

# **NATIVITY B.V.M. HIGH SCHOOL**



## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2025-2026**

**NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY HIGH SCHOOL**

*Member of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools*  
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POTTSVILLE PA 17901  
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Dear Students,

The booklet that you are receiving contains information about the courses that are available to you for the 2025-2026 Academic Year.

Please discuss these offerings with your parents, teachers, Studies Office and the Guidance Department so that you make intelligent decisions concerning the courses that you will study next year. Once your decision is made, have your teachers sign your course selection form, if a signature is necessary, and then have your parents sign the **COMPLETED FORM**. Please list alternate electives in case there would be a schedule conflict and you would not be able to get scheduled for your first choice. It is also possible that an elective course may have to be dropped if an insufficient number of students choose to take the course or if it is not possible to schedule a teacher for it. **All students must have six (6) major courses scheduled each semester.**

All course selection papers must be returned to your home room teacher **on or before February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025**. Therefore, make certain that you get the needed teachers' signatures before that date. Also, be sure to put your own signature on the form before you hand it in. Because of the cost of processing students' schedules, there is a Course Selection Fee of \$50.00 per student. This fee ***must be paid as you hand in your Course Selection Form***. Once your course selection paper is handed in, we must consider your decision as final so that classes and teachers can be scheduled to meet the needs of all the students. Any requests for changes initiated by students or parents after that date must be accompanied by a written letter from one of your parents explaining the reason for the change. Once the schedules are issued at the beginning of the next school year, ***no course may be dropped/changed***.

Any student who does not have his or her course selection paper completed and handed in by March 15<sup>th</sup> will be handled as a new student and will be charged a fee of \$75.00. This is necessary because of the increased clerical work involved in processing late requests.

Please choose your courses carefully so that you make the best possible decisions in keeping with your goals and academic abilities. If you are choosing a course that has certain pre-requisites, make certain that you have those pre-requisites. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or the Studies Coordinator or the Guidance Department as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Lynn Sabol  
Principal

## **ACADEMIC PROGRAM**

The academic program at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary High School conforms to the recommendations of the State Department of Public Education and the regulations of the Allentown Diocese. Courses are offered in such a way that all students may choose those subjects which will enable them to prepare for the vocation they wish to follow. Course selections and pre-registration are made after the first semester reports are issued.

Course description booklets are distributed in the second semester. Courses are added or deleted according to students' needs and the school's ability to meet these needs. The Guidance Department, the teachers, the Department Chairpersons and the members of the Administration offer help in the selection of courses. Each Department has the right to set up pre-requisites for the courses in that Department.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION**

The following are above the minimum requirements set down by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Diocese of Allentown for the graduation of student from Nativity B.V.M. High School.

Twenty-seven and one-quarter credits (27.25) are required for Graduation:

4 credits in Theology

4 credits in English

3 credits in Social Studies (Amer. History, World History,  
Amer Government/Personal Finance)

3 credits in Mathematics

3 credits in Science

7 credits in Electives

3.25 credits in other required minors

\*\* N.B. Any change in the requirements must have the approval of the Principal.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

All students are required to have six (6) major courses each semester. Minor courses include: Physical Education, Health 1, Health 2, First Aid, Computer Applications, Career Exploration, Freshmen Seminar, Music Appreciation, Art Appreciation and Public Speaking.

### **Required Courses for all Freshmen**

Theology

English

Physical Education

General Lit. and Comp.

American History

Algebra 2 or Algebra 1

Computer Applications

General American Lit. and Comp.

Physical Science

Health 1

Freshman Seminar

### **Elective Courses for Freshmen**

Spanish 1

Intro to Spanish

Ecclesiastical Latin 1

Freshmen whose eighth grade marks and Standardized Testing Scores indicate average verbal ability elect to begin one of the language programs. Students who elect a language are expected to complete two years of the language.

### **Required Courses for all Sophomores**

Theology

English

Art Appreciation

General American Lit. and Comp.

World History

Music Appreciation

Career Exploration

Biology

Geometry or Advanced Algebra

General Lit. and Comp.

Physical Education

### **Elective Courses for Sophomores**

Spanish 1, 2

Intro to Spanish

Ecclesiastical Latin 1

### **Required Courses for all Juniors**

Theology  
English  
Physical Education  
Academic Writing

American Government  
A Mathematics Course  
Health/First Aid

Personal Finance  
Chemistry  
Public Speaking

**Required Courses for all Seniors**

Theology

English

Physical Education

**Elective Courses for all Juniors and Seniors**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Course</u>
11	Advanced Sacraments	11	Sacraments
11	Advanced Christian Morality	11	Christian Morality
12	Advanced Apologetics	12	Church History
12	Advanced Christian Vocations	12	Christian Vocations
11-12	Introduction to Ecclesiastical Latin		
11-12	Advanced Placement Literature	11-12	Communication & Mass Media
11-12	Creative Writing	11-12	Independent Vo-Tech English
11-12	Mythology	11-12	Science Fiction
12	Sociology	12	Psychology
11-12	Political Geography	12	Advanced Placement U.S. History
11-12	American Conflicts	11-12	Pennsylvania History
11-12	Cold War America	11-12	History of Sports
11-12	Algebra 3	11	Advanced Algebra 3
11-12	Advanced Pre-Calculus	11	Algebra Part 2
11-12	Trigonometry	12	Advanced Placement Calculus
12	Advanced Calculus	11-12	Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus
11-12	Statistics		
11	Advanced Chemistry	11	Chemistry
11	General Chemistry	12	Advanced Physics
12	Physics	11-12	Environment Science - Global Issues
11-12	Advanced Anatomy and Physiology	11-12	Environmental Science - Ecology
11-12	AP Biology		
11	Spanish 1	11-12	Spanish 2
11-12	Advanced Spanish 3	12	Advanced Spanish 4
11-12	Art 1		
12	Art 2	11-12	Music Theory
11-12	Rock and Roll History	11-12	Drums/Percussion Lab
12	Personal Fitness	11-12	First Aid

<b><u>NUMBER</u></b>	<b><u>COURSE NAME</u></b>	<b><u>LEVEL</u></b>	<b><u>CREDITS</u></b>	<b><u>GRADE</u></b>
10	Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture	2	.5	9
15	Christology: Who is Jesus Christ?	2	.5	9
20	The Paschal Mystery	2	.5	10
25	Ecclesiology	2	.5	10
30	Sacraments	2	.5	11
35	Christian Morality	2	.5	11
40	The History of the Catholic Church	2	.5	12
45	Christian Vocations	2	.5	12

### **ELECTIVES**

31	Advanced Sacraments	3	.5	11
36	Advanced Christian Morality	3	.5	11
41	Advanced History of the Catholic Church	3	.5	12
46	Advanced Christian Vocations	3	.5	12

### **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

#### **THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST IN SACRED SCRIPTURE**

**GRADE 9**

The purpose of this course is to give students a general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. Through their studies of the Bible they will come to encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. In the course they will learn about the Bible, authored by God through Inspiration, and its value to people throughout the world. If they have not been taught this earlier, they will learn how to read the Bible and will become familiar with the major sections of the Bible and the books included in each section.

#### **CHRISTOLOGY: WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?**

**GRADE 9**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the mysteries of Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. In this course, students will understand that Jesus Christ is the ultimate Revelation to us from God. In learning about who He is, the student will also learn who He calls us to be. Students will pay particular attention to the Gospels, where they may grow to know and love Jesus Christ more personally.

#### **PASCHAL MYSTERY: THE MISSION OF JESUS CHRIST**

**GRADE 10**

The purpose of this course is to help students understand all that God has done for us through his Son, Jesus Christ. Through this course of study, students will learn that for all eternity, God has planned for us to share eternal happiness with Him, which is accomplished through the redemption Christ won for us on the Cross. Students will learn that they share in this redemption only in and through Jesus Christ. They will also be introduced to know what it means to be a disciple of Christ and what life as a disciple entails.

#### **ECCLESIOLOGY: THE MISSION OF JESUS CONTINUES IN THE CHURCH**

**GRADE 10**

The purpose of this course is to help the students understand that in and through the Church they encounter the living Jesus Christ. They will be introduced to the fact that the Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by Him through the Holy Spirit. The students will come to know that the Church is the living Body of Christ today. The Body has both divine and human elements. In this course, students will learn not so much about events in the life of the Church but about the sacred nature of the Church.

#### **SACRAMENTS AS PRIVILEGED ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS CHRIST**

**GRADE 11**

The purpose of this course is to help students understand that they can encounter Christ today in a

full and real way in and through the sacraments, and especially through the Eucharist. Students will examine each of the sacraments in detail so as to learn how they may encounter Christ through life.

**CHRISTIAN MORALITY: LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST** **GRADE 11**

The purpose of this course is to help students understand that it is only through Christ that they can fully live out God’s plan for their lives. Students are to learn the moral concepts and precepts that govern the lives of Christ’s disciples especially through the Ten Commandments.

**THE HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH** **GRADE 12**

The purpose of this course is to supply the students with a general knowledge of the Church’s history from apostolic times to the present. They will be introduced to the fact that the Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by him throughout history through the Holy Spirit. The students will come to know that the Church is the “living Body of Christ” today and, as such, has both divine and human elements. In this course, students will learn about the Church’s 2,000 years of history and about how the Church is led and governed by the successors of the Apostles.

**CHRISTIAN VOCATIONS: RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF JESUS CHRIST** **GRADE 12**

The purpose of this course is to help students understand the universal call of God to holiness, where they will come to realize that God has a plan for their life. In this course, students will learn how all vocations are similar and how they differ. The course is structured around the vocations to married life, single life, priestly life, and consecrated life. Students will learn what it means to live life for the benefit of others and the value in considering a vocation in service to the Christian community. This course also leads students to embrace their spirituality as the foundation for their personal happiness. Pope Saint John Paul II’s “Theology of the Body” with its focus on what it means to be human and the purpose of our existence as discovered and revealed through our bodies will be introduced.

**ADVANCED THEOLOGY 3 AND 4** **GRADES 11 & 12**

Advanced Sacraments	Advanced Christian Morality
Advanced Church History	Advanced Christian Vocations

The topics covered are essentially the same as in Junior and Senior years respectively but in greater depth and with greater personal reflection along with the study of certain documents of the Second Vatican Council.

*Pre-requisite:* a grade of 93 or above in the previous year's theological discipline and the signature of the Theology Department Chairperson.

**ENGLISH**

<b><u>NUMBER</u></b>	<b><u>COURSE NAME</u></b>	<b><u>LEVEL</u></b>	<b><u>CREDITS</u></b>	<b><u>GRADE</u></b>
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101	Freshman Seminar	2	.25	9
102	Computer Applications	2	.25	9
111	Advanced English I	3	1	9
112	English I	2	1	9
116	Career Exploration	2	.25	9
121	Advanced American Literature	3	1	10
122	American Literature	2	1	10
131	Advanced British Literature	3	1	11
132	British Literature	2	1	11
141	Advanced World Literature	3	1	12
142	World Literature	2	1	12
165	Creative Writing	2	.5	11-12
167	Public Speaking	2	.25	12
168	Academic Writing	2	.25	12

### **ELECTIVES**

154	AP Language and Composition	4	1	11-12
155	AP Literature and Composition	4	1	11-12
170	Communication	2	1	9-12
180	Independent Vo-Tech English	2	.5	10-12
181	Mythology	2	.5	11-12
182	Science Fiction	2	.5	11-12

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

The goal of the English courses is to prepare students for college. The English courses are also geared toward preparing students for business careers. The Level 2 courses offer all of the required literature, composition, vocabulary, correct usage, and grammar skills required for students of a given grade level. The Level 3 courses include additional material above and beyond that which is required.

### **FRESHMEN SEMINAR/RESEARCH WRITING**

### **GRADE 9**

This course is designed to help freshmen adjust to high school. They will strengthen their organizational skills, time management, study habits, social skills and MLA style in context of writing a research paper. Also, students will begin to explore and consider careers and further education.

### **COMPUTER APPLICATIONS**

### **GRADE 9**

In this “digital sampler” course, we’ll get hands-on experience with essential tools, equipping you with the skills needed to succeed in school, your career, and beyond. The course begins with an introduction to Microsoft Word and Excel. After covering the basics, we will move on to using technology for presentations, from simple slide decks to more complex Prezi-style projects. We will also cover the Google suite tools, which offer powerful collaborative tools for working together as a team. We will then cover databases, programming (JavaScript), and the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence. Finally, we will complete a meta-learning project, where each student will choose a skill they would like to learn and then find a digital platform that will help them develop that skill. Throughout the course, students will work to build up a practical skill set as well as critical thinking skills, especially the concept of “learning how to learn.”

### **ADVANCED ENGLISH I**

### **GRADE 9**

Advanced English I is an in-depth study of various genres of literature. This course introduces students to higher level content and helps them transition into high school academic life. Students



will work on short stories, poetry, Shakespeare, and vocabulary units. The advanced level class will also be responsible for larger texts including a novel and/or a play in its entirety. Students will begin to incorporate interpretation into formal writing in the form of expository, descriptive, and persuasive essays in MLA style. Grammar instruction is also included.

## **ENGLISH 1**

## **GRADE 9**

English I is an introduction to various genres of literature. This course introduces students to high school literature in addition to helping them transition into high school academic life. Students will work on short stories, poetry, Shakespeare, and vocabulary units, and begin to incorporate interpretation into formal writing in the form of expository, descriptive, and persuasive essays in MLA style. Grammar instruction is also included.

## **CAREER EXPLOURATION**

## **GRADE 10**

Helping students identify and evaluate their personal goals, priorities, aptitudes, and interests is a crucial goal of any high school curriculum. Test taking strategies will also be addressed. This course will focus on developing the skills students need for gainful employment in adulthood and will help them make informed decisions about their future education or career. Students will focus on resume writing, interview skills, conflict resolution, and etiquette. This class will feature guest speakers who offer real world experience and expertise in a variety of employment fields and will allow students the opportunity to network and gain entrepreneurship opportunities.

## **ADVANCED AMERICAN LITERATURE**

## **GRADE 10**

This course emphasizes the close reading of complex texts, valuing evidence, and attention to language. Students will understand how writers and speakers use specific words and sentences to move the thoughts, emotions, and action of readers and listeners. It will also train students as writers who are able to craft complex sentences as the foundation for writing in order to facilitate complex thinking and to communicate ideas clearly. Grammar instruction and vocabulary development are an integral part of the objectives of this course. This course is highly recommended for students planning to take AP Literature and Composition and/or AP Language and Composition.

*Pre-requisite:* Approval of Department Chairperson.

## **AMERICAN LITERATURE**

## **GRADE 10**

This course is an in-depth study of American Literature focusing primarily on modern formal and informal genres, as well as imaginative texts. Writing instruction focuses on analytical, narrative and compare and contrast formats in MLA Style. Grammar instruction and vocabulary development are also included in this course.

## **ADVANCED BRITISH LITERATURE**

## **GRADE 11**

This course is an in-depth study of the major works of British Literature starting with the earliest written poetry through the Middle Ages and Renaissance to modern authors. Throughout the course, students will gain an understanding of the historical eras that have impacted the English language and literature. Writing instruction will focus on personal, analysis, critique, and research formats in MLA style. Grammar and vocabulary instruction is also included.

*Pre-requisite:* Approval of Department Chairperson.

## **BRITISH LITERATURE**

## **GRADE 11**

This course is a study of the major works of British Literature starting with the earliest written poetry through the Middle Ages and Renaissance to modern authors. Throughout the course, students will gain an understanding of the historical eras that have impacted the English language

and literature. Writing instruction will focus on personal, analysis, critique, and research formats in MLA style. Grammar and vocabulary instruction is also included.

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION**

**GRADE 11-12**

The AP English Language and Composition course cultivates the reading and writing skills that students need for college success and intellectually responsible civic engagement. The course cultivates the rhetorical understanding and use of written language by interacting with the reading and writing of formal and informal genres (e.g., memos, letters, advertisements, political satires, personal narratives, scientific arguments, critical critiques, and research reports). (Adapted from the AP College Board Course Description for AP Language and Composition, 2014) Students should be prepared to read outside of class and come to class ready to discuss the selections.

*Pre-requisite:* Approval of Department Chairperson. Grade of 95 or above in Advanced American Literature

*Please Note: Students enrolled in AP classes are required to take the AP test in the spring.*

### **ADVANCED WORLD LITERATURE**

**GRADE 12**

Students will read various authors from around the world and become accustomed to other cultures as they read. In addition to many short stories, major works that will be studied include: *Hamlet*, *Oedipus*, and excerpts from Dante's *Inferno*. Texts are studied thematically which encourages in-depth analysis and synthesis between texts as expressed through discussion and written work. Writing instruction will focus on argument, analysis, critique, and compare and contrast formats in MLA style. Grammar and vocabulary will also be covered.

*Pre-requisite:* Approval of Department Chairperson. Grade of 95 or above.

### **WORLD LITERATURE**

**GRADE 12**

This course is designed to acquaint students with various authors from around the world. Units are comprised of literature from regions including the Mediterranean, Continental Europe, Africa, Asia and the South Pacific and South and Central America. Major works studied include *Hamlet* and Dante's *Inferno*. Writing instruction will focus on argument, analysis, critique, and compare and contrast formats in MLA style. Grammar and vocabulary instruction will also be covered.

### **AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION**

**GRADES 11-12**

The AP English and Literature course engages students in the critical reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, students deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As they read, students consider a work's structure, style and themes, as well as such smaller scale elements as use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism and tone. (Adapted from the AP College Board Course Description for AP Literature and Composition, 2014) Students should be prepared to read outside of class and come to class ready to discuss the selections.

*Pre-requisite:* Approval of Department Chairperson. Grade of 93 or above in AP Language & Composition or 95 or above in Advanced British Literature.

*Please Note: Students enrolled in AP classes are required to take the AP test in the spring.*

### **PUBLIC SPEAKING**

**GRADES 11-12**

This course is designed to provide the student with the basic techniques of effective public speaking. Students will learn how to prepare different types of speeches (formal and informal), how to prepare

an effective presentation through research and use of visual aids, and learn to develop listening skills. Constructive criticism from the teacher and students will lead to the speaker's self-improvement and self-confidence in public speaking.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

## **GRADES 9-12**

This course was developed to give international students an opportunity to increase their proficiency in the daily use of the English language. Through the four basic components of language learning: listening, speaking, reading and writing, students are exposed to a wide variety of topics. In addition, students learn about the customs of our school, community and country.

## **INDEPENDENT VO-TECH ENGLISH**

## **GRADES 10-11**

This course is offered to students who have chosen to attend vo-tech to pursue a technical trade. It shows how words are used in specific areas and examines the language of mass media, television, and technical trades.

## **ACADEMIC WRITING**

## **GRADE 11**

Students in Academic Writing delve deeper into core principles underlying academic composition across disciplines. The course shifts from MLA to APA formatting in order to become familiar with this important style, and if time permits, there will also be a brief look at Chicago, so that students will be prepared with a broad range of common styles used in academia and beyond. The concept of academic integrity is central to this course, and anti-plagiarism strategies are studied early on. Students then practice developing claims and arguments, so that they will not only have something to cite, but something to say as well. Further, the class will discuss composition techniques that will make the task of writing both easier and more fruitful. Along the way, students will strive to improve their analytic, synthetic, and creative skills. By the conclusion of the course, students will have the confidence and ability to conduct research and produce writing in whichever academic field further education may require.

## **MYTHOLOGY**

## **GRADES 11-12**

Since the beginning of time, people have gathered around fires to tell stories of vengeful gods, complicated journeys, horrible beasts, and the mighty heroes who vanquished them. Mythology provided a way for these colorful stories to spring to life for thousands of years and allowed numerous cultures an opportunity to pass down their beliefs for generations to follow. The Mythology course will illustrate how these famous anecdotes have helped humans make sense of the world and how our literary presence still relies on the understanding that these myths provided. Beginning with an overview of mythology and different types of folklore, this class will focus on the exploration of Greek and Roman mythology, moving to Norse and Celtic lore, and will finish with an exploration of Egyptian and Chinese mythology. Students will explore the universality and social significance of myths and folklore and see how these powerful tales continue to shape society even today.

## **SCIENCE FICTION**

## **GRADES 11-12**

Are you curious about the intersection of science, technology, and society? Journey through the imaginative landscapes of science fiction, embarking on a literary voyage from the gaslight lamps and airships of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the gleaming chrome robots of the 20<sup>th</sup> and beyond. This course

delves into the genre's formative years, examining how scientific discoveries, social upheavals, and changing philosophies influenced the imaginations of visionary writers. Decipher the social anxieties of a burgeoning industrial world through H.G. Wells' *The Time Machine* and Jules Verne's *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*. Explore the depths of human nature with Philip K. Dick's *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* And Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, questioning what it means to be human in an increasingly technological age. Witness the rise of dystopian fiction with Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* and George Orwell's *1984*, reflecting Cold War anxieties and the fragility of freedom.

## **CREATIVE WRITING**

## **GRADES 11-12**

This semester-long class is designed to balance freedom and structure in order to enrich students creativity and improve their writing. They will write using various forms and techniques. Projects include different kinds of short stories, character sketches, and a small poetry portfolio. Students will also keep a journal and participate in group workshops.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

<u><b>NUMBER</b></u>	<u><b>COURSE NAME</b></u>	<u><b>LEVEL</b></u>	<u><b>CREDITS</b></u>	<u><b>GRADE</b></u>
212	American History	2	1	9
222	World History	2	1	10
231	American Government	2	.5	11
232	Personal Finance	2	.5	11
233	Adv. American Government	3	.5	11
<u><b>ELECTIVES</b></u>				
241	Sociology	2	.5	12
242	Psychology	2	.5	12
250	Pennsylvania History	2	.5	11-12
254	Advanced Placement U.S. History	4	1	12
261	Political Geography	2	.5	11-12
262	American Conflicts	2	.5	11-12
263	Cold War America	2	.5	11-12
264	History of Sports	2	.5	11-12

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **AMERICAN HISTORY (1865 - Present)**

### **GRADE 9**

The American history course offers students a chronological overview of topics ranging from post-Civil War Reconstruction to the present day. There will be emphasis placed on the political, economic, cultural and social changes in the United States over the course of these topics. Incorporated into the course will be geography skills, reading comprehension, and primary source analysis.

### **WORLD HISTORY**

### **GRADE 10**

This course will provide the student with a comprehensive overview of the development of world civilization. The course will begin with an exploration of the ancient evidence of man's evolution and the conditions that led to the development of ancient societies. Finally, we will focus on the development of kingdoms, empires and modern nations and various struggles faced by these societies throughout history. In particular, emphasis will be placed on the history, culture and religions of the Middle East and Europe.

### **AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (REGULAR/ADVANCED)**

### **GRADE 11**

This course will present an overview of the Constitution and the various duties and powers granted to each of the three branches of the federal government. If time permits, the students also study such topics as the Electoral College, Bureaucracy and Congressional Committees. In particular, emphasis will be placed on the development, balances, and historical precedents set by the branches in their Constitutional duties.

### **PERSONAL FINANCE**

### **GRADE 11**

Personal Finance will provide an overview of various financial situations and concepts that students will encounter in daily life. In this course, students will study the following concepts: basic economy, budget preparation and savings, taxation, banking and financial institutions, credit, and investments.

### **SOCIOLOGY**

### **GRADE 12**

Sociology is the social science in which social groups are studied. This course will present an overview of the history, methodology and research of various societal groups. Sociology encompasses the following topics: culture, socialization, social structure, sexism, ageism, race, ethnicity, and deviance. There will be case studies and text considerations to review within this course.

*Pre-requisite:* Approval of the Department chair required.

## **PSYCHOLOGY**

**GRADE 12**

Psychology is the social science concerned with the study of human behavior. This course will present an overview of the history, methodology and theory of human behavior and brain function. Psychology encompasses the following topics: psychological science, psychological research and data, learning, memory, personality theory, and abnormal psychology.

*Pre-requisite:* Approval of the Department chair required.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES HISTORY**

**GRADES 11-12**

This course is offered to able, highly motivated juniors and seniors. It is a full year course and is comparable to a college introductory survey-seminar course. The history of the United States will be studied (Colonial to Present) with attention being given to the political, diplomatic, economic, social, and intellectual developments of the period. Students will have the opportunity to take the AP exam in the spring by which they may obtain college credit for their work.

*Pre-requisite:* Approval of Department Chairperson. Grade of 95 or above in all previous social studies classes.

*Please Note: Students enrolled in AP classes are required to take the AP test in the spring.*

## **POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY**

**GRADES 11-12**

This course provides the student with an introduction to the basic concepts of geographic study such as the five themes of geography. In addition, there will be an emphasis on the similarities and differences of the major world regions in terms of historical, political, economic and social development.

## **AMERICAN CONFLICTS**

**GRADES 11-12**

This course is an overall survey of the various conflicts America has been involved in beginning with the Seven Years War and ending with the current conflicts in the Middle East. With each of the conflicts, there will be an overview of the battles and their significance as well as the economic, cultural, social and political impact each has had upon the United States of America.

## **PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY**

**GRADES 11-12**

This course is an overall survey of the historical development of the State of Pennsylvania from its foundation to the present day. The topics to be studied will include: the arrival of the colonists, the first settlements, westward expansion and Indian conflicts, the crucial role of the State in the French and Indian War as well as the Revolutionary War. The course will also focus on the impact of the industrialization and labor movements in the state during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Finally, there will be a brief overview of recent historical events.

## **COLD WAR AMERICA**

**GRADES 11-12**

This course will take an intensive investigation of American History from the end of World War II to the Fall of the Soviet Union in the 1990's. Factors studies will include not only the United States but also global perspectives. Some of the topics to be investigated will include but not limited to: NATO and the Warsaw Pact, the crisis in Korea, Cuba, Vietnam, Afghanistan, as well as other global hotspots. Particular emphasis will be placed on American Foreign Policy and the working relationships of the American Presidents with the Soviet Premiers.

## **HISTORY OF SPORTS**

**GRADES 11-12**

This course will examine the development of sport(s) in America. We will focus on the students gaining a better understanding of the inner relationship that sport has on social, economic, cultural and political forces. We will examine the historical context as well as significance of gender, race, ethnicity and social class. We will do historical investigation through readings, primary sources, audio and visual materials as well as class discussions.

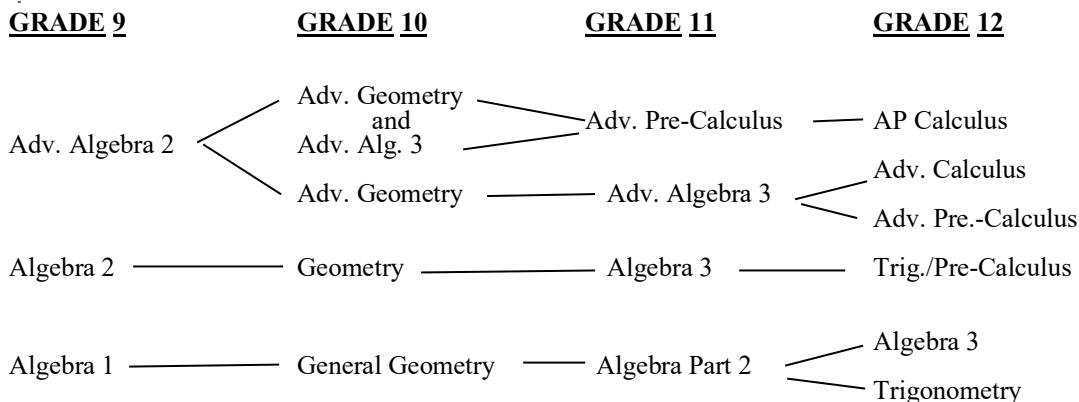
## **MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT**

<u><b>NUMBER</b></u>	<u><b>COURSE NAME</b></u>	<u><b>LEVEL</b></u>	<u><b>CREDITS</b></u>	<u><b>GRADE</b></u>
311	Advanced Algebra 2	3	1	9
312	Algebra 2	2	1	9
313	Algebra 1	1	1	9
321	Advanced Geometry	3	1	10
322	Geometry	2	1	10
323	General Geometry	1	1	10-11
332	Algebra 3	2	1	9-12

### **ELECTIVES**

324	Advanced Algebra 3	3	1	9-10-11
329	Advanced Algebra 3a	4	1	9
333	Algebra Part 2	1	1	10-11
341	Advanced Calculus	3	1	12
342	Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus	2	1	12
344	Trigonometry	2	.5	12
345	Advanced Pre-Calculus	3	1	11-12
346	Advanced Placement Calculus	4	1	12
350	Statistics & Probability	2	.5	11-12
351	Consumer Mathematics	2	.5	11-12

## **FLOW CHART FOR MATH COURSES**



## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

(NOTE - The Math Department offers a test for all 8th grade students. Arrangements to take the test should be made with the Studies Office during late Spring of the 8th grade.)

NOTE: All advanced level Math classes and all Juniors and Seniors enrolled in Math classes are required to have a graphing calculator. We recommend the TI-84 or TI- 84 plus. Students who purchase other calculators must be able to operate them. Calculators will not be supplied.



This course is offered to students who need more time and practice with various concepts. It is the foundation for further study in mathematics development through examination of the real number system. Basic concepts in solving equations and inequalities, polynomials, factoring, and graphing are among the topics introduced.

*Pre-requisite:* Students will be placed in Algebra 1 by the Mathematics Department with the recommendation of the eighth- grade teacher.

## **ALGEBRA 2**

**GRADE 9**

The foundation for the further study of mathematics is developed through an examination of the real number system. A review of solving techniques for equations and inequalities, along with the following will be discussed: exponents, polynomials, factoring, linear equations, systems of equations and inequalities and radicals.

*Pre-requisite:* Students will be placed in Algebra 2 by the Mathematics Department with the recommendation of the eighth- grade teacher.

## **ADVANCED ALGEBRA 2**

**GRADE 9**

This course is intended for those who have high ability in mathematics. A complete in-depth study of Algebra is done. Topics include polynomials, factoring, linear equations and inequalities, quadratic equations, rational expressions, graphing of linear functions and polynomial functions, and radicals. Considerable time is devoted to problem solving techniques and word problems.

*Pre-requisite:* Students will be placed in Advanced Algebra 2 by the Mathematics Department with the recommendation of the eighth- grade teacher.

## **ADVANCED GEOMETRY**

**GRADE 10**

This course is an intensive study of aspects of plane and solid geometry. Principles of geometry are covered with an emphasis on deductive reasoning and the development of thinking skills. The structure of proofs is also emphasized.

*Pre-requisite:* Advanced Algebra 2 and/or approval of Department Chairperson.

## **GEOMETRY**

**GRADE 10**

This course attempts to recognize and develop an understanding of Geometric concepts and principles. Reasoning and thinking skills are developed, to be used in further applications of math.

## **GENERAL GEOMETRY**

**GRADES 10-11**

This course is for students who have completed Algebra 2 OR Algebra 1. The course is designed to cover the basic vocabulary, figures, and concepts of Geometry.

## **ADVANCED ALGEBRA 3**

**GRADE 9-10-11**

This course is to be taken by freshmen or sophomores entering the Advanced Placement Program or Juniors in the Advanced curriculum. It can be taken concurrently with Advanced Geometry. In this course, emphasis is placed on an in-depth understanding of the structure of algebra including the Cartesian coordinate plane and the use of the graphing calculator. Topics include linear and quadratic equations and inequalities, systems of equations, functions, matrices, polynomial equations and functions, radicals, complex numbers and rational expressions and equations. 3A offered to freshmen who qualify based on the Math Placement Test, Standardized Tests, teacher recommendation and department approval.

*Pre-requisite:* Approval of Department Chairperson.

### **ALGEBRA 3**

**GRADES 11-12**

This course begins with a general review of algebra topics that include: equations, inequalities, polynomials and factoring, linear equations and systems of equations and inequalities. Problem solving techniques are emphasized and refined as higher mathematical concepts are introduced. The complex number system, radicals, second degree equations, graphing of advanced functions and application problems are discussed.

### **ALGEBRA, PART 2**

**GRADES 10-11**

This course is for those students who have completed Algebra 1. The material covered in this course is that which is normally covered during the second semester of Algebra 2. Upon completing this course, the students will be able to take Algebra 3.

### **ADVANCED CALCULUS**

**GRADE 12**

**This course must be taken concurrently with Advanced Pre-Calculus.** This is a second semester class. The introduction to Calculus in the second semester is designed to prepare students for college Calculus. Limits, derivatives, integral and continuity are covered.

*Pre-requisites:* Advanced Algebra 3 and/or approval of Department Chairperson.

### **TRIGONOMETRY/PRE-CALCULUS**

**GRADE 12**

Trigonometric functions, graphs, circular functions and triangle applications are covered in the first semester of this course. Material in the second semester is intended as a final preparation for college mathematics. Topics include complex numbers, functions, logarithms, and sequence and series.

*Pre-requisites:* Algebra 3 and/or approval of Department Chairperson

### **TRIGONOMETRY**

**GRADE 11-12**

In this semester course, the material covered is the same as that covered in the first semester of Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus. This course is for students who do not have the Pre-requisite to take Pre-Calculus.

### **ADVANCED PRE-CALCULUS**

**GRADES 11-12**

This course is to be taken prior to Advanced Placement Calculus or concurrently with Advanced Calculus. It is intended to prepare the student for the study of calculus. Course content will include topics in trigonometry such as right triangle relationships and applications, degree and radian measure, trigonometric identities, graphs of the functions, use of the unit circle and Laws of Sines and Cosines with oblique triangles. Topics include polynomials and polynomial functions, conics, exponential and logarithmic functions, and an introduction to selected topics of calculus including limits and derivatives. There will be significant emphasis on graphs of functions and the use of the graphing calculator. Although there will be some extensions of topics introduced in the prerequisite advanced algebra course, this course is not an algebra course, and a student will need a sound understanding of basic algebra concepts if he/she registers for the course. The course is a "dual credit" course developed in conjunction with Alvernia University and is worth 3 college credits if the students meet the necessary criteria.

*Pre-requisite:* Advanced Algebra 3 with approval of Department Chairperson.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS**

**GRADE 12**

This course is for students who have completed both a Pre-Calculus and a Trigonometry course. College level material is presented. Topics include limits, continuity, differentiation, integration, and applications. Students will have the opportunity to take the Advanced Placement Test in the spring by which they may obtain college credit for their work.

*Pre-requisite:* Approval of Department Chairperson. Must have taken Advanced Pre-Calculus and have a grade of 93 or higher in Advanced Pre-Calculus.

***Please Note: Students enrolled in AP classes are required to take the AP test in the spring.***

## **STATISTICS & PROBABILITY**

**GRADE 11-12**

This course is a one semester elective mathematics course offered to Juniors and Seniors. The course will introduce students to topics in statistics and probability. The topics to be discussed are distribution of sample data, graphical applications, numerical methods for analyzing data, permutations, combinations, rules of probability and various probability distributions.

*Pre-requisite:* Approval of Department Chairperson.

## **CONSUMER MATHEMATICS**

**GRADE 11-12**

The purpose of this course is to focus on every day applications of basic math skills as they are applied to real life topics. Students will learn how to use basic math skills for situations such as buying a car, budgeting money, investing, paying taxes, etc.

The types of learning activities that the students will engage during this course are as follows; group investigations, partner collaborations, computer course work (Khan Academy), and individual work. Multiple learning styles are utilized to help students understand and explain key Algebraic concepts while enhancing creativity, communication, collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving, and decision-making. Students will experience hands-on activities and be required to participate in class discussions as well as open ended problem solving activities.

Students may conduct computer-assisted research and/or assignments and use word processing to complete some assignments and projects. Students will also use collaborative tools to help them achieve course goals by creating multi-media presentations.

## **SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

<b><u>NUMBER</u></b>	<b><u>COURSE NAME</u></b>	<b><u>LEVEL</u></b>	<b><u>CREDITS</u></b>	<b><u>GRADE</u></b>
411	Advanced Physical Science	3	1	9
412	Physical Science	2	1	9
413	General Physical Science	1	1	9
421	Advanced Biology	3	1	10
422	Biology	2	1	10
423	General Biology	1	1	10-11

### **ELECTIVES**

431	Advanced Chemistry	3	1	11
432	Chemistry	2	1	11
433	General Chemistry	1	1	10-11-12
441	Advanced Physics	3	1	12
442	Physics	2	1	12
451	Advanced Anatomy and Physiology	3	1	11-12
462	Environment Science - Global Issues	2	.5	11-12
463	Environmental Science - Ecology	2	.5	11-12
480	AP Biology	4	1	11-12

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

The primary goal of the Science Department is to support the school's mission statement in meeting and enriching the life needs of its individual students to meet all of life's challenges. To help our students successfully meet all of life's challenges, the science department strives toward helping students to develop effective communication skills, develop skills of analytical and critical thinking, develop problem-solving skills, use technology resourcefully and effectively, work in cooperative groups, become independent self-directed learners and become scientifically literate.

### **ADVANCED PHYSICAL SCIENCE**

### **GRADE 9**

This course serves as an introduction to chemistry and physics. It is intended for those students that need the highest academic challenge, are proficient in math and writing and have an interest in pursuing a science-related career. Students will study scientific principles and learn scientific reasoning through discovery and inquiry. The course includes a variety of hands-on laboratory exercises and demonstrations as students progress through the year of in-depth study of matter and energy that will be the foundation for follow-up science courses. The course is recommended for those students who are college-bound with interest in careers of health or natural sciences.

*Pre-requisite:* Approval of Department Chairperson

## **PHYSICAL SCIENCE**

**GRADE 9**

This course serves as an introduction to chemistry and physics. Students will study scientific principles and learn scientific reasoning through discovery and inquiry. The course includes a variety of hands-on laboratory exercises and demonstrations as students progress through a year of study of matter and energy that will serve as a foundation for follow-up courses. Students will gain a working knowledge of the metric system and develop their skills in writing and mathematical problem solving. The course is recommended for students who may be college-bound but choose not to pursue a career in health and natural sciences.

## **GENERAL PHYSICAL SCIENCE**

**GRADE 9**

This course provides basic introduction to chemistry and physics. The course includes a variety of hands-on laboratory exercises and demonstrations as students progress through a year of study of matter and energy similar to topics covered in the physical science course, but at a level more suited to the students' ability level. Students will gain knowledge of standards of measurement and continue to develop skills in writing and mathematical problem solving. The course will also provide the student with applicable careers, global connections, and practical applications in a technological society.

## **ADVANCED BIOLOGY**

**GRADE 10**

Advanced Biology is a college preparatory course designed for students planning on majoring in a natural or health related sciences in college. The course has a lecture and a lab component that provides the student with a rigorous curriculum that places emphasis on topics in biochemistry, cell and molecular biology, heredity and genetics, plant structure and function, animal structure and function, ecology, and evolutionary biology. This laboratory-oriented course utilizes college level materials and offers units of study in experimental design. The student will be required to do supplemental readings, engage in class discussions and complete both individual and group projects. This course is highly recommended for those who intend to take Advanced Placement Biology.

*Pre-requisite:* Approval from the science department chairperson or current science teacher.

## **BIOLOGY**

**GRADE 10**

Biology is a college preparatory course that is designed for students who are not planning on pursuing a career in the natural or health sciences. The curriculum provides the student with solid foundation of many biological principles. Emphasis will be placed on biological concepts in biochemistry, cellular and molecular biology, genetics, evolution, ecology and a systematic approach to organisms. The student will be required to participate in individual and group projects, laboratory exercises and class discussions that are designed to further build the student's language of science.

*Pre-requisite:* Approval from the science department chairperson or current science teacher.

## **GENERAL BIOLOGY**

**GRADE 10-11**

This is an introductory Biology course that is designed to provide the students with a survey of Biological principles that are rooted in everyday life experiences. The course involves class discussion, hands-on activities and labs that will introduce the student to essential topics of biology while keeping the language of science as informal and simple as possible.

*Pre-requisite:* Approval from the science department chairperson or current science teacher.

## **ADVANCED CHEMISTRY**

**GRADE 11**

This course will help students understand key components of chemistry. Students will review and reinforce basic concepts, explore practical applications in chemistry, learn and practice safe laboratory techniques and procedures, and apply problem-solving and mathematical skills in preparation for college level chemistry courses.

*Pre-requisite:* Approval from the science department chairperson or current science teacher.

## **CHEMISTRY**

**GRADE 11**

This course will help students understand key components of chemistry. Students will review and reinforce basic concepts, explore practical applications in chemistry, learn and practice safe laboratory techniques and procedures, and apply problem-solving and mathematical skills in preparation for college level chemistry courses.

*Pre-requisite:* Approval from the science department chairperson or current science teacher.

## **GENERAL CHEMISTRY**

**GRADES 10-11-12**

This course will help students understand key components of chemistry. Students will review and reinforce basic concepts, explore practical applications in chemistry, learn and practice safe laboratory techniques and procedures, and apply problem-solving and mathematical skills. This course will also provide the student with applicable careers, global connections, and practical applications in a technological society.

*Pre-requisite:* Approval from the science department chairperson or current science teacher.

## **ADVANCED PHYSICS**

**GRADE 12**

This course is designed to provide a strong basis for students who intend to take further science courses in college, especially those interested in majoring in science of the fields of engineering or medicine. Topics studied will include vector and scalar quantities, straight line motion and motion in a plane, forces, work, energy and momentum, light (considered as part of the electromagnetic spectrum) and sound; magnetism and electricity; and modern physics. This course is a "Dual Credit" course developed in conjunction with Alvernia University. The course is worth 4 college credits if the student meets the necessary criteria. This is a laboratory course.

*Pre-requisite:* It is recommended that the student has taken and passed Algebra 3 with an 85% or higher

Approval from the science department chairperson or current science teacher.

## **PHYSICS**

**GRADE 12**

This course is designed to present a solid basis in classical physics. Topics studied will include vector and scalar quantities, straight line motion and motion in a plane, forces, work, energy and momentum; light (considered as part of the electromagnetic spectrum) and sound; magnetism and electricity; and modern physics. Mathematical applications will be stressed where appropriate, but emphasis will also be placed on practical applications of physics to daily living. Students are required to submit an independent laboratory project or term paper each semester.

*Pre-requisite:* Approval of Department Chairperson or Junior Science Teacher

## **ADVANCED ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY**

**GRADES 11-12**

This lab-based science elective is designed primarily for students who are interested in college preparation for majors in biology or health-related careers. The rigorous college curriculum is designed to provide the student with a detailed study of the structure and function of the human body systems and their coordination in maintaining homeostasis. Dissection of several vertebrate organisms and vertebrate organs will occur. This course is a “Dual Credit” course developed in conjunction with Alvernia University. The course is worth 4 college credits if the student meets the necessary criteria.

*Pre-requisite:* A strong background in biology and chemistry is highly recommended.

Approval from the science department chairperson or current science teacher

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE - GLOBAL ISSUES AND HUMAN IMPACT**

**GRADES 11-12**

A lab-based science elective that enables students to develop an understanding of natural and man-made environments and environmental problems the world faces. Emphasis will be placed on Earth's systems and resources, humans and the environment, pollution and waste production, energy use and global change, and civic responsibility toward sustainability. This will also examine environmental policy, ethics, and economics.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE - ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION**

**GRADES 11-12**

A lab-based science elective that enables students to develop an introductory understanding of natural environments. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the Earth's systems, soil and agriculture, biodiversity and conservation, biomes and aquatic ecosystems, evolution and community ecology, and population ecology.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY**

**GRADES 11-12**

AP Biology is a rigorous and demanding course, which is the equivalent of an introductory college biology course. Content will be covered in more depth and greater expectations will be placed on interpretation and analysis of information than previous biology courses. In addition, statistical analysis of data and modeling of concepts will be expected. A significant amount of learning must be completed at home to allow time for discussions, labs, and inquiry during scheduled class time. AP Biology will develop students' analytical and critical thinking skills, technical writing skills, and scientific literacy to prepare them for college science curriculum and the AP Biology exam. The AP Biology curriculum encompasses 4 “big Ideas”, with essential knowledge and process skills that support each other. These “Big Ideas” include: Big Idea 1: Evolution - the process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life; Big Idea 2: Cellular Process (Energy and Communications) - Biological systems Utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow; Big Idea 3: Genetics and Information Transfer - living systems store, retrieve, transmit, and respond to information essential to life processes; Big Idea 4: Interactions - Biological systems interact and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties.

*Pre-requisite:* Students should have taken and passed the following courses with the average indicated or higher: advanced biology (93%) or biology (97%). Students should have taken Algebra 3 and Chemistry or be taking these classes concurrently with AP Biology.

Approval of Department Chairperson or current Science Teacher

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT**

<b><u>NUMBER</u></b>	<b><u>COURSE NAME</u></b>	<b><u>LEVEL</u></b>	<b><u>CREDITS</u></b>	<b><u>GRADE</u></b>
505	Intro to Spanish	1	1	9-10
520	Spanish 1	2	1	9-11
521	Spanish 2	2	1	10-12
522	Advanced Spanish 3	3	1	11-12
523	Advanced Spanish 4	3	1	12
530	Ecclesiastical Latin 1	2	.5	11-12
531	Ecclesiastical Latin 1	2	1	11-12

### **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

#### **SPANISH 1**

#### **GRADES 9-11**

This is an introductory course to the Spanish language and culture. Students learn the basics of listening, speaking, and translation. The main emphasis is on conversational Spanish. Four objectives must be covered in each class to realize this objective: vocabulary, conversation, grammar, and translation. A cross cultural perspective is encouraged by the introduction of everyday elements of Spanish civilization.

#### **SPANISH 2**

#### **GRADES 10-12**

This course is a continuation of the basics learned in Spanish 1. The emphasis is on reading and Spanish grammar, but greater use of tenses and more linguistics is applied. An in-depth treatment of phrases and commonly used idiomatic expressions is taught. Extensive use of language in context is the basis of the course.

#### **ADVANCED SPANISH 3**

#### **GRADES 11-12**

This course continues the development of the basic language skills. Students continue verb study as well as a more in-depth study of grammar. Literature as it applies to Spanish civilization is introduced. Conversation and listening skills must be strong enough to comprehend the course, which is taught entirely in Spanish in the second semester.

*Pre-requisite:* Average of 93 in Spanish 2 and approval of teacher.

#### **ADVANCED SPANISH 4**

#### **GRADE 12**

This course offers an overall, in-depth study of idioms, conversation, literature, civilization and linguistics. A Spanish play or novel is read each semester and discussion as to how it relates to Spanish history. Notes are given and taken in Spanish. Class discussions on topics of current interest will be conducted in Spanish.

*Pre-requisite:* Average of 93 in Advanced Spanish 3 and approval of teacher.



## **ECCLESIASTICAL LATIN 1**

**GRADES 11 & 12**

The purpose of this course is to give students a mastery primarily of academic vocabulary. A mastery of Latin enables the student to more easily understand the more technical academic vocabulary of both the sciences and the humanities. Students will also be introduced to the systematic, grammar-first approach to learning Latin that is suitable for all ages and learners. Extensive exercises and drills will be used to enhance student comprehension of Latin verbs and nouns. The overarching focus of the class is on teaching students how to identify and translate basic grammatical construction.

## **INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH**

**GRADES 9-10**

A 2 year-sequence introducing the foreign language and culture of Spain and France. This course will rotate between Spanish and French. Students will gain communication skills and proficiency in each of the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. These courses will not fulfill college language requirements.

*Prerequisite:* An English language and Reading test will be administered to determine eligibility of these classes. English and Foreign Language Department Chairpersons will determine final eligibility based on the test scores, student records and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher recommendations.

## **PENN STATE DUAL ENROLLMENT**

\*Subject to change

## **ALVERNIA DUAL ENROLLMENT**

The following classes are dual enrollment through Alvernia: Advanced Pre-Calculus, Anatomy & Physiology, and Advanced Physics. All classes are taught by teachers at Nativity BVM High School. For more details, go to the course description for each course.

## **DESALES DUAL ENROLLMENT**

There will be dual enrollment offered through DeSales, same as Alvernia. Courses available for dual enrollment will be announced at a later date.

## **ART AND MUSIC DEPARTMENTS**

<b><u>NUMBER</u></b>	<b><u>COURSE NAME</u></b>	<b><u>LEVEL</u></b>	<b><u>CREDITS</u></b>	<b><u>GRADE</u></b>
702	Art 1.1	2	.5	11-12
703	Art 1.2	2	.5	11-12
704	Art 2.1	2	.5	12
705	Art 2.2	2	.5	12
715	Music Appreciation	2	.25	10
716	Art Appreciation	2	.5	10
720	Band	0	1	9-12
725	Chorus	0	1	9-12
726	Music Theory	2	.5	11-12
727	Rock and Roll History	2	.5	11-12
728	Drum/Percussion Lab	2	.5	11-12

### **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

#### **ART 1.1 and 1.2**

#### **GRADES 11-12**

These semester courses present a diverse program for beginners. It combines developing basic skills as well as creative thinking. There are 2-dimensional experiences with pencil, pen and ink, charcoal, tempera and acrylic paints, and various printmaking techniques. Also, some 3-dimensional experiences such as sand casting will be offered.

#### **ART 2.1 and 2.2**

#### **GRADE 12**

These semester courses build on the skills learned in Art 1.1 and/or 1.2. There are more challenging projects to stimulate imagination and an exploration of new media, such as ,calligraphy, scratchboard, sculpting, wood-burning and a variety of mixed media including collage.

*Pre-requisite:* Approval of Art teacher.

[The above courses will be offered based on the availability of a teacher.]

#### **MUSIC APPRECIATION**

#### **GRADE 10**

This nine week survey course will provide students with an introduction, background and basic foundation to the study of the humanities. The course will be devoted to a focus of what the humanities are and will provide students with the primary background in each of the disciplines. musical interpretation.

#### **ART APPRECIATION**

#### **GRADE 10**

Art appreciation is the study and understanding of the visual arts, including painting, sculpture, architecture, and other forms of expression. It involves learning about the elements and principles of art, as well as the historical and cultural context in which works of art were created.

#### **BAND**

#### **GRADES 9-12**

Membership in the band is an opportunity to explore and enjoy music through participation in a number of musical experiences ranging from small ensembles to full concert and marching band. Through these experiences we enhance our knowledge of classical as well as contemporary music.

## **CHORUS**

**GRADES 9-12**

Membership in the Chorus is an opportunity to explore and enjoy music through participation in various musical experiences which will include Diocesan events, concerts and performances.

## **MUSIC THEORY**

**GRADES 11-12**

This course is an introduction to the theoretical basis of music. Emphasis will be placed on melodic, rhythmic, and harmonic elements of music through in-depth study and analysis of musical examples. Students must have the ability to read music.

*Pre-requisite:* Approval of Music teacher.

## **ROCK AND ROLL HISTORY**

**GRADES 11-12**

Discover the History of Rock 'n' Roll, you will learn where rock music started and how it evolved. Students will get a chance to explore revolutionary artists who defined rock 'n' roll. You will learn about music business trends. Major inventions and the highs and lows of rock music over the past 60 years.

*Pre-requisite:* Approval of Music teacher

## **DRUM/PERCUSSION LAB**

**GRADES 11-12**

Drum roll please... This course is to learn all about drums and percussion! Students will gain a solid foundation in fundamentals and musicianship. Areas of study will be concept of time, develop proper grip, achieve balance and evenness between your hands. You will learn techniques of all types of drums and percussion, including traditional drumming, and mallet instruments such as tympani, xylophone and bells. Drums and Percussion Lab is a self-paced, "learn as you go" class.

*Pre-requisite:* Approval of Music teacher

## **HEALTH and PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS**

<b><u>NUMBER</u></b>	<b><u>COURSE NAME</u></b>	<b><u>LEVEL</u></b>	<b><u>CREDITS</u></b>	<b><u>GRADE</u></b>
800	Health 1	2	.25	9
810	Physical Education 1	2	.25	9
820	Physical Education 2	2	.25	10
830	Physical Education 3	2	.25	11
840	Physical Education 4	2	.25	12
850	Personal Fitness	2	.25	12
860	First Aid	2	.25	11-12

### **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

#### **HEALTH 1**

#### **GRADE 9**

This is a first level course designed to discuss the major body systems with an emphasis on how development occurs. Topics to be discussed will include physical fitness, hygiene, nutrition, and weight control, smoking, alcohol and communicable diseases.

#### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

#### **GRADES 9-12**

The physical education program uses focus interval training. This program will provide lifetime fitness and knowledge. The evaluation process will be based upon pre-testing and post-testing showing the improvement made by the end of the course. This course will also teach students fundamental skills of team sports.

#### **PERSONAL FITNESS**

#### **GRADE 12**

This course is designed to promote muscular strength, endurance, flexibility, enhancement/growth of muscle and the total physical fitness of the body. The course will provide knowledge of the weight room, weight room etiquette, safety and how to perform core lifts.

#### **FIRST AID**

#### **GRADE 11-12**

Students will learn emergency first aid procedures for treatment and prevention of injuries. This will enable students to take appropriate steps to help keep a victim alive or help keep injuries from becoming worse until professional help arrives. This course will act as a foundation for First Aid and CPR certification .

## **VOCATIONAL - TECHNICAL PROGRAM**

The time shared vocational-technical program is scheduled in collaboration with the area Vocational-Technical Schools. Students in grades 10, 11, or 12 may apply. We recognize that some high school students have special aptitudes for vocational and technical subjects which cannot be adequately provided for in the ordinary high school program; therefore, we allow students to choose these subjects which are offered at the neighboring technical schools. Students who select this program will attend Nativity B.V.M. High School for one semester and the Vocational-Technical School for one semester. Students will receive the appropriate credits for each semester that they attend the technical school. Vo-Tech students are on a special schedule to be set up individually. Any student in Vo-Tech must select Independent Vo-Tech English to earn the required English credits. Any student interested in attending Vo-Tech must inform the Guidance Office, in writing, no later than September of the Sophomore Year.

## **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

Students become academically eligible to be nominated for the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapter of the National Honor Society of Nativity B.V.M. High School by meeting the following academic requirements:

### Grades 12, 11 and 10:

1. Must have at least a 3.80 GPA in Cumulative Class Rank as a final GPA in the previous year.
2. Must have at least a 3.80 GPA in Current Class Rank as of the 1st Quarter in the current year.

### ***Students new to Nativity B.V.M. High School***

### Grade 12 and 11:

Must have at least a 3.70 GPA or above in the Current Class Rank as of the 1st quarter in the current year. The transfer student must have attended Nativity for at least 1 semester before being eligible and also have a letter of recommendation from the principal of his/her previous school stating that he/she is qualified to be considered as a member of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary High School Chapter of the National Honor Society.

\*All academic NHS eligibility requirements are reviewed during the summer. Any changes will be published in the 2025-2026 Student Handbook.

## VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL

Several students will have the opportunity to participate in a cutting-edge instructional program, Virtual High School. More and more colleges are offering this self-paced instruction as a way to earn a degree, especially at the graduate level.

The Virtual High School is an exciting initiative that allows a student tremendous flexibility to take on online class. VHS offers over 200 exciting courses to students interested to expanding their experiences to classes not normally offered in the high school.

Some of the courses offered are for college credit, (there is a cost involved for these credits), and most of the Advanced Placement courses are offered. (All AP fees apply and students who enroll in any AP class are required to take the AP exam.) Students taking an AP course will need to pay a fee of seventy five dollars (\$75) that is required by the VHS program. Also some classes have a lab kit associated with the course and must be purchased by the student.

VHS also offers many standard level high school courses that enhance the program that Nativity can offer only through this opportunity. Only courses that are not normally offered at Nativity BVM High School will be open for enrollment. Students take their classes from an accredited and credentialed instructor. They will join a class of approximately 25 students, potentially from around the world, by logging on and taking the course when it is most convenient to the student. A regular class period will be set aside during the school day for the students to work on their lessons, however, work will be required on the computer outside of class and a broadband INTERNET connection is needed.

The course work is intense. Students need to be **highly motivated**, self starters, and must be able to work well on their own. The 12-week sessions require approximately 10 hours of work a week to stay up with the class.

Students are required to have the approval of the Director of Studies and also the VHS Site Coordinator for the course. Once classes begin, students will not be allowed to drop a VHS course. Grades are assigned by the VHS instructor and not teachers at Nativity BVM High School. The grades assigned will be part of the student's grade point average. Nativity's grading policy will be in effect for these classes. Students may take a maximum of one VHS class per semester. For more information, interested students and their parents are urged to investigate the program further by logging on to the VHS website: [www.govhs.org](http://www.govhs.org).

**NATIVITY BVM HIGH SCHOOL**  
POTTSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA 17901

**POINT VALUE TABLE** (to be used in determining Quality Point Average)

%	General	Regular	Advanced	AP
100	3.6	4	4.4	4.8
99	3.6	4	4.4	4.8
98	3.5	3.9	4.3	4.7
97	3.5	3.9	4.3	4.7
96	3.5	3.9	4.3	4.7
95	3.4	3.8	4.2	4.6
94	3.4	3.8	4.2	4.6
93	3.4	3.8	4.2	4.6
92	3.3	3.7	4.1	4.5
91	3.3	3.7	4.1	4.5
90	3.3	3.7	4.1	4.5
89	3	3.4	3.8	4.2
88	3	3.4	3.8	4.2
87	3	3.4	3.8	4.2
86	2.8	3.2	3.6	4
85	2.8	3.2	3.6	4
84	2.6	3	3.4	3.8
83	2.6	3	3.4	3.8
82	2.4	2.8	3.2	3.6
81	2.4	2.8	3.2	3.6
80	2.4	2.8	3.2	3.6
79	2.1	2.5	2.9	3.3
78	2.1	2.5	2.9	3.3
77	2.1	2.5	2.9	3.3
76	1.8	2.2	2.6	3
75	1.8	2.2	2.6	3
74	1.8	2.2	2.6	3
73	1.5	1.9	2.3	2.7
72	1.5	1.9	2.3	2.7
71	1.2	1.6	2	2.4
70	1.2	1.6	2	2.4





