



*St. Mary's High School*

# Course Catalogue

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## 2023-24 Academic Year

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# Business & Computer Science

## Business

### **Entrepreneurship 101**

*1/2 Credit*

*Grades 11-12*

This course is designed to introduce students to real-world concepts in today's business environment.

### **History & Future of Business**

*1/2 Credit*

*Grades 11-12*

In this course, students develop a respect for and understanding of business' affects on student's personal, family, and occupational pursuits. Students who plan on majoring in business, economics, government, or history are encouraged to take this class.

## Computer Science

### **Computer Foundations for High School**

*1/2 Credit*

*Grade 9*

This is a **mandatory** course that will provide an introduction to the computer, exploring the essential concepts and information about the computer. A practical knowledge of Windows and Google Chromebooks and apps is achieved. Students will also develop proficiency in using an integrated Office Suite package, which includes word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation software. Current issues such as social networking and Internet safety are explored.

# English

## **English 9**

*1 Credit*

This course studies literary genres including short stories, poetry, novels, nonfiction, and drama. Also integral to the course are writing skills, concentrating on content, sentence structure, paragraphing, and organization for the digital and competitive working world. Drama includes a Shakespearean play. Vocabulary acquisition and text analysis are required. Assignments include reading, compositions, reports, and creative projects.

***Summer reading is mandatory.***

## **English 9 Honors**

*1 Credit*

This course will cover the English 9 course requirements at an accelerated pace. Several additional works will be studied to help students further develop their literary appreciation and writing skills. Honors classes for underclassmen are preparation for junior and senior year Advanced Placement courses in English. Vocabulary acquisition and text analysis are required to prepare for the digital and competitive working world.

***Completion of summer reading is mandatory.***

*Prerequisite: Department recommendation*

## **Reading Development**

*1/2 Credit*

*Grade 9*

Reading Development is a requirement of some ninth graders, based upon scores received on the Reading Comprehension portion of the High School Entrance Exam. Students will read in several genres: magazine, newspaper, short play, short story, and nonfiction textbook selections. Skills will be practiced for comprehension such as prediction, paraphrasing, noting contextual clues, noting author's use of diction, syntax, tone, and others. Much time is devoted to reading, the research-proven method to improve reading skills. To this end, many Fridays will be devoted to individual free reading. A final project will be required based on the book selection. Each student's improvement, assessed by a pre and post-course exam, will also determine the final grade.

## English 10

### 1 Credit

The second year of English is an overview of World Literature. The study involves deepening the understanding of literary forms such as the novel, drama, short story, nonfiction, and poetry begun in the freshman year. Mastery of vocabulary and progress in grammar are considered essential. Outside assignments include novel reading, composition, and projects. **Completion of summer reading is a requirement of the course.**

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 9*

## English 10 Honors

### 1 Credit

The second year of English is an overview of World Literature. The study involves a deeper understanding of literary forms such as the novel, drama, short story, nonfiction, and poetry. A major stress is placed on reading assignments and analytical essays. The titles of novels to be read will be selected from a preparatory college reading list. Mastery of selected vocabulary will be expected. Outside assignments include reading, composition, and research work. Honors classes for underclassmen are preparation for junior and senior year Advanced Placement courses in English.

**Completion of summer reading is a requirement of the course.** The course pace is accelerated.

*Note – English 10 Honors students will take the New York State English Regents Exam in June.*

*Prerequisite: Department recommendation*

## English 11 — Regents

### 1 Credit

This course is a survey of major American writers. The course is approached from the type of literature studied historically and chronologically. There is also a focus on reading and responding to works of nonfiction. Research techniques are an integral part of the course work. Other types of writing, such as analysis and argument, are taught. All students will take the Comprehensive English Regents Exam in June. **Summer reading is required.**

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 10*

## English 11 – Advanced Placement English Language & Composition

### 1 Credit

This college-level course is the equivalent of English 11 Honors. The student who selects this course should be college-bound and have a good command of reading, writing, and discussion skills. This

course mirrors the freshman college composition course all college students take in the beginning of their freshman year. The emphasis of the literature studied in this course is nonfiction. A research paper is required each semester. Nightly assignments of reading and/or writing can be expected. At the end of the year, students will take the A.P. Language and Composition Exam. The cost of this exam is approximately \$95. Students who pass the A.P. Exam may be eligible for college credit. **A summer reading assignment, including written paper due upon return in the fall, will be required and will be incorporated into the first marking period grade.**

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 10 Honors, with an average of 92 or better OR teacher recommendation*

*Note – AP Language students will also take the New York State English Regents Exam in June.*

## Writing Development

### 1/2 Credit

### Grade 11

This course is designed to aid students weak in composition. It is mandatory for juniors who have been identified by the English Department as having difficulty with writing skills at the end of their sophomore year. This course is offered in addition to the regular requirements in English. Satisfactory completion of assigned writing is a must for credit.

*Note – Writing Development students will take the New York State English Regents Exam in January and June.*

## College Writing 101 (formerly English 12)

### 1 Credit

Introduction to College Composition will introduce the various forms of reading and writing expected of college freshmen. This course will also prepare students for the expectations of reading and communication beyond high school. This course will require students to complete one polished piece of writing per quarter, as well as several small essays. In addition to the required Shakespearean play, students will be responsible for completing various supplemental readings (newspaper articles, scholarly journal articles, digital publications, etc.). **Summer reading is a requirement of the course.**

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 11*

## English 12 – Advanced Placement English Literature & Composition

### *1 Credit*

This college-level course is the equivalent of English 12 Honors. The student who selects this course should be college-bound and have a good command of reading, writing, and discussion skills. Nightly assignments of reading and/or writing can be expected. At the end of the year, students will take the A.P. English Literature and Composition Exam. The cost of this A.P. exam is approximately \$95. Students who pass the A.P. exam may be eligible for college credit. ***A summer reading assignment, including written paper, is due upon return in the fall; completion of this assignment is a course requirement.***

*Prerequisite: In order to take the course, the senior must have either scored mastery level on the New York State English Regents Exam or scored a 3 or higher on the AP English Literature and Composition Exam.*

## Elective

### Creative Writing

#### *1/2 Credit*

#### *Grades 11-12*

This elective is designed to aid the student in his/her creative expression, as well as delivery of one's own writing. The first quarter will focus on fiction. Students will read and evaluate the effectiveness of fiction of varying styles. They will write and workshop short stories to complete a final portfolio. The second quarter will focus on poetry. Students will learn poetic vocabulary, and read and compose poems of varying styles. Students will write and workshop each other's poetry to complete a final portfolio at the end of the quarter. Students will be expected to deliver their writing to an audience.

## Fine Arts

### Art Foundations

#### *1/2 Credit*

#### *Grades 9-10*

A traditional foundation course to introduce the concepts, principles, and elements of Two Dimensional Design, Color Theory, and Aesthetics that apply to any field within art or design. Emphasis will be on solving art and design problems in a variety of media, explored through lectures, studio assignments and critiques.

### Art Elective

#### *1/2 Credit*

#### *Grades 11-12*

A studio course where students may work in the art medium of their choice in a logical, progressive manner that explores aesthetics, art history, and a proper use of materials and techniques.

## Foreign Language

### Spanish 1 & 1 Honors

#### *1 Credit*

Level 1 courses are designed to help students develop the skills of listening comprehension, reading, speaking, and writing as well as an understanding and appreciation of culture. Emphasis is on communicative proficiency. There is a local exam in June.

### Spanish 2 & 2 Honors

#### *1 Credit*

Level 2 courses reinforce the skills and vocabulary taught in Level 1. Concentration is on further development of listening comprehension, conversation, culture, and increased reading and extended writings. There is continued emphasis on communicative proficiency. There is a local exam in June.

*Prerequisite: Department approval. For incoming 9<sup>th</sup> Graders, placement is contingent on performance on the St. Mary's LOTE Placement Exam.*

### **Spanish 3 & 3 Honors**

#### *1 Credit*

This course emphasizes advanced listening comprehension, extended reading, culture, composition, and speaking skills. Successful completion prepares students for both a locally-developed Checkpoint B exam and for upper-level study.

*Prerequisite: Department approval. Successful completion of this course and passing the Check-point B exam is required for Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation candidates.*

### **Advanced Placement Spanish**

#### *1 Credit*

The AP Spanish Language and Culture course emphasizes communication (understanding and being understood by others) by applying the interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness.

The AP Spanish Language and Culture course strives not to overemphasize grammatical accuracy at the expense of communication. To best facilitate the study of language and culture, the course is taught almost exclusively in Spanish. The AP Spanish Language and Culture course engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. The course develops students' awareness and appreciation of cultural products (e.g., tools, books, music, laws, conventions, institutions); practices (patterns of social interactions within a culture); and perspectives (values, attitudes, and assumptions). The cost of this A.P. exam is approximately \$95.

*Prerequisite: Completion of Spanish 3 and department approval.*

### **Spanish 5**

#### *1 Credit*

This is an advanced course for students interested in continuing the study of the language by putting to use those skills learned in levels 1 through 3. It offers students exposure to culture, history, and civilization through short stories, poetry, and literary passages of a variety of authors, as well as units on film, art, and music.

*Prerequisite: Department approval.*

## **Health / Physical Education**

### **Health**

#### *1/2 Credit*

The emphasis on this course is self-responsibility and that choices made result in consequences. In line with the contemporary attention to individual and group health problems, the State Department of Education now mandates that all students have a minimum 1/2 credit in health education which must include the topics of stress management, suicide prevention, nutrition, drugs (including alcohol, tobacco, and steroids), and disease (including sexually transmitted diseases). The focus of this course will be for students to understand that health and wellness are lifelong and cumulative, and that knowledge translated into positive health practices can extend youthfulness and postpone aging. The course also stresses principles adaptable to living life to the fullest extent today, toward accepting oneself, associating harmoniously with others, and developing an awareness of our physical, social,

mental, spiritual, and environmental responsibilities. This course will include individual health problems, as well as the health problems facing us as a society and how we can deal with them. Student participation in understanding the areas of health that affect them today and in the future is the major objective of this course.

### **Physical Education**

#### *1/2 Credit*

New York State mandates that all students in high school must take physical education in order to fulfill the requirements for graduation. In lieu of Physical Education, Dance Class may be selected and will fulfill the Physical Education requirement.

### **Dance**

#### *1/2 Credit*

This course will give students a well-rounded experience in Dance Study. It will include the

history of dance, dance terminology, ballet, barre, basic tap, and exercises to facilitate students' balance, coordination, and agility. Dances popular in the '30s through the present will be studied.

Participation is mandatory. This course may be taken in place of a physical education class. The option to participate in two show productions is offered.

# Mathematics

*All Math students must have a TI-84 Plus Graphing Calculator*

## Algebra I Honors

*1 Credit*

Designed for students of average to above average ability in mathematics, this course is the first step in the Math curriculum. It will integrate topics from algebra and geometry such as elementary algebra, functions, basic concepts of statistics, and high school geometry (area, perimeter, volume, surface area, and polygons). Problem solving will be emphasized in all areas. The Algebra I (Common Core) Regents exam will be given in June of the freshmen year.

*Prerequisite: Department recommendation*

## Algebra I + Lab

*1 Credit*

This slower-paced course is designed for students who have shown in their mathematics background or achievement a need for extra attention. It will integrate topics from algebra and geometry such as elementary algebra, functions, basic concepts of statistics, and high school geometry (area, perimeter, volume, surface area, and polygons). Problem solving will be emphasized in all areas. The Algebra I (Common Core) Regents exam will be given in June of the freshmen year. This course will include a lab component.

*Prerequisite: Department recommendation*

## Geometry Honors

*1 Credit*

This course is the second step in the mathematics curriculum. It is designed for those students who have successfully completed Algebra I Honors. This course will build on topics covered in Algebra I Honors and extend those topics to provide a more in-depth study of Euclidean and analytic geometry. The Geometry (Common Core) Regents exam will be given in June.

*Prerequisite: Department recommendation*

## Geometry

*1 Credit*

This slower-paced formalizes what students have previously learned about geometry, with a focus on reasoning and making mathematical arguments. It will include the study of Euclidean and analytic geometry, along with the geometry skills needed for standardized test questions. Students may (but are not required to) challenge the Geometry (Common Core) Regents exam in June.

*Prerequisite: Department recommendation*

## Algebra II Honors

*1 Credit*

Designed for students of average to above average ability in mathematics, this course builds upon Algebra I Honors and Geometry Honors courses. Students will extend their understanding of the real number system to the complex number system. The course material includes functions, trigonometry, probability, and statistics. The Algebra II (Common Core) Regents exam will be given in June. SAT prep work is integrated into the curriculum.

*Prerequisite: Department recommendation*

## Algebra II

*1 Credit*

This slower-paced course is designed for students to enhance the skills learned in Algebra I and Geometry. Students will extend their understanding of the real number system to the complex number system, as well as detailing functions, transformation geometry, trigonometry, probability, and statistics. Students may (but are not required to) challenge the Algebra II (Common Core) Regents exam in June. SAT prep work is integrated into the curriculum.

*Prerequisite: Department recommendation*



## **Math for Life**

*1 Credit*

This course is designed to help students develop math literacy by reading and speaking about math. The curriculum is interactive, student-centered, and project-based, with a focus on math that will help them succeed outside of school. This course includes an emphasis on mathematical skills needed for general math electives in college, as well as standardized testing and mathematical knowledge utilized in everyday living.

*Prerequisite: Department recommendation*

## **Precalculus**

*1 Credit*

This course is designed for students with competence and skill in mathematics. It integrates advanced algebra, analytic geometry, and trigonometry as an in-depth study of that material which is basic to an understanding of calculus.

*Prerequisite: Department recommendation*

## **Advanced Placement Calculus**

*1 Credit*

Designed for advanced students, the course will study the differential and integral calculus of one real variable. Topics include differentiation and its applications and integration, techniques, and applications of the definite integral. Students will write the Advanced Placement Exam. The cost of the exam is approximately \$95.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Precalculus and department approval*

## **Applied Calculus for Non-Math Majors**

*1 Credit*

Designed for students who do not plan to major in Math in college, the course will study the differential and integral calculus of one real variable. Topics include differentiation and its applications and integration, techniques, and applications of the definite integral.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Precalculus and department approval*

## **Advanced Placement Statistics**

*1 Credit*

This course is equivalent to a one-semester, introductory, non-calculus based college course. An introductory statistics course is typically required for majors such as social sciences, health sciences, and business. Science, engineering, and mathematics majors usually take an upper-level calculus-based course in statistics, for which the AP Statistics course is an effective preparation. This course introduces students to major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes: exploring data, planning a study, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference. Students will write the Advanced Placement exam. The cost of the exam is approximately \$95. This course may be taken concurrently with Precalculus or AP Calculus.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra II Honors and department approval*

# **Performing Arts/Music**

## **Music Elective**

*1/2 Credit*

This half-year course will focus on the role and sounds of popular music from the 1920s through the present day. Students will learn to identify and apply the elements of music to popular music. Students will also learn about the social role of popular music. Students will listen to music extensively, watch performances, study lyrics, and explore the production and marketing of popular music. This is a non-performance class that is open to all students.

## **Varsity Chorus**

*1/2 Credit*

Students will learn proper vocal technique and music literacy. In addition, students will listen to and evaluate their own performances and the performances of other choirs. The repertoire of the Chorus will provide students with a variety of music from around the world and throughout music history. Students will learn teamwork, discipline, and professionalism through public and in-school performances.

*In order to be part of this class, students must audition for the music teacher.*

# Religious Studies

## **Religion 9**

### *1 Credit*

This year-long course is an overview of the Catholic faith. It touches on the Church's basic beliefs and practices. Topics include our faith's understanding of God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Sacred Scripture, prayer, liturgy, sacraments, and morality. A practical application of the Church's beliefs is explored. This is done by helping students to continue to develop a healthy Christian life-style including issues of personal identity, development, self-image, communication, family, friendship, sexuality, work, money, leisure, and life vocations. Students are required to complete a total of 10 hours (five each semester) of community service.

## **Religion 10 – Old & New Testament**

### *1 Credit*

Students will recognize the story of the people of Israel as the root of their own faith story. This course introduces the student to a survey of major themes from the Bible such as sin, covenant, and redemption. This course also places an emphasis on the connection between Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. Catholic Christian tradition is rooted in an understanding of the message of Jesus found in the New Testament, particularly the Gospels. Students will discover who Jesus is and what He means in each person's life. This program will foster a development of a personal, deeply relational experience of Jesus Christ. The history of the Church will be reflected on in the active and continuing presence of God.

## **Religion 11 – Morality & Social Justice**

### *1 Credit*

This course will focus on the moral teachings of the Bible, conscience formation, processes used for moral decision making, and bioethics. Issues will be analyzed in the light of current debate and the teachings of the Church. Catholic and biblical teaching as a counter-cultural force is examined. Topics will include beginning of life issues such as fertilization, abortion, surrogacy, and cloning. End of life issues such as suicide, euthanasia, physician-assisted suicide, hospice, and living wills will be examined. Death and dying, as well as grief

instruction, will also be presented. Morality in the business world and in technology will also be covered. Students will understand the Church's teaching on Social Justice issues, including their sources rooted in the Old and New Testament plus Papal and Episcopal documents. This first-semester course will call students to discern discrepancies, where they exist, between social realities and Gospel values, and to develop strategies to make Gospel values operative. The students will develop a foundation for a social justice consciousness and learn how the Church addresses current social justice issues of our time. We will also focus on specific justice issues including the ethics of life, racism, poverty, environmental concerns, and the challenge of peace. An appreciation for diversity through culture, tradition, and other world religions will be explored.

## **Religion 12 – Social Justice**

### *1 Credit*

Students will understand the Church's teaching on Social Justice issues, including their sources rooted in the Old and New Testament plus Papal and Episcopal documents. This first-semester course will call students to discern discrepancies, where they exist, between social realities and Gospel values, and to develop strategies to make Gospel values operative. The students will develop a foundation for a social justice consciousness and learn how the Church addresses current social justice issues of our time. Students are required to complete 20 hours of community service each semester.

## **Elective**

## **Retreat Peer Ministry**

### *1 Credit*

### *Grade 12*

This course focuses on the formation of students in preparing and conducting retreats. This course is twofold in scope: (1) to introduce the student to various forms of spiritual and liturgical experiences; and (2) to develop leadership, organizational, and planning skills. This course will meet as part of the 12th grade religion course.



# Science

## Earth Science Regents + Lab

*1 Credit*

*Grade 9*

This course presents the principles necessary to develop an up-to-date story of the earth as a planet and its environment in space. Factors which have shaped the earth in the past and their relationship to the current processes of change are discussed. A number of basic concepts in the Earth Sciences are presented and interrelated. A laboratory requirement is part of this course. Students are required to take the Regents exam.

## Living Environment Regents + Lab

*1 Credit*

This is a course of study designed to create an understanding of complex interrelationships between living organisms and among living systems. Major topics include concepts of life, biochemistry, comparative anatomy of plants and animals, human body systems, genetics, evolution, and ecology. Each unit is enriched with hands-on laboratory experiences offering greater conceptualization of the material. Students are required to take the Regents exam.

## STEAM

All sophomore students are required to participate in and successfully complete at least two STEAM Challenges. Should a student fail to complete a STEAM Challenge, that student will not receive credit for the STEAM Challenge and will have to complete another STEAM Challenge successfully in order to receive STEAM credit. Criteria for grading each project will be shared at the beginning of the project and may include submission of a brief background research, project proposal, project design and construction, project performance, and final presentation. The project must meet the minimum requirements as described in the project description.

*Prerequisite: Mandatory participation for members of grade 10*

## General Chemistry + Lab

*1 Credit*

This course presents an introduction to chemistry. Major topics include atomic theory, periodicity of the elements, chemical bonding, equation

manipulation, simple organic chemistry, and nuclear chemistry. A laboratory experience is a part of this course.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Geometry, one Regents science exam, and department recommendation*

## Regents Chemistry + Lab

*1 Credit*

This course provides a thorough introduction to general chemistry. It includes an up-to-date treatment of modern chemical theory enriched by historical background and development. Thus, it reveals the changing nature of chemistry as an evolving and expanding science. Topics included are atomic structure, periodicity of the elements, chemical bonding, kinetic theory, reaction rates and chemical equilibrium, and organic and nuclear chemistry. The laboratory portion of the course includes both quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Geometry Honors, the Geometry Regents exam, one Regents science exam, and department recommendation*

## Chemistry Honors + Lab

*1 Credit*

Chemistry Honors is a Regents course that goes beyond the material required in the core curriculum. Topics go into much greater depth and detail to provide the Honors student with a deeper understanding of the science of Chemistry. Major research work is expected on the part of the student beyond the normal course work. The laboratory portion of the course includes both quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Geometry Honors, the Geometry Regents exam, two Regents science exams, and department recommendation*

## Advanced Placement Chemistry + Lab

*1 Credit*

This course is designed to be the equivalent of a general chemistry course that would be taken by a first-year college student. Structured around the "Six Big Ideas" determined by the College Board, the course works to develop math skills and problem-solving through working with complex and

difficult chemistry concepts. This course also involves a laboratory component that helps to develop problem-solving skills by the inclusion of inquiry-based laboratory experiments where students must develop and test their own procedure to solve a scientific problem. Students will take the Advanced Placement Chemistry exam in May. The cost of the exam is approximately \$95.

*Prerequisite: Completed Chemistry Regents or Honors and Algebra II Honors, at least 85 on Regents Chemistry Exam, and/or Department Recommendation.*

## **Advanced Placement Biology + Lab**

*1 Credit*

Advanced Placement Biology is a college-level course open to students who have achieved above-average grades in science each previous year, over a three-year period. Students who select this course should be college bound and possess analytical skills. The Advanced Placement Biology Course is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory biology course with labs. The curriculum includes these general topics: molecules and cells, genetics and evolution, organisms and populations, anatomy, and physiology. A research project is required each semester. Students will take the Advanced Placement Biology exam in May. The cost of the exam is approximately \$95.

*Prerequisite: Based on department recommendation and/or approval.*

## **Environmental Science**

*1 Credit*

As inhabitants of the Earth, it is our responsibility to use Earth's resources responsibly and to minimize the impact we have on the planet. In this course,

students will examine some of the issues surrounding humans' impact on the environment, possible solutions to reducing the impact, and the social, economic, and political ramifications of these actions. Additionally, students will explore their personal environment and discover some of the dangers that they face in their everyday life and ways to reduce the risk from these hazards. This course is designed for those students interested in science beyond the required courses.

*Prerequisite: Chemistry (Regents or General) and department recommendation*

## **Forensic Science**

*1 Credit*

This class is intended to be a hands-on course with the majority of class time spent in the lab utilizing forensic techniques. The major areas of course work include problems with eyewitness testimony, fingerprints, hair, and fiber and blood spatter analysis.

*Prerequisite: Department recommendation*

## **Physics + Lab**

*1 Credit*

The study of Physics is concerned with the relationship between matter and energy. This course is both qualitative and quantitative in nature. Topics include mechanics, energy, electricity and magnetism, wave phenomenon, and modern physics. The relevancy of the various topics is reinforced by the laboratory portion of the course. The Physics Regents Exam is not required.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra II Honors, Regents Chemistry or Chemistry Honors, and department recommendation*

# **Social Studies**

## **Global Studies 9**

*1 Credit*

Global Studies 9 provides a chronological study of the world from prehistoric times to Absolutism in Europe. The grade 9 curriculum focuses on important historical, geographic, political, and economic characteristics of the societies that developed in each region of the world. Students study the six major themes of Global History: cultural diffusion, trade, migrations, belief systems, conflict, and the establishment of multi-regional

empires as well as the major events and turning points in history. These themes are supported by the emphasis on developing interpretation skills through the use of primary and secondary sources, political cartoons, map reading, and chart and graph interpretations in relation to the thematic essay and document-based question. The final assessment is a teacher-generated exam.

## **Global 9 Honors**

### *1 Credit*

This course is designed as a pre-AP World History course, covering the New York State Global Studies Curriculum in a very in-depth and extensive manner. The course will be a bridge from normal high school course work to a more complex “college-level” study. Global 9 Honors covers the history of human beings chronologically from the Paleolithic Age through current times. This course includes a study of every major area, culture, and religion throughout history. Students will take the NYS Regents Examination at the end of sophomore year.

*Prerequisite: Department recommendation*

## **Global Studies 10**

### *1 Credit*

In grade 10 Social Studies, students will examine Global History and Geography and complete the year by taking a New York State Regents Exam. This one-year sequence is arranged chronologically beginning with the world in 1750 marked by powerful European empires, coastal African kingdoms, and growing European maritime empires up to the contemporary issues, such as the tensions between traditional cultures and modernization.

## **Advanced Placement World History**

### *1 Credit*

#### *Grade 10*

Advanced Placement World History is a college-level course open to sophomores that have achieved above-average grades in Social Studies and English during their freshman year. This course, designed for students who are college bound and possess a good command of reading and writing, will develop a greater understanding of the evolution of global processes and contacts in different types of human societies. Students will study the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that play a fundamental role in shaping the world in which they live. The ultimate goal of the course will be a mastery of the information and preparedness for the college-level examination. This course includes extensive reading and writing assignments. Students will take the A.P. exam in May of their sophomore year and the NYS Global Studies Regents in June. Students who pass the A.P. exam may be eligible for college credits. The cost of the A.P. exam is approximately \$95.

*Prerequisite: Based on department recommendation and/or approval.*

## **U.S. History & Government – Regents**

### *1 Credit*

#### *Grade 11*

This course reviews the development of the United States. It will include a chronological survey of United States history in general, but emphasis will be on the United States as a transitional and fully developed industrial nation. Constitutional and legal issues will be explored in depth, as will the problems of a dynamic and industrial society in an increasingly complex and technology-oriented world. This course serves as a historical foundation for the senior courses. All students will take the U.S. History & Government Regents exam in June.

## **Advanced Placement United States History**

### *1 Credit*

#### *Grades 11-12*

Advanced Placement United States History is a college-level course open to juniors and seniors who have achieved above-average grades in Social Studies and English. This course is designed for students who are college bound and possess a good command of reading and writing skills. A term paper is required each semester. Students must take the A.P. exam in May, and juniors will take the U.S. History & Government Regents in June. The cost of the A.P. exam is approximately \$95. Students who pass the A.P. exam may be eligible for college credit.

*Prerequisite: Based on department recommendation and/or approval.*

## **Participation in Government**

### *1/2 Credit*

#### *Grade 12 Only*

This required course emphasizes the interaction between citizens and government at all levels: local, state, and federal. The course encourages students to analyze public policy, issues and problems, decision making, and implementation of proposed changes. A participatory project is required.

*Note – Students are also required to complete*

*Personal Finance curriculum (see description under Life Skills)*

## **Advanced Placement American Government & Politics**

### *1/2 Credit*

#### *Grade 12 Only*

This is a college introductory course designed to give students a critical perspective of government

and politics in the United States. This course fulfills the New York State Participation in Government requirement. Students will discuss the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that make up the American political reality. Students will be required to produce a mock campaign and volunteer at a local campaign office. Students must take the A.P. exam in May. The cost of the A.P. exam is approximately \$95. Students who pass the A.P. exam may be eligible for college credit.

*Prerequisite: Based on department recommendation and/or approval.*

*Note – Students are also required to complete Personal Finance curriculum (see description under Life Skills)*

## **Electives**

### **Criminal Justice**

*1/2 Credit*

*Grades 11-12*

This Social Studies elective is a basic law course designed to give students a better understanding of the principles, procedures, and actual practices of the U.S. criminal system. Topics in this one-semester course will include the nature and causes of criminal behavior; the qualifications for, characteristics of, and problems connected with police work; due process as it relates to police investigations, arrests, court and legal procedures; and sentencing and

prison life. The many controversies connected to the above items are explored. The course is augmented by an array of guest speakers who are professionals in the field, a ride-along program, and a field trip to a correctional facility.

### **History through Film**

*1/2 Credit*

*Grades 11-12*

Just how accurate are those films when compared to actual history? This half-year course looks at some popular films based on historical events and compares the director's slant with what actually happened. The class will include viewing of films along with study of history to make complete comparison. *Because of the nature of some of these films, parental permission is required to view films.*

### **Psychology**

*1/2 Credit*

*Grades 11-12*

This course reviews the eclectic approach to the study of human behavior. The five basic theories — neurobiological, behavioral, psychoanalytic, cognitive, and phenomenological — are reviewed for the advantages and applied to the study of development, learning and memory, personality, and abnormal behavior. The course also provides an opportunity for personal assessment.

## **Life Skills**

### **Grade 11 – Public Speaking**

*1/2 Credit*

This required class will help students develop or hone their abilities to speak in front of people, as is often required in college and career. Through a series of actual speaking activities, students will develop the skills of crafting and giving stand-up presentations, reading aloud, interviewing, group discussions, presentation software (PowerPoint, Google Slides, Prezi), and answering extemporaneous questions.

### **Grade 12 – College Writing 101**

*1 Credit*

*See description under English.*

### **Grade 12 – Leadership Skills**

*1/2 Credit*

This hands-on class will teach the skills necessary to be a leader in both small group and large organizational settings. Students will study actual skills including time management, goal setting, independence, image creation, networking, negotiating, event planning and management, conflict resolution, critical thinking, problem solving, and leadership by example. Classroom activities will include frequent hands-on projects that put to use the skills above and to teach that how individuals treat people is the core of good leadership.

## **Grade 12 – Personal Finance**

### *1/2 Credit*

This required course is taught every other day for a full year. It deals with the basic concepts necessary to manage one's personal financial dealings in a modern economy. The course will include banking,

saving and spending; retirement planning; credit cards; student loans; buying vs. leasing; and budgeting as it relates to cars and housing; insurances; taxes; and investing. The course will mix both academic study plus hands-on simulations of real family financial situations.

# **Academies**

## **Academy of the First Year**

### *1/4 Credit*

This academy is designed as an introduction to St. Mary's High School and our expectations and values. The goal is to identify ways in which students will feel confident and driven within the academic setting and beyond, engaging them with a variety of resources and activities.

## **Business, Finance, & Entrepreneurship**

### *1/4 Credit*

This academy prepares students to pursue a business or financial-related major in college by providing an overview of the principles associated with each topic. These principles will then be put into practice through the development and management of several on-campus initiatives, including The Lancer Fund Stock Market Challenge, concession stand management, and more, bringing the concepts of small business management and accounting to life.

## **Education**

### *1/4 Credit*

This academy is designed for students who have an interest in education and would like to start their career path toward becoming a future educator. The goal is to empower the next generation teaching force, building the skills necessary for strong teachers. Students will learn by watching different teaching techniques and theories and then put those into practice through creative lesson planning, innovative educational technology, and cooperative educational experiences that will give future teachers a foundation for success.

## **Engineering & Experimental Design**

### *1/4 Credit*

This academy is focused on exposing students to the fundamentals of chemical, civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering. Through a combination of

theory and hands-on projects, students will be introduced to the different fields of engineering. Students will also engage in the process of experimental design, used by science professionals, to collect, analyze, and present their own scientific data.

## **Global Citizenship & International Relations**

### *1/4 Credit*

This academy will create an international understanding among students and a desire to celebrate and participate in the various traditions that make the world, and our community, a unique place. Students will learn to acknowledge the presence of multiple cultures, languages, and ways of living across the globe and the current needs and political, social, and economic issues surrounding various ethnic groups in several different countries. In the tradition of St. Francis, the Lancers in this academy will develop a "citizen of the world" mentality, learning our place on a global scale and things they can do to make the world a better, more peaceful place – both in local communities and the world at large.

## **Health & Science Professionals**

### *1/4 Credit*

This academy is designed to give students a greater understating of the healthcare, science, and mental health fields. After receiving a background in biology, chemistry, and psychology, students will conduct research and perform experiments in a laboratory setting, simulating work done by healthcare and science professionals. The goal of this academy is to provide students with a base level of experience so they can go on to pursue careers as doctors, nurses, therapists, pharmacists, social workers, lab technicians, psychologists, and more.

## **Hospitality & Event Planning**

*1/4 Credit*

This academy exposes students to these rapidly growing fields. This academy will be extremely hands-on, as students will work to plan, execute, and manage various events and functions. Rooted in tourism and travel, hospitality and event planning give students a taste of what the industry can be like on a global scale, taking them all over the country, and even the world, if they choose to pursue careers in these fields.

## **Journalism & Marketing**

*1/4 Credit*

This academy will explore those fields and further develop the skills needed to pursue careers in the fast-paced world of media. This writing-intensive academy will create the foundation for students to be successful in any avenue of these fields, including print, social media, newscasting, podcasts, web, and video production and editing. In this hands-on environment, students will dive into the current journalism and marketing efforts of the school, working to enhance those efforts.

## **Law & Criminal Justice**

*1/4 Credit*

In this academy, students interested in law, governance, justice, and public service will build a strong foundation of the skills, knowledge, and experience needed to pursue careers in these fields. Few fields combine theory and practice so

effectively, opening diverse avenues for applying the tools of intellect to the problems of society. The Law & Criminal Justice Academy at St. Mary's High School combines the liberal arts advantage with the lens of Catholic understanding.

## **Operational Logistics**

*1/4 Credit*

This academy explores the behind-the-scenes operation of running an event, a program, or a school, including planning, set-up, operation, and take-down.

## **Performing Arts**

*1/4 Credit*

This academy welcomes performers of all skill and experience levels to further develop their abilities on the stage as well as foster a greater appreciation for the creative process of staging a production as a whole. A combination of theory-based and hands-on exercises will be utilized to dive into all aspects of a performance – from singing, dancing, and acting on stage, to set and costume design, and more.

## **Visual Arts**

*1/4 Credit*

This academy is open to students who are serious about pursuing a career in the visual arts and are looking for more experience and want to add to their artistic portfolios. The academy is also open to students who see the Visual Arts as more of a hobby and enjoy looking at and creating beautiful artwork.



# St. Mary's High School

## Graduation Requirements

*Although St. Mary's High School is accredited by NYSED, we have created Curriculum and Graduation Requirements that go well beyond what is required in public schools.*

*As a College Preparatory School, St. Mary's students are required to go above and beyond the minimum to graduate!*

### Course Requirements

St. Mary's High School Students must earn a minimum of 30 credits (1 credit is equivalent to a full-year course). Credit is earned by completing a course with a minimum of 65% course average on the student's final report card.

<b><i>Required</i></b>	<b><i>Credits</i></b>	<b><i>Courses</i></b>
English .....	4 .....	English 9, 10, 11, plus College Writing 101
Social Studies.....	4 .....	Global 9, 10, US History, Participation in Government, plus Personal Finance
Math.....	4 .....	Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra II, choice
Science .....	3 .....	Earth Science, Living Environment, Chemistry, choice
Religion.....	4 .....	Religion 9, 10, 11, 12
Foreign Language .....	3 .....	Spanish I, II, III
Academies.....	4 .....	Academy of First Year plus Three Others
Life Skills Curriculum ..	1½ .....	Public Speaking, Personal Finance, College Writing 101, Leadership
Art/Music.....	1 .....	Two 1-semester courses in Art and/or Music
Health.....	½ .....	1-semester course
Computers.....	½ .....	1-semester course
Electives.....	1 .....	Two 1-semester courses that do not fulfill any other requirements above

### Regents Exam Requirements

Many of the courses above end with Regents Exams administered by New York State. In addition to the courses that must be completed, St. Mary's also requires that students take and pass (65% or higher) Regents exams in certain courses.

#### **Required**

English .....	English Language Arts (11 <sup>th</sup> grade)
Social Studies.....	Global History & Geography (10 <sup>th</sup> grade) US History & Government (11 <sup>th</sup> grade)
Math.....	Algebra I (8 <sup>th</sup> or 9 <sup>th</sup> grade)
Science .....	Earth Science OR Living Environment (8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , or 10 <sup>th</sup> grade)
Foreign Language .....	Checkpoint A (8 <sup>th</sup> or 9 <sup>th</sup> grade)

#### **Must Pass the Course, but Passing the Regents Exam Is Not Required**

Math.....	Geometry (9 <sup>th</sup> or 10 <sup>th</sup> grade) Algebra II (10 <sup>th</sup> or 11 <sup>th</sup> grade)
Science .....	Earth Science OR Living Environment (8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , or 10 <sup>th</sup> grade) Chemistry (10 <sup>th</sup> or 11 <sup>th</sup> grade) Physics (11 <sup>th</sup> or 12 <sup>th</sup> grade)
Foreign Language .....	Checkpoint B (Spanish III) (10 <sup>th</sup> or 11 <sup>th</sup> grade)

All Students graduating from St. Mary's High School will have earned enough course credit to receive a top-tier NYS diploma – **Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation** (76% of students receive this diploma)

***In addition to the Required Exams, students must take and pass (65% or higher) Regents exams:***

- Geometry
- Algebra II
- Earth Science or Living Environment
- Checkpoint B

Students missing even one of these additional exam credits will earn a **Regents Diploma**

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Additionally, students may earn the following designations to their diploma:

- **With Honors** .....Student averages a 90% or higher on all Regents exams taken
  - **Mastery in Mathematics**..Student scores an 85% or higher on three Mathematics Regents exams
  - **Mastery in Science** .....Student scores an 85% or higher on three Science Regents exams
- 

***Important Note – Transfers entering St. Mary's High School must fulfill the graduation requirements. This usually occurs by taking and passing Regents Exams for courses completed elsewhere.***

For example – 9<sup>th</sup> grade student coming from an out-of-state school

Student would need to take and pass the Algebra and Earth Science Exams in January to earn exam credit

***This applies to students transferring from a school that does not offer Regents Exams.***

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## St. Mary's High School

### 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE COURSE SELECTION FORM

#### English

- \_\_\_\_\_ English 9  
\_\_\_\_\_ English 9 Honors  
\_\_\_\_\_ Reading Development

#### Social Studies

- \_\_\_\_\_ Global 9  
\_\_\_\_\_ Global 9 Honors

#### Math

- \_\_\_\_\_ Algebra 1 CC & Lab  
\_\_\_\_\_ Algebra 1 CC Honors

***Is the student currently taking Regents Algebra in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and will take the Regents Exam in June?***

☐ Yes.

Student will be placed in Geometry CC Honors\*

#### Spanish

- \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish 1  
\_\_\_\_\_ Spanish 1 Hon

***Is the student currently taking Spanish for HIGH SCHOOL Credit in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and will take the Checkpoint A Exam in June?***

☐ Yes. Student will be placed in Spanish 2 Hon\*

***Is the student interested in challenging the Checkpoint A Exam to possibly receive Spanish 1 credit?***

☐ Yes. If they pass the Checkpoint A Exam, student will be placed in Spanish 2 Hon

\*Pending Eighth-Grade Records / Regents Exam Scores.

#### Science

- \_\_\_\_\_ Earth Science – Non-Regents  
\_\_\_\_\_ Earth Science – Regents

***Is the student currently taking Regents Earth Science in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and will take the Regents Exam in June?***

☐ Yes.

Student will be placed in Living Environment in their 9<sup>th</sup> grade and Chemistry in their 10<sup>th</sup> Grade\*

***Is the student currently taking Regents Living Environment in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and will take the Regents Exam in June?***

☐ Yes.

Student will be placed in Earth Science in their 9<sup>th</sup> grade and Chemistry in their 10<sup>th</sup> Grade\*

#### Electives

*(Please note: placement is NOT guaranteed)*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Art 9/10  
\_\_\_\_\_ Music Elective  
\_\_\_\_\_ No Preference

#### PE/Dance

*(Please note: placement is NOT guaranteed)*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Physical Education  
\_\_\_\_\_ Dance

#### Required Courses

- ☒ Religion 9  
☒ Computer Foundations for High School  
☒ Academy of the First Year

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_



# St. Mary's High School

## 10<sup>TH</sup>, 11<sup>TH</sup>, 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE COURSE SELECTION FORM

### English

- \_\_\_\_\_ English 10
- \_\_\_\_\_ English 10 Honors
- \_\_\_\_\_ English 11
- \_\_\_\_\_ AP English Lang
- \_\_\_\_\_ Writing Dev
- \_\_\_\_\_ English 12 (College Writing 101)
- \_\_\_\_\_ AP English Lit

### Math

- \_\_\_\_\_ Geometry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Geometry CC Hon
- \_\_\_\_\_ Algebra 2
- \_\_\_\_\_ Algebra 2 CC Hon
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pre-Calculus
- \_\_\_\_\_ Applied Calculus for Non-Majors
- \_\_\_\_\_ Math 4 Life
- \_\_\_\_\_ AP Calculus
- \_\_\_\_\_ AP Statistics

### Science

- \_\_\_\_\_ Earth Science
- \_\_\_\_\_ Living Environ
- \_\_\_\_\_ General Chemistry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Regents Chemistry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Chemistry Honors
- \_\_\_\_\_ Environ Science
- \_\_\_\_\_ Forensic Science
- \_\_\_\_\_ Physics
- \_\_\_\_\_ AP Biology
- \_\_\_\_\_ AP Chemistry

### Social Studies

- \_\_\_\_\_ Global 10
- \_\_\_\_\_ AP World History
- \_\_\_\_\_ US History
- \_\_\_\_\_ AP US History
- \_\_\_\_\_ Part in Gov't/Personal Finance
- \_\_\_\_\_ AP US Gov't/Personal Finance

### Spanish

- \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish 1
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish 1 Hon
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish 2
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish 2 Hon
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish 3
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish 3 Hon
- \_\_\_\_\_ AP Spanish
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish 5

### PE/Dance

- (Please note: placement is NOT guaranteed)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Physical Education
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Dance

### Electives

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

- (Please note: placement is NOT guaranteed)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Art 9/10
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Music Elective

### Electives

#### 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

##### Number top SIX selections

- \_\_\_\_\_ Art 11/12
- \_\_\_\_\_ Music Elective
- \_\_\_\_\_ Varsity Chorus
- \_\_\_\_\_ Audition required
- \_\_\_\_\_ Creative Writing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Criminal Justice
- \_\_\_\_\_ History thru Film
- \_\_\_\_\_ Psychology
- \_\_\_\_\_ Entrepreneurship
- \_\_\_\_\_ History & Future of Business

#### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Required

- \_\_\_\_\_ Computer Foundations for HS

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Required

- \_\_\_\_\_ Religion 10
- \_\_\_\_\_ Health

#### 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Required

- \_\_\_\_\_ Religion 11
- \_\_\_\_\_ Public Speaking

#### 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Required

- \_\_\_\_\_ Religion 12
- \_\_\_\_\_ Leadership

### Academies

#### Number top SIX selections

- \_\_\_\_\_ Business / Entrepreneurship / Finance
- \_\_\_\_\_ Education
- \_\_\_\_\_ Engineering & Experimental Design
- \_\_\_\_\_ Global Citizenship / International Relations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Health & Sciences
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hospitality / Event Planning
- \_\_\_\_\_ Journalism & Marketing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Law & Criminal Justice
- \_\_\_\_\_ Operational Logistics
- \_\_\_\_\_ Performing Arts
- \_\_\_\_\_ Visual Arts

### Other

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**Note – Placement pending verification of credits from previous school**

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_