language. Topics include, but are not limited to: Logical thinking, design, implementation of algorithms and basic programming structures, recursion, object-oriented programming, modularity, and developing programs to solve real world problems.

SCIENCE

Curriculum Overview

Graduation Requirements: 3

Course Offerings:

Grade 9 –	Biology Honors Biology
Grade 10 –	Pre-AP Chemistry (<i>summer course</i>)
Grade 10 –	Chemistry AP Chemistry*
Grade 11 –	Physics AP Physics C: Mechanics*
Grade 12 –	AP Biology* AP Chemistry*

Elective Course Offerings:

Astronomy – (10-12)
Anatomy & Physiology – (11-12)
Biotechnology – (11-12)
AP Physics C: Mechanics* – (11-12)
AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism* – (11-12)
AP Biology* – (11-12)

SCIENCE

Course Descriptions

Biology

Grade - 9 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: Biology will cover elements of the following: biochemistry, cell structure, organelles, mitosis, cancer, meiosis, genetic diversity, mutations, microbiology, molecular genetics, heredity, evolutionary biology, comparative genomics, classification, phylogeny, structure and function of animals, photosynthesis, respiration, plant biology and ecology. Student work will involve book assignments, online assignments, worksheets and projects. Students will develop skills in designing inquiry laboratory activities and writing complete lab reports. Students are expected to engage cooperatively in class discussions and group activities. The level of learning in this course is designed to sufficiently prepare students for AP Biology. The grading for this course is heavily weighted on test scores and completed lab reports or presentations.

Honors Biology Grade 9 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Teacher recommendation

Description: This class covers Biology topics in depth and is an excellent preparatory class for AP Biology, and advanced Biology elective classes. Topics covered include: Biochemistry, Cell Structure and Function, Cellular Energetics, Heredity, Molecular Genetics, Biotechnology, Evolutionary Biology, Classification and Phylogeny, Plant and Animal Physiology and Ecology. Topics are covered to a greater depth than in General Biology and there is an expectation that students have a strong background in algebraic math and graphing. The lab component is a major part of this class with regular in-depth inquiry lab activities that may require formal lab reports. Learning material include textbooks, published research articles and online tutorials. Students are expected to work well in groups for designing studies and analyzing data. Student work will involve book assignments, supplemental online worksheets, labs, quizzes, exams and projects.

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AP Biology***Grade - 11-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Chemistry or AP Chemistry

Description: Students taking AP Biology will be continuing the coverage started in in the introductory Biology class. The course format is aligned with College Board AP Biology required learning for skills and content. Students will investigate concepts including enzyme activity, macromolecule structure and function, cellular energetics, cell cycle and regulation, DNA structure, transcription, translation, molecular genetics, proteomics, evolutionary biology, phylogeny, organismal structure and function and ecology. The lab component is a major part of this class with regular in depth inquiry-based lab activities that require formal lab reports. Student work will involve online book assignments and supplemental worksheets as well as quizzes and exams. Students are expected to work collaboratively on in-class activities and laboratory activities and should expect to dedicate time outside of class hours on learning details of concepts that are introduced in class. We use a college level text and many assignments are associated with the online component of this text. Students should have strong reading skills and be comfortable with online learning programs. Students enrolled in AP Biology are encouraged to take the AP exam in May.

Chemistry**Grade - 10 Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Algebra I and Algebra II or concurrent enrollment

Description: A first year chemistry course covering Scientific Measurement and Problem Solving; Atomic Structure; Chemical Names and Formulas; Chemical Reactions, Balanced Chemical Equations and Stoichiometry; States of Matter; Thermochemistry; Electronic Structure, Periodicity and Bonding; and Solutions, Acids and Bases. Student work will include book assignments, supplemental worksheets, group challenge problem solving, and frequent quizzes. Students should be comfortable with basic algebra before taking this course. Laboratory work will accompany each topic and may require pre-lab preparation and written formal lab reports.

Pre-AP Chemistry (summer course)**Grade - 10 Semester – .50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Algebra I

Description: This course is a completely online, student paced course. It is a graded and transcribed prerequisite for AP Chemistry for those students who have not previously taken standard Chemistry. Students must have access to their own computer and have reliable internet access. This course covers the first four chapters of a college chemistry textbook; therefore, the course should not be taken lightly! Topics include scientific measurement, atomic structure, chemical nomenclature, types of chemical reactions and balancing equations, stoichiometry and solutions. Students must be organized, self-directed, and independent learners. **Students who haven't made satisfactory progress by the midterm date may be dropped from the course per instructor request and moved to standard Chemistry in the fall.** The instructor will be readily available for questions via email or virtual classrooms, and will hold office hours at SCPA weekly for face-to-face support. This course is required for students taking AP Chemistry in the fall unless they have already successfully completed a year of standard Chemistry.

AP Chemistry***Grade - 10 Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Pre-AP Chemistry or Chemistry (full year) with a B- or better and Algebra II or concurrent enrollment

Description: Students entering AP Chemistry should have an understanding of scientific measurement, atomic structure, chemical nomenclature, types of chemical reactions, stoichiometry and solutions. The class will cover the six main topics of: Atoms and Elements, Structure and Properties of Matter, Chemical Reactions, Kinetics, Thermodynamics, and Equilibrium. The lab activities will address each of the main topics of study and most will require formal lab reports. Students are encouraged to keep a lab portfolio. Students completing AP Chemistry are encouraged to sit for the AP exam in the Spring.

Physics**Grade - 11 Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Algebra II

Description: In this course we will study in considerable depth such fundamental physics topics as kinematics, mechanics, energy, momentum, thermodynamics, waves, electricity, magnetism and atomic/nuclear physics. Sound knowledge of algebra and trigonometry is REQUIRED for the course. Some basic calculus concepts will be introduced in connection with physics phenomena (i.e. acceleration, work, impulse), but it is not assumed that students will have taken calculus before or in conjunction with Physics.

AP Physics C: Mechanics***Grade - 11-12 1 Semester –1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Calculus AB or concurrent enrollment

Description: In this course we will study in considerable depth fundamental physics topics in mechanics, including both linear and rotational kinematics and dynamics. Sound knowledge of algebra, trigonometry and calculus is REQUIRED for the course. All students will be well prepared to take the AP Physics C: Mechanics exam.

AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism***Grade - 11-12 Full Year –1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** AP Physics C: Mechanics or Physics with Calculus BC or concurrent enrollment

Description: This course is suggested for seniors who are interested in pursuing a career in the physical sciences. In this course, we will study in considerable depth fundamental physics topics in electricity and magnetism, including Maxwell's Equations. Sound knowledge of algebra, trigonometry and calculus is REQUIRED for the course. All students will be well prepared to take the AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism exam.

Astronomy (Elective)**Grade – 10-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Algebra II

Description: This course will be an exploration of the universe from the center of our solar system through the vast reaches of the stars. Students will investigate objects inside and outside of our solar system, from the beginning of time through far into the future. Topics may vary based on student interest. Regular evening observations and some evening meetings will be required.

Anatomy and Physiology (Elective)**Grade - 11-12 Full Year –1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Biology & Chemistry

Description: Anatomy and Physiology is a survey course of study directed through the anatomical and physiological systems of humans. This laboratory course is designed for students who are interested in health occupations or just interested in how the body works. Students will explore the structure and function of body systems, and how each contributes to the complete homeostasis of the body. Systems of study to include: integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, cardiovascular, digestive, respiratory, excretory, endocrine, and reproductive. Labs include microscope work in cells and histology; labs tracking vital signs with Vernier heart rate monitors, blood pressure cuffs, EKG's, and hands on dissection of organs and/or small, preserved organisms.

Biotechnology (Elective)**Grade - 11-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Biology and Chemistry recommended

Description: Biotechnology is a one-semester laboratory intensive course that will introduce students to the wide variety of techniques that are used to study biological processes. As part of this course, students will learn how to use and operate analytical tools such as micropipets, colorimeters, pH meters, protein and nucleic acid gels. Laboratory activities include: quantifying protein and compound concentrations using standards and unknown samples, evaluating toxicity of different compounds, manipulating genes, digesting DNA samples with restriction enzymes, determining DNA fragment sizes, separating proteins and evaluating transcriptional regulation of specific genes in bacteria. Students will be expected to design their own studies using these methods to answer biological questions. A significant portion of the grade will be based on successfully completing these lab activities in a group environment and writing complete lab reports. In addition, students will be expected to learn and explain the principles of how the equipment works. There will be several major writing assignments outside of lab reports that will contribute to the final grade.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Curriculum Overview Graduation Requirements: 2

Course Offerings:

Grade 9-12 –	Latin I Latin II Spanish I Spanish II Spanish I-II
Grade 10-12 –	Latin III Spanish III Spanish II-III
Grade 11-12 –	Honors Latin IV Honors Spanish IV AP Spanish

WORLD LANGUAGES

Course Descriptions

World Language Courses are yearlong and may not be dropped mid-year.

Latin I (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: This course begins a two-year sequence designed to introduce students to the vocabulary and grammar of the Latin language. Daily readings, vocabulary study and translation will be the focus of homework, while class time will be spent mastering such grammar concepts as basic verb conjugation and noun declension, the use of case endings, giving commands, the agreement of adjectives and the formation of adverbs. Successful completion of the course will find students able to read basic Latin texts.

Latin II (Elective)

Grade - 10-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Latin I

Description: Latin II is a continuation of the grammar and vocabulary introduced in Latin I. Students will find daily readings longer and more complex as instruction centers around conjugation of all verb tenses in both the active and passive voices, the declension of all noun families, the use of participles and infinitives, the construction of indirect statements, the comparison of adjectives and adverbs, and the use of irregular verbs, among other topics. Students will explore passages in both modified and unabridged Latin.

Honors Latin IV: Ovid, Horace and Catullus (Elective)

Grade – 11-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Latin III

Description: This Latin literature course focuses not just on reading and translating Latin, but also on understanding, analyzing and interpreting the literature. Students will acquaint themselves with the epic and love poetry of Ovid, Horace and Catullus and become familiar with the times and circumstances under which these poets lived. Mythology and ancient religion will be a major theme of the course, as students will be reading in its entirety in English Ovid's mythological masterpiece, "the Metamorphoses", and translating passages as well. The year will end with an analysis of the life of Julius Caesar in preparation for Latin V.

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Spanish I (Elective)	Grade - 9-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit
Prerequisite/s: None	
Description: Students explore the Spanish language and cultures of the people who speak this modern world language. Emphasis is placed upon communicating in the target language about familiar themes including self, school, food, past times, family, house, and clothing.	
Spanish II (Elective)	Grade - 9-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit
Prerequisite/s: Spanish I or instructor approval	
Description: Students continue to explore the language and the cultures of the people who speak this modern world language. Students continue to develop their ability to understand spoken and written Spanish with emphasis placed upon authentic texts and materials. Communication will take place in the target language in regards to the following themes; self, school, daily routines, shopping, community, emergencies, cooking, and travel.	
Accelerated Spanish II-III (Elective)	Grade: 10-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit
Prerequisite/s: Spanish I-II or instructor approval	
Description: Students continue to explore the language and the cultures of the people who speak this modern world language. Students further their ability to understand spoken and written Spanish with emphasis placed upon authentic texts and materials. Upon completion of this course students will have earned two credits and are eligible to take Spanish IV.	
Spanish III (Elective)	Grade - 10-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit
Prerequisite/s: Spanish I, II	
Description: Students will utilize their previously acquired language skills in order to work towards fluency in the target language. Through the study of thematic vocabulary and advanced grammatical structures, students will develop their command of language through a multitude of presentational styles.	
Honors Spanish IV (Elective)	Grade - 11-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit
Prerequisite/s: Successful completion of Spanish through level III	
Description: Students will improve and refine their previously acquired language skills. Emphasis will be placed upon the integration of authentic materials to facilitate class discussions, writing and reading tasks, and comprehension of practices and products of the target culture.	
AP Spanish (Elective)	Grade - 11-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit
Prerequisite/s: Successful completion of Spanish through level IV	
Description: AP Spanish will complete an advanced placement curriculum, which will include the reading and writing of authentic Spanish texts, as well as various discussions in the target language. Students will be required to complete presentations in the target language in order to strengthen presentational speaking skills and verbal communication. Students are encouraged to take the AP exam in May.	

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FINE ARTS

Curriculum Overview Graduation Requirements: 2

Course Offerings: Music - Full Year

Grade 9-12 – Symphonic Band
Concert Band
Jazz Band
Prep Choir
Bel Canto Women's Choir
Collaborative Piano
Concert Orchestra
Chamber Orchestra
Grades 10-12 – Chamber Choir

Course Offerings: Fine Arts

Grade 9-12 – Drawing I
Drawing II
Digital Photo I
Painting I
Yearbook
Drama
Grade 10-12 – Ancient Art History
Modern Art History
Ceramics I
Ceramics II
Grade 11-12 – Art Seminar

FINE ARTS

Music Course Descriptions

All Music courses that are yearlong may not be dropped mid-year.

Symphonic Band (Elective)

Grade - 9-10 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Entrance determined by audition and director approval

Description: This performing ensemble is open to students in grades 7-10 who play woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Students will develop their technical and musical abilities on their instruments through scale studies, rhythm exercises, chorales, and full band pieces. Students are assessed in playing tests, written exercises, and concert performances. Students participate in three band concerts throughout the year, one pep band performance, and also have opportunities to perform chamber music and/or solos. Students will also participate in small group lessons.

Concert Band (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Entrance determined by audition and director approval

Description: This advanced performing ensemble is open to students in grades 9-12 who play woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Students will work toward competency in all areas of music (performing, composing, conducting, listening, discussing) so that they understand what they play and why. The band will develop technical skills through the use of scale studies, rhythm exercises, and chorales. These skills will be put to use in the performance of quality repertoire, which ranges from band classics to modern compositions. Students are assessed with playing tests, written exercises, listening homework, and performances. There are three full band concerts during the year and a performance at the MSHSL Large Group Contest, as well as opportunities for students to perform chamber music and/or solos. Private lessons outside school are strongly encouraged.

Jazz Band (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: At least 2 years playing on registered instrument and director approval

Description: Jazz Band covers the music considered America's art form with a foundation in blues and swing music through Latin, funk, and other styles. Students also study jazz theory and improvisation. The group performs at SCPA, in the community, and at regional jazz festivals. Private lessons outside of school are strongly encouraged.

Prep Choir (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: This is a non-auditioned, mixed choir of women and men. Singers will develop skills in sight-singing, reading music notation, choral score reading, singing technique, choral blend and artistry, music theory/history, and team building. The Prep Choir will study and sing a wide variety of musical styles and perform in 3-4 concerts during the year. Choir members will have the opportunity to audition for various MN Honors Choirs.

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Bel Canto Women's Choir (Elective)**Grade - 9-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** By audition and director approval

Description: The Bel Canto Choir is an auditioned ensemble group of 9th-12th grade women. Membership is based on musicianship skills, ear training, ability to sing independently and work ethic. Singers will focus on singing technique, blend, balance, intonation, and musical independence. This choir will learn rigorous material and repertoire will span a variety of styles. Singers will receive individual voice lessons on a rotating schedule to work on solo repertoire. Participation at concerts is required and participation in the section Solo and Ensemble contest is strongly encouraged. Extra singing opportunities including guest clinicians, short, traveling performances, contests, and retreats will also be scheduled throughout the year.

Chamber Choir (Elective)**Grade – 10-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** By audition and director approval

Description: The Chamber Choir is an auditioned ensemble group of 10-12th grade women and men. Membership is based on musicianship skills, ear training, ability to sing independently and work ethic. Members of the Chamber Choir will also participate in a Men's or Women's Ensemble on a rotating day basis. Singers will focus on singing technique, blend, balance, intonation, and musical independence. This choir will learn rigorous material and repertoire will span a variety of styles. Singers will receive individual voice lessons on a rotating schedule to work on solo repertoire. Participation at concerts is required and participation in the section Solo and Ensemble contest is strongly encouraged. Extra singing opportunities including guest clinicians, short, traveling performances, contests, and retreats will also be scheduled throughout the year.

Collaborative Piano**Grade - 9-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Enrolled by audition and must be studying with a private teacher or have had private lessons

Description: Collaborative Piano is a course for advanced piano players who wish to gain experience in accompanying. Students will receive instruction to accompany both instrumental and vocal groups and solos. They will learn techniques to follow directors, musicians, as well as harmonize a melodic line, compose choral accompaniment and lead sectional rehearsals. Students will accompany choirs/ensembles during the school day; as well have the opportunity to accompany groups at concerts, festivals, and solo and ensemble contests.

Concert Orchestra (Elective)**Grade - 9-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Entrance determined by audition and director approval

Description: This performing ensemble is open to students in grades 9-12 who play violin, viola, cello, or bass. Students will develop their technical and musical abilities on their instrument through scales, rhythm studies, shifting, vibrato, and string ensemble pieces. Students are assessed with playing tests, written exercises, listening homework and concert performances. Students participate in three orchestra concerts through the year and a field trip to MSHSL Large Ensemble Contest. Private lessons outside school are strongly recommended.

Chamber Orchestra (Elective)**Grade - 9-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Entrance determined by audition and director approval

Description: This advanced performing ensemble is open to students in grades 9-12 who play violin, viola, cello, or bass. Students will focus on musical phrasing and technique on their instrument through advanced repertoire that requires shifting, vibrato and high-level bow technique. Students are assessed with playing tests, written exercises, listening homework and concert performances. Students participate in 3-5 concerts through the year and a field trip to MSHSL Large Ensemble Contest. Private lessons outside school are strongly recommended.

FINE ARTS

Course Descriptions

Drawing I (Elective)**Grade - 9-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** None

Description: This course is designed for the student who is interested in building their technical skills in drawing, direct observation and compositional space. Students will become proficient in a variety of drawing media such as; charcoal, ink, pastel, conte, graphite, and mixed media. Each student will develop a working knowledge of compositional space, still life, landscape, portraiture, as well as artists and historical concepts that have shaped the way we view the art of drawing today. This class will rely heavily on the art of seeing and help students to become more proficient at direct observation techniques as well as working with appropriated images. This is an excellent class for the student who loves to draw and wants to learn the techniques and materials to become more successful in this field.

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Drawing II (Elective)**Grade - 9-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Drawing I or letter of recommendation from previous school and digital images of student's previous work**Description:** This course builds upon the techniques, tools, and media that students worked with throughout their semester in Beginning Drawing. Students will continue to enhance their understanding and technical skills by adding more skill, depth, and concept to the images they are working with. Students will be pushed to find their personal style, study major trends and influences in contemporary art while working on a variety of the following solutions: portraiture, personal statement drawings, mixed media, a major artist study, a collaborative drawing, and a series of drawings related to a common theme.**Painting I (Elective)****Grade - 9-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Drawing I**Description:** This course is designed to engage and introduce the beginning level student with a wide variety of painting techniques and important historical periods in painting. Historical periods from the Renaissance through Modern Art as well as color theory, tempera, watercolor, acrylic, fresco, and oil techniques will be considered. Students will study color, composition, landscape, city scape, still life, abstraction, working from photographs and working plein air to develop their final pieces.**Ceramics I (Elective)****Grade – 10-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** 5th-8th grade art with Mr. Sorenson or Drawing I**Description:** This class is designed to enhance the technical, functional, historical and aesthetic understanding of working with clay. Students taking this class will study a variety of hand building and wheel throwing methods alongside historical trends and influences of functional and sculptural clay methods and ceramic artists. The semester will cover pinch, coil, slab, glaze chemistry, firing methods, and some wheel throwing. Students will study the Bauhaus and Mingei traditions.**Ceramics II (Elective)****Grade - 10-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Ceramics I**Description:** This class is designed to build upon the skills and techniques learned during Ceramics I. Students will go into greater depth with their knowledge about glazes, wheel throwing techniques, hand building methods, and clay history. They will do some independent work and create a body of pieces displaying throwing or hand building methodology. Research of potters and ceramics history is presented alongside clay making. Visits to pottery studios or galleries is also a part of this class. This is about making functional, and non-functional forms in a very hands-on approach to clay.**Art Seminar (Elective)****Grade - 11-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Drawing I, Painting I, and one other art class, or instructor approval**Description:** This class is a second semester course for the advanced art student. It is designed for a junior who is interested in taking AP Studio in their senior year, or wants an art class that will enhance their art skills and techniques. It is designed for the senior who is interested in a class that will allow them to learn new techniques as well as work on independent projects and broaden their depth of knowledge from what they have learned in previous art classes. The class will be a mixed media approach and offer a variety of subject areas that may include but are not limited to, painting, printmaking, drawing, clay, textiles, and design. We will also be covering some art historical trends and influences of the contemporary world.**Ancient Art History (Elective)****Grade - 10-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Completion of two prior art courses**Description:** Explore art in a historical context. Examine ancient images and their purpose within cultures from pre-history to early 1500's. Interested in learning about a variety of cultures, religions and the purpose of art regarding them? This is the class for you! This course is a great introduction to art's origins. The goals of this course are for students to look at art critically and with intelligence, and analyze what they see. Understanding art in its historical context is a key component of this class.**Modern Art History (Elective)****Grade - 10-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Completion of two prior art courses**Description:** A modern examination of art in a historical context. Looking at art from the 1500's to the modern day and the purpose of art in cultures, religions and individuals across time and the world. The goals of this course are for students to look at art critically and with intelligence, and analyze what they see. Understanding art in its historical context is a key component of this class.

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Yearbook (Elective)**Grade - 9-12 Full Year –1.0 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Completed Application and instructor approval**Description:** Students interested in constructing the SCPA Yearbook will have an opportunity to develop their graphic design and leadership skills, explore journalism and photography while adhering to timely deadlines. Students will become skilled in using Balfour StudioWorks software. This class can be taken each year. Students interested in joining yearbook should fill out an application for the course and submit it with their schedule request to the Upper School office. Applications will be made available in the Upper School Office.**Digital Photography I (Elective)****Grade - 9-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** None**Description:** Introduction to Digital Photography is a course designed to introduce students to the camera, software, and printing methods used in the medium of photography today. Students will learn how to use different settings with their cameras to create personal imagery and will begin to develop a visual vocabulary to discuss and write about photography.**Drama (Elective) (Fine Arts Credit)****Grade - 9-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** None**Description:** This course provides a hands-on study of Drama through the performance of one act plays. During the course, students will learn the fundamental practices, principles, and techniques associated with all aspects of theater including: script analysis and selection, audition process, set/costume design and construction, directing, and acting. Based on each student's skills and interest, students will participate in various roles onstage and backstage culminating in performances. This class can be taken for credit more than once.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

Curriculum Overview

Graduation Requirements: 1

<u>Course Offerings:</u>	
Grade 9-12 –	Physical Education/Health Recreational Sports First Aid and CPR
Grade 10-12 –	Weights & Conditioning Team Sports Fall Team Sports Spring Fitness for Girls Hybrid Personal Fitness

PHYSICAL EDUCATION Course Descriptions

Physical Education/Health

Grade - 9-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: This class will focus on refining skills for a variety of lifelong fitness activities while increasing comprehension of the sport, play and teamwork. Fitness is the core focus. Students will run the mile, test their core strength, and measure their flexibility in the fall and spring. Health Education will also be worked into this course. *It is preferred that this course be taken as a freshman or sophomore.*

Recreational Sports (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: This course will explore various recreational sports and leisure activities in a more relaxed environment. Some of the activities included are archery, yard games, badminton/pickle ball, volleyball, winter outdoor activities, bowling and more.

First Aid and CPR (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: This course is a great opportunity for those who may be interested in a career in the health field, babysitters, athletes and those who want the experience. Students will learn proper first aid for common injuries, burns, treatment of a choking victim and much more. Knowing CPR can save a life in cardiac arrest situations. In this course students will become American Red Cross first aid and CPR/AED certified. Training will be hands on and classroom based.

Fitness for Girls (Elective)

Grade - 10-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: This course is designed for girls only who are looking to explore a variety of different workout options. It will emphasize personal fitness through strength training, cross training and cardiovascular training. Some of activities will include weights, yoga, pilates, kick boxing and much more.

Weights and Conditioning (Elective)

Grade - 10-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Physical Education/Health

Description: This is a great course to stay on top of or improve your physical fitness. Students will set personal fitness goals and work to achieve them during the semester. As we work to achieve those goals, we will explore different types of workouts and training methods including circuit training, 5K training and various other programs.

*If being ready to apply to a certain type of college is important to you, please see the **asterisk** * next to courses throughout the Upper School Curriculum Guide that highlight courses that selective and highly selective colleges and universities will be looking for on your high school transcript.*

Team Sports Fall (Elective)**Grade - 10-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** None

Description: In this course students gain instruction and strategies to participate in various team sports during the fall season. Some of the sports will include soccer, football, volleyball, team handball, floor hockey and much more. The concepts of cooperation, teamwork and sportsmanship are stressed.

Team Sports Spring (Elective)**Grade - 10-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** None

Description: In this course students gain instruction and strategies to participate in various team sports during the spring season. Some of the sports will include team handball, basketball, softball, cricket and much more. The concepts of cooperation, teamwork and sportsmanship are stressed.

Hybrid Personal Fitness (Elective)**Grade - 10-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit****Prerequisite/s:** Physical Education/Health

Description: ***This class will be offered zero hour.*** Students will be able to develop an understanding of fitness concepts and design a personal fitness program while developing an individualized level of health-related fitness. Students will work to improve cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and endurance. Some areas to be covered will be nutrition, anatomy and physiology, fitness principles, and more. There will also be an emphasis on yoga.

SERVICE PROJECT

Course Description

Graduation Requirement: .50 Credit

Service Project

Grade - 9-11 Each Year –.10 Credit

Prerequisite(s): None

Grade - 12 Grad Year –.20 Credit

Description: With character as a primary component of SCPA’s mission, we believe “community” service is a part of character development. Each student has the responsibility and opportunity to give back. Therefore, every student in high school is expected to complete 50 hours of “community” service in order to graduate from St. Croix Prep.

Ten hours are required in each grade 9-11 and 20 hours in grade 12. The service project(s) can be done during the school year or the summer before that year begins. The grade level advisor must approve the project(s). Projects should NOT be raising money for something by asking parents, etc. It should require the student DOING something for someone or an agency. A project sheet is to be filled out by the student and signed by the advisor prior to commencement of the project and signed by the supervisor (the person for whom the project is being done) certifying the project has been completed. The sheet(s) is then turned into the student’s advisor.

ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATION

Course Description

Graduation Requirement: 1.0 Credit

High School Speech/Presentation

Grade - 9-12 Each Year –.25 Credit

Prerequisite(s): Previous years speech/performance

Each year every student in the Upper School will present a speech, performance or project that was part of his/her goal setting at the beginning of the year or represents some significant learning that year. For seniors this presentation is meant to encompass something of importance over your high school experience. The presentation may take many forms. It can be a performance, dance, playing an instrument, singing, or a speech. It will be done some time during the senior year in front of the senior class and other invited guests.

SCPA School Assistant

Course Description

SCPA School Assistant

Grade - 9-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit or Service Hours

Prerequisite(s): None

Description: SCPA School Assistants assist faculty and staff with the day-to-day duties of conducting the business of the school. Qualified student candidates are mature, responsible and productive. SCPA School Assistants must be punctual, trustworthy and pay attention to detail on a daily basis. A student may take this course to meet their service hours requirement or for course credit. It is not possible to earn both credit and service hours simultaneously.

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