



st. croix preparatory academy

2021-2022

Upper School Curriculum Guide

IMPORTANCE OF THE UPPER SCHOOL CURRICULUM

A college preparatory curriculum requires thorough preparation in literature and composition, mathematics, science and laboratory courses, social studies, and foreign languages. The rigor of the course work a student takes communicates important information to any college admissions personnel. Students are assessed on course rigor, grade point average, and test scores.

All colleges and universities have general requirements unique to their organization. It is important to understand minimum admission requirements at any given institution. It is also important to communicate with admissions departments to better understand expectations in coursework while a student is in high school. This helps inform the student when making choices about course registration. The following chart provides a comparison of typical minimum requirements.

	Required by				
Course	State of MN	Private HS	Public HS	University	St. Croix Prep
Language Arts/English	4	4	4	4	4
Mathematics	3	3	3	4*	4
Social Sciences	3.5	4	4	2 to 4	4
Science	3	3	3	3 to 4	3
World Languages	Local decision	3	0	2 to 4	2
Arts	1	3	1	1	2
Health/PE	Local decision	.5 and 2.5	.5 and 1	Elective	1
Electives	7	0	6.5	2	4
Service & Yr. End Presentation	—	—	—	While not required, strongly encouraged and considered by admissions	1.5
TOTAL	21.5	23	23	23	25.5

- For public schools, including charter schools, all students must pass a college and career ready assessment that meets Minnesota state law and St. Croix Preparatory Academy School Board Requirements.
- Almost all colleges require you take the ACT and/or the SAT to be considered for admissions. Some institutions have score requirements for entrance.
- Credits: typically, classes are held 5 days a week, anywhere from 40-60 minutes. The equivalent of a yearlong, daily class is 1.0 credit. Semester courses receive .50 credit.
- *While the “minimum” requirements may be “3” mathematics credits to be admitted to a University, typically, as stated on their websites, they mostly admit only those students who have completed 4 credits of Mathematics while in high school.

College Readiness, College Admissions and Four-Year High School Course Plan

College admissions requirements vary. The individual transcript is a powerful piece of information. Colleges look at 3 main criteria that include **rigor of courses taken, a grade point average of 2.5 or higher, and strength of academic electives**. The rigor of the transcript is the most important of these three criteria.

In addition, college admissions personnel like to see student's commitment to activities, clubs, athletics, and leadership positions.

At St. Croix Preparatory Academy, our college counselor meets with each individual student to ensure a solid plan is established that meets his or her individual college aspiration. This process is greatly improved if students identify possible colleges ahead of time and are able to use admission expectations as a guide to Upper School course planning.

The following chart distinguishes schools by "types" and delineates the expectations that are typical or average for successful college admission:

Type of college	Admission Standards	Avg. ACT scores, Enrolled Freshmen, 2013-2014*	% of SCPA Alumni accepted at these institutions	High School GPA Expectation	Typical ACT(36) / SAT in Math & Reading (1600)	AP Course/ Exam Score Expectation
Highly Selective	Majority of freshmen in top 10% of their high school class	Ivy League-33 Vassar-31 Carleton-31 Davidson-30 Macalester-30	16%	3.75	28+/1220+	4+ courses/ Score of 4 or 5 on exams
Selective	Majority of freshmen in top 25% of their high school class	UM-Twin Cities-27 Gustavus-27 St. Thomas-25 UM-Morris-25 UMD-24 UW-Eau Claire-24	40%	3.5	24+/1110+ (ACT Range 21-27)	3+ courses/ Score of 3,4,5 on exams
Traditional	Majority of freshmen in top 50% of their high school class	Winona State-23 Mankato State-22 UW-Stout-22 UW-River Falls-22 St. Cloud State-21 Bemidji-21	34%	3.0	21+/990+ (ACT range 21-23)	Not Applicable
Liberal	Usually accept all high school graduates, some programs are more selective	Normandale Community College, DeVry, ITT Technical Institute, etc.	6%	1.0	18+/870+ (ACT range 18-20)	Not Applicable
Open	All high school graduates are accepted	Century, Rasmussen, etc.	4%	High School Diploma/GE D	None required	Not Applicable

Course selection is a critical consideration in the college planning.

(Source for information in the chart: State of Minnesota Office of Higher of Education and www.naviance.co)

SCPA Upper School 4-Year Course Plan

SCPA Graduation Requirements	9 th Grade Class of 2025	10 th Grade Class of 2024	11 th Grade Class of 2023	12 th Grade Class of 2022
English 4 Credits	____ English 9 OR ____ Honors English 9 1 credit	____ English 10 OR ____ Honors English 10 1 credit	____ English 11 OR ____ AP Language & Composition 1 credit	____ English 12 OR ____ AP Literature 1 credit
Social Studies 4 Credits	____ Human Geography OR ____ AP Human Geography 1 credit	____ World History OR ____ AP World History 1 credit	____ U.S. History OR ____ AP U.S. History 1 credit	____ U.S. Gov't & Econ OR ____ AP Government OR ____ AP Micro/Macro Econ 1 credit
Science 3 Credits	____ Biology OR ____ Honors Biology 1 credit	____ Chemistry OR ____ AP Chemistry 1 credit	____ Physics OR ____ AP Physics B 1 credit	Optional Science Or Other Elective(s) (course title here) 1 credit
Math 4 Credits	(course title here) 1 credit	(course title here) 1 credit	(course title here) 1 credit	(course title here) 1 credit
Physical Education 1 Credit	____ Physical Education & Health 9 - (Required) 1/2 credit	(course title here) 1/2 credit	(course title here) 1/2 credit	(course title here) 1/2 credit
Fine Arts 2 Credits	(course title here) 1 credit	(course title here) 1 credit	(course title here) 1 credit	(course title here) 1 credit
World Language 2 Credits	(course title here) 1 credit	(course title here) 1 credit	(course title here) 1 credit	(course title here) 1 credit
4 Other Elective Credits	(course title here) (course title here) 1/2 or 1 credit	(course title here) (course title here) 1/2 or 1 credit	(course title here) (course title here) 1/2 or 1 credit	(course title here) (course title here) 1/2 or 1 credit
Study Hall	____ Semester Study Hall ____ FY Study Hall	____ Semester Study Hall ____ FY Study Hall	____ Semester Study Hall ____ FY Study Hall	____ Semester Study Hall ____ FY Study Hall
Service Hours and HS Performance 1.5 Credits Required	10 Hours: .10 credit 1 Presentation .25 credit	10 Hours: .10 credit 1 Presentation .25 credit	10 Hours: .10 credit 1 Presentation .25 credit	20 Hours: .20 credit 1 Presentation .25 credit
25.5 Required	(credit total)	(credit total)	(credit total)	(credit total)

ENGLISH

Graduation Requirements: 4 Credits

Standards -

The State of Minnesota requires students in grades 9-12 to be proficient in reading, writing, and speaking. In order to comply with the state standards as well as the academic goals of this high school, the sequence for grades 9-12 in language arts will be as follows:

English 9: Ancient Literature

Grade - 9 Full Year - 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of 8th grade language arts

Description: Ninth grade English will study masterpieces in literature with an emphasis on ancient literature dating from pre-common era through the 1500s, including: *The Epic of Gilgamesh, The Odyssey, Selections of Ancient Greek Philosophy, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Siddhartha, Beowulf, Inferno, Tempest, and Don Quixote*. Students will develop a deeper understanding of literature through an exploration of Joseph Campbell's hero's journey, while creating and defending their own interpretations and ideas relating to our texts and supplementary material. A focus will be placed on core comprehension of texts, while developing written and spoken rhetorical strategies pertaining to essential question for each text.

Honors English 9: Ancient Literature

Grade - 9 Full Year - 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite(s): Successful completion of 8th grade language arts

Description: Honors students will study masterpieces in literature dating from pre-common era through the 1500s, including: *The Epic of Gilgamesh, The Odyssey, Selections of Ancient Greek Philosophy, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Siddhartha, Beowulf, Inferno, Tempest, and Don Quixote*. Students will develop a deeper understanding of literature through an exploration of Joseph Campbell's hero's journey, while creating and defending their own interpretations and ideas relating to our texts and supplementary material. Ninth

grade Honors English students are asked to read, write, and discuss ideas at a more advanced abstract level.

English 10: British Literature with Composition

Grade - 10 Full Year - 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: English 9 or the equivalent

Description: Students in English 10 will study major works of literature selected from *Macbeth, Canterbury Tales, Frankenstein, Importance of Being Earnest, Things Fall Apart, Night, and Animal Farm*. Students will focus on the reading skills needed for these complex works. We will examine the relationship between literature and the historical ideas and movements that influenced them. The writing focus for the year will be on argumentative writing where students will study the types of arguments, different ways to structure an argument, and different rhetorical writing devices.

Honors English 10: British Literature with Composition

Grade - 10 Full Year - 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: English 9 or the equivalent

Description: Students in Honors English 10 will study major works of literature selected from *Macbeth, Canterbury Tales, Frankenstein, Importance of Being Earnest, Things Fall Apart, Night, and Animal Farm*. Students will continue to develop a deep understanding of literature and create and defend their own interpretations and ideas by studying different philosophies and approaches to analyzing literature. The writing focus for the year will be on argumentative writing where students will focus on developing their own ideas and interpretation and then creating cohesive and persuasive arguments. Honors students will be expected to work on a deeper and more abstract level, including themes, historic context, and literary devices. Honors students will need to be able to read complex texts independently and quickly move beyond the literal level of a text to abstract concepts and deep analysis of literary terms. **This course requires summer reading of either *Pride and Prejudice* or *Great Expectations*.**

English 11: American Literature and Composition

Grade - 11 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: English 9 and 10 or the equivalent

Description: This course is a chronological survey of American literature designed to engage students in the careful reading and critical analysis of literature. Through the close reading of selected texts from the American Canon, students develop a deeper understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. Works include: *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Crucible*, *My Antonia*, *The Great Gatsby*, *A Raisin in the Sun* and a variety of selections from American essays, poetry, and short stories, including such pioneering voices as Poe, Twain, Whitman, Dickinson, and Hughes. Students will complete a variety of written assignments, including a critical analysis. This course includes a review of grammar concepts in preparation for the ACT.

AP English Language and Composition

Grade - 11 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: English 9 and 10 or the equivalent

Description: The AP English Language and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Throughout the course, students refine their understanding of grammar while simultaneously exploring the elements of style. Additionally, students read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of text, from many disciplines and historical periods. Students will complete a number of written assignments including a research paper and a variety of in-class presentations.

AP Literature

Grade - 12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: English 9, 10, and 11 or the equivalent

Description: For the student who loves to read and write fiction and poetry. This course will engage students in studies of classic works of literature, poetry, and art, with a focus on thematic units that include: War and Peace; Love and Romance; and Family and Individuality. Works span a wide chronology, from Sophocles' *Antigone* to Shakespeare's *Othello* to the very contemporary *Exit West* by Moshin Hamid. Students will be well prepared to take the AP Literature exam in the spring.

English 12

Grade - 12 Full Year – 1.00 Credit

Prerequisite/s: English 9, 10, and 11 or the equivalent

Description: This course is split into two distinct semesters. Semester One: our key question will be, what is madness? Through the study of modern classics such as *Into the Wild*, *The Catcher in the Rye*, and the short fiction of William Faulkner and Flannery O'Connor, students will engage in rich conversations and research into conformity and rebellion. Semester Two: our key question will be, *why has science fiction become such an important genre?* We will study classic science fiction from Isaac Asimov and Ray Bradbury, dystopian fiction by George Orwell and Margaret Atwood, and even contemporary film as we try to decipher what, exactly, makes science fiction such an enduring genre.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Graduation Requirements:
4 Credits

Human Geography

Grade - 9 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: Human Geography is a yearlong course that focuses on the distribution, processes, and effects of human populations on the planet. Units of study include population, migration, culture, language,

religion, ethnicity, political geography, economic development, industry, agriculture, and urban geography. Global case studies as well as local examples will be studied as students practice the spatial thinking skills of geographers. Developing note-taking, writing and study skills will also be a focus in this 9th grade course.

AP Human Geography

Grade – 9 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: AP Human Geography is a yearlong course that focuses on the distribution, processes, and effects of human populations on the planet. Units of study include population, migration, culture, language, religion, ethnicity, political geography, economic development, industry, agriculture, and urban geography. Emphasis is placed on geographic models and their applications. Case studies from around the globe are compared to the situation in both the United States and locally in our state. Students will practice the types of questions and essays found on the AP Human Geography exam. This college-level course prepares students to take the AP Human Geography exam.

World History

Grade – 10 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Geography

Description: World History is a yearlong course that focuses on the development, dynamics, distribution, and effects of humankind on the planet. We emphasize knowledge of and appreciation for the contributions of both Western and non-Western civilizations from prehistory through modern times. Using primary documents to explore literature, artifacts, and other social sciences, students will practice evaluating sources and crafting arguments to explain historical phenomena. The course is organized around cultural, political, economic, and social themes. Writing, active reading, note-taking skills, and critical thinking skills will also be developed.

AP World History

Grade – 10 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: AP World History is a yearlong course that emphasizes the development of historical thinking skills alongside the study of global cultures from 1200 CE to the present. AP World History focuses on five basic themes in studying history: interactions with the environment, development of cultures, political state building and conflict, creating economic systems, and transforming social structures. AP World History will build the skills necessary to be analytical students of history by focusing on the four thinking skills of AP World History: crafting historical arguments using primary sources, applying chronological reasoning, comparing and contrasting historical processes, and evaluating various historical interpretations. This college-level course prepares students to take the AP World History exam.

U.S. History

Grade – 11 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: United States History is a year long course that provides an essential understanding of the formative events that have shaped us as a people. The course is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and ideas that comprise United States history. Building on prior knowledge and course work, U.S. History focuses on specific touchstones, or topics, that have impacted the development of America. These topics are set within their historical context and presented chronologically. The topics focus not simply on political history, but rather give students an understanding of all facets of US History and culture. Students will examine these topics using all of the disciplines of the social sciences (Anthropology, Geography, Economics, Sociology, Psychology, and Political Science) in order to form deep connections to the topics.

AP U.S. History

Grade – 11 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: The AP U.S. History course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in U.S. History. The program prepares students for college courses. Students learn to assess historical materials—their relevance to a given interpretive problem, reliability, and importance—and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. Students will develop an awareness of multiple interpretations of historical issues in secondary sources and be able to compare developments or trends from one period to another. This course prepares students to take the AP United States History exam.

AP Microeconomics/AP Macroeconomics

Grade – 11-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: Microeconomics studies the functions of individual decision makers, both consumers and producers, within the economic system. It includes a study of factor markets and the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. Macroeconomics gives students a thorough understanding of the principles of the economic system as a whole. It emphasizes monetary and fiscal policies that affect unemployment and inflation as well as international trade and the value of currency. This college-level course prepares students to take the AP Microeconomics and AP Macroeconomics Exams.

AP Government and Politics: United States

Grade – 11-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: This yearlong course focuses on the discussion of problems and characteristics of the modern United States political system. No prior AP course experience is necessary to be successful in this class. The course emphasizes discussion

and analysis of key issues in American politics including the relationships between Congress, the President, the Courts and the Bureaucracy; as well as how the media and interest group impact the political system. The course also focuses on campaigns, elections and an in depth look at civil rights and civil liberties. The class is designed to prepare students for college level coursework in political science and related social sciences and includes frequent discussion of political events and application of key concepts in American politics to current political situations. This course prepares students to take the Advanced Placement exam in Government and Politics: United States.

United States Economics and Politics

Grade – 12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

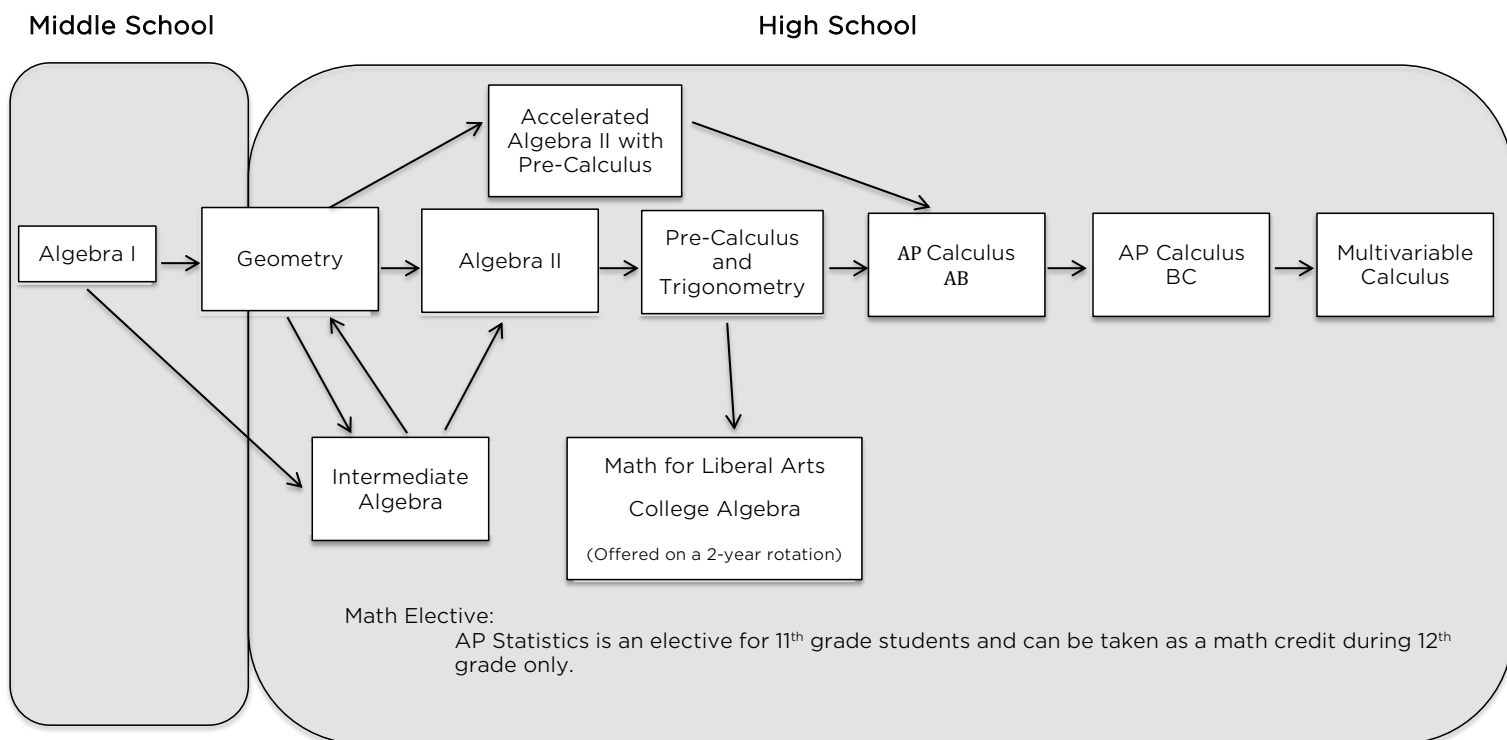
Description: This full year course will cover the fundamentals needed to understand how the United States economic and political systems function. Understanding the principles taught in the economics portion of this course will enable students to have a basic knowledge of the workings of the U.S. economy. We highlight the components of basic economic macro and micro principles, and outline micro-economic principles associated with individual businesses and households including trade-offs and scarcity. The macroeconomics concepts we'll explore delve into the Federal Reserve System and issues associated with inflation, unemployment and a worldwide economy. The course builds on a fundamental knowledge of American government and helps students understand the political process and how individual citizens play a vital role in establishing policy. Students will also explore the problems and controversies prevalent in our republic and evaluate solutions and arguments that often come up in political discourse. A realistic appraisal of government and politics is emphasized and critically analyzed in a constructive way.

MATHEMATICS

Graduation Requirements: 4 Credits

Rather than progressing by grade level,
Math courses follow a content and skill progression.
Refer to the flow chart below to note the Math course sequence.

MATHEMATICS Course Sequence Overview



Intermediate Algebra

Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Teacher recommendation

Description: This course will develop and reinforce algebraic skills. It will begin with a review of the rectangular coordinate system, graphing, and linear functions and move on to other functions, including absolute value, exponential, and quadratic. Students will study data analysis and probability. Further topics will include factoring polynomials, solving systems of equations and inequalities, radicals and rational functions. These topics will be studied using graphic,

numeric, symbolic and verbal methods. The course will utilize investigation, projects and presentations to ensure understanding is conveyed through communication.

Geometry

Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Algebra I or Intermediate Algebra

Description: Geometry focuses on spatial relationships, proof, and probability in addition to strengthening algebraic skills. Topics include: transformations, symmetry, relationships between figures, measurements

and properties of plane figures, measurements of three-dimensional shapes, tools for analyzing and measuring shapes, and investigation and proof.

Algebra II

Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Algebra I and Geometry

Description: Algebra II covers all topics that are traditionally covered in a second-year algebra course. Real-world problems are included along with application to other subjects. Topics include, but are not limited to, the structure of the real numbers system with an extension into the complex number system, mathematical functions (constant, linear, quadratic, rational, logarithmic, exponential), sequences and series (arithmetic, geometric, quadratic), matrices and determinants, trigonometry, permutations, and probability.

Accelerated Algebra II with Pre-Calculus

Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Geometry and teacher recommendation

Description: This course is intended for the student who would like to participate in an accelerated math sequence. This class combines coursework from Algebra II and Pre-calculus into 1 year of content. Students will deepen their knowledge of functions by analyzing a variety of equations including polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, inverse, and piecewise functions. Students will apply their knowledge of the unit circle and the trigonometric identities to explore advanced trigonometric functions. Additional topics include matrices, vectors, and preparation for Calculus topics such as rates of change and limits.

Pre-Calculus with Trigonometry

Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Algebra II

Description: This course fully integrates topics from Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, and Discrete Mathematics. Topics include, but are not limited to: transformations, advanced trigonometry, area under a curve, piecewise functions, exponentials and logarithms, limits, rates of change, vectors and parametric equations,

polar and complex numbers, and conic sections.

Math for Liberal Arts (Elective)

Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Algebra II

Description: Topics selected from: mathematical reasoning, natural number patterns, geometry, combinatorics, elementary probability and statistics, financial mathematics, numeration systems, and selected current topics to give students practical applications of mathematics for their daily lives. This course is an alternative for students who don't want or need to pursue work in Calculus.

AP Calculus AB

Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Pre-Calculus

Description: AP Calculus AB is designed for prospective mathematics majors and students interested in engineering, computer science, physics, business, or the life sciences. The course is the equivalent of a first semester college Calculus course. Topics include optimization, limits, differential equations, derivative and integral applications, volumes of revolution, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. Students are encouraged to take the AP Calculus AB exam upon completion.

AP Calculus BC

Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: AP Calculus AB

Description: This course is a continuation of Calculus AB, covering material included in a second semester college Calculus course. The course will also include other advanced mathematical topics such as Differential Equations and Linear Algebra. Students are encouraged to take the AP Calculus BC exam upon completion.

Multivariable Calculus

Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: AP Calculus BC

Description: The material in this course is equivalent to Calculus 3 in a semester college curriculum. Topics include: multivariable functions, three-dimensional analytical geometry, partial derivatives,

multiple integrals, curves and surfaces, vector fields, Green's Theorem, Stokes' Theorem, and Divergence Theorem. Applications include but are not limited to science, engineering, economics, and ecology.

AP Statistics may be used by seniors as a fourth-year mathematics credit upon successful completion Algebra II. Please check with the colleges you are applying to, to ensure that this course will satisfy their admissions expectations. Otherwise elective credit will be granted for these courses. See elective section for course description.

SCIENCE

Graduation Requirements: 3 Credits

Biology

Grade - 9 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: Biology will cover elements of the following: biochemistry, cell structure, organelles, mitosis, cancer, meiosis, genetic diversity, mutations, microbiology, molecular genetics, heredity, evolutionary biology, comparative genomics, classification, phylogeny, structure and function of animals, photosynthesis, respiration, plant biology and ecology. Student work will involve book assignments, online assignments, worksheets and projects. Students will develop skills in designing inquiry-based laboratory activities and writing complete lab reports. Students are expected to engage cooperatively in class discussions and group activities. The level of learning in this course is designed to sufficiently prepare students for AP Biology. The grading for this course is heavily weighted on test scores and completed lab reports or presentations.

Honors Biology

Grade 9 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Teacher recommendation

Description: This class covers Biology topics in depth and is an excellent preparatory class for AP Biology, and advanced Biology elective classes. Topics covered include: Biochemistry, Cell Structure and Function, Cellular Energetics, Heredity, Molecular

Genetics, Biotechnology, Evolutionary Biology, Classification and Phylogeny, Plant and Animal Physiology and Ecology. Topics are covered to a greater depth than in General Biology and there is an expectation that students have a strong background in algebraic math and graphing. The lab component is a major part of this class with regular in-depth inquiry lab activities that may require formal lab reports. Learning material include textbooks, published research articles and online tutorials. Students are expected to work well in groups for designing studies and analyzing data. Student work will involve book assignments, supplemental online worksheets, labs, quizzes, exams and projects.

AP Biology

Grade - 11-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Chemistry or AP Chemistry

Description: Students taking AP Biology will be continuing the coverage started in the introductory Biology class. The course format is aligned with College Board AP Biology required learning for skills and content. Students will investigate concepts including enzyme activity, macromolecule structure and function, cellular energetics, cell cycle and regulation, DNA structure, transcription, translation, molecular genetics, proteomics, evolutionary biology, phylogeny, organismal structure and function and ecology. The lab component is a major part of this class with regular in-depth inquiry-based lab activities that require formal lab reports. Student work will involve online book assignments and supplemental worksheets as well as quizzes and exams. Students are expected to work collaboratively on in-class activities and laboratory activities and should expect to dedicate time outside of class hours on learning details of concepts that are introduced in class. We use a college level text and many assignments are associated with the online component of this text. Students should have strong reading skills and be comfortable with online learning programs. Students enrolled in AP Biology are encouraged to take the AP exam in May.

Pre-AP Chemistry (summer course)

Grade - 10 Semester - .50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Algebra I

Description: This course is a completely online, student paced course. It is a graded and transcribed prerequisite for AP Chemistry for those students who have not previously taken standard Chemistry. Students must have access to their own computer and have reliable internet access. This course covers the first four chapters of a college chemistry textbook; therefore, the course should not be taken lightly! Topics include scientific measurement, atomic structure, chemical nomenclature, types of chemical reactions and balancing equations, stoichiometry and solutions. Students must be organized, self-directed, and independent learners. Students who haven't made satisfactory progress by the midterm date may be dropped from the course per instructor request and moved to standard Chemistry in the fall. The instructor will be readily available for questions via email or virtual classrooms, and will hold office hours at SCPA weekly for face-to-face support. This course is required for students taking AP Chemistry in the fall unless they have already successfully completed a year of standard Chemistry.

Chemistry

Grade - 10 Full Year - 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Algebra I and Algebra II or concurrent enrollment

Description: A first year chemistry course covering Scientific Measurement and Problem Solving; Atomic Structure; Chemical Names and Formulas; Chemical Reactions, Balanced Chemical Equations and Stoichiometry; States of Matter; Thermochemistry; Electronic Structure, Periodicity and Bonding; and Solutions, Acids and Bases. Student work will include book assignments, supplemental worksheets, group challenge problem solving, and frequent quizzes. Students should be comfortable with basic algebra before taking this course. Laboratory work will accompany each topic and may require pre-lab preparation and written formal lab reports.

AP Chemistry

Grade - 10 Full Year - 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Pre-AP Chemistry or Chemistry (full year) with a B- or better and Algebra II or concurrent enrollment

Description: Students entering AP Chemistry should have an understanding of scientific measurement, atomic structure, chemical nomenclature, types of chemical reactions, stoichiometry and solutions. The class will cover the six main topics of: Atoms and Elements, Structure and Properties of Matter, Chemical Reactions, Kinetics, Thermodynamics, and Equilibrium. The lab activities will address each of the main topics of study and most will require formal lab reports. Students are encouraged to keep a lab portfolio. Students completing AP Chemistry are encouraged to sit for the AP exam in the Spring.

Physics

Grade - 11 Full Year - 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Algebra II

Description: In this course we will study in considerable depth such fundamental physics topics as kinematics, mechanics, energy, momentum, thermodynamics, waves, electricity, magnetism and atomic/nuclear physics. Sound knowledge of algebra and trigonometry is REQUIRED for the course. Some basic calculus concepts will be introduced in connection with physics phenomena (i.e. acceleration, work, impulse), but it is not assumed that students will have taken calculus before or in conjunction with Physics.

AP Physics C: Mechanics

Grade - 11-12 Full Year - 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Calculus AB or concurrent enrollment

Description: In this course we will study in considerable depth fundamental physics topics in mechanics, including both linear and rotational kinematics and dynamics. Sound knowledge of algebra, trigonometry and calculus is REQUIRED for the course. All students will be well prepared to take the AP Physics C: Mechanics exam.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Graduation Requirements: 2 Credits

World Language Courses are yearlong and may not be dropped mid-year.

Latin I (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 Full Year - 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: This course begins a two-year sequence designed to introduce students to the vocabulary and grammar of the Latin language. Daily readings, vocabulary study and translation will be the focus of homework, while class time will be spent mastering such grammar concepts as basic verb conjugation and noun declension, the use of case endings, giving commands, the agreement of adjectives and the formation of adverbs. Successful completion of the course will find students able to read basic Latin texts.

Latin II (Elective)

Grade - 10-12 Full Year - 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Latin I

Description: Latin II is a continuation of the grammar and vocabulary introduced in Latin I. Students will find daily readings longer and more complex as instruction centers around conjugation of all verb tenses in both the active and passive voices, the declension of all noun families, the use of participles and infinitives, the construction of indirect statements, the comparison of adjectives and adverbs, and the use of irregular verbs, among other topics. Students will explore passages in both modified and unabridged Latin.

Latin III (Elective)

Grade - 11-12 Full Year - 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Latin II

Description: This Latin literature course focuses not just on reading and translating Latin, but also on understanding, analyzing and interpreting the literature. Students will acquaint themselves with the epic and love poetry of Ovid, Horace and Catullus and become familiar with the times and circumstances under which these poets

lived. Mythology and ancient religion will be a major theme of the course, as students will be reading in its entirety in English Ovid's mythological masterpiece, "the Metamorphoses", and translating passages as well. The year will end with an analysis of the life of Julius Caesar.

Honors Latin IV: Vergil and Caesar

(Elective) Grade - 12 Full Year - 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Latin II

Description: This Latin literature course focuses not just on reading and translating Latin, but also on understanding, analyzing and interpreting the literature. Students will acquaint themselves with selections from Vergil's "Aeneid" as well as Julius Caesar's commentary on the Gallic Wars. The "Aeneid" will be read entirely in English; students will translate select passages throughout the book as well. The course will also explore the historical context and influence of Vergil and Caesar as well as the impact of the civil wars of the 1st century BCE on Roman politics and society. Roman history will be examined thoroughly from the foundation of the Republic through the collapse of the Empire.

Spanish I (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 Full Year - 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: Students will begin to acquire the language through strategies which focus on comprehension, personal interest, and repetition. Emphasis is placed upon communicating in the target language about familiar themes including school, family, travel, and the culture of the people who speak this modern world language.

Spanish II (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 Full Year - 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Spanish I or instructor approval

Description: Students continue to explore the language and the cultures of the people who speak this modern world language. Students further their ability to understand spoken and written Spanish. Topics may include sports, dating in Latin America, songs from the Spanish-speaking world, and important historic events. We will also read level-appropriate novels to provide students more access to Spanish in context.

Communication will take place in Spanish and we will focus on high frequency vocabulary through repetition, comprehension, and personal interest.

Accelerated Spanish II-III (Elective)

Grade: 10-12 **Full Year – 1.0 Credit**

Prerequisite/s: Spanish I or instructor approval

Description: Students continue to explore the language and the cultures of the people who speak this modern world language. Students further their ability to understand spoken and written Spanish. Topics may include sports, dating in Latin America, songs from the Spanish-speaking world, and important historic events. We will also read level-appropriate novels to provide students more access to Spanish in context. The second semester will focus on communicating events in the past. Communication will take place in Spanish and we will focus on high frequency vocabulary through repetition, comprehension, and personal interest. This course is a combination of Spanish II and III, focusing on the most important topics from each course.

Spanish III (Elective)

Grade - 10-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Spanish I, II or instructor approval

Description: Students will utilize their previously acquired language skills in order to work towards fluency in the target language. Students will develop their command of the language by reading short novels and communicating predominantly in the target language on a variety of topics.

Honors Spanish IV (Elective)

Grade - 11-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Successful completion of Spanish through level III or instructor approval

Description: Students will improve and refine their previously acquired language skills. Emphasis will be placed upon the integration of novels, facilitation of class discussions, writing and reading tasks, and comprehension of practices and products of the target culture.

AP Spanish (Elective)

Grade - 11-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Successful completion of Spanish through level IV or instructor approval

Description: AP Spanish will complete an advanced placement curriculum, which will include reading and listening to authentic Spanish texts, discussions in the target language, and writing essays and emails in Spanish. Evaluations will be modeled on the AP exam. The course will be structured around the six AP Language and Culture themes: global challenges, science and technology, contemporary life, personal and public identities, families and communities, and beauty and aesthetics. Students are encouraged to take the AP exam in May.

FINE ARTS

Graduation Requirements: 2 Credits

All Music courses that are yearlong may not be dropped mid-year.

Symphonic Band (Elective)

Grade - 9-10 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: This performing ensemble is open to students in grades 7-10 who play woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments or are interested in learning an instrument. Students will develop their technical and musical abilities on their instruments through scale studies, rhythm exercises, chorales, and full band pieces. Students are assessed in playing tests, written exercises, and concert performances. Students participate in three band concerts throughout the year, one pep band performance, and also have opportunities to perform chamber music and/or solos.

Concert Band (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Entrance determined by audition

Description: This performing ensemble is open to students in grades 8-10 who play woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments or are interested in learning an instrument. Students will develop their technical and musical abilities on their instruments through scale studies, rhythm exercises, chorales, and full band pieces. Students are assessed in playing tests,

written exercises, and concert performances. Students participate in three band concerts throughout the year, one pep band performance, and the SCPA Solo and Ensemble Festival with a small ensemble.

Wind Ensemble (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 Full Year - 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Entrance determined by audition

Description: This advanced performing ensemble is open to students in grades 9-12 who play woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Students will work toward competency in all areas of music (performing, composing, conducting, listening, discussing) so that they understand what they play and why. The band will develop technical skills through the use of scale studies, rhythm exercises, and chorales. These skills will be put to use in the performance of quality repertoire, which ranges from band classics to modern compositions. Students are assessed with playing tests, written exercises, listening homework, and performances. Required performances include three full band concerts at SCPA, a performance at the MSHSL Large Group Contest, and participation in the SCPA Solo and Ensemble Festival in both a solo and small group event. Private lessons outside school are encouraged. Students in Wind Ensemble earn Honors credit.

Jazz Band (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 Full Year - 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Entrance determined by audition. Students in Jazz Band as a freshman or sophomore must be enrolled concurrently in Concert Band or another large group ensemble.

Description: Jazz Band covers the music considered America's earliest original art form with a foundation in blues and swing music through Latin, funk, and other styles. Students also study jazz theory and improvisation. The group performs at SCPA, in the community, and at regional jazz festivals. Private lessons outside of school are strongly encouraged. Students in Jazz Band may enroll in the fall in Honors Jazz Band, a sub-section of the full band with an additional class meeting and a focus on developing improvisation and performance skills.

AP Music Theory (Elective)

Grade - 10-12 Full Year - 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Teacher Recommendation

Description: AP Music Theory is designed for students who want to develop their written music theory, aural, and sight-singing skills. Students also apply music theory to music composition and cover a broad outline of Western music history. Extensive prior musical experience is required for this course. Students who do well in this class are well prepared to take the AP Music Theory Exam.

Concert Choir (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 Full Year - 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: This is a non-auditioned, mixed choir of sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses. Singers will develop skills in sight-singing, reading music notation, choral score reading, singing technique, choral blend and artistry, music theory/history, and team building. Concert Choir will study and sing a wide variety of musical styles and perform in 3-4 concerts during the year. Students will have one 30-minute voice lesson every week and will be encouraged to participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest. Choir members will have the opportunity to audition for various MN Honors Choirs.

Chamber Choir (Elective)

Grade - 10 & 12 Full Year - 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Entrance determined by audition

Description: The Chamber Choir is an auditioned ensemble group of 10th and 12th grade sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses. Membership is based on musicianship skills, ear training, ability to sing independently and work ethic. Members of the Chamber Choir will also participate in Tenor-Bass or Soprano-Alto Ensembles. Singers will focus on singing technique, blend, balance, intonation, and musical independence. This choir will learn rigorous material and repertoire will span a variety of styles. Singers will have one 30-minute voice lesson every week. Students in Chamber Choir are required to participate in several evening concerts, the MSHSL Large Group Contest, and Solo and Ensemble Festival. Extra singing opportunities including guest clinicians, short, traveling performances,

contests, and retreats will also be scheduled throughout the year.

Collaborative Piano

Grade - 9-12 Full Year - 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Enrolled by audition and must be studying with a private teacher or have had private lessons

Description: Collaborative Piano is a course for advanced piano players who wish to gain experience in accompanying. Students will receive instruction to accompany both instrumental and vocal groups and solos. They will learn techniques to follow directors, musicians, as well as harmonize a melodic line, compose choral accompaniment and lead sectional rehearsals. Students will accompany choirs/ensembles during the school day; as well have the opportunity to accompany groups at concerts, festivals, and solo and ensemble contests.

Concert Orchestra (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 Full Year - 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Entrance determined by audition

Description: This performing ensemble is open to students in grades 9-12 who play violin, viola, cello, or bass. Students will develop their technical and musical abilities on their instrument through scales, rhythm studies, shifting, vibrato, and string ensemble pieces. Students are assessed with playing tests, written exercises, listening homework and concert performances. Students participate in three orchestra concerts through the year. Private lessons outside school are strongly recommended.

Chamber Orchestra (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 Full Year - 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Entrance determined by audition

Description: This advanced performing ensemble is open to students in grades 9-12 who play violin, viola, cello, or bass. Students will focus on musical phrasing and technique on their instrument through advanced repertoire that requires shifting, vibrato and high-level bow technique. Students are assessed with playing tests, written exercises, listening homework and concert performances. Students participate in 3-5 concerts through the year and a field trip to MSHSL Large Ensemble Contest. Private

lessons outside school are strongly recommended.

Drawing I (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None or 7th and 8th grade art with Mr. Sorenson.

Description: This course is designed for the student who is interested in building their technical skills in drawing, direct observation and compositional space. Students will become proficient in a variety of drawing media such as; charcoal, ink, pastel, conte, graphite, and mixed media. Each student will develop a working knowledge of compositional space, still life, landscape, portraiture, as well as artists and historical concepts that have shaped the way we view the art of drawing today. This class will rely heavily on the art of seeing and help students to become more proficient at direct observation techniques as well as working with appropriated images. This is an excellent class for the student who loves to draw and wants to learn the techniques and materials to become more successful in this field.

Drawing II (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Drawing I or letter of recommendation from previous school and digital images of student's previous work or instructor approval

Description: This course builds upon the techniques, tools, and media that students worked with throughout their semester in Beginning Drawing. Students will continue to enhance their understanding and technical skills by adding more skill, depth, and concept to the images they are working with. Students will be pushed to find their personal style, study major trends and influences in contemporary art while working on a variety of the solutions.

Painting I (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Drawing I

Description: This course is designed to engage and introduce the beginning level student with a wide variety of painting techniques and important historical periods and artists in painting. Historical periods, contemporary artists as well as techniques

such as color theory, watercolor, acrylic, and mixed media processes will be considered. Students will study color, composition, landscape, cityscape, still life, abstraction, working from photographs and working from observation.

Painting II (Elective)

Grade - 10-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit
Prerequisite/s: Painting I

Description: This course is designed to build upon the techniques and subject matter presented in Painting I. Students will further develop their understanding of techniques such as watercolor, acrylic, tempera, and mixed media. The subject matter and historical periods covered will depend upon the Painting I curriculum and pick up from what could not be fully covered.

Ceramics I (Elective)

Grade - 10-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit
Prerequisite/s: 7th-8th grade art with Mr. Sorenson or Drawing I

Description: This class is designed to enhance the technical, functional, historical and aesthetic understanding of working with clay. Students taking this class will study a variety of hand building and wheel throwing methods alongside historical trends and influences. Students will investigate functional and sculptural clay methods and ceramicists. Techniques introduced will include but not limited to; pinch, coil, slab, tile making, glaze chemistry, firing methods, and some wheel throwing.

Ceramics II (Elective)

Grade - 10-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit
Prerequisite/s: Ceramics I

Description: This class is designed to build upon the skills, strategies and techniques that were introduced in Ceramics I. Students will go into greater depth exploring glaze effects, wheel throwing techniques, hand building methods, and ceramic traditions and influences. Students will engage in independent work and create a body of pieces displaying throwing or hand building methodology. Research of ceramic artists and ceramics history is presented alongside clay making. Visits to pottery studios, galleries, and museums is an integral part of the curriculum of this semester.

Printmaking (Elective)

Grade - 10-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit
Prerequisite/s: Beginning Drawing is required. Beginning Painting is encouraged and most helpful.

Description: Printmaking is an amazing art process used by artists from many disciplines that combines drawing, painting, carving, layering, and mixed media. This course teaches students the principles and techniques of relief/linoleum prints, mono-prints, collographs, etchings, and gel printing/foam printing. Students will develop the technical aspects of each process and work with units that use the imagery of endangered species, historical buildings and architecture, social change, and independent ideas and drawing subject matter that students feel successful with. This class also explores a variety of historical and contemporary examples in printmaking to help students understand each medium and how it relates to their own work and the work of other artists.

Making & Meaning of Art (Elective)

Grade - 11-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit
Prerequisite/s: Minimum of three Upper School art classes or permission of the instructor based on skill level.

Description: This class is designed for the serious art student who has taken a minimum of three other art classes in the curriculum. The course is designed to help the mature art student problem solve on an advanced level and be introduced to techniques, materials, and art history that has not been covered in their previous classes. Methodologies such as printmaking, sculpture, textiles, painting, and experimental drawing techniques are just a few of the areas to be covered in this class. The class will design itself depending on the students and the background of classes they have taken. The students will be challenged to explore deep content, serious art making, off site museum, gallery, and studio visits, writing, critiquing, and producing art that exemplifies their personal style and passion.

Yearbook (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 Full Year -1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Completed Application and instructor approval

Description: Students interested in constructing the SCPA Yearbook will have an opportunity to develop their graphic design and leadership skills, explore journalism and photography while adhering to timely deadlines. Students will become skilled in using Balfour StudioWorks software. This class can be taken each year. Students interested in joining yearbook should fill out an application for the course and submit it with their schedule request to the Upper School office. Applications will be made available in the Upper School Office.

Digital Photography I (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: Introduction to Digital Photography is a course designed to introduce students to the camera, editing software, printing methods, and website building used in the medium of photography today. Students will learn how to use different settings with their cameras to create personal imagery and will begin to develop a visual vocabulary to discuss and write about photography.

Digital Photography II (Elective)

Grade - 10-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Digital Photography I

Description: In Digital Photography II, students will continue to develop their voice when creating digital photos. The students will continue to further their knowledge of the camera setting and lighting in the production of photographs. Students will work on series work and follow artistic themes.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Graduation Requirements: 1 Credit

Physical Education/Health

Grade - 9-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: This class will focus on refining skills for a variety of lifelone fitness activities while increasing comprehension of the sport, play and teamwork. Fitness is the core focus. Students will run the mile, test their core strength, and measure their flexibility in the fall and spring. Health Education will also be worked into this course. It is preferred that this course be taken as a freshman or sophomore.

Recreational Sports (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: This course will explore various recreational sports and leisure activities in a more relaxed environment. Some of the activities included are archery, yard games, badminton/pickle ball, volleyball, winter outdoor activities, bowling and more.

First Aid and CPR (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: This course is a great opportunity for those who may be interested in a career in the health field, babysitters, athletes and those who want the experience. Students will learn proper first aid for common injuries, burns, treatment of a choking victim and much more. Knowing CPR can save a life in cardiac arrest situations. In this course students will become American Red Cross first aid and CPR/AED certified. Training will be hands on and classroom based.

Fitness for Girls (Elective)

Grade - 10-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: This course is designed for girls only who are looking to explore a variety of

different workout options. It will emphasize personal fitness through strength training, cross training and cardiovascular training. Some of activities will include weights, yoga, pilates, kick boxing and much more.

Weights and Conditioning (Elective)

Grade - 10-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Physical Education/Health

Description: This is a great course to stay on top of or improve your physical fitness. Students will set personal fitness goals and work to achieve them during the semester. As we work to achieve those goals, we will explore different types of workouts and training methods including circuit training, 5K training and various other programs.

Team Sports Fall (Elective)

Grade - 10-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: In this course students gain instruction and strategies to participate in various team sports during the fall season. Some of the sports will include soccer, football, volleyball, team handball, floor hockey and much more. The concepts of cooperation, teamwork and sportsmanship are stressed.

Team Sports Spring (Elective)

Grade - 10-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: In this course students gain instruction and strategies to participate in various team sports during the spring season. Some of the sports will include team handball, basketball, softball, cricket and much more. The concepts of cooperation, teamwork and sportsmanship are stressed.

Hybrid Personal Fitness (Elective)

Grade - 10-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Physical Education/Health

Description: This class will be offered zero hour meeting 2 days a week. Students will be able to develop an understanding of fitness concepts and design a personal fitness program while developing an individualized level of health-related fitness. Students will work to improve cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and endurance. Some

areas to be covered will be nutrition, anatomy and physiology, fitness principles, and more. There will also be an emphasis on yoga. Students will be expected to workout outside of class meeting days.

ELECTIVES

Graduation Requirement: 4 Credit

(Once graduation requirements have been met any additional credits earned will fulfill elective credit requirements)

Debate (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: In this course students will be introduced to the different aspects of formal debate and rhetorical style. Students will develop an understanding of unique critical thinking skills, philosophical approaches to political questions, and impromptu speaking strategies and techniques as methods of defending opposing sides of social issues. Students will learn how to research and evaluate evidence, analyze and counter opposing positions, and debate using formal techniques framed by the National Speech and Debate Association. Students will be required to write argumentative speeches, create files of supporting evidence, and participate in multiple debates in class. Students enrolled in this course will also have the opportunity to join the extracurricular debate team at SCPA.

Speech (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

Description: Students in this course will explore techniques and strategies for increasing one's comfort with public speaking, while also focusing on the process of speech writing, delivery, and audience engagement. Students will explore a variety of speeches, based on formats used in the extracurricular speech activity and also more basic speech styles. Students will develop listening and critical thinking skills, while also learning to overcome speaking anxiety.

Comparative World Religions (Elective)

Grade - 9-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit
Prerequisite/s: None

Description: This course is designed as a comparative approach to studying major world religions and belief systems. Intended for students who have a curiosity and interest in building a global perspective on how different societies understand religion. We will initially build our basic understanding of major world religions including (but not limited to): Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. We will also explore the historic spread of these religions, sacred texts and important people, and the development of sacred rituals and geographic spaces. Students are expected to participate in seminars and discussions. Students will also research and compare religious ways of life in the context of our modern world.

Civil Liberties/Civil Rights (New Elective)

Grade - 11-12 1 Semester - .50 Credit
Prerequisite/s: None

Description: Students will study and discuss the foundations of civil liberties and civil rights throughout the history of the United States. For civil liberties we will examine everything from freedom of speech and the right to be free from unreasonable searches to the right to privacy. Through reading thought-provoking cases and participating in a variety of practical exercises, students will get a true understanding of the role that civil liberties play in the lives of Americans. Then we will explore the issues of civil rights, beginning with a historical view and moving into contemporary issues related to civil rights. We will explore the key events, people, and moments that shaped the civil rights movements for various groups in the United States.

Symposium (New Elective)

Grade - 10-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit
Prerequisite/s: None

Description: This year we are adding something we are calling "Symposium." Symposium is an elective course that examines a variety of topics. The foundation in this course is steeped in seminar. The syllabus for this course is developed by a team of teachers and each will teach a portion of the course. Symposium will focus on a more specific topic bound together from a variety of perspectives and disciplines. We will be sending out the specific Symposium topics later in the year, but sign up now to show your interest and be surprised.

Native Peoples Symposium (New Elective)

Grade - 10-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit
Prerequisite/s: None

Description: In this 18-week elective course, students will read four books written by Native American authors. The emphasis of the course will be reading and classroom discussion. Students must be self-motivated to explore complex ideas that shine light upon the historical and contemporary issues of indigenous people in this country. Field trips and guest speakers will also provide unique opportunities for students to gain knowledge and insight.

Psychology (Elective)

Grade - 10-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit
Prerequisite/s: None

Description: This course is designed to introduce students to the study of psychology. The semester course begins with important concepts and the various fields of psychology. Students will build on that foundation as they study different theoretical approaches and research methods. Major subject areas of this course include: biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, state of consciousness, learning, cognition, motivation and emotion, development, personality, abnormal behavior, treatment of psychological disorders, and social behavior.

Astronomy (Elective)

Grade - 10-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Algebra II

Description: This course will be an exploration of the universe from the center of our solar system through the vast reaches of the stars. Students will investigate objects inside and outside of our solar system, from the beginning of time through far into the future. Topics may vary based on student interest. Regular evening observations and some evening meetings will be required.

AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism (Elective)

Grade - 11-12 Semester - .50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: AP Physics C: Mechanics or Physics with Calculus BC or concurrent enrollment.

Description: This course is suggested for seniors who are interested in pursuing a career in the physical sciences. In this course we will study in considerable depth fundamental physics topics in electricity and magnetism, including Maxwell's Equations. Sound knowledge of algebra, trigonometry and calculus is REQUIRED for the course. All students will be well prepared to take the AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism exam.

AP Capstone Seminar (Elective)

Grade - 10-12 1 Semester - .50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Completion of or concurrent enrollment in Honors English 10. Exceptions with teacher approval.

Description: AP Seminar is a semester course where students build on the research and analysis skills of Honors English 10 to investigate the complexity of real-world topics and issues from multiple perspectives. In Honors English 10, students learn to understand and evaluate a sources' arguments and credibility, develop their research skills, and learn to develop an argument. In AP Seminar, students use these skills to examine topics and issues that interest them. They will select, research, and propose solutions to a real-world problem. This course is ideal for students wanting to develop the research, analysis, and writing skills that are beneficial in many AP classes. AP Seminar is also the first step for

students interested in earning the AP Capstone Diploma.

AP Statistic (Elective)

Grade - 11-12 Full Year - 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Algebra II or College Algebra

Description: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. The major themes are exploring data, sampling and experimentation, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference. Students may take the AP Statistics exam upon completion.

Teacher Cadets (Elective)

Grade - 11-12 Full Year -1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Application process

Description: This course offers an innovative curriculum that gives students a chance to get hands-on experience in learning about the field of education. The course is focused on four themes. First, students will be introspective and learn about themselves and others and about how people learn and understanding childhood growth and development. Second, students will examine the history and trends of education as well as the structure and governance of schools. Third, students will gain first-hand experience in a classroom setting observing teachers and working with students to implement effective teaching practices. Fourth, students will reflect on their field experience and look globally at the teaching profession and educational policies. Applications will be made available in the upper school office.

Anatomy and Physiology (Elective)

Grade - 11-12 Full Year -1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Biology & Chemistry

Description: Are you considering a career as a physician, nurse, occupational or physical therapist? Maybe you're thinking about emergency medical services (EMT/paramedic), athletic training, or becoming a physical therapy assistant. If any of these careers are on your radar or if you're just interested in how the body works, then you should take Anatomy and Physiology! In this fun, moderately-paced, lab-based class you'll get a solid introduction in identifying anatomical structures and understanding the physiology of these structures through model building and dissection. We will cover seven units that will take us through all 11 body systems. A special effort will be made to incorporate foundational topics from Biology as they relate to physiology. Successful students will be able to 1) work independently and in groups to learn the major anatomical structures and physiological functions of major body organs, 2) complete laboratory investigations designed to apply your newly acquired anatomical knowledge to understand physiological function, and 3) to dive deeper into disease and other homeostatic disruptions common to each of the body systems via student-directed research. Students will utilize Quizlet to aid in vocabulary mastery, Google Classroom for access to course materials and to submit assignments, and a unit packet system to keep track of learning objectives, vocabulary, notes and project rubrics (3-ring binders required). Highlights of the course include: building organ models, ECG labs using Vernier sensors and software, and dissections including cow eye, sheep brain, heart and kidney, and a fetal pig.

Biotechnology (Elective)

Grade - 11-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Biology and Chemistry recommended

Description: Biotechnology is a one-semester laboratory intensive course that will introduce students to the wide variety of techniques that are used to study biological processes. As part of this course, students will learn how to use and operate analytical tools such as micropipets, colorimeters, pH meters, protein and nucleic acid gels. Laboratory activities include: quantifying protein and compound concentrations using standards and unknown samples, evaluating toxicity of different compounds, manipulating genes, digesting DNA samples with restriction enzymes, determining DNA fragment sizes, separating proteins and evaluating transcriptional regulation of specific genes in bacteria. Students will be expected to design their own studies using these methods to answer biological questions. A significant portion of the grade will be based on successfully completing these lab activities in a group environment and writing complete lab reports. In addition, students will be expected to learn and explain the principles of how the equipment works. There will be several major writing assignments outside of lab reports that will contribute to the final grade.

SERVICE PROJECT

Graduation Requirement: .50 Credit

Service Project

Grade - 9-11 Each Year -.10 Credit

Grade - 12 Grad Year -.20 Credit

Prerequisite(s): None

Description: With character as a primary component of SCPA's mission, we believe "community" service is a part of character development. Each student has the responsibility and opportunity to give back. Therefore, every student in high school is expected to complete 50 hours of "community" service in order to graduate from St. Croix Prep. Ten hours are required in each grade 9-11 and 20 hours in grade 12. The service project(s) can be done during the school year or the summer before that year begins. The grade level advisor must approve the project(s). Projects should NOT be raising money for something by asking parents, etc. It should require the student DOING something for someone or an agency. Students will submit the project on Google Classroom.

HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATION

Graduation Requirement: 1.0 Credit

High School Speech/Presentation

Grade - 9-12 Each Year -.25 Credit

Prerequisite(s): Previous years speech/performance

Description: Each year every student in the Upper School will present a speech, performance or project that was part of his/her goal setting at the beginning of the year or represents some significant learning that year. For seniors this presentation is meant to encompass something of importance over your high school experience. The presentation may take many forms. It can be a performance, dance, playing an instrument, singing, or a speech. It will be done some time during the senior year in front of the senior class and other invited guests.