

PROGRAM of STUDIES



BISHOP GUERTIN

H I G H S C H O O L

2026-27



Hopes for Our Graduates

Written by the Bishop Guertin High School Faculty and Staff

Given our mission and our faithfulness to this call, we are confident that our graduates have been formed through their experiences in all aspects of the human person. This is our hope for them, as they leave us and enter a world which is now theirs to mold.

Growing out of our vision of wholistic education, we hope our graduates enter the world before them with:

- the inner strength to believe in themselves, to accept and love who they are and who God calls them to be.
- the will to act with kindness and compassion, honesty and respect in all their interactions with others and to accept differences with the same graciousness.
- the ability to recognize the sacredness of the human body, to maintain a healthy perspective in all their relationships and to make healthy choices which nurture both the body and soul.
- an ability to bear the misfortunes of life's journey with patience and dignity, with confidence and resiliency.

Building on their spiritual growth throughout these four years, we hope our graduates:

- have a deep awareness of God's loving presence in their daily lives.
- have a desire to encounter God through prayer and in reflection on their experiences.
- demonstrate compassion and justice through lives rooted in faith, hope, and love.
- have a strong, well-formed conscience based in Gospel values.
- have an understanding of the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church.
- contribute to the building up of God's Church through their active participation in their local Church communities.
- pledge themselves to act justly, to make responsible social choices and to advocate for others, especially the least fortunate among us.

From our commitment to academic excellence and to the intellectual formation of the young, we hope our graduates:

- become creative problem solvers and critical thinkers: curious, open-minded, thoughtful, and thorough.
- are filled with a passion for lifelong learning in their personal and professional lives.
- are grateful for their intellectual gifts and talents, and share them in the service of others.
- use their gifts to respond effectively to the changing world around us, for the benefit of all.
- practice active, selfless citizenship within the local, national, and global communities.



Bishop Guertin

HIGH SCHOOL

Brothers of the Sacred Heart

Dear Parents and Students:

We are happy to present the Program of Studies for the 2026-2027 academic year at Bishop Guertin High School. The Program of Studies contains information regarding graduation requirements, academic program descriptions, and course prerequisites.

Course selection is a collaborative effort between parents, students, teachers, department chairpersons, and school counselors. Please read course descriptions carefully so that you choose classes that are both appropriate and challenging. Pay particular attention to course prerequisites which may include minimum grade requirements, previous courses, recommendations, interviews, and/or portfolios. Students may request admission into Honors and Advanced Placement courses; however, final placement will be determined by the department chairperson based on input from the student, current teachers, and the school counselor.

Bishop Guertin High School is committed to educating the whole person. To this end, we encourage students to select diverse courses to ensure a well-rounded education that will extend beyond the four years spent here at Bishop Guertin.

We wish you a happy and successful school year!

Mr. Jason Strniste
Principal

Mr. Daniel Gurall
Vice Principal

Mrs. Brenda Poznanski
Director of School Counseling

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Our Vision

Faithful to the educational tradition of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, we, the Bishop Guertin High School community, form the whole young person in our care. Through all aspects of this formation, we strive to develop young people to their greatest potential, especially in their contribution toward the world around them and in their faith in a loving God.

Our Mission

As a Catholic, co-educational, college preparatory high school, we, the Bishop Guertin High School community, serve the young people entrusted to our care.

Building upon the educational tradition of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, we develop a school community which includes students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. Together we foster an environment of respect, compassion, and trust in which young people can grow and develop.

The formation of the spiritual, intellectual, creative, emotional, social, and physical dimensions of each person is made possible within a safe, supportive, faith-filled environment in which each person is known, valued, and treasured.

We accept the challenge of educating young people in a diverse and rapidly changing world. Through a rigorous college preparatory curriculum and an extensive extra-curricular program, we promote life-long learning that is not only about success for today, but also about formation for tomorrow.

We - young people and adults alike - accept the ongoing challenge to grow as people of integrity who understand the responsibility to use our many gifts creatively in the service of others.

We strive to form tolerant, just, and involved men and women of faith who accept the task of building the Kingdom of God and of transforming, for the better, the world in which they live.

Commitment to Academic Integrity

Bishop Guertin High School prides itself in instilling the importance of academic integrity in all students. Bishop Guertin students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic integrity as outlined in the student handbook. Students are expected to conduct their studies in an honorable manner and with a dedication to true scholarship and learning, as opposed to the mere pursuit of grades and academic awards.

Graduation Requirements

Students are required to complete a minimum of 24 credits for graduation from Bishop Guertin High School. Students are required to take seven credits per semester. Full-year courses are valued at one credit and semester courses are valued at 0.5 credit. The following are required credit areas:

Theology	4 credits	Theology is required each year while a student is in attendance at Bishop Guertin High School
English	4 credits	Introduction to Literature, World Literature, American Literature, and British Literature
Mathematics	3 credits	Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II
Sciences	3 credits	Biology, Chemistry, and Physics
World Languages	2 credits	-
Social Studies	3.5 credits	Citizenship and Government (0.5 credit), World History, U.S. History, Economics (0.5 credit), and mandatory elective (0.5 credit)
Health and Fitness	1.0 credits	Physical Education (0.5 credit) is required of all students in Grade 9. Health (0.5 credit) is required of all students in Grade 10.
Computer Science	0.5 credit	Explorations in Computer Science (0.5 credit)
Fine Arts	0.5 credit	

Remaining credits may be earned with electives from any department.

In case of a change to graduation requirements, an addendum will be published in a time-sensitive manner. *Please see appendix for sample four-year schedule and transcript.*



Course Levels

All courses at Bishop Guertin High School are college preparatory. Students are challenged to develop creativity, problem solving, and critical thinking skills, and to maintain academic excellence and a commitment to Christian values. **Students do not self-select Honors or Advanced Placement courses.** Placement decisions are made by departmental recommendations and are based on previous grades, testing, motivation, balance, and the maturity of the individual student.

All students at Bishop Guertin possess a good command of reading, writing, rhetorical, and mathematical concepts. Students are expected to have the ability to master academic areas requiring memorization, comprehension of concepts, and application of materials. The students will work toward the development of more in-depth critical thinking and study skills. Emerging mastery in the areas of logic, analysis, synthesis, and criticism are a goal. All students, utilizing pacing skills, will establish the facility to self-motivate through realistic amounts of academic work. It is expected that all students bring enthusiasm, self-direction, and ownership of their studies. Although some students may require assistance in the learning process, there is the expectation that they be willing to expend the energy to master their work, seek assistance as required, and follow through with academic commitments.

Note: All students who transfer into Bishop Guertin will be placed in appropriate levels upon review of their previous course of study.

Honors

Students at the Honors level are recommended for placement by their teachers and the individual department chair. Honors students not only have the strong foundational skills found in a college level student, but also demonstrate self-direction and readily approach a greater depth and breadth of academic study. These students easily move beyond memorization and comprehension skills. They master broad ranging academic studies and demonstrate the ability to transfer and integrate knowledge through various subject areas. Honors level students have acquired the skills of analysis, synthesis, and criticism. It is assumed that Honors level students possess established study skills, can work independently at an accelerated pace, enjoy the challenge of in-depth studies, and can work with direction on abstract concepts.

Advanced Placement

Students qualifying for Advanced Placement courses not only have all the skills and abilities of Honors level students, they also have the capacity for intensive and more refined study, sophisticated research, and superior laboratory skills. Recommendation for placement is the result of students' previous significant academic achievement and teacher and department chair approval. Successful Advanced Placement students demonstrate a mature work ethic and the ability to learn independently and in collaboration with others, work in abstract thought processes, and utilize knowledge in new applications. Students accept the expectation that they engage in university-level instruction, assessment procedures, and grading while completing the course through mandatory participation in Advanced Placement Exams. Students may earn accelerated placement or college credit based upon the policies of the individual colleges.

In order to provide the highest quality of AP success, all course requests require department chair approval and/or a personal interview. AP courses may require additional instructional, lab time, or independent work in order to meet expectations.

Bishop Guertin High School offers many AP courses annually. Students who enroll are expected to take the course for its duration, and they are expected to take the appropriate AP exam with a good-faith effort. Students who do not complete the course, take the exam with a good-faith effort, or who have their scores invalidated by the College Board after they take the exam will receive a reduction in credit from AP to Honors for the course in question, with the appropriate recalculation of GPA.

Students who enroll in an AP course are required to sign a binding AP Contract that outlines these requirements. The contract must be signed by the department chair, school counselor, student, and parent. Students will be placed in AP courses only after the contract is signed by all parties. Students are responsible for exam fees as set by The College Board.

Bishop Guertin High School does not recommend that a student take more than three Advanced Placement courses in any one year without specific review and recommendation from his/her counselor and approval by the Vice Principal.

Schedule Changes

Policy

Bishop Guertin High School will attempt to honor the course requests of all students. Students will be advised of conflicts and asked to select alternative courses. Schedule changes may also occur if a student does not meet prerequisites or if there has been an error in placement. **In some cases, under-enrollment, staffing, or course conflicts may make requested scheduling impossible.** Once schedules have been published, few changes will be made. Requests for schedule changes must be made through the student's counselor.

We encourage students to experience as many different teaching styles and peer groups as possible; therefore, **schedule changes will not be made for the purpose of being with preferred teachers or classmates.**

Procedure

Before any schedule change will be considered, the student must have taken proactive steps to engage with the course material and understand the teacher's expectations. **At no time will changes be processed simply due to poor performance if there has been no attempt to work through academic challenges.** Students should have taken steps such as reviewing with the teacher before tests, seeking consistent extra help, tutoring, developing more effective study strategies, and fulfilling all assignments required for the class. **Academic level changes will not be made without department chair approval.**

Withdrawal from Courses

In the extenuating circumstance that a student withdraws from a course before its conclusion, a "Withdraw" or "Withdraw with Fail" will appear as appropriate on the student's transcript. No credit will be received for a course which has not been completed. This is of particular importance to seniors, as withdrawing from a course will have a negative impact on the college admission process. Seniors who drop a course before its completion will be required to inform all colleges to which they have applied of any such changes to their transcripts.

GPA Weighting

Letter	Numerical Grade	AP	Honors	College
A+	97 – 100	5.00	4.66	4.33
A	93 – 96	4.66	4.33	4.00
A-	90 – 92	4.33	4.00	3.66
B+	87 – 89	4.00	3.66	3.33
B	83 – 86	3.66	3.33	3.00
B-	80 – 82	3.33	3.00	2.66
C+	77 – 79	3.00	2.66	2.33
C	73 – 76	2.66	2.33	2.00
C-	70 – 72	2.33	2.00	1.66
D+	68 – 69	2.00	1.66	1.33
D	65 – 67	1.66	1.33	1.00
F	Below 65	0.00	0.00	0.00

Honor Roll

Honor Roll at Bishop Guertin is calculated by GPA on a semester basis:

President's List:	Semester GPA of 4.25 and above
First Honors:	Semester GPA of 4.00 to 4.24
Second Honors:	Semester GPA of 3.66 to 3.99
Honorable Mention:	Semester GPA of 3.33 to 3.65

Any grade of C- or lower will exclude a student from Honor Roll consideration

Midterm and Final Exams

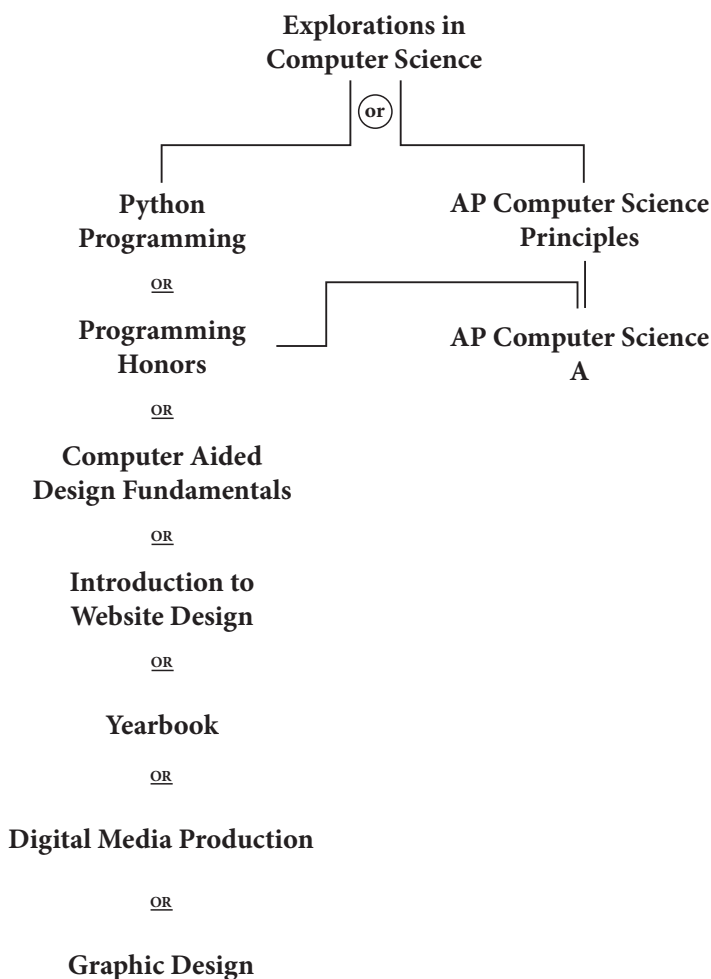
The semester examination process is integral to our students' formation in the areas of scholarship, preparation, and time management. Bishop Guertin High School requires all students to sit for midterm and final examinations near the end of each semester. Although midterm and final exam grades do not appear on a student's final transcript, they do account for 20% of the semester grade and as such factor into a student's GPA. *Please see appendix for sample transcript.*

Department of Computer Science

The Computer Science Department at Bishop Guertin presents a curriculum designed to prepare students for the 21st century where computers are ubiquitous. Building upon a foundation with Explorations in Computer Science, students have the option to take a number of focused elective courses. Depending on their goals and interests, they can take a technical computer science path with advanced programming courses or a media path with courses in graphic arts and multimedia.

Note to the incoming student: Most students are enrolled in Explorations in Computer Science, *including those who previously have studied computer applications*. This is generally the most appropriate placement, due to the tremendous differences in middle and junior high school computer course selections.

Department of Computer Science Course Progression



Explorations in Computer Science (813) Grade 9-12 ½ year 0.5 credit

This course fulfills the Computer Science graduation requirement.

This course targets the majority of freshmen entering Bishop Guertin and is designed to give students a practical understanding of what Computer Science is and how it can be applied to all other subjects. Topics of study include human/computer interaction, Office application skills, problem solving, web design, basic video editing, and an introduction to programming. Units on internet safety, ethical use of computers, and the societal impact of computing will be covered.

Computer Aided Design Fundamentals (816) Grade 10-12 ½ year 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: *Explorations in Computer Science*

This course introduces students to Computer Aided Design (CAD) software, allowing them to produce two-dimensional drawings and three-dimensional models. The lessons cover the user interface of the tool, creating and assembling 3D parts, and designing complex shapes using surface modeling tools, which can then be generated using a 3D printer. Students must have a physical computer mouse (not simply a laptop's trackpad) to maximize the features of CAD software on their computers.

Python Programming (818) Grade 10-12 ½ year 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: *Explorations in Computer Science*

This programming course gives students a deeper understanding of programming concepts beyond what ECS covers. Using the industry standard language Python, students will learn about variables, decisions, loops, lists, functions, and software libraries. The course focuses on universal concepts, and programming on different platforms will be discussed and examined. This course is recommended for students interested in STEM fields other than computer science, where a knowledge of programming is a useful, often required, skill.

Programming Honors (823) Grade 10-12 ½ year 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: *Explorations in Computer Science and department chair approval*

This course is a more in-depth programming course and covers C# application development using Visual Studio .NET. Topics range from a review of the fundamental programming concepts to the introduction of new topics such as arrays, file access, and Object-Oriented Design. This is a project-based course. This course is recommended for students with a greater interest in programming and can be used as a prerequisite for the AP Computer Science A course.

Digital Media Production (834) Grades 10-12 ½ year 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: *Explorations in Computer Science*

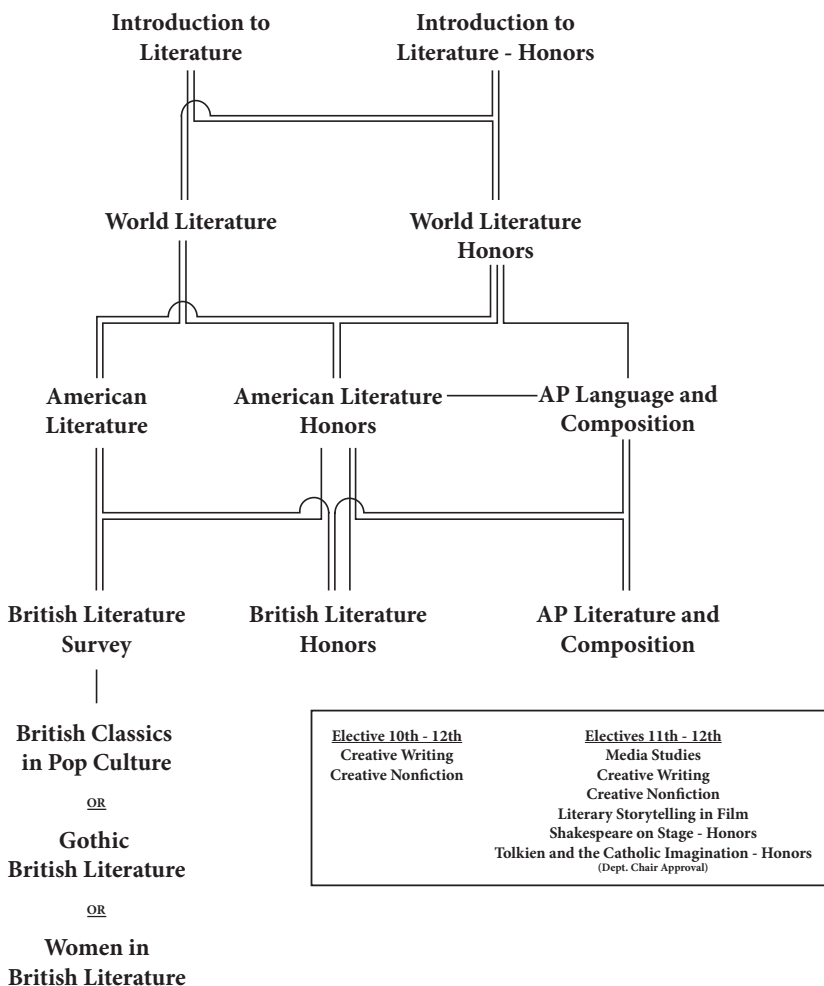
Most jobs going forward will have a tech-based interface, requiring an understanding of the impact of graphics and visuals, online, in print and in video. In this course, students will be introduced to the principles of design to craft compelling narratives common in public relations. Students will learn introductory skills in Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and Premiere to create professional quality content that is engaging, with a focus on visual storytelling with images, designs, and video production.

Department of English

The English Department offers an integrated four-year program of literature and language arts study. Students must take the appropriate English class each year. In addition, students may register for elective courses. Student placement will be determined by teacher recommendation, academic performance in English classes, and, in some cases, department application. Students will be informed in advance which course(s) is/are open to them. Department chair approval based upon course level criteria is required for admission to the Honors or Advanced Placement programs. All students will be required to read books from a designated summer reading list. **Tests on these works are given within the first few days of school and constitute a major component of the first semester grade.**

Elective Courses are open to all students. Some require department chair approval. These courses do not meet the English requirement for graduation.

Department of English Course Progression



Introduction to Literature

This course fulfills a graduation requirement.

To prepare the student for the rigorous demands of high school, this course emphasizes development of reading, writing, vocabulary, grammar, and library and research skills. It includes intensive work in descriptive and expository writing with special attention to prewriting techniques, sentence variety, and paragraph development. Students read, write, analyze, and discuss the literary genres of the short story, drama, novel, and poetry. Each freshman must complete a research paper to receive credit for this course.

Introduction to Literature (111) Grade 9 Full year 1 credit

This challenging course is designed to develop and reinforce the knowledge and skills needed by the college-bound student. It stresses academic writing and communication skills as well as vocabulary, reading comprehension, and analysis of works of various genres. Students will perform close reading of texts, study elements of narration, and address historical significance when appropriate. Students will also master grammar concepts and enhance their reading skills through multiple reading assignments.

Introduction to Literature Honors (112) Grade 9 Full year 1 credit

Prerequisite: *The department chair will select students who score well on the entrance exam and have supporting grades and recommendations.*

For the student who has demonstrated outstanding skills in language and literature, this accelerated course assumes mastery of sophisticated writing techniques, a strong foundation in grammar, and a love of reading. Through academic writing and class discussion, students will engage in close reading of texts, appreciate creative use of elements of narration, and consider historical significance when appropriate. Students will be assessed on grammar concepts and vocabulary acquisition, which will also be applied to student writing.

World Literature

This course fulfills a graduation requirement.

Complementing the World History course required for sophomores, this course exposes students to the works of major world authors including a sampling of African, Latin American, European, and Asian writers in a historical and cultural context. Further development of vocabulary, grammar, and library and research skills is emphasized. Classroom activities and readings encourage students to broaden their perspectives on literature and life, to develop analytical skills, to think creatively, and to refine their abilities to communicate effectively through the spoken and written word. Selected cultures may include: Judeo-Christian, Greek, Native American, Mayan Indian, Hindu, Buddhist, African, and Middle Eastern. Each sophomore must complete a research paper to receive credit for this course.

World Literature (121) Grade 10 Full year 1 credit

In the context of world literature from humankind's oldest stories through Shakespeare, and then to the modern age, students study changing cultural and historical patterns in literature with an eye towards recognizing the shared life experiences that connect all of humanity. The rigorous study of grammar usage skills forms the core of a writing program which seeks to improve students' clarity of expression as they continue to develop their own unique voice.

World Literature Honors (122)**Grade 10****Full year****1 credit**

Prerequisite: *B in Introduction to Literature Honors or A- in Introduction to Literature, teacher recommendation, and department chair approval*

This demanding historical survey combines a broad perspective on historical and cultural roots of language and literature with deep analysis of important works of literature. Classroom activities and readings stress techniques of critical thinking and analysis applied to various literary styles and philosophical ideas of literature of the past 4000 years. Students engage in various writing assignments to refine their analytic and communication skills.

American Literature

This course fulfills a graduation requirement.

This course is a historical survey of American Literature from 1620 to the present. Classroom activities stress the writing process, literary discussions, and research skills. Students also work extensively with vocabulary and reading comprehension preparation for the SAT. All American Literature classes seek to broaden the students' perspectives and deepen their understanding of the inevitable relationship between the literature and history of any given era. Selected writers range from Anne Bradstreet to Tim O'Brien. Each junior must complete a research paper to receive credit for this course.

American Literature (131)**Grade 11****Full year****1 credit**

Readings in this course cover historical trends and the evolution of American attitudes and styles as they progress through the Twentieth Century. Through a continued emphasis on the writing process, students are encouraged to perfect all composition skills not previously mastered and continue to develop a unique voice.

American Literature Honors (132)**Grade 11****Full year****1 credit**

Prerequisite: *B in World Literature Honors or A- in World Literature, teacher recommendation, and department chair approval*

This accelerated course will emphasize critical analysis of the essential works in the evolution of American literature as they relate to American history. Students will engage in academic writing and class discussion built from close reading of a text, knowledge of historical relevance, and appreciation of craft and purpose.

AP English Language and Composition (138)**Grade 11-12****Full year****1 credit**

This course fulfills the American Literature or British Literature requirement.

Prerequisite: *A- in World Literature Honors or successful completion of American Literature or American Literature Honors. Department application, teacher recommendation, and department chair approval are also required.*

This demanding curriculum focuses on how to critically read literary texts, informational writing, and rhetoric from a range of disciplines and historical periods. Students will apply critical reading and analysis skills to works of American literature, influential speeches, other nonfiction, and images. Lectures, discussions, and class presentations will comprehensively explore the connections between the intentional choices that writers make in composition and their impact on audience. Emphasis will be placed on frequent analytical and argumentative papers in AP styles stressing rhetorical structures and strategies such as syntax, diction, tone, purpose, audience, and figures of speech. Students are required to submit an academic, thesis-based research paper. This course is well suited for students interested in technical writing and informational and non-fiction texts; skills learned can be transferred to many modes of scientific and business writing. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May.

British Literature

Works of prose, poetry, and drama are included in this survey of British literature from *Beowulf* to the 20th century and beyond. All levels focus on writing, requiring various advanced level analytical essays, as well as other types of writing. Students will be required to read with an inquisitive mindset, complete class presentations, and continue to expand their vocabulary. Each senior must complete a research paper to graduate.

British Literature Survey (141)

Grade 12

½ year

0.5 credit

This course fulfills a graduation requirement.

This foundational first-semester course is the first of a two-part series exploring British literature from its origins through the early 20th century and beyond. From *Beowulf*, to *Macbeth* and *Paradise Lost*, to *Frankenstein*, this first-semester college preparatory course focuses on close textual reading, discussion of theme and literary technique, and analysis of the creative process. The research paper is integral to this study and will be completed before midterm exams.

British Literature Seminar

One of the following courses fulfills a graduation requirement.

British Literature Seminar is a second semester course that extends work started in the first semester survey course. Students will take one of the following courses to complete their study of British literature.

British Classics in Pop Culture (141C)

Grade 12

½ year

0.5 credit

This second-semester British Literature Seminar explores how British Literature has impacted popular western culture. Students will study British classics and their modern novel, film, or other media recreations. Students will explore how classics continue to influence contemporary culture and how studying these works give insight into our expanding world. Students will be reading and responding in writing to works by authors such as Jane Austen, William Shakespeare, and Aldous Huxley.

Gothic British Literature (141B)

Grade 12

½ year

0.5 credit

This second-semester British Literature Seminar explores Gothic literature through its horrible monsters, haunted castles, evil curses, and damsels in distress. Students will use literary lenses to study British Gothicism from its origins in the eighteenth century through its influence on modern film, television, and popular culture. Students will be expected to read and respond in writing to a variety of works including novels, essays, poems, and films.

Women in British Literature (141A)

Grade 12

½ year

0.5 credit

This second-semester British Literature Seminar explores women in Great Britain during the reigns of Queen Mary I and Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Charlotte, Queen Victoria, and Queen Elizabeth II. Students will study the contribution of these queens to the country, explore the historical context of the periods through a feminist lens, and read and respond in writing to literature both composed by and about women in the period.

British Literature Honors (142) Grade 12 Full year 1 credit

Prerequisite: *B in American Literature Honors or A- in American Literature, teacher recommendation, and department chair approval*

This year-long course in the evolution of British literature explores theme, characterization, use of language, and the literary and social context of diverse works from *Beowulf* to James Joyce to 21st century creations. Students are expected to contribute to the oral dialogue of the class, to write original analytical and creative papers, and to read with care and insight. The research paper is integral to this course and will be completed before midterm exams.

AP English Language and Composition (138) Grade 11-12 Full year 1 credit

This course fulfills the American Literature or British Literature requirement.

Prerequisite: *A- in World Literature Honors or successful completion of American Literature or American Literature Honors. Department application, teacher recommendation, and department chair approval are also required.*

This demanding curriculum focuses on how to critically read literary texts, informational writing, and rhetoric from a range of disciplines and historical periods. Students will apply critical reading and analysis skills to works of American literature, influential speeches, other nonfiction, and images. Lectures, discussions, and class presentations will comprehensively explore the connections between the intentional choices that writers make in composition and their effect on audience. Emphasis will be placed on frequent analytical and argumentative papers in AP styles stressing rhetorical structures and strategies such as syntax, diction, tone, purpose, audience, and figures of speech. Students are required to submit an academic, thesis-based research paper. This course is well suited for students interested in technical writing and informational and non-fiction texts; skills learned can be transferred to many modes of scientific and business writing. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May.

AP Literature and Composition (148) Grade 12 Full year 1 credit

Fulfills the British Literature requirement.

Prerequisite: *B in AP English Language and Composition or A- in American Literature Honors, department application, teacher recommendation, and department chair approval*

The AP Literature and Composition course is designed with the intent of engaging students in the close, active reading of selections from the Pre-Classical era through the 21st century. In this study of prose, poetry, and drama, students will read with the goal of understanding not only the complexity of a work and its meaning, but also the process by which meaning is illuminated through the form of the work itself. Writing assignments focus on the critical analysis of literature, with an emphasis on precision of argument, diction, syntax, and proper explanation of the effects of literary forms and devices. Students will be frequently challenged with on-demand objective assessments and writing assignments. Students are required to submit an academic, thesis-based research paper. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May. The course culminates in the student-led production of a literary magazine, known as *APEX*.

English Elective Courses

Creative Writing (115) **Grade 10-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

In this course, students will read a selection of short stories and explore how the elements of fiction illuminate understanding and enhance the reading and writing process. Attention to a writer's responsibility to audience and society will also be given. Students will then create characters, scenes, and stories of their own. The process will highlight the importance of continued practice and revision and will address how to use constructive criticism — by both self and others — as a tool for the writer's growth and development.

Shakespeare on Stage Honors (152) **Grade 11-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

This course will look at Shakespeare through the dual focus of literature and production. The scholarly work will involve “text-crawling” through comedies, histories, and tragedies. The production focus will consider theatrical and cinematic approaches from various world cultures. The course will require individual readings and dramatic presentations.

Media Studies (153) **Grade 11-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

The emphasis in Media Studies is multi-faceted. Students explore the history, standards, procedures, and responsibilities inherent in journalism. Students also explore the mass media in general (social media, film, documentary, television, etc.) in order to understand and evaluate the powerful, often controversial, roles of media in modern life.

Literary Storytelling in Film (157) **Grade 11-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

This course studies film using many of the essential tools of the literary scholar. Focusing on the elements of fiction, students will study how filmmakers evoke responses and create meaning in the visual arts. Students will also master the essential terminology of film form and style, learn some introductory film theory and history, and apply this knowledge to produce strong critical analysis.

Creative Nonfiction (150) **Grade 10-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

In this course, students will explore the art of telling stories, their own and those of others, and learn how to translate personal experience and research into effective pieces of creative nonfiction. Using essays and memoirs on a range of topics as models, students will craft original pieces of creative nonfiction, experimenting with a variety of compositional elements and techniques. Texts may include *Hiroshima* by John Hersey, *Brain on Fire* by Susannah Cahalan, and *The Year of Magical Thinking* by Joan Didion.

Tolkien and the Catholic Imagination Honors (160) **Grade 11-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

Prerequisite: *Department chair approval*

This course will conduct an in-depth investigation of J.R.R. Tolkien's legendarium with a focus on his *magnum opus*, *The Lord of the Rings*. The class will examine the deep connections between this seminal work, related texts from inside and outside his mythology, and the worldview that undergirds it. Students will be expected to read 60-80 pages a week.

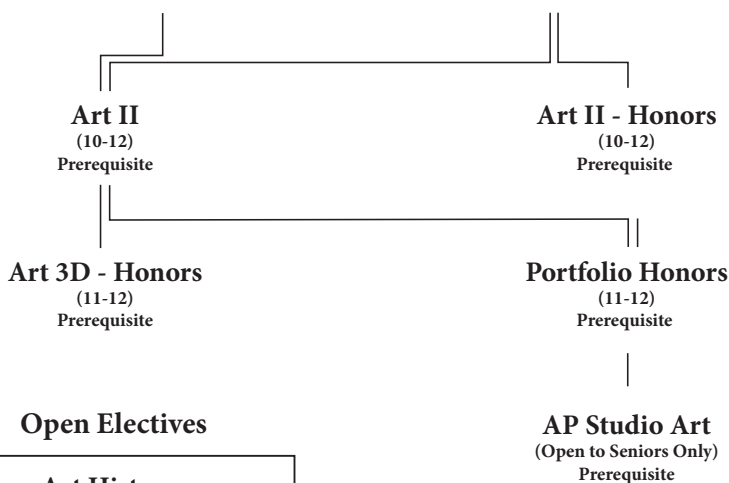


Department of Fine Arts

The Fine Arts curriculum is structured, in broad variety, from basic introduction through advanced understanding that develops with advancement over the student's time at Bishop Guertin. The Fine Arts Department is structured to prepare students from new understanding to advanced investigation including portfolio preparation and/or performance preparation at the post-secondary level.

Department of Fine Arts Studio Arts Course Progression

Foundations in Art I or Art I Studio



Open Electives

Art History
(10-12)
Prerequisite

AP Art History
(11-12)
Prerequisite

Pottery I
(11-12)
Prerequisite

Pottery II
(11-12)
Prerequisite

Photography
(11-12)
Prerequisite

Digital Art*
(11-12)
Prerequisite

Art 3D Honors (940) **Grade 11-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**
Prerequisite: *Art I Studio and Art II Honors, and department chair approval or Foundations in Art I and Art II, and department chair approval*

Art 3D Honors is a unique course designed to educate and practice artists with a focus on mediums suited to creating in three dimensions. Artists will gain experience with mediums to include but not limited to *papier-mâché*, plaster, clay, foam core, mat board, stone, and miscellaneous object assemblage.

Portfolio Honors (941) **Grades 11-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**
Portfolio Honors (942) **Grades 11-12** **Full Year** **1 credit**

Prerequisite: *Art I Studio, Art II Honors, and department chair approval, or Art II, Art 3D Honors, and department chair approval*

Portfolio Honors is a rigorous portfolio development class designed to give students the opportunity to create a body of work that may be used in applying to art schools or programs or as supplementary to the standard college application process. Documentation of portfolios for submission, as necessary, is also supported in this course. Emphasis in this course is placed on assembling a diversified and professional portfolio by creating work of guided/suggested subject matter in a range of mediums suggested by the student's strengths, interests, and creativity. Work outside of the classroom is necessary to complete the requirements of the course. **Note: Portfolio Honors 941 is the prerequisite to AP Studio Art. Seniors taking Portfolio Honors will be assigned the fall semester to provide for college application deadlines.**

AP Studio Art (949) **Grade 12** **Full year** **1 credit**

Prerequisite: *Portfolio Honors, recommendation of Portfolio Honors teacher, and department chair approval*

Advanced Placement Studio Art is an intense study in 2D design that follows a rigorous curriculum with specific requirements set forth by College Board. This course is only for those students most serious about their art and who are interested in being challenged to reach their next level artist in creating thought-provoking work with meaning, direction, and an identifiable style. Pre-course work is expected in the summer preceding the commencement of the class. It is also expected that AP Studio Art students will spend considerable time outside of the class period working on their required portfolios as designated by the College Board.

Pottery I (933) **Grade 11-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

Prerequisite: *Foundations in Art I or Art I Studio or any music half credit*

This course is an introduction to pottery making and clay sculpture. Various decorating techniques and glazing will be taught. Students will learn of the diversity of the Ceramic Arts as they study artists both past and present. They will learn how the pottery of other cultures has influenced the creation of contemporary ceramics.

Pottery II (943) **Grade 11-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

Prerequisite: *Pottery I*

In this course students will develop the skills learned in Pottery I as they explore the creative possibilities of clay. The technical considerations of ceramics will be introduced as they learn more about glazes and firing methods. Students will continue to learn the history of ceramic arts in order to develop an appreciation for this art form.

Photography (947)**Grade 10-12****½ year****0.5 credit****Prerequisite:** *Foundations in Art I or Art I Studio*

This is an extensive course for students who are seriously interested in going beyond “point-and-click” to using all the manual features of the DSLR to produce professional-looking pictures. A great deal of time is spent taking pictures outside of class time and on weekends. **Students must have their own digital DSLR camera, with removable lens, and camera manual.**

Digital Art (934)**Grade 11-12****½ year****0.5 credit****Prerequisite:** *Art I and prior/concurrent enrollment in Graphic Design or departmental approval*

This course is designed to acquaint students with concepts in the art of graphic design from logo development and messaging to package/promotional art through concepts in digital painting and image manipulation/compositing. Students will use Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop as the mediums in rendering creative solutions to different digital challenges.

Art History (930)**Grade 10-12****½ year****0.5 credit****Prerequisite:** *Foundations in Art I or Art I Studio*

This course will cover a history of visual art beginning with the cave paintings at Lascaux and moving through historical art movements to today’s current trends. The course concentrates on learning about visual expression and messaging in art through a combination of learning experiences including lecture review of historically significant artworks credited with being integral in the evolution and development of the common genre timeline as well as occasional hands-on experiences, common assessments, and homework.

AP Art History (931)**Grade 11-12****1 year****1 credit****Prerequisite:** *Foundations in Art I or Art I Studio*

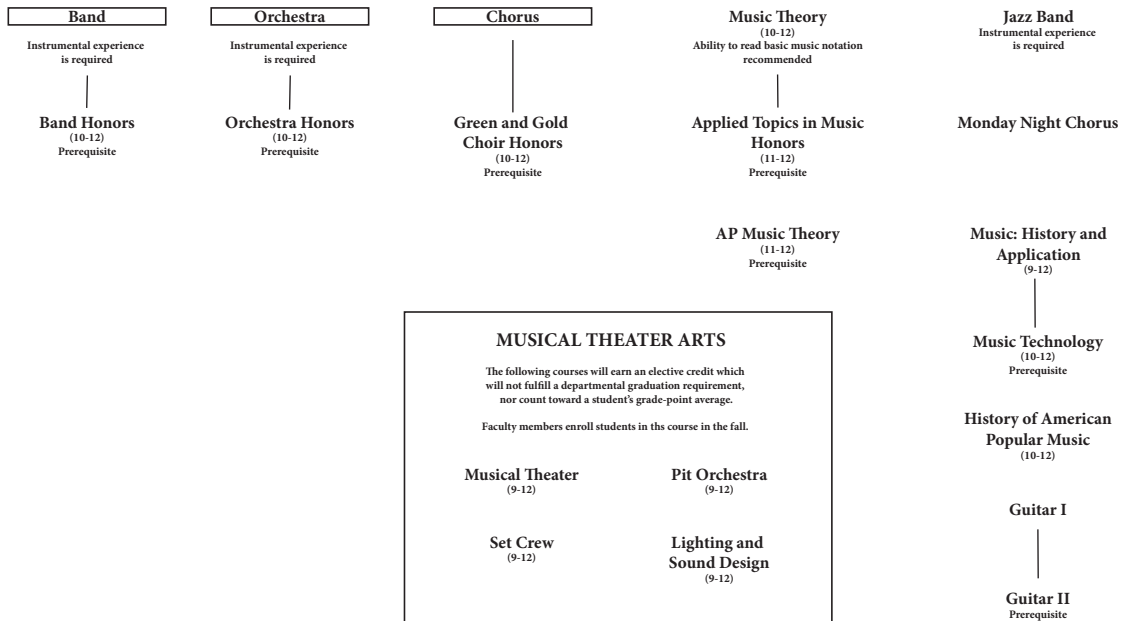
AP Art History is a college-level course that explores major works of art and architecture from prehistory to the present, representing a wide range of global cultures and traditions. Through the study of the 250 required works identified by the College Board, students learn to analyze art using formal, contextual, and comparative methods while examining how art reflects and influences cultural, political, and religious developments. The course combines lecture, discussion, research, and writing to build strong visual analysis and critical thinking skills, preparing students for the AP Art History Exam and fostering an informed appreciation of global artistic heritage.



Department of Fine Arts

Music Course Progression

Open Electives



Music Arts

All Music courses fulfill the Fine Arts graduation requirement.

Band (951) **Grade 9-12** **Full year** **1 credit**
 Musical interpretation, reading proficiency, instrumental technique, and ensemble playing are the basic concepts covered in this performance-based ensemble. Musicians perform in both the Concert Band as well as the Cardinal Marching Band. This course has several outside of school commitments, including fall football games, fall and spring parades, community-based performances, and traditional concert performances. Instrumental experience is required. Students are able and strongly encouraged to repeat this course for credit. Private instruction is also recommended. Enrollment for the year is preferred.

Band Honors (952) **Grade 10-12** **Full year** **1 credit**
 Students enrolled in Band Honors must fulfill quarterly responsibilities in addition to those prescribed in the Band course. These responsibilities may include performing individually and/or in chamber groups at various school and community functions as well as attending approved outside of school performances. Private instruction is strongly encouraged. Band Honors is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors only. Those not currently enrolled in Band Honors must maintain an A- in Band for eligibility. Those currently enrolled in Band Honors must maintain a B average for the year in order to be eligible for the following school year. *This course is only available to students who are enrolled in band for the full year.*

Jazz Band (995) **Grade 9-12** **Full year** **0.5 credit**

Prerequisite: *Approval of the band director*

This performance-based ensemble rehearses at least twice a week after school. Studies are devoted to popular music of American heritage, ranging from early swing, blues, and ballads to contemporary works found in the jazz-rock idiom. Interpretation, style, and ensemble playing are emphasized. Participation in concerts or other performances is mandatory.

Chorus (963) **Grade 9-12** **Full year** **1 credit**

The Bishop Guertin Chorus is designed to enhance the vocal production and ability of all singers by developing a clear vocal tone for a choral setting and balance within two or more parts. This group will perform music of all genres from early music to contemporary pop. Students will participate in various group performances throughout the year, as well as solo opportunities. Some singing experience, and/or music reading experience, is preferred.

Green and Gold Choir Honors (964) **Grade 10-12** **Full year** **1 credit**

Prerequisite: *Interview/audition and chorus director approval*

The Bishop Guertin Green and Gold Choir is designed to enhance the vocal production and ability of all singers by developing a clear vocal tone for a choral setting and balance within three or more parts. This group will be challenged with difficult music, so the ability to read music is a must. Private instruction is strongly encouraged. Students will participate in various performances throughout the year, as well as small group opportunities. A service component is compulsory to fulfill the honors requirement in this course.

Monday Night Chorus (970) **Grades 9-12** **Full year** **0.5 credit**

Prerequisite: *Approval of the chorus director*

This performance-based choral group rehearses every Monday night for the full academic year. This is open to students who cannot fit Chorus into their schedule and would like the opportunity to perform with Chorus at their annual concerts. Participation in concerts or other performances is mandatory. This group is open to all students. Students in Monday Night Chorus will be considered full members of the choral program and are entitled to all opportunities/performances.

Orchestra (980) **Grade 9-12** **Full year** **1 credit**

Musical interpretation, reading proficiency, instrumental technique, and ensemble playing are the basic concepts covered in this performance-based ensemble. Performances will include the Christmas Concert, Pops Concert, and state or regional festivals. Instrumental experience on violin, viola, cello, or double bass is required. Students are strongly encouraged to repeat this course for credit. Enrollment for the year is preferred.

Orchestra Honors (982) **Grade 10-12** **Full year** **1 credit**

Prerequisite: *Orchestra (A- or better required)*

Students enrolled in Orchestra Honors must fulfill quarterly responsibilities in addition to those prescribed in the Orchestra course. These responsibilities will include performing individually and/or in chamber groups at various school and community functions, assuming leadership roles during rehearsals, and attending approved outside of school performances. Private instruction is strongly encouraged.

Guitar I (973) **Grade 9-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

Intended for beginners, this course will introduce students to the basics of proper playing position, pick use, left hand technique, standard notation, chords, and tablature notation. Students will also learn basic performance skills in preparation for class performances. Class will be taught on acoustic guitar, but the skills covered will provide a foundation for playing any type of guitar.

Guitar II (974) **Grade 9-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

Prerequisite: *Guitar I (A- or better required) or teacher approval*

Intended for those with intermediate knowledge of the guitar, such as open chords, notes on the six strings, and reading tablature, this course will introduce students to more advanced guitar techniques, alternate pick use, barre chords, music theory, songwriting, and finger-picking techniques. Students will also learn intermediate performance skills. Flamenco-style nylon stringed guitars will be provided, however students are encouraged to bring their own guitar from home, whether it is electric or acoustic.

Music: History and Application (913) **Grade 9-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

Students in this course will learn fundamental concepts in music, including the history of music, and how to listen critically to a piece of music. An exploration of music's history in society will be followed by a thorough investigation into the musical elements of rhythm, melody, and notation. Students will analyze songs, using various elements to ascertain a deeper meaning, before studying music in a myriad of media, and learning the basics of how to read and interpret music. This course includes many listening and writing assignments

History of American Popular Music (971) **Grade 10-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

Students in this course will explore the evolution of popular music in America, beginning with the development of vaudeville and jazz, the transition to rock and roll, and finally the far-reaching genre of pop music. Students will be able to identify important pieces of music, artists, composers, and industry figures, as well as the significance of each to the continued evolution of this important American art form. Students will learn how to listen critically to a piece of music in order to determine form, genre, era, and more. This course will include many listening and writing assignments, as well as critical discussions of music's role in society.

Music Technology (972) **Grade 10-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

Prerequisite: *Music: History and Application or approval of the teacher*

Introduction to Music Technology is open to all students, however, high interest in and knowledge of instrumental/vocal music and/or music theory is integral to success in this class. The purpose of this course is to build students' musical awareness through technology-based experiences. Students will develop musicianship in a 21st century environment by completing projects utilizing critical response, reading and notation, improvisation, and composition, as well as some singing and instrumental performance.

Music Theory (965) **Grade 10-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

Students in this course will learn fundamental concepts and techniques related to music theory. Specific concepts include pitch and rhythmic notation, intervals, scales, major and minor keys, triads, seventh chords, and voice leading. Instrumental or vocal experience and the ability to read basic music notation are highly recommended. This course includes daily homework assignments.

Applied Topics in Music Honors (967)

Grade 11-12

½ year

0.5 credit

Prerequisite: *Music Theory, concurrent enrollment in a music ensemble, music teacher recommendation, and department chair approval*

This course is designed for advanced music students. Students will have the opportunity to explore more challenging musical concepts which may include advanced music theory, analysis, conducting, score study, ear training, as well as music history and literature. Students should have prior instrumental or vocal performance experience and understand the basics of pitch and rhythmic notation.

AP Music Theory (968)

Grade 11-12

Full year

1 credit

Prerequisite: *Music Theory, concurrent enrollment in a music ensemble, music teacher recommendation, and department chair approval*

An intense and extended study of advanced music theory concepts, this course follows a rigorous curriculum with specific requirements set forth by the College Board. This course is only for those students serious about music who may potentially be interested in studying music in college. Students will encounter functional harmony, modulation, form, and phrase structure and will expand their aural skills through ear training and sight-singing. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May.



Musical Theater Arts

The dramatic musical program allows students an opportunity to earn recognized credit for their time engaged in learning about the various production aspects of a dramatic musical. Students will be enrolled in the following courses by the respective teachers at the beginning of the production schedule beginning part way through Semester I. The following courses will earn an elective credit which will not fulfill a departmental graduation requirement nor count towards a student's grade point average.

Musical Theater (990) **Grade 9-12** **Full year** **0.5 credit**
Students will learn how to act, sing, and dance in group or solo settings as they prepare for the annual spring musical production. Students will also learn about stage directions, stage etiquette, memorization tactics, group collaboration, and personal responsibility. Participation in rehearsals, tech week, and shows are mandatory. Assessments will be based on attendance at rehearsals, performance during rehearsals, and memorization of lines, music, and choreography. **Faculty members involved in the musical enroll students in this course in the fall.**

Pit Orchestra (991) **Grade 9-12** **Full year** **0.5 credit**
Pit Orchestra musicians will learn musical interpretation, improve their reading proficiency, and play in varied styles of music as they prepare for the annual spring musical production. Students will be assessed via attendance at mandatory after school rehearsals, the preparation of their assigned parts, and the care and return of the rented materials. **Faculty members involved in the musical enroll students in this course in the fall.**

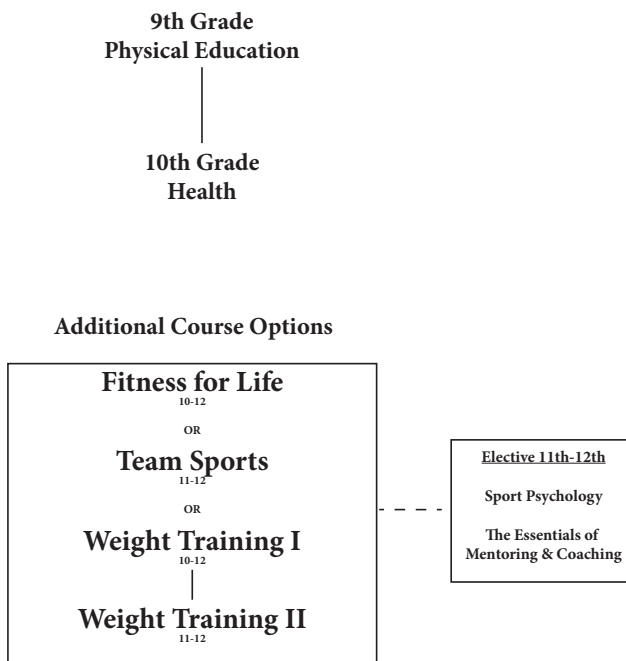
Set Crew (992) **Grade 9-12** **Full year** **0.5 credit**
As they prepare for the annual spring musical, Set Crew students will learn how to design and draw sets to scale, build props using conventional and recycled materials, create specific color palettes to finish said props, and properly spike and move sets for performances. Participation in building workshops, tech week, and the full weekend of musical performances is mandatory. Students will be assessed via attendance at outside of school meetings, participation, effort, and attitude during their group creation of backdrops and props, the maintenance and return of classroom tools, and the organization and labeling of all pieces in props storage. **Faculty members involved in the musical enroll students in this course in the fall.**

Lighting and Sound Design (993) **Grade 9-12** **Full year** **0.5 credit**
Tech Crew students will learn the art of sound/lighting design and implementation for a live performance-based production. Students will learn how to capture sounds and amplify them so that audiences can hear it best, how sound works in a space, the physics of sound waves, and the devices associated with making this happen. Students will also learn the art of lighting design, the various types of lights, controllers, and protocols associated with lighting. Students would learn how to use lighting to add visual effects to enhance and transform a space and how a change of lighting can affect one scene to the next. Assessments will be performance-based as students demonstrate skill and knowledge through live and simulated events. Attendance at various outside-of-school events, including the annual spring musical, is required. **Faculty members involved in the musical enroll students in this course in the fall.**

Department of Health and Fitness

Health and Fitness is an integral part of each student’s learning experience. In keeping with the tradition of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, the Bishop Guertin Health and Fitness curriculum strives to develop the whole person through the Five Pillars of Formation. The program promotes physical literacy through a variety of movement activities, skills, and knowledge designed to foster lifelong fitness, social cooperation, and overall well-being. Student learning emphasizes tolerance for diverse abilities, positive participation in class, and effective teamwork demonstrated through fair play and good sportsmanship.

Department of Physical Education Course Progression



Physical Education (711)	Grade 9	½ year	0.5 credit
Physical Education (712)	Grade 9	Full year	1 credit

This course fulfills a graduation requirement for Health and Fitness

Physical literacy is the ability, confidence, and desire to be physically active for life. This course encourages the development of these qualities by emphasizing lifelong fitness practices and providing opportunities for active participation in a variety of games. Personal fitness principles and concepts are introduced and practiced throughout the semester during activities held in the gymnasium, fieldhouse, and outdoor settings. In addition, students explore the strategies, tactics, and concepts necessary for successful participation in games. Extended learning is an essential component of meeting curriculum goals and may include activities such as fitness testing, unit quizzes, and online assignments.

Health (721) **Grade 10** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

This course fulfills a graduation requirement for Health and Fitness

This course helps students develop the knowledge and skills needed to make healthy decisions throughout life. The primary goal is to promote and sustain personal, family, and community health. Students will build health literacy by recognizing, evaluating, and applying information and skills that enhance their own well-being and the well-being of others. Using a skills-based approach, the course emphasizes real-life application and responsible decision-making. Topics include making healthy decisions, personality, self-esteem and emotions, managing stress, mental health, relationships, personal care, preventing drug abuse, reproduction and heredity, adolescence and adulthood.

Team Sports (731) **Grade 11-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

Prerequisite: *Physical Education*

This junior and senior Health and Fitness program emphasizes active participation in a variety of team-based activities. Team sports include basketball, softball, volleyball, flag football, lacrosse and floor hockey with instruction focusing on strategy, sportsmanship, teamwork, and healthy competition. Fitness components are integrated into daily lessons to support overall physical development. Extended learning opportunities are essential to meeting curriculum goals and may include student-led instructional units, tournament-style gameplay, and skill development activities.

Fitness for Life (741) **Grade 10-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

Prerequisite: *Physical Education*

This course is designed for students who want to remain active and who are interested in participating in lifetime activities. The primary objective is to promote behaviors that support the development of a healthy lifestyle. Students will be introduced to various fitness components designed to improve muscular strength and endurance, cardiovascular endurance, and flexibility. Students will gain knowledge of individual and dual activities that may be carried into adulthood for enhancement of life. Activities will include stretching, step aerobics, yoga, Pilates, resistance training, racket sports, mindfulness practices, and walking for wellness. Extended learning opportunities are essential to meeting curriculum goals and may include weekly fitness logs, health reflections, and fitness-related projects.

Weight Training (733) **Grade 10-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

Prerequisite: *Physical Education*

The curriculum for this course focuses on improving strength training, aerobic fitness, and flexibility. The primary goal is to help students establish, understand, and enhance their personal fitness levels through safe practices and proper technique. Throughout the semester, students will develop, implement, and monitor a personalized fitness plan with individual goals. Emphasis will be placed on identifying all major muscle groups and developing them through a structured resistance training program. Health and fitness lectures will be integrated throughout the semester and balanced with individual workout sessions.

Weight Training II (734) **Grade 11-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

Prerequisite: *Weight Training and earn a grade of A- or higher*

This advanced course builds upon foundational skills in strength training, aerobic fitness, and flexibility. Students will apply knowledge gained in Weight Training to design and refine personalized fitness plans aligned with individual goals. Opportunities will be provided for students to train and assist Weight Training participants during class sessions. Emphasis is placed on progressive improvement, with student growth demonstrated through regular fitness testing throughout the semester.

Sport Psychology (763)**Grade 11-12 ½ year 0.5 credit**

The goal of this course is to enhance real-world performance and overall quality of life through the effective application of mind–body connection principles. Students will explore practical techniques for optimizing sports performance as well as day-to-day functioning. Topics include understanding the heart–brain connection and autonomic nervous system, increasing self-awareness and mental toughness, utilizing relaxation and motivation strategies, visualization, and overcoming fear and mental blocks. Designed for both athletes and non-athletes, this course equips students with tools to improve performance in academics, athletics, and other areas of life. Throughout the course, students will also develop key emotional intelligence skills, including adaptability, communication, empathy, self-confidence, problem solving, collaboration, creativity and imagination, perseverance, and personal responsibility.

The Essentials of Mentoring and Coaching (761) Grade 11-12 ½ year 0.5 credit

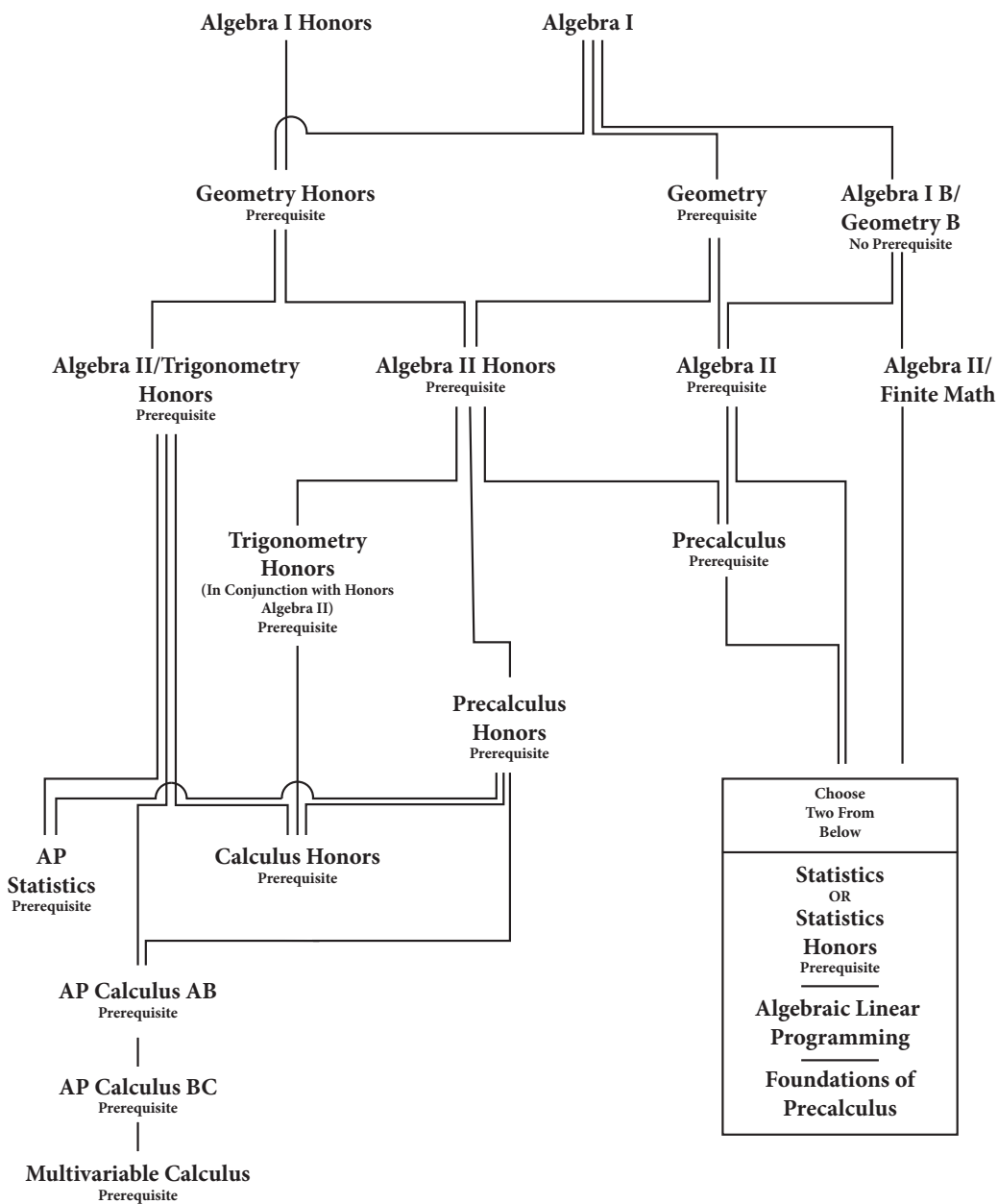
This course is designed to equip students with the foundational skills, knowledge, and techniques needed to become effective mentors and coaches. Through interactive lessons and practical exercises, participants will learn how to build strong, positive relationships; develop essential communication, leadership, and problem-solving skills; and apply proven strategies to empower others in achieving their goals. The course emphasizes the importance of ethical practice and appropriate boundaries in coaching and mentoring relationships, while providing hands-on experience in offering guidance and support. High-profile mentors, leaders, and coaches will be examined to highlight the impact and value of effective mentoring and coaching.



Department of Mathematics

Three years of mathematics are required for graduation, with students strongly encouraged to take a fourth year. The curriculum is designed to prepare the student for college. Any student who successfully completes the curriculum of a full year Pre-Calculus level course will be prepared for Calculus at the college level. The curriculum also offers Advanced Placement Calculus courses for those students who show a greater aptitude for mathematics.

Department of Mathematics Course Progression



Algebra I (411) **Grade 9** **Full year** **1 credit**
The topics covered are: foundations for Algebra, solving equations, solving inequalities, an introduction to functions, linear functions, systems of equations and inequalities, exponents and exponential functions, polynomials and factoring.

Algebra I B / Geometry B (416) **Grade 10** **Full year** **1 credit**
Prerequisite: *Algebra I A/Geometry A*
This course begins with a study of later Algebra I topics. It then proceeds to its Geometry component, covering topics often seen in national college aptitude tests. Students who complete this course will move into the Algebra II program. Graphing calculator required.

Algebra I Honors (412) **Grade 9** **Full year** **1 credit**
Prerequisite: *Department chair approval based on quantitative scores on the entrance exam, consistent standardized testing, and supporting grades in previous mathematics courses*
The topics covered are: foundations for Algebra, solving equations, solving inequalities, an introduction to functions, linear functions, systems of equations and inequalities, exponents and exponential functions, polynomials and factoring, quadratic functions and equations, radical expressions and equations, rational expressions and functions also a unit dealing with word problems.

Geometry (421) **Grade 10-11** **Full year** **1 credit**
Prerequisite: *Algebra I*
This course is a survey of the foundational concepts of Geometry, including basic geometric constructions. Pattern recognition is emphasized, with limited study of proofs.

Geometry Honors (424) **Grade 9-10** **Full year** **1 credit**
Prerequisite: *Department chair approval is required for all students placed in this course.*
Additional prerequisites - Freshmen: *Placement exam, Sophomores: A in Algebra I or B in Algebra I Honors*
This course includes all topics covered in Geometry but places heavy emphasis on deductive reasoning, including both direct and indirect proof, and Analytic Geometry.

Algebra II/Finite Math (437) **Grade 11** **Full year** **1 credit**
Algebra II/Finite Math builds upon fundamental algebraic concepts while introducing more advanced topics. The curriculum progresses from basic expressions and equations through polynomial functions, incorporating real-world applications. Students will develop their understanding of various function families, including linear, quadratic, polynomial, and radical functions, while learning to analyze their properties, transformations, and relationships through multiple representations.

Algebra II (431) **Grade 10-11** **Full year** **1 credit**
Prerequisite: *Algebra I and Geometry. B+ in Alg I A and Alg I B.*
The concepts of Algebra I are reviewed. Students then study varieties of Algebraic expressions, equations, and functions. If time permits, conic sections will be included, as well. Students who complete this course may move on to Precalculus and/or Statistics.

Algebra II Honors (432)

Grade 9-11

Full year

1 credit

Prerequisite: *A in Algebra I or B in Algebra I Honors, and either A in Geometry, or B in Geometry Honors, and department chair approval*

Additional prerequisites - Freshmen: *Proficiency in both Algebra I Honors and Geometry Honors placement exams.*

In addition to the concepts included in Algebra II, additional theorems including key polynomial theorems, natural logarithms, inverse functions, rational functions, and conic sections are studied. Students who complete this course may study Precalculus Honors in the subsequent year. **Junior students who wish to study Calculus Honors in their senior year must take Trigonometry Honors concurrently with Algebra II Honors.**

Algebra II/Trigonometry Honors (434)

Grade 9-11

Full year

1 credit

Prerequisite: *A- in Algebra I Honors and A- in Geometry Honors and department chair approval.*

Freshmen: *Proficiency in both Algebra I Honors and Geometry Honors placement exams.*

This course covers the equivalent of three semesters of Math in a two-semester course in greater detail and at an accelerated pace. In addition to all the concepts studied in Algebra II Honors, the student will study the six Trigonometric functions in triangles and circles, including their graphs and their variations. Students will study and prove Trigonometric identities. Students who complete this course proceed to AP Calculus AB the following year.



AP Calculus (AB) (448)**Grade 10-12****Full year****1 credit****Prerequisite:** *Department chair approval*

This course offers a sound development of calculus at the college level. Calculus is the mathematics of change and motion. Both differential and integral calculus are covered in the course. This course follows the College Board's recommended syllabus for Advanced Placement Calculus AB. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May.

AP Calculus (BC) (449)**Grade 11-12****Full year****1 credit****Prerequisite:** *Department chair approval*

This course continues the study of Calculus begun in Calculus Honors or Advanced Placement Calculus (AB). This course follows the College Board's recommended syllabus for AP Calculus (BC). Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May.

Multivariable Calculus (490)**Grade 12****Full year****1 credit****Prerequisite:** *Department Chair approval*

This course extends the concepts of calculus to functions of several variables. Topics include the study of vectors and the geometry of space, vector-valued functions, and functions of several variables. Students will learn techniques for partial differentiation and optimization, as well as multiple integration, including surface and volume integrals, and line integrals. The course also includes the study of vector analysis. AP credit shall be awarded for this course.

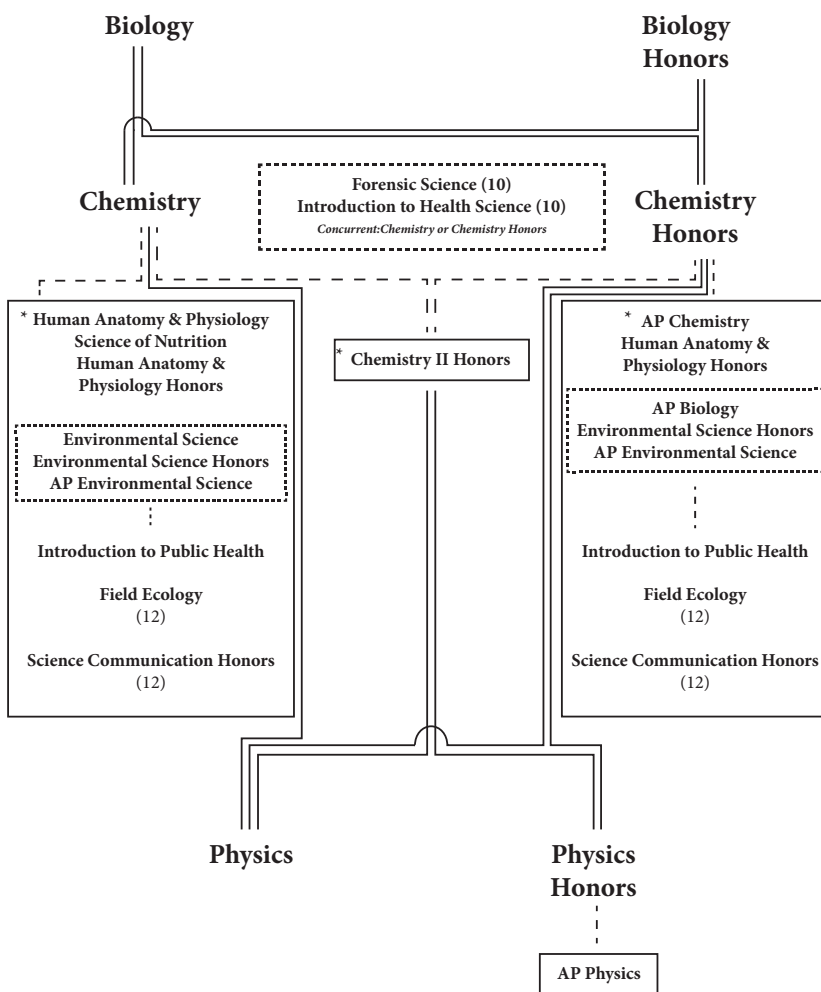


Department of Science

The goal of the Science Department is to introduce the student to the fundamental concepts of modern science. Learning science requires both the assimilation of many new concepts and the development of critical thinking skills. Every student is required to complete Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Four credits in Science prior to graduation is highly recommended.

Department of Science Course Progression

Dotted lines indicated elective paths and courses



Biology (511)

Grade 9-10

Full year

1 credit

This course fulfills a graduation requirement.

Prerequisite: Department chair approval/invitation based on quantitative scores on the entrance exam and supporting grades in previous courses

This introductory course is designed to teach the process of science as it applies to biology today. Topics in biology that will be covered include the fundamentals of cell chemistry, structure and function, heredity and genetics, evolution, and ecology. Lab work is included.

Biology Honors (512) **Grade 9-10** **Full year** **1 credit**

This course fulfills a graduation requirement.

Prerequisite: Department chair approval based on quantitative scores on the entrance exam and supporting grades in previous courses

The Biology Honors course will incorporate in-depth study, lab work, and discussion while examining the present-day molecular focus in biology. Topics to be covered will include an introduction to chemistry and biochemistry, biochemical pathways, cell structure and function, genetics, adaptation, geological history, diversity of life, ecology, and environmental principles. This course will emphasize the underlying themes of biology: interdependence of life, organization, energy flow, inheritance, homeostasis, and evolution.

AP Biology (518) **Grade 12** **Full year** **1 credit**

Prerequisite: A- in Biology or B in Biology Honors and B in Chemistry Honors or Chemistry II Honors and department chair approval

Recommended prerequisite: Anatomy and Physiology Honors

Recommended concurrent: AP Statistics and/or Calculus

The Advanced Placement Biology course is the equivalent of a two-semester college introductory course usually taken by biology majors. As required by the College Board, it focuses on enduring, conceptual understandings of biology and the content that supports them. The course is centered around four “Big Ideas”: 1) The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life; 2) Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce and to maintain dynamic homeostasis; 3) Living systems store, retrieve, transmit and respond to information essential to life process; and 4) Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties. The lab component accounts for 25% of the course work and combines content with inquiry and reasoning skills. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May. This course is recommended by the science department for all students interested in pursuing Life science and the Pure and Applied Sciences in college.

Chemistry (521) **Grade 10-11** **Full year** **1 credit**

This course fulfills a graduation requirement.

Prerequisite: Biology and Algebra I or Algebra/Geometry 2B

This course introduces students to the study of matter and its interactions. Topics of study include: atomic theory, the periodic table, naming of compounds, writing chemical equations, the “mole,” gas laws, and an introduction to acids and bases. A series of labs is required.

Chemistry Honors (522) **Grade 10-11** **Full year** **1 credit**

This course fulfills a graduation requirement.

Prerequisite: B in Biology Honors or A- in Biology, B in Algebra 1 Honors or A- in Algebra 1, and department chair approval

Critical thinking skills are an integral part of learning chemistry. Students who decide to explore chemistry at this level will be required to not only know theory, but to also apply that theory to mathematical problem-solving and assessment of experimental results obtained in the lab. Topics include atomic structure, kinetic theory and gas laws, stoichiometry, balancing and predicting products of chemical equations, thermochemistry, solutions, and principles of equilibrium.

Chemistry II Honors (524)**Grade 11****Full year****1 credit**

Prerequisite: *B in Chemistry Honors or A- in Chemistry, B in Algebra 1 Honors or A- in Algebra 1, or department chair approval*

Concurrent: *Algebra 2 Honors or a higher-level honors or AP math course*

This course is the continuation of the first-year chemistry course allowing for reinforcement of topics previously covered, study of new topics, and opportunities for more laboratory work. New topics will include thermo chemistry, chemical kinetics, equilibrium, thermodynamics, electrochemistry, nuclear chemistry, and organic chemistry. The laboratory portion will enhance investigation, experimental design, and data manipulation skills. Instrumentation (LabPro) and computers will be used for lab data collection and interpretation. This course is recommended by the science department for all students interested in pursuing Life science, Physical Science, the Pure and Applied Sciences, and Engineering in college.

AP Chemistry (528)**Grade 10-11****Full year****1 credit**

Prerequisite: *B in Chemistry Honors and department chair approval*

Concurrent: *Algebra 2 Honors or higher-level honor/AP math course*

The Advanced Placement Chemistry course is designed to be the equivalent of two semesters of general chemistry usually taken during the first college year. As required by the College Board, the course focuses on enduring, conceptual understandings of chemistry as integrated by the four “Big Ideas.” The lab component serves to support content while developing skills in the practice of science. Further emphasis is placed on chemical calculations and the mathematical formulation of principles. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May. This course is recommended by the science department for all students interested in pursuing Life science, Physical Science, the Pure and Applied Sciences, and Engineering in college.



Human Anatomy & Physiology (531) Grade 11-12 Full year 1 credit

Students will learn the structure and function of the following systems: integument, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, respiratory, cardiovascular, digestive, reproduction, lymphatic, and urinary. General physiology and histology will be covered. Laboratory work, including dissections will be offered. This course should be considered by anyone interested in learning about the human body.

Human Anatomy & Physiology Honors (532) Grade 11-12 Full year 1 credit

Prerequisite: *B in Biology Honors or A- in Biology, B in Chemistry Honors/Chemistry II Honors or A- in Chemistry, and department chair approval*

This course presents a broad overview of the form and function of the human body requiring a greater amount of independent work, as the students cover the cellular/molecular levels, through tissues, organs, and organ systems, with the ultimate goal being to understand the workings of the body as a whole. In the laboratory, we undertake a broad survey of anatomy and physiology through observation of specimens and slides, dissection of representative animals and organs, and physiological experimentation. Clinical connections to the disease process and medical fields are frequently made, and as such this course is highly recommended for anyone contemplating a career in the health services or Life Science in college.

Environmental Science (533) Grade 11-12 Full year 1 credit

This course involves the study of the environment and the impact of human activity on the biosphere. This course combines ideas from biology, physics, chemistry, social sciences, economics, politics, and ethics related to the study of the environment. It covers concepts of ecology, air and water pollution, human population dynamics, natural resource management, and climate science.



Environmental Science Honors (534) **Grade 11-12** **Full year** **1 credit**
Prerequisite: *B in Biology Honors or A- in Biology, B in Chemistry Honors/Chemistry II Honors or A- in Chemistry, and department chair approval*

This is an advanced course in the foundation of environmental science. Material covered includes: the study of relationships between humans and the environment, current and historically germane environmental problems (including their causes and consequences), the production and use of energy, and human population dynamics. Students should expect to complete independent projects and presentations, as well as engage with a variety of on-topic primary documents.

AP Environmental Science (538) **Grade 11-12** **Full year** **1 credit**
Prerequisite: *B in Biology Honors or A- in Biology, B in Chemistry Honors/Chemistry II Honors, and department chair approval*

Concurrent: *Honors math course*

Advanced Placement Environmental Science provides students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world; to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and anthropogenic; to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems; and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. Those who take this course should expect to be challenged both in the classroom and in the field. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May. The science department recommends this course for students interested in Environmental Science, Life Science and the Pure and Applied Sciences in college.

Science of Nutrition (550) **Grade 11-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

Nutrition is a science that explores metabolic and physiological reactions of the body to the diet. This course provides an integrated overview of the physiological requirements and functions of protein, energy, and the major vitamins and minerals that are determinants of health and disease. Topics include: dietary sources, intake levels, physiological role, and requirement of major nutrients; the biological determinants of nutrient requirements and the assessment of nutrient status in individuals and populations; the role of nutrition in growth and health throughout life; and the role of diet in the development of chronic diseases, such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, etc.

Introduction to Public Health (551) **Grade 11-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

Introduction to Public Health is designed to expose students to the fundamental concepts of health and wellness; focusing on how communities, on a local, state, and federal level, work together to promote and protect public health. Topics include disease prevention, health policy, environmental health, and ethics. The curriculum will cover key concepts in epidemiology, exposing students to data analytics around disease outbreaks and community responses. Mental health and wellness are included as central topics, since emotional health is interwoven with physical health.

Physics (541) **Grade 12** **Full year** **1 credit**

This course fulfills a graduation requirement

This is a fundamental course in the classical approach to physics. Material covered includes: mechanics (theory of motion), electricity and magnetism, heat, wave mechanics, light, sound, and optics.

Physics Honors (542) **Grade 11-12** **Full year** **1 credit**

This course fulfills a graduation requirement

Prerequisite: *B in Chemistry Honors or Chemistry II Honors and Algebra II Honors and Trigonometry Honors or Algebra II/Trigonometry Honors or Precalculus Honors and department chair approval*

Concurrent: *Calculus Honors, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, or Multivariate Calculus*

In addition to the material covered in College Physics, this course is designed to prepare students for Advanced Placement Physics or to prepare them for college science programs. Excellent math skills are required. Juniors who are admitted to this course may take Advanced Placement Physics the following year. The science department recommends this course for students interested in Physical Science, the Pure and Applied Sciences, and Engineering in college.

AP Physics C:

Mechanics & Electricity & Magnetism (548) **Grade 12** **Full year** **1 credit**

Prerequisite: *Calculus Honors/AP Calculus AB, Physics Honors, and department chair approval*

Concurrent: *AP Calculus BC or Advanced Multivariable Calculus*

This course forms the college sequence that serves as the foundation in physics for students planning on majoring in the physical sciences or engineering. The sequence is parallel to or preceded by math courses that include Calculus Honors and Physics Honors. The subject matter of the course is classical mechanics as well as the classical study of electricity and magnetism. The material in this course assumes a basic knowledge of trigonometry and algebra-based physics. It expands on this existing knowledge by incorporating all aspects of calculus in the study of physics. Extra time after school is required to complete some labs. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May. The science department recommends this course for students interested in Physical Science and the Pure and Applied Sciences, and Engineering in college.

Field Ecology (535) **Grade 12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

Recommended prerequisite: *Environmental Science*

This course is a next step for Environmental/Life Science students who are interested in applying what they have learned in the classroom to an examination of local and regional Earth systems. This methods course will focus on the Merrimack River Watershed from its origins in the White Mountains of New Hampshire to its terminus in the Atlantic Ocean at Newburyport, MA. Students will be challenged to learn and practice field biology techniques that allow an inquiry-based elucidation of the relationships between the biosphere, lithosphere, atmosphere, and hydrosphere. This project-based course would require students to complete pre- and post-field assessments. Local and regional field trips and laboratory work away from campus are components of this course.

Forensic Science (529) **Grade 10** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

Concurrent: *Chemistry or Chemistry Honors*

Forensic Science is an inquiry-based course designed to transform students into investigators through evidence analysis, problem-solving, and critical thinking. Students will explore how crimes are committed and solved by examining trace evidence, conducting laboratory investigations, and analyzing real-world case studies. This course integrates and reinforces concepts from multiple scientific disciplines currently taught at BG and cross-curricular courses such as Psychology, Law, and Mathematics. Forensic Science provides a realistic look into careers in science, law, and criminal justice while fostering engagement, teamwork and an appreciation for the real-world application of scientific principles.

Introduction to Health Science (530)
Concurrent: *Chemistry or Chemistry Honors*

Grade 10

½ year

0.5 credit

This course is a semester-long course designed to provide an overview of foundational concepts leading to careers in the health sciences. Designed to be taken during the sophomore year, topics will include medical terminology, normal and abnormal physical assessment findings, pathophysiology, disease processes, and pharmacology. Students will also complete training in therapeutic communication, dementia awareness, and trauma informed care. Emphasis is placed on understanding of core principles that encourage further study in health-related fields.

Science Communication Honors (552)

Grade 12

½ year

0.5 credit

Prerequisite: *Science and English teacher recommendation and department chair approval*

Science Communication Honors is an elective course for highly motivated students interested in developing critical thinking and writing skills for application in the real world. Students will be introduced to the process of science communication including developing sources by analyzing and translating scientific research and researchers, understanding the role of the editorial process in the dissemination of scientific findings, and the purpose of science journalists in making complex ideas and their implications accessible to a general audience. This course will feature an examination of all media levels, from print and digital to radio and podcasts. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to explain how the communication of scientific findings from experts to the general public are critical components of the scientific method.



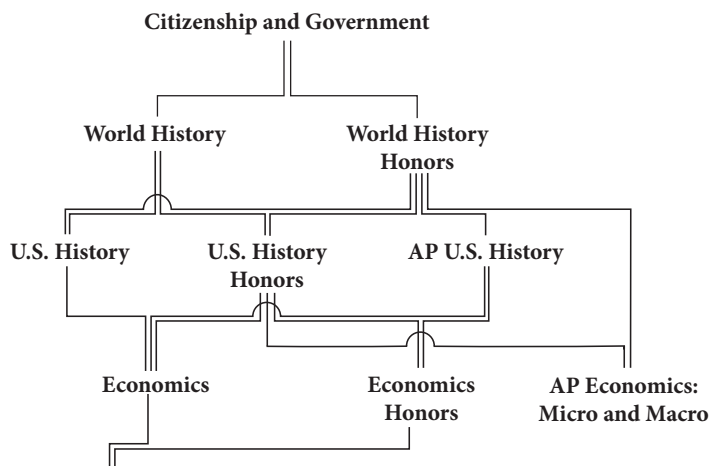
Department of Social Studies

In keeping with the mission statement of Bishop Guertin High School, the Social Studies Department fosters the study of history, the humanities, and the social sciences, including economics, political science, psychology, geography, and philosophy. It also provides students with an understanding of the democratic principles and ideals upon which good citizenship is founded. The department's goal is to contribute to the formation of students as engaged citizens of the community, state, nation, and world. Students are encouraged to make informed, reasoned decisions regarding the privileges, duties, and responsibilities of citizenship. Students are provided with instruction in the history, government, and constitutions of the United States and New Hampshire within the context of world history.

Honors level and Advanced Placement Social Studies courses emphasize writing and analysis. Student enrollment in all Honors or AP courses is based on stated course requirements, course level criteria, the student's writing and analytical skills, and department chair approval.

Note: All sophomores are expected to take World History. Exceptions for band or for double languages occur only after dialogue with the student's school counselor, and department chair with final approval from the Vice Principal.

Department of Social Studies Course Progression



AND

Mandatory Elective
(choice of one from below)

Fundamentals of Business and Finance

AP Business with Personal Finance

Psychology

AP Psychology*

Contemporary Law*

American Foreign Policy Honors*

AP U.S. Government and Politics*

AP Comparative Politics*

Lyon to Nashua: The Mission and Tradition of BG

United States and New Hampshire Government
This course is specifically designed for junior and senior transfer students and/or international students who need to fulfill their Citizenship and Government requirement for graduation

* Prerequisite may apply

Citizenship and Government (211) **Grade 9** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

This course fulfills a graduation requirement

This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the United States government. Students delve into the US Constitution, analyzing America’s governing document to understand the US government, its structures, powers, the roles of each branch, and how it applies to student’s lives today and tomorrow. This course is interactive, and will rely on student presentations, public speaking, and holistic collaboration.

World History (221) **Grade 10** **Full year** **1 credit**

This course fulfills a graduation requirement

This course exposes students to the fundamental causes of historical change and provides important background for understanding upper-level social studies classes. Course content includes the foundations of civilizations, the ancient and medieval worlds, the age of European exploration and renaissance, and the emergence of the nation-state. Students are challenged to develop critical reading and writing skills, and are exposed to geography and primary source document analysis.

World History Honors (222) **Grade 10** **Full year** **1 credit**

This course fulfills a graduation requirement

Prerequisite: *A- in Citizenship and Government and A- in Introduction To Literature, or a B- in Honors Introduction To Literature, and department chair approval*

This course exposes students to the fundamental causes of historical change and provides important background for understanding upper-level social studies classes. Course content includes the foundations of civilizations, the ancient and medieval worlds, and the emergence of the nation-state. The World History Honors course places an increased emphasis on intellectual history. Students are challenged to develop critical thinking, reading, and writing skills, to participate in complex historical analysis, and to engage meaningfully with primary source documents.

United States History (231) **Grade 11** **Full year** **1 credit**

This course fulfills a graduation requirement

This is a survey course whose content begins with the Civil War era and reviews key events in American history through the 21st century. The major events studied in this course are: Reconstruction, Industrialization, the Gilded Age, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, Civil Rights, and the Global War on Terror. Additionally, this course presents a unit on NH History and Government. Students will be expected to demonstrate a thorough understanding of history through discussions, readings, writing assignments, and the analysis of primary source documents. Students are required to pass the USCIS Civics Test in order to receive credit for this course.

United States History Honors (232) **Grade 11** **Full year** **1 credit**

This course fulfills a graduation requirement

Prerequisite: *C + in World History Honors or A- in World History and department chair approval*

This course begins with a study of the Civil War era and reviews key events in American history through the 21st century. The major events studied in this course are: Reconstruction, Industrialization, the Gilded Age, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, Civil Rights, and the Global War on Terror. Additionally, this course presents a unit on NH History and Government. Students will be expected to demonstrate a thorough understanding of history through discussions, readings, writing assignments, and the analysis of primary source documents. One to two research papers may be required, as well as numerous critical essays. Students must possess excellent writing skills as well as the ability to complete independent research. Students are required to pass the USCIS Civics Test in order to receive credit for this course.

Economics Honors (244) **Grade 10-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

This course fulfills the graduation requirement

Prerequisite: *Sophomores: A- in Honors Math course, A- in Citizenship and Government, and department chair approval; Juniors/Seniors: B- in an honors math course, B- in an honors social studies course, A- in math course, and A- in social studies course and department chair approval*

In this course students develop an understanding of the free market system of economics and the role they play in it, as well as the role the free market plays in their lives. Furthermore, they will come to understand financial and monetary systems, the role of government in regard to economic activity, how economic growth occurs and the standard of living is improved, the business cycle and the decisions of the firm, and other various cycles such as inflation and unemployment. At the Honors level, students are expected to more deeply analyze current and historic events using economic reasoning. Greater emphasis is placed on mathematics and graphing.

AP Economics: Micro and Macro (260) **Grade 11-12** **Full year** **1 credit**

This course fulfills the graduation requirement

Prerequisite: *Juniors/Seniors: B- in an honors math course, B- in an honors social studies course, A- in Math course, and A- in social studies course and department chair approval*

AP Microeconomics is an introductory college-level microeconomics course. Students cultivate their understanding of the principles that apply to the functions of individual economic decision-makers by using principles and models to describe economic situations and predict and explain outcomes with graphs, charts, and data as they explore concepts like scarcity and markets; costs, benefits, and marginal analysis; production choices and behavior; and market inefficiency and public policy.

AP Macroeconomics is an introductory college-level macroeconomics course. Students cultivate their understanding of the principles that apply to an economic system by using principles and models to describe economic situations and predict and explain outcomes with graphs, charts, and data as they explore concepts like economic measurements, markets, macroeconomic models, and macroeconomic policies.

Fundamentals of Business and Finance (245) **Grade 11-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

This course will expose the student to the major functions of business and the challenges faced by organizations in today's fast-paced, global, and technologically evolving world. Areas of study include, but are not limited to: the impact of micro and macroeconomics upon the organization, the impact of societal change upon an organization, globalization, social responsibility, and business ethics. Included is a study of organizational structures such as the types of business organization and the importance of entrepreneurship in a free market, capitalist economy. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to explore and discover a variety of business career paths.

AP Business with Personal Finance (246) **Grade 11-12** **Full year** **1 credit**

Prerequisite: *Students must have completed Algebra II*

AP Business with Personal Finance is a yearlong high school business and personal finance course that aligns closely with a college-level introduction to business course. Students explore the business disciplines of entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, accounting, and management through real-world business applications, case studies, applied mathematics, and project-based learning. In addition, students learn and apply all the National Standards for Personal Financial Education created by the Council for Economic Education and the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy.



AP United States Government (248) Grade 12 Full year 1 credit

Prerequisite: *B in AP United States History or B+ in United States History Honors, and department chair approval*

Advanced Placement United States Government is designed to give the highly motivated student an opportunity to explore all aspects of American government in depth and will simulate a full-year, college-level experience in an introductory government course. A great deal of independent research and a high level of critical reading and writing are expected in this course. Students will study political theory, political beliefs and behaviors, the Constitution, the American electoral system, political parties, the powers of American government, policymaking, and civil rights and civil liberties. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May.

AP Comparative Politics (249) Grade 12 ½ year 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: *B in AP United States History or B+ in United States History Honors, and department chair approval*

This course will provide a comprehensive study of the models and concepts used by political scientists in analyzing political systems throughout the world. The countries studied will be the United Kingdom, Russia, China, Mexico, Nigeria, and Iran. This course requires extensive independent work and a high level of reading comprehension. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May.

Psychology (253) Grade 11-12 ½ year 0.5 credit

This is a survey course that introduces students to a broad range of topics related to the study of mental processes and human behavior. Psychological development, emotion and motivation, learning theories, memory formation, personality, and abnormal disorders are just a few of the fascinating topics that will be explored in this course.

AP Psychology (261) Grade 11-12 Full year 1 credit

Prerequisite: *Juniors: A- in College World History, B in Honors World History*

Seniors: *A- in College US History, B+ in Honors US History, B in AP US History*

The purpose of AP Psychology is to introduce students to the studies of behavior and mental processes of humans and animals. Students will be provided with a critical overview of the study of psychology, focusing on the theories and research methods used in psychological science and practice.

Contemporary Law (255)**Grade 10-12****½ year****0.5 credit****Prerequisite:** *Sophomores: department chair approval*

This course is an introduction to the American legal system, where students will be introduced to the variety of and framework within American law, as well as the skills needed and possessed by lawyers. Students will learn how civil and criminal trials work, the role of alternate dispute resolution, and the basic skills utilized by lawyers. They will put these skills to the test through putting on simulated trials, negotiations, mediations, and arbitrations. Students will learn how criminal and civil trials are conducted and will learn effective lawyering techniques to reach agreements. Students will reflect on a deep level on the ethics and obligations of lawyers. The skills and techniques learned and practiced can be applied to any field of study. This course will be interactive, relying on student presentations, public speaking, and holistic collaboration.

Lyon to Nashua: The Mission and Tradition of BG (240)**Grade 10-11****½ year****0.5 credit**

This course explores the mission and tradition of Bishop Guertin High School and the Brothers of the Sacred Heart at both the institutional and local levels. Students will develop a deep understanding of the Brothers by studying their history, sacred texts, and recorded interviews, while also examining and articulating their own spiritual convictions. Additionally, students will trace the history and legacy of Bishop Guertin High School and its enduring impact on the community. Ultimately, the goal of this course is for students to become storytellers and stewards of Fr. André Coindre's charism, embodying and sharing the mission of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart in the modern world.



Department of Theology

The Theology curriculum is inspired by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart's Preamble to the Rule of Life: "To rescue young people from ignorance, to prepare them for life, and to give them a knowledge and love of religion." Theology courses are designed to expose students to the foundational teaching of the Roman Catholic Tradition. Students are given opportunities to grow intellectually and spiritually. **Students are required to take one credit of Theology per year.**

Department of Theology Course Progression

The Bible



Catholicism



Catholic Ethics and Philosophy



Choose At Least Two From The Following:

Catholic Social Teaching

Comparative Religion

Theology and Science

Catholic Bioethics Honors*

Tolkien and the Catholic Imagination Honors*

(* - Prerequisite)

The Bible (611)

Grade 9

Full year

1 credit

Salvation History Part I: Scripture

This course provides students with an introduction to the fundamentals of theology and faith in the Catholic Christian tradition by providing an overview of Sacred Scripture based on Catholic principles for understanding and interpreting the Bible. The various types of writing in the Bible and important events in biblical history are examined to reveal the parts they play in Salvation History and in our world today. The aim is to help guide students in appreciating the role of faith and Scripture as sources of spiritual insight and to provide a moral template that they can apply throughout life. This course is designed to invite students into a relationship with the Word of God.

Catholicism (621) **Grade 10** **Full year** **1 credit**

Salvation History Part II: Tradition

Building on Sacred Scripture, this course introduces students to the growth and development of the Catholic Church from the time of the Apostles to today. Students will be introduced to the principles of faith and what it means to be Catholic Christians. Students will examine the mission of the Church, the Creed and basic theological teachings of the Church, and the lives of the saints. During the year, students will be invited to grow in appreciation of God's saving work through the study of the unfolding of God's plan through time, the Sacraments and prayers of the Church, the development of the practice of the faith and discover how to more fully participate in the faith today.

Catholic Ethics and Philosophy (634) **Grade 11** **Full year** **1 credit**

This course is an introduction to the rich traditions of Catholic Moral Teaching. Students develop an understanding of the major philosophical and theological treatments of questions concerning who we are, how we come to know, and how these apply to the moral life. Students will study the history of the development of Western philosophy alongside the emergence of Christian thought and compare the Catholic Moral Tradition with important secular ethical systems to analyze major contemporary moral questions. Central to class discussions are Catholic values that equip and form students to exercise sound judgment about the moral issues they will face in daily life and to grow in their relationship with God and their neighbor.

Catholic Social Teaching (642) **Grade 12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

This course focuses on three questions regarding issues of injustice in society: What are the facts regarding the issue? What principles and values are relevant? What should we do about this issue? Key principles include Human Dignity, Solidarity, the Common Good and Community Participation. These are applied to a broad range of issues such as the dignity of all human life, special concern for the poor and marginalized, criminal justice and capital punishment, war, non-violent civil resistance, racial justice, economic and social inequality, and poverty and hunger in the world and in the United States. Consideration is given to what should be done to address injustice within society and who is responsible for taking action.

Comparative Religion (641) **Grade 12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

This course is an opportunity for students to explore the major religious traditions of the world to gain an understanding of their core beliefs and spiritual values. Students will explore the traditions of Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and other religions as time permits. The course will prepare seniors for college and life experiences where they will encounter and work with people from a variety of faith traditions.

Theology and Science (646) **Grade 12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

Catholicism has a rich history of using faith and reason to understand God, the nature of the universe, and the purpose of life. Modern secular culture often puts faith against reason and theology against science, arguing that reason and science have made theology and faith obsolete. This course will explore how science informs and enhances our understanding of God's creation and action. Scientific discoveries often lead to questions which scientific method cannot answer but which touch upon issues of faith and theology. An important goal of the course is to guide students to a more complete understanding of the contributions of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition and theologians to the advancement of science in a variety of scientific areas including biology, medicine, physics, astronomy, mathematics, chemistry, and others.

Catholic Bioethics Honors (644)

Grade 12

½ year

0.5 credit

Prerequisite: *B+ in The Bible, B+ in Catholicism, A- in Catholic Ethics and Philosophy, and department chair approval*

This course considers Catholic teaching concerning contemporary issues in bioethics from conception to natural death. The course is designed to engage students in conversation among the disciplines of Theology, Bioethics, Philosophy, and Science with particular attention to principles and practices. Students will explore the complexities of contemporary medical decision-making to help students understand the full impact of technology on the human person. Coursework includes reading, class discussions, presentations, and research papers and projects.

Tolkien and the Catholic Imagination Honors (160)

Grade 11-12

½ year

0.5 credit

Prerequisite: *Department chair approval*

This course will conduct an in-depth investigation of J.R.R. Tolkien's legendarium with a focus on his magnum opus, *The Lord of the Rings*. The class will examine the deep connections between this seminal work, related texts from inside and outside his mythology, and the fundamentally Catholic worldview that undergirds it. Students will be expected to read 60-80 pages a week.

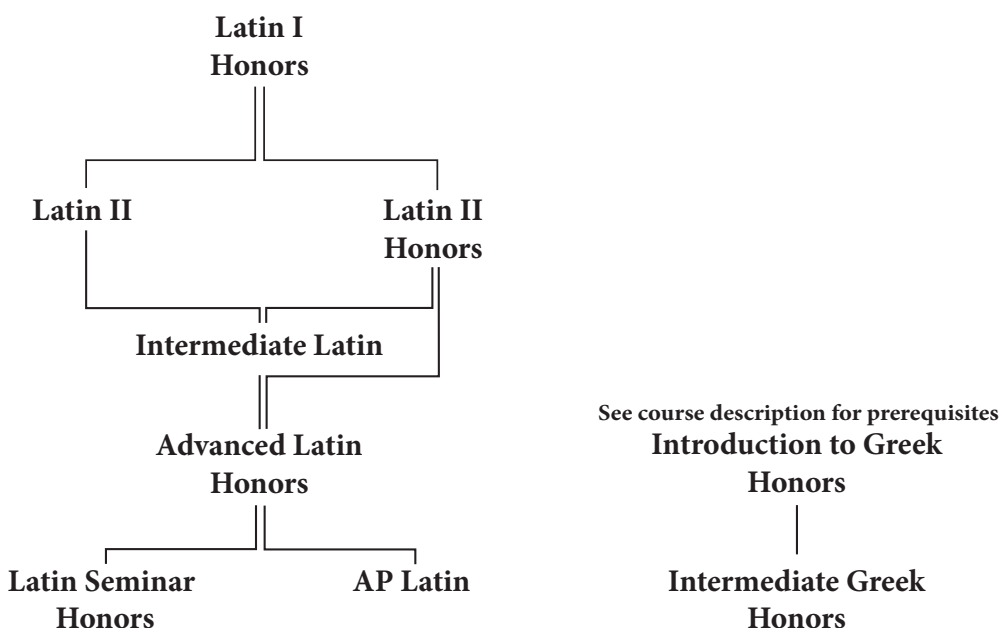


Department of World Languages

The World Languages Department offers four-year curricula in French, Latin, and Spanish as well as two semester-long electives in Ancient Greek. The graduation requirement at Bishop Guertin is a two-year sequence in one language. Three or more years in the same language are strongly recommended for college admission. Students who excel in language study are encouraged to enroll in a second language, as scheduling permits.

Note to the incoming student: All incoming students who have taken the equivalent of one or more years of French, Latin, or Spanish should take the placement test. Incoming students must pass this test in order to qualify for placement in a second-year language course.

Department of World Languages Classical Languages Course Progression



Latin I Honors (311)

Grade 9-12

Full year

1 credit

This course includes the study and application of elementary Latin grammar and syntax, the reading of elementary Latin prose, the study of Greek and Roman myths, a brief survey of Roman history and political institutions, and the study of Roman social culture. Special consideration will be given to how the knowledge of Latin illuminates English grammar and vocabulary.

Latin II (312)

Grade 9-12

Full year

1 credit

Prerequisite: *Latin I Honors* or *placement exam*

This course begins with a thorough review of basic Latin grammar and continues to build student knowledge of more complex grammar and syntax. Students will develop their skills through extended reading of Latin texts, building their knowledge of classical culture and literature.

Latin II Honors (322) **Grade 9-12** **Full year** **1 credit**

Prerequisite: *A- in Latin I Honors or placement exam, and department chair approval*

This course contains a brief review of elementary Latin grammar before proceeding to the study and application of intermediate Latin syntax. Students continue to build their knowledge of classical culture and literature as well as studying the continuous use of Latin into the medieval and early modern worlds.

Intermediate Latin (313) **Grade 10-12** **Full year** **1 credit**

Prerequisite: *Latin II or Latin II Honors*

Students will study and apply intermediate Latin syntax to a variety of texts, including non-adapted selections from writers such as Caesar and Ovid. Students will also deepen their understanding of Roman history and culture.

Advanced Latin Honors (323) **Grade 10-12** **Full year** **1 credit**

Prerequisite: *B in Latin II Honors or B in Intermediate Latin, and department chair approval*

Students will read selections from classical authors such as Cicero and Ovid. Selections from Medieval Latin prose as well as excerpts from other authors of the Classical period may be included at the instructor's discretion. Literary and historical study will be combined with the investigation of advanced grammatical concepts. This course will prepare students to take the AP Latin course.

Latin Seminar Honors (324) **Grade 11-12** **Full year** **1 credit**

Prerequisite: *B in Advanced Latin Honors and department chair approval*

This course is an advanced seminar-style investigation of the works of Golden Age Latin writers such as Vergil, Catullus, Cicero, Horace, and Ovid. Students will read, translate, understand, analyze, and interpret selected poems and prose works in the context of Roman culture.

AP Latin (329) **Grade 11-12** **Full year** **1 credit**

Prerequisite: *B in Advanced Latin Honors or Latin Seminar Honors, and department chair approval*

This course follows the Advanced Placement Latin syllabus. Students will read, translate, understand, analyze, and interpret Vergil's Aeneid and Pliny's Epistulae, along with selections taken from other comparable authors. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May.

Introduction to Greek Honors (372) **Grade 11-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

Prerequisite: *Completion of the Department of World Languages graduation requirement at the Honors level or two years of Latin with a B average, and department chair approval*

This half-year course is intended primarily as an introduction to the basic grammar and vocabulary of Classical Greek. Students will learn the Greek alphabet, noun and verb forms, and basic syntax. The cultural background of the language will be brought to life through readings in translation of Greek historians, philosophers, playwrights, and poets. Additionally, students will be introduced to the Bible in its original Greek through excerpts from the New Testament.

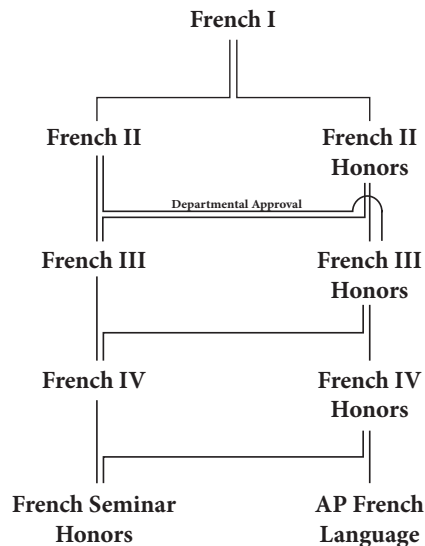
Intermediate Greek Honors (374) **Grade 11-12** **½ year** **0.5 credit**

Prerequisite: *C in Introduction to Greek Honors and department chair approval*

This course continues the study of Classical Greek. Students will learn more advanced grammar and syntax, delve more deeply into Greek history and culture, and be exposed to a larger variety of classical and biblical texts.

Department of World Languages

French Language Course Progression



French I (331) **Grade 9-11** **Full year** **1 credit**
 This course is for students who have never taken French, as well as for students who have not yet mastered the requirements of Bishop Guertin’s French I curriculum. The focus in the first unit is “survival French,” which includes the basic phrases and common vocabulary necessary to communicate with native speakers in common, everyday situations. After the first unit, the study of vocabulary and grammar intensifies. Students develop communication skills in a cultural context. The cultural themes of the course include daily activities, people and their possessions, city life, buying clothes, leisure-time activities, and food. The geography and contemporary culture of the Francophone world are introduced.

French II (332) **Grade 9-12** **Full year** **1 credit**
Prerequisite: *French I or placement exam*
 This course offers the student the opportunity to further master the elementary level of the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students review and add to the fundamental vocabulary and grammatical structures of French I. Students learn about a wide range of Francophone cultures as well as different regions of France.

French II Honors (342) **Grade 9-12** **Full year** **1 credit**
Prerequisite: *A- in French I or placement exam, and department chair approval*
 This course is designed for enthusiastic and talented students pursuing a more rigorous study of French II. In addition to the French II description, the student will be expected to demonstrate a higher level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The honors curriculum includes expanded vocabulary, grammar and cultural study, more demanding communicative activities, and a greater degree of independent work.

French III (333) **Grade 10-12** **Full year** **1 credit**

Prerequisite: *French II or French II Honors*

Intermediate grammar, syntax, and functional conversation skills are stressed. Emphasis is also placed on reading comprehension using a variety of literary works. Vocabulary acquisition is enhanced through an introduction to the art, cinema, and history of the French speaking world.

French III Honors (343) **Grade 10-12** **Full year** **1 credit**

Prerequisite: *B in French II Honors or A- in French II, and department chair approval*

This course is for the motivated student who wishes to continue developing French comprehension and communicative skills through a thorough study of intermediate grammar and its application in the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will be introduced to the literature of selected francophone authors that reflect the diverse cultures of French-speaking world.

French IV (334) **Grade 11-12** **Full year** **1 credit**

Prerequisite: *C in French III or French III Honors, and department chair approval*

This course is a continuation of French III. Further development of intermediate grammar and vocabulary building in context is emphasized. Classroom activities encourage students to continue to develop functional language skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

French IV Honors (344) **Grade 11-12** **Full year** **1 credit**

Prerequisite: *B in French III Honors and department chair approval*

In this course, students will explore and analyze the francophone world through a variety of authentic sources and varied communicative activities, all in the target language. Working collaboratively and independently, students will continue to enhance their skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking using a variety of communicative activities.

French Seminar Honors (345) **Grade 12** **Full year** **1 credit**

Prerequisite: *A- in French IV or B in French IV Honors, and department chair approval*

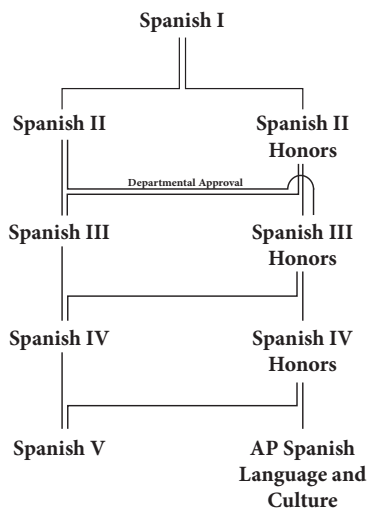
This accelerated course is designed for the student who wishes to pursue a more rigorous study of advanced French. The students will develop a high level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through active classroom participation. Grammar is reviewed whenever necessary in order to reinforce proficiency. Students will explore the cultures of the Francophone world through the use of authentic documents and literature. The course is designed to prepare students for college course work in French.

AP French Language (348) **Grade 12** **Full year** **1 credit**

Prerequisite: *B in French IV Honors and department chair approval*

In this course, thematic units of study are aligned with the Advanced Placement French Language and Culture CED and with the AP global themes. Students will strengthen their interpretive, interpersonal and presentational abilities by engaging in a variety of activities exclusively in the target language, and they will experience a more rigorous integration of contextual vocabulary and cultural analysis. Additionally, students will engage in independent and reflective grammatical study to improve their communication. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May.

Department of World Languages Spanish Language Course Progression



Spanish I (351) Grade 9-11 Full year 1 credit

This college preparatory course is for students who have never taken Spanish or for those who have not met the requirements of Bishop Guertin's Spanish I curriculum (as determined by a departmental placement test). Its focus is on the fundamentals of Spanish grammar and vocabulary. The development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills is emphasized, and students are introduced to the culture of various Spanish-speaking communities. This course requires student engagement in the form of active participation, regular homework completion, and independent reinforcement of concepts as needed.

Spanish II (352) Grade 9-12 Full year 1 credit

Prerequisite: *Spanish I or placement exam*

This college preparatory course further develops the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students review and add to the fundamental vocabulary and grammatical structures of Spanish I. The culture of Spanish-speaking communities is explored in greater depth. This course requires student engagement in the form of active participation, regular homework completion, and independent reinforcement of concepts as needed.

Spanish II Honors (362) Grade 9-12 Full year 1 credit

Prerequisite: *A- in Spanish I or placement exam, and department chair approval*

This course is designed for enthusiastic and motivated students pursuing a more rigorous study of Spanish II. In addition to the Spanish II description, the student will be expected to demonstrate a higher level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The honors curriculum includes expanded vocabulary, grammar and cultural study, more demanding communicative activities, and a greater degree of independent work.

Spanish III (353) Grade 10-12 Full year 1 credit

Prerequisite: *Spanish II or Spanish II Honors*

In this college preparatory course, students will continue their study of the Spanish language via an emphasis on all communicative skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing) and cultural

AP Capstone

The Advanced Placement Capstone program was designed to equip students with the independent research, collaboration, and communication skills which colleges value. The complete program consists of two courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. These courses are designed to complement and enhance discipline-specific study in other AP courses.

In the complete AP Capstone program, students would take AP Seminar in Grade 11, followed by AP Research in Grade 12. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing receive the AP Capstone Diploma™. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research, but not on four additional AP Exams, receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.

Currently AP Seminar is the only course offered, however future student interest and teacher availability may allow the school to offer AP Research in future years.

AP Seminar: Human Nature and Human Communities (090)

Grade 11-12 Full year 1 credit

Prerequisite: *Current or previous enrollment in AP United States History or AP Language and Composition, and approval by the Vice Principal*

This course aims to address universal questions of human nature by applying insights obtained from literature and history to contemporary problems. Students will engage in individual and group investigation of research topics suggested by a close encounter with primary sources drawn from multiple media. The class will prepare students to take the AP Seminar exam through the creation of a portfolio of written and oral presentations that displays the results of original research and reflection on a variety of themes.

Leadership Program

The Leadership Formation program is designed to equip advancing students with basic leadership skills relevant for high school and beyond. Material will align with the beliefs and teachings of The Brothers of the Sacred Heart as well as current best practices in schools, business, and the military. Currently, Leadership Seminar is the only course offered. However, student interest and teacher availability may allow the school to offer additional courses in the future.

Leadership I: Leading Ourselves (051) Grade 10-12 ½ year 0.5 credit

This course covers the principles of personal leadership: being proactive, defining success, setting goals, managing your time, and empathic listening. It also explores our personalities and working tendencies in preparation for Leadership II. Participants in this class should have a desire for self-improvement and personal growth. Stephen Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People is required reading in this class. Grading will be based on reading, writing, and class discussions. Enrollment may be limited. This course may not be used to fulfill a departmental graduation requirement.

Leadership II: Leading Others (052) Grade 10-12 ½ year 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: *Leadership I or Leadership Seminar*

This follow-up course explores the qualities of an ideal teammate as well as methods and techniques for leading others, including creating a circle of safety, clarifying values, galvanizing others, identifying opportunities, fostering collaboration, and recognizing others. Students will also discuss toxic leadership characteristics and methods for avoiding such pitfalls. Participants should be currently holding or are interested in pursuing leadership positions in the school and have a desire to develop and further their leadership skills. Kouzes and Posner's The Leadership Challenge as well as Jocko Willink's Leadership Strategy and Tactics are required books for this class. Grading will be based on reading, writing, and class discussions. Enrollment may be limited. *This course may not be used to fulfill a departmental graduation requirement.*

Pre-College Independent Study

Pre-College Independent Study (020)

Grade 11-12

½year

0.0 credit

This course option does not fulfill a graduation credit requirement. Approval by the school counselor and vice principal is required.

The pre-college independent study option allows 11th- and 12th-grade students the opportunity to schedule an additional academic period specifically to be used to complete approved on-line college courses which might appeal to their academic interests and result in college credit. Students wishing to pursue this option must be in strong academic standing and receive prior permission from their school counselor. Additionally, any chosen course must be offered by an accredited college or university offering dual enrollment options and be approved by the vice principal. Once enrolled, students must demonstrate consistent participation in the course or the dual enrollment designation will be removed from the student's schedule and transcript. Grades earned for the course will not be factored into a student's GPA, nor will credits be counted to a student's BG graduation requirement. Families are responsible for all tuition and fees to the college or university offering the course.



The Hilton Scholars College

The Hilton Scholars College is BG's version of a collegiate honors program. Members of the College are part of a special cohort of students who participate in a series of courses reserved exclusively for them while also integrating into the greater school community through access to advanced honors- and AP-level coursework. The HSC is not only inspired by the principles of classical education — which emphasizes knowledge of core texts, an interdisciplinary approach, and moral education — but also takes advantage of the best of contemporary practices. Scholars are immersed in an intellectually stimulating environment that will help them to grow as human beings and will prepare them for the demands of elite higher education.

Freshman Theology and Theological Practicum (H60)

Grade 9 Full year 1 credit

This course is an introduction to theological studies considered in their historical, philosophical, liturgical, and practical dimensions. Students will practice the close reading of appropriate texts from the Bible, the Church Fathers, and modern commentators. Students will deepen their comprehension of the relationship between theology and practice through activities designed to foster an appreciation of the Catholic Church's expression of its faith in Jesus Christ. A research paper and formal presentation will be completed as part of this course.

Ancient and Medieval History (H20)

Grade 9 Full year 1 credit

This course is an overview of human civilization from the Neolithic Revolution to approximately 1000 AD. Content includes the origins of civilization in Egypt, Mesopotamia, India, and China as well as the formation of the classical civilizations of the Mediterranean Basin. The course will encompass geography, primary source readings, and the art of historical argumentation.

Freshman Literature (H10)

Grade 9 Full year 1 credit

This course is an exploration of the human condition through the lens of the written word. Works read will stretch from the earliest human texts to the twentieth century, both prose and poetry. Investigation of these texts will be conducted through in-class discussions as well as both reflective and argumentative writing. Students will learn how to think, talk, and write about literature.

Introduction to the Fine Arts (H90)

Grade 9 Full year 1 credit

This course introduces students to the study of the visual and musical arts. Students will learn to identify and appreciate form, be conversant with the basic grammar of both media, and consider what the arts have to say about human nature and our place in the world. No prior knowledge or ability with art or music is assumed.

Sample Four-Year Plan

	9		10		11		12	
Computer Science	Explorations in CS							
English	Intro to Literature		World Literature		American Literature		British Literature	
Fine Arts	Art							
Health and Fitness	PE		Health					
Mathematics	Algebra I		Geometry		Algebra II		Trigonometry Pre-Calculus	
Science	Biology		Chemistry		Elective		Physics	
Social Studies	Citizenship & Government		World History		U.S. History		Econ	Elective ¹
Theology	The Bible		Catholicism		Catholic Ethics and Philosophy		Elective ²	Elective ²
World Language	Spanish, French or Latin		Spanish, French or Latin		Spanish, French or Latin ³		Spanish, French or Latin ³	
Electives								

¹ Must be a Social Studies Elective | ² Must be a Theology Elective | ³ Languages not required, but encouraged to continue junior and senior year

Sample Transcript

2021 - 2022 Grade: 9th Bishop Guertin High School GPA: 3.3279

	S1	S2	FG	Credit
Explorations in Computer Science	A-	-	A-	0.50
Introduction to Literature	C+	B	B-	1.00
Physical Education Fr/So	-	A-	A-	0.50
Foundations in Art I	-	A+	A+	0.50
Algebra I	A-	A-	A-	1.00
The Bible	A-	A-	A-	1.00
Biology	A	A-	A-	1.00
Citizenship and Government	B	-	B	0.50
Spanish II	B-	C	C+	1.00

2022 - 2023 Grade: 10th Bishop Guertin High School GPA: 3.3543

	S1	S2	FG	Credit
Art II	B+	-	B+	0.50
World Literature	B+	B	B+	1.00
Health	-	A	A	0.50
Geometry	B+	B+	B+	1.00
Catholicism	A	A	A	1.00
Chemistry	B	B	B	1.00
World History	A-	B	B+	1.00
Spanish III	B-	B-	B-	1.00

2023 - 2024 Grade: 11th Bishop Guertin High School GPA: 4.0693

	S1	S2	FG	Credit
American Literature Honors	A-	A-	A-	1.00
Tolkien and the Catholic Imagination Honors	A+	-	A+	0.50
Psychology	-	A	A	0.50
Algebra II	A-	B+	B+	1.00
Catholic Ethics and Philosophy	A	A	A	1.00
Environmental Science Honors	A+	A+	A+	1.00
United States History - Honors	A	A	A	1.00
Latin I	A+	A	A+	1.00

2024 - 2025 Grade: 12th Bishop Guertin High School GPA: 3.5443

	S1	S2	FG	Credit
British Literature Honors	B	A	B+	1.00
Pottery I	-	B+	B+	0.50
Weight Training	A	-	A	0.50
Trig-Precalculus	B-	B-	B-	1.00
Catholic Social Teaching	-	A	A	0.50
Comparative Religions	A+	-	A+	0.50
Physics	B+	B	B+	1.00
Economics Honors	A-	-	A-	0.50
Global America - Honors	A-	-	A-	0.50
Latin II Honors	B+	B-	B	1.00

Cumulative: 3.5739

Four-Year Worksheet For Course Selection

	Credits	9	10	11	12
Computer Science	0.5				
English	4.0				
Fine Arts	0.5				
Health and Fitness	1.0				
Mathematics	3.0				
Science	3.0				
Social Studies	3.5				
Theology	4.0				
World Language	2.0				
Electives	5.5				
Total	28.0				

7 COURSES/CREDITS REQUIRED PER YEAR

*Known
Valued
Treasured*



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