



# 2025 - 2026 Course Registration Guide



St. Croix Preparatory Academy Upper School

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St. Croix Preparatory Academy Upper School  
*Helping every student find their voice.*

St. Croix Preparatory Academy's Upper School offers a rich, rigorous education grounded in the Classical tradition and the liberal arts. We offer students a college preparatory experience that will challenge and engage them.

As our manifesto reminds us: We don't just prepare students for a job or college, we prepare young people for life. We partner with parents who are invested in their child's future, and are committed to their children not just surviving in life, but thriving in life.

In our Upper School, you will find:

- A culture of character
- Rigorous coursework grounded in the liberal arts
- Expert teachers who know you and care about your success
- Support and guidance in our advisory program
- A college counselor to help families navigate the selection process
- A mix of traditional classroom techniques such as lecture and notetaking with hands-on, collaborative learning to apply and truly understand material
- A community of learners who celebrate success

Dear St. Croix Prep Students and Families,

This curriculum and course registration guide is designed to help you design your experience in our Upper School.

Please note - college admissions requirements vary across all colleges, but they have similar criteria that they look for in students' high school transcripts. Those include rigor of courses taken, a grade point average of 2.5 or higher, and academic electives. The rigor of the transcript is the most important of these three criteria. In addition, college admissions like to see student commitment to activities, clubs, and athletics, as well as leadership positions in a student's college application.

Your course selections in high school can open doors to types of college that you can apply to. If being ready to apply to a certain type of college is important to you, look for Honors or AP selections in the Upper School Curriculum Guide. Remember to choose the rigor of your class work wisely, and to think through extracurricular commitments when you make your choice.

Our college counselor, Mr. Williams, will be meeting with each student to ensure that they are putting a solid college application together. You will also receive support from your advisory teacher to help you choose the right courses.

If you need support during the registration process, please do not hesitate to reach out to Mr. Williams, Mr. Sachariason, Ms. Bransford, Ms. Lee, or your advisory teacher. We are here to support you.

We're so glad you're here.

## **Upper School at St. Croix Preparatory Academy**

***Helping every student find their voice.***

### **Classical Education - The Rhetoric Stage**

The third stage of the Trivium is known as The Rhetoric Stage. After progressing through Grammar and Logic in the Lower and Middle Schools, students are now ready to apply what they have learned and express their unique thoughts in classroom discussion, written assignments, and public speaking. They work in groups to discuss complex problems, circle up for Socratic Seminars on challenging topics, and engage in rigorous application of the workshop model in writing; they run experiments in our science classrooms, draft articles for our school magazine, and prepare for performance in music and theater. It is a lively, joyful, rigorous environment. In the Upper School, we don't focus on teaching students *what* to think. We focus on teaching them *how*.

### **The Upper School Approach to Teaching and Learning**

The Upper School curriculum is grounded in the classical tradition of offering a solid foundation in the liberal arts. We offer a wide selection of rich courses, including Honors and AP coursework, so students can choose the level of rigor they're comfortable with. In

the Upper School, many students select demanding course loads and there is a culture of high achievement, yet we encourage collaboration over competition. With the guidance of their advisor, each student writes and delivers a personal speech to their classmates at the end of the school year; select speakers present in larger forums. Teachers are experts in their fields, and get to know each student in a way that simply isn't possible in larger schools. We believe that each student is a unique individual with gifts to be developed and celebrated, and a voice that deserves to be heard.

### **Developing Personal Character**

The Three Pillars of a St. Croix Prep education are academics, character, and leadership. At this stage of development, character is developed not through direct instruction, but through "walking the walk." We expect each student to know and strive to act according to our 9 core virtues of honesty, responsibility, self-control, courage, perseverance, respect, citizenship, compassion, and service. Each student must complete 50 hours of community service or volunteer work during their time in the Upper School, with 20 of those completed in their senior year. Advisors will work with students to find and reflect on meaningful service opportunities that become more tailored to student interest as they near graduation. The

K-12 environment offers a unique opportunity for collaboration across schools. Upper School students are expected to be positive role models for Middle and Lower School students and to emulate the pillars of academics, character and leadership.

## **Cultivating Ethical Leaders**

High school students are honing their individual strengths and interests, and we help each student develop their leadership skills in a way that will shape future career and college decisions. Whatever a student's interest, there is a safe place to develop it, and students are encouraged to take on increasing leadership responsibilities as they progress through the Upper School.

## **We Believe...**

- Students are capable of - and motivated by - tackling challenging, rigorous ideas and meeting high standards
- The Great Books offer important insights into history and the human heart and are the keystone of a liberal arts education
- Students are capable of understanding a wide variety of perspectives and can respectfully engage in challenging conversations with their peers and teachers.
- We should read primary texts whenever possible, and whole texts rather than excerpts when it's feasible

- Technology should never replace the foundations of reading, writing, and speaking as core classroom activities
- Studying the arts - drawing, painting, music, theater, poetry, etc - and language is essential for developing the whole child
- Studies should be demanding, but not draining
- Every student has a voice that matters.

## **Key Features of St. Croix Prep's Upper School**

- A culture of character
- Expert teachers who know and care about their students
- Support and guidance for students in advisory teams
- Seniors deliver speeches to their peers, teachers, and community as a capstone to their experience in the Upper School
- A comprehensive College Counseling program
- A guidance counselor to offer social and emotional support to all students
- A focus on primary texts rather than textbooks, and whole texts rather than excerpts
- A mix of traditional classroom techniques such as lecture and notetaking with hands-on, collaborative learning to apply and truly understand material
- Limited technology use with a focus on the core skills of reading, writing, and speaking.

## 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.

Course	Required by				
	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	4
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>26.5</b>

- 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 math.



## SCPA Upper School Curriculum at a Glance

SCPA Graduation Requirements	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
<b>English</b> 4 Credits	Ancient Lit  Honors Ancient Lit	British Lit  Honors British Lit	American Lit  AP Language And Comp	Contemporary Themes in Lit  AP Literature
<b>Social Studies</b> 4 Credits	Human Geography  AP Human Geography	World History  AP World History	US History  AP US History	US Econ and Politics  AP Govt  AP Micro and Macro Economics
<b>Science</b> 4 credits	Earth Science	Biology  Honors Biology	Chemistry  AP Chem  AP Biology	Physics  AP Physics  AP Biology
<b>Math</b> 4 Credits  <i>See flow chart for appropriate placement</i>	Intermediate Algebra  Geometry	Algebra II  Accelerated Algebra II  Precalc with Trigonometry	College Algebra  AP Calc AB  AP Calc BC	Multivariable Calculus  AP Statistics
<b>World Languages</b> 2 Credits  <i>Placement in Spanish or Latin is based on prior experience and teacher recommendation.</i>	Latin I  Latin II  Spanish I	Latin III  Spanish II  Accelerated Spanish II - III	Latin IV  Spanish III	Honors Latin IV, Vergil and Caesar  Honors Spanish IV  AP Spanish

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<b>Fine Arts</b> 2 credits	<b>Theatre Arts</b> Debate Speech Drama  <b>Visual Arts</b> Drawing I and II Painting I and II Ceramics I and II Printmaking Honors Art AP Art History Yearbook Digital Photograph I and II Graphic Design  <b>Instrumental Arts</b> Concert Band Wind Ensemble Jazz Band Concert Orchestra Chamber Orchestra AP Music Theory Collaborative Piano  <b>Vocal Arts</b> Concert Choir Chamber Choir
<b>Physical Education/Health</b> 1 credit	Physical Education/Health Recreational Sports First Aid/CPR Fitness for Girls Weights and Conditioning Team Sports Personal Fitness
<b>Electives</b> 3 credits	Journalism/School Magazine Media Matters Leadership I and II AP Capstone Seminar AP Capstone Research Comparative World Religions Teacher Cadets Ancient Military History Modern Military History Intro to the Classical World AP Psychology Introduction Computer Science Logic and Reasoning
<b>Service Hours</b> .5 credits  <b>US Performance</b> 1 credit	Each year, we ask students to complete 10 hours of meaningful community service; in their senior year, we ask them to complete 20.  Each year, students give a presentation/performance to their classmates on a self-reflective, thoughtful topic. Select performances will be chosen for a showcase event that includes families and community members.

## ENGLISH

### Graduation Requirements: 4 Credits

#### English 9: Ancient Literature

Grade – 9 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

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

English 9 will focus on masterpieces of literature with an emphasis on ancient literature dating from pre-common era through the 1500s, including selections from the following: *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, *The Perfect Nine*, *The Odyssey*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Beowulf*, *Don Quixote*, *Dante's Inferno*, and *Siddhartha*. Students will develop a deeper understanding of literature through an exploration of Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey. English 9 is a teacher-led course, emphasizing core comprehension of texts, rhetorical strategies through seminar, and formal writing through essay reflection.

#### Honors English 9: Ancient Literature

Grade – 9 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

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

**Description:** Honors English 9 will study selections of ancient literature, modern articulations of ancient literature, and literary analysis of ancient literature. Texts are selected from the following: *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, *The Perfect Nine*, *The Odyssey*, *Plato's Republic*, *Ovid's Metamorphoses*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Beowulf*, *Grendel*, *Ramayana*, *Journey to the West*, *Siddhartha*, *Dante's Inferno*, *Canterbury Tales*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, *The Once and Future King*, and *Don Quixote*. Students will develop a deeper understanding of literature and intentional reading through an exploration of Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey. Honors English 9 is a student-driven course for advanced readers, emphasizing Socratic discussion techniques, independent and small group dynamics, with project and essay-based outcomes.

#### 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*, *Frankenstein*, *Importance of Being Earnest*, *Things Fall Apart*, 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*, *Frankenstein*, *Importance of Being Earnest*, *Things Fall Apart*, 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

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. Through close study of canonical texts, students develop a deeper understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. Additionally, students practice analytical skills to discuss such questions as: "How does literature either reflect or challenge prevailing attitudes of its time?" "To what extent are artifacts of our shared cultural past still relevant today?" and "What binds



us as Americans?” Major works include *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *A Raisin in the Sun*, as well as a variety of essays, poems, and short stories, including such pioneering voices as Poe, Twain, Dickinson, Whitman, Hughes, and others. Students complete several written assignments, as well as a longer, multi-draft hybrid essay that combines narrative elements with research. The course also includes a review of grammar concepts in preparation for the ACT.

## AP English Language & 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, both in a timed setting and those written over the course of several drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments while refining their understanding of grammar and style. Students learn to analyze non-fiction texts (including image as a form of text) from various disciplines and historical periods. Note: while this course is reading-intensive, it centers primarily on non-fiction and the essay form in particular.

*Summer reading requirement: two non-fiction books of your choice, with annotations (a list of suggested books will be provided).*

## English 12: Contemporary Literature

**Grade – 12 Full Year – 1.00 Credit**

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

**Description:** In this course, we will be exploring various works of contemporary literature written in or translated into the English language. Contemporary literature has been defined as the literature written during or after World War II, encompassing works written in the modern day. In this course, we will read contemporary classics, such as Orwell’s *1984*, but we will also pair these contemporary works with excerpts from naturalist writings, Native American Poetry, 80s movies, and current music in order to develop a fuller understanding of and appreciation for these works. As we possibly struggle with and certainly delight in such literature, we will simultaneously be exploring concepts, themes, and topics like the human condition, loss of innocence, and the danger of conformity.

## AP Literature

**Grade – 12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s:** Completion of summer reading requirement.

**Description:** The AP Literature and Composition course has been designed to allow you, the student, to develop your reading, analyzing, and writing skills to be comparable to those that would be needed to succeed in an introductory college-level English course. In honing these skills, we will be reading and discussing literature spanning from Shakespeare’s *Othello*, to Salinger’s *The Catcher in the Rye*, to O’Brien’s *The Things They Carried*, to various contemporary works by Native authors. As we possibly struggle with and certainly delight in such literature, we will simultaneously be exploring concepts, themes, and topics like the human condition, loss of innocence, and the danger of conformity. In our investigation of these focusses, we will pay particular attention to the six big ideas the AP Lit & Comp exam will ask you to use in order to make meaningful connections within and between texts: character, setting, structure, narration, figurative language, and literary argumentation. The study of this course’s literature will also be cyclical in nature, consisting of nine units that alternate between three longer fiction/drama units, three poetry units, and three short fiction units.

## 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:** This is a fast-paced survey course designed to provide a broad, global perspective on major events, civilizations, and themes in history from ancient times to the modern era. Given the vast scope of history, this course will cover a wide range of topics briefly, focusing on key developments, patterns, and connections across different regions and cultures. The goal of the course is to help students cultivate a narrative that explains the many ways the world has developed over time and across space. We will analyze primary and secondary sources, develop historical arguments, and consider how human patterns have continued and changed over time. How we understand the past helps to make sense of the present and informs the future.

## AP World History

**Grade – 10 Full Year – 1.0 Credit**  
**Prerequisite/s:** None

### Description:

AP World History: Modern is a rigorous, college-level course that explores global history from 1200 CE to the present. Designed to prepare students for the AP Exam and potential college credit, this course emphasizes deep learning through historical analysis, critical thinking, and evidence-based writing.

Rather than a broad overview, this course focuses on in-depth study of major historical developments and processes across nine key units:

1. The Global Tapestry (1200–1450)
2. Networks of Exchange (1200–1450)
3. Land-Based Empires (1450–1750)

4. Transoceanic Interconnections (1450–1750)
5. Revolutions (1750–1900)
6. Consequences of Industrialization (1750–1900)
7. Global Conflict (1900–Present)
8. Cold War and Decolonization (1900–Present)
9. Globalization (1900–Present)

Students will engage with primary and secondary sources, develop historical arguments, and apply key reasoning skills—comparison, causation, and continuity and change—to understand the forces shaping the modern world. This fast-paced, challenging course prepares students not only for the AP Exam but also for future academic success in college-level history and social sciences.

## 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

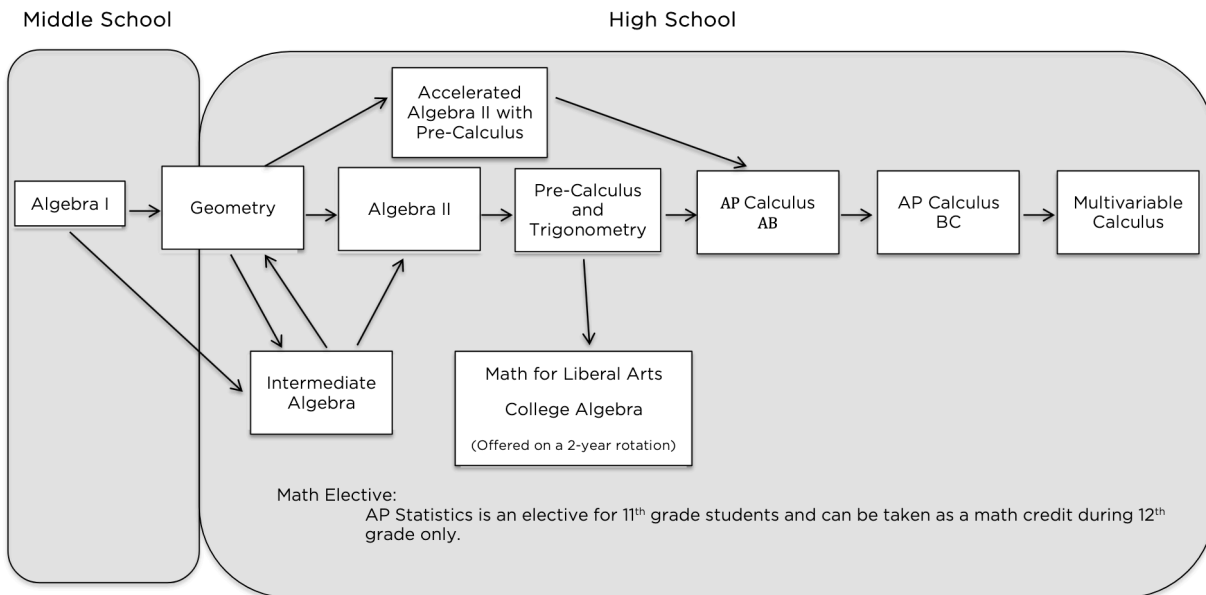
liberties. The class is designed to prepare students for college level coursework in political science and related social sciences and includes frequent discussion of political events and application of key concepts in American politics to current political situations. This course prepares students to 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.



## Math

**Graduation Requirements:**  
**4 Credits**

### 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, polynomial, inverse, radical, rational, logarithmic, exponential), sequences and series (arithmetic, geometric).

### Accelerated Algebra II with Precalculus

**Full Year – 1.0 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s:** Algebra 1 and Geometry

**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.

## Precalculus 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.

## College Algebra (Elective)

**Full Year – 1.0 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s:** Algebra II

**Description:** Description: This course will reinforce algebra skills by covering topics such as radicals and rational exponents, factoring polynomials, rational expressions, graphs, solving equations (linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, etc.), linear, polynomial, and rational inequalities, and functions (including inverse functions, exponential functions, and logarithmic functions). Learning outcomes include solving a variety of algebraic equations, creating and understanding graphs, working with a variety of functions and applying a variety of algebraic techniques to real world problems and applications.

## AP Calculus AB

**Full Year – 1.0 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s:** Pre-Calculus or Acc. Algebra II

**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 of Algebra II and **approval by Mr. Sachariason**. 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 this course. **See elective section for course description.**

# SCIENCE

## Graduation Requirements: 4 Credits

### Earth Science

**Grade – 9 Full Year – 1.0 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s:** None

**Description:** This 9th grade course will cover Earth's processes and place in the universe. Students will study topics including evolution of the solar system, Earth's interior and plate tectonics, energy and matter in Earth systems, landscapes and surface processes, climate, oceans and water resources, Minnesota soils and geology, and human impacts on Earth systems. Students will build skills in analyzing and interpreting data, using models in scientific method and reasoning, and using simple mathematics to explain and predict natural phenomena.



## Biology

**Grade – 10 Full Year – 1.0 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s: None**

**Description:** A survey of introductory Biology. Content topics include cells, organ systems, heredity, organization of organisms, evolution, energy use in organisms, and the interdependence of ecosystems. This is an introductory course in Biology. Classroom pedagogical methods will be inquiry based in cooperative learning groups as recommended by the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Scientific practices in the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), include the critical thinking and communication skills that students need for postsecondary success and citizenship in a world fueled by innovations in science and technology. Students will explore real world phenomena, and, working cooperatively, will develop models to explain such phenomena. Students will develop models based on text, laboratory investigations, and real world data. They will use evidence to construct, defend and revise explanations of scientific phenomena. Students will learn to critically evaluate the scientific arguments of others, and present counter arguments. Explanations and arguments will be presented in a formal Claim-Evidence-Reasoning format. This is a writing intensive course and students will use multiple sources to obtain information.

## Chemistry

**Grade – 11 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 – 11-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s: Pre-AP Chemistry (Summer Course) or Chemistry (2 semesters) with a “B-“ or better and Algebra II or concurrent enrollment**

**Description:** Students entering AP Chemistry should have an understanding of Scientific Measurement; Basic Atomic Structure; Chemical Names and Formulas, Equations and Types of Reactions; and Stoichiometry and Solutions. The class will begin with advanced topics in Stoichiometry, Solutions and Aqueous Reactions; and continue into the following topics: Thermochemistry; Electronic Structure, Bonding, Periodicity and Molecular Geometry; Gases, Liquids, Solids and Intermolecular Forces; Kinetics, and Equilibrium; Acids, Bases and Buffers; Redox Reactions and Electrochemistry; Basic Nuclear Chemistry; and an overview of Organic Structures. Student work will involve book assignments, supplemental worksheets and group challenge problem solving, as well as quizzes and exams. On line tutorials, lectures, and simulations will be assigned as homework; this course follows a partially flipped classroom design. Lab activities will accompany each topic and will cover those labs recommended by The College Board for AP Chemistry. Students are required to keep a lab portfolio with prelabs, lab data, and formal reports. As much of the class time is dedicated to lab work, students opting to take AP Chemistry should be strong students and self-directed learners. Students enrolled in AP Chemistry can opt to take the AP Chemistry Exam in May. ***Students without the chemistry prerequisites will be enrolled in the Pre-AP Chemistry Summer Course when they enroll in AP Chemistry.***

## Physics

**Grade – 12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s: Chemistry**

**Description:** In Physics we will explore mathematical modeling and approaches to physical processes. This course is roughly organized into two halves. The first half covers the optics, motion, and energy. The second half covers momentum, electricity, magnetism, and waves. Topics will be covered both in theory and lab.

## AP Physics C: Mechanics

**Grade – 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.

## 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. We will also read level-appropriate novels to provide students more access to Spanish in context.

#### 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 – 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. The second semester will focus on communicating about 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. We will also read level-appropriate novels to provide students more access to Spanish in context.

## **Honors Spanish IV (Elective)**

**Grade – 10-12 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. We will also read level appropriate novels to provide students more access to Spanish in context.

## **Honors Spanish V (Elective)**

**Grade – 11-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit**

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

**Description:** Honors Spanish V will give students the opportunity to continue to develop their Spanish by exploring cultural themes. We will discuss topics such as history, music, and art of the Spanish-speaking world. Although the course is not an AP course, students may join meetings outside of class to prepare for that exam if they wish.

## **FINE ARTS**

### **Graduation Requirements: 2 Credits**

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

### **Concert Band (Elective)**

**Grade – 8-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s:** Entrance determined by audition

**Description:** This performing ensemble is open to students in grades 8-12 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 through 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 through playing tests, written exercises, listening homework, and performances. Required performances include **four** 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 ensemble 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 subsection of the full band with an additional class meeting and a focus on developing improvisation and performance skills.

## **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 other 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 through 12th grade sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses. Membership is based on musicianship skills, ear training, ability to sing independently and work ethic. 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 other week. Students in the 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 throughout the year. Private lessons outside school are strongly recommended.

## **Chamber Orchestra (Elective)**

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

**Prerequisite/s:** Entrance determined by audition

**Description:** This advanced performing ensemble is open to students in grades 10-12 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 throughout the year and a field trip to the MSHSL Large Ensemble Contest. Private lessons outside school are strongly recommended.



## Music History

**Grade – 10-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit**  
**Prerequisite/s: Teacher Recommendation**

**Description:** Students will learn to listen to, discuss, and write about music. Seminar discussions and attendance at live music performances will be used to help students communicate accurately about music. Students will learn how the music of various time periods and cultures was shaped by and also influenced the place and time it is from. Besides a survey of Western classical music, the course will highlight several additional areas, including film music, pop music, and video game music.

## 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.

## Drawing I (Elective)

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

**Description:** This course introduces students to drawing as an art form. In this class students explore the basic techniques of drawing using a graphite, charcoal, pen, and color pencil. Students will develop a working knowledge of compositional space, still life, perspective, 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 reference images. This is an excellent class for students who want to learn about drawing and drawing materials.

## Sketch & Stitch (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 Drawing I. Students will learn various bookbinding techniques, from basic to advanced, and gain hands-on experience with the materials and tools involved in crafting a variety of books. Students will develop their drawing skills with an emphasis on working within the constraints of book forms and explore creative ways to incorporate drawings into the structure of their books, making them both functional and artistic. Students will be encouraged to use bookbinding as a medium to create personalized sketchbooks, journals, and artist books that combine their drawing practice with the craft of binding.

## Painting I (Elective)

**Grade – 9-12 1 Semester – .50 Credit**  
**Prerequisite/s: Drawing I**

**Description:** This course is designed to introduce students to painting as an art form. In this class, students explore basic techniques of painting using acrylic paint and mixed media techniques. Students will develop a working knowledge of color theory, composition, texture techniques, mark making and meaning in art. Art history and contemporary art will be studied. Students will learn to paint from direct observation and reference images.

## 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: 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 explore a variety of techniques both historical and contemporary alongside the study of cultural influences. Students will investigate sculptural clay methods, the process of glazing, and different firing methods.



## **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.

## **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.

## **AP Art History (Elective)**

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

**Prerequisite/s: None\***

**Description:** The AP Art History course welcomes students into the global art world to engage with its forms and content as they research, discuss, read, and write about art, artists, art making, and responses to and interpretations of art. Field trips to Minnesota's premier art museums round out the full experience of the course, and provide a fantastic framework for participation in SCPA's Educational Travel Programs. AP Art History is the equivalent of a two-semester introductory college or university art history survey course. *\*There is no prerequisite for this course but to be successful you need the ability to read a college-level textbook and write well.*

## **Beginning Digital Photography (Elective)**

**Grade – 9-12 1 Semester – .50 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s: None**

**Description:** In this introductory course to Digital Photography, students learn how to use a camera, explore editing software, and build a portfolio of work. 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.

## **Intermediate Digital Photography (Elective)**

**Grade – 10-12 1 Semester – .50 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s: Beginning Digital Photography**

**Description:** In Digital Photography II, students will continue to develop their voice and artistic style when creating digital photographs. Students will delve deeper into photo history and learn about major movements and trends. Advanced editing and camera settings will be utilized in this course.

## **Advanced Digital Photography III (Elective)**

**Grade – 10-12 1 Semester – .50 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s: Beginning and Intermediate Digital Photography**

**Description:** In Advanced Digital Photography, students focus on the advanced study of photography and building a photo portfolio of extended concentration in student-led topics. It will explore career options and larger scoped projects from sports photography to a magazine cover. Students create work that explores their interests and photographic style.

## **Graphic Design**

**Grades 9-12 1 Semester– .50 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s: Drawing I**

**Description:** Graphic Design is a creative process that combines art and technology to communicate ideas. This course will give students a foundation in Graphic Design by introducing them to the various aspects of the Graphic Design field. Students will work on projects utilizing industry standard software like Affinity Photo and Affinity Designer and then use post production techniques for finishing and mounting to create mock-ups that simulate a real-world design studio. Students will be introduced to the basic design principles, processes, techniques, and history to enhance their design and creative problem solving. Students will need a foundation in drawing to assist in their initial designs.

## **Sculpture (Elective)**

**Grade 10-12 1 Semester -.50 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s:** Ceramics 1

**Description:** Sculpture Adventures is a hands-on exploration of 3D art, building on skills from Ceramics 1. Students will experiment with a variety of materials—traditional, found, and recycled—while studying the history and influence of sculpture. The course emphasizes creativity, construction techniques, and collaboration, culminating in a gallery walk and potential campus installation.

## **Advanced Ceramics (Elective) 0 HOUR**

**Grade 10-12 1 Semester -.50 credit**

**Prerequisite/s:** Ceramics 1&2

**Description:** Advanced Ceramics builds on foundational skills by diving into complex techniques in a dynamic studio setting. Students will refine their skills in wheel throwing, hand-building, glazing, and surface design while developing personal projects. The course concludes with an artist show, offering a professional platform to showcase innovative work and creative growth.

# **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Graduation Requirements: 1 Credit**

## **Physical Education/Health (Required)**

**Grade – 9-12 1 Semester – .50 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s:** None

**Description:** This class will focus on refining skills for a variety of lifelong 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/pickleball, 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 the activities will include weights, yoga, pilates, kickboxing 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: 3 Credit

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

### Debate (Elective) (Fine Arts Credit)

**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) (Fine Arts Credit)

**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.

### Drama (Elective) (Fine Arts Credit)

**Grade – 9-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s:** None

**Description:** Students will study all aspects of Theater and how they collaborate to make a great performance. Students will learn the basics of acting, including improvisation, creating characters, and stage movement. Students will also explore the roles backstage including set, costume, lighting, and sound design. Students will use plays/scenes from major periods in Theater History (Greek, Shakespearean, Modern) as the basis for acting and design activities. Students will end the semester by acting in a short play for which they will also direct and design the technical aspects.

### Journalism I/Prep Quarterly (Elective)

**Grade- 9-12 1 Semester - .50 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s:** None

**Description:** For students who love to write, draw, photograph, or otherwise feel they have "something to say." This zero-hour course in creative writing (fiction and nonfiction) meets two mornings a week. Students will learn to pitch ideas, offer constructive peer feedback, revise through several stages, and write (or create) with an audience in mind. Apart from contributing to Prep Quarterly, students work to develop their understanding of the elements of literature through a series of playful exercises. You must provide your own transportation to school.

### Media Matters (Elective)

**Grade – 9-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s:** none

**Description:** More and more, media, be it television, movies, or social media, help shape our culture and identities. In this class, students will apply a critical lens to the variety of media products they are surrounded by in their day to day lives – films, advertising, social media,

video games, and news media. This course will emphasize the knowledge and skills that will enable students to understand media communication in the twenty-first century and to use media effectively and responsibly.

Topics include ideas like: representation, effects of giant media companies, bias, free speech vs regulation, and the relationship between media and how we see ourselves.

## American History Through Literature (Elective)

**Grade- 11-12 1 Semester– .50 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s: None**

This class will be an exercise in gaining an understanding of history through historical novels and biographies. The works studied will be selected in a way that helps students experience history from different perspectives and time periods. The aim of this class is to help students deepen their understanding of important events and eras beyond what a survey course may facilitate, as well as to provide opportunities for students to see connections between the past and present. This course will rely *heavily* on reading and class discussions, with the intent to have all students willingly and enthusiastically contributing to dialogue. Completion of readings and participation in these discussions will be reflected in the final grade. It will also be important for students to ask questions and interact with other students' comments and questions.

## Leadership I (Elective)

**Grade- 11-12 1 Semester – .50 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s: None**

**Description:** This is a semester course designed to engage students in the discovery of four crucial cornerstones of leadership including knowing themselves, leading themselves, knowing others, then leading others. We will use various texts by timeless authors such as Stephen Covey and practice self-understanding through personality indicators meant to identify personal strengths and areas of growth. Students will practice leadership skills through mini-class presentations with the option to present in more significant situations outside the classroom. Students will also engage in the ongoing project of funding, planning, and building an Outdoor Learning Center.

## AP Capstone Seminar (Elective)

**Grade – 10-12 1 Semester – .50 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s:** Enrolled in Honors English 10 or completion of Honors English 10 or English 10. Exceptions with teacher approval.

**Description:** AP Seminar is a semester course where students build on the research and analysis skills of English classes to investigate the complexity of real-world topics and issues from multiple perspectives. In English classes, 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 real-world problems. This course is ideal for students wanting to develop the research, analysis, and writing skills that are beneficial in many AP classes and college coursework. AP Seminar is also the first step for students interested in earning the AP Capstone Diploma.

## AP Capstone Research (Elective)

**Grade – 11-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit**

**Description:** AP Research, the second course in the AP Capstone experience, allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue, or idea of individual interest. Students design, plan, and implement a yearlong investigation to address a research question. Students learn research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information. Students reflect on their skill development, document their processes, and curate the artifacts of their scholarly work through a process and reflection portfolio. The course culminates in an academic paper of 4,000 – 5,000 words (accompanied by a performance, exhibit, or product where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense. Students who complete AP Seminar and AP Research have the potential to earn the AP Capstone Diploma.

## AP Art History (Elective)

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

**Prerequisite/s: None\***

**Description:** The AP Art History course welcomes students into the global art world to engage with its forms and content as they research, discuss, read, and write about art, artists, art making, and responses to and interpretations of art. Field trips to Minnesota's premier art museums round out the full experience of the course, and provide a fantastic framework for participation in SCPA's Educational Travel Programs. AP Art History is the equivalent of a two-semester introductory college or university art history survey course. *\*There is no prerequisite for this course, but to be successful you need the ability to read a college-level textbook and write well.*



## Honors Teacher Cadets (Elective)

Grade – 11-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: 3.0 GPA, 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 understand 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.

## Ancient & Medieval Military History (Elective)

Grade – 9-12 Semester – .5 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

**Description:** This course will examine the most important conflicts that have shaped the development of the political history of the west from 500 BCE to 1500 CE. Students will come to understand how the west transitioned from the ancient to the medieval world through the eyes of luminary figures in history such as Alexander, Julius Caesar and Joan of Arc. The course will focus around seminar and the reading of primary source documents as well as appropriate clips from modern film.

## Modern Military History

Grade – 9-12 1 Semester – .50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

**Description:** Modern Military History will focus on the development of the modern political map based upon the major wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It will examine the First and Second World Wars: how they were fought, the role of technology in them, the experience of the combat soldier, and how these wars helped to forge the modern map of Europe, Southeast Asia and the Middle East. Like Ancient Military History, the course will focus around Socratic Seminars and the reading of primary source documents as well as appropriate clips from modern film.

## Intro to the Classical World (Elective)

Grade – 9-12 1 Semester – .50 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

**Description:** This course will examine the Greco Roman World and its effect on the development of western civilization. Students will read classical works from ancient writers such as Homer, Plato, Sophocles, Herodotus, Caesar, Cicero, Seneca and others in an attempt to see how these works have had an effect on the politics, law, philosophy and culture of the modern world. The course will be an equal mix of philosophy, history, and literature. Students can expect to read primary sources and discuss them in a seminar format.

## AP Psychology (Elective)

Grade – 10-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: None

AP Psychology introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with major units of study, including biological bases of behavior, cognition, development, learning, social psychology, personality, and mental and physical health. Throughout the course, students apply psychological concepts and employ psychological research methods and data interpretation to evaluate claims, consider evidence, and effectively communicate ideas.

## AP Biology

Grade – 11-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Chemistry or AP Chemistry

**Description:** This course is the equivalent of a first-semester college biology course. Topics covered include biochemistry, cellular function, cellular energetics, cell communication, heredity, molecular genetics, evolutionary biology, plant and animal behavior, and ecology. The lab component is a major part of this class with regular in-depth inquiry-based lab activities. Students will learn how to analyze data using statistical methods and how to critically evaluate data sets. Quizzes and exams will reflect the level of questions seen on the AP exam. Students are encouraged to take the AP Biology exam in the spring.

## Anatomy & Physiology (Elective)

Grade – 11-12 Full Year – 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite/s: Biology & Chemistry (may be concurrently enrolled in Chemistry)



**Description:** In this moderately-paced, lab-based class you'll get a solid introduction in identifying anatomical structures and understanding their physiology. We will cover seven units that will take us through all 11 body systems. Successful students will be able to work independently and in groups to learn the major anatomical structures and physiological functions of major body organs. Highlights of the course include: building organ models and dissections including cow eye, sheep brain, heart and kidney, and a fetal pig.

## Introduction to Computer Science w/Python (Elective)

**Grade – 11-12 Semester – .50 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Has taken or concurrently taking Pre-Calculus or Accelerated Algebra 2

**Description:** This course is designed to be an introduction to problem solving with computers using the Python programming language. Topics include, but are not limited to: Logical thinking, design, implementation of algorithms and basic programming structures, conditional statements, loops, recursion, lists, and developing programs to solve real world problems. No prior programming experience is needed to take this course.

## AP Statistics (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 are encouraged to take the AP Statistics exam upon completion. Approval from Principal Sachariason is needed to take this course as a math credit instead of as an elective credit. This option is for seniors only.

## Logic and Reasoning (Elective)

**Grade – 10-12 1 Semester – .50 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s:** None

**Description:** This course will examine propositional logic and mathematical problem solving. We will start with propositional logic and build towards predicate logic, eventually reaching a point where we can apply both to mathematical puzzles and problem solving. Our problem solving will include topics beyond logic, and also include geometric and algebraic reasoning. The ultimate goal for

the course is for students to be able to recognize, analyze and write logical and mathematical explanations.

## Personal Finance

**Grade – 10-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s:** None

This course provides high school students with essential financial literacy skills to make informed money management decisions. Students will explore topics such as budgeting, saving, banking, credit and debt management, investing, taxes, insurance, and financial planning. Through real-world applications, interactive projects, and practical exercises, students will learn how to set financial goals, create budgets, understand credit scores, and prepare for future expenses such as college, car ownership, and retirement. By the end of the course, students will have the knowledge and confidence to make smart financial choices and develop lifelong habits for financial success.

## Understanding the Modern World (Honors)

**Grade – 11-12 1 Semester –.50 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s:** None

This course will delve into the major social, political, economic, and technological forces shaping the contemporary global landscape, examining key events, trends, and interconnected issues that define our current world, often drawing from multiple disciplines like history, political science, sociology, and economics to provide a comprehensive perspective. This course will be structured on readings and class discussions, with the intent to have all students willingly and enthusiastically contributing to dialogue to deepen our understanding of the modern world and how we've arrived at this point.

## Contemporary Native Peoples

**Grades - 11-12 1 Semester – .50 Credit**

**Prerequisite/s:** World History or AP World History

**Description:** In this semester-long course, students encounter numerous texts that explore how American colonization has shaped contemporary indigenous tribes and people in the United States. A wide variety of topics are woven throughout the course, including: Culture: Religion, Language and Identity; Assimilation: Relocation, Reservations and Boarding Schools Tribal Law: Politics and Sovereignty; Social Issues: Poverty, Disease, Addiction, Racism and Stereotypes. The course explores these issues by reading books written by native authors. These books include: *Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians but were Afraid to Ask* by Anton Treuer; *The Absolutely True Story about a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie; *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich

*There, There* by Tommy Orange. This course challenges students to engage in difficult topics and resembles a college-level humanities course. It focuses less on homework, quizzes and tests, and more on meaningful class participation and reflection.

## PREP REQUIREMENTS

### 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 the Upper 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. Hours will be submitted to the student's advisor.

### 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.