



St. Mary's High School

Course Catalogue

2024-25 Academic Year

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Business & Computer Science

Business

Entrepreneurship 101

1/2 Credit

Grades 10-12

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

Business & Politics

(formerly History & Future of Business)

1/2 Credit

Grades 10-12

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.

Computer Science Principles

1/2 or 1 Credit

Grade 10-12

The purpose of the course is to teach students the basics of programming, as well as, incorporate ideas on information technology and how it impacts us on a national and global level. This course offers students the opportunity to be innovative and join a community of people who are well versed in current technology. With our ever-changing society and increasing technological advancements, students will leave school with knowledge that would make them marketable to collegiate administrators or company recruiters. Curriculum from Code.org is designed to cater to a diverse student population. Resources are technology based with engagement in mind.

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.

Completion of summer reading assignment 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 assignment 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 and English grades in Eighth grade. 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; and 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 ninth grade. Mastery of vocabulary and progress in grammar are considered essential. Outside assignments include novel reading, composition, and projects. ***Completion of summer reading assignment is mandatory.***

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. The course pace is accelerated. ***Completion of summer reading assignment is mandatory.***

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

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 first-year college composition course all students take in the beginning of college. 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 \$98. 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 11th graders who have been identified by the English Department as having difficulty with writing skills at the end of 10th grade. 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 (English 12)

1 Credit

Introduction to College Composition will introduce the various forms of reading and writing expected of college first-year students. 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.). ***Completion of summer reading assignment is mandatory.***

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 \$98. 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 student must have either scored mastery level on the New York State English Regents Exam or scored a 3 or higher on the AP English Language and Composition Exam.

Elective

Creative Writing

1/2 Credit

Grades 10-12

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 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. The Checkpoint A exam will be administered in June.

Spanish 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 9th Graders, placement is contingent on performance on the St. Mary's LOTE Placement Exam and/or credit received in 8th grade.

Spanish 3 Honors

1 Credit

This course emphasizes advanced listening comprehension and extended reading, culture, composition, and speaking skills. Successful completion prepares students for both the 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 Language & Culture

1 Credit

This 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 & 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 \$98.

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.

Elective

Spanish Film Festival

1/2 Credit

Grades 11-12

We will be watching films and documentaries – in Spanish. Students will be graded on class participation in discussions, short answer, and thoughtful essays, all of which will be in Spanish. The films and documentaries will allow the students to have a deeper understanding of the many regions where Spanish is spoken worldwide, as well as an exposure to many different dialects. We will explore themes relating to indigenous cultures, historical events, sports, immigration, adventure and travel, spirituality and religion, art and culture.

Prerequisite is Spanish 3.

Health / Physical Education

Health

1/2 Credit

The emphasis on this course is self-responsibility and that choices have 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 1930s 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.

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Algebra I

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. 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 course 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. The

Geometry (Common Core) Regents exam will be given 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. The Algebra II (Common Core) Regents exam will be given in June. SAT prep work is integrated into the curriculum.

Prerequisite: Department recommendation

Math for Life (*Math IVB*)

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 Calculus AB Exam. The cost of the exam is approximately \$98.

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 \$98. 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 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. ***Students are required to complete a total of 20 hours (10 each semester) of community service.***

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 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. The course 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. ***Students are required to complete a total of 30 hours (15 each semester) of community service.***

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 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 a total of 40 hours (20 each semester) of community service.***

Elective

Retreat Peer Ministry (RPM)

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. ***Students are required to complete a total of 40 hours (20 each semester) of community service.*** In order to be part of this class, students must complete an application/interview with the RPM teacher.

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 in June.

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 in June.

STEAM

All 10th-grade 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

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.

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. Students are required to take the Regents exam in June.

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. Students are required to take the Regents exam in June.

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 \$98.

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 \$98.

Prerequisite: Completed Chemistry Regents or Honors with 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 as well as 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. Eleventh graders are required to take the Physics Regents Exam; 12th graders may challenge the Physics Regents Exam if they wish.

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 Studies 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.

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 10th graders that have achieved above-average grades in Social Studies and English during their first year of high school. 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 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 \$98.

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 \$98. 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 \$98. 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

History through Film

1/2 Credit

Grades 10-12

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 10-12

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 (Economics)

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; 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

Grade 9

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.

College Prep

1/4 Credit

Grade 12

This academy is for 12th graders as they enter their last semester at St. Mary's High School. Activities include budget planning, study styles, living on their own, and college life. Recent graduates return to share what they have learned in their first years of college.

Athletic Administration

1/4 Credit

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

Content Creation

1/4 Credit

This academy is open to students who are looking for more experience in creation of content for the Internet 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 works of art.

Criminal Justice

1/4 Credit

In this academy, students interested in justice and public service will build a strong foundation of the skills, knowledge, and experience needed to pursue careers in this field. Few fields combine theory and practice so effectively, opening diverse avenues for applying the tools of intellect to the problems of society.

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.

Entrepreneurship

1/4 Credit

This academy prepares students to pursue a business-related major in college by providing an overview of the principles associated with the 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 to life.

Finance

1/4 Credit

This academy prepares students to pursue a financial-related major in college by providing an overview of the principles. These principles will then be put into practice through the development and management of several on-campus initiatives, bringing the concepts of accounting to life.

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.

Law

1/4 Credit

In this academy, students interested in law and governance will build a strong foundation of the skills, knowledge, and experience needed to pursue careers in this field. The Law Academy at St. Mary’s High School combines the liberal arts advantage with the lens of Catholic understanding.

Media Marketing

1/4 Credit

This academy will explore 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.

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.

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 27 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.

<i>Required</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Courses</i>
English	4	English 9, 10, 11, College Writing 101 (English 12)
Social Studies.....	4	Global 9, 10, US History, Participation in Government
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	1	Spanish I (Span II & III required for New York State Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation)
Academies.....	2	Academy of First Year, Academy of College Prep, plus Six Others
Life Skills Curriculum ..	1½	Public Speaking, Personal Finance, 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 th grade)
Social Studies.....	Global History & Geography (10 th grade) US History & Government (11 th grade)
Math.....	Algebra I (8 th or 9 th grade)
Science	Earth Science OR Living Environment (8 th , 9 th , or 10 th grade)
Foreign Language	Checkpoint A (8 th or 9 th grade)

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

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

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 – 9th 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.



St. Mary's High School

9TH 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 8th grade and will take the Regents Exam in June?

- Yes.
Student will be placed in Geometry CC Honors*

Spanish

- _____ Spanish 1

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

- Yes. Student will be placed in Spanish 2Hon*

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

Is the student currently taking Regents Earth Science in 8th grade and will take the Regents Exam in June?

- Yes.
Student will be placed in Living Environment in their 9th grade and Chemistry in their 10th Grade*

Is the student currently taking Regents Living Environment in 8th grade and will take the Regents Exam in June?

- Yes.
Student will be placed in Earth Science in their 9th grade and Chemistry in their 10th 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

10TH, 11TH, 12TH 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

Social Studies

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

Science

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

Spanish

- _____ Spanish 1 Hon
- _____ Spanish 2 Hon
- _____ Spanish 3 Hon
- _____ AP Spanish
- _____ Spanish 5

Religion

- _____ Religion 10
- _____ Religion 11
- _____ Religion 12

PE/Dance

- _____ Physical Education
- _____ Dance

Electives – 10th Grade

(Please note: placement is NOT guaranteed)

- _____ Art 9/10
- _____ Music Elective

Electives

Number top SIX selections (Please note: placement is NOT guaranteed)

- _____ Art 11/12
- _____ Music Elective
- _____ Varsity Chorus
- _____ *Audition required*
- _____ Creative Writing
- _____ Computer Science Principles
- _____ History thru Film
- _____ Psychology
- _____ Spanish Film Festival
- _____ Entrepreneurship
- _____ Business & Politics

Required Courses

- _____ Computer Foundations for HS *(usually 9th grade)*
- _____ Health *(usually 10th grade)*
- _____ Public Speaking *(usually 11th grade)*
- _____ Leadership *(usually 12th grade)*

Academies

Number top SIX selections (space is limited)

- _____ Athletic
- _____ Administration
- _____ Content Creation
- _____ Criminal Justice
- _____ Education
- _____ Engineering
- _____ Entrepreneurship
- _____ Finance
- _____ Global Citizenship
- _____ Health & Science Professions
- _____ Hospitality & Event Planning
- _____ Law
- _____ Media Content
- _____ Performing Arts
- _____ College Prep *(required for 12th graders)*

Other

Note – Placement pending verification of credits from previous school

Student's Signature: _____ Date _____

Parent / Guardian's Signature: _____ Date _____

Counselor's Signature: _____ Date _____