

PROGRAM OF STUDY



the
MOUNT

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH ACADEMY

Educating Founders
ESTABLISHED 1858

2016 - 2017

Mount Saint Joseph Academy

Belief Statements

Premised on the tenet that **“on the education of women largely depends the future of society”** (Constitution of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Rpt. in “Mount Saint Joseph Academy Mission Statement”)

We believe that

1. Respect for self and others is at the heart of “unity and reconciliation” (“Mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph”);
2. Single-sex learning environments cultivate strong women leaders, independent in mind and spirit, socially responsible, and intellectually and personally courageous;
3. This school community, impelled by Christian values, emboldens young women with passion, confidence, and competence to found a future committed to justice and peace;
4. Nurturance of the deep, mature faith and prayer life of individuals spiritually energizes and enriches the entire community;
5. Gospel values enlighten developing individual consciences that inform moral and ethical life decisions;
6. The desire to respond actively to the needs of “the dear neighbor” (Sisters of Saint Joseph Documents) empowers each student to assume her responsibilities as a citizen of a global community;
7. Education demands the encouragement of intellectual curiosity and creative problem-solving;
8. Comprehensive, challenging curricula enable each student to realize her fullest academic potential;
9. Innovative, technologically-rich, as well as traditional instructional strategies, maximize the potential academic growth of each student;
10. Gentleness with self and others must temper the drive for excellence.

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH ACADEMY

Mission Statement



As a college preparatory school, Mount Saint Joseph Academy prepares young women to realize their fullest potential. “The Mount is imbued with a spirit of unity and reconciliation, the special charism of the Sisters of Saint Joseph.” Dedicated faculty are committed to a holistic education enriched by the values of the Catholic church.

Within an environment “that fosters excellence tempered by gentleness,” individual students are recognized and valued. Academically challenging programs, which are teacher-directed and student-centered, ensure a well-rounded education with an emphasis on social responsibility.

Committed to preparing women for leadership roles, Mount Saint Joseph Academy enables students to meet the moral and ethical challenges of an ever-changing society and a technological future. Trusting in the wisdom echoed by an early Constitution of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, the mission of the school asserts that, “On the education of women largely depends the future of society.”

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Philosophy of MSJA

The philosophy of Mount Saint Joseph Academy reflects the mission, charism, and tradition of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, empowering students to be agents of unity and reconciliation in the world. Although the philosophy is rooted in the past, the members of the school community remain mindful that they live in the present with minds and hearts set toward the future. Mount Saint Joseph Academy endeavors to create a climate in which all can more easily discern truth, love goodness, seek justice, follow right reason, and pursue a sustainable future which reverences God and all creation.

Students are called to "the more," to be agents of transformation and to be "founders" in a world, broken and longing for unity and reconciliation. The philosophy advances holistic development with an emphasis on global justice and responsibility in an atmosphere that fosters excellence tempered by gentleness and compassion. Mount Saint Joseph Academy remains faithful to "educating founders" and to the belief that "on the education of women largely depends the future of society."

Admission Policy

Admission to Mount Saint Joseph Academy is based on academic excellence determined through a competitive examination administered in the fall of a student's eighth grade and on the student's elementary school records and a letter of recommendation. The entrance test consists of a series of aptitude and achievement tests. The student may also qualify or be asked to take placement tests in order to pass out of one level course into another. These tests are offered in the spring. The institution admits students of any race, religion, color, national and ethnic origin.

Introduction to the Program of Study

The selection of an educational program is one of the most important decisions you, the student, can make. It is one that will affect your immediate educational plans as well as your future. The purpose of this booklet is to provide a brief description of the courses offered at Mount Saint Joseph Academy.

While planning your program, assess your aptitudes as well as your past scholastic achievements. Think

about your college and vocational goals. Before making selections from the courses offered, discuss your educational goals with your parents, teachers, guidance counselors, and siblings. The more information you have, the better will be your decisions.

You may choose any course listed, provided you meet the requirements. These requirements are made because education must build on previous knowledge if it is to be effective. There is no point electing a course if you have not mastered the one upon which it builds. The school may reserve the right to change your selection if you demonstrate a lack of qualification for a course, or if inadequate enrollment or scheduling conflicts warrant such action. No exceptions to stated prerequisites will be considered unless circumstances are such that a grave injustice would otherwise result. Also note that not all courses will match your schedule.

Scheduling conflicts occur when two or more classes that a student requests are offered at the same time. Not all conflicts can be resolved due to the number of courses offered and students requesting courses.

Courses listed in the Program of Study book are offered only if student registration and staffing permit.

Students are required to choose enough credits to fulfill graduation requirements. Prerequisites are required for many courses and they must be fulfilled to move into the next level.

Requests

While scheduling, it is important to remember:

- ⇒ Requests for or from a specific teacher will not be honored.
- ⇒ Courses will be scheduled only if there is sufficient student demand.
- ⇒ Choices made during the rostering process must be honored during the upcoming academic year.
- ⇒ Preference will be given to upperclasswomen in elective courses.

Most requests for changes are not honored after the scheduled deadlines. Exceptions are honored only in the cases of conflicts, scheduling errors or recommendation of the administration.

Course Changes

After May 1, a student who requests a change in a course she originally selected is subject to a \$30.00 service charge if the change is approved before July 1. After July 1, the charge is \$50.00 if the change is approved. No courses are changed after the first full week of September. If a level change is made, it is made through teacher recommendation. Courses may be dropped at the end of the first quarter only upon recommendation of the teacher and an administrator and a parent interview. Students may not change courses at will throughout the year.

Block Scheduling

The block system provides a 4 block day (4 periods) with a two day cycle, A and B days. To provide a 2-cycle day that works successfully, first and fourth blocks rotate. The student requests courses for 7 or 8 blocks for the year. The school decides which courses will be offered each term. One term runs one half of a school year and courses are scheduled as a full term, half term or a quarter term.

Graduation Requirements

MSJA requires 28 credits for graduation (at least 7 credits per year).

Student Earned Credits

Credit is earned upon the completion of a course. Minor courses are given credit based on the length of the course.

1.0 credit	full year (some AP courses)
1.0 credit	full semester
0.5 credit	one quarter
0.25 credit	one quarter/alternating days

Student Course Load

Each student is required to earn at least seven credits in major subjects each year; some minor courses are also required. Credits earned include:

Theology	4 (1 credit per year)
English	4 (1 credit per year)
Social Studies	3
Mathematics	3
Science	3
Foreign Language	3
Health Education	0.5

Physical Education	1
Fine Arts	1
Computer Literacy	0.75

Grade Level Requirements

Grade 9

Theology I	English I
World History	Mathematics
⇒ Freshman Rotation consists of:	
Physical Education	
Health	
Information Literacy with Technology	
Guidance I	
Choices of:	
Science	
Language elective	
Second level of a language	
Second level of a mathematics	
Art, Choral, Instrumental Ensemble, etc.	

Grade 10

Theology II	English II
Mathematics	Science
Language elective	Social Studies
⇒ Sophomore Rotation consists of:	
Physical Education/Health	
Guidance II	
Communications/Speech	
Experiencing Music or Study	
Choices of Electives	

Grade 11

Theology III	Mathematics
Physical Education	English III
Science	Social Studies
Choice of Electives	

Grade 12

Theology IV	Physical Education
English IV	Choice of Electives

Fine Arts Requirement

Students attending the Mount are required to fulfill one (1) credit in the Fine Arts. These credits may be elected from courses in the listing of the 600's. The sophomore rotation includes Experiencing Music (0.25 credit) and Communications/Speech (0.25 credit).

Level of Courses

Courses are leveled according to a student's ability and needs. Four types of courses are offered.

Advanced Placement/Diocesan Scholar

These college level courses are designed for students who are prepared to meet the challenge of a stimulating learning experience. Through the national Advanced Placement curriculum, students enroll in approved AP classes at the Mount and they may receive college credit on the completion of a mandatory exam. The Diocesan Scholars program offers college courses to approved students at Chestnut Hill College or another approved institution. These courses are identified on the student's transcript. Courses from the college are 0.5 credit per course and given AP GPA weight.

Honors College Preparatory

Honors college-prep classes are offered for students who are able to pursue in-depth study and who are willing to spend extra time outside of class working independently. These courses require additional reading and writing assignments.

College Preparatory

College-prep courses are offered for students whose command of basic skills enables them to accelerate at a normal high school level.

Enrichment Courses

Health, Physical Education, Information Literacy with Technology, Guidance and some Arts are courses designed to enrich the core curriculum or fulfill a state requirement. Grades in these courses do not calculate into the student's Grade Point Average (GPA) and they do not calculate into honor roll.

Marking System

Academic performance is measured through grades and credits. In all courses, letter grades are given on report cards and transcripts. The letter grade is the actual grade for the level course and is used for calculations. The Mount has a system of A through F with plus and minus grades. There are a few courses that are based on a Pass/Fail system. The current grading scale and equivalency is found in the Student Handbook. Students' marks are not "rounded up" in any course.

Honors

The Honor Roll is determined based on a **First Honors and Second Honors system**. Honors are computed on first semester grades earned at Mt. St. Joseph Academy and again on the second semester grades earned at Mt. St. Joseph Academy. Enrichment courses (PE, Health,

Information Literacy with Technology, Guidance, Communications and Experiencing Music) are not used in honor roll calculations.

First Honors requires a GPA of 4.000 with no course below a "C". **Second Honors** requires a GPA of 3.800 with no course below a "C". Honor certificates are issued in January and June based on semester one and semester two marks respectively.

To graduate with Honors a student must have a cumulative GPA of 3.900 by January of senior year. A senior with a cumulative GPA of 4.100 in January of senior year will **graduate with Distinguished Honors**.

An Academic Convocation is held each fall to acknowledge the scholastic excellence of the students. Invitations are extended to those students who achieve a 3.800 or better final cumulative GPA in the previous year's academic performance at Mt. St. Joseph Academy. The National Merit Commended and Semifinalist students are also noted at this time if the nominations are available.

Grade Point Average

Courses are weighted according to the degree of challenge they present. Weighting is used only to calculate the GPA.

$$\text{GPA} = \frac{\text{Potential Credit} \times \text{Quality Points}}{\text{Total Potential Credits}}$$

A potential credit is the possible credit for a particular course. An earned credit is given when the course is completed and passed.

Honor roll is based on the term GPA. A cumulative GPA is based on the final grades of courses when computed with the previous years. However, in January, a cumulative GPA is generated for juniors and seniors based on the term averages for college admission purposes and/or applications for special programs. Graduation honors are computed on this cumulative GPA.

Certain courses are not used in the calculations of the GPA. These courses received earned credit but no quality points. They include: Physical Education, Health, Information Literacy with Technology, Guidance, Experiencing Music, Communications/Speech, and Instrumental Ensemble Practice.

Grade Reporting

Power School allows students and parents to monitor progress on a continuous basis. Additionally, the Studies Office will communicate in writing with students and parents at the midpoint of each marking period when a student has a grade of C- or below. Parents and students must understand that it is possible for a student to be passing a course at the midpoint of a marking period, yet she could perform poorly after the issuance and fail at the end of the marking period. Students who receive a D+ or lower may be removed from activities at the direction of the Dean of Studies.

Report cards are distributed four times per year. A student may receive at least one comment in every course on this report at the teacher's discretion. Parent conferences may be requested for a particular subject. Parents should follow up on the recommendations made by the teachers on the report. Students with C-'s, D's or F's will be required to sign a notification from the Studies Office.

Study Habits and Skills

Homework is part of scholastic life at the Mount. Courses are designed to require a significant amount of homework each night in each major subject. Each student is expected to spend approximately three hours each night on homework. Some assignments are long-range and require planned study time for their completion. Because of the extra study time required for AP work, it is recommended that a student elect a maximum of three AP courses.

Tests / Examinations

Teachers may administer tests at their own discretion during the school year. Communication between students and teachers avoids multiple tests on a given day. A special schedule is arranged for examinations at the end of each marking period. Except for a grave reason, no student may absent herself from examinations. Examinations and alternate assessments are meant to be culminating activities that indicate how well a student has synthesized and analyzed the given material for a course. Examinations or alternate assessments are given in all major classes, including AP courses ending in semester one, at the end of the course.

The examination schedule is organized by subject area. No more than two subjects will have an examination/assessment on a given day at the end of a term. There

are no exemptions to exams/assessments. Students who take any AP courses must take the AP national test as the final examination. Seniors who take the AP standardized tests must follow the procedures for all graduation related rehearsals and activities.

Academic Integrity

Students and faculty at MSJA aim to seek truth and intellectual growth in an atmosphere of mutual support. Such a quest imposes an obligation on the students to be an active part of the learning process and to accept responsibility for their academic behavior and success.

Mount Saint Joseph Academy is committed to providing an environment where young women are enabled and empowered "to meet the moral and ethical challenges of an ever-changing society and a technological future." (Mission statement) Mount students are expected to be young women of outstanding character for whom honesty and integrity are respected values that are practiced in all situations. This is certainly true in academic endeavors. It is the official policy of Mount Saint Joseph Academy that all acts of alleged academic dishonesty be reported to the Dean of Studies. The Dean of Students will be notified for appropriate disciplinary action. The Principal will be informed.

Definition of Cheating

Cheating is defined as representing someone else's work as your own. It gives someone an unearned advantage in an academic setting. (ETS, Cheating is a Personal Foul)

Cheating includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Copying from a written text from any source without acknowledgement
- Looking at or off someone else's paper
- Allowing a student to look at or off your paper
- Plagiarism (inclusion of someone else's work or thoughts) whether it be copying directly from another source or paraphrasing another source without acknowledging the source
- Resubmitting of a project or report for another class without prior approval and authorization by the teachers
- Sharing test information before and after a test or quiz, etc.
- Cutting and pasting information from one source to another
- Storing and/or swapping information from calculators or other electronic devices

- Sharing or copying workbooks, assignments, labs, homework, tests, activities, etc. from person to person, from class to class, etc.
- Providing or comparing answers or reading answers from a book for another to copy
- Swapping answers via the Internet, e-mail or any other electronic devices, such as phones, toys, chats, wireless systems, chat rooms, etc.
- Buying information from the Internet or any other source
- Citing information from a source not actually used in the research
- Unauthorized use of a textbook, notes or other material during a test, quiz or exam, etc.
- Taking a test, etc. for someone or allowing the student to take a test, etc. for you
- Stealing, bribing or pressuring another student to get information on tests, etc.
- Changing an answer as a test or quiz is being collected

Portions of this policy have been adapted from the University of Delaware Student Guide to University Policies.

When a student is guilty of cheating, the following regulations apply:

In tests/quizzes, projects, homework papers, major tests, etc., the student receives an automatic zero with no possibility for making up that grade. However, the student must demonstrate mastery of the assessed skill by retaking the test, or resubmitting the assignment. The student will receive comments on the work for educational purposes, but will not receive a grade for the work. The Dean of Studies meets with students and demerits are issued. Occurrences of cheating are not purged at the end of the year. A subsequent incident of cheating will require a meeting with the Principal and may result in more severe consequences.

All students will sign a statement each year in which they promise to uphold the academic standards of the school.

Please see Student Handbook for further details and updates each year.

Internet and Technology

Internet access is available to students and faculty at MSJA. The purpose of this access is to support research and education consistent with the mission of the school. This access is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use

will result in having the privilege denied. Appropriate use takes into account, but is not limited to, the following items: politeness and use of proper language, a respect and a responsibility for the security and integrity of the system, and a respect for the system data and the data of others.

The school requires students and parents to sign the MSJA Internet Acceptable Use Policy Form in September. In so doing, students agree to abide by the Internet Acceptable Use Policy and are made fully cognizant of the consequences of any violation.

Aware that the school cannot control content of these Internet networks, parents give students permission to access the Internet.

Academic Failures

Progress is monitored through Power School and through report cards, which are issued four times in the year. Any student who receives a C- or below at the midpoint of a marking period, for any quarter, semester average and/or term or final grade is considered to be in academic jeopardy. Progress reports and report cards which record a C- or below must be signed by a parent or legal guardian and returned to the Dean of Studies. The parent(s) or guardian(s) should be in contact with the appropriate teacher to discuss remediation.

Any student who receives a D+ or D on any progress report or report card for any quarter, semester average, term or final grade, and whose GPA is less than 2.8, will at the direction of the Dean of Studies, Athletic Director and any major activity moderator, be removed from extra-curricular activities for one full school week. Extra-curricular activities include but are not limited to all major club activities, publications, trips, sporting events and practices, honor societies, service societies and student leadership organizations. The student will be allowed to attend practices or rehearsals for major events but they will not be allowed to participate in games, meets or any other major activity. Progress will be monitored weekly. If after one full school week, progress has been made to improve the grade, the student will be fully reinstated.

Any student who receives a failure (F) on any progress report or report card for any quarter, semester average, term or final grade will, at the direction of the Dean of Studies, the Athletic Director and any major activity moderator, be removed from extra-curricular activities for one full school week. Extra-curricular activities include but are not limited to all major club activities,

publications, trips, sporting events and practices, honor societies, service societies and student leadership organizations. The time of removal from the team/activity is set by the Dean of Studies in conjunction with the teacher, moderator and/or Athletic Director. The student may not attend practices or rehearsals and they will not be allowed to participate in games, meets or any other major event. If after one full school week, progress has been made to improve the grade, the student will be fully reinstated. If improvement is not seen in this time, the student's failing status will remain as is until she is reinstated to the sport or activity by the Dean of Studies.

If a student fails a course, she is required to make it up in a diocesan summer school or school/course approved by the Dean of Studies and pass it. Any student who fails more than two courses will be requested to transfer from the Mount to another school. If a senior fails a course, her diploma will be awarded upon successful completion of the course as stipulated by the Dean of Studies. Her report card or transcript will not acknowledge a graduation date until the course is retaken, passed and the appropriate paper work is forwarded to the Mount. Transcripts from summer sessions must be forwarded to the Studies Office by August 15.

Assignments / Attendance

Each student is expected to spend approximately three hours study time per class day, more if she is taking honors or Advanced Placement courses. For this reason, it is important that a student is absent only when it is absolutely necessary; college visitation should be scheduled for days when seniors have no class. Students should also be aware that working on weekends or after school is an added pressure when carrying a demanding school schedule. Parents are encouraged to check the study schedule of their daughter; unless she spends the required time on study each day, she cannot expect to achieve academic success.

Extended Illness

Parents should always contact the Attendance Office when a student is going to be absent from school for any reason. A student who misses one to three days should check *Blackboard* and/or call classmates for assignments and consult each teacher for an update when she returns. Students absent from school for any extended time (more than three school days) should make special arrangements to make up the missed work with the teachers. If the absence extends to four or more days,

parents should call the Dean of Studies to estimate the expected extent of the absence and to advise her how assignments can be sent home. Upon return, a student should meet with her teachers to discuss plans for make-up. Students who miss more than a week of school are required to demonstrate they have made up the missed work. Any assignments, homework, tests, etc. must be completed within two weeks of the student returning to school. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Dean of Studies. Tutors may be required by the school to ensure the material is learned. This is especially true when the next level depends on the current course. If a student is absent without accepted excuse for a total of seven (7) days per semester, or if she misses more than 10% of class meetings, she and her parents must meet with the Dean of Studies to determine if credit will be given for her courses. These absences present a major obstacle to promotion in leveled courses. Students who are absent on a regular basis without sufficient cause may be liable to attend summer school.

Vacation days are considered unexcused absences.

Please see Student Handbook for more detailed information on absences/lateness, etc.

Testing Programs

Ninth grade	PSAT
Tenth grade	PSAT
Eleventh grade	PSAT/NMSQT, SAT
Twelfth grade	SAT I / SAT II/ ACT

A student may request individual testing with the appropriate professional documentation.

Guidance Services

The purpose of the guidance services is to help each student in her social, educational, vocational and personal development. Counselors schedule at least two interviews with each student every year. In addition, students are encouraged to make an appointment with one of the three full-time counselors whenever the need arises. The Montgomery County Intermediate Unit also provides personal counseling and remedial academic help services during the week.

All information is subject to change within the year. The current year Student Handbook contains updated information and further details.

and appreciation. Students write analyses on works from different genres and literary periods. They also write personal narratives, college application essays, expressive pieces inspired by the literature studied, and a formal research paper.

Prerequisite: From 121: A average and department recommendation, as well as successful completion of placement test; from 122: B+ average and department recommendation.

141	Modern Writers
Grade 12	0.5 credit

This course examines the time periods, cultural influences and major literary themes in works by exemplary modern writers with an emphasis on twentieth and twenty-first century American authors. The curriculum requires extensive reading, writing, analysis of literature from various genres, and vocabulary study.

142	World Literature Themes
Grade 12	0.5 credit

This course acquaints students with works from classical and modern world literature. Written and oral assignments encourage students to express ideas clearly, correctly and concisely.

143	Shakespeare
Grade 12	0.5 credit

This course develops a deeper appreciation for and understanding of the works of Shakespeare. It includes analysis of comedies, tragedies, and histories, as well as a study of the man and his times. Written and oral assignments encourage students to express ideas clearly, correctly and concisely.

152	Journalism
Grade 10, 11 or 12	0.5 credit

(Elective only - does not fulfill senior requirement)

This course, recommended to students who wish to work on the school newspaper, introduces students to journalistic writing and acquaints them with elements of newspaper production.

Prerequisite: A- average in all previous English classes and department recommendation.

155	Creative Writing
Grade 12	0.5 credit

In this elective class, which is built around the student's desire to explore and engage in the creative writing process, participants must be willing to write daily, to share their work with the class, to provide critical responses to classmates' work, and to revise repeatedly. Students will keep a journal and will write in a variety of genres, including poetry, memoir, and short story.

Prerequisites: A love of writing, an A in English, and English department recommendation.

156	Twentieth Century American Playwrights
Grade 12	0.5 credit

This course focuses on twentieth-century American dramatic masterpieces through the lens of the American Dream. Written and oral assignments, as well as visual dramatic productions, encourage students to express and portray literary themes clearly, correctly and concisely.

160	AP English Literature
Grade 12	1 credit

This college-level course offers motivated seniors whose past performance indicates both interest and ability an opportunity to experience literature and writing at a more advanced level. Extensive reading and writing, class discussions, literary analysis, and presentations prepare students to take the College Board Advanced Placement Examination in Literature and Composition, which is required.

Prerequisite: B+ average in Honors British Literature and department recommendation.

Social Studies

Three credits in Social Studies are required, including: 211 or 212; and 221, 222, or 235.

211	World History	
Grade 9		1 credit

This course is designed so that through concept understanding, critical thinking, and research skills the student can explore Western civilization's economic, political, cultural and religious life from ancient times through the Renaissance. A unit on the civilizations of Islam and Asia is also included.

212	Honors World History	
Grade 9		1 credit

This course is designed for those students whose performance in the entrance examination demonstrated a firm grasp of reading comprehension and critical analysis. They should be highly motivated to pursue an in-depth study of Western Civilization: economic, political, cultural and religious life from ancient times through the Renaissance. A unit on the civilizations of Islam and Asia is also included.

Prerequisite: Department recommendation.

221	U.S. History: Colonial Period to 1877	
Grade 10 or 11		1 credit

This course is designed to permit the student to examine the political, social and economic aspects of United States History through selected topics from the Colonization of America to Reconstruction. This course is a good preparation for students taking the required U.S. History or AP U.S. History course.

Prerequisite: World History or Honors World History.

222	Honors U.S. History: Colonial to 1877	
Grade 10 or 11		1 credit

This course is designed for students who can master advanced reading in American History. It presents economic, social, and political history through the

analysis of historical events and trends from the colonization of America to the end of Reconstruction. This course is a good preparation for students taking the AP U.S. History course.

Prerequisite: A in World History or A/A- in Honors World History and department recommendation.

231	U.S. History: 1877 to the Present	
Grade 11 or 12		1 credit

This course is designed to examine the political, social and economic aspects of United States History from the Gilded Age to the present.

Prerequisite: US Colonial History or Honors US Colonial History.

232	AP U.S. History	
Grade 11 or 12		1 credit

This course is designed to allow the student to build on the foundation acquired in United States History through an in-depth study of significant events and movements in U.S. history, along with the varying interpretations of them as preparation for the Advanced Placement History Examination. Students admitted to this course are required to devote at least eight to ten hours of study per week; this is in addition to study during class time. Students are required to take the AP exam.

Prerequisite: A in World History and US Colonial History or A- in Honors World History and Honors US Colonial History. PSAT Writing Skills are considered. Department recommendation.

233	Honors U.S. History 1877 to the Present	
Grade 11 or 12		1 credit

This course is designed for students who can master advanced reading in American History. It presents economic, social, and political history through analysis of historical events and trends from the Gilded Age to the present.

Prerequisite: A in any former College Prep Social Studies course or A- in any former Honors Social Studies course and department recommendation.

235/236	Honors Colonial History/ AP U.S. History
Grade 10	2 credits
(Every day September through June)	

This course is designed to allow students to complete the two required credits in U.S. History, and move through the AP U.S. History program. Students are required to take the AP U.S. History test in May. The semester course presents economic, social, and political history through the analysis of historical events and trends from the colonization of America to the end of Reconstruction. The second semester course is an in-depth study of significant events and movements in U.S. history, along with the varying interpretations of these events.

Students in this course are required to take additional credits in Social Studies in grades 11 and 12. There should be serious intent to take both AP European History and AP Government before graduation. This course of study is designed for students interested in pursuing a major related to Social Studies in college.

Prerequisites: An A in Honors World History, an A in Honors Introduction to Writing & Literature, and/or department recommendation.

243	Global Interdependence
Grade 10, 11 or 12	0.5 credit

Global interdependence aims to build an understanding of the increasingly important and diverse global connections among world societies. This course prepares students to study issues arising from globalization including: women's rights, human trafficking, terrorism, international security, hunger, poverty, health and disease, and refugees. Students will analyze these issues through many lenses including Catholic Social Teaching, and the Mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The study of geography, culture, economics, history, political science, government, and technology will be integrated into the course.

This course is offered in school years ending with an even number (e.g. 2017-2018).

244	Psychology
Grade 11 or 12	0.5 credit

This senior course is designed to introduce the student to psychology as a scientific study of human behavior, emotions and mental processes. Topics include: the history of psychology; learning theories and strategies; the interrelationship of the mind, body and behavior; development across the life span, abnormal behavior; and practices in psychology today.

248	American Social History
Grade 10, 11 or 12	0.5 credit

This elective course is an introduction to the history of gender, race and ethnicity in the United States. This course will assess the struggle to end inequities to create a society reflective of "all men created equal". The list of topics includes Indian-white relations, the suffrage movement, immigration and assimilation, sexism, racism and the civil rights movement.

This course is offered in school years ending with an odd number. (e.g. 2016-2017.)

249	Honors Modern Europe
Grade 11 or 12	1 credit

This course is designed to enable the student to understand modern Europe through the study of the French Revolution and Napoleonic Era, the Industrial Revolution, Karl Marx and the growth of Socialism, 19th century Imperialism, the causes of World War I, the Russian Revolution, the rise of Fascism, World War II, the Cold War and its end, and Europe in the present.

Prerequisite for Honors: B+ in any prior Social Studies Honors course or AP course; or A in US Colonial History and/or US History 1877 and department recommendation.

250	AP European History
Grade 11 or 12	1 credit

This course is designed to enable the student to understand modern European history through the study of the Renaissance, Religious Reformations, nation building, the French Revolution and Napoleonic Era, the Industrial Revolution, Karl Marx and the growth of Socialism, 19th century Imperialism, the causes of World War I, the Russian Revolution, the rise

of Fascism, World War II, the Cold War and its end, and Europe in the present. Students will be required to take the AP test.

Prerequisites: B+ in AP US History or A- in Honors US Colonial History and Honors US History and department recommendation.

251	AP Psychology
Grade 12	1 credit

This college level course is for seniors who are interested in advancing their knowledge of behavior and mental processes of humans and other animals. In preparation for the required AP Psychology examination, students will be exposed to the psychological factors, principles and phenomena with thirteen major sub fields within psychology.

Prerequisite: B+ in AP US History or AP European History or A- in Honors US History or A in US History. Students with an A in US History may be considered based on department recommendations and availability. AP potential and writing sample will be required for all prospective students.

253	AP Government & Politics - US
Grade 11 or 12	1 credit

This Advanced Placement course in American Government and Politics is designed to give students a critical perspective on politics and government in the United States. The course involves both study of general concepts and the analysis of specific cases related to government and politics. Students are required to take the AP exam.

Prerequisite: A/A- in Honors US Colonial History and Honors US History or AP US History. Department recommendation. This class cannot be taken by a student who has taken or plans on taking Government, Policy, Economics/Honors Government, Policy, Economics (254/255).

254/255	Government, Policy, and Economics/Honors
Grade 11 or 12	1 credit

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic theories of government and economics and to explore

the policy areas in which they interact. The students will examine the foundations of American government, including introductory political theory, the framework set up by the Constitution, and the role of government in today's society. Students will also learn about the basic micro- and macroeconomic theory behind our economic system as well as the challenges facing the world's economic structure. The class will then study how government and economics mix in domestic policy and in the international arena.

Prerequisites: US History, AP US History, Honors US History or Honors Colonial/AP US History. Honors level requires department recommendation.

262	Women as Founders
Grade 11, 12	1 credit

As an interdisciplinary course, the *Women As Founders Seminar* will trace and explore the history of women's social problems and reform movements, and current movements in women's immigration and education. Students will examine the ways women have influenced society for the common good. Components of the curriculum will include independent research and community outreach. The course runs during the second semester (January-May) of junior year, meeting before first block two mornings a week. The remainder of the course is online. During the first semester of senior year, students meet and work with the course moderator on the project proposal and culminating project.

256/670	Honors Film II: Films of the 1950s and 1960s
Grade 11, 12	1 credit (.5 Social Studies/.5 Fine Arts)

This 16-week elective honors course will examine films of the 1950s and 1960s with a focus on the relevant themes and issues of the time period that still resonate today. The themes of the Cold War, Teen Rebellion, gender and race will be explored.

Prerequisite: Seniors or juniors who have completed or will complete their three required Social Studies credits by the end of junior year. Requires recommendation from both departments. (This course does not fulfill Social Studies requirements.)

Mathematics

Three credits in Mathematics are required for graduation. The Mathematics department recommends that all students study Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and Precalculus as a minimum preparation for college level courses. Department approval is required for acceptance into any mathematics course. The TI-84 Plus Silver Edition calculator is used school-wide.

312	Algebra I
Grade 9	1 credit

This course is designed for students who have demonstrated mastery of arithmetic skills and typical problem solving skills in the Entrance examination. It includes the study of basic operations and graphing of the real number system and its subsets, properties of real numbers, polynomials, factoring, rational expressions, solving and graphing equations and inequalities, functions and relations in the coordinate plane, systems of linear equations, irrational numbers and radicals. Use of the graphing calculator is emphasized.

313	Honors Algebra I
Grade 9	1 credit

This course is designed for students who have demonstrated mastery of basic arithmetic skills and excellent problem solving ability in the Entrance examination. These are students who learn quickly and enjoy challenges. The emphasis is placed on a thorough understanding and application of theory. Topics studied include: basic axioms and theorems of real numbers, polynomials, factoring, rational expressions, solving and graphing equations and inequalities, functions and relations in the coordinate plane, systems of linear equations, quadratic equations, exponential functions, irrational numbers and radicals. This course also includes basic probability and statistics concepts.

Prerequisite: Entrance test scores and administrative selection.

322	Geometry
Grade 10	1 credit

This course is designed for students who have mastered

Algebra I. The course includes the study of logic, the Postulates and Theorems of Euclid, coordinate geometry, right triangle trigonometry, and properties of triangles, quadrilaterals, circles and solids. Application of real world problems and constructions with compass and straightedge enhance the learning process. Formal proof and deductive reasoning are an integral part of the course.

Prerequisite: Algebra I.

323	Honors Geometry
Grade 10	1 credit

This course is designed for students who have demonstrated mastery of Honors Algebra I and have good problem solving ability. These are students who learn quickly and enjoy challenges. The course includes the study of logic, the Postulates and Theorems of Euclid and coordinate geometry. Topics covered include properties of triangles, quadrilaterals, circles, three-dimensional solids, and right triangle trigonometry.

Prerequisite: B+ in Honors Algebra I and/or department recommendation.

331	Algebra II
Grade 9, 10 or 11	1 credit

This course is designed for students who have mastered Algebra I. Topics include the study of quadratic, polynomial and rational functions, inequalities and their graphs, solving equations and problems involving rational expressions, radicals, irrational and complex numbers and the binomial theorem. Unit circle trigonometry and graphs of trig functions will also be taught.

Prerequisite: Algebra I and Geometry and/or department recommendation.

332	Honors Algebra II
Grade 9, 10 or 11	1 credit

This course is designed for students who have demonstrated mastery of Honors Algebra I and have good problem solving ability. Topics include the study of quadratic functions, systems of equations, matrices, polynomial and rational algebraic expressions, radicals, irrational and complex numbers, exponents, logarithms and conic sections. Graphs of trig functions will also be taught. Topics from probability and statistics will be

studied if time allows.

Prerequisite: Freshman administration placement or B+ in Honors Algebra I and Honors Geometry and/or department recommendation.

342	Precalculus
Grade 10, 11 or 12	1 credit

This course is designed for students who have mastered Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II. It includes a thorough study of elementary functions (polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, logistic and rational), techniques of solving equations and inequalities, graphing transformations and limits. Additional topics include sequences and series, conic sections, solving trigonometric equations, and using trig identities. Emphasis is on graphing where applicable.

Prerequisite: Algebra II and/or department recommendation.

344	Honors Precalculus/ Trigonometry
Grade 10, 11 or 12	1 credit

This course is designed for students who have mastered Algebra on an honors level and who have good problem solving ability, learn quickly and enjoy challenges. It includes a full treatment of the elements of analytic geometry, matrices, trigonometry and the elementary functions, techniques of equations solving, sequences and series, vectors, polar graphs and limits. Emphasis is on graphing where applicable.

Prerequisite: B+ in Honors Algebra II and/or department recommendation.

362	Calculus
Grade 11 or 12	1 credit

This course is designed for the student who has mastered the Precalculus course and wishes to have a background in Calculus before college. Topics include the concepts of limit, continuity, the derivative, the integral, and their applications.

Prerequisite: B in Precalculus and Trigonometry and/or department recommendation.

363	AP Calculus AB
Grade 11 or 12	1 credit

This course is designed for students who have had Honors Precalculus, who have a thorough knowledge of functions and enjoy mathematics. Students study limits and continuity of functions, derivatives and integrals along with their properties and applications as outlined by the College Board. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement examination in May.

Prerequisite: B+ in Honors Precalculus and/or department recommendation.

364	AP Calculus BC
Grade 11 or 12	1 credit

Calculus BC is an extension of Calculus AB. Topics include: parametric, polar, vector functions, differential equations and slope fields, polynomial approximation and series, and more applications of integrals. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement examination in May.

Prerequisite: Calculus AB.

366	Introduction to Statistics & Probability
Grade 11 or 12	0.5 credit

This course provides an elementary introduction to probability and statistics with real-world applications. Topics include: basic probability models; combinatorics; discrete and continuous probability distribution; measures of central tendency and dispersion. Ideal for any student who may pursue business or social science in college.

Prerequisite: Algebra II

365	AP Statistics
Grade 11 or 12	1 credit

This is a college level course designed for students who are prepared to work at a level above an honors high school course. This course acquaints students with major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students will frequently work on projects involving the hands-on gathering and analysis of real world data. Ideas and computations presented in this course have immediate

links and connections with actual events. Computers and calculators will allow students to focus deeply on the concepts involved in statistics. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement examination in May.

Prerequisite: B in Honors Algebra II or B+ in Precalculus. Department recommendation.

351	Discrete Mathematics
Grade 11 or 12	1 credit

Discrete math is the building block of many modern applications, including computer science. In this project-based course, students will explore real-life problems that are challenging and interesting and the mathematics behind their solutions. Classic problems such as the Chinese Postman and the Traveling Salesman will be explored as well as more modern problems like computer security, fair division, and information sharing (gossiping.) Students will learn the math behind elections, color mapping, and population growth. Topics will include logic, combinatorics, set theory and graph theory. Students will be given the opportunity to think flexibly and creatively as they explore interesting problems cooperatively.

Prerequisite: C or better in Precalculus.

359	Accounting I
Grade 10, 11 or 12	1 credit

This course prepares students who will become future workers, business majors or entrepreneurs to understand basic accounting principles that will enable them to manage a business as well as learn how to invest and make good economic decisions. Students will learn the accounting cycle of both service and merchandising businesses. Technology is integrated in this course through automated accounting software, automated working papers and Excel spreadsheet software. Learning methodologies include interactive problem solving, projects, simulations, and readings. Students also explore current economic trends and learn investment strategies through participating in a stock market game. (This course is also listed in the Business & Technology section.)

Prerequisite: Algebra I.

358	Personal Finance
Grade 10, 11, or 12	1 credit

Students learn how to navigate the financial decisions they must face and to make informed decisions related to career exploration, budgeting, banking, credit, insurance, spending, taxes, saving, investing, buying/leasing a vehicle, living independently, and inheritance. Development of financial literacy skills will provide the basis for responsible citizenship and career success. This course will prepare students to function effectively as consumers, savers, investors, entrepreneurs, and active citizens. Learning methodologies include a semester long portfolio project, life skills projects, and problem solving exercises. (This course is also listed in the Business & Technology section.)

Prerequisite: Algebra I.

Science

MSJA requires three years of laboratory sciences, which includes Concepts of Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Science electives may not be presented every year.

411	Concepts of Physics
Grade 9	1 credit

Concepts of Physics meets the requirements of the first science course. It provides students with an understanding of the central topics of physics, including mechanics, energy transfer and conservation, electromagnetic phenomena, etc. a strong emphasis is placed on learning the skills required for laboratory work and data collection and analysis. Application of physical principles to everyday situations is stressed, and some skills required to analyze situations mathematically are taught. Selected topics are explored in depth through labwork, research and construction.

412	Honors Concepts of Physics
Grade 9	1 credit

Honors Concepts of Physics meets the requirements of the first science course. It is intended for students who have demonstrated strong abstract thinking skills and who have expressed willingness to accept the challenge of studying physics at a higher level. Students who

select this course will be expected to become skillful at algebraic manipulation of data. Topics studied include those presented in 411, but the depth and pace will be more challenging. Selected topics are explored in depth through term projects.

Prerequisite: Entrance test scores indicating aptitude for science and high mathematics scores in 8th grade.

421	Chemistry
Grade 10 or 11	1 credit

This course explores the fine structure of matter and the nature of the changes that occur when matter and energy interact. Concepts studied include structure of the atom, chemical nomenclature, reactions, chemical equations, stoichiometry, gas laws, and acids and bases. The concepts and principles presented in class are reinforced with a variety of laboratory experiences and demonstrations.

Prerequisite: Concepts of Physics or Honors Concepts of Physics.

422	Honors Chemistry
Grade 10 or 11	1 credit

Honors Chemistry is intended for students with a special interest in, and aptitude for science. The relationship between the structure and behavior of substances is studied both qualitatively and quantitatively. Concepts studied include structure of the atom, chemical nomenclature, chemical equations, stoichiometry, and gas laws. Laboratory experiments and demonstrations reinforce the concepts presented.

Prerequisites: A- in Concepts of Physics or B+ in Honors Concepts of Physics, as well as an A- in Algebra I or a B+ in Algebra II.

475	Honors Chemistry II
Grade 11 or 12	1 credit

Honors Chemistry II is a rigorous course intended for students with a special interest and aptitude for science. This course will thoroughly prepare students wishing to choose a college major in either engineering, science or health profession fields. The course will focus on selected topics not covered in Honors Chemistry. Topics to be covered include water and aqueous systems, colligative properties of solutions, thermochemistry,

reaction rates, equilibrium systems, acid/base theory, oxidation/reduction, electrochemistry and nuclear chemistry. Laboratory experience will be an essential part of the curriculum for each topic studied.

Prerequisites: B or higher in Honors Chemistry, or A- in Chemistry.

431	Biology
Grade 10 or 11	1 credit

This course is designed to guide students in a study of the similarities and differences among living organisms, including concepts of structure, function, and changes that occur from a single cell to a complex organism. Topics studied include cell structure and function, energy transformation, the molecular basis of heredity, evolution, and the interdependence of organisms. Laboratory experiments are used to illustrate many of the biological principles.

Prerequisite: Concepts of Physics or Honors Concepts of Physics and Chemistry or Honors Chemistry.

432	Honors Biology
Grade 10 or 11	1 credit

This course is geared toward students who have a special interest in and aptitude for science. Cellular biology and biochemical processes form the core of this course, with emphasis on energy flow in biological systems, structure and synthesis of macromolecules, principles of genetics, and the role of natural selection in shaping biological systems. Laboratory experiences are an integral part of the course. Selected topics are explained in depth through independent research.

Prerequisites: A- in Concepts of Physics or B+ in Honors Concepts of Physics, B+ in Honors Chemistry.

443	Honors Physics
Grade 11 or 12	1 credit

Honors Physics provides an opportunity for the science student to broaden her understanding and appreciation of physical phenomena through the study of the relationships between matter and energy. The topics studied include Newtonian mechanics, dynamics, conservation of energy, rotational motion, and equilibrium. Quantitative relationships and experimental work are integral parts of

the course. Competency in Algebra and basic geometry is essential; basic trigonometric functions are routinely applied to problem solutions.

Prerequisites: A- in Concepts of Physics or B+ in Honors Concepts of Physics, B in Geometry or Honors Geometry, B+ in Algebra I or B in Algebra II, A- in Chemistry or B+ in Honors Chemistry.

451	Honors Anatomy & Physiology	
Grade 12		1 credit

This life science course, designed for students interested in health careers or a life science major in college will include a detailed study of all the systems of the human body. Laboratory experimentation, seminars, presentation of student research, and dissection are integral parts of the course.

Prerequisite: B+ in Honors Biology or A- in Biology with department recommendation.

453	Environmental Science	
Grade 11 or 12		1 credit

This elective course is an interdisciplinary course designed to give students an understanding of the interactions of organisms, especially humans, with their environment. Environmental issues impacting our society will be explored through a variety of activities, field trips, experiments and projects.

Prerequisite: B in Biology or Honors Biology

465	Introduction to Biophysics	
Grade 11 or 12		0.5 credit

Biophysics is in the vanguard of understanding the health, well-being and sustainability of people, life and the planet. This class will address current topics and issues in the life sciences, through the physical laws of nature. Through numerous simulations, investigations, presentations and discussions, students will develop educated, critical and persuasive opinions on the issues surrounding the physical functioning of life itself. Success in the class will be demonstrated through various methods, including presentations of independent research and critical thinking, in-class written and oral assessments, class participation and preparedness.

Prerequisite: B in Biology/Honors Biology, B in

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Chemistry /Honors Chemistry, B in Concepts of Physics/Honors Concepts of Physics or department recommendation.

460	AP Physics C: Mechanics with Lab	
Grade 11 or 12		1 credit

In AP Physics C, the work is devoted to an introductory college level mechanics course. Use of calculus in problem solving and in derivations is expected to increase as the course progresses. Students are required to take the AP exam.

Prerequisite: Calculus or AP Calculus (may be taken concurrently with AP Physics). A- in Concepts of Physics, Chemistry and Biology or B+ in Honors Concepts of Physics, Honors Chemistry and Honors Biology or department recommendation.

462/463	AP Biology with Lab	
Grade 12		2 credits

(Every day September through June)

The Advanced Placement Biology course is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory biology course taken by biology majors during their first year. A college biology course differs significantly from the usual high school course in respect to the textbook used, the range and depth of the topics covered, the laboratory work done by the students, and the time and effort required. Students in AP Biology will succeed only if they appreciate that this course will be taught at the college level and will be very challenging. It is recommended that students be prepared to spend a minimum of 1.5 study hours per class. Students who do not wish to invest this type of effort should not enroll.

There should be serious intent to major in biology or a related field in college. AP exam required. This course is equivalent to eight college credits.

Prerequisites: A in Honors Biology, A in Honors Chemistry or department recommendation.

470	Independent Science Research	
Grade 9, 10, 11 or 12		0.125 credit (P/F)

This course is designed for students who wish to participate in the Montgomery County Science Research Competition (Montco.) or NASA research

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projects. Students will be supervised by a science faculty sponsor and be required to maintain a logbook. Also, students must comply with a schedule of deadlines. All projects require students to design an experiment or device that meets certain requirements; included in this is the gathering of background research to better focus the project. Montco requires construction of a 3-sided board, which illustrates the student's work, which is presented in March. NASA projects are written research papers that present ways to answer engineering problems with which our space program is currently concerned. These projects are due in February. Students must register by October 31.

459	Health & Medicine in the 21st Century	
Grade 11 or 12		0.5 credit

This 8-week elective course is a case-based study of new and interesting issues in health and medicine. Rapid changes in genetics & technology have revolutionized health care and our understanding of human development and disease treatment. Topics will include new global challenges and innovative medical approaches to diagnosis and treatment. This class is recommended for students who are planning on a college major in the life sciences or medical field. Note: this course is offered in school years ending in an odd year. (e.g. 2016-2017).

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology or Honors Biology.

454	Criminalistics/Forensics	
Grade 11 or 12		0.5 credit

This elective course is designed to engage the motivated student and lead them to discuss, evaluate, investigate, and interpret evidence, data, and historical information related to crime and criminal activity. The course will be rich in exploration and lab work, which will apply many disciplines of scientific study. Topics will include an introduction to Fingerprints, Physical Pattern Evidence and Evidence Collection, DNA, Forgery, Firearms, and Blood Analysis. Students will record and document their findings through various assessments including laboratory notebooks and reports, research and presentations, and data analysis. *Note: Some topics will be graphic in nature. Every effort will be made to ensure that these topics will be approached and covered in a*

professional and clinical manner.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Biology or Honors Biology.

433	Team Robotics	
Grade 10, 11 or 12		0.5 credit

This elective course is designed to allow students to develop the technical, mechanical, electrical, programming, marketing, and fundraising skills needed to successfully design and build a competition robot. This course will run in the second quarter to support the MSJA Firebirds' schedule. It is reserved for students in grades 10, 11, 12 who are active members of the MSJA FRC robotics team, and are looking to advance their skills, knowledge and experience needed to lead, enhance and grow the Firebirds through development, construction, and competition.

Prerequisites: Active membership in MSJA Firebirds and coach approval.

Foreign Language

MSJA requires three consecutive levels of the same language. Students may take one or more levels of another language.

511	French I	
Grade 9, 10, 11 or 12		1 credit

This course is designed to enable the student to learn elementary conversation, grammar, and vocabulary, to read and to write simple French passages and to become acquainted with various Francophone cultures.

521	French II	
Grade 9, 10, 11 or 12		1 credit

This course is a continuation of French I. Elementary French conversation, grammar and vocabulary are continued. Greater stress is given to reading and writing simple French passages. The introduction to aspects of French culture continues.

Prerequisite: French I

531	French III
Grade 9, 10, 11 or 12	1 credit

This course is designed to promote continued progress in the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Supplementary readings of both a cultural and literary nature are introduced.

Prerequisite: French II

532	Honors French III
Grade 10, 11 or 12	1 credit

This course is designed to promote continued progress in the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Supplementary readings of both a cultural and literary nature are introduced. There will be a greater emphasis on proficiency in speaking and writing correct grammatical patterns.

Prerequisite: A- in French II.

542/551	Honors French IV AP French: Language
Grade 11 or 12	1 credit

This course is designed to parallel the skill development of a third year college French course in advanced composition and conversation. The course therefore focuses on mastery of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills and not on the content of specific texts. Students who enroll in this course should demonstrate a good command of the grammar and considerable competence in oral comprehension, speaking, reading and writing. AP test is required for students taking 551.

Prerequisite: Honors French IV: A-in French III, B+ in Honors French III. AP French Language: A- in Honors French III.

513	Spanish I
Grade 9, 10, 11 or 12	1 credit

This course is designed to enable the student to understand and learn elementary conversation, grammar and vocabulary, to read and write basic Spanish passages and to become acquainted with some aspects of Hispanic cultures.

523	Spanish II
Grade 9, 10, 11 or 12	1 credit

This course is designed as a continuation of Spanish I. It further emphasizes grammatical structures and verb forms. The four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing are more fully developed. The study of culture continues.

Prerequisite: Spanish I

533	Spanish III
Grade 9, 10, 11 or 12	1 credit

This course is designed to promote continued progress in the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. The student will study the culture of Spanish speaking countries and will read a short novel in the target language.

Prerequisite: Spanish II.

534	Honors Spanish III
Grade 10, 11 or 12	1 credit

This course is designed to promote continued progress in the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. There will be greater emphasis on proficiency in speaking and writing in correct grammatical patterns. The student will study the culture of Spanish speaking countries and will read a short novel in the target language.

Prerequisite: A- in Spanish II.

543	Spanish IV: Conversation & Culture
Grade 10, 11 or 12	1 credit

This course is designed to strengthen Spanish conversation skills through the study of culture, grammar and vocabulary. Informal conversations, "real life" role-play situations, group discussions and formal presentations will be the focus of the class. Additionally, students will continue to build confidence in their listening, reading and writing skills. Note: Students taking this class are not eligible for AP Spanish.

Prerequisite: B+ in Spanish III or B in Honors Spanish III.

544 **Honors Spanish IV**
Grade 10, 11 or 12 1 credit

This course is designed to synthesize the grammar, reading and writing skills presented during previous levels of study. Students will also continue to build confidence with listening comprehension and speaking skills. Opportunities will be offered to engage the students in a variety of authentic resources. Along with the development of advanced vocabulary, several literary works will be read and discussed. With the exception of some English used to explain advanced grammatical concepts and in-depth literary analysis, the only language spoken in class by both teacher and students is Spanish. Note: It is mandatory that students take Honors Spanish IV if planning to continue with AP Spanish Language.

Prerequisite: A in Spanish III, or A- in Honors Spanish III.

553 **AP Spanish: Language**
Grade 11 or 12 1 credit

This course is designed to parallel the skill development of a third year college Spanish course in advanced composition and conversation. The class therefore focuses on the mastery of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Students who enroll in this course should already have a good command of Spanish grammar and considerable competence in oral comprehension, speaking, reading and writing. AP test is required.

Prerequisite: A- in Honors Spanish IV.

515 **Latin I**
Grade 9, 10, 11 or 12 1 credit

This course is designed to develop a student's ability to read and appreciate the great works of Latin literature. Students will learn Latin vocabulary, forms and syntax and will be introduced to Roman culture by reading selections from a wide variety of ancient authors.

525 **Latin II**
Grade 9, 10, 11 or 12 1 credit

This course is designed as a continuation of Latin I. Students acquire additional vocabulary, forms and the

more advanced syntax needed to read and appreciate the writings and culture of ancient Rome. The prose of Caesar, Cicero, and Livy will be emphasized.

Prerequisite: Latin I.

535/536 **Latin III/ Honors Latin III**
Grade 10, 11 or 12 1 credit

This course is designed to develop competence and enjoyment in reading Latin prose and poetry. Students will be introduced to Roman letter writing by reading selected letters of Cicero and Pliny the Younger. Close attention will be paid to the historical and cultural implications of each letter. Continuing this theme of literary letters, the course will conclude with one of Ovid's *Heroides*, a series of love letters (written in verse) from legendary ladies to their absent husbands and lovers. The poetry segment will include an introduction to meter and literary devices. Honors Latin III is a prerequisite for AP Latin.

Prerequisite for 535: Latin II. Prerequisite for 536: B+ in Latin II.

545/555 **Honors/AP Latin:
Vergil and Caesar**
Grade 11 or 12 1 credit

This course is designed to parallel the skill development of a third year college Latin course. Its focus, therefore, is on reading, translating, understanding, analyzing and interpreting Vergil's *Aeneid* and Caesar's *Gallic War* in the original. Extensive attention is given to understanding the cultural, social and political context of these works as well as the authors' use of literary techniques. Students who enroll in this course should demonstrate a good command of Latin syntax and considerable competence in writing. AP test is required for students taking 555.

Prerequisite: Honors Latin IV: B+ in Latin III or B in Honors Latin III. AP Latin: B+ in Honors Latin III.

516 **Mandarin Chinese**
Grade 11 or 12 1 credit

This moderated online course will focus on the four key areas of language study: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Both Chinese characters and Pinyin are presented together throughout the course. Students should expect to be actively engaged in

their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts, analyze and compare cultural practices, products and perspectives of various Chinese-speaking countries, and take frequent assessments where their language progression can be monitored. Content is provided by Middlebury Interactive Languages. This course is an elective and does not fulfill MSJA's requirement of three consecutive levels of the same language.

Prerequisite: B+ in level II of current second language course.

Fine Arts

The Fine Arts curriculum encompasses three distinct areas: Music, Performing Arts and Visual Arts.

One credit of a Fine Art is required. Sophomores are required to take course #622 as part of their rotation and may elect to take course #623.

622	Communications/Speech
Required Grade 10	0.25 credit

This .25 credit class focuses on developing the student's active listening skills as well as improving upon her oral and written skills. Students interview one another and then write and deliver an extemporaneous speech about their partner using visual aids. Other work includes practical exercises to build confidence and develop breath and voice power. This course is also the prerequisite for Communications/Speech II: an 8-week elective course suggested for any student who wants to become proficient in public speaking.

623	Experiencing Music
Optional Grade 10 (rotation)	0.25 credit

This course is optional if the Fine Arts credit was fulfilled in freshman year.

Students will explore the music of our own time as well as the music of times and cultures that are foreign to us. While students will learn to differentiate between music of different composers and historical periods, our

focus will be on the pieces of music themselves. We will discuss music in its own terms and respond to various pieces of music in a variety of ways.

Music

631	Choral Class I
Grade 9, 10, 11 or 12	1 credit

No prior choral work is necessary to take this course. It is designed to develop choral singing techniques, blending, phrasing, a capella and other vocal techniques of performing in a group. It also offers basic techniques in voice production, with emphasis on breathing, intonation and phrasing. Brief instruction in music theory, sight singing and history is also included. The students in the class perform for the Spring concert. Students are required to attend several after school rehearsals for concerts, liturgies and special school functions. Students are required to sing for the graduation liturgy if class. Students participating in spring athletics may register for this course with instructor permission.

Prerequisite: Audition or permission from instructor.

632	Choral Class II
633	Choral Class III
634	Choral Class IV
Grade 10, 11 or 12	1 credit

Choral may continually be taken and the level will change as needed. This course is designed for any student who has completed Choral Class I and wishes to develop vocal techniques and sight-singing skills at the next level. Students will participate in the Spring concert, and special functions throughout the year. The students in the class are required to attend several after school rehearsals for concerts and special school functions. Students are required to sing for the graduation liturgy. Students participating in spring athletics may register for this course with instructor permission.

Prerequisite: Audition or permission from instructor.

644	Independent Voice Practicum	0.25 credit
(Voice Scholarship only)		

This is a required course for all four years. Students will receive credit on their duties, performances and rehearsal time given to the Mount community and Music department. Students will be assessed on their rehearsal and performance preparedness, attitude, cooperation and availability to the department. This includes rehearsals, performances, concerts, shows, liturgies and special school functions.

645	Independent Piano Practicum	0.5 credit
(Piano Scholarship only)		

This course is required for all four years. Students will receive credit on their duties, performances and rehearsal time given to the Mount community and Music department. Students will be assessed on their rehearsal and performance preparedness, attitude, cooperation and availability to the department. This includes rehearsals, performances, concerts, shows, and special school functions.

690	Independent Instrumental Practicum	0.25 credit
(Instrumental Scholarship only)		

This course is required for all four years. Students will receive credit on their duties, performances and rehearsal time given to the Mount community and Music department. Students will be assessed on their rehearsal and performance preparedness, attitude, cooperation and availability to the department. This includes rehearsals, performances, concerts, shows, and special school functions.

647	Honors Music Theory	1 credit
Grade 10, 11 or 12		

This course will be an introduction to the fundamentals of music theory and analysis. Several aspects of musicianship will be covered including aural, sight-singing, written/compositional, and analytical skills. While the reading and writing of musical notation will be our first and primary focus, as the course progresses, we will proceed to higher level musical tasks such as dictation (rhythmic, melodic and harmonic), keyboard

harmony and composition. After taking this course, a student will be sufficiently prepared to enroll in the AP Music Theory course.

Prerequisite: Basic music reading skills and interview with the department chairperson or music instructor.

649	AP Music Theory	1 credit
Grade 11 or 12		

The goal of the Advanced Placement course in Music Theory is to develop a student's ability to recognize, understand and describe the basic materials and processes of music that are heard or presented in a score. The development of fundamental skills of musicianship such as aural and written analysis, sight-singing, and composition will be of central importance to the course. We will discuss music in a wide variety of styles, but our primary focus will be the discussion of Western tonal music. Students in this course will develop and integrate the basic skills learned in Honors Music Theory in order to come to a deep understanding of the inner workings of music as an expressive tool and as an art form.

Prerequisite: Honors Music Theory and/or instructor permission. Student must be able to read fluently in the treble and bass clefs, and have instrumental or vocal proficiency. Some piano/keyboarding skills will be helpful but are not required.

655-I	Instrumental Ensemble: Strings, Brass, Woodwinds and Percussion	
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Grade 9, 10, 11, 12	1 credit
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656-II/657-III/658-IV

Grade 10, 11 or 12	1 credit
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This instrumental ensemble is a performing group that participates in the Christmas and Spring concerts. The course includes basic techniques in reading music, music theory, transposition, arranging music for the group. Students become acquainted with a variety of music through the literature that they play.

Prerequisites: Students should already play and own an instrument. Members must meet after school for several rehearsals prior to performances.

659	Orchestra
Grade 9, 10, 11 or 12	0.5 credit full year

Orchestra practice is arranged for members of the Instrumental Ensemble. It is offered on a pass-fail basis. Rehearsals take place on Mondays and Wednesdays during first and second lunch periods. Students who wish to perform in the Orchestra, Pit Orchestra or Jazz Ensemble should register for this course.

Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

691	Music History
Grade 10, 11 or 12	0.5 credit

This course is a brief survey of art music from the Middle Ages to the present day. Major musical accomplishments of each historical period (Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, 20th Century/Contemporary) will be highlighted. Students will learn to differentiate between music of different composers and styles. Of particular importance will be the study of music as an expression of contemporary social and political climate.

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor.

662	American Musical Theater
Grade 10, 11 or 12	0.5 credit

This course will be an exploration of the development of the musical theater in the United States. We will make a detailed study of the evolution of musical theater from its earliest stages to its current form. In particular, we will discuss the ways in which the American Musical has always been a populist art form by and of the people.

Performing Arts

642	Communications/Speech II
Grade 11 or 12	0.5 credit

This eight-week course is for the student who wants to become proficient in public speaking. Major assignments include the following: a manuscript speech, an extemporaneous PowerPoint speech, a mock college interview, and an oral interpretation presentation. Other work includes voice, relaxation, and physical exercises, as well as valuable rehearsal techniques to gain confidence

and poise.

Prerequisite: Communications/Speech I.

All film appreciation courses are independent of each other and can be taken on their own.

663	Film Appreciation I: Great Directors & Genre
Grade 10, 11 or 12	0.5 credit

This course is designed to introduce students to great directors such as Frank Capra, Alfred Hitchcock, George Stevens, Orson Welles, Elia Kazan, Billy Wilder, and Howard Hawks. Although many of these directors are associated with a particular genre – Hitchcock with suspense thrillers – others moved easily from drama to film noir to screwball comedy. Each had his own particular vision and style. By gaining knowledge of the elements of film such as screenwriting, photography, acting, editing, music and art direction, the student will be able to identify those storytelling techniques that are unique to each of these directors. This course will be offered in school years ending with an even number (ex. 2017-2018).

664	Film Appreciation II: War and Genre
Grade 10, 11 or 12	0.5 credit

All genres are explored in this course dealing with the subject of war. These include combat films, romantic comedies, fantasies, dramas and melodramas. Students will be able to recognize each decade's perspective on war. The post World War I films produced in the 1920s and 1930s reflected an anti-war sentiment while those produced during World War II were clearly propagandistic in their effort to get the country behind the war effort. These films celebrate the efforts of those who maintain the homefront, i.e., the women and children left behind, as well as the soldiers defending their country. This course will be offered in school years ending with an even number (ex. 2017-2018).

665	Film Appreciation III: Romantic Comedy
Grade 10, 11 or 12	0.5 credit

This course will focus on the "battle of the sexes" in American comedy. Students will be able to recognize the

role that censorship (in the form of the Hays Production Code) played in screwball comedies of the 1930s and 1940s. They will also see the social development of romantic comedy from the “screwball era” to the present day, especially in the treatment of women. Films will feature romantic comedy acting greats such as Claudette Colbert and Clark Gable, Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy, Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell and Doris Day and Rock Hudson, just to name a few. This course will be offered in school years ending with an odd number (ex. 2016-2017).

666 **Film Appreciation IV:
Women in Film**
Grade 10, 11 or 12 0.5 credit

This class will focus on women in film – the depiction of women on the screen over the past century and the audience’s reaction to it. We will also look at the actresses whose careers were defined by the women’s roles they played. Such actresses as Bette Davis, Barbara Stanwyck, Myrna Loy, Marilyn Monroe, Meryl Streep and Diane Keaton will be featured. This course will be offered in school years ending with an odd number (ex. 2016-2017).

660 **Theatre Workshop: Acting/Directing Lab**
Grade 10, 11 or 12 1 credit

In this 16-week workshop, students participate in Manhattan Theatre Club’s educational program, TheatreLink. They use computer technology and the Internet to study and create theatre with other schools around the world. In the first phase of the class, students study a play produced by MTC, view a video clip of a key excerpt, and then write an original scene based on themes explored in the MTC play. Then the class sends its scene to a partner school, which produces it. The students become playwrights and producers. During the production phase, students learn about and are assigned theatre jobs (actor, stage manager, designer, etc.). The production process requires regular communication as producers confer with playwrights about production issues via e-mail, electronic bulletin boards and chat rooms on the TheatreLink Web site.

256/670 **Honors Film II: Films of the
1950s and 1960s**
Grade 11, 12 1 credit (.5 Social Studies/.5 Fine Arts)

This 16-week elective honors course will examine films of the 1950s and 1960s with a focus on the relevant themes and issues of the time period that still resonate today. The themes of the Cold War, Teen Rebellion, gender and race will be explored.

Prerequisite: Seniors or juniors who have completed or will complete their three required Social Studies credits by the end of junior year. Requires both departments' recommendation. (This course does not fulfill Social Studies requirements.)



671 **Design Basics**
Grade 9, 10, 11 or 12 1 credit

This course is designed to investigate the basic elements and principles of design. Concepts are applied to projects through the use of various mediums and with relationship to artists and art history.

Prerequisite: An appreciation for art. This course is a prerequisite for Art History and all other studio art classes.

672 **3-D Design**
Grade 10, 11 or 12 0.5 credit

This course is designed to explore the history and nature of sculpture, mastering the basic hand-building techniques of clay.

Prerequisite: Design Basics.

674 **Color Theory**
Grade 10, 11 or 12 0.5 credit

This course is designed to provide an in-depth study of color theories and the utilization of information in projects through a variety of color media. The master colorists from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries are investigated.

Prerequisite: Design Basics.

675	Commercial Design
Grade 10, 11 or 12	0.5 credit

This course is designed to explore the commercial world through the use of design. This class will take you through the basics of Adobe Illustrator to learn the many capabilities available for marketing products such as packaging design, the corporate look, advertising and other projects related to the promotion of a marketable product.

Prerequisites: Design Basics, Color Theory.

676	Drawing
Grade 11 or 12	0.5 credit

This course is designed to provide a multiplicity of visual experiences in drawing that will challenge the students to their highest creative potential. Students will concentrate on composition with a strong emphasis on observational drawing. The subject matter to be explored will be still life, portraiture, landscape, figure and architectural drawings.

Prerequisites: Design Basics, Color Theory.

677	Painting
Grade 11 or 12	0.5 credit

This course is designed to provide a multiplicity of visual experiences in painting that will challenge the students to their highest creative potential. Students will explore the different techniques of painting using a variety of media.

Prerequisites: Design Basics, Color Theory, and Drawing.

678	Intermediate Ceramics & 3-D Design II
Grade 11 or 12	0.5 credit

This course is designed to refine hand-building techniques in clay and to incorporate wheel-thrown and extruded forms. Students are encouraged to experiment with sculpture using non-ceramic building materials, found objects, and assembled mixed media. Special focus is placed on student-initiated designs.

Prerequisite: Design Basics, 3-D Design.

679/680	Advanced Drawing & Painting
Grades 11 or 12	0.5 credit

Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Cooperative Studio Program between PAFA & Philadelphia High Schools. Modeled on PAFA's own historic curriculum

Mount Saint Joseph Academy

and high standards, advanced level classes include still-life drawing and painting in oil, portrait drawing and painting, urban landscape, sculpture, life drawing and anatomy. Skill development, awareness of art history and aesthetics, discipline and portfolio development are hallmarks of the curriculum. One half credit is given from September to January and an additional half credit is given from January to June.

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation.

681	Portfolio
Grade 11 or 12	0.5 credit

This course is designed for students who are seriously considering an art career. Projects extend all media previously experienced toward compositional mastery and will focus on portfolio requirements based on college standards.

Prerequisite: Design Basics, Color Theory.

682	Photoshop for the Graphic Artist
Grade 11 or 12	0.5 credit

This course is designed to explore the areas of Advertising and Graphics. It will introduce you to the Photoshop environment and some of its most essential tools. Projects will include Printed Ads, Poster Design, the digital camera and a general overview of the application.

Prerequisites: Design Basics, Color Theory.

687/688	Honors Independent Art
Grade 12	0.5 credit per course

This course is designed for the exceptional student whose creative ability and work habits enable her to plan and pursue an individual artistic involvement. Students must consult with the art instructor regarding specific work action previous to rostering.

Prerequisite: All courses offered plus teacher approval.

692	AP Art History
Grades 11, 12	1 credit

This course is designed to introduce students to architecture, painting, sculpture and photography of the European tradition from pre-history to the present, including an overview of some of the important

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components of art beyond the European tradition. All students are required to take the AP Art History exam in May and if a qualifying score is earned, college placement and/or credit may be earned.

Prerequisites: A B+ or better in Design Basics, successful completion of application essay/test in the spring, and/or department recommendation.

699	AP Studio Art
Grade 12	1 credit

Formal visual concerns, technical skills, and conceptual issues will be addressed through creative means in both teacher-directed assignments and student-directed projects. The creation of an AP Studio Art portfolio is an involved and personal process of discovery that is dependent on the student's unique thinking and problem-solving skills. Students will develop mastery of concept, composition and execution of their personal ideas.

Prerequisites: All art classes offered and/or instructor permission.

Business & Technology

One-half credit in computer literacy is required.

712	Information Literacy with Technology
Required Grade 9 (rotation)	0.25 credit

This course teaches information literacy and introduces computer programming concepts at the Mount. Besides accessing files on the cloud, students will review basic word processing to create work in the MLA format. MLA style citations will be taught. The librarians will guide the students in utilizing the online card catalog and other forms of information available in the library. Computer programming concepts will be introduced using a tile-based program and in-class activities. This course does not fulfill the computer requirement.

721	Computer Systems and Applications
Grade 10, 11 or 12	0.5 credit

This course is designed to introduce students to office application software. The students will learn word

processing, database, spreadsheet, and presentation graphics. Letter formats, personal finance, a college information search and professional presentation skills will be integrated through various hands-on projects.

752	Introduction to Business Marketing
Grade 11 or 12	0.5 credit

This survey course will introduce students to the concepts of Marketing. Students will examine risks and challenges marketers face to establish a competitive edge. Subject matter includes the free enterprise system, marketing foundations and functions with emphasis on advertising, selling, promotion, product/service management, pricing and distribution. In addition, this course will explore human resource and leadership development. Students will apply the theory learned by participating in a "hands-on" marketing project where students will form and operate a student-run company throughout the course.

359	Accounting I
Grade 10, 11 or 12	1 credit

This course prepares students who will become future workers, business majors or entrepreneurs to understand basic accounting principles that will enable them to manage a business as well as learn how to invest and make good economic decisions. Students will learn the accounting cycle of both service and merchandising businesses. Technology is integrated in this course through automated accounting Software, automated working papers and Excel spreadsheet software. Learning methodologies include interactive problem solving, projects, simulations, and readings. Students also explore current economic trends and learn investment strategies through participating in a stock market game. (This course is also listed in the Mathematics section.)

Prerequisite: Algebra I.

358	Personal Finance
Grade 10, 11, or 12	1 credit

Students learn how to navigate the financial decisions they must face and to make informed decisions related to career exploration, budgeting, banking, credit, insurance, spending, taxes, saving, investing, buying/leasing a vehicle, living independently, and inheritance.

Development of financial literacy skills will provide the basis for responsible citizenship and career success. This course will prepare students to function effectively as consumers, savers, investors, entrepreneurs, and active citizens. Learning methodologies include a semester long portfolio project, life skills projects, and problem solving exercises. (This course is also listed in the Mathematics section.)

Prerequisite: Algebra I.

723	Web Design Applications
Grade 10, 11 or 12	0.5 credit

This half credit elective course is intended for students with an interest in web design. The students learn how to create a visually appealing website that is easy to navigate within the guidelines of HTML 5 and web accessibility. In addition, the students will learn how to optimize images for websites, create and incorporate animation, and enhance a website with other interactivity.

727	Multimedia Design
Grade 10, 11 or 12	0.5 credit

This half credit elective course teaches students how to create multimedia applications that run on a variety of platforms including mobile devices. The scope of the course changes yearly to include emerging technologies. Students capture images with still and video cameras and other hardware and then use image, sound, and movie editing software and code to produce user-friendly media within the scope of copyright laws. Students may then publish their projects.

760	Movie & Game Programming
Grade 10, 11, or 12	0.5 credit

This is a .5 credit elective course for students to learn programming visually. Students will design games and movies in a 3-D world by dragging tiles to build blocks of code. Correct coding concepts are reinforced, but gone are the worries about a typo preventing a program from executing properly. Additionally, the importance of storyboarding and building a logical user interface will be emphasized.

726	AP Computer Science Principles
Grade 11 or 12	1 credit

Students will learn about the creative aspects of programming including abstractions, algorithms, big data, understanding how the Internet works, issues of cyber security and the global impact of computing. Using problem solving, critical thinking, and group communication skills, students will work together to solve problems and generate projects using a current programming language. Two Performance Tasks will be created and submitted to College Board as part of the AP assessment for this course: one, creating a computational artifact about a computing innovation's intended purpose and function; and the other, done in collaboration with another student, creating a project in a programming language representing a personal interest or solving a problem. This is the first year the College Board is offering the AP Computer Science Principles exam.

Health/Physical Education

One-half credit of Health and one credit of Physical Education are required.

810	Health
Required (rotation) Grade 9	0.5 credit

This course is designed to introduce various aspects of health including nutrition, physical fitness, alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse, mental and social health, as well as a basic overview of the systems of the body.

811	Physical Education
Required (rotation) Grade 9	0.25 credit

This course is designed to teach basic rules and skills of individual and team sports. Competitive and cooperative games and activities will be presented. Fitness activities such as yoga, Pilates, aerobics, and kickboxing will be introduced. Focus is placed on participation, sportsmanship, and cooperation. A uniform is required which may be purchased through the MSJA bookstore.

821	Physical Education/ Health
Required (rotation)	
Grade 10	0.25 credit

This course will emphasize team sports and fitness activities with a focus on effort, participation, and sportsmanship. The Health curriculum will continue the study of the human body systems begun in grade nine. The reproductive system, reproductive health, and human sexuality will be highlighted.

Students may enroll in both 825 and 826 either sequentially or as stand-alone courses.

825	Self Defense/Fitness
Grade 11 or 12	0.25 credit

This course will teach methods for identifying risky, dangerous and/or emergency situations and how to stay safe in these situations. Students will learn techniques in self-defense and increase their physical fitness by engaging in cardiovascular and strength training sessions. This course can be used as a PE requirement or may be taken as an elective.

826	Anatomy of Yoga
Grade 11 or 12	0.25 credit

This course will teach poses of Yoga and the anatomy behind each pose. Students will learn how the practice of Yoga benefits the systems of the body and which components of fitness are utilized through Yoga practice. This course can be used as a PE requirement or may be taken as an elective.

832	Physical Education: Sports
Grade 11, 12	0.25 credit

This PE exemption is given to any school athlete who continues to play a sport, varsity or junior varsity, for the school in her junior and senior years. The individual athlete is exempt from formal PE due to the hours devoted to the school team. Forms must be handed in by the designated due date in order for this to be recognized. Failure to hand in the required forms on time will result in being placed in Independent or a school PE course.

833	Physical Education: Independent
Grade 11, 12	0.25 credit

This exemption from PE is an upper class privilege and choice. The student must be a member of an athletic organization or fitness club, or may join classes or lessons involving dance, horseback riding, etc., which are not offered at school. The requirement of 25 hours must be fulfilled by May. The student's forms must be turned in on or before the designated due date to get PE credit.

Guidance

861	Guidance I
Required	
Grade 9 (rotation)	0.25 credit

This course is designed to aid in the successful transition of students into high school through discussion and activities geared to assist students in becoming more effective individuals. Students will explore the Mount mission, define a personal mission statement and goals, and develop communication, interpersonal, self-reflection, and time-management skills.

862	Guidance II
Required	
Grade 10 (rotation)	0.25 credit

This course is designed to assist students in acquiring skills for use in exploring personal values, setting individual goals and gathering information to help make satisfying college and career choices. Students are introduced to the Naviance computer program, ways to handle stress, and tips on organization.

Diocesan Scholars

900's College Courses

When offered by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, nominated students may apply to the Diocesan Scholars Program. This involves submission of grades, SAT scores, extracurricular activities and an interview with the administrative team. Selected students' credentials are then submitted to the Diocesan committee for final approval. Students attend classes during the third block of school at a neighboring college. Courses are given AP weight (college equivalent) for GPAs. Each class is given 0.5 credits. Class size is limited.