

Maur Hill - Mount Academy

COURSE CATALOG



Live the Faith—Pursue the Truth—Strive for Excellence

2024-2025

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THEOLOGY

Studying Theology at MH-MA will foster a deep understanding and love of the Catholic faith, empowering students to live out their vocation as disciples of Christ. We are dedicated to providing a faith-centered education that emphasizes both the intellectual and spiritual dimensions of the Catholic tradition. Through catechetical instruction, sacramental life, prayer, service, and retreats, we aim to cultivate a community of faith, charity, and moral integrity so students may grow in holiness and engage with the world in accordance with Christ's teachings.

Theology Four years of Theology credit are required	
Old Testament New Testament Personal Morality Social Morality	Sacraments & Vocations Church History Christian Apologetics

Introduction to Catholicism

This course is designed for international students to better understand the everyday life of a Christian. We will examine everyday decisions and how a Christian would respond. We will study the 10 commandments, beatitudes and virtues. We will examine how these ideas apply with natural law. We will study the lives of saints and people in today's society that exhibit great virtue. We will spend time in this course putting what we learn into action through service projects both for the school and community. The goal for this course is for each student to have a mutual respect and understanding for a Christian Lifestyle.

Prerequisite: First- year ESL student or Non-Christian student

Religion I: The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture

Old Testament (1st semester)

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. In this course students will understand that Jesus Christ is the ultimate Revelation to us from God. In learning about who he is, the students will also learn who he calls them to be. This course is to give students a general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. Through their study of the Bible they will come to encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. They will learn about the Bible, authored by God through Inspiration, and its value to people throughout the world. If they have not been taught this earlier, they will learn how to read the Bible and will become familiar with the major sections of the Bible and the books included in each section. During a significant part of this semester, the students will focus more on the Old Testament, and in particular the meaning of the covenant. This study of scripture is designed to project a sense of the unity of the narrative for the divine plan of salvation, the presence of God's action in this record of his Revelation, and his desire to share his merciful love with us.

Prerequisite: Freshman Year or returning student who has completed both Introduction courses

New Testament (2nd semester)

As a continuation of the previous semester, this course is to help students understand everything God has done for us through his Son, Jesus Christ. Students will learn that for all eternity, God has planned for us to share eternal happiness with him which is accomplished through the Redemption Christ won for us. Thus, the students will pay particular attention to the Gospels, where they may grow to know and love Jesus Christ more personally. Students will also be introduced to what it means to be a disciple of Christ as well as all that is included in the life of a disciple of Christ with a focus on the moral implications for the life of a believer and importance of prayer in the life of a believer.

Religion II: Morality

Personal Morality (1st semester)

The purpose of this course is to help students understand that it is only through Christ that they can fully live out God's plans. Through this course they will learn how to make good decisions by understanding freedom, conscience, law, sin, the ten commandments, etc. They also will study how Jesus Christ is the norm for Christian Morality. Throughout the class they learn about specific moral dilemmas to discuss how we should respond and why. At the end of this semester and the beginning of the next semester, they will study the *Theology of the Body*. In studying Pope John Paul II's compelling vision for love and life, the students will learn about their own bodies, issues on sexual morality, and how they are uniquely created for greatness.

Prerequisite: Sophomore year or student who has taken Religion I & II or recommendation of previous instructor

Social Morality (2nd semester)

Catholic Social Morality is intended to teach us how to have dignity of the human person through identifying Christian virtues and moral principles found in both Scripture and Tradition. Students will study how each human deserves dignity, how we are called to care for God's great creation and finally what our role is in accomplishing these tasks. They will explore the need for forgiveness and compassion based on the teachings of Christ in a world filled with sin. They will analyze great saints of the Church who have exemplified a great commitment to loving others with a compassionate heart. And finally we will discern ways to demonstrate love of neighbors in our school, community and world.

Religion III: Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the Church

Church History (1st semester)

The purpose of this course is to help the students understand that in and through the Church they encounter the Living Jesus Christ. They will be introduced to the fact that the Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by him through the Holy Spirit. The students will come to know that the Church is the living Body of Christ today. This Body has both Divine and human elements. Students will develop an understanding of the origin of the Church starting with the founding by Christ and tracing its development up to the modern age. Students will learn to engage the difficult or troubling events of the Church, and be able to answer pressing questions about the history of the Church. Students are also to develop knowledge of the saints of the Church as witnesses and examples for us to emulate.

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior year or ESL student or Non-Christian student who has taken Religion I & II. Junior and senior students are in a two-year cycle for religion classes.

Sacraments & Vocations (2nd semester)

The purpose of this course is to lead students on an understanding of what grace is and how God dispenses it to mankind. Students will experience that they can encounter Christ today in a full and real way in and through the sacraments and liturgies of the Church, especially through the Eucharist. Each sacrament will be examined in detail so as to learn how they may encounter Christ throughout life. This includes the basic elements of each sacrament, its history, and how it is currently practiced today. While all vocations do not have a corresponding sacrament, the student will also study the various vocations of the Church. The student will have opportunities to engage in the Liturgies of the Church in class and extra credit opportunities will be offered outside of class. This class is intended to provide both Catholic and non-Catholic students with a thorough understanding of essential Catholic doctrines and to prepare them for a Christian life lived in the world.

Religion IV: Apologetics

Christian Apologetics

Christian Apologetics is a class designed to give the student an opportunity to study in great detail the compelling reasons that the Church believes with certainty that the Christian faith is true. This course will attempt to build a case for Christianity, starting with the existence of God. Students will learn the logical arguments for the assertions of the Creed and the central doctrines of Christianity as they pursue their apologetic approach to the faith, an approach that seeks to explain the Truths of the Christian faith to others. Finally, students will study the major differences between Protestantism and Catholicism, and learn the Scriptural, Traditional, and logical arguments behind each.

ENGLISH

The study of English and communication guides students toward a deeper understanding of Truth by exploring themes of literature that encompass the human experience. Courses build a progression of competence in writing, reading, speaking, and critical analysis which foster an appreciation for reading and the ability to write with clarity and purpose. Courses emphasize the values of faith, morality, and ethical reflection as students engage with classic and contemporary texts. Students will learn to analyze literature, appreciate different perspectives, and explore literature as an expression of the human experience.

Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
English I Honors English I	English II Honors English II	English III Honors English III	English IV College Composition + Literature
Electives (Any Year)			
Speech Communications* (.5 credits)			

* Graduation requirement for class of 2028 and beyond

English I

English I is a comprehensive survey course designed for Maur Hill- Mount Academy. This course aims to develop students' reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills through the exploration of various literary genres including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama. Students develop written communication skills through literary analysis and write five-paragraph essays by the end of the second semester.

Honors English I

Honors English I focuses on the study of the following language arts areas: English grammar, usage, and punctuation, writing skills, vocabulary study, genres of literature, literature analysis, oral presentation skills, research skills, and word processing. The content of each area stresses the basic principles and skills necessary to ensure effective reading and writing. Students are expected to show initiative, to pursue materials in depth, and to exceed average work standards. Students will demonstrate mastery and depth of knowledge on English I content, by rigorous discussion and analysis, exemplary essays and written responses to the analysis, and critical thinking for understanding various pieces of literature and writing.

English II

English II focuses on the study of the following language arts areas: English grammar, usage and punctuation, writing skills, vocabulary study, genres of literature, literature analysis, rhetorical analysis, oral presentation, and research skills. Through the study of American Literature, the skills of effective reading and writing are fostered as learners engage in class discussions, papers, and various application assignments. Learners will pursue knowledge through rigorous, in-depth analysis of literature, language, and composition.

Honors English II

Honors English II focuses on the study of the following language arts areas: English grammar, usage and punctuation, writing skills, vocabulary study, genres of literature, literature analysis, rhetorical analysis, oral presentation, and research skills. Through the study of American Literature, the skills of effective reading and

writing are fostered as learners engage in class discussions, papers, and various application assignments. Learners will pursue knowledge through rigorous, in-depth analysis of literature, language, and composition. Reading homework expectations are enhanced in an Honors course to allow for a faster instructional pace, and reading instruction is focused on analysis and stylistic evaluation across texts.

English III

English III focuses on the study of the following language arts areas: English grammar, usage, and punctuation, writing skills, vocabulary study, genres of literature, literature analysis, rhetorical analysis, oral presentation skills, research skills, and word processing. English III is part two of a two-year study of American Literature. This class will study American Literature from the 1800s-the present. The content of each area stresses the basic principles and skills necessary to ensure effective reading and writing. Students are expected to show initiative and to pursue materials in depth.

Honors English III

Honors English III focuses on the study of the following language arts areas: English grammar, usage, punctuation, writing skills, vocabulary study, genres of literature, literature analysis, rhetorical analysis, oral presentation skills, research skills, and word processing. The content of each area stresses the basic principles and skills necessary to ensure effective reading and writing. Honors English III is part two of a two-year study of American Literature. This class will study American Literature from the 1800s-the present. Honors English III will push students to pursue knowledge through a more rigorous and in-depth analysis of writings, assignments, and their applications. Students are expected to show initiative, pursue materials in-depth, and exceed average work standards. Prerequisite: Must have earned at least a B in English II, or on the recommendation of the instructor

English IV

English IV focuses on the study of the following language arts areas: English grammar, usage, and punctuation, writing skills, vocabulary study, genres of literature, literature analysis, rhetorical analysis, oral presentation skills, research skills, and word processing. The first semester of English IV will focus on writing composition. The second semester will be a study in genres of writing (novel, poetry, short stories, drama). The content of each area stresses the basic principles and skills necessary to ensure effective reading and writing. Students are expected to show initiative and to pursue materials in depth.

Speech

This course is designed to provide the fundamentals of speech preparation and delivery based on the five canons of rhetorical composition. A minimum of eight graded speeches (2-10 min. in length) are required. The main emphasis is on informative speaking. Assignments include demonstration, visual aid, reporting and special occasion speeches. Impromptu delivery techniques, reading from a manuscript, and memorizing are included.

College English for Seniors on the Honors Track

These courses are offered for college credit from a partnering institution. The first semester (English Composition) focuses on college-level writing skills (style, form, and content) with strong emphasis on writing as a process. Students will write various types of essays in which they will generate original theses supported by text evidence. The second semester (Introduction to Literature) provides an introduction to literature by types of genres: selected fiction, poetry, and drama. Selected texts are drawn from British and American authors across various periods and genres. Papers of response and criticism regarding the various genres are required. These are dual-credit courses, meaning the credit will be awarded for both high school and college, provided that all grade requirements are met. The tuition cost for college credits is the responsibility of the family.

College English Composition (3 College Credits)

This is an intensive course in expository writing, required of all students except those achieving exceptional scores on the College Level Examination Program tests or other tests designed by the department. Some attention is given to basic skills, but primary emphasis is on effective communication. The major modes of discourse and the fundamentals of research are covered thoroughly.

Prerequisite: Must have earned at least a 3.25 GPA, or on the recommendation of the instructor

Introduction to Literature (3 College Credits)

This course provides an introduction to literature by types of genres: selected fiction, poetry, and drama. The course may also devote attention to specific plays and films presented on campus during the semester. The literature is drawn from British and American authors, as well as authors in translation, and represents various periods as well as works produced by men and women of different races and creeds. Papers of response and criticism regarding the various genres are required.

Prerequisite: Must have earned at least a 3.25 GPA, or on the recommendation of the instructor

FINE ARTS

This department includes music (vocal and instrumental) and the arts (visual, fine, creative, and performing) as a means for MH-MA students to explore and practice their God-given talents through creative experiences. Through the study of fine arts, students grow in their understanding of God by exploring the beauty of His work in ways that evoke wonder, awe, and gratitude for creation.

Fine Arts Electives Taken any year - 1 credit required for graduation	
Band	History of Sacred Music
Ceramics	Introduction to Piano
Choir	Music Appreciation
Debate	Painting
Drawing	Photography
Film	Sculpture
Forensics	Theater
Foundations of Art	Yearbook
Graphic Design	

Band

Through this course, students will study foundational music theory and have the opportunity to express and develop their musical talents in various performances throughout the year. Members of the band are required to have previous experience in band or playing an instrument. We play a variety of literature including, but not limited to the following: concert band, pep band, and jazz. Students' daily participation is essential for further developing musicianship. Performances are mandatory and include band concerts, pep assemblies, and basketball games. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in regional and state levels of performance through solos, small ensembles, and concert band.

Ceramics

In this course, ceramic students begin a study of three-dimensional form and process by exploring the material qualities of clay. Students use traditional hand-building methods of slab construction, coiling and pinching and then progress to basic wheel throwing technology. Learning how to wedge, center, shape, finish, glaze, and fire, complete the semester's production. This beginning level emphasizes a set of skills for working in the studio and builds a foundation for critical thinking necessary to evaluate ceramic works, explore artistic intent and better understand the design of functional objects.

Choir

The high school concert choir class is designed for students to apply musical skills as they continue to create and experience music as a musical ensemble. Students will continue developing mastery of scales, and 4 part harmonies. Students will convey musical interpretation with the use of dynamics and phrasing, while incorporating facial expression and movement for refined presentation. Students will understand how a musical composition is structured through listening and analysis. Students will be able to aurally and visually identify repetition in musical scores. Students will continue to develop an understanding and appreciation of the differences in music from other cultures and the connections music brings to people, places and time. The topics in this class will provide a strong basis for the continuation of their music skills as the high school age student continues on their path to becoming a life-long participant of music.

Debate

This is a general study of the techniques of interscholastic debate. Students are involved in detailed and extensive analysis of debate theory and technique with application of skills in competition. Help in guiding and developing novice debaters is an inherent part of the class work. Participation in the interscholastic Debate/Forensics program is a requirement. This course may be repeated for additional credit.

Drawing

This course is concerned with developing visual, aesthetic, and technical skills. Through a variety of drawing media students learn to solve the traditional and contemporary problems of pictorial composition. Students will focus on the Principles and Elements of Art, as well as the application of those components to their artwork. Students are expected to take creative risks and cultivate a strong critical awareness.

Film

This course provides an introduction to the art and practice of filmmaking. Students analyze the components of a film and examine the tools of filmmaking, including the camera, script, sound equipment, and editing software.

Forensics

This course is a detailed study of forensic speaking including extemporaneous speaking, oration, interpretation of literature, and debate. There is an emphasis on understanding various forensic speaking formats and the importance of applying reasoning, research, and delivery skills. Critical thinking is a major component of this course.

Foundations of Art

This preparatory art course explores many areas of the visual arts. In this course students will survey the nature of art and the language of visual experience. The first semester of classes will focus mainly on art in two dimensions, the second in art in three dimensions. They will be introduced to art criticism and evaluation, and will become well acquainted with basic drawing skills. The emphasis of the course will be student familiarity of terminology and concepts, exposure to a variety of art tools and materials, and student acknowledgement of the many purposes and functions of art in our world.

Graphic Design

Students will be introduced to modern and traditional methods and techniques used in graphic design. During this semester long course students will be taught the basic elements and principles of composition. They will explore the world of typography and will explore the "how to's" of layout. In this course, students will become acquainted with the computer based graphic software, Photoshop. The emphasis of the course will be on student problem solving skills, creativity, and professionalism. Students will contribute to the MH-MA yearbook and will help in promoting various school activities.

History of Sacred Music

This course provides a survey of the historical role of music in worship from its roots in the Old Testament to the present day, exploring landmark repertoire within the framework of turning-points in ecclesiastical history. While the class will focus primarily on Christian music in the western world, cross-cultural influences will also be explored.

Introduction to Piano

Basic principles and techniques of piano playing in a group situation. Includes study of major/minor scales and key signatures, chords, repertoire pieces, and learning and practice methods. Also includes transposition of simple compositions, sight reading, and harmonizations of melodies. Students will: perform repertoire pieces within students' technical ability; demonstrate the ability to build major scales; identify major keys from their signatures; and transpose simple melodies from one tonal center to another.

Music Appreciation

This course is an introduction to music, which includes the study of analyzing musical works, musical forms, music notation and terminology, important musical genres, periods, composers, and an introduction to the major musical instruments. Students will increase their musical knowledge by being exposed to various types of music by listening and looking at music from different genres that include classical, jazz, pop, rock, and music from different cultures around the world. Students do not have to possess prior musical knowledge or experience for this class.

Painting

After an introduction to the materials and subject possibilities of painting, the emphasis of this course is on construction, composition, paint handling and color. Students study a number of contemporary painters in order to understand their challenges and the solutions they developed. Students then attempt to confront the same challenges and find their own unique solutions. Students will use watercolor, tempera, gouache, and acrylic paint. Oil paint may be used by advanced students and students who have prior experience with the medium.

Photography

Students will be introduced to modern and traditional methods and techniques used in photography. In this course, students will be taught the basic elements and principles of composition, as well as necessary technical and photo-editing skills. Students will be responsible for organizing and archiving their photos and will be required to keep a portfolio. Students will explore and gain inspiration from the work of local and world-renown photographers. Students will also make photo contributions to the MH-MA yearbook and website, and will also contribute to MH-MA activity promotion. *Prerequisite:* Sophomore, Junior or Senior, or Instructor permission to enroll.

Sculpture

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to three-dimensional form through the concepts, materials, tools and techniques of sculpture. Students are required to conceive and produce at least two sculptures. Principles of design and art history are presented. Advanced students may explore software and film as a method for understanding space. Evaluation is based on personal growth in idea, commitment, and quality of work produced. Media used include plaster, wood, steel, bronze, and found objects.

Theater

Students will learn basic theater principles in stage movement, voice, diction, and pantomime. The course explores the history and vocabulary of theater. Students will write original scenes for in-class performance and video projects, and study and deliver monologues and scene work from modern sources as well as Shakespeare sonnets and plays. Practices and techniques to overcome stage-fright, develop self-confidence, and develop character performance will be explored.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

The mission of language education, guided by the values and teachings of the Catholic Church, is to support MH-MA students in developing skills of a second language and to broaden their understanding of the role of language in culture, practice, and worldview. Languages share commonalities in structure, meaning, and origin, and recognizing these patterns contributes to the overall scholastic endeavor of our students. Studying another language benefits students in developing skills that can be applied to connect with others in an increasingly interconnected world.

Course Offerings	
Two years of foreign language are required for graduation.	
Spanish I Spanish II Spanish III Spanish IV	Latin I Latin II

Spanish I

This course introduces the Spanish Language and cultures of various Spanish-speaking countries. Basic sentence structure, correct punctuation and vocabulary necessary for simple language comprehension and conversation are presented. Various aspects of culture will be introduced as well. This course is taught both in the target language and the native speaker's language. Present verb tenses are mostly taught in this level (regular and irregular).

Spanish II

This course is a continuation of Spanish level I, which introduces the language and cultures of various Spanish-speaking countries. Basic sentence structure, correct punctuation and vocabulary necessary for simple language comprehension and conversation are presented. Various aspects of culture will be introduced as well. This course is taught in the target language. Present, Preterit, Imperfect, Future, Conditional, and Imperative verb tenses are taught and practiced in this year. *Prerequisite:* Spanish I

Spanish III/IV

This is an intermediate language course. It is conducted in the target language and it is expected that students strive for proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking Spanish. This is a combined class of intermediate and advanced students rotating through a two year cycle of material. All remaining verb tenses are presented (Future, Conditional, Perfect, Pluperfect, Subjunctive). Students learn about the Way of St James, the Spanish Civil War, the Cristeros War, World Geography, and more. Grammar, vocabulary, and culture are taught in the context of the textbook. *Prerequisite:* Spanish II

Latin I

Latin I provides students with a clear introduction to Latin grammar and reading that aims to delight them and cultivate in them the wonder of language. Students study noun declensions, verb conjugations, tenses, and other parts of speech such as adjectives, prepositions, and adverbs. Students also learn some of the history and culture of ancient Rome, as well as Latin vocabulary words, and impart an understanding of many English words derived from Latin.

Latin II

The Second Year Latin course begins with a review of Latin I and then continues with the study of Latin grammar, syntax, and vocabulary. By the time students finish this course, they will have the essential basics of Latin grammar and a working vocabulary of hundreds of words. Latin II is a full-year course that continues the study of Latin grammar and composition. Students will read more advanced Latin texts and translate sentences from English to Latin.

HISTORY

Through the study of history and government at MH-MA, students are encouraged to explore the complexities of historical, global, and local issues with a Catholic worldview and to act as engaged and informed citizens. The curriculum will present historical information through the exploration of primary sources to develop knowledgeable and morally-informed citizens in our democratic society.

Three years of History credit are required

World History
Honors World History
American History I
Honors American History I

AP US History
AP Government
Government
Economics

World History

This course covers the history of the world from the Enlightenment Era through the present world. Topics such as enlightenment philosophers, World War 1, World War 2, The Nazi Holocaust, genocide, communism, totalitarianism, Cold War, and terrorism are taught. A special emphasis is placed on the 5 KSDE social studies standards and how they apply to the world in which we live. Throughout the course, an emphasis on the truth, beauty, and goodness of the Catholic faith is applied to the world.

Honors World History

This course covers the history of the world from the Enlightenment Era through the present world. Topics such as enlightenment philosophers, World War 1, World War 2, The Nazi Holocaust, genocide, communism, totalitarianism, Cold War, and terrorism are taught. A special emphasis is placed on the 5 KSDE social studies standards and how they apply to the world in which we live. Throughout the course, an emphasis on the truth, beauty, and goodness of the Catholic faith is applied to the world. Rigorous topics such as theology, ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology are applied to the topics that promote a deeper understanding of the human condition and the human story.

American History I

This course will cover the events that have helped build our country up since the civil war. Major topics include progressivism, populism, the roaring 20s, the world wars, civil rights, Vietnam War, cold war and the rise of conservatism. This course covers the KSDE standards for American history.

Honors American History

This course is designed to prepare students for AP US History and the AP History Exam taken their Junior Year. These students will be participating in an intense study of topics beginning with the original Native American tribes through the Reconstruction Era. Topics such as the founding of the Constitution, Revolutionary War, The War of 1812 and Civil War will be covered. The entire AP United States History Course description can be found below.

Description below taken from the official Course and Exam Description from College Board.

In AP U.S. History, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods from approximately 1491 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change. The course also provides eight themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: American and national identity; work, exchange, and technology; geography and the environment; migration and settlement; politics and power; America in the world; American and regional culture; and social structures.

AP United States History

Advanced Placement U.S. History is meant to be a college-level course taught in high school. As such it has several distinct advantages as well as some unique challenges when compared to typical high school honors courses. One advantage of A.P. U.S. History is that students can earn college credit and high school credit for the same class as long as they pass the AP Exam. Enrollment in A.P. classes also can give students an edge in admissions when applying to college. Most importantly, by exposing students to college-level rigor in a high school setting, A.P. can prepare students for greater success in their university coursework.

This course is designed to study major themes in United States history. The approach will consist of lecture, discussion, simulations, use of video, individual presentations, group presentations, and Powerpoint presentations. During the year we will look at America's political, economic, and social development since 1865 through required text, primary source, and novel readings. The curriculum taught will span from the Reconstruction Era, The Gilded Age, World War I, 1920s/Great Depression, WWII, The Cold War up to the 80s-2000s.

Prerequisite: Junior, 3.0 or better GPA, and on the recommendation of the instructor

Economics

Students will develop a working knowledge and understanding of major economic concepts, issues, systems and apply decision-making skills as a consumer, a producer, and an investor. The students will also gain an understanding of the market system and its effect on the allocation of scarce resources which shall include but not be limited to the following: Economic choices and their intended and unintended consequences; Incentive responses and their effect on resource allocation and allocation methods; Indicators of Gross Domestic Product and factors of economic growth; Principles of supply and demand; Role of central banks and the Federal Reserve System

Characteristics of economic models; Comparative advantages of trade, cost, and benefits of free trade, exchange rates; Government goods and services, Fiscal Policy, debt and deficit, and social policies; Job market, labor demand, productivity, and education affect, persona; budget and credit.

American Government

Students will develop a working knowledge and understanding of governmental systems of the United States and other nations with an emphasis on the U.S. Constitution, the necessity for the rule of law, the civic values of the American republican government, and the rights, privileges, and responsibilities to become active participants in the democratic process.

This course is designed to introduce the student to the foundations, structures, functions, and processes of the government of the United States. Students will explore the ideas that form the bedrock of democracy. Students will also investigate the inner workings of each branch of government. Students will gain an understanding about how these interactions between these branches of government impact policy, and further explore how these policies apply to them in their everyday life.

AP Government

In AP U.S. Government students will explore several different facets of American Government. Students will explore the foundations of government, study and analyze political behavior and political ideologies and conduct a thorough understanding of the branches of government and how they are intertwined. Students will be challenged to critically think about the political nature of current government policies and in analyzing the ramifications of these policies. This course will also look at the nature of the American political system, its development over the past two centuries, and how it works today. Emphasis will be placed on increasing the techniques of evaluating, refuting, comparing, contrasting, analyzing, and documenting supporting ideas.

This course is designed to introduce the student to the foundations, structures, functions, and processes of the government of the United States. Special attention will be paid to the philosophical underpinnings of democracy and representative governance. We will also explore our responsibilities and our rights as citizens and how we can make an impact on the political process. In addition to learning about the government, the student will also be improving and enhancing the skills necessary to be successful in college. *Prerequisite:* Junior or Senior, 3.0 or

better GPA, Completed AP American History with a 3.0 or higher.

MATHEMATICS

The study of Math builds the capacity to identify problems, reason logically, think critically, follow directions, solve problems with precision, clarity, and organization, and analyze and apply results to grow in knowledge. The study of Math also helps students see the beauty and order in our created world and therefore to understand God, our creator, better. Students at MH-MA take four years of math courses based on their incoming level of math proficiency and with guidance from the school as to the best path to reach not only future college and career goals but also to assist them in becoming the men and women God is calling them to be.

Course Offerings Four years of math are required for graduation.	
Pre-Algebra Algebra I Geometry Honors Geometry Algebra II Honors Algebra II	Pre-Calculus Honors Pre-Calculus Algebra III/ College Algebra AP Calculus Math Applications

Pre-Algebra

Content covered in this course which is designed to prepare the student for Algebra I includes basic number operations; variables and expressions; solving equations and inequalities; rules of exponents; rational numbers and equations; ratios, proportions, and probability; linear functions; area, perimeter, and circumference; and an introduction to permutations and combinations.

Prerequisite: Permission from counselor or principal required for enrollment

Algebra I

Content covered in this course will include the study of expressions, equations, and functions; properties and operations of the real number system; solving, graphing, and writing linear equations and inequalities; translating word problems into equations; solving basic systems of equations and inequalities; rules of exponents including scientific notation; operations with and factoring polynomials; and solving simple quadratic equations.

Geometry

Geometry will study topics such as congruence and similarity and apply properties of lines (including parallel and perpendicular), angles, polygons, triangles (including right triangles and trigonometry), quadrilaterals, and circles. Students will also study reasoning and proofs.

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Honors Geometry

Content covered in Honors Geometry will include topics such as reasoning and proofs, congruence and similarity and applying properties of lines (including parallel and perpendicular), triangles (including right triangles and trigonometry), quadrilaterals, circles, and area and volume of 2-dimensional figures and 3-dimensional solids. Students will also review more complex Algebra I principles and prepare for the ACT by doing sample practice tests. Because this is an honors course, material will be covered at a deeper level with more complex problems and at a faster pace and will include additional advanced topics like trigonometry and solid geometry, and a greater emphasis on rigorous proofs and logical reasoning.

Prerequisite: C or higher in Algebra I or instructor approval.

Algebra II

The content of Algebra II is organized around families of functions, including linear, quadratic, exponential, radical and rational functions. Other topics in this course include exploration of lines and linear relationships, polynomials, complex numbers, logarithms, variation and proportion, and matrices. In addition to its algebra content, the course will include lessons on geometry, trigonometry, and probability as time permits. A scientific calculator is required for this course and graphing calculator (TI-83, TI-84 or higher) is highly recommended.

Prerequisite: Algebra I & Geometry

Honors Algebra II

Honors Algebra II is a rigorous and in-depth study of algebraic concepts, organized around families of functions, including linear, quadratic, exponential, radical, and rational functions. Students will engage in a deeper exploration of lines and linear relationships, polynomials, complex numbers, logarithms, variation and proportion, and matrices, with more of an emphasis on critical thinking and problem-solving. Additional topics include applications of geometry, trigonometry, and probability, integrated throughout the course as time permits. Honors-level coursework will challenge students to analyze and synthesize mathematical concepts, preparing them for higher-level mathematics and potential STEM disciplines. A scientific calculator is required for this course and a graphing calculator (TI-83, TI-84 or higher) is highly recommended.

Prerequisite: Algebra I & Geometry

Pre-Calculus

Precalculus is a course designed to introduce students to basic topics for the study of calculus and other advanced mathematics topics. The course begins with an in-depth algebra review exploring functions, including linear, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Trigonometry is introduced with a focus on angles and the unit circle, progressing through trigonometric functions, identities, equations, and their applications. The course also delves into advanced topics such as systems of equations and inequalities, analytic geometry, sequences and series, probability, and an introduction to calculus concepts, as time permits. A graphing calculator (TI-83, TI-84 or higher) is required for this course.

Prerequisite: Algebra II

Honors Pre-Calculus

Precalculus is a comprehensive course designed to prepare students for the study of calculus and other advanced mathematics topics. The course begins with an in-depth exploration of functions, including linear, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions, establishing a strong foundational understanding. Trigonometry is introduced with a focus on angles and the unit circle, progressing through trigonometric functions, identities, equations, and their applications. The course also delves into advanced topics such as systems of equations and inequalities, analytic geometry, sequences and series, probability, and an introduction to calculus concepts. Honors Precalculus emphasizes problem-solving, mathematical reasoning, and real-world connections, ensuring students are well-prepared for future mathematical challenges. A graphing calculator (TI-83, TI-84 or higher) is required for this course.

Prerequisite: Honors Algebra II or Algebra II (with approval of instructor)

Algebra III/College Algebra

College Algebra is the study of the fundamental concepts of algebra; algebraic equations and inequalities; functions and graphs; exponential and logarithmic functions; systems of equations and inequalities. Apply the above concepts to real-world situations. A graphing calculator is required for this course.

Prerequisite: C or higher in Pre-Calculus or instructor permission to enroll

AP Calculus

AP Calculus prepares students for the College Board AP Calculus AB exam. The test covers the fundamental concepts of limits, derivatives, and integrals as well as their applications to interpreting the behavior of functions, building accumulation functions, and solving differential equations. A graphing calculator (TI-83, TI-84 or higher) is required for this course

Prerequisite: B or higher in Pre-Calculus

Math Applications

Content covered will include topics relevant to the student's life beyond high school along with basic math skills and review. These topics include buying a car; travel; income; budgeting; housing; food; clothing; leisure; federal taxes and records; banking accounts; and paying for college. The course will include researching current prices and trends within each of these topics. This course also includes a project on Catholic mathematicians and scientists who have made an impact on our world.

Prerequisite: Algebra I and Geometry

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education and Health courses at MH-MA promote strength development and the formation of healthy practices in appreciation for one's health and bodily gifts. Courses provide knowledge and promote physical discipline to translate learning into a healthy and active life.

<p style="text-align: center;">Physical Education & Health Taken any year - .5 credit Physical Education + .5 credit Health required</p>
<p>Health Physical Education Weightlifting</p>

Health

Health is a course designed to advance the student's knowledge of health, wellness and lifestyle issues. The course focuses on three primary health topics: physical health, mental/emotional health and social health. Students will develop knowledge in the areas of healthy living, physical activity & nutrition, mental & emotional health, healthy relationships, and personal care.

Physical Education

This class is intended to equip the students with the knowledge and an ability to keep his/hers own body physically fit. The student also develops an increased capacity for body control and endurance. The students are instructed in the necessary rules and physical skills needed to participate in individual, dual and team sports in a wide variety of activities. Examples: soccer, volleyball, football, basketball, weight training, running, conditioning, jump rope, flexibility, etc.

Weightlifting

This class is conducted in the weight room facility. This consists of becoming familiar with weight lifting techniques and physical conditioning activities and how they pertain to each muscle group. Emphasis on proper spotting and safety techniques is provided in each session.

SCIENCE

Studying science at MH-MA will foster a deep understanding of the natural world and promote the integration of faith and reason. We aim to inspire students to pursue scientific inquiry with curiosity, critical thinking, and ethical responsibility, recognizing the dignity of all creation. To graduate, students must complete three years of science coursework including Chemistry, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics are required to graduate with honors.

Three years of Science credit are required	
Physical Science Biology I Honors Biology I Chemistry I Honors Chemistry I Physics	AP Physics Biology II Honors Chemistry II Anatomy & Physiology Botany

Physical Science

Physical Science is designed to be an introduction to the physical sciences, with emphasis on general chemistry and physics. This course will cover scientific inquiry (including the scientific method), with a focus on topics relating to measurement, properties of matter, the periodic table of elements, basic forces and motion. Laboratory activities will supplement content.

Biology I

Biology 1 is an engaging and comprehensive introduction to the study of living organisms and their interactions with the environment. Through the investigation of Characteristics of life, Chemistry of life, Ecology, Cells, DNA, Heredity and Genetics, and Evolution, students will gain an introductory but thorough understanding of basic biological concepts as well as lab and investigation skills to begin a path through the sciences. Students will use critical thinking, reasoning, and application skills to apply the biological concepts learned to real world phenomena.

Honors Biology I

Honors Biology offers a more rigorous curriculum than Biology 1, as it demands a deeper understanding of fundamental biological concepts. Additionally, students are asked to demonstrate higher level problem-solving skills to analyze complex biological systems and phenomena. The study of microbial, unicellular, and multicellular organisms to include cellular structure and function, ecology, botany, biochemistry, genetics, anatomy and physiology of specific organisms, and biotic classifications will be developed within this course. Study in all areas emphasizes the relationship between structure and function, biotic and abiotic factors, along with an emphasis on a systematic approach to scientific problem solving.

Chemistry I

Chemistry is a course designed to familiarize students with the science processes, skills, and understandings related to a wide range of topics in chemistry. During this course, students will learn to identify the basic questions and concepts that guide scientific investigation and to design and conduct their own investigations. Some important topics covered include metric system conversions, graphing and measurement, atomic theory, chemical nomenclature, chemical bonding, stoichiometry, and gas laws.

Honors Chemistry I

Honors Chemistry is an inquiry-based course designed to familiarize students with the science processes, skills, and understandings related to a wide range of topics in chemistry. During this course, students develop skills to

drive their interest and understanding of the natural world. Some important topics covered include (but are not limited to) measurement, graph and data analysis, compound naming, chemical reaction quantification, thermochemistry, and solution chemistry.

The Honors Chemistry class offers a more rigorous curriculum, featuring advanced topics and a faster pace than a regular chemistry class. Students in the honors course engage in more complex problem-solving and in-depth laboratory experiments allowing for a deeper understanding of chemical concepts and applications.

Prerequisite: Honors Biology

Honors Chemistry II

This course continues the study of the fundamental principles and laws of chemistry. Topics include kinetics, equilibrium, ionic and redox equations, acid-base theory, and thermodynamics. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of chemical concepts as needed to pursue further study in chemistry and related professional fields. Laboratory experiments and computer-based exercises augment and reinforce the basic principles discussed in the lecture as well as provide practical examples.

This class is designated as Honors because of the high level of problem solving and math skills required.

Prerequisite: Honors Chemistry 1 or Chemistry 1 (with Teacher Approval), Honors or Regular Algebra 2 (with Teacher Approval)

Physics

During this course, students will learn to identify the basic questions and concepts that guide scientific investigation and to design and conduct their own investigations. Some important topics covered include graphing and measurement, kinematics and dynamics of motion. They will also be encouraged to recognize and appreciate the works of God in our natural world. Physics is a math (algebra and geometry) based course.

Prerequisite: Chemistry 1, Algebra 2

AP Physics

AP Physics 1 is a college-level introductory course that emphasizes the fundamental concepts of physics through a hands-on, inquiry-based approach. Covering topics such as kinematics, dynamics, energy, momentum, and rotational motion, this course helps students develop a solid understanding of classical mechanics. Students will engage in laboratory experiments and problem-solving sessions that encourage them to apply physics principles to real-world scenarios and develop critical thinking skills. The course also integrates mathematical techniques, including algebra and trigonometry, to analyze physical phenomena. AP Physics 1 prepares students for the AP exam, offering the potential for college credit and advanced placement in university-level physics courses.

Prerequisite: Honors Chemistry 1, Honors Pre-Calculus

Biology II

Biology II focuses on the study of life by examining the fundamental concepts of cellular biology, genetics, ecology, and physiology. Biology II places an emphasis on the scientific processes and laboratory skills that will be needed for students to prepare for college level science courses. The major emphasis is placed on the need to understand relationships among living things. In addition, integration of learning activities such as laboratories, lecture/discussion, quiz/tests, homework, and special projects are designed to improve the student's analytical and problem solving skills.

Prerequisite: Chemistry

Anatomy and Physiology

Human Anatomy and Physiology includes the study of all levels of organization within the human body. Students will build on information learned in biology that will focus specifically on human anatomy and physiology. Through lectures, labs, and activities, students will review human anatomy and increase their knowledge of the structure of the human body and how it functions. A specific emphasis will also be placed on healthcare careers during the course of the year.

Prerequisite: Biology, Chemistry, AND teacher and counselor approval

Botany

This life science course will have a lecture component covering plant science, including taxonomy and classification, chemical processes, structure, reproduction and propagation, agriculture, and plant health/diseases. Hands-on lab components will be conducted in MHMA Wangari Greenhouse. Students will demonstrate an understanding of fundamental plant processes and how this knowledge is applied to growing vegetable and ornamental plants in the greenhouse.

Prerequisite: Chemistry, Biology

ELECTIVES

Graduates from MH-MA must complete three credits of electives to fulfill graduation requirements. The elective offerings provide avenues for a student to explore his or her interests and strengths fostering a well-rounded education and pursuit of Truth in varied disciplines.

Fiction to Film

This class is designed to teach students about film genres. They will study the genre, watch a classic example, and do a written assignment. *Note: This is only an elective and does not suffice for a Fine Arts credit. Prerequisite:* Junior or Senior, or Instructor permission to enroll

Freshman Seminar

This year-long course will explore many areas pertaining to life as a freshman in high school, including note taking, organization, classroom strategies, and various other topics related to the success of a high school student.

Prerequisite: Enrollment in Math Essentials, or Principal/Counselor Recommendation

Internship

Juniors and seniors can apply to serve as an Intern to a MH-MA faculty or staff member or more broadly in the Atchison or St. Benedict Parish community. The expectations of the intern will be crafted with the direct supervisor so that each student demonstrates acquisition of professional skills, communication, work ethic, collaboration, critical thinking, and time management. *Prerequisite:* Instructor or academic counselor

Leadership

This class will focus on leadership characteristics, group and individual skill-building, and house activity planning. Students will engage in collaborative endeavors to promote school heritage and community as well as have individual projects and responsibilities to further develop their understanding and application of leadership principles. *Prerequisite:* Head Boy, Head Girl, House Captain

Personal Finance

This year long course will explore many areas pertaining to the financial aspects of life, including but not limited to: understanding the Catholic Church's teachings on tithing and charitable giving, understanding the most common vehicles for savings and investment, understand how to comply with US and Kansas personal tax laws, know how to create and follow a budget in order to achieve financial goals, and knowing how to make decisions about credit.

Psychology

Content of this elective course in Psychology considers the development of the individual and the personality. The course is divided into seven units. The study of psychology is based on a historical framework and relies on effective collection and analysis of data. Students study topics such as theories of human development, personality, motivation, and learning. Students are provided opportunities to acquire, develop, and master specific skills. These skills will be developed through a variety of assignments and activities such as research skills, critical thinking and analytical reasoning, and use of primary and secondary sources.

Robotics

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the field of Robotics and stimulate their interests in science and engineering through the participation of the entire engineering design process. This course covers a variety of multidisciplinary topics necessary to understand the fundamentals of designing, building, and programming robots. Each topic is presented in the format of one hour lectures immediately followed by a two hour laboratory where students will apply the concepts discussed during the lecture. During this course, students will be required to gradually complete the design and construction of a robot using the Vex Robotic System kit and following the constraints and objectives for competing on the final project demonstration.

Senior Seminar

This year long course will explore many areas pertaining to life as a senior in high school, including ACT/SAT test preparation, college applications, financial aid, scholarships, as well as life after high school including personal finance, life skills, and formation as a Catholic adult.

Test Prep

Many undergraduate colleges and universities require prospective students to take the ACT or the SAT for admission and access to scholarships. This ACT Prep course is designed to prepare students for each part of the ACT (English, Math, Reading, and Science). Together, we will analyze each test area and give special consideration to skills learned in previous high school courses. Students will also learn test taking strategies and techniques aimed at time management and relieving test-taking anxiety.

Yearbook

In this course, students will gain skills in the following areas: page design, publishing techniques, copywriting, editing, photography, record keeping, time management, teamwork, marketing, and leadership skills. Students are tasked with producing a timeless, creative, and innovative publication which will record our school's community, heritage, and events.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

As an international college preparatory boarding school, an essential element in the identity of MH-MA is the presence of speakers of other languages in our school community. Individual plans of study, based on the incoming student's level of English proficiency, will articulate the courses to be studied in both ESOL and general studies offerings. The goal of these courses is for students to gain the English language skills necessary to be proficient in mainstream classes.

Courses	
ESOL Reading/Vocabulary 1 ESOL Reading/Vocabulary 2 ESOL Writing/Speaking 1 ESOL Writing/Speaking 2	ESOL TOEFL iBT Prep International Seminar Introduction to Physical Science Introduction to Social Studies

ESOL Reading/Vocabulary 1

This course focuses on reading comprehension, fluency, word recognition, and vocabulary. Students learn to read and respond to a variety of basic texts in English.

ESOL Reading/Vocabulary 2

Students will be challenged to extend their comprehension, fluency, word recognition, and vocabulary in order to better prepare for mainstream English classes.

ESOL Writing/Speaking 1

This course focuses on writing, vocabulary and grammar at a beginning level. Students learn to formulate simple sentences and ideas oriented on topics such as family, home and self-interest topics. Basic sentence and paragraph structure is included. The expectation is for students to be able to write an original, independent, and formal essay of at least 500 words.

ESOL Writing/Speaking 2

This course focuses on sentence structure and essay construction for students learning English as a Second Language to prepare them to enter mainstream courses. Students are challenged to a higher level. The expectation is to efficiently write a 1,000-word essay independently.

ESOL TOEFL iBT Prep

This course focuses on preparing international students for the TOEFL iBT test for admission to college. Students work on grammar and writing skills. Students complete practice TOEFL iBT tests geared towards each section of the TOEFL iBT (Speaking, Writing, Reading, and Listening). Students are required to take the official iBT TOEFL test as part of the class.

International Seminar

Students complete note taking skills, preparing speeches and debates, and prepare for listening and speaking sections of the TOEFL, and organization skills. Students will also complete comprehension activities over readings, oral, audio, and video recordings. There is an extensive focus on preparation for mainstream classes.

Prerequisite: ESL student in mainstream or Level 3 courses

Introduction to Physical Science

Introduction to Physical Science emphasizes the study of Earth Science to relate scientific information to learning the English language. The main goal of this course is to better prepare our ESOL students for mainstream science classes. Students will have opportunities to gain an understanding of the history of the development of the earth and space sciences, and to learn scientific information while developing English language reading, writing, and comprehension skills. Introduction to Physical Science also examines the interaction between Earth's weather and climate, and the changes of organisms through time as well as astronomy, the study of our solar system, galaxies, and the universe while providing an avenue for English Language Learners to develop their reading, writing, and comprehension skills. *Prerequisite:* Concurrently in the ESL program

Introduction to Social Studies

This course is designed for international students in our ESOL program. The main goal of this course is to prepare students to be mainstreamed into regular history classes. This class provides students with a general overview of the different social sciences. The social sciences discussed include history, government, geography, sociology, psychology, and economics. This class is largely project-based and places an emphasis on speaking and listening. *Prerequisite:* Concurrently in the ESL program