



St. John Paul II Catholic High School

2024-2025

Course Catalog

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of St. John Paul II Catholic High School to provide an affordable college preparatory curriculum within a Christ-centered environment. This mission encompasses the education of the whole person – spirit, mind, and body – within the tradition of the Catholic Church.

PHILOSOPHY

It is the commitment of all members of the St. John Paul II Catholic High School community to provide a varied program of religious experiences grounded in Catholic faith and tradition. Educational offerings will promote an academic understanding of our world and skills to develop a personal code of moral and ethical conduct. This environment will provide social and cultural opportunities that will lead to a greater embodiment for caring and giving within the community.

INSTITUTIONAL VALUES

In order to achieve this mission and philosophy, the school subscribes to the following core values:

Catholic Community

The school seeks to teach and deepen the love of God and neighbor as revealed in Sacred Scripture. Through both curriculum and community, students will be taught to live and articulate the teachings of Catholicism. They will learn to respect the value of prayer and Christian service, to respect others and to be Disciples of Christ at home, in school and in the community.

Human Dignity

The school will help students to appreciate and respect others in our world. They will understand that God is the source of life from whom we come and to whom we will return.

Academic Excellence

The school will provide a well-rounded college preparatory curriculum. This will be accomplished within a framework of moral, ethical and spiritual growth encouraging and promoting independent thinking and problem solving.

Development of Vocations

The school will provide opportunities that support and nurture religious and secular vocations. Through programs and in-depth presentations students will see all aspects of career choice development open to them.

INTRODUCTION

Explore the diverse courses offered at St. John Paul II Catholic High School through these concise descriptions. Each departmental section opens with a philosophy statement, providing insight into the academic discipline. The section concludes with course sequences, showcasing how each course serves as a prerequisite for more advanced studies.

This summary provides quick reference points, and an overview of each course and our educational offerings.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Graduates of SJPII are required to accumulate a minimum of 24 credits, with a full credit granted for the successful completion of a year-long course and a half credit awarded for completing a one-semester course or half of a year-long course.

Our comprehensive curriculum ensures that all essential courses are provided for admission to any college within the University System of Florida. It's important to note that entrance requirements for colleges outside the University System of Florida may differ from the courses mandated for SJPII graduation. Students are encouraged to collaborate with our College Advisor Office to ensure they are taking the necessary courses for admission to their chosen college. For a detailed understanding of our academic offerings, refer to the guidance provided by our College Advisor's Office.

Required courses and the number of credit hours for graduation follow:

THEOLOGY – 4 credits are required, or .5 credit for every semester enrolled at SJPII.

ENGLISH – 4 credits are required, including English 1, 2, 3, 4. ELA Standard, Honors, and Advanced Placement (AP) courses may satisfy this requirement. Elective courses do not count toward the English requirement.

MATHEMATICS – 4 credits are required including Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 and one or two additional courses that have these courses as prerequisites. Students who complete Algebra 1 and/or Geometry in middle school must still take 4 credits at SJPII. To receive high school credit for Algebra 1 or Geometry taken in middle school, the student must have obtained a 4 or 5 on the State EOC and no grade lower than a B average in the class. Standard, Honors, and Advanced Placement (AP) courses may satisfy this requirement.

SOCIAL STUDIES – 3 credits are required, including World History, United States History, Government, and Economics. Standard, Honors, and Advanced Placement (AP) courses may satisfy this requirement.

SCIENCE – 3 credits are required, including Biology and two other courses of equal rigor. Two of the three required course credits must have a laboratory component. Students who complete Biology in middle school must still take 3 credits at SJPII. To receive high school credit for Biology taken in middle school, the student must have obtained a 4 or 5 on the State EOC and no grade lower than a B average in the class. Standard, Honors, and Advanced Placement (AP) courses may satisfy this requirement.

WORLD LANGUAGES – 2 credits are required of the same language. Standard, Honors, and Advanced Placement (AP) courses may satisfy this requirement.

REQUIRED ELECTIVES – 4 elective credits are required for graduation at SJPII. Two and a half credits are required in the Fine Arts (1), Business, Personal Development, & Technology (1), and Physical Education (1) departments. The remaining 1 credit may come from any other department that the student chooses.

FINE ARTS – 1 credit is required from the areas of Fine and Performing Arts.

FRESHMAN SEMINAR - .5 credit is required for graduation.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – 1 credit is required including Health (HOPE)

PERSONAL FINANCE – .5 credit is required for graduation.

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES – One additional credits are required for graduation from SJPII. These may be chosen from any courses designated as electives or from courses not specifically listed as electives but that exceed the number of courses required within a department. For example, a student who takes Morality in the Media would receive .5 credits towards these additional electives.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

St. John Paul II Catholic High School follows a 7-period schedule, allowing students to enroll in up to seven daily classes. Our diverse courses are offered at different levels: Standard, Honors, and Advanced Placement (AP). Students may be placed at distinct levels in various subject areas based on their aptitude and performance.

While the curriculum maintains parallel goals and objectives across levels, the instruction level varies in methodology, difficulty, and information volume. Standard level courses cater to students seeking a college preparatory curriculum. Honors/AP level courses, on the other hand, target highly motivated students with advanced college preparatory needs, expecting greater depth exploration of principles and concepts, along with more independent work.

Honors and AP courses carry additional weight. In Honors courses, 0.5 points are added to the earned grade on the report card and transcript. For AP courses, a 1-point addition is made. However, no weight is added to grades below 70%; Honors or AP designations cannot change a failing grade to passing. This policy ensures a fair representation of students' achievements.

COURSE OFFERINGS BY ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT

Explore the array of courses available at SJPII organized by academic department in the following pages. Each department section provides insights into the philosophy driving the course offerings, and, for core curriculum areas, a sequence of courses alongside a summary of elective options.

Certain courses have prerequisites, which may involve Department Placement. This indicates that students are assigned to a specific level of the course based on criteria established by the academic department.

For 10th, 11th, and 12th-grade Honors and AP courses, a contract is required. Both the student and parent must sign a contract, affirming their understanding of the demands associated with the course. This ensures a collaborative commitment to academic excellence and the rigorous expectations of these advanced courses.

** Some of the elective courses will be offered depending on course interest.*

*** AP courses are contingent upon enrollment.*

THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY

The mission of the SJPII Theology Department is to instill in every student the profound message of salvation through Jesus Christ, the perfect revelation of God the Father's love and plan. Our commitment is to faithfully convey the enduring truths of the Catholic Faith that have been handed down to us. Through our teachings, we aspire to cultivate a comprehensive understanding of the Deposit of Faith and guide students towards a deeper maturity in their faith journey.

Beyond the mere transmission of doctrinal clarity, our aim is to engage students in the process of Evangelization, encouraging them towards profound conversion and a steadfast commitment to embracing a Catholic Christian lifestyle. We firmly believe that we are not merely teaching about the person of Jesus Christ; rather, we are inviting students into a transformative relationship with Him. Our ultimate goal, the attainment of eternal life, is rooted in the divine connection from the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit.

Theology at SJPII is not just an academic pursuit; it is a serious endeavor that aligns with the directive of Saint Peter: "Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15). This requires a balance of fervent prayer and scholarly study.

In accordance with the norms of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the SJPII Theology Department consistently focuses on four fundamental areas of Christianity: creed and revelation (belief in God), liturgy and sacraments (worship of God), life in Christ (living in accordance with God's ways), and prayer (communication with God). This holistic approach ensures a comprehensive and enriching theological education for our students.

THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT COURSES

Four credits of Theology are required for Graduation, or .5 credit for each semester enrolled at SJPII.

Theology 1

Total Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Freshman, Department Placement

Course #012 – Old Testament Covenants

Credit Earned: 0.5

This course serves as an introduction to Scripture study. Students establish a foundation for understanding Salvation History through exploration of the covenants and prophets of the Old Testament. Understanding of Old Testament themes and images helps students appreciate that our Catholic roots lie in Judaism.

Course #022 – Gospels: Heart of the New Testament

Credit Earned: 0.5

During the spring semester, this course opens students to the New Testament Scriptures. Students learn how the covenant made by Jesus Christ is the covenant that fulfills all the Old Testament covenants. Topics to be studied in this course include Jesus's Incarnation, His teachings on the Kingdom of God and His use of parables, the miracles Jesus performed as a sign of the Kingdom's coming, and the Paschal Mystery and the Resurrection.

Theology 2

Total Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Sophomore, Department Placement

Course #013 – Ecclesiology

Credit Earned: 0.5

The purpose of this course during the fall semester is to examine the nature and structure of Christ's Church. The student learns the function that the Church plays in salvation history, Her visible manifestation as well as her invisible reality, and the four marks that characterize that Church, i.e. one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. The course is intended to prepare the student to take a more active role in the life and evangelical mission of the Church through a greater understanding and appreciation of her role as the bride of Christ.

Course #023 – Sacraments of the Church

Credit Earned: 0.5

During the second semester, students study the sacrament as an external sign instituted by Christ that confers grace. This course examines the external signs (form and matter) of each sacrament, the Old Testament prefigurement and New Testament institution of the sacraments by Christ, and the sanctifying and actual graces that each sacrament confers upon the recipient. Students also learn who may administer and receive each sacrament. The course is intended to give students a mature understanding of the sacraments of the Church so that they may avail themselves of these gifts and obtain the graces they promise.

Theology 3

Total Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Junior, Department Placement

Course #014 – Morality/World Religions

Credit Earned: 0.5

This course introduces students to the concepts of Catholic moral teaching. This includes a focus on moral formation and discernment, the Natural Law, and the power of habit in virtue or vice. It thoroughly addresses the requirements of the Ten Commandments and the Law of Love. Students also compare and contrast Christianity to the other major world religions. Students look at the beliefs and practices of such religions as Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Judaism. In addition, the political and social implications of each religion are discussed. One goal of this course is to be able to have a charitable, adult conversation with someone of a different belief system.

Course #024 – Morality/Social Justice

Credit Earned: 0.5

This course serves to shape our moral compass by offering a comprehensive exploration of the ethical principles of the Catholic Church. Drawing from the Ten Commandments as refined by Jesus Christ and the Beatitudes, it illustrates how, with divine assistance, we can emulate Christ's life in all aspects of our existence.

It is also an introduction to the social teachings of the Catholic Church. It highlights Christ's compassion for the marginalized, particularly the impoverished, and demonstrates how this concern permeates the Church's social doctrine and mission today. Students will explore ways to actively engage in this mission in their daily lives.

Theology 4**Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Senior, Department Placement****Course #015 – Vocations****Credit Earned: 0.5**

The course on Christian Vocation resonates with the Church's invitation to recognize one's inherent dignity as a child of God and to embrace the divine union for which each person is created. Through reflection on this calling, students deepen their self-awareness and understanding of virtue, applying these insights to interpersonal dynamics. Utilizing Saint John Paul II's Theology of the Body alongside contemporary examples, the course prompts students to contemplate the fulfillment derived from selfless love and how individuals in various life vocations embody this gift.

Course #025 – Theology of the Body**Credit Earned: 0.5**

This course is based on the collection of 129 talks on human sexuality given by Pope John Paul II between September 1979 and November 1984 and is designed specifically for teens. The course will address the profound interconnection between sexuality and the Christian mystery. Children gain an understanding of who God is, who they are as image-bearers of God, male or female, and how they fit into the world.

Course #026 – Morality in the Media***Credit Earned: 0.5****Prerequisite: Senior, Department Placement**

The following Theology elective is offered for those who wish to deepen their understanding of the faith and their world through the application of Christian principles to the broader culture.

Students apply the principles that they learned in Theology classes to ideas contained in contemporary movies and TV shows. Besides the moral themes, students examine how religion in general and Christianity in particular is portrayed in the secular media. Some films may be rated R by the MPAA; however, offensive material will be expurgated.

Course sequence:**Theology 1(Freshmen): Old Testament Covenants □ Heart of the New Testament****Theology 2 (Sophomores): Christology/Ecclesiology □ Sacraments of the Church****Theology 3 (Juniors): Morality/World Religions □ Morality/Social Justice****Theology 4 (Seniors): Vocations □ Theology of the Body****Elective:**

Morality in the Media/Film Studies

Note: *Elective courses are offered upon student interest and instructor availability.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY

In the English Department, we are dedicated to fostering a profound appreciation for literature and cultivating effective communication skills encompassing speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Our commitment to fairness, honor, and quality underpins every aspect of our endeavors. We aspire to establish an inclusive environment that nurtures diverse learning opportunities, enabling students to cultivate the character, knowledge, and skills necessary for success in high school, college, and the workplace.

Moreover, we are steadfast in our mission not only to impart essential academic skills but also to promote and reinforce the doctrines of the Catholic faith. We recognize that our role extends beyond academics; we are shaping our students to be lifelong learners and responsible citizens. By integrating the principles of the Catholic faith into our curriculum, we aim to prepare students to navigate the challenges they may encounter in their educational journey and beyond. Our ultimate goal is to empower students to thrive as well-rounded individuals with a strong foundation in both literature and effective communication, coupled with a deep understanding of their faith.

ENGLISH COURSES

Four credits of English are required for Graduation, or .5 credit for each semester enrolled at SJPII.

Course #110 – English 1 Honors

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Freshman, Department Placement, Contract Required

This honors-level course is a balance of composition, grammar, vocabulary, and literature presented in a survey of the major genres of short stories, nonfiction, drama, poetry, the novel, and mythology. Speaking, listening, and research skills are included, with emphasis on the development of study skills. In addition, students prepare for college entrance exams through a series of daily activities.

Course #111 – English 1 Standard

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Freshman, Department Placement

This course is designed for students who need reinforcement of language arts skills. This course is a balance of composition, grammar, vocabulary, and literature presented in a survey of the major genres of short stories, nonfiction, drama, poetry, the novel, and mythology. Speaking, listening, college entrance exam preparation, and research skills are included, with an emphasis on the development of study skills.

Course #120 – English 2 Honors - World Literature

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Sophomore, Department Placement, Contract Required

This honors-level course provides a survey of world literature selections in preparation for English classes in the junior and senior years. It applies a wide range of critical thinking strategies to comprehend, interpret, and evaluate an array of texts. This course prepares the student for specific writing experiences through the application of basic rhetorical techniques used in the development of literary analysis and research papers. Additionally, students develop usage, vocabulary, speaking, and listening skills, along with college entrance exam strategies, throughout the year.

Course #121 – English 2 Standard - World Literature**Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Sophomore, Department Placement**

In this course, students survey the spectrum of world literature, ranging from Greek and Roman classics to contemporary works. They reinforce analytical skills and also develop composition, vocabulary, and grammar/usage skills, along with college entrance exam strategies, through class discussions and writing assignments. Additionally, students learn to recognize and employ rhetorical strategies in their study of literature and writing. Throughout the two semesters, students also focus on techniques in gathering information for research purposes by using a variety of resources, such as books, databases, online sources, and video.

Course #130 – AP English Language and Composition**Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Junior, Department Placement, Contract Required**

This college-level course is reading and writing intensive and includes special emphasis on analysis of the rhetorical elements of language, the synthesis of multiple sources to serve a common purpose, and the formulation of persuasive arguments. This course is not a literature class but a study of the English language. To conduct such a study, students read and annotate primarily non-fiction texts written from a variety of points of view, some of which might be controversial, to better perceive how they themselves might fashion language to participate in an evidence-based discourse. Students engage in a rigorous study of advanced grammar and syntax. Students are expected to regularly apply their own rhetorical strategies to achieve the purpose dictated by the specific occasion. The advanced nature of this course requires thoughtful commitment and demands extensive reading. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Examination in May.

Course #131 – English 3 Honors - American Literature**Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Junior, Department Placement**

This honor-level course offers a comprehensive exploration of American Literature, featuring works by diverse American authors alongside two Shakespearean plays. Students will engage with a range of literary genres, including novels, plays, short stories, essays, and poetry, while delving into the thematic connections between these works. Emphasis will be placed on honing writing skills, particularly in literary analysis and essay composition. Vocabulary enrichment will be integrated, ensuring students enhance their language proficiency. Additionally, students will undertake a research project, enhancing their critical thinking and analytical abilities.

Course #132 – English 3 Standard - American Literature**Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Junior, Department Placement**

In this standard-level course, students survey American works and authors from the country's beginnings through contemporary society. This course prepares the student for specific writing experiences such as exposition and rhetorical analysis of literary works as well as provides speaking and listening opportunities, vocabulary development, research skills, and college entrance exam strategies.

Course #140 – AP English Literature and Composition**Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Senior, Department Placement, Contract Required**

This college-level course incorporates careful reading and in-depth analysis of British and world literature through discussion, analytical essays, and online activities. The advanced nature of this course demands

thoughtful commitment and extensive reading. All students are required to take the Advanced Placement Examination in May.

Course #141 – English 4 Honors - British Literature

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Senior, Department Placement

This honor-level class provides a chronological approach to the study of the literature, history, and culture of Great Britain. Students hone their literary analysis skills through various modes of expression while continuing their vocabulary, listening, writing, and speaking skills development.

Course #142 – English 4 Standard - British Literature

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Senior, Department Placement

This class provides a chronological approach to the study of the literature, history, and culture of Great Britain. Students hone their literary analysis skills through various modes of expression while continuing their vocabulary, listening, and speaking skills development.

Course #150 – Journalism/Yearbook

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior, Application Required

Multimedia Journalism students focus on all forms of current journalistic media production, including broadcast production, podcasting, and digital written formats. The course includes the production combination of recorded and live newscasts, incorporating onsite interviews and coverage of events. Students practice journalistic skills including, but not limited to, reporting, producing, directing, writing scripts, etiquette, interviewing, editing, graphic designs, camera, and story coverage. Students integrate print and online journalism skills in order to accurately and ethically report campus-wide news to the SJPII community. The students have the opportunity to apply what they learn in class by publishing the school yearbook. Class meetings outside of school time, in addition to those during the school day, are a requirement of this course. This course may be taken multiple times for credit. This course may be taken multiple times for credit.

Course #151 – Creative Writing*

Credit Earned: .5

Prerequisite: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior

In this elective course, students explore the process of creative writing. Students form a community of authors and, through the writer's workshop approach, generate and polish original poetry and prose. Students are required to submit original work and share their writing with the class.

Course #152 – Mythology and Classic Archetypes*

Credit Earned: .5

Prerequisite: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior

This elective course provides the student with a background in mythology. Students focus on the mythologies of various cultures throughout history to identify recurring patterns and archetypal figures. That knowledge is then used in examining selected works, both ancient and modern. Students electing to take this class should be prepared for substantial but manageable reading requirements. This course will be available for the 2023-2024 school year.

Course #153 – Shakespeare’s Comedies*

Credit Earned: .5

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior

In this elective course, students explore Shakespeare and his works through an in-depth study of three of his most famous comedies. Students build on previous knowledge of Shakespearean tragedies from their core English courses to discover the conventions, themes, and values within his comedies. In addition, the students learn to appreciate Shakespeare’s timelessness by watching modern day film adaptations of the plays as well as producing their own adaptation of one of the course readings.

Course Sequence:

English 1 Honor or English 1 Standard English 2 Honor or English 2 Standard English 3 Honor or English 3 Standard or AP English Language and Composition English 4 Honor or English 4 Standard or AP English Literature and Composition

Elective offerings include the following:

Yearbook/Multimedia Journalism

Creative Writing*

Mythology and Classic Archetypes*

Shakespeare’s Comedies*

Note: *Some elective courses are offered upon student interest and instructor availability.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY

The Social Studies Department is dedicated to shaping well-rounded individuals who are not only knowledgeable about significant historical figures, events, and trends but also possess the critical thinking skills essential for analyzing historical evidence. Our goal is to cultivate reflective, competent, and socially aware citizens with both local and global perspectives.

In addition to imparting content knowledge, our focus extends to developing historical thinking skills, enabling students to construct thoughtful arguments for addressing global challenges. By leveraging their understanding of history and analytical abilities, students can apply their Catholic values to make informed decisions within various spheres of relationships, including the global community, the United States, the local community, the Catholic Church, and the family.

We recognize the diverse talents of our students and tailor our curriculum to accommodate a wide range of abilities. Through varied teaching methods, we aim to bolster strengths and improve weaknesses. Our students graduate equipped with a versatile skill set, positioning them for success in all areas of liberal arts education at the college level.

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES

Three credits of Social Studies are required for Graduation.

Course #201 – Pre AP World History and Geography

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Freshman, Department Placement, Contract Required

The Pre-AP World History and Geography areas of focus prioritize the skills fundamental to the study of history and geography in high school, AP, and beyond. This gives students multiple opportunities to think and work like historians and geographers as they develop and strengthen these disciplinary reasoning skills throughout their education in history and the social sciences. Students will acquire knowledge by evaluating evidence from a wide range of primary and secondary sources, explain relationships among events and people by marshaling evidence for causation, comparison, and continuity and change over time, and demonstrate command of quantitative, qualitative, and spatial data by effectively incorporating them into written and oral arguments.

Course #210 – World Cultural Geography

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Freshman, Department Placement

The World Cultural Geography course consists of the following content area strands: American History, World History, Geography, Humanities, Civics and Government. The primary content emphasis for this course pertains to the study of world cultural regions in terms of location, physical characteristics, demographics, historical changes, land use, and economic activity. Content should include, but is not limited to, the use of geographic tools and skills to gather and interpret data and to draw conclusions about physical and human patterns, the relationships between physical geography and the economic, political, social, cultural and historical aspects of human activity, patterns of population growth and settlement in different cultures and environments, the interaction between culture and technology in the use, alteration and conservation of the physical environment, and the interrelationships and interdependence of world cultures.

Course #202 – AP World History: Modern**Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Sophomore, Department Placement, Contract Required**

This course focuses on developing students' understanding of world history from approximately 1200 CE to the present, beginning with a study of the civilizations in Africa, the Americas, and Asia that are foundational to the modern era. In this college-level course, students investigate the content of world history for significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in six historical periods, and develop and use the same thinking skills and methods (analyzing primary and secondary sources, making historical comparisons, chronological reasoning, and argumentation) employed by historians when they study the past. The course also provides five themes (interaction between humans and the environment; development and interaction of cultures; state building, expansion, and conflict; creation, expansion, and interaction of economic systems; development and transformation of social structures) that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places encompassing the five major geographical regions of the globe: Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by introductory college courses. All students are required to take the Advanced Placement Examination in May.

Course #212 – World History - Honors**Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Sophomore, Department Placement**

This course focuses on developing students' understanding of world history from approximately 8000 BCE to the present. Students will investigate the content of world history for significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in six historical periods and in four major geographical regions of the globe: Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe. This course supports the development and application of historical thinking skills, including analyzing primary and secondary sources, making historical comparisons, chronological reasoning, and argumentation. Students will apply historical thinking skills in short answers and essay format.

Course #213 – World History - Standard**Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Sophomore, Department Placement**

This course focuses on developing students' understanding of world history from approximately 8000 BCE to the present. Students will investigate the content of world history for significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in six historical periods and in four major geographical regions of the globe: Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe. This course introduces the development and application of historical thinking skills, including analyzing primary and secondary sources, making historical comparisons, chronological reasoning, and argumentation. This course emphasizes critical reading and writing skills necessary to analyze historical data and write effective essays.

Course #203 – AP United States History**Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Junior, Department Placement, Contract Required**

This course is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and events in United States history. The AP U.S. History courses focus on the development of historical thinking skills (chronological reasoning, comparing and contextualizing, crafting historical arguments using historical evidence, and interpreting and synthesizing historical narrative) and the development of students' abilities to think conceptually about U.S. history from

approximately 1491 to the present. Seven themes of equal importance – American and National Identity; Migration and Settlement; Politics and Power; Work, Exchange, and Technology; America in the World; Geography and the Environment; and Culture and Society – provide areas of historical inquiry for investigation throughout the course. These require students to reason historically about continuity and change over time and make comparisons among various historical developments in different times and places. The course also allows teachers flexibility across nine different periods of U.S. history to teach topics of their choice in depth. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by introductory college courses. All students are required to take the Advanced Placement Examination in May.

Course #214 – United States History Honors

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Junior, Department Placement

This course is designed to provide students with the content knowledge necessary and historical thinking skills to deal critically with the events, issues, and trends facing the United States government and American society. The students examine the political, economic and cultural events of United States history from approximately 1491 to the present day. This course emphasizes an understanding of the principles upon which the U.S. government is built, the structure and function of the U.S. Constitution, and the role of U.S. citizens in participating in government. In addition, this course develops historical thinking skills (chronological reasoning, comparing and contextualizing, crafting historical arguments using historical evidence, and interpreting and synthesizing historical narrative), emphasizes analysis of primary documents, and stresses historical writing skills.

Course #215 – United States History Standard

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Junior, Department Placement

This course is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and events in United States history. The students examine the political, economic, and cultural events of United States history from approximately 1491 to the present day. This course emphasizes an understanding of the principles upon which the U.S. government is built, the structure and function of the U.S. Constitution, and the role of U.S. citizens in participating in government. In addition, this course introduces historical thinking skills (chronological reasoning, comparing and contextualizing, crafting historical arguments using historical evidence, and interpreting and synthesizing historical narrative), conducts analysis of primary documents and develops historical writing skills.

Course #204 - Government

Credit Earned: .5

Prerequisite: Senior, Department Placement

This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the principles upon which the U.S. government is built. Students examine and analyze the structure and function of the U.S. Constitution in order to gain a basis for participating in government. Students learn the rights and roles of U.S. citizens under the US Constitution. The course reinforces reading and analyzing primary documents as well as evaluation and writing skills. The primary purpose of the course is understanding the structures and processes of the United States government intended to maintain a balance of power between the federal and state government as well as understanding the rights and duties of US citizens in the political process. The course stresses analysis of political issues through case studies, debates and research.

Course #205 – Economics**Credit Earned: .5****Prerequisite: Senior, Department Placement**

This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the principles of economics on the microeconomic and the macroeconomic levels. The course begins with an introduction to the concept of economics and an examination of the American economic system. The students learn and apply the tools of microeconomics including the supply and demand model and market structures. In addition, the course identifies the different types and characteristics of business organizations and analyzes current labor market trends. Students will learn and analyze the tools and measures used in macroeconomics including the American banking system, the basic measurements of economic performance, monetary and fiscal policy, and international trade. Students create and utilize graphs, charts, and data to analyze, describe, and explain economic concepts.

Course #250 – AP Psychology***Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Junior/Senior, Contract Required**

This college-level elective course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings. While considering the psychologists and studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with such topics as the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and cognition, motivation, developmental psychology, testing and individual differences, treatment of abnormal behavior, and social psychology. Throughout the course, students employ psychological research methods, including ethical considerations, as they use the scientific method, analyze bias, evaluate claims and evidence, and effectively communicate ideas. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by introductory college courses. All students are required to take the Advanced Placement Examination in May.

Course #260 – AP European History***Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Senior, Contract Required**

In AP European History, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from approximately 1450 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 seven themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: interaction of Europe and the world, economic and commercial development, cultural and intellectual development, states and other institutions of power, social organization and development, national and European identity, and technological and scientific innovations.

Course Sequence:

World Cultural Geography OR Pre AP World History and Geography **AP World History OR World History (Standard/Honors)** **AP United States History OR United States History (Standard/Honors)** **Government + Economics**

Electives:

AP Psychology

AP European History

Note: *Elective courses are offered upon student interest and instructor availability.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY

The Mathematics Department offers a comprehensive college preparatory curriculum, emphasizing logical reasoning, problem-solving, and real-world applications. Our dedicated teachers employ diverse instructional methods not only to foster academic excellence in mathematics but also to support students' spiritual and social growth.

MATHEMATICS COURSES

Four credits of Mathematics are required for Graduation, or .5 credit for each semester enrolled at SJPII.

Course #310 – Algebra 1

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Department Placement

This standard-level course provides the foundation of Algebra skills necessary for future math courses. Topics covered include simplifying expressions involving integers, variables, radicals, systems of equations, solving linear and quadratic equations, graphing and writing linear equations, solving and graphing linear inequalities, solving absolute value equations, polynomial operations, and factoring polynomials.

Course #320 – Geometry Honors

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Algebra 1, Department Placement, Contract Required (if taken by a sophomore)

This honors-level course is an enriched geometry program with an emphasis on proofs, higher-order thinking, and using logic to solve various types of problems. In this two-semester course, students learn and apply geometric concepts, theorems, and postulates. Both inductive and deductive reasoning are utilized to reach conclusions. Topics covered include proofs, constructions, triangles, perpendicular and parallel lines, polygons, the Pythagorean Theorem, circles, area, volume, and coordinate geometry.

Course #312 – Geometry

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Algebra 1, Department Placement

In this standard-level course, students learn and apply algebraic concepts in geometric situations, as well as definitions, theorems, and postulates. Inductive and deductive reasoning processes are utilized to reach conclusions. Topics covered include basic geometric concepts, proofs, congruent triangles, lines in a plane, perpendicular and parallel lines, polygons, the Pythagorean Theorem, similarity, circles, area, surface area, volume, and coordinate geometry.

Course #322 – Algebra 2 Honors

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Algebra 1, Geometry, Department Placement, Contract Required

This honors-level, fast-paced course emphasizes higher-order thinking skills and problem solving in preparation for higher levels of mathematics such as Precalculus and Calculus. Topics covered in this course include equations and inequalities, matrices, conic sections, and sequences and series. Also covered is the study of functions, including linear, quadratic, absolute value, piecewise, radical, rational, exponential, and logarithmic. Students learn to graph, analyze, solve equations and apply these functions to real world situations. Students also learn to perform basic data analysis using statistics and use probability to predict the likelihood of events.

Course #314 – Algebra 2**Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Algebra 1, Geometry, Department Placement**

This standard-level course provides a foundation for higher-level math courses, such as Precalculus and Calculus. The primary focus of this class is to develop an understanding of families of functions including linear, quadratic, absolute value, piecewise, radical, rational, exponential, and logarithmic. Students learn to graph, analyze, solve equations, and apply these functions to real world situations.

Course #316 – Precalculus Honors**Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Algebra 2, Department Placement**

This advanced-level course is designed to prepare students for advanced mathematics, including Calculus. Analytic thinking, graphical analysis, as well as skills from Algebra 2 are all equally utilized throughout this course. Students continue their study of functions from Algebra 2 while learning several more families of functions. The functions emphasized are polynomial, rational, power, exponential, logistic, logarithmic, systems of linear equations, vectors, sequences and series, and trigonometric.

Course #318 – Calculus Honors**Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Precalculus Honors, Department Placement, Contract Required**

This course does not prepare students to take the AP Calculus exam. This year-long advanced level course introduces students to the advanced mathematical concepts of limits, derivatives, higher-order derivatives, curve sketching, optimization, and the physics of motion. Other topics covered in this class include techniques and applications of integration as well as the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus.

Course #320 – AP Calculus AB**Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Precalculus Honors, Department Placement, Contract Required**

Calculus AB is a college-level course in single-variable calculus which includes techniques and applications of the derivative, techniques and applications of the definite integral, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. Algebraic, numerical, and graphical representations are emphasized throughout the course. All students are required to take the Advanced Placement examination in May.

Course #324 – Statistics**Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Algebra 2**

This semester course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Topics covered include regression and correlation, elementary probability theory, binomial and normal distributions, hypothesis testing, and confidence intervals. Students use graphing calculators and computers as aids in exploring and organizing data.

Course Sequence:**Standard: Algebra 1 Geometry Algebra 2 Statistics/Precalculus Honors****Honors: Algebra 1 Geometry Honors Algebra 2 Honors Precalculus Honors****Advanced: Geometry Honors Algebra 2 Honors Precalculus Honors Calculus or AP****Calculus AB or Statistics****Electives:**

Statistics

Note: Some of the AP math courses are offered upon student interest and instructor availability.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY

The Science Program at St. John Paul II Catholic High School is designed to foster students' deep respect for the order and beauty inherent in God's creation. It seeks to cultivate an awareness of the powerful forces that shape both our physical and biological world, instilling in students a profound sense of personal responsibility for the trajectory of science and technology in their lives.

Our program is dedicated to equipping students with a comprehensive method for acquiring, organizing, analyzing, and explaining scientific information. Throughout their scientific studies at SJPII, emphasis is placed on instilling professionalism, ethics, critical thinking, decision-making skills, and the retention of core curricula.

Our faculty is committed to staying abreast of the latest scientific developments, and they actively address the individual needs of students through diverse teaching methods. Moreover, we strive to nurture scientific curiosity and facilitate growth among our students, creating an environment where they can thrive intellectually and ethically.

SCIENCE COURSES

Three credits of Science are required for Graduation.

Course #420 – Biology Honors

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Department Placement

This honors-level course is designed to teach students the concepts of biological science while emphasizing the relationships between the topics covered. Topics of the course include the detailed workings of the cell, the chemistry and genetic basis of life, evolution and diversity, animal and plant metabolism, techniques in biological research, as well as animal behavior and ecology. The course attempts to touch all learning styles through lecture, group activities, and labs.

Course #412 – Biology

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Department Placement

This course is designed to teach students the framework of basic biological concepts as in Course #420, while working at a slower pace and with a less-detailed unit structure. Topics of an introductory course include the detailed workings of the cell, the chemistry and genetic basis of life, evolution and diversity, animal and plant metabolism, techniques in biological research, as well as animal behavior and ecology. Lab techniques/reports are included.

Course #422 – Chemistry Honors

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Biology, Enrollment in Algebra 2 Standard or Algebra 2H, Department Placement, Contract Required

This honors-level course is designed to emphasize chemical concepts and focus on the application of those concepts in problem solving. This course of study is geared to enhance a student's critical-thinking skills and develop independent investigation of chemical concepts and principles.

Course #414 – Chemistry**Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Biology, Enrollment in Algebra 2, Department Placement**

This course is designed to introduce the basic concepts and laboratory techniques of importance in the study of chemistry. The course focuses on the quantitative and qualitative application of chemistry. Throughout the course, the students develop critical-thinking skills by applying knowledge of concepts to problem solving and experimentation. The course further serves to enhance and improve students' basic algebraic skills. of the.

Course #424 – AP Physics**Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Algebra 2 H or Physics, Contract Required****Corequisite: Precalculus**

AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course. Students cultivate their understanding of physics through inquiry-based investigations as they explore topics such as Newtonian mechanics, including rotational motion; work, energy, and power. Lab activities are conducted frequently to allow students to observe and explain a wide variety of physical phenomena. All students are required to take the Advanced Placement Examination in May.

Course #416 – Physics Honors**Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Biology, Chemistry, Algebra 2**

Physics is a fundamental science concerned with the laws that govern the structure of the universe and the investigation of the properties of matter, energy, and their interactions. This course integrates science and mathematics to promote a qualitative and quantitative understanding of the physical world. Students perform laboratory activities and solve problems in order to enhance their comprehension of the material. Lab activities allow the students to observe and explain a wide variety of physical phenomena (e.g. motion, energy, sound, and light).

Course #428 – Environmental Science***Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Biology, Chemistry, Algebra 2, Contract Required**

This college-level course is broadly interdisciplinary, covering topics in biology, chemistry, physics, geology, and earth science. It is designed to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and tools required to understand relationships in the natural world. Students learn to identify and analyze environmental problems, calculate relative risks, and examine alternative solutions for resolution and prevention of such problems facing modern society. All students are required to take the Advanced Placement Examination in May.

Course #430 – Anatomy and Physiology***Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Junior or Senior**

This course includes a detailed study of the major organ systems and chemical processes within the human body. Students are given the opportunity to explore the organ system through dissection of animal organisms and tissues. The course also integrates current medical and science research topics throughout the curriculum. Dissection labs are an integral component of the Anatomy curriculum at St. John Paul II. As this is an elective course, participation in dissections is required.

Course #432 – Earth Science: Geology/Astronomy***Credit Earned: .5****Prerequisite: Junior or Senior**

This single-semester class is designed to provide students with an understanding of land-based geology together with astronomy and space science. Geology topics to be covered include multiple theories explaining earthquakes, seismic monitoring using modern equipment, plate tectonics, and volcanoes. Astronomical topics include discussion of stars, black holes, planetary systems, the moon, the inner and outer solar system, and assorted NASA imagery.

Course #447 – Earth Science: Oceanography/Meteorology***Credit Earned: .5****Prerequisite: Junior or Senior**

This single-semester class is designed to provide students with an understanding of the dynamic processes and interconnectedness of Oceanography and Meteorology. Oceanographic topics covered include historical oceanography, plate tectonics, the hydrologic cycle, properties of ocean water, ocean circulation, marine sediments, and marine environments, resources and pollution. Meteorological topics covered include the structure and characteristics of the atmosphere, Earth/Sun relationships and their influence on the seasons, solar and terrestrial radiation, global circulation, weather systems and fronts, storms, and analysis of weather maps.

Course Sequence:**Biology Honors Chemistry Honors AP Physics or Physics Honors One or two additional credits****Biology Chemistry Physics One or two additional credits****Electives:**

Environmental Science*

Anatomy and Physiology*

Earth Science: Geology/Astronomy*

Earth Science: Oceanography/Meteorology*

Note: *Some elective courses are offered upon student interest and instructor availability.

WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY

Learning a language beyond one's native tongue, whether it be a modern or classical language, serves to enhance one's education within the confines of the classroom and in the broader community. Beyond the traditional focus on grammar and vocabulary, the study of language encompasses a rich exploration of culture, religion, society, history, and geography. It is not only about acquiring linguistic skills but also about delving into the intricate tapestry of human experience.

Within the World Language Department, our educators firmly believe that multilingualism is a cornerstone for the future of our country. Our mission is to equip students with the language tools essential for building meaningful connections within and beyond their social, academic, and religious circles. By engaging in the study of a language other than their own, students are empowered to expand upon the true meaning of Catholicism—universal, broad, and comprehensive—by forming profound relationships with people of diverse cultures, both past and present. Through language learning, we aim to foster a genuine understanding and appreciation for the richness of global perspectives.

WORLD LANGUAGE COURSES

Two credits, in the same language, taken while a student at St. John Paul II, is required for Graduation.

SPANISH

Course #510 – Spanish 1

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Department Placement

This course focuses on acquiring the basic skills in vocabulary, grammar, syntax, and culture. It assumes that the students have minimal or no prior knowledge of the language and culture. It presents simple real-life situations in the target language to expose students to the culture and the people who speak the language. Incrementally, Spanish is introduced as a mode of communication in class. Teachers will also use level-appropriate grammar including present and past tense verbs. This is a multimedia course where technology is fully implemented to support and reinforce the mastering of concepts.

Course #520 – Spanish 2 Honors

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Spanish 1, Department Placement, Contract Required (unless taken by a freshman)

This honors-level course focuses on the continued development of communicative competence in the target language and understanding of the culture(s) of the people who speak the language. It assumes that the students have completed a first-year course or are at a Novice-Mid to Novice-High level of proficiency. Students use basic language structures with accuracy and recombine learned material to express their thoughts. They are exposed to more complex features of the language, moving from concrete to some abstract concepts. Teachers use level-appropriate grammar including the present, past, and an introduction to the future tense. An important component of language classes is the use of the language beyond the classroom in the real world. This is a multimedia course where technology is fully implemented to support and reinforce the mastering of concepts.

Course #512 – Spanish 2

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Spanish 1, Department Placement

This course focuses on the continued development of communicative competence in the target language and understanding of the culture(s) of the people who speak the language. It assumes that the students have completed a first-year course or are at a Novice-Mid level of proficiency. Increasing vocabulary acquisition is a focus as well as adding more complex grammatical structures. The past tenses are practiced at length. Cultural aspects of Spanish-speaking countries are studied. A major goal of this course is to expand skills for the students to use the language beyond the classroom in the real world. This is a multimedia course where technology is fully implemented to support and reinforce the mastering of concepts.

Course #522 – Spanish 3 Honors**Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Spanish 2 or Spanish 2 Honors, Department Placement, Contract Required**

This honors-level course focuses on the continued development of communicative competence in the target language and understanding of the culture(s) of the people who speak the language. It assumes that the students have completed Spanish 2 or have demonstrated an Intermediate-Mid to Intermediate-High level of proficiency. Students expand their communicative skills by manipulating complex features of the language, including abstract concepts. They will focus on various topics with a continued emphasis on the practical use of language, using more advanced vocabulary and grammatical structures including past, present, and future tense. The imperative and subjunctive moods will be integrated.

An important component of these upper-level language classes is the use of the language beyond the classroom in the real world. This is a multimedia course where technology is fully implemented to support and reinforce the mastering of Concepts.

Course #524 – Spanish 4 Honors**Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Spanish 3 Honors, Department Placement, Contract Required**

This honors-level course focuses on the continued development of communicative competence in the target language and understanding of the culture(s) of the people who speak the language. It assumes that the students have successfully completed Spanish 3 or have demonstrated an Intermediate-High level of proficiency. Readings reinforce content-based instruction, culture, and higher-level vocabulary acquisition emphasizing the practical use of the language. Students expand their communicative skills by manipulating complex features of the language, including abstract concepts.

Authentic literature is read and discussed. An important component of these upper-level language classes is the use of the language beyond the classroom in the real world. This is a multimedia course where technology is fully implemented to support and reinforce the mastering of concepts.

Course #526 – AP Spanish Language and Culture**Credit Earned: 1.0****Prerequisite: Spanish 3H or 4H, Department Placement, Contract Required**

AP Spanish is designed for self-motivated students committed to serious study in Spanish. A reasonable proficiency in all four language skills is expected at the outset of this college-level course. The course encompasses advancing comprehension in formal and informal Spanish and reading newspapers, magazines, and literature. There is a focus on the composition of expository passages as well as accurate and fluent oral expression. The course follows the curriculum set by the College Board and is designed to prepare the students for the Advanced Placement Test in the Spring semester, which all students are

required to take. This is a multimedia course where technology is fully implemented to support and reinforce the mastering of concepts.

Course Sequence for Spanish:

Spanish 1 □ **Spanish 2** □ **Spanish 3H** □ ***Spanish 4 Honors**

Spanish 2 □ **Spanish 3H** □ ***Spanish 4 Honors**

Spanish 2 Honors □ **Spanish 3 Honors** □ ***Spanish 4 Honors** □ **AP Spanish Language and Culture.**

**Students cannot skip a level in this sequence unless proven mastery of the level and prior approval from the administration.*

**With administrative approval, some high achieving students may forgo Spanish 4 Honors and be placed in the AP Spanish Language and Culture after completing Spanish 3 Honors.*

LATIN

Course #550 – Latin 1

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Department Placement

In this course, students use the first two units of the Cambridge Latin Course to explore the basics of Latin grammar and vocabulary. The course covers cultural topics related to daily life in the Roman world, with a focus on Pompeii, Roman Egypt, and Roman Britain. Students increase their knowledge of Latin's connection to English. Connections to Catholicism are also regularly emphasized throughout the course. This is a multimedia course where technology is fully implemented to support and reinforce the mastering of concepts.

Course #560 – Latin 2 Honors

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Latin 1, Department Placement, Contract Required (unless taken by a freshman)

In this honors-level course, students complete the second and third units of the Cambridge Latin Course. Building upon their first-year knowledge of Latin grammar, vocabulary, and Roman culture, students explore more topics related to life in the ancient world. Students forge connections with further topics encountered in history courses while deepening their linguistic knowledge and preparing for further study of authentic Latin prose and poetry. Students continue their exposure to Roman culture and history with particular attention to the rise of Christianity within the context of the Roman Empire. This is a multimedia course where technology is fully implemented to support and reinforce the mastering of concepts.

Course #552 – Latin 2

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Latin 1, Department Placement

This course continues with the second and most of the third units of the Cambridge Latin Course. Building upon their first-year knowledge of Latin grammar and vocabulary and Roman culture, students explore more topics related to life in the ancient world. Students forge connections with further topics encountered in history courses while deepening their linguistic knowledge and preparing for further study of authentic Latin prose and poetry. Connections to Catholicism are also regularly emphasized throughout

the course. This is a multimedia course where technology is fully implemented to support and reinforce the mastering of concepts.

Course #562 – Latin 3 Honors

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Latin 2 or Latin 2 Honors, Department Placement, Contract Required

This honors-level course prepares students who maintain a high level of achievement for Advanced Placement Latin. The first semester is largely devoted to a thorough mastery of all vocabulary encountered in Units 1-3 of the Cambridge Latin Course and to an active recognition and identification of all grammatical forms relating to syntax and structure of complex sentences. By the second semester of Latin III Honors, students begin the study of Unit 4 where they encounter an increasing exposure to original Latin works by a distinguished list of ancient authors. Students continue to broaden their exposure to the classical world: its history, culture, and influence, as well as its transmigration into the setting of the formation and rise of Christianity and the Church. This is a multimedia course where technology is fully implemented to support and reinforce the mastering of concepts.

Course #564 – Latin 4 Honors

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Latin 3 or Latin 3 Honors, Department Placement, Contract Required

This honors-level course is designed to immerse students in the works of the Classical world outside of the AP curriculum. This course is for students who maintain a high standard of achievement and have a strong interest in Latin and wish to continue their studies into the Classical world. The course focuses on original Latin texts and discussions of the features of those texts. It continues to broaden their exposure to the Classical world: its history, culture, and influence, as well as its transmigration into the setting of the formation and rise of Christianity and the Church. This is a multimedia course where technology is fully implemented to support and reinforce the mastering of concepts.

Course #568 – AP Latin

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Latin 4 Honors, Department Placement, Contract Required

AP Latin is designed for self-motivated students committed to serious study in Latin, focusing on the authors Vergil and Caesar. This college-level course is open to all students who have completed Latin 3H and demonstrated a strong potential and keen desire to meet the challenge of reading large sections from Rome's two most famous works: Caesar's *Gallic Wars* and Vergil's *Aeneid*. The course follows the curriculum set by the College Board and is designed to prepare the students for the Advanced Placement Test in the Spring semester. This is a multimedia course where technology is fully implemented to support and reinforce the mastering of concepts.

Course Sequence for Latin:

Latin 1 □ Latin 2 □ Latin 3

Latin 1 □ Latin 2 Honors □ Latin 3 Honors □ *Latin 4 Honors or AP Latin

Latin 2 Honors □ Latin 3 Honors □ *Latin 4 Honors or AP Latin

**Students cannot skip a level in this sequence unless proven mastery of the level and prior approval from the administration.*

**With departmental approval, some high achieving students may forgo Latin 4 Honors and be placed in the AP Latin.*

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY

At St. John Paul II, we embrace the fine arts as a means to enrich the human experience and foster a deeper, more spiritual connection with God and the world around us. Our commitment is to provide students with meaningful opportunities to delve into the arts, gaining not only historical and cultural insights but also honing their skills across diverse artistic disciplines.

The study of fine arts serves as a foundation, allowing our students to nurture their creativity and unleash personal expressions that resonate with the broader human experience. In the words of Pope John Paul II, we extend a special invitation to all artists who passionately seek new "epiphanies" of beauty. We believe that through their creative endeavors, artists can offer these revelations as precious gifts to the world.

FINE ARTS COURSES

One credit of Fine Arts is required for Graduation. The Fine Arts are divided into two focuses which are Music/Performing Arts and Visual Arts.

VISUAL ARTS

Course #601 – Approaches to Art Making

Credit Earned: .5

Prerequisite: Freshman or Sophomore

This course takes a hands-on approach to creating various art forms and explores a wide variety of techniques/materials and cultural arts. No drawing experience is required; all work created is spontaneous and intuitive or derived from cultural-based images. There is a \$15 lab fee to cover the cost of materials.

Course #603 – Drawing

Credit Earned: .5

Prerequisite: Freshman or Sophomore

This course is designed for the extremely interested student, who plans to continue in the arts. Students learn the basic skills and techniques of drawing from both observation and imagination . There is a \$15 lab fee to cover the cost of materials.

Course #605 – Painting and Mixed Media

Credit Earned: .5

Prerequisite: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior, Teacher Recommendation

This course is designed to give students an in-depth experience in painting techniques, color theory, and mixed media. Students develop an understanding of realistic, abstract, and non-objective painting styles, using ink washes, watercolor, acrylic painting, collage, and other mixed media. This course is a prerequisite for Advanced Studio Art or AP Studio Art. There is a \$20 lab fee to cover the cost of materials.

Course #607 – Advanced Studio Art*

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior with a minimum of 2 Art classes, Teacher Recommendation

This course is for serious art students who have mastered fundamental skills and would like to pursue further their own artistic and expressive approach to art creation. The course focuses on in-depth assignments and self-directed approaches to more advanced imagery and subject matter. This course can

be taken multiple times or can be taken for one semester with teacher approval. There is a \$15 lab fee to cover the cost of materials.

Course #609 – AP 2D Art and Design*

Credit Earned: 1.0

(Student chooses which portfolio to complete)

Prerequisite: Senior with a minimum of 2 Art classes, Teacher Recommendation

This course adds the portfolio required for the national judging for advanced placement credit.. Work produced in this course must be at college level. All students are required to produce a portfolio for Advanced Placement judging in May. There is a \$15 lab fee to cover the cost of materials.

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

Course #621 – Acting & Theater Performance

Credit Earned: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

In this course, students study all styles of acting techniques for the stage, camera, and digital world. This workshop-style course aims to build students' speaking skills, performance skills, theater production knowledge, and overall confidence.

Students have the opportunity to broaden their personal skill set in musical theater, scene work, and monologues. Character development, body movement, emotional interpretation, and artistic insight are developed to help students further their acting skills, which are applied to in-class and school performances. No acting or performance experience is needed.

Course #623 – Speech and Communication

Credit Earned: .5

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to help students become more competent when asked to speak and write in a variety of business and personal situations. Through research and practice, students will focus on becoming more comfortable speaking in a public setting and will learn how to properly craft a message to better impact an audience.

Course #625 – Pop Music and Culture & Choir*

Credit Earned: .5

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to introduce students to popular music and culture throughout the ages as well as to help young singers enhance both their general knowledge of music as well as their music reading and ensemble performance skills. Students will analyze and discuss various styles of popular music throughout history and compare with modern musical styles. Musical genres covered include the blues, country, motown, disco, jazz, rap, Broadway, electronica, and contemporary.

This course may be taken multiple times for credit. Minimal rehearsals and performances outside of class are required. This course may be taken for one semester with teacher approval.

Course Number #627 - Piano & Guitar *

Credit Earned : .5

Prerequisite: None

In this class, students learn basic piano and/or guitar skills . Learning from sheet music and playing by ear are key components of this course as ways to learn these instruments. Students study classical repertoire as well as pop songs from the radio! No prior piano or guitar experience is required but is encouraged.

Note: *Some elective courses are offered upon student interest and instructor availability.

BUSINESS, PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

BUSINESS, PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY

The Business and Technology department is dedicated to equipping students with the essential skills for success in college, career, and life. Central to our philosophy is the conviction that true success stems from seamlessly integrating fundamental business concepts across our curriculum and the infusion of technology and engineering principles into our business courses. Embracing the belief that fostering problem-solving abilities is paramount, our courses emphasize hands-on learning through project-based challenges and activities. This holistic approach ensures that students grasp theoretical knowledge and develop practical skills that empower them to thrive in an ever-evolving professional landscape.

BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY COURSES

One credit of Business and Technology is required for graduation; Personal Finance (course #710) is a required course for graduation starting with the Class of 2027.

Course #710 – Personal Finance

Credit Earned: .5

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior

This course is designed to encourage students to challenge existing social norms regarding debt and spending while learning about the positive benefits of budgeting, saving, and investing. Students learn a simple and different approach to managing their money by studying how wealth is built and sustained. Students critique the difference between looking wealthy and being wealthy. Students also learn about the importance of leaving a legacy and using wealth for the benefit of others. This course, based on biblical principles, teaches students to recognize that all things belong to God and that we as stewards should be faithful to how God wishes us to manage what he blesses us with.

Longitudinal research shows that students who engage in conversations with their parents about money tend to exhibit better financial behaviors as an adult. To encourage such discussion, this course requires both students and parents to work together throughout the semester on a variety of financial activities using the parent's financial information.

***Important Note:** The Personal Finance course is a Junior required course for graduation starting with the Class of 2027.*

Course #713 – Freshman Seminar

Credit Earned: .5

Prerequisite: Freshman

This course is designed to help transition incoming freshmen into the high school setting and assist each student to enhance his or her academic achievement and increase the student's problem-solving skills through responsible decision making, social awareness, self-awareness, and self-management. To that end, students will develop study skills, goal setting, and time management skills to help them be successful. In addition, the course allows each student to reflect on his or her character and establish his or her own rule of life inspired by the Rule of Saint Benedict. Thus, students should leave Freshman Seminar with excellent organizational, academic, citizenship, and personal skills.

***Important Note:** The Freshman Seminar elective course is required for graduation at SJPII.*

Course #715 – SAT/ACT Prep***Credit Earned: .5****Prerequisite: Junior and Senior**

The SAT and ACT course aims to familiarize students with the content, structure, and timing of these vital college entrance exams. It covers test content, effective strategies, and provides practice with previous questions to enhance performance. The course motivates students of all abilities to sharpen their problem-solving and test-taking skills crucial for success, reducing stress and anxiety. Geared towards rising juniors and seniors, its goal is to help students reach their maximum potential and achieve optimal scores.

Course #717 – Introduction to Law***Credit Earned: .5****Prerequisite: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior**

This course provides an overview of our legal system. Topics include a study of ethics, our state and federal court systems, prominent supreme court decisions, criminal law and criminal procedures, civil law and civil procedures, contract law, and cyber law. Students research, analyze, and discuss multiple court cases throughout the semester as well as participate in current event debates and two mock trials.

Course #719 – Introduction to Business/Entrepreneurship***Credit Earned: .5****Prerequisite: None**

This course is designed to expose the interested student to many components of modern business. This course provides instruction in the basic principles of entrepreneurship including the role of the entrepreneur, entrepreneurship as a career, ethics in business, and the principles of marketing, financing, and managing a business. The course shows the student how these components exist in a changing society and the types of decisions that must be made within that environment. The course is also designed to expose the student to the multitude of career fields in the areas of business. The importance of business in modern society is also stressed throughout the course. Topics are discussed in an introductory manner.

Course #721 – Introduction to Computer Science***Credit Earned: .5****Prerequisite: None**

This is an interactive introductory course for students brand new to programming that teaches the foundations of Computer Science using the Python programming language. This course not only prepares students for AP Computer Science Principles and AP Computer Science A, but also teaches students how to think computationally and solve complex problems, skills that are important for every student.

Note: *Some elective courses are offered upon student interest and instructor availability.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY

The Physical Education program is meticulously crafted to offer diverse learning experiences catering to students of all ability levels, fostering a commitment to wise personal choices in pursuit of a lifelong, healthy lifestyle. Aligned with our Catholic principles and guided by Canon Law 1113, which underscores the theological aspects of the body, we affirm the intrinsic link between physical and spiritual well-being. According to Canon Law 1113, the ultimate purpose of Christian education is to collaborate with divine grace in shaping true and exemplary Christians. It encompasses the entirety of human life—physical, spiritual, intellectual, and moral—both on an individual and societal level. Rather than diminishing any aspect, the aim is to elevate, regulate, and perfect human life in harmony with the teachings of Christ. This holistic perspective emphasizes that maintaining physical health is integral to the multifaceted journey of becoming a "perfect Christian."

PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSES

One credit of Physical Education is required for Graduation, including Health. Students are not permitted to register for more than one Physical Education class per semester.

Course #810 – Team Sports

Credit Earned: .5

Prerequisite: Freshman, Sophomore

This course introduces students to a variety of team sports. The course promotes the intellectual development of each student through learning terminology, rules, history, and basic strategies of each sport. The course promotes the physical through the learning of the basic skills of each activity. Finally, the course promotes the spiritual development of each student through the learning of sportsmanship and moral responsibilities through cooperative skills inherent in each activity.

Course #812 – Speed, Strength, and Conditioning

Credit Earned: .5

Prerequisite: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior

This course is designed to give students an introduction to speed, strength, and conditioning methodology and applied learning. The students learn program planning through a method of progression called "periodization." Topics include performance methodology, functional movement evaluation, pre-habilitation and pillar strength, movement preparation, plyometrics, acceleration, absolute speed, multi-directional speed, strength and rotary power, energy system development, regeneration, and nutrition. In addition to technique and safety, students learn functional anatomy and muscle activation and firing patterns. This course may be taken multiple times for credit.

NON-CREDIT OPTIONS

PHILOSOPHY REGARDING NON-CREDIT OPTIONS

Students who are considering a Study Hall, should take into account such factors as the level of difficulty of the core curriculum courses, the amount of time it typically takes to complete assigned tasks (how “efficient” the student is in getting work done), the amount of time spent commuting to and from school, and the amount of time spent taking part in extracurricular activities.

NON-CREDIT

Students may not schedule more than one non-credit course in any given semester.

Course #910 – Study Hall Support

Prerequisite: Placement by Academic Support Center

This course is designed for students to have additional time to study as well as extra support in executive functioning and study skills. The course concentrates on strengthening study skills by holding individual meetings with students, teaching course-specific study strategies, and continuing to develop organizational skills. Students who need additional study time or support with study skills and/or executive functioning skills may schedule one period of Study Hall Support per semester. Students are required to report to the assigned room as for any other class.

Course #912 – Study Hall

Prerequisite: As needed (no more than one period for freshmen and sophomores). Approval from the administration required

Students who need additional study time may schedule one period as a study hall per semester. Students are required to report to the assigned room as for any other class. Juniors and seniors who do not meet the academic and/or discipline requirements for an unassigned period (opt-out) period may also schedule a study hall.

Course #999 – Unassigned Period (Opt-Out)

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior, Acceptable Academic and Disciplinary Record

Juniors and seniors who need additional study time may schedule up to two periods as a free period per semester. Students may come in late or leave early if they have an unassigned period at first or last block. The Administration makes a determination based on the student’s academic and discipline history whether the student qualifies for an unassigned period.