

# ROANOKE CATHOLIC CELESTICS

## UPPER SCHOOL CURRICULUM GUIDE



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# GRADING AND RANKING POLICIES

## GENERAL STATEMENT

Roanoke Catholic Upper School divides the academic year into quarters. Report cards are issued 4 times a year. Examinations are given each semester and count 20% of the semester grade. Each quarter grade counts 40% of the semester grade. The final grade is the average of the two semester grades.

## GRADING SCALE

In accordance with the Office of Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Richmond, Roanoke Catholic School uses the following grading scale:

<i>Grading Scale</i>	<i>Unweighted</i>	<i>AP/DE</i>
<b>A+ 97-100</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>5.3</b>
<b>A 96-93</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>A- 92-90</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>4.7</b>
<b>B+ 89-87</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>
<b>B 86-83</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>B- 82-80</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>
<b>C+ 79-77</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>3.3</b>
<b>C 76-73</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>C- 72-70</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>D+ 69-67</b>	<b>1.33</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>D 66-63</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>D- 62-60</b>	<b>.07</b>	<b>1.7</b>
<b>F 59 and Below</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## **HONOR ROLL**

To qualify for the honor roll, students must meet the following criteria:

- First Honors—students achieve a 90 average or above in all subjects
- Second Honors—students achieve 80 average or above in all subject

## **EXAM EXEMPTION FOR SENIORS**

For one-credit courses, no exam exemptions are offered for the first semester. In order to be exempted from a second semester exam, a senior must be in good standing with the school, have the concurrence of the teacher, and meet the following criteria:

- a cumulative average no lower than 90 for the second semester;
- no more than nine (9) absences from school for the second semester (3 verified college visits do not count towards total);
- teacher approval

In order to be exempted from semester courses of 0.5 credit, a senior must be in good standing with the school, have the concurrence of the teacher, and meet the following criteria:

- a cumulative average of no lower than 90 for the semester;
- no more than nine (9) absences for the semester (3 verified college visits do not count towards total);
- teacher approval

Any senior who exceeds the number of absences because of prolonged illness or family emergency may request a waiver from the administration at least one week before exam week.

## **CLASS RANK**

Roanoke Catholic School (RCS) does not rank students; instead, RCS computes a cumulative grade average.

## **SUMMER SCHOOL WORK**

In order for students to be placed correctly a summer school course may be recommended. Similarly if a student fails a course necessary for graduation they can take this course as summer work in order to continue with course progression. The course will not be calculated into the student's GPA but it may be shown on the transcript as a credit earned through the outside institution.

If a student fails to follow the recommendation for a summer course necessary for course progression their continued enrollment or graduation track may be jeopardized. The same would apply if they were to take a summer course required for progression and fail.

## TRANSFERRING GRADES

Newly enrolled students transferring in with grades from other schools may have those grades reflected on their RCS transcript as a credit earned through the outside institution and will be accumulated into their overall GPA.

## COURSE SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS

1. All students grades 8-12 are required to take an 8 period schedule.
2. Roanoke Catholic's academic program is centered on a core curriculum of traditional courses in a college preparatory setting. A student graduating from Roanoke Catholic will have completed, in most cases, the requirements for the Advanced Studies Diploma as outlined by the Board of Education of the Commonwealth of Virginia.
3. Academic averages and the number of advanced courses taken are important considerations to colleges with competitive admission standards.
4. Students should study the same foreign language for at least two consecutive years. Students should also plan to begin the first level of a foreign language no later than grade 10. In some cases, students who receive 3 or more credits in the same foreign language may not be required to fulfill a foreign language requirement in college. However, if students intend to study the same language in college, they should take the third or fourth year of the language during their senior year. **For the Advanced Studies diploma, students are required to take a minimum of three consecutive years of a single language or two credits each of two languages.**
5. Admission to courses with large enrollments will be granted according to the following criteria:
  - class size not to exceed the school's standards
  - grade level (seniors first, then juniors, then sophomores, etc.)
6. An elective course will be offered only when a sufficient number of students select the course. The school reserves the right to cancel a course for which there is not a teacher available or for which there is inadequate enrollment.
7. College entrance requirements vary; therefore, it is essential that a college-bound student understand the entrance requirements of the college of his/her choice as early as possible.
8. Any students interested in the challenge of Advanced Placement (AP) courses and/or the possibility of receiving college credit based on AP exam scores must apply for admission to the AP classes offered by Roanoke Catholic School: For 2025-26 the following AP courses will be offered pending enrollment numbers to support the course: AP Biology, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Chemistry, AP English: Language and Composition, AP English: Literature and Composition, AP Government, AP Physics, AP Pre-Calculus, AP Human Geography, and AP US History.

9. Selection of courses should be done only after serious, careful, and thoughtful consultation among students, parents, faculty/staff. Therefore, once a student chooses courses and these choices are verified by the students, parents, and approved by faculty/staff, the student will not be allowed to change course selections after the first three weeks for courses.

10. Within the first three weeks students may request adjustments in their course loads using the following guidelines:

- Students need to be aware of their progress in each class and should ask teachers for help as needed.
- Changes in students' schedules must be approved in writing by faculty/staff. The form must be signed by the students, the parent, and faculty/staff.

11. If students fail a course at Roanoke Catholic School, faculty/staff may require a summer course be taken in order to meet course progression requirements. Summer courses are not available at Roanoke Catholic School. While it is the responsibility of students to register for a summer school course, our Director of Student Services or Administration must approve their selection of a summer school program.

12. Students may choose to take any course taken during the school year or during summer school in order to enhance their knowledge of the subject. Please note that these courses will not be calculated into the RCS GPA or noted on their transcript. We advise that a transcript from the relevant accrediting institution is kept for your records.

## **USE OF THE INTERNET**

Roanoke Catholic School strives to prepare its students to use the latest technology. In order to use the school's Internet connection, students and parents must agree to abide by the Roanoke Catholic School Internet User Agreement. Both students and parents sign the agreement when students enter Roanoke Catholic School.

## **USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

Unless authorized by the responsible teacher (see 3 below), the use of AI to complete assignments is strictly prohibited. The school values and expects original work and a high level of integrity from our students, and we expect students to put forward their authentic best efforts in their academic endeavors.

Any work submitted by students that has been generated in part or whole by AI, and not authorized by the responsible teacher, will be considered plagiarism and will be dealt with in accordance with our disciplinary consequences for students who plagiarize.

Exceptions for the use of AI in the classroom or in the course of school work are only permissible in cases where the teacher has given, in advance, clear instructions and guidelines for its use.

Should the student have any questions, doubts or concerns about the applicability of AI technology, or AI-generated content in their assignment, they should consult their teacher for guidance.

If the use of AI is allowed under specific circumstances, students must still properly cite the AI-generated content and give credit to the AI tool used, as they would for any other external sources.

The school encourages students to seek assistance from teachers and educational resources to understand the content and concepts, rather than relying on AI to complete assignments.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Roanoke Catholic School confers two diplomas reflecting different academic programs. The content of specific courses is presented in the sections following the descriptions of requirements for each diploma.

- AP Language and/or AP Literature fulfills the English 11 and/or English 12 requirements.
- Dual Enrollment English 111/112 and/or Dual Enrollment English 251/252 fulfills the English 11 and/or English 12 requirements.
- Satisfactory completion of the senior research project is a requirement for graduation. See the section on the Research Program.

### GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ROANOKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL DIPLOMAS GRADES 9 - 12

SUBJECT	STANDARD DIPLOMA	ADVANCED DIPLOMA
Theology	4	4
English	4	4
Mathematics	3	4
Lab Science	3	4
Social Studies	3	4
Foreign Language	0	3 units of one language or 2 units of each of two languages
Physical Education/Health	2	2
Fine Art/Career & Tech Ed	2	1
Electives	3	2
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>28</b>

# THE CAPSTONE PROJECT/ENGLISH PAPERS

## REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADE LEVEL ENGLISH PAPERS

GRADE	MAXIMUM LENGTH	MINIMUM SOURCES
8	3-5 typed pages	4; 3 cited in text
9	4-6 typed pages	5; 4 cited in text
10	5-7 typed pages	6; 5 cited text
11	6-9 typed pages	7; 6 cited text
12	12-15 typed pages	10; 8 cited text

For all courses, grade level papers may not exceed the above standards. English teachers introduce, reinforce, or review the research process, the skills, and the techniques necessary to plan, research, and write formal papers, according to Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines. Throughout the process, students are also encouraged to learn to use technology to locate information and prepare their manuscripts.

Students must satisfactorily complete the English research paper before advancing to the next level of English class. Satisfactory completion of the senior capstone project is a requirement for graduation. This project combines the formal capstone paper and presentation of the senior speech. This is completed as part of the 12th grade theology curriculum.



# THEOLOGY

<b>THEOLOGY</b>	
<b>Theology 8</b>	<b>CHURCH HISTORY</b>
<i>Required</i>	<p>Understand that the Church was made manifest and empowered by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Explain the significance of the major Councils. Understand that the magisterium has the authority given from Christ to St. Peter to interpret and defend the Deposit of Faith. Understand the canonization of saints and its impact on the Church. Morality: Understand the intellect, will, emotions, and five senses as powers (abilities) of the soul that orient us toward God. Recognize the gift of family life and human sexuality. Theology of the Body: Establish a vision of the human person according to God's loving design. Social Justice: Understand that social justice can be obtained in respecting the human person and his dignity, the rights that are owed to safeguard his dignity, and in standing against any social injustice that would threaten that dignity. Prayer: Explain that prayer is a "living relationship of the children of God and with persons of the Trinity."</p>
<b>Theology 9</b>	<b>Semester 1: FAITH FOUNDATIONS - OLD TESTAMENT AND COVENANTS</b>
<i>Required</i>	<p>The purpose of this course is to invite students to discipleship of Jesus Christ by examining the Kerygma through the lens of the major covenants of the Old Testament. At the beginning of the course, students are introduced to Theology and the processes and procedures of attending a Catholic school (ex. how to attend Mass, service hour requirements, respect for the dignity of every human person). Next, students are introduced to the person of Jesus Christ and the mystery of the Trinity. Throughout this course, students study the Bible to encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. Students learn about Divine and human authorship of the Bible, the inspiration of the authors of the Bible by the Holy Spirit, and the inerrancy and canonicity of the books of the Bible. Students learn about the narrative of Divine Revelation in Sacred Scripture with particular attention to the covenants of the Old Testament. Students utilize the four senses of Sacred Scripture to interpret the text in the living Tradition of the Catholic Church, according to the analogy of faith. Basic teachings about Catholic discipleship are also discussed and students are given an invitation to the faith which is deepened throughout their four years of study.</p>
	<b>Semester 2: FAITH FOUNDATIONS - NEW TESTAMENT AND CREED</b>
<i>1 credit</i>	<p>The purpose of this course is to invite students to discipleship by examining the Paschal Mystery and the person of Jesus Christ, through the lens of the New Testament. Through this course of study, students will learn that God has planned for us to share eternal happiness with Him and that He accomplished our Redemption through the Paschal Mystery. They will also be introduced to what it means to be a disciple of Christ and explore what life as a disciple entails. Students will read and study the Gospel of Luke, the Acts of the Apostles, and other selections of the New Testament, with preference to the narrative of the life of Jesus and the events in the life in the Early Church. Students will study the typological fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies in the coming of the Messiah. Students will learn about the biblical roots of the Sacred Liturgy and the role of scripture in the life of prayer of a disciple of Jesus Christ.</p>



<b>Theology 12</b>	
<b>Semester 1: WITNESS TO CHRIST - VOCATIONS</b>	
<i>Required</i>	<p>The purpose of this course is to help students to understand the vocations of life: how Christ calls us to live. In this course, students will learn how missionary discipleship is lived through married life, single life, priestly life, and consecrated life. Students review the sacraments of matrimony and holy orders [taught in Sophomore year]. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to strengthen their life of prayer and discernment so that they are enabled to discern their role as missionary disciples. Students aim to become witnesses of Jesus Christ and apply the Church's social teaching in their lives beyond high school. In this course, students learn that Christ's concern for others, especially the poor and needy, is present today in the Church's social teaching and pastoral mission. Students will examine the model and teachings of Jesus in the Gospel of John, where He leads people to a life of discipleship through His words and deeds. Students will examine contemporary initiatives to witness to Jesus Christ and His Holy Catholic Church in the world.</p>
	<b>Semester 2: WITNESS TO CHRIST - APOLOGETICS &amp; CAPSTONE</b>
<i>1 credit</i>	<p>The purpose of this course is to enable students to show the fruit of their theological study at the high school level. Students will examine how to communicate the role of a missionary disciple in the world through research, a series of dialogues, and a final project. This course will enable students to understand the manner in which the Catholic Church evangelizes and defends the Catholic faith to non-Catholic Christians as well as to other religions of the world. Over the course of the semester, students learn about topics related to evangelization and apologetics. Building on the foundational truth that Jesus Christ established the Catholic Church and entrusted to her the fullness of God's Revelation, the course is intended to help students to approach conversations with honesty and humility, acknowledging the beliefs of both the Catholic and non-Catholic view, but with the goal of bringing new members into the Body of Christ (the Catholic Church) through effective evangelization and apologetics.</p>
<b>ENGLISH</b>	
<b>English 8</b>	
<i>Required</i>	<p>Students will be exposed to the genres in the literary world. Emphasis is placed on the short story, poetry, non-fiction, drama and the novel. In addition, particular emphasis is placed on a review of grammar-usage, mechanics, writing different types of paragraphs and compositions. Students write a research paper using MLA format.</p>
<b>English 9</b>	
<i>Required</i> <i>1 credit</i>	<p>Students will be exposed to: literature, grammar, composition, and vocabulary. The literary genres of poetry, non-fiction, the epic, drama, and the novel are stressed. Basic grammar skills are reviewed with the focus on paragraph development, especially effective topic sentence and paragraph unity. Students are exposed to various types of essay writing, including a research paper using MLA format.</p>

<p><b>English 10</b></p> <p><i>Required</i></p> <p><i>1 credit</i></p>	<p>British Literature is a chronological survey of major British works from Beowulf through those of the twentieth century, including an intensive study of works by Shakespeare. The course combines in-depth reading with analytical composition skills. Students will be exposed to an in-depth study of the short story, poetry, drama and the novel as a means of acquiring and developing literature analysis for journals and various types of essay writing. Vocabulary development is stressed.</p>
<p><b>English 11</b></p> <p><i>Required</i></p> <p><i>1 credit</i></p>	<p>Students will be exposed to a chronological organization of American Literature which shows the progression of themes throughout the various eras of American history and literature. Within the unit for each period, attention is given to all genres-nonfiction, short story, novel, and poetry. Students study classics from the Colonial Period which have established a place in our culture up to and through the contemporary works which have the promise of becoming tomorrow's classics. The class places a special emphasis on reading, writing, and grammar preparation for the SAT. Students will also write a series of papers in MLA format.</p>
<p><b>English 12</b></p> <p><i>Required</i></p> <p><i>1 credit</i></p>	<p>In this survey of world literature, students study a variety of works representative of many cultures and different historical periods. Composition assignments are literature-based with an emphasis on critical thinking skills. The fundamentals of good writing style are also reviewed. Students continue their study of vocabulary and review research procedures and skills.</p>
<p><b>AP Language and Composition</b></p> <p><i>Alternative to Eng 11</i></p> <p><i>\$99 Test Fee billed November 1 each year</i></p> <p><i>1 credit</i></p>	<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Minimum 90% in previous English course /Teacher recommendation  AP Language is open to juniors with critical thinking and analytical writing skills. Through close reading and frequent writing (some essays are timed), students will study the rhetorical situation of non-fiction essays, speeches, letters, texts and cross-curricular writing within American history. The course is designed to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Examination in Language and Composition, administered for a fee by the College Board. Successful performance on this required exam may earn students college credits and/or course exemptions. All students are required to take the AP Lang exam.</p>
<p><b>AP Literature and Composition</b></p> <p><i>Alternative to Eng 12</i></p> <p><i>\$99 Test Fee billed November 1 each year</i></p> <p><i>1 credit</i></p>	<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Minimum 90% in previous English course /Teacher recommendation  AP Literature is open to seniors with critical thinking ability and competent writing skills. In depth studies of short stories, novels, poetry, and drama are hallmarks of the course. Students are expected to develop interpretive, analytical and evaluative skills which they demonstrate through discussions, presentations, and essay writing. In addition, each month students independently read and write about one novel or play. Students will also practice writing timed essays. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement examination in Literature and Composition (fee required). Successful performance on this exam may earn students' college course exemptions and/or credits. All students are required to take the AP Lit exam.</p>

<p><b>Advanced Composition</b></p> <p><i>Elective</i> <i>12th grade only</i></p> <p>1 credit</p>	<p>This Advanced Composition course is designed to sharpen writing skills for academic and creative purposes, with a focus on critical thinking, analysis, and clear expression. Students will explore a range of writing techniques, from analytical essays to creative pieces, while honing their ability to write for diverse audiences and purposes. Key components of the course include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Film to Literature Analysis</i>: Students will analyze films adapted from literary works, comparing narrative techniques, character development, and thematic elements. This will deepen their understanding of adaptation and help refine their skills in comparative analysis.</li> <li>- <i>Creative Writing</i>: Students will engage in creative writing exercises, such as short stories, poetry, and personal narratives, fostering imagination while improving storytelling abilities. These exercises will also serve as practice for writing engaging college application essays.</li> </ul> <p>Throughout the course, students will also receive guidance on crafting strong, effective college essays, learning how to present their ideas clearly and persuasively. By the end of the course, students will have a refined writing portfolio that includes both analytical and creative work.</p>
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<p><b>Journalism</b></p> <p><i>Elective</i> <i>Grades 10-12</i></p> <p>1 credit</p>	<p>Students learn the fundamentals of journalism, writing, multimedia, critical thinking, and communication. These fundamentals include types of writing, how to conduct research and interviews, how to utilize and incorporate digital technology, how to use critical thinking and problem solving, and the importance of ethical behavior in accurately conveying the truth. Application of knowledge and skills is emphasized as students develop, write for, revise, and publish the Roanoke Catholic student newspaper.</p>
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<p><b>DE ENG 111/112</b></p> <p><i>Alternative to Eng 11</i></p> <p><i>A Dual Enrollment fee is charged for each semester-long course. (Roughly \$165)</i></p> <p>VWCC 1 credit</p>	<p><b>COLLEGE COMPOSITION I (DE 111) VWCC - 3 Credits</b></p>
	<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Teacher recommendation</p> <p>This first semester course introduces and prepares students to the critical processes and fundamentals of writing in academic and professional contexts. Teaches the use of print and digital technologies to promote inquiry. Requires the production of a variety of academic texts, totaling at least 4500 words (15 pages typed) of polished writing. This course requires proficiency in using word processing and learning management software.</p>
	<p><b>COLLEGE COMPOSITION II (DE 112) VWCC - 3 Credits</b></p>
<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> DE ENG 111/Teacher recommendation</p> <p>This course in the second semester further develops students' ability to write for academic and professional contexts with increased emphasis on argumentation and research. Requires students to evaluate, integrate, and document print and digital sources to produce a range of academic and multimodal texts, culminating in a fully documented research paper. This course requires proficiency in using word processing and learning management software.</p>	

<b>DE ENG 225/255</b> <i>Alternative to Eng 12</i>  <i>A Dual Enrollment fee is charged for each semester-long course. (Roughly \$165)</i>  <i>VWCC 1 credit</i>	<b>READING LITERATURE - CULTURE AND IDEAS (DE 225) VWCC - 3 Credits</b>
	<b>Prerequisite:</b> DE ENG 112/Teacher recommendation Examines a set of literary texts linked by a particular theme, with inquiry into the historical, cultural, and/or social contexts of the texts and the theme. Emphasizes interpretive and critical analysis skills developed through close reading and intertextual study, as well as highlights an exploration of cultural ideas. Specific themes will vary by section but will engage works of diverse genres, authors, and time periods.
	<b>WORLD LITERATURE (DE 255) VWCC - 3 Credits</b>
	<b>Prerequisite:</b> DE ENG 112 Examines literary texts across a variety of cultures, genres, and time periods. Develops critical thinking and interpretive skills through close reading, discussion, and analysis of literary texts from around the world in their historical, cultural, social, and/or literary contexts.

**MATHEMATICS**

<b>Pre Algebra</b>  <i>Required</i>	This course is designed to help students develop the mathematical skills and preliminary concepts necessary for Algebra I. Some of the major concepts introduced include working with integers, solving basic equations, simplifying rational expressions, and two-dimensional graphing. Applications and modeling are also used to develop problem-solving skills. The use of a calculator is minimal in this course.
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<b>Algebra I</b>  <i>Required</i>  <i>1 credit</i>	<b>Prerequisite:</b> Pre-Algebra /Teacher recommendation This course is the study of the applications of the properties and operations of the real number system applied to variable expressions, linear equations, and linear inequalities. Graphing using algebraic techniques, factoring, and algebraic notation are emphasized. Quadratic functions and the quadratic formula are introduced.
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<b>Geometry</b>  <i>Required</i>  <i>1 credit</i>	<b>Prerequisite:</b> Algebra I/Teacher recommendation This course places emphasis on logical reasoning through a variety of proof styles and their applications. Topics studied include points, lines, planes, angles, polygons, circles, congruence, and similarity. In addition, algebraic skills are reinforced.
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<b>Algebra II</b>  <i>Required</i>  <i>1 credit</i>	<b>Prerequisite:</b> Geometry/Teacher recommendation This course expands the topics studied in Algebra I. Roots and rational exponents, functions, and complex numbers are studied. Emphasis is given to the solving of quadratic equations using three methods: factoring, completing the square, and the quadratic formula. Graphing of linear and quadratic functions using algebraic techniques is a central topic.
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<p><b>Statistics</b> <i>Elective</i></p> <p>1 credit</p>	<p><b>STATISTICS (One Semester Course)</b></p> <p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Algebra II</p> <p><i>This course spans two semesters and awards one credit, with the DE portion earning DE credit.</i> Students will learn essential statistical skills, including data collection, analysis, probability calculations, confidence intervals, and hypothesis testing. The course emphasizes real-life applications through project and test assessments. Students will also design and analyze an original statistical study.</p>
<p><b>Quantitative Reasoning</b> <i>Elective</i></p> <p><i>A Dual Enrollment fee is charged for one semester of this course. (Roughly \$165)</i></p> <p>VWCC 1 credit</p>	<p><b>QUANTITATIVE REASONING DE (One Semester Course) VWCC - 3 Credits</b></p> <p><i>This course spans two semesters and awards one credit, with the DE portion earning DE credit.</i> Additionally, this DE portion of the course covers topics such as proportional reasoning, modeling, financial literacy, and validity studies (logic and set theory). Emphasis is placed on identifying the mathematical foundations needed to address real-world problems, solving them, and applying the solutions to the original situations.</p>
<p><b>AP Pre-Calculus</b> <i>Elective</i></p> <p><i>\$99 Test Fee billed November 1 each year</i></p> <p>1 credit</p>	<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Algebra II/Teacher recommendation</p> <p>AP Precalculus centers on functions modeling dynamic phenomena. This research-based exploration of functions is designed to better prepare students for college-level calculus and provide grounding for other mathematics and science courses. In this course, students study a broad spectrum of function types that are foundational for careers in mathematics, physics, biology, health science, business, social science, and data science. All Students are required to take the AP Precalc exam.</p>
<p><b>AP Calculus AB/BC</b> <i>Elective</i></p> <p><i>99 Test Fee billed November 1 each year</i></p> <p>1 credit</p>	<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Minimum of 90% in Pre-Calculus/Teacher recommendation</p> <p>AP Calculus AB/BC is an introductory college-level calculus course. Students cultivate their understanding of differential and integral calculus through engaging with real-world problems represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally and using definitions and theorems to build arguments and justify conclusions as they explore concepts like change, limits, and the analysis of functions. All students are required to take the AP Calc exam.</p>
<p><b>AP Statistics</b> <i>Elective</i></p> <p><i>99 Test Fee billed November 1 each year</i></p> <p>1 credit</p>	<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Minimum of 80% in Pre-Calculus/Teacher recommendation</p> <p>AP Statistics is an introductory college-level statistics course that introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students cultivate their understanding of statistics using technology, investigations, problem solving, and writing as they explore concepts like variation and distribution; patterns and uncertainty; and data-based predictions, decisions, and conclusions.</p>

## SCIENCE

<p><b>Earth Science</b></p> <p><i>Required</i></p> <p><i>1 credit</i></p>	<p>This course examines the fundamental principles of Earth Science while integrating scientific reasoning, engineering practices, and Catholic moral perspectives on human activities. Students will explore Earth's unique place in the solar system, its relationship with the sun and moon, and the geological processes that shape the planet. Through the study of rocks, fossils, and minerals, they will uncover Earth's history and evolution. The course also emphasizes the role of water in sustaining life and shaping landscapes. By applying scientific inquiry and engineering principles, students will develop a deeper appreciation for the natural world and its connection to faith, ethics, and stewardship of the environment. This 8th grade course earns High School credit.</p>
<p><b>Biology</b></p> <p><i>Required</i></p> <p><i>1 credit</i></p>	<p>This course explores the fundamental principles of Biology while integrating scientific reasoning, engineering practices, and Catholic moral perspectives on human activities. Students will investigate the chemical and biochemical foundations of life, cell structure and function, DNA processes, protein synthesis, and inheritance. They will also examine modern classification methods, population changes over time, and ecological relationships within ecosystems. Through hands-on learning and critical thinking, students will develop a deep understanding of the nature of science and its impact on the world.</p>
<p><b>Chemistry</b></p> <p><i>Elective - Standard Diploma</i></p> <p><i>Required - Advanced Studies Diploma</i></p> <p><i>1 credit</i></p>	<p><b>Concurrent enrollment/Prerequisite:</b> Adv Algebra II/Teacher Recommendation</p> <p>This course explores the core principles of Chemistry while integrating scientific reasoning, engineering practices, and Catholic moral perspectives on human activities. Students will examine atomic structure, the periodic table, chemical reactions, and the conservation of matter and energy. Key topics include molar relationships, solution behavior, phases of matter, and fundamental concepts in organic and biochemistry. Through inquiry-based learning and practical applications, students will develop a deeper understanding of the chemical world and its ethical implications in science, technology, and daily life.</p>
<p><b>Anatomy and Physiology</b></p> <p><i>Elective</i></p> <p><i>1 credit</i></p>	<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Biology</p> <p>In this Anatomy and Physiology course, students will explore the structure and function of the human body by examining its major systems, including the digestive, cardiovascular, muscular, nervous, respiratory, endocrine, lymphatic, and reproductive systems. Emphasis is placed on understanding how these systems work individually and together to maintain homeostasis. Students will engage in hands-on learning, including the dissection of a mink, to gain practical experience in anatomical study. Through inquiry, critical thinking, and real-world applications, this course provides a strong foundation for students interested in health sciences, medicine, or related fields.</p>



<p><b>Physics</b></p> <p><i>Elective</i></p> <p><i>1 credit</i></p>	<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Chemistry</p> <p>Physics is the study of the nature of motion, forces, energy, matter, heat, sound, light, and atoms. Students extend their understanding of physics through inquiry-based investigations as they explore these topics.</p>
<p><b>Selected Topics in Science</b></p> <p><i>Elective</i></p> <p><i>1 credit</i></p>	<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Biology</p> <p><b>Concurrent enrollment:</b> Chemistry</p> <p>This course explores a variety of scientific disciplines beyond the traditional core sequence, offering students an engaging introduction to <b>astronomy, forensic science, and analytical chemistry</b>. Students will learn the fundamentals of each field through a combination of <b>theoretical study, inquiry-based investigations, and hands-on laboratory experiments</b>. Emphasis is placed on scientific reasoning, problem-solving, and real-world applications. This course is ideal for students interested in broadening their scientific knowledge and exploring diverse areas of science in greater depth.</p>
<p><b>Sports Medicine</b></p> <p><i>Elective</i></p> <p><i>1 credit</i></p>	<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Biology</p> <p>This course provides an introduction to the field of sports medicine, focusing on injury prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, emergency injury management, and administrative functions. Students will explore key topics such as anatomy, tissue response to injury, and common sports-related injuries, gaining insight into the various disciplines within sports medicine and their role in supporting the physically active community. Through classroom instruction and hands-on learning activities, students will develop a foundational understanding of injury care and management, though no direct patient care will be provided. This course is ideal for those interested in athletic training, physical therapy, or healthcare-related fields.</p>
<p><b>Environmental Science</b></p> <p><i>Elective</i></p> <p><i>1 credit</i></p>	<p>This hands-on course explores the interactions between humans and the environment through laboratory investigations and fieldwork. Students will examine topics such as the effects of toxins on ecosystems and human health, non-chemical pollution (including noise and urban sprawl), and the consequences of biodiversity loss and species extinction. Emphasis is placed on understanding environmental challenges and exploring solutions at both local and global levels. Through inquiry-based learning and real-world applications, students will develop critical thinking skills and a deeper appreciation for environmental stewardship and sustainability.</p>

<p><b>AP Physics</b></p> <p><i>Elective</i></p> <p><i>\$99 Test Fee billed November 1 each year</i></p> <p><i>1 credit</i></p>	<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Chemistry/Teacher Recommendation</p> <p>This Advanced Placement course is equivalent to a first-semester, algebra-based college physics course, covering topics such as kinematics, dynamics, circular motion, energy, momentum, simple harmonic motion, and rotational motion. Emphasis is placed on conceptual understanding, mathematical problem-solving, and inquiry-based investigations to develop critical thinking and analytical skills. The course follows the AP Physics curriculum outlined by the College Board, and students are required to take the AP Physics exam. A lab component is included to reinforce theoretical concepts through hands-on experimentation. All students are required to take the AP Physics exam.</p>
<p><b>AP Chemistry</b></p> <p><i>Elective</i></p> <p><i>\$99 Test Fee billed November 1 each year</i></p> <p><i>1 credit</i></p>	<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Chemistry/Teacher Recommendation</p> <p>This Advanced Placement Chemistry course is equivalent to a first-year college chemistry course, providing an in-depth study of atomic structure, chemical bonding, gas laws, kinetic-molecular theory, solution chemistry, reaction types, equilibrium, kinetics, and thermodynamics. Students will engage in rigorous laboratory investigations to reinforce theoretical concepts and develop essential analytical and problem-solving skills. The course follows the AP Chemistry curriculum outlined by the College Board, and students are required to take the AP Chemistry exam.</p>
<p><b>AP Biology</b></p> <p><i>Elective</i></p> <p><i>\$99 Test Fee billed November 1 each year</i></p> <p><i>1 credit</i></p>	<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Chemistry/Teacher Recommendation</p> <p>This Advanced Placement Biology course is equivalent to an introductory college-level biology course, offering an in-depth exploration of the unity and diversity of life. Topics include basic chemistry, cell biology, genetics, life processes, homeostasis, human anatomy and physiology, ecosystems, and environmental issues. Students will engage in hands-on laboratory investigations aligned with the AP Biology curriculum published by the College Board. Additional time outside of class may be required for lab work and AP exam preparation. All students are required to take the AP Biology exam.</p>
<p><b>STEM</b></p> <p><i>Elective</i></p> <p><i>1 credit</i></p>	<p>This hands-on elective introduces high school students to the exciting world of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Through engaging projects, real-world problem-solving, and collaborative teamwork, students will explore topics such as robotics, coding, environmental science, and engineering design. The course emphasizes creativity, critical thinking, and innovation, preparing students for future studies and careers in STEM fields. Whether designing and testing structures, programming simple applications, or conducting scientific experiments, students will gain practical skills and a deeper understanding of how STEM shapes the world around them. No prior experience is required—just curiosity and a willingness to explore!</p>

## SOCIAL STUDIES

<p><b>World Geography</b></p> <p><i>Required</i></p> <p><i>1 credit</i></p>	<p>This course explores the physical and human geography of the world, examining how natural and ecological processes shape Earth's surface and how resources influence regional development. Students will analyze global regions, including North and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific, comparing their physical landscapes, cultures, economies, and populations. Topics include human migration, urban development, globalization, and the impact of conflict and cooperation on political boundaries. Through critical thinking and social science skills, students will evaluate historical and modern geographic trends to understand the interconnectedness of the world.</p>
<p><b>World History Part I</b></p> <p><i>Required</i></p> <p><i>1 credit</i></p>	<p>This course explores the development of civilizations from the Paleolithic Era through the late Middle Ages, examining the social, political, economic, and cultural achievements that shaped the modern world. Students will study ancient river valley civilizations such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Indus River Valley, and China, as well as the contributions of Greece and Rome to Western civilization. The course also covers the Byzantine Empire, Islamic civilization, medieval Europe, post-classical China, feudal Japan, and the great empires of Africa and the Americas. Through historical analysis, geographic exploration, and critical thinking, students will gain a deeper understanding of how past civilizations influence the present and develop skills in historical inquiry, economic decision-making, and responsible citizenship.</p>
<p><b>World History Part II</b></p> <p><i>Required</i></p> <p><i>1 credit</i></p>	<p>This course examines global history from 1500 C.E. to the present, analyzing the political, cultural, geographic, and economic forces that have shaped the modern world. Students will explore key historical developments, including the Renaissance, Protestant Reformation, European exploration, political revolutions, and the rise and fall of empires. The course covers global conflicts such as World War I, World War II, and the Cold War, as well as the impact of decolonization, independence movements, and globalization in the 20th and 21st centuries. Through historical analysis, critical thinking, and geographical exploration, students will develop a deeper understanding of the interconnected world and the responsibilities of global citizenship.</p>
<p><b>US History</b></p> <p><i>Required</i></p> <p><i>1 credit</i></p>	<p>This course explores the key events, movements, and transformations that have shaped the United States from the Age of Exploration to the present. Students will examine the colonization of North America, the American Revolution, the development of the U.S. political system, and the Civil War and Reconstruction. The course also covers westward expansion, industrialization, the nation's growing role in world affairs, and major events of the 20th and 21st centuries, including the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, and civil rights movements. Emphasis is placed on historical analysis, geographic connections, economic decision-making, and responsible citizenship, helping students develop a deeper understanding of the nation's past and its impact on the present.</p>

<p><b>Government/ Economics with Personal Finance</b></p> <p><i>Required</i></p> <p>1 credit</p>	<p>This course provides an in-depth exploration of American government and economic systems, focusing on the foundations, principles, and structure of the U.S. Constitution and democracy. Students will examine the federal system, branches of government, elections, public policy, civil liberties, and civil rights, as well as the roles of state and local governments. The economics portion of the course introduces students to different economic systems, the role of producers and consumers, the price system, and government involvement in the economy at both the state and national levels. Students will analyze economic goals such as full employment, stable prices, and economic growth, while also comparing the U.S. government and economy to those of other nations. This course emphasizes critical thinking, civic responsibility, and economic decision-making, preparing students to be informed citizens and participants in the global economy.</p> <p><i>The personal finance course provides essential knowledge of personal finance, covering budgeting for living and leisure, banking transactions, credit and loans, insurance for risk management, income and taxes, financial planning, savings and investments, factors influencing income, and financing postsecondary education.</i></p>
<p><b>AP US History</b> <i>Alternative to US History</i> 11th Grade</p> <p><i>\$99 Test Fee billed November 1 each year</i></p> <p>1 credit</p>	<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> 80% or higher in previous social studies class/Teacher Recommendation</p> <p>This college-level course provides an in-depth, chronological survey of American history from the Age of Exploration to the present. Students will explore key themes, including diplomacy, economics, politics, intellectual movements, and cultural development, while developing historical thinking skills through the analysis of primary and secondary sources. The course follows the AP U.S. History curriculum set by the College Board and prepares students for the Advanced Placement examination, which is required for all enrolled students. This rigorous course is designed for juniors and seniors seeking a deeper understanding of U.S. history and may fulfill the U.S. History requirement.</p>
<p><b>AP US Government and Politics with Personal Finance</b> <i>Alternative to US Gov</i> 12th Grade</p> <p><i>\$99 Test Fee billed November 1 each year</i></p> <p>1 credit</p>	<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> 80% or higher in previous social studies class/Teacher Recommendation</p> <p>This college-level course provides an in-depth study of the key concepts, institutions, and political processes of the United States government and political culture. Students will analyze foundational documents, including the U.S. Constitution, explore the roles of political parties, interest groups, and the media, and complete a research or applied civics project. The course follows the AP U.S. Government and Politics curriculum published by the College Board and prepares students for the Advanced Placement examination, which is required for all enrolled students. This course may be taken in place of the required Government and Economics class.</p> <p><i>This personal finance course provides essential knowledge of personal finance, covering budgeting for living and leisure, banking transactions, credit and loans, insurance for risk management, income and taxes, financial planning, savings and investments, factors influencing income, and financing postsecondary education.</i></p>

**AP Human Geography**  
*Elective*  
 Grade 10-12

*\$99 Test Fee billed  
 November 1 each year*

*1 credit*

**Prerequisite:** 80% or higher in previous social studies class/Teacher Recommendation  
 AP Human Geography is an introductory college-level course that explores patterns and processes shaping human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth’s surface. Students will analyze population dynamics, cultural patterns, political organization, agriculture, urbanization, and economic development through case studies, spatial data, and geographic models. Emphasis is placed on developing skills in data analysis, map interpretation, and geographic reasoning. This course prepares students for the AP Human Geography exam and fulfills a social studies credit requirement. All students must take the AP Human Geography exam.

**Psychology**  
*Elective*

*1 credit*

This introductory psychology course explores the fundamental principles of human thought, behavior, and emotion. Students will examine key psychological concepts such as personality development, learning, motivation, mental health, and interpersonal relationships. Topics covered in the first semester include cognitive processes, brain function, perception, motivation, emotion, states of consciousness, and human development. Through discussions, experiments, and real-world applications, students will gain a deeper understanding of themselves and others, preparing them for further studies in psychology and related fields.

**WORLD LANGUAGES**

**Note: Three consecutive years of one language or two years of two languages are required for an advanced diploma at RCS - we highly recommend a language even for those who are completing a standard diploma.**

**French I**  
*Elective*

*1 credit*

French I introduces students to the fundamentals of the French language with a strong emphasis on grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. Through a comprehensible input-based approach, students will build skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Themed units provide a foundation for communication, allowing students to interpret and express meaning in real-world contexts. Cultural exploration is integrated throughout the course to enhance understanding of Francophone countries and their traditions.

**French II**  
*Elective*

*1 credit*

**Prerequisite:** Passing grade in French I/Teacher Recommendation  
 French II expands upon the foundational grammar, vocabulary, and communication skills developed in French I. Students will deepen their understanding of verb conjugations, sentence structure, and more complex grammatical concepts. Class activities emphasize conversation, immediate translation, and increased use of French in daily instruction. Cultural studies, including French history, geography, and art, are integrated throughout the course to provide a broader understanding of the Francophone world.

<p><b>French III</b></p> <p><i>Elective</i></p> <p>1 credit</p>	<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Passing grade in French II/Teacher Recommendation</p> <p>French III builds upon the grammar, vocabulary, and communication skills from previous levels, with a focus on more complex grammatical structures and refined language use. Students will enhance their speaking and writing by incorporating advanced sentence constructions and expanding their fluency. Reading selections from French literature and other authentic texts will supplement class discussions and reinforce comprehension. The course continues to integrate French culture, history, and current events to deepen students' understanding of the Francophone world.</p>
<p><b>French IV</b></p> <p><i>Elective</i></p> <p>1 credit</p>	<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Passing grade in French III/Teacher Recommendation</p> <p>French IV refines and expands students' command of the language through an in-depth review and application of advanced grammar concepts. Emphasis is placed on developing greater fluency in speaking and writing, with students encouraged to incorporate more sophisticated sentence structures and nuanced expression. Reading selections from French literature and authentic sources will enhance comprehension and cultural awareness. Discussions, compositions, and presentations in French will further strengthen communication skills and appreciation of Francophone culture.</p>
<p><b>French V</b></p> <p><i>Elective</i></p> <p>1 credit</p>	<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Passing grade in French IV/Teacher Recommendation</p> <p>French V focuses on achieving fluency in both spoken and written French. Students will refine their communication skills through extensive practice in prepared and spontaneous speaking, as well as advanced reading and writing activities. Grammar review will emphasize exceptions to standard rules and idiomatic expressions. Authentic texts, literature, current events, and cultural discussions will deepen students' understanding of Francophone cultures while strengthening their ability to express complex ideas with accuracy and confidence.</p>
<p><b>AP French</b></p> <p><i>Elective</i></p> <p><i>\$99 Test Fee billed November 1 each year</i></p> <p>1 credit</p>	<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Passing grade in French IV/Teacher Recommendation</p> <p>AP French Language and Culture is an advanced course designed to develop students' proficiency in interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational communication. The course is conducted almost entirely in French and emphasizes real-world language use through authentic materials, including literature, news articles, podcasts, and films. Students will refine their grammar, expand their vocabulary, and explore six cultural themes outlined by the College Board: Families and Communities, Personal and Public Identities, Contemporary Life, Science and Technology, Global Challenges, and Beauty and Aesthetics. The course prepares students for the AP French Language and Culture Exam, which they are required to take.</p>
<p><b>Note: Three consecutive years of one language or two years of two languages are required for an advanced diploma at RCS - we highly recommend a language even for those who are completing a standard diploma.</b></p>	
<p><b>Spanish I</b></p> <p><i>Elective</i></p> <p>1 credit</p>	<p>Spanish I provides an introduction to the Spanish language through fundamental grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. Students will develop basic skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing while learning essential sentence structures and conversational phrases. The course also introduces aspects of Hispanic cultures, fostering an appreciation for the diverse traditions and customs of Spanish-speaking countries.</p>

<p><b>Spanish II</b></p> <p><i>Elective</i> RBC - 4 Credits</p> <p><i>A Dual Enrollment fee is charged for one semester of this course. (Roughly \$165)</i></p> <p>1 credit</p>	<p><b>Note: Spanish II-V are DE classes currently offered through Richard Bland. These courses come with a fee and may be accepted as credit at local colleges and universities</b></p> <p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Passing grade in Spanish I/Teacher Recommendation</p> <p>Spanish II, a dual enrollment course, builds upon the foundational skills acquired in Spanish I, with a continued focus on grammar, vocabulary expansion, and pronunciation. Students will develop greater proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing through more complex sentence structures and conversations. Emphasis is placed on increasing fluency and comprehension while exploring cultural aspects of Spanish-speaking countries.</p>
<p><b>Spanish III</b></p> <p><i>Elective</i> RBC - 4 Credits</p> <p><i>A Dual Enrollment fee is charged for one semester of this course. (Roughly \$165)</i></p> <p>1 credit</p>	<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Passing grade in Spanish II/Teacher Recommendation</p> <p>Spanish III, a dual enrollment course, reinforces and expands upon the linguistic concepts introduced in Spanish I and II. Students will refine their grammar skills, enhance reading comprehension, and strengthen conversational abilities through more advanced vocabulary and sentence structures. Emphasis is placed on practical communication, including writing tasks such as letters, emails, and formal correspondence. Cultural exploration of Spanish-speaking countries is integrated throughout the course to deepen students' understanding of the language in real-world contexts.</p>
<p><b>Spanish IV</b></p> <p><i>Elective</i> RBC - 3 Credits</p> <p><i>A Dual Enrollment fee is charged for one semester of this course. (Roughly \$165)</i></p> <p>1 credit</p>	<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Passing grade in Spanish III/Teacher Recommendation</p> <p>Spanish IV, a dual enrollment course, builds upon the foundation established in previous levels by refining students' proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Emphasis is placed on advanced grammar concepts, expanded vocabulary, and more complex sentence structures. Students will engage with authentic texts, including selections from Spanish and Latin American literature, as well as contemporary articles. Class discussions and writing assignments encourage critical thinking and cultural awareness, preparing students for further academic study or real-world application of the language.</p>
<p><b>Spanish V</b></p> <p><i>Elective</i> RBC - 3 Credits</p> <p><i>A Dual Enrollment fee is charged for one semester of this course. (Roughly \$165)</i></p> <p>1 credit</p>	<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Passing grade in Spanish IV/Teacher Recommendation</p> <p>Spanish V, a dual enrollment course, focuses on achieving greater fluency and comprehension in spoken and written Spanish. Students will engage in situational conversations, role-playing, and discussions on culture and current events in Spanish-speaking countries. Advanced vocabulary acquisition, grammar refinement, and writing skills are integrated with regular reading selections from literature and contemporary sources. This course encourages critical thinking and cultural appreciation while preparing students for higher-level Spanish studies or real-world language use.</p>

## HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

<p><b>Health 8</b></p> <p><i>Required</i></p> <p><i>0.5 credit</i></p>	<p>This required course explores the three sides of the health triangle—physical, mental/emotional, and social health—emphasizing the importance of maintaining a balanced lifestyle. Students will learn about nutrition, the benefits of regular exercise, and how to make informed dietary choices using nutrition labels. Topics also include personal health, stress management, bullying, peer pressure, and strategies for improving overall well-being. Additionally, students will examine environmental health and societal safety issues to develop a comprehensive understanding of personal and community wellness.</p>
<p><b>Health 9</b></p> <p><i>Required</i></p> <p><i>0.5 credit</i></p>	<p>This course provides an in-depth study of personal health care and the major body systems, including the skeletal, nervous, muscular, cardiovascular, respiratory, digestive, endocrine, and reproductive systems. Students will explore the effects of alcohol, tobacco, over-the-counter, and illegal drugs, as well as strategies for prevention and responsible decision-making. Additional topics include communicable and non-communicable diseases, safety and injury prevention, and community and environmental health. The course also includes hands-on training in First Aid, CPR, and the use of automated external defibrillators (AED), equipping students with essential life-saving skills.</p>
<p><b>Health 10</b></p> <p><i>Required</i></p> <p><i>0.5 credit</i></p>	<p>This course provides comprehensive classroom instruction in Driver Education Theory, focusing on the principles of safe and responsible driving. Students will learn essential highway safety concepts, right-of-way rules, vehicle control, lane changes, parking techniques, and how to respond to vehicle malfunctions. The course also addresses the dangers of impaired and distracted driving, including the effects of alcohol and drugs. Through engaging lessons and discussions, students will develop the knowledge necessary to become safe and informed drivers.</p>
<p><b>Physical Education 8</b></p> <p><i>Required</i></p> <p><i>0.5 credit</i></p>	<p>This course focuses on the development of individual skills, teamwork, and strategies for both team and lifetime sports. Students will engage in activities designed to enhance physical fitness, coordination, and overall well-being. The curriculum introduces lifetime sports such as golf, badminton, and tennis in 9th grade, with further skill development in 10th grade. Instruction is tailored to age and ability levels to promote skill progression and positive self-esteem. A change of clothes (gym attire) is required for participation.</p>
<p><b>Physical Education 9/10</b></p> <p><i>Required</i></p> <p><i>0.5 credit</i></p>	<p>The Physical Education program focuses on developing individual skills, teamwork, and strategies for both competitive and lifelong sports. Instruction is tailored to each student's age and ability level, promoting physical fitness, positive self-esteem, and sportsmanship. Lifetime sports such as golf, badminton, and tennis are introduced in 9th grade and further developed in 10th grade. A change of clothes (gym attire) is required for participation.</p> <p><i>Students may opt out of PE 9 or 10 if they are approved for our Athletics for PE Credit program, please see the athletic director for further information on qualifications and requirements.</i></p>



Advanced Strength Training and Lifetime Wellness	This year-long elective for 11th and 12th grade students combines strength training and lifelong wellness education over two semesters. In the Strength Training semester, students will focus on anaerobic weight training, learning proper lifting techniques, muscle isolation, and key fitness principles while tracking progress in a workout journal. Injury prevention and recovery strategies will also be covered. The Lifetime Wellness semester emphasizes overall health through physical activity, sports, and games while exploring key wellness areas such as social, emotional, mental, and physical well-being. Together, these courses promote lifelong fitness, strength development, and a balanced, healthy lifestyle.
<i>Elective Grades 11 and 12 1 Credit</i>	

FINE ARTS

Art I: Foundations	Art I: Foundations introduces students to the essential principles and elements of art through a combination of art criticism, history, aesthetics, and hands-on studio production. Students will explore a variety of media, including drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, and other crafts. This course provides the fundamental skills necessary to appreciate, understand, and create expressive and meaningful works of art while fostering creativity and artistic confidence
<i>Elective 1 credit</i>	

Art II: Intermediate Art	<b>Prerequisite:</b> Foundations in Art/Teacher recommendation Intermediate Art builds upon the skills and concepts introduced in Foundations in Art, with a deeper exploration of the elements of art and principles of design. Students will refine their techniques in various media, including drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture, while developing original and meaningful works of art. Emphasis is placed on creativity, composition, and personal expression, as well as the study of art history and its cultural significance. Students will maintain a portfolio of their work in preparation for advanced study.
<i>Elective 1 credit</i>	

Art III: Advanced Art	<b>Prerequisite:</b> Intermediate in Art/Teacher recommendation Advanced Art challenges students to refine their artistic skills and develop a personal style through the creation of original works. Emphasis is placed on art history, critical evaluation, and aesthetics, with an increased focus on creative problem-solving and conceptual development. Students will explore advanced techniques in various media while cultivating a deeper understanding of artistic expression. A strong portfolio will be developed, preparing students for further study in the visual arts.
<i>Elective 1 credit</i>	

Photo-journalism	<b>Prerequisite:</b> Foundations in Art/Teacher recommendation A hands-on course designed for students interested in producing the school yearbook, <i>The Key</i> , and serving as editors for the school newsletter. Ethical journalism, advanced skills in digital photography and publication design, as well as writing and editing abilities are developed. Emphasis is placed on teamwork, meeting deadlines, and capturing the diversity of the school community through visual storytelling. This course also strengthens leadership and peer management skills, preparing students for real-world media and communication careers.
<i>Elective Grades 11 and 12 1 credit</i>	

<b>Advanced Photo Journalism</b>	<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Photojournalism/Teacher recommendation</p> <p>Advanced Photojournalism builds on the skills developed in Photojournalism I, with students taking on key leadership roles in the creation, design, editing, and production of the school yearbook and newsletter. Emphasis is placed on advanced photography, layout design, editorial decision-making, and deadline management. Students will refine their technical and journalistic skills while ensuring the publication meets high standards of quality and accuracy.</p>
<i>Elective 12th Grade 1 credit</i>	

<b>US Choir</b>	<p>Open to all students in grades 8-12, the RCS Choir welcomes singers of all experience levels. Meeting daily, students will develop essential music skills, including note and rhythm reading, while exploring a variety of musical styles from different eras. The choir will perform both sacred and secular music, with regular performances at Mass throughout the month. The course culminates in a final concert at the end of the academic year, offering students a chance to showcase their growth and musical achievements.</p>
<i>Elective Grades 8-12  1 credit</i>	

<b>US Orchestra</b>	<p>The RCS Orchestra is open to all students in grades 8-12 who play violin, viola, cello, or bass. Teacher recommendation is necessary for enrollment. Meeting daily, students will explore a diverse range of string music from various musical eras, while focusing on improving their technique and understanding of music theory. Students are expected to provide their own instruments and are responsible for transporting them to and from school. This course offers a collaborative environment for students to grow musically and enhance their performance skills.</p>
<i>Elective Grades 8-12  1 credit</i>	

<b>CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION</b>
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<b>Introduction to Business</b>	<p>Introduction to Business provides students with a foundational understanding of key business concepts, including business ownership, marketing, economics, management, business ethics, and decision-making. Students will explore how businesses operate in a global economy and gain insight into essential skills needed for success in the business world. This course serves as an excellent starting point for students interested in pursuing further business studies.</p>
<i>Elective Grades 9-11  1 Credit</i>	

<b>Cooperative Education/ Work based learning</b>	<p>Juniors and seniors enrolled in a business or marketing course may choose to participate in the Work-Based Learning program. This opportunity allows students to gain valuable paid work experience while earning high school credit. Each student will work with their employer and teacher to develop an individual training plan that aligns with career goals and academic learning. School approval is required before enrollment to ensure the job placement meets program requirements.</p>
<i>Elective Grades 11 and 12 1 Credit</i>	

<p><b>Word Processing and Digital Literacy</b></p> <p><i>Elective</i> Grades 8-12</p> <p><i>1 Credit</i></p>	<p>This course provides students with essential skills in word processing, digital communication, and responsible technology use. Students will develop proficiency in creating, formatting, and editing professional documents using industry-standard software. Additional topics include keyboarding techniques, cloud-based collaboration tools, digital citizenship, and basic cybersecurity practices. Emphasis is placed on efficiency, accuracy, and real-world applications for academic and workplace success. This course prepares students for further studies in business, technology, and communication.</p>
<p><b>BUAD 200: DE Management Principles</b></p> <p><i>Elective</i> MBU - 3 Credits A Dual Enrollment fee is charged for each semester-long course. (Roughly \$165)</p> <p><i>0.5 Credit</i></p>	<p>This dual enrollment course provides students with an in-depth overview of traditional and contemporary management theories and practices. Students will explore key principles of management, including planning, organizing, leading, and controlling, while also examining real-world applications. A significant focus is placed on sustainable business management from both strategic and operational perspectives. Through case studies, discussions, and practical applications, students will develop a deeper understanding of ethical decision-making, leadership, and the evolving role of managers in today's global economy. Successful completion of this course earns both high school and college credit through Mary Baldwin University.</p>
<p><b>BUAD 230: DE Marketing Principles</b></p> <p><i>Elective</i> MBU - 3 Credits A Dual Enrollment fee is charged for each semester-long course. (Roughly \$165)</p> <p><i>0.5 Credit</i></p>	<p>This dual enrollment course provides an introduction to the fundamental principles of marketing, including marketing strategy, consumer behavior, and the interaction between businesses and consumers. Students will explore key topics such as market research, branding, advertising, and digital marketing while examining the economic, social, cultural, and legal environments that influence marketing decisions. Emphasis is placed on both traditional marketing concepts and emerging trends in the field. Through analytical and creative projects, students will apply marketing principles to real-world scenarios, developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Successful completion of this course earns both high school and college credit through Mary Baldwin University.</p>
<p><b>ACC 211 Principles of Accounting I</b></p> <p><i>Elective</i> Grades 11 and 12 VWCC - 3 Credits A Dual Enrollment fee is charged for each semester-long course. (Roughly \$165)</p> <p><i>1 Credit</i></p>	<p><b>Prerequisite:</b> Algebra I</p> <p>This course introduces accounting principles with respect to financial reporting. It demonstrates how decision makers use accounting information for reporting purposes. The course focuses on the preparation of accounting information and its use in the operation of organizations, as well as methods of analysis and interpretation of accounting information.</p>

<p><b>AP Computer Science Principles</b>  <i>Elective</i>  <i>\$99 Test Fee billed November 1 each year</i>  <b>1 credit</b></p>	<p>AP Computer Science Principles is an introductory college-level computing course that introduces students to the breadth of the field of computer science. Students learn to design and evaluate solutions and to apply computer science to solve problems through the development of algorithms and programs. They incorporate abstraction into programs and use data to discover new knowledge. Students also explain how computing innovations and computing systems—including the internet—work, explore their potential impacts, and contribute to a computing culture that is collaborative and ethical.</p>
<p><b>National Parks Experience</b>  <i>Elective</i>  <i>Grades 11-12</i>  <i>There will be a cost with this electric that does not include airfare</i>  <b>0.5 credit</b></p>	<p><b>Fall 2025: Caribbean History and Ecology</b></p> <p>This course explores the island of St. John, US Virgin Islands, focusing on its diverse biomes, coral reef ecology, native cultures, colonial history, and geological features. Students will apply their classroom knowledge during a five-day field experience, staying at Concordia Eco Resort and exploring the island through hiking and snorkeling. Enrollment is limited to 12, and participants must be physically prepared for steep hikes and open-water swimming. The trip cost is \$2,200 per student (excluding airfare), and students must provide their own snorkel gear and have a valid U.S. passport.</p>
<p><b>National Parks Experience</b>  <i>Elective</i>  <i>Grades 11-12</i>  <i>There will be a cost with this electric that does not include airfare</i>  <b>0.5 credit</b></p>	<p><b>Spring 2026: Grand Canyon Exploration</b></p> <p>This course examines the geology, ecology, and human history of Grand Canyon National Park. Students will gain hands-on experience through a two-night training hike on the Appalachian Trail and a guided three-night backpacking expedition from the South Rim to the Colorado River. The course emphasizes outdoor skills, trip preparation, and ecological understanding. Enrollment is limited to 8, and National Parks Experience Corp will provide all necessary camping and backpacking gear. The trip cost is \$2,200 per student (excluding airfare and meals).</p>
<p><b>Catholic Social Teaching</b>  <i>Elective</i>  <i>Grades 10-12</i>  <i>Volunteer Hours</i></p>	<p><b>Concurrent enrollment:</b> Study Hall  Students must be enrolled in a study hall in order to be enrolled in Catholic Social Teaching. Students will arrange a service within the school during their study hall time. Using study hall for service will count for volunteer service hours.</p>
<p><b>Study Hall</b>  <i>Elective</i>  <i>Grades 10-12</i>  <b>0 credit</b></p>	<p>This study hall is not for credit. It is approved on a needs basis. Students with multiple AP and DE courses are assigned first along with any students who have specific accommodations that require time with our exceptional learners team. If there is still space in a study hall they will be assigned based on age, beginning with 12th grade.</p>