

# California Area SD Grades 7-12



2025-2026  
Course Description Handbook

*Approved by the School Board of Directors on Wednesday, January 15, 2025*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contact Information	3
Curriculum	4
Graduation Requirements for High School Students	4
Credit Determination	4
The Scheduling Process	4
Changes of Schedule	5
Course Prerequisite	5
Credit Requirement for Promotion	5
Graduation Honors/Valedictorian Requirements	6
Pennsylvania Department of Education: Graduation Pathways	8
Students of Academic Excellence	9
Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, & Cum Laude	10
Graduation Ceremony	11
Summer School	11
Recommended College Preparatory and NCAA Eligibility Program	11
Course Offerings: English Language Arts	12
Course Offerings: Mathematics	13
Course Offerings: Science	14
Course Offerings: Humanities, Social Studies, & History	14
Course Offerings: Career Planning	15
Course Offerings: Business, Computers, Information, & Tech	15
Course Offerings: World Languages Course Offerings	15
Course Offerings: Personal Wellness & Physical Education	16
Course Offerings: Visual, Performing, Musical, & Theatrical Arts	16
Administrative Recommendation Courses	17
Course Offerings:	18
California Career & Technical Education Programs	18
Dual Enrollment Courses through	
Mon Valley Career & Technology Center	20
College in the High School (Saint Francis University)	21
English/Language Arts Course Descriptions	24
Mathematics Course Descriptions:	35
Science Course Descriptions:	45
Humanities, Social Studies, and Histories	
Course Descriptions:	56

Careers Course Descriptions:	66
Business, Computers, Information, & Technology Course Descriptions:	69
World Language & Cultures Course Descriptions:	78
Visual, Musical, and Performing Arts Course Descriptions:	85
Physical Education, Health, and Wellness Course Descriptions:	97
College & Career Readiness:	99
Programs of Learning:	104

## **Contact Information**

California Area Middle/High School Office  
11 Trojan Way, Coal Center, PA 15423

*Prepared under the direction of:*

Dr. Joshua Pollock  
7-12 Principal  
(724) 785-5800 ext. 1202  
[pollockj@calsd.org](mailto:pollockj@calsd.org)

*Lead Scheduler for Grades 7-9*

Mrs. Nadia Uhall  
7-12 School Counselor  
(724) 785-5800 ext. 1204  
[uhalln@calsd.org](mailto:uhalln@calsd.org)

*Lead Scheduler for Grades 10-12*

Mrs. Dara Mudry  
Guidance Secretary  
(724) 785-5800 ext. 1201  
[mudryd@calsd.org](mailto:mudryd@calsd.org)

## **California Area School District Administration**

Dr. Laura Jacob  
Mrs. Lynn Hudak  
Mrs. Stephanie Hoesly  
Dr. Joshua Pollock  
Ms. Rachel Nagy  
Mr. Jeremy Hodge  
Mr. Jeff Hoffman  
Mr. Darwin Manges  
Mr. Chris Wilson

## **California Area School District Board of Directors**

Mr. Barry Niccolai  
Mr. John Bitonti  
Mr. Benjamin Neil  
Mrs. Susan Baumgard  
Mr. Joe Grodz  
Mrs. Gina Martin  
Mr. Chad Ross  
Ms. Diane Zielensky  
Mrs. Maria Hurley-Ziolecki



## Curriculum

The California Area High School curriculum offers a diverse range of courses designed to meet students' needs as they prepare for college, technical school, military service, or career opportunities. Graduation requirements ensure that California students gain a strong foundation in core subjects while engaging in an in-depth study of critical areas, thoroughly preparing them for their future endeavors.

### Graduation Requirements for High School Students

To graduate from California Area High School, students must earn the minimum required credits throughout their high school career (see chart below).

Subject Area	Credit Requirement
English Language Arts	4
Mathematics	3
Science <i>Minimum of 3 courses</i>	3
Social Studies	3
Career Planning	0.5
Electives*	14.5
Physical Education & Health <i>Must be taken Annually</i>	2
Minimum Total Credits for Graduation	30

### Credit Determination

Course credit is officially awarded when a student successfully completes a course with a grade of 60% or higher and meets the attendance policy requirements. The credit value for each course is based on the length of time the course is in session. To receive credit, students must achieve a passing grade and adhere to the attendance requirements outlined in the student handbook.

### The Scheduling Process

The school counselor will assist students with pre-registering for classes when they visit classrooms during the second semester. Students are encouraged to discuss their course selections with the school counselor and/or instructors before making final decisions. Pre-schedule recommendations will be sent home for parent/guardian review, and final course requests will then be collected. Seniors will also conduct a credit check and receive individualized scheduling support.

The 7-12 school principal, as the lead scheduler for rising grades 7-9, and the school counselor, as the lead scheduler for grades 10-12, collaborate to finalize schedules. All student schedules must be approved by the principal prior to being released. Once finalized, schedules will be made available through PowerSchool."

### **Changes of Schedule**

Parents/guardians will have the opportunity to review their child's tentative schedule via PowerSchool once it is completed. A deadline for schedule changes will be communicated to students and families through newsletters, Trojan TV, email, or other mass communication channels.

After the deadline, schedule changes will only be allowed if a student needs a specific course to meet graduation requirements. Parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to review their child's tentative schedule carefully and address any concerns before the deadline.

Students have up to two weeks after the start of the school year to request schedule changes. In extenuating circumstances, the principal may waive this provision. If a student withdraws from a course after the add/drop period, a 'W' will be recorded on their transcript, and the student will not receive credit for the course.

### **Course Prerequisite**

Students must verify whether a course has a prerequisite. If a prerequisite is required, students must achieve the recommended grade average in that course to register for the next level. Exceptions to this requirement must be approved through the Principal's Office.

### **Credit Requirement for Promotion**

Academic promotion to the next grade level is determined by the number of credits earned. Students should aim to earn 7.5 credits per year to stay on track for a four-year graduation plan. To avoid retention, students at risk of falling behind are encouraged to enroll in credit recovery courses as an educational intervention. Failure to earn the required credits during the school year or through credit recovery may result in retention at the current grade level.

<b>Academic Promotion</b>	
Freshman	0 - 7 credits
Sophomore	7.5 - 14.5
Junior	15 - 22
Senior	22.5 - 28.5
Graduation	30 Credits

## Graduation Honors/Valedictorian Requirements

To be considered for honors such as valedictorian or salutatorian, a student must earn at least eight credits each year at the high school campus. In the event of a tie in grade point average (GPA), the student with the most credits earned will receive the higher class standing. A student may not earn valedictorian, salutatorian, or student of honor status if they have a "W" (withdraw) on their transcript.

As per California Area School District Policy No. 214: Class Rank, valedictorian selection will be based on a non-weighted grading system. All students with a 4.0 GPA who have met the requirements of the "Honors Program" will be considered for valedictorian status. If no students have a 4.0 GPA, the valedictorian will be the Honors Program student(s) with the highest GPA in the class.

The valedictorian must meet the following requirements under Policy 214 for that program:

4 credits of English, including:

- Honors English 9
- AP English Language & Composition
- Honors English 11
- AP English Literature & Composition

4 credits of Math, including at least one of the following:

- AP Calculus AB
- Introduction to Elementary Statistics

4 credits of Science, including:

- Biology I
- Chemistry I
- Physics I
- Physics II (or AP Physics), AP Biology, or Chemistry II

4 credits of Social Studies, including two or more of the following:

- College History I
- College History II
- Psychology
- Sociology

2 credits of Physical Education

3 credits of a World Language (same language)

10.5 credits of Electives

At least 4 College-in-the-High-School, Dual Enrollment, or AP Courses

To be considered for valedictorian, the student must have attended California Area High School for at least the full 11th and 12th grade years.

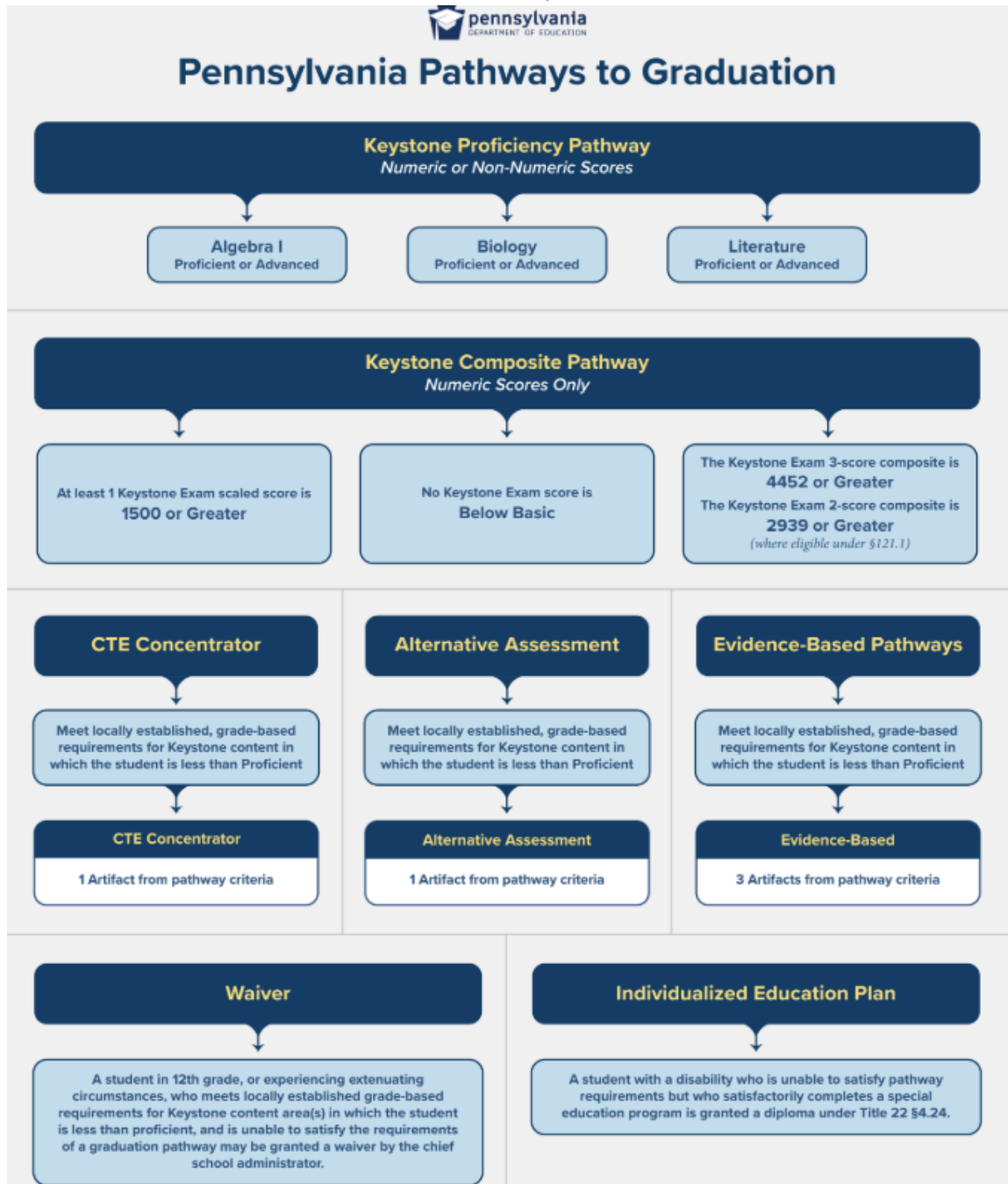
Students who take advanced courses (which are not available at CAHS) at an approved college or university, and have taken all required courses at CAHS, are eligible for valedictorian status.

College/university courses may only be substituted for required high school courses with prior permission from the principal. All college/university courses require prior registration with the Guidance Office. All grades from college/university courses will be included in GPA calculations and must be provided to the guidance office on an official college/university document within one week of receiving the grade.

The salutatorian will be the student(s) in the Honors Program with the next highest GPA in the senior class. This student(s) will also receive a medallion at the graduation ceremony.

# Pennsylvania Department of Education: Graduation Pathways

## [Graduation Pathways Document](#)



# Pathway Criteria

CTE Concentrator	Alternative Assessment	Evidence-Based
1 Artifact	1 Artifact	3 Artifacts consistent w/student goals ONE or more from Section One No more than TWO from Section Two
<p>Industry-based competency certification</p> <p>Likelihood of industry-based competency assessment success</p> <p>Readiness for continued engagement in CTE Concentrator program of study</p>	<p>Attainment of one alternative assessment score or better: ACT (21), ASVAB AFQT (31), PSAT/NMSQT (970), or SAT (1010)</p> <p>Attainment of Gold Level or better on ACT WorkKeys</p> <p>Attainment of 3 or better on AP Exam(s) related to each Keystone content area in which less than Proficient</p> <p>Attainment of 4 or better on IB Exam(s) related to each Keystone content area in which less than Proficient</p> <p>Successful completion of concurrent enrollment course(s) related to each Keystone content area in which less than Proficient</p> <p>Successful completion of a pre-apprenticeship program</p> <p>Acceptance into accredited, non-profit Institution of Higher Education (IHE) 4yr program for college-level coursework</p>	<p><b>Section 1</b></p> <p>Attainment of 630 or better on any SAT Subject Test</p> <p>Attainment of Silver Level or better on ACT WorkKeys</p> <p>Attainment of 3 or better on any AP Exam</p> <p>Attainment of 3 or better on any IB Exam</p> <p>Successful completion of any concurrent enrollment or postsecondary course</p> <p>Industry-recognized credentialization</p> <p>Acceptance into accredited, non-profit Institution of Higher Education (IHE) for college-level coursework in an other-than-4yr program</p> <p><b>Section 2</b></p> <p>Attainment of Proficient or Advanced on any Keystone Exam</p> <p>Successful completion of a service-learning project</p> <p>Letter guaranteeing full-time employment or military enlistment</p> <p>Completion of an internship, externship, or cooperative education program</p> <p>Compliance with NCAA Division II academic requirements</p>

## Students of Academic Excellence Career / Technical Program and the Academic Program

The top performing student(s) in the Career & Technology Center Program will be recognized at the graduation ceremony and will receive an “Honor Graduate” medallion. This student will be acknowledged as “The Highest Achieving Student of the Career & Technology Program.” Students are eligible for this honor if they have

not fulfilled all the obligations of the valedictorian/salutatorian program and are therefore ineligible for those honors.

The top performing student(s) who have not completed the Valedictorian/Salutatorian requirements and have not completed three years at a Career & Technology Center will be recognized at the graduation ceremony and will receive an “Honor Graduate” medallion. This student will be acknowledged as “The Highest Achieving Student of the Academic Program.”

A Career & Technology Center Student is defined as a student who has completed three years in a vocational/trade program approved by California Area High School. A Career & Technology Center Student may also receive Valedictorian/Salutatorian if all requirements are completed.

All students, regardless of their selected program of study, will be recognized for earning honors-level GPAs with the appropriate colored cords. All cords, medallions, and honor materials must be approved by the building principal prior to being worn at graduation.

The Student of Academic Excellence in the Career/Technical Program must meet the following requirements:

Have met all graduation requirements of the California Area School District  
Have completed three years of a career/technical program  
Hold the highest GPA among students in the Career/Technical Program

The criteria for these honors will be clearly outlined in the student handbook and will be based on final cumulative GPAs at the conclusion of the senior year. Recipients of these honors will be acknowledged during the graduation ceremony and will receive recognition in the commencement program.

These distinctions are intended to celebrate the dedication, effort, and academic success of our students and to inspire all members of the student body to strive for excellence. We are proud to recognize the exceptional achievements of our graduates as they prepare for future success.

## **Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, & Cum Laude**

Beginning with the graduating class of 2029, California Area High School will implement additional honors to recognize exceptional academic achievement. These prestigious designations - Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Summa Cum Laude - will be awarded at graduation to students who meet the established criteria for academic excellence.

- **Summa Cum Laude:** Latin for "with highest honor," this designation represents the pinnacle of academic achievement. Students earning this

recognition must meet or exceed a 3.75 GPA, reflecting outstanding scholastic performance and commitment to excellence.

- **Magna Cum Laude:** Latin for "with great honor," this distinction will be awarded to students who achieve a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.5-3.749. This honor signifies a high level of academic dedication and accomplishment throughout the student's high school career.
- **Cum Laude:** Latin for "with honor," this distinction will be awarded to students who achieve a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.25-3.499. This honor signifies a high level of academic dedication and accomplishment throughout the student's high school career.

## Graduation Ceremony

Students must have completed at least 30 credits and all required courses in order to participate in graduation services. Any obligations to the school or disciplinary infractions occurring at the time of graduation will delay awarding of the diploma and/or participation in graduation ceremony.

## Summer School

Summer school, credit recovery, and credit advancement opportunities may be available at the discretion of the District.

## Recommended College Preparatory and NCAA Eligibility Program

This program of studies is designed to prepare students for a four (4) year post-secondary education at an academic college or university. A variety of electives may be added to the requirements below to enable the student to concentrate in a specific area of interest. Students are advised to verify the requirements for freshman eligibility at the post-secondary level. For more information: [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)

<u>Minimum Program Requirements</u>	
English	4.0 Credits
Math (Recommended Algebra III/Trigonometry minimum)	4.0 Credits
Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and one advanced Science)	4.0 Credits
Social Studies	4.0 Credits
World Language	2.0-4.0 Credits
Physical Education/Health	2.0 Credits
Electives	10.0





## 2024-2025 Course Offerings

<b>Course Offerings: English Language Arts</b>		
<b><u>Course Name</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>	<b><u>Grade Level</u></b>
English 7	0	7
English 8	0	8
Exploratory Journalism	0	7-8
Exploratory Public Speaking & Debate	0	7-8
English 9	1	9-12
Honors English 9	1	9-12
English 10	1	10-12
AP English Language & Composition	1	10-12
English 11	1	11-12
Honors English 11	1	11-12
English 12	1	12
AP English Literature & Composition	1	12
College & Creative Writing	1	10-12
Mindfulness & The Reflective Process	0.25	9-12
Travel Literacy	1	9-12
Debate & Public Speaking	1	9-12
Film & Literature	0.25	9-12

<b>Course Offerings: Mathematics</b>		
<b><u>Course Name</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>	<b><u>Grade Level</u></b>
Mathematics 7	0	7
Mathematics 8	0	8
Mathematics 8/Algebra	0	8
Algebra I	1	9-12
Algebra IA	1	9-12
Algebra IB	1	9-12
Principles of Geometry	1	10-12
Geometry	1	9-12
Algebra II	1	10-12
Algebra III/Trigonometry	1	11-12
AP Precalculus	1	11-12
AP Calculus AB	1	11-12
Introduction to Elementary Statistics	1	11-12
Consumer Mathematics	1	11-12
AP Computer Science Principles	1	9-12

<b>Course Offerings: Science</b>		
<b><u>Course Name</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>	<b><u>Grade Level</u></b>
Physical Science 7	0	7
Natural & Life Science 8	0	8
Principles of Science	1	9-12
Earth Science	1	9-12
Astronomy	1	9-12
Environmental Science	1	9-12
Contemporary Issues in Science	1	9-12
Principles of Biology	1	9-12
Biology I	1	9-12
Principles of Chemistry	1	10-12
Chemistry I	1	10-12
Principles of Physics	1	11-12
Physics I	1	11-12
AP Biology	1	10-12
Anatomy & Physiology	1	10-12
Chemistry II	1	11-12
AP Physics	1	12

<b>Course Offerings: Humanities, Social Studies, &amp; History</b>		
<b><u>Course Name</u></b>	<b><u>Credits</u></b>	<b><u>Grade Level</u></b>
Exploratory Geography	0	7-8
World Cultures	0	7
Civics	0	8
United States/PA History I	1	9-12
United States/PA History II	1	10-12
World History	1	10-12
American Government	1	11-12
Modern United States/PA History	1	11-12
College History I: United States to 1877	1	11-12
College History II: United States from 1877-Present	1	11-12
Introduction to Psychology	1	11-12
Introduction to Sociology	1	11-12
AP European History	1	11-12

History of Modern American Music	1	9-12
AP African American Studies	1	10-12
History of Pittsburgh Sports	0.25	9-12

### Course Offerings: Career Planning

<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>
Exploratory Career Planning	0.0	7-8
Career Planning	0.25	9-12
Child Development	0.25	9-12

### Course Offerings: Business, Computers, Information, & Tech

<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>
Exploratory Coding & Robotics	0	8
Exploratory Technology	0	7-8
Exploratory Media Production	0	7-8
Transportation Technology	0.25	9-12
Construction Technology	0.25	9-12
Introduction to Drafting & Design	0.25	9-12
Computer Aided Drafting & Design (CADD)	0.25	10-12
3-Dimensional Design and Modeling	0.25	11-12
Introduction to Robotics & Automation	0.25	9-12
Advanced Robotics & Automation	0.25	10-12
Graphic Design	0.25	9-12
Digital Communications	0.25	10-12
Computer Literacy	0.25	9-12
Principles of Invention and Innovation	0.25	10-12
STEM Based Research, Design, and Development	0.25	11-12
Energy Technology	0.25	11-12
Introduction to Media Production	1	9-12
Media Production / PORTALS	1	9-12
Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence	1	10-12

### Course Offerings: World Languages Course Offerings

<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>
Exploratory Spanish	0	7-8
Spanish I	1	9-12

Spanish II	1	10-12
Spanish III	1	11-12
AP Spanish & Culture	1	12
Exploratory German	0	7-8
German I	1	9-12
German II	1	10-12
German III	1	11-12
AP German Language & Culture	1	12
American Sign Language	1	9-12

### Course Offerings: Personal Wellness & Physical Education

<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>
Exploratory Physical Education & Health	0	7-8
Physical Education & Health	0.25	9-12
Fitness	0.25	9-12
Sports & Games	0.25	9-12
Athlete Physical Education & Health	0.25	9-12
Zumba ®	0.25	9-12

### Course Offerings: Visual, Performing, Musical, & Theatrical Arts

<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>
Exploratory Art	0	7-8
Exploratory Concert Band	0	7-8
Exploratory Music	0	7-8
Drawing I	0.25	9-12
Drawing II	0.25	9-12
Painting I	0.25	9-12
Painting II	0.25	9-12sda
Foundations of Art I	0.25	9-12
Foundations of Art II	0.25	9-12
Advanced Art I	0.25	10-12
Advanced Art II	0.25	10-12
Ceramics	0.25	9-12
Concert Band	1	9-12
Jazz Band	0.25	9-12
Marching Band	1	9-12
Exploratory Chorus	0	7-8

Chorus	0.25	9-12
Exploratory Drama	0	7-8
Drama & Theatre Fundamentals	0.25	9-12
Drama & Theatre Performances	1	9-12
Drama I	0.25	9-12
Drama II	0.25	9-12
Applied Music	0.25	9-12
Introduction to Music Theory	0.25	9-12
AP Music Theory	1	10-12
Music Technology	0.25	9-12
String Orchestra	0.25	9-12
Guitar	0.25	9-12
Printmaking	0.25	9-12
Photography & Design	0.25	9-12
Tattoo Art & Design	0.25	9-12
Debate & Public Speaking	1	9-12

Administrative Recommendation Courses		
<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>
Applied Communications	As determined by Administration	7-12
Technical Math I	1*	10-12
Technical Math II	1*	11-12
Study Skills	0.25	7-12
Independent Study	As determined by Administration	7-12
Vo-Tech/Work Co-Op	As determined by Administration	10-12
English as a Second Language	As determined by Administration	7-12
<p>Restricted courses are limited to students based upon specific student need. In order to take this courses, a process must be followed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Teacher/Counselor recommendation is made</li> <li>2. Availability in the program is secured</li> <li>3. Principal approves the recommendation</li> </ol> <p><i>*If Technical Math I or If Technical Math II is taken, the student must be enrolled in a course through the MVCTC. Credits earned for the MVCTC Program will be 3.0 for the coursework and 1.0 for Technical Math I or Technical Math II.</i></p>		

Course Offerings: California Career & Technical Education Programs			
<u>Program</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>
Plumbing Technology/Plumber (CIP Code 46.0503)	Introduction to Plumbing	1	9-12
	Plumbing I	3	9-12
	Plumbing II	3	10-12
	Plumbing III	3	11-12
	Plumbing IV	3	12
Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting and Related Protective Services, Other (CIP Code 43.9999)	Homeland Security I: Intro to Homeland Security; CPR, First Aid, AED, Stop the Bleed & Safety; Introduction to Incident Command System (ICS); and Firefighting Essentials	3	9-12
	Homeland Security II: ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents; Firefighting Ropes, Knots, Firefighter I Test; Law Enforcement (Criminal Justice System /Patrol Duties / Private Security Management); and Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)	3	10-12
	Homeland Security III: Firefighter II; Introduction to National Incident Management System; Emergency Medical Services (EMS); Adult and Juvenile Systems	3	11-12
	Homeland Security IV: Firefighting Advanced Strategies; Hazardous Materials Awareness; Criminology, Terrorism, and Homeland Security; Introduction to National Response Framework	3	12
Veterinary/Animal Health Technology/Technician and Veterinary Assistant (CIP Code 01.8301)	Vet Tech I <i>Workplace Safety</i> <i>Animal Health &amp; Nutrition</i>	3	9-12
	Vet Tech II <i>Veterinary Medical Terminology</i> <i>Veterinary Laboratory Procedures</i>	3	10-12



	<i>Animal Husbandry &amp; Nursing</i>		
	Vet Tech III <i>Medical Math &amp; Terminology</i> <i>Small Animal Nursing</i> <i>Pharmacology</i> <i>Large Animal Nursing</i>	3	11-12
	Vet Tech IV <i>Anatomy &amp; Physiology</i> <i>Veterinary Hematology, Microbiology</i> <i>&amp; Exam Procedures</i> <i>Exotic Animal Nursing</i> <i>Radiology and Ultrasound Imaging</i> <i>Surgical Nursing</i>	3	12
Education, General	General Education I <i>Educational Psychology</i> <i>Clinical: Elementary</i>	3	9-12
	General Education II <i>United States Education</i> <i>Clinical: Middle</i> <i>Clinical: Special Education</i>	3	10-12
	General Education III <i>Culturally Relevant and Sustaining</i> <i>Education</i> <i>Learning Environment and</i> <i>Classroom Management</i> <i>Clinical: High School</i>	3	11-12
	General Education IV: <i>Lesson Planning and Preparation</i> <i>Professionalism, Ethics and</i> <i>Reflective Practice</i> <i>Clinical: Special Education II</i>	3	12



## Dual Enrollment Courses through Mon Valley Career & Technology Center

<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Blocks/Week</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>
Precision Metal/Welding	4	20	10-12
Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation, and Refrigeration (HVAC)	4	20	10-12
Automotive Technology	4	20	10-12
Carpentry	4	20	10-12
Construction Technology	4	20	10-12
Electrical Power	4	20	10-12
Computer Engineering Technology	4	20	10-12
Multimedia Design Technology	4	20	10-12
Culinary Arts	4	20	10-12
Cosmetology	4	20	10-12
Health Occupations	4	20	10-12
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)	4	20	10-12
Agricultural Technology	4	20	10-12
Veterinary Technology	4	20	10-12

## College in the High School (Saint Francis University)

College credit for classes taught within the California Area High School earned through:

Saint Francis University


Loretto, PA 15940-0600

1-800-457-6300 or 814-472-3012

[www.francis.edu](http://www.francis.edu)

The *College in the High School* program is a partnership between California Area High School and Saint Francis University. High school students who participate in the *College in the High School* program can obtain Saint Francis University credit for select upper-level high school courses. The courses taught through this program will contain the course content of the equivalent course(s) taught at Saint Francis University and will be taught by approved high school teachers in the regular classroom.

Saint Francis University courses offered at California Area High School include:

<div style="text-align: center;">  <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle;"> <h1 style="margin: 0;">SAINT FRANCIS</h1> <h2 style="margin: 0;">UNIVERSITY</h2> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; font-size: 0.8em;">become that someone</div> </div> </div>			
<b>Dual Enrollment Courses through Saint Francis University</b>			
<b>SFU Code:</b>	<b>SFU Name:</b>	<b>CAHS Name:</b>	<b>Approved Instructor:</b>
BIOL 101	General Biology	Biology II	Mr. William Fabbri
HIST 103	United States to 1877	College History I: United States to 1877	Mr. Matthew Loomis
HIST 104	United States since 1877	College History II: United States from 1877 to Present	Mr. Matthew Loomis
MATH 112	Calculus	AP Calculus AB	Mrs. Tricia Reposky
MUS 101	Intro to Music	AP Music Theory	Mr. Daniel Zipin
PHYS 104	Intro to Physics I	Physics I	Mrs. Alexa Ruby
SOC 101	General Sociology	Sociology	Ms. Janet Tyrpin
SPAN 112	Beginning Spanish I & II	Spanish III	Mrs. Haley McLaughlin
SPAN 201	Intermediate Spanish I	AP Spanish Language & Culture	Mrs. Haley McLaughlin
STAT 101	Statistics	Introduction to Elementary Statistics	Mrs. Tricia Reposky

LIT 101	Introduction to Literature	AP English Literature & Composition	Mrs. Sara Ruffolo
PHYS 105	Introduction to Physics II	Physics II with Lab	Mrs. Alexa Ruby
PSYC 101	Introduction to Psychology	Introduction to Psychology	Ms. Janet Tyrpin
WRIT 101	College Composition	College & Creative Writing	Mrs. Sara Ruffolo

*Courses are subject to availability and approval of Saint Francis University*

**Admission:** Students wishing to take a *College in the High School* course must complete a Saint Francis University Continuing Education application. Admission into *College in the High School* does not constitute acceptance into Saint Francis University.

**Registration:** Staff from the Office of Continuing Education will visit participating high schools for registration purposes. Students will submit the application form at this time along with a \$10 non-returnable registration fee and the tuition for the course.

**Grades:** The high school teacher, who will hold an adjunct faculty appointment from SFU will assign grades for students taking a *College in the High School* course.

**Withdrawals:** There will be no financial reimbursement if a student decides to withdraw from a course. Students approved to withdraw from a *College in the High School* course will be given a “W” (withdrew) grade.

#### Benefits of the Program

- **Quality Education:** *College in the High School* courses, as well as the approved instructors, meets the standards of the appropriate academic department of Saint Francis University.
- **Early Start on College:** Students who later decide to attend Saint Francis University will enter with advanced standing and earned credits on their academic record.
- **Transfer of Credits:** Many students registering for courses through Saint Francis University may eventually wish to transfer these credits elsewhere. Although many colleges and universities will recognize these transfer credits, it is not guaranteed that all colleges or institutions of higher learning will accept them. Whether or not a college accepts transfer credits depends on their policy and the major that the student has chosen. Typically, students must have a “C” or better for any credits to transfer and must also request a transcript of their credits earned.
- **Transcript Request:** Contact the Registrar’s Office at Saint Francis University 814-472-3009

- Contacts: Saint Francis University College in the High School: Continuing Education Program Specialist and College in the High School Coordinator  
814-472-3012

## English/Language Arts Course Descriptions



English 7			
Grade(s): 7	Length: Semester	Credits: 0	Status: Core/Required
<p>Course Description: The seventh grade Language Arts curriculum is a logically organized and sequenced program enabling students to build literary, reading, writing, speaking and listening skills which are aligned with the PA Academic Standards. Exposure to a variety of literary genres will give students opportunities to practice these skills by modeling them in their own writings and connecting them to other texts. Comprehension skills are developed through the reading of fiction and non-fiction texts. Grammar skills will be addressed and practiced through narrative, informative, and persuasive writings. Students will read biographies and autobiographies, a variety of poetry, plays, mythological short stories, realistic fiction short stories, historical fiction novels, fantasy novels, and science fiction short stories. As students read and hone their writing skills, they will learn necessary literary terms and practice them in their writing. Course literature is exploratory and requires parent signature on self-selected novels. A minimum of one novel per nine weeks along with a project, quiz, or text-dependent analysis essay is required for each novel. Enrichment reading opportunities encourage students to complete seven novels over the course of the school year. These projects are designed to encourage independent reading, responsibility, critical thinking, and public speaking skills. Classroom titles include, but are not limited to: <i>Stargirl</i> by Jerry Spinelli; <i>The Giver</i> by Lois Lowry; and <i>The Boy in the Striped Pajamas</i> by John Boyne.</p>			



**pennsylvania**  
SYSTEM OF SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

Students taking English 7 will take the PSSA English 7 Exam.

## English 8

Grade(s):  
8

Length:  
Year-long

Credits:  
0

Status:  
Core/Required

**Course Description:** The eighth grade Language Arts curriculum is organized and sequenced enabling students to build literary, reading, writing, vocabulary, and speaking and listening skills which are aligned with the PA Academic Standards. Exposure to a variety of literary genres will give students opportunities to practice these skills by modeling them in their own writings and connecting them to other texts. Comprehension skills will be developed through the reading of fiction and nonfiction texts including, *The Medicine Bag*, *The Landlady*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Cask of Amontillado*, and *Flowers for Algernon*. Students will read biographies and autobiographies, a variety of poetry, plays, and mythological short stories, realistic fiction short stories, historical fiction novels, fantasy novels, and science fiction short stories. As students read and improve their writing skills, they will learn necessary literary terms and practice them in their own writings which will be developed through text dependent analyses as well as short answer essays. Students will also focus on growth in the areas of grammar skills and writing. Students will compose narrative, informative, and persuasive writings as well as weekly grammar skills lessons and tests. Parts of speech, parts of sentences, usage, and mechanics will be covered. Nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, interjections, prepositional phrases, direct and indirect objects, concluding with diagramming sentences. Each grammar skill will be introduced on a weekly basis with tests to conclude following each skill. In addition, a unit on Figurative Language will be completed where students will complete a poetry project based on a song of their choice.



**pennsylvania**  
SYSTEM OF SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

Students taking English 8 will take the PSSA English 8 Exam.

<b>Exploratory Journalism</b>			
Grade(s): 8	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0	Status: Elective
<p>Course Description: Students will work with different forms of media to gather and organize material that they will use to organize and write essays as well as news articles for Trojan TV. Students will also interview other students and develop news stories to be presented on Trojan TV. In addition, students will be given the opportunity to create and design pages for the yearbook. Communication skills, writing skills, and interviewing skills will all be used as both formal and informal assessments.</p>			

<b>Exploratory Public Speaking</b>			
Grade(s): 8	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0	Status: Elective
<p>Course Description: Students will work throughout the semester on developing skills necessary to speak in front of both small and large group settings. A minimum of 5 speeches will be presented. A speech of introduction, persuasive speech, sales speech, and learning how to present and receive an award will all be taught and presented by the students.</p>			

<b>English 9</b>			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Required
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: English 9 is an integrated program of general studies in writing, literature, grammar, usage, and mechanics. Primary attention is focused on writing as a process with the objective of mastering composition of the paragraph and short essay. Particular emphasis is placed on informative, narrative, and persuasive writing. Course texts include <i>Animal Farm</i>, by George Orwell, <i>Things Fall Apart</i>, by Chinua Achebe, <i>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</i>, by Douglas Adams, and <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>, by William Shakespeare. Excerpts from Anthony Bourdain's memoir <i>Kitchen Confidential</i> and episodes from his show <i>Parts Unknown</i> are incorporated into an international research project. Students also read and discuss short stories by Ernest Hemingway, Kate Chopin, Mark Twain, Ursula Le Guin, Shirley Jackson, Ray Bradbury, and other famous authors.</p>			



Honors English 9			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Elective to replace English 9
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: Honors English 9 is a more intensive study of writing, literature, grammar, usage, and mechanics. The course is designed for those who are either college-bound or preparing for language-dependent careers, so students should be prepared to read twice as much as English 9. Students will utilize the course readings to improve their informative, narrative, and persuasive writing abilities. Course texts include <i>The Road</i>, by Cormac McCarthy, <i>The Good Earth</i>, by Pearl S. Buck, <i>The Fellowship of the Ring</i>, by J. R. R. Tolkien, and <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>, by William Shakespeare. Anthony Bourdain's memoir <i>Kitchen Confidential</i> and TV series <i>Parts Unknown</i> will be used to supplement the course's international research project. A short story unit will ask students to discuss their views of famous short stories by authors such as Shirley Jackson, Mark Twain, Ernest Hemingway, Kate Chopin, Ursula Le Guin, and others. Vocabulary and grammar exercises will be completed on a daily basis.</p>			

English 10			
Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Required
Prerequisite Course(s): English 9			
<p>Course Description: The English course for grade 10 is a continuation of the integrated program of the study of literature, composition, vocabulary, grammar, usage, and mechanics. Students will participate in a multitude of various forms of writing, and the writing process of prewriting, writing, and revising will be reinforced. In regard to literature, students will participate in reading short stories, plays, Paulo Coelho's <i>The Alchemist</i> as a class novel, Shakespeare's <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>. Students will engage in research. Students will also expand creative and critical thinking skills, as well as further develop collaboration and presentation skills.</p>			



Students will take the Keystone Literature Exam upon completion of this course.

## AP English Language & Composition

Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Elective to replace English 10
--------------------	---------------------	---------------	--

Prerequisite Course(s): English 9

Course Description: The AP English Language and Composition course focuses on the development and revision of evidence-based analytic and argumentative writing, the rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts, and the decisions writers make as they compose and revise. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Additionally, they read and analyze rhetorical elements and their effects in nonfiction texts—including images as forms of text—from a range of disciplines and historical periods.



This course curriculum is aligned with the [CollegeBoard AP Curriculum](#). Participation in the AP Exam at the end of the course is a requirement to obtain CAHS course credit. The AP Assessment fees are paid by the CASD.

### AP Course Content:

- Identify and analyze the claims in a text and determine whether the writer backs up their assertions with reasoning and evidence
- Learn how writers organize information and evidence to support a specific argument and appeal to a particular audience
- Explore the range of perspectives around a topic and how various arguments can relate and respond to one another
- Examine how a writer makes choices about methods of developing arguments, introductions, and conclusions
- Focus on the very specific and minute choices a writer makes to bring all the parts of an argument together

- Work to understand the difference between position and perspective, how to consider bias, and how to integrate and address multiple perspectives in an argument
- Consider the breadth and complexity of arguments around a topic and what makes each successful or unsuccessful
- Explore the stylistic choices a writer can make and how those choices affect an argument
- Consider a wide range of perspectives as you develop a complex argument



Students will take the Keystone Literature Exam upon completion of this course.

## English 11

Grade(s): 11-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Required
Prerequisite Course(s): English 9 and English 10			
Course Description: English 11 is an integrated program of American Literature, writing, language skills, research, and oral communication. Writing and language skills are refined. The writing component emphasizes the stages of the writing process as students develop expository (narrative and informational) compositions. Students will research a topic by locating, evaluating, synthesizing, and citing applicable information in order to complete a documented text analysis paper. Career study and projects will be included in the course. Course Literature includes, but is not limited to, <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> by Nathaniel Hawthorne, <i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F. Scott Fitzgerald, and several short stories and poems by celebrated American authors.			

## Honors English 11

Grade(s): 11-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Elective to replace English 11
Prerequisite Course(s): English 9 and English 10			

Course Description: Honors English 11 is an accelerated and challenging course for college-bound students. Emphasis is placed on furthering an already strong background in writing and literature through study and critical analysis of American Literature. Students will engage in intensive reading, thorough discussions, and comprehensive writing. Students will engage in a multitude of various forms of writing, strengthening their organizational, analytical, grammatical, and vocabulary skills. MLA formatted writing will be mastered. Course literature includes, but is not limited to, *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, and *As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner, and a survey of poetry and short fiction such as the works of Edgar Allan Poe, Robert Frost, Langston Hughes, and more.

English 12			
Grade(s): 12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Required
Prerequisite Course(s): English 9, English 10, and English 11 (or equivalent)			
Course Description: English 12 serves as the culmination of the four-year program in the writing process. Students' writing skills are enhanced to prepare them for college, career, workforce, and post graduation. A survey of literature, with an emphasis on British literature, serves as a basis for much writing and discussion. Students will explore career choices through a career-research essay and career-oriented assignments. Course literature includes, but is not limited to, <i>Macbeth</i> by William Shakespeare, <i>Frankenstein</i> by Mary Shelley, and a survey of poetry and short fiction such as <i>Beowulf</i> , <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> , and Shakespeare's sonnets.			

AP English Literature & Composition			
Grade(s): 12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Elective to replace English 12
Prerequisite Course(s): English 9, English 10, and English 11			
Course Description: AP English Literature and Composition is an introductory college-level literary analysis course. Students cultivate their understanding of literature through reading and analyzing texts as they explore concepts like character, setting, structure, perspective, figurative language, and literary analysis in the context of literary works. Students examine how authors and poets create			

meaning through their rich, purposeful use of language. As students write and refine essays about literature, they will develop the skills of analysis and composition that will allow them to communicate their interpretations effectively. Course literature includes, but is not limited to, Literature & Composition: Essential Voices, Essential Skills for the AP Course textbook, *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte, *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare, *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley, and *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka, along with various pieces of short fiction and poetry.



This course is accredited through Saint Francis University. Three (3) College Credits may be earned with the successful completion of this course and a final grade (Y1) of 70% or better. Participation in college accreditation is required and fees will be paid for by California Area School District.




This course curriculum is aligned with the [CollegeBoard AP Curriculum](#). Participation in the AP Exam at the end of the course is a requirement to obtain CAHS course credit. The AP Assessment fees are paid by the CASD.

#### AP Course Content:

- Learn critical reading skills to help you critically read, interpret, and analyze prose.
- Continue your critical reading exploration in poetry and learn to analyze similar elements within a wide variety of poems.
- Observe how the literary techniques you've explored in prior units unfold over the course of longer works and analyze how characters develop and interact over the course of a narrative.
- Delve deeper into the roles of character and conflict in fiction and explore how a narrator's perspective can color storytelling.
- Study different forms of poetry and examine how structure and figurative language can create and impact meaning.
- Analyze how various literary techniques play out and shift over the course of longer works, charting how characters change (or don't) as they're affected by developments in the plot.
- Examine how works of fiction interact with and comment on the world around them and the society their authors live or lived in.
- Develop your interpretation of poetry further by examining how contrasts, ambiguous language, and various other techniques can add layers of meaning to a poetic work.

- Consider longer narratives in the context of the various techniques and interpretations you've learned in prior units and build a nuanced analysis of each complex work as a whole.

## College & Creative Writing

Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 1.0	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): English 9			
<p>Course Description: This is a year-long creative and college writing course that explores students' imagination and academic writing skills. Students are supported as young writers through a series of workshops. This course allows students to improve their writing skills in a workshop setting as they learn to discuss one another's work and focus on increasing their writing craft and technique. The year-long course is broken up into two sections. The first section is college writing where students will focus on different types of academic writing including narrative, informative, and persuasive writing. Students build on their academic writing knowledge to create college-ready essays. The second section of the year-long course is creative writing, where students will focus on their imagination and creativity in writing. This section of the course will end in their own written culminating creative writing piece, with peer and teacher edits throughout the semester.</p>			
<div style="text-align: center;">  <div> <b>SAINT FRANCIS</b>  <b>UNIVERSITY</b> <small>become that someone</small> </div> </div> <p>This course is accredited through Saint Francis University. Three (3) College Credits may be earned with the successful completion of this course and a final grade (Y1) of 70% or better. Participation in college accreditation is required and paid for by the California Area School District.</p>			

## Mindfulness & The Reflective Process

Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.25	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: This writing-intensive English Language Arts course will enhance the five core competencies of social emotional learning. Instruction is done with the intention of improving the development of the following:</p>			

self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision making. Learners will explore through practice and research, the science of meditation. These core social and emotional skills will support students in developing stronger ELA skills and prepare for college or career readiness. Group discussions will be routine in this course. Self-management techniques will be utilized. Examples of self-management techniques include belly breathing exercises, mindfulness, yoga and bilateral movement strategies.

Travel Literacy			
Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p><b>Course Description:</b>  Embark on a captivating journey of global exploration with our Travel Literacy course. Designed for high school students, this course delves into the intricacies of travel, providing a comprehensive understanding of the art of exploration and trip planning. Through an immersive curriculum, students will gain insights into various cultures spanning the globe, both near and far.</p> <p>Dive deep into the customs, traditions, and social norms of diverse cultures. Explore how cultural practices shape societies and contribute to the richness of human experiences. Investigate the significance of festivals and holidays in different regions. Understand the cultural and historical context behind celebrations around the world. Embark on a culinary journey by exploring the diverse world of foods. Learn about traditional cuisines, ingredients, and cooking methods from various cultures. Tune in to the melodies of different cultures, examining the role of music in shaping societies. Explore the diversity of musical genres and instruments across the globe. Create a virtual travel itinerary, discovering iconic landmarks and hidden gems. Understand the historical and architectural significance of renowned destinations.</p>			

Debate & Public Speaking			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 1	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to empower students with the essential skills of effective communication, critical thinking, and persuasive argumentation. This course is crafted to foster confidence and articulate expression, preparing students for success in academic, professional, and personal spheres where effective communication is paramount.

Students will explore the principles of argumentation, researching and constructing persuasive cases, and understanding the structure of formal debates. Emphasis will be placed on critical thinking, logical reasoning, and the development of a convincing argument.

Students will delve into the nuances of effective public speaking. Topics include voice modulation, body language, speech organization, and audience engagement. Through interactive exercises and presentations, students will refine their delivery style, learning to convey messages with clarity, impact, and confidence.

Students will explore advanced debate strategies. Topics include counterarguments, refutation, cross-examination techniques, and adapting to different debate formats. Practical debates and collaborative exercises will allow students to apply these strategies in a supportive learning environment.

In the final module, students will explore the art of speechwriting and rhetoric. They will learn to craft compelling speeches, employing rhetorical devices and persuasive language to effectively convey their message. Students will showcase their creativity and analytical skills through the creation and delivery of their own persuasive speeches.

## **Film & Literature**

Grade(s):  
9-12

Length:  
Year-long

Credits:  
0.25

Graduation:  
Elective

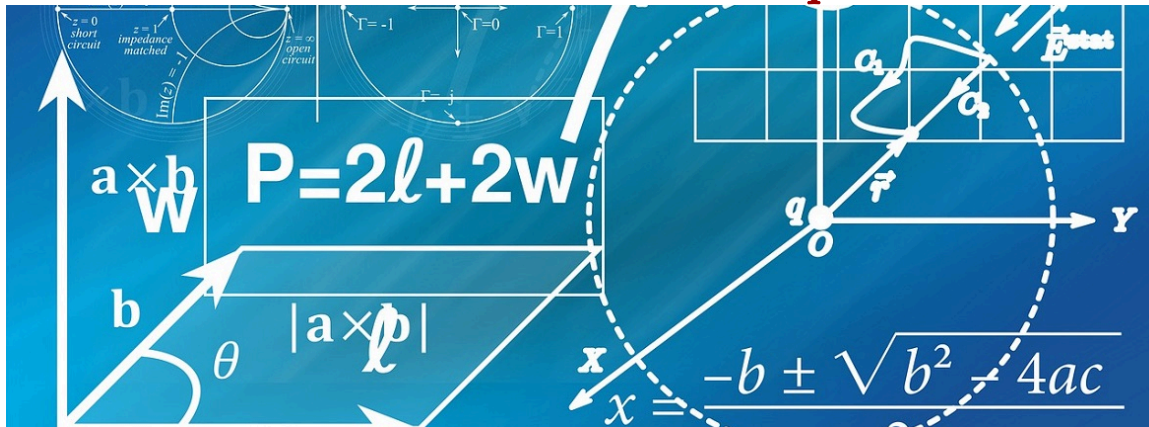
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A

**Course Description: Film & Literature:** In this course, students will explore how film uses literary techniques to craft compelling narratives, build character, and convey themes. This class covers a range of genres including documentary, horror, gothic, and fairytale, and more. Through close study of films, students will analyze cinematic techniques—such as symbolism, foreshadowing, character development, and theme—as they would in literature. Each unit emphasizes critical viewing, discussion, and written analysis, helping students develop visual literacy, interpretive skills, and an understanding of narrative structure. This



course ultimately provides a foundation in analyzing storytelling techniques and understanding film as a complex form of narrative art.

## Mathematics Course Descriptions:

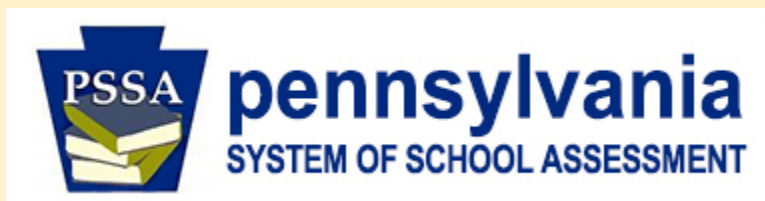


### Mathematics 7


Grade(s): 7	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0	Status: Core/Required
----------------	----------------------	---------------	--------------------------

Course Description: Mathematics 7 is a full year course. Mathematics 7 will emphasize mathematical theory and the reasoning behind the math. Students will learn and utilize various problem-solving skills throughout the course. Students will learn the following topics:

- Mathematical operations with positive and negative integers
- Operations dealing with fractions and decimals
- Calculations and graphs for ratios and proportions
- Algebraic properties, simple algebraic expressions and linear inequalities
- Geometric equations and geometric properties
- Statistical sampling, properties of data sets and probability.



Students taking Math 7 will take the PSSA Math 7 Exam.

<b>Mathematics 8</b>			
Grade(s): 8	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0	Status: Core/Required
<p>Course Description: Math is presented in a variety of ways in this course. There are real-world applications and cross-curricular connections. The students will have opportunities to use technology tools to problem solve, which is an integral part of every lesson, and performance assessments will be given to the students in every unit. Students will learn the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algebraic equations</li> <li>• Transformations of figures</li> <li>• Graphing and writing linear equations</li> <li>• Systems of linear equations</li> <li>• Functions</li> <li>• Real numbers and the Pythagorean Theorem,</li> <li>• Volume and similar solids</li> <li>• Data analysis and displays</li> <li>• Exponents and scientific notation.</li> </ul> <div>  </div> <p>Students taking Math 8 will take the PSSA Math 8 Exam.</p>			

<b>Algebra I</b>			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: Grade 9-12 1	Graduation: Required or equivalent
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: This course develops the comprehension of algebraic structure. Students will investigate operations with real numbers and expressions; linear equations and inequalities; quadratic equations; functions; coordinate geometry; and data analysis. The course is designed to prepare students for the Keystone Algebra I Exam.</p>			



Students will take the Keystone Algebra I Exam upon completion of this course.

## Algebra IA

Grade(s): 9	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Required or equivalent
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: This course is a year-long course for students to begin their investigation into algebraic concepts. Part A is the first part of a two-year sequence of Algebra I, at the end of which a student will have mastered the topics of Algebra I. Topics in this course include: review of pre-algebra skills such as integers, fractions, decimals, greatest common factors and least common multiples; additionally they will learn the language and tools necessary to understand algebraic concepts. Areas of concentration will include statistics and probability, solving linear equations, polynomials, functions, patterns, and analyzing linear equations.</p>			

## Algebra IB

Grade(s): 10	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Required or equivalent
Prerequisite Course(s): Algebra IA			
<p>Course Description: This course is the second part of a two-year sequence following Algebra IA. This course continues to investigate algebraic concepts including: an overview of Algebra IA, solving systems of equations and inequalities, polynomials, factoring radical expressions, rational expressions and equations.</p>			



Students will take the Keystone Algebra I Exam upon completion of this course.

## Principles of Geometry

Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Math Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): Algebra I <b>or</b> Algebra IA/Algebra IB			
Course Description: The Principles of Geometry course will explore geometric experiences and geometric situations. The students will investigate properties of polygons, congruence, similarity, coordinate geometry, right triangles, circles, and properties of 2 and 3 dimensional figures.			

## Formal Geometry

Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Math Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): Algebra I <b>or</b> Algebra IA/Algebra IB			
<p>Course Description: This high school geometry course delves into the fundamental concepts and principles of geometry, emphasizing formal proof and logical reasoning. Students will explore the properties and relationships of geometric figures, including points, lines, angles, polygons, circles, and three-dimensional shapes.</p> <p>Key topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Euclidean Geometry: Understanding axioms, theorems, and postulates, with a focus on proof construction.</li> <li>-Congruence and Similarity: Analyzing figures for congruence and similarity through transformations and properties.</li> <li>-Triangles and Quadrilaterals: Investigating properties, classifications, and theorems related to various types of triangles and quadrilaterals.</li> <li>-Circles: Exploring the properties of circles, including arcs, chords, tangents, and sectors.</li> </ul>			

- Area and Volume: Calculating the area and volume of geometric shapes, applying formulas and reasoning.
- Coordinate Geometry: Utilizing the coordinate plane to represent geometric figures and solve problems algebraically.

Through hands-on activities, collaborative problem-solving, and formal proofs, students will develop critical thinking skills and a deeper appreciation for the elegance of geometric reasoning. By the end of the course, students will be equipped to apply geometric concepts in real-world contexts and prepare for advanced mathematics courses.

Algebra II			
Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Math Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): Algebra I <b>or</b> Algebra IA/Algebra IB; and Principles of Geometry <b>or</b> Geometry			
Course Description: This course builds on the foundational concepts learned in both Algebra I and Geometry, with an emphasis on deepening students' understanding of linear, quadratic, and exponential functions. Students will explore more complex mathematical patterns, relations, functions,, and inverse functions while expanding their skills in solving and applying non-linear equations. Topics include operations with complex numbers, advanced equation solving techniques, and data analysis. Through real-world applications and problem-solving, students will enhance their mathematical reasoning and critical thinking to prepare for higher-level math courses.			

Algebra III/Trigonometry			
Grade(s): 11-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Math Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): Algebra I <b>or</b> Algebra IA/Algebra IB; Principles of Geometry <b>or</b> Geometry; and Algebra II			
Course Description: This course extends the concepts learned from formal Geometry and Algebra II and emphasizes the analysis of the graph with conics and trigonometric functions. Topics include but are not limited to: Nature of Graphs,			

Polynomial and rational functions, Complex numbers, conics, exponential and logarithmic functions, sequences and series, trigonometric functions, graphs of trigonometric functions, trigonometric identities and equations. Topics in this course are diversified and relevant for those students who wish to continue on to the study of Calculus.

## AP Precalculus with Trigonometry Lab

Grade(s):  
11-12

Length:  
Semester

Credits:  
1

Graduation:  
Math Elective

Prerequisite Course(s):  
Algebra I **or** Algebra IA/Algebra IB;  
Formal Geometry; and Algebra II

Course Description: AP Pre-Calculus is a rigorous, college-level course designed to prepare students for success in AP Calculus and other advanced mathematical studies. The course emphasizes the development of a strong foundation in mathematical concepts and skills that are essential for calculus and higher-level mathematics.

Topics include:

Functions and Their Properties: Understanding different types of functions such as polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions, and exploring their graphs, transformations, and applications.

Complex Numbers: An introduction to complex numbers, including operations, polar and rectangular form, and their applications in solving equations.

Sequences and Series: Investigating arithmetic and geometric sequences and series, as well as an introduction to mathematical induction.

Trigonometry: In-depth study of trigonometric functions, identities, equations, and their applications, including polar coordinates and the unit circle.

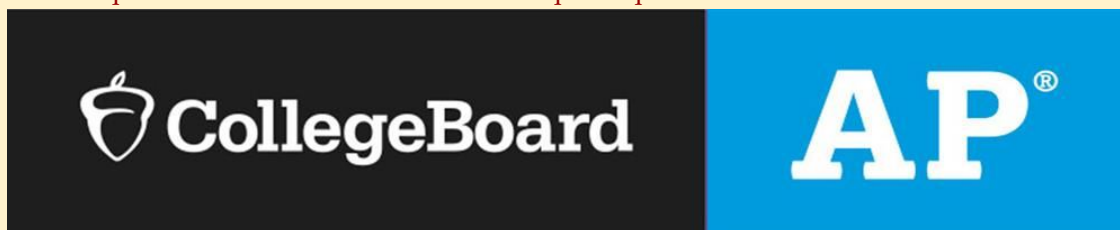
Vectors and Parametric Equations: Exploring vector operations, the geometry of vectors, and parametric equations, with applications to motion and other real-world scenarios.

Analytic Geometry: A review of conic sections (parabolas, ellipses, hyperbolas) and their properties, as well as transformations and their effects on graphs.

Limits and Continuity: Introducing the concept of limits and continuity as foundational ideas for calculus, with an emphasis on graphical and numerical approaches.

Throughout the course, students will engage in both theoretical and applied problem-solving, develop mathematical reasoning, and refine their ability to communicate mathematical ideas clearly. The course prepares students not only for the AP exam in Pre-Calculus but also for future courses in calculus, engineering, and other disciplines requiring advanced mathematical skills.

Students are expected to have a solid understanding of algebra and geometry, as these topics form the basis for the concepts explored in AP Pre-Calculus.



This course curriculum is aligned with the CollegeBoard AP Curriculum. Participation in the AP Exam at the end of the course is a requirement to obtain CAHS course credit. The AP Assessment fees are paid by the CASD.

Consumer Math			
Grade(s): 11-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Math Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): Algebra I <b>or</b> Algebra IA/Algebra IB;			
Course Description: This course applies general math topics (such as arithmetic using rational numbers, measurement, percents, and basic statistics) and applies these skills to consumer problems and situations. It also includes algebraic concepts such as exponents and solving multi-step equations. Applications typically include budgeting, taxation, credit, banking services, insurance, buying and selling products and services, home and/or car ownership and rental, managing personal income, and investment.			

AP Calculus AB			
Grade(s): 11-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Math Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): Algebra III/Trigonometry or AP Precalculus with Trigonometry Lab			

Course Description: AP Calculus AB is an introductory college-level calculus course. Students cultivate their understanding of differential and integral calculus through engaging with real-world problems represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally and using definitions and theorems to build arguments and justify conclusions as they explore the following concepts:

- Limits and Continuity
- Differentiation: Definition and Fundamental Properties
- Differentiation: Composite, Implicit, and Inverse Functions
- Contextual Applications of Differentiation
- Analytical Applications of Differentiation
- Integration and Accumulation of Change
- Differential Equations
- Applications of Integration.



This course curriculum is aligned with the [CollegeBoard AP Curriculum](#). Participation in the AP Exam at the end of the course is a requirement to obtain CAHS course credit. The AP Assessment fees are paid by the CASD.



This course is accredited through Saint Francis University. Three (3) College Credits may be earned with the successful completion of this course and a final grade (Y1) of 70% or better. Participation in college accreditation is required and fees will be paid for by California Area School District.

## Introduction to Elementary Statistics

Grade(s): 11-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Math Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): Algebra II			
Course Description: In this course, students will extend their knowledge of descriptive statistics through hands-on experimentation and investigation. They will analyze existing data as well as data collected through a survey, observational study, or experiment. They will study inferential statistics and use probability,			



normal distributions, confidence intervals, linear regressions and analysis of variance to make conclusions.



This course is accredited through Saint Francis University. Three (3) College Credits may be earned with the successful completion of this course and a final grade (Y1) of 70% or better. Participation in college accreditation is required and fees will be paid for by California Area School District.

## AP Computer Science Principles

Grade(s):  
9-12

Length:  
Semester

Credits:  
1

Graduation:  
Math Elective

Prerequisite Course(s): Algebra I **or** Algebra IA/Algebra IB

Course Description: AP Computer Science Principles is an introductory college-level computing course that introduces students to the breadth of the field of computer science. Students learn to design and evaluate solutions and to apply computer science to solve problems through the development of algorithms and programs. They incorporate abstraction into programs and use data to discover new knowledge. Students also explain how computing innovations and computing systems—including the internet—work, explore their potential impacts, and contribute to a computing culture that is collaborative and ethical.



This course is accredited through Saint Francis University. Three (4) College Credits may be earned with the successful completion of this course and a final grade (Y1) of 70% or better. Participation in college accreditation is required and fees will be paid for by California Area School District.



This course curriculum is aligned with the [CollegeBoard AP Curriculum](#). Participation in the AP Exam at the end of the course is a requirement to obtain CAHS course credit. The AP Assessment fees are paid by the CASD.



## Science Course Descriptions:



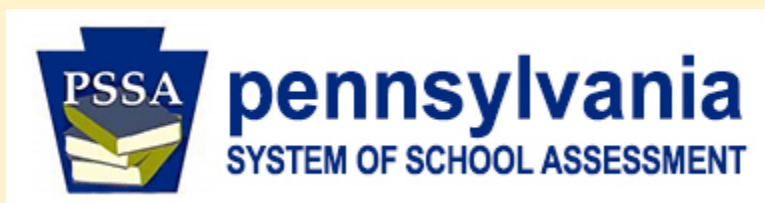
### Physical Science 7

Grade(s): 7	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0	Status: Core/Required
<p>Course Description: This course focuses on the physical sciences (chemistry and physics) at the middle school level. The course begins discussing the structure and properties of atoms and molecules. Students will move on to simple chemical reactions. Throughout the chemistry coursework, students learn about the proper use of various scientific tools and different scientific apparatus with an emphasis on laboratory safety. Following the chemistry course component, the course examines basic electricity and circuits. Students will have the opportunity to design and construct various types of circuits. They will learn how to measure and calculate voltage, current, and resistance. The properties, effects, and uses of magnetism is discussed with a concentration on how electricity and magnetism are used in everyday life. Energy use and production as well as alternative sources of energy are explored. In addition to physical sciences, the course also emphasizes the nature of science. Topics include; use of the scientific method, differences between scientific theory and opinion, scientific fact and hypothesis. Throughout the course, experimental design through scientific inquiry as well as the use of scientific procedures and processes are emphasized.</p>			

### Natural & Life Science 8

Grade(s): 8	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0	Status: Core/Required
<p>Course Description: This course focuses on life sciences (Biology/Ecology and Environmental Science) and consists of lessons based on a pre-biology concept. This class begins with exploring and classifying life. The course progresses through the levels of organization of all living things. This includes the taxonomy, the basic structure &amp; function of organisms, with an emphasis on the human</p>			

interactions with the ecosystems of the world and our impact on their sustainability. Students are introduced to simple dissection as well as the proper tools and safety procedures required. During the genetics component, students learn how traits are passed from parents to offspring and basic genetic theory. From that point, the course moves onto the exploration of life – bacteria, fungi, plants, and animals. The course concludes with the study of human body systems. As well as life science, this class covers basic science skills, scientific methods, in addition to how mathematics and science are related and used together.



Students taking Life Science 8 will take the PSSA Science 8 Exam.

## Principles of Biology

Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 1.5	Graduation: Required
-------------------	----------------------	-----------------	-------------------------

Prerequisite Course(s): N/A

Course Description: This course provides students with a basic understanding of living things. Topics covered include ecology and environmental problems such as overpopulation and pollution as well as cells, types of organisms, evolutionary behavior, and inheritance.



Students will take the Keystone Biology Exam upon completion of this course.

## Biology I

Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Elective to replace
-------------------	---------------------	---------------	------------------------------------

			Principles of Biology
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: Biology courses are designed to provide information regarding the fundamental concepts of life and life processes. These courses include (but are not restricted to) such topics as cell structure and function, general plant and animal physiology, genetics, and taxonomy.</p> <div> </div> <p>Students will take the Keystone Biology Exam upon completion of this course.</p>			

Principles of Chemistry			
Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Requirement
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: The Principles of Chemistry course is designed to introduce students to basic chemistry concepts. The basic concepts will include chemical theory and cover topics which include: the metric system, the factor label system, formula writing and nomenclature, the five basic types of chemical reactions, atomic structure, chemical bonding, periodic trends, and problem solving. Experiments will introduce and reinforce laboratory skills with emphasis on measurement techniques, both quantitative and qualitative analysis.</p>			

Chemistry I			
Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Elective to replace Principles of Chemistry
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			

Course Description: This course will introduce the student to advanced chemical theory and cover topics which should include: scientific notation, the metric system, the factor label system, formula writing and nomenclature, the five basic types of chemical reactions, classifying reactions and predicting products, basic stoichiometry, atomic structure, chemical bonding, periodic trends, kinetic-molecular theory, gas laws, and problem solving involving these topics. Students will participate in a Chemistry Lab for one semester in which selected experiments will introduce and reinforce laboratory skills with emphasis on measurement techniques, and both quantitative and qualitative analysis. Students will complete a lab report for each Chemistry Lab including methods, summary, data analysis, calculations, and results.

Principles of Physics			
Grade(s): 11-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Required
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: Principles of Physics is a course that aims to prepare students more effectively for vocational or technical careers and help them understand the fundamental principles of physics through a conceptual approach, rather than by focusing on mathematical derivations. The course typically covers topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion</li> <li>• Forces</li> <li>• Work, Power, &amp; Machines</li> <li>• Energy</li> <li>• Heat</li> <li>• Electricity</li> <li>• Magnetism</li> <li>• Structure of Matter</li> </ul> <p>Real-world examples, analogies, and weekly laboratory activities help students build a strong conceptual understanding of the principles of physics. The goal is to help students make connections between physics concepts and their everyday lives.</p>			

Physics I			
Grade(s): 11-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Elective to replace Principles of Physics

Prerequisite/Corequisite Course(s): Trigonometry

**Course Description:**

Physics serves as an excellent foundational course for students aspiring to pursue careers in healthcare, engineering, or other professions requiring higher education at the collegiate level. Topics covered include: scientific mathematics including scientific notation, significant figures, and trigonometric functions used in problem solving, forces, kinematics, dynamics, conservation laws, work, energy, sound and light waves, electricity and magnetism, and nuclear physics. . Laboratory experiments will be conducted.



**SAINT FRANCIS**  
**UNIVERSITY** become that someone

This course is accredited through Saint Francis University. Four (4) College Credits may be earned with the successful completion of this course and a final grade of 70% or better. Participation in college accreditation is required and fees will be paid for by California Area School District.

## Principles of Science

Grade(s):  
10-12



Length:  
Semester

Credits:  
1

Graduation:  
Elective - Can  
replace a required  
course with  
Administrative  
Approval

Prerequisite Course(s): N/A

**Course Description:** This science course incorporates two areas of scientific study: physical science and earth/space science. The physical science component of the course includes a comprehensive introduction to motion, factors that affect motion, and forces that change motion. Concepts covered include velocity, acceleration, vectors, and energy. These are basic concepts necessary to understanding in any science. Students will examine these concepts using facilitated individualized science inquiry lab activities. The earth/space science component allows for analysis of the earth, and the solar system using the concepts from physical science. Processes and features that cause change, as well as essential topics regarding composition and structure, will be stressed.

AP Biology			
Grade(s): 11-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Science
Prerequisite Course(s): Biology I with Lab			
<p>Course Description: This course is taken after biology and is designed for those students pursuing science-related courses in post-secondary education. The curriculum is consistent with an introductory college biology course. The topics include biochemistry and cell organelles; energy transformation, organic macromolecules, DNA, RNA, enzymes, enzyme reactions, metabolism, role of enzymes in controlling metabolism, Protein synthesis, gene mutations, chromosome mutations, mutagens, cancer, chemotherapy, cancer genes and cancer gene therapies; human genetics, tissues including epithelial and connective tissues; the muscular system. Additional topics may include the nervous system, digestive system and endocrine system.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <div> <b>SAINT FRANCIS</b>  <b>UNIVERSITY</b> </div> <div>become that someone</div> </div> <p>This course is accredited through Saint Francis University. Four (4) College Credits may be earned with the successful completion of this course and a final grade (Y1) of 70% or better. Participation in college accreditation is required and paid for by the California Area School District.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">  <b>CollegeBoard</b> </div> <div style="background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"> <b>AP<sup>®</sup></b> </div> </div> <p>This course curriculum is aligned with the CollegeBoard AP Curriculum. Participation in the AP Exam at the end of the course is a requirement to obtain CAHS course credit. The AP Assessment fees are paid by the CASD.</p>			

Chemistry II			
Grade(s): 11-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Science Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): Chemistry I with Lab			



Course Description: This course is designed for those students who plan to enter a chemistry or a science related field of study after high school. Chemistry II will cover organic chemistry, (with emphasis on nomenclature and reactions), solution chemistry, acid-base concepts, oxidation-reduction reactions, reaction rates, stoichiometry, chemical equilibrium and nuclear chemistry. Laboratory emphasis will be on organic synthesis, analytical methods, and the perfections of selected laboratory techniques.



This course is accredited through Saint Francis University. Four (4) College Credits may be earned with the successful completion of this course and a final grade (Y1) of 70% or better. Participation in college accreditation is required and fees will be paid for by California Area School District.

## AP Physics

Grade(s):  
11-12

Length:  
Semester

Credits:  
1

Graduation:  
Science Elective

Prerequisite Course(s): Physics I with Lab; recommended enrollment in AP Calculus AB

Course Description: AP Physics is an advanced course for college-bound students who plan to enter a STEM-related program in college and are presently taking calculus. Topics covered include: scientific mathematics including scientific notation, significant figures, forces, kinematics, dynamics, conservation laws, work, energy, sound and light waves, fluid dynamics, electric circuits, electromagnetism, radioactivity, atomic and nuclear physics, and modern physics. Coordination with the calculus curriculum will also be covered. The focus on this course will be in applying the principles of calculus in solving physics problems.



This course is accredited through Saint Francis University. Four (4) College Credits may be earned with the successful completion of this course and a final grade (Y1) of 70% or better. Participation in college accreditation is required and paid for by the California Area School District.

<b>Anatomy &amp; Physiology</b>			
Grade(s): 11-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Science Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): Biology I with Lab			
Course Description: This course will serve as an introduction to the systems of the human body. The course covers the following: cellular basis of life, tissues including epithelial, connective, muscle and nervous; the integumentary system, bones and skeletal tissue and a detailed study of the anatomy of the human skeleton. Additional topics include muscle anatomy and human genetics.			

<b>Astronomy</b>			
Grade(s): 11-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Science Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
Course Description: This course provides an introduction to the study of celestial objects like stars, planets, galaxies, and other cosmic phenomena. Their properties, motions, and the broader universe are explored, while incorporating basic physics and observation techniques and delving into topics like the solar system, star life cycles, constellations, and the history of astronomy. The aim of this course is to allow students to develop an understanding of our place within the cosmos through hands-on activities and familiarity with night sky observation practices.			

<b>Contemporary Issues in Science</b>			
Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.25	Graduation: Science Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
Course Description: This course is for juniors and seniors who will acquire the knowledge and skills to gather, analyze and apply information and ideas from current issues in science. This course will cover the evolution of civilization over the last 10,000 years before students engage in current issues in science and technology that affect people all over the world. Students will read articles in			

various magazines, newspapers, student publications, and other electronic media. They will answer questions on these articles and use them as a basis for discussion. They will also view videos on news programs and evaluate them. Grammar, logic, and rhetoric will be essential in succeeding in this course. Occasionally debates on certain current issues will occur as these stories surface in the news media. Effective communication skills will be addressed during each phase of this course, as well as proper questioning techniques.

Earth Science			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 1	Graduation: Science Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: Earth Science is a dynamic and engaging course designed for students in grades 9-12 to explore the processes and systems that shape our planet and its environment. This course provides a comprehensive introduction to geology, meteorology, oceanography, and astronomy, emphasizing the interconnections between Earth's spheres: the lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere.</p> <p>Students will investigate topics such as plate tectonics, rock and mineral formation, weather patterns, climate change, ocean currents, and the solar system. Through hands-on experiments, data analysis, and field studies, students will develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills while gaining an appreciation for Earth's natural processes and resources.</p> <p>This course emphasizes scientific inquiry, real-world applications, and environmental stewardship, preparing students for further study in the sciences and fostering an understanding of their role in sustaining Earth's systems.</p>			

Environmental Science			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 1	Graduation: Science Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description:</p> <p>Environmental Science is an interdisciplinary course that explores the relationships between humans and the natural world. This course provides students with a comprehensive understanding of ecological principles, environmental issues, and sustainable practices. Through a combination of</p>			

classroom instruction, hands-on laboratory experiments, and field investigations, students will examine topics such as ecosystems, biodiversity, natural resources, energy production and consumption, pollution, climate change, and environmental policy.

Students will engage in critical thinking and problem-solving to analyze environmental challenges and propose actionable solutions. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the scientific processes that shape the Earth's systems and the role of human activity in influencing environmental health. This course encourages students to become informed and responsible global citizens who can make environmentally sound decisions in their personal and civic lives.



## Humanities, Social Studies, and Histories Course Descriptions:



World Cultures 7			
Grade(s): 7	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0	Status: Core/Required
<p>Course Description: World Culture for grade 7 will offer an overview to the history of mankind from the beginnings of civilization to the end of the middle ages. The course will emphasize the likenesses and differences of different cultural groups in history. We will relate how historic developments and events ultimately affect our lives today. The study of architecture throughout the ages will show how humans create their own place in this world and the development of civilization. We will also cover the basics of geography and map skills.</p>			

Civics 8			
Grade(s): 8	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0	Status: Core/Required
<p>Course Description: The 8th grade Civics course will introduce the students to their various roles as American citizens. The students will learn that the reason why we study civics is to not only learn about our political system but also to learn ways in which we can be active in our communities. Their responsibilities and duties as citizens living in a democratic country will be discussed as well as the importance of being an active and informed citizen. Through studying civics, they will realize that the most important element in a democratic society is the people. The following topics will be discussed in this course: citizenship, purpose of government, Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, three branches of</p>			

government, rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens, state governments, local governments, elections, and the criminal justice system.

## Exploratory Geography

Grade(s):  
7-8

Length:  
Year-long

Credits:  
0

Status:  
Elective

Course Description: Exploratory Geography prepares students for a global future and provides a context for understanding world events. Students learn basic skills and background knowledge for navigating the world and understanding the relationships among people and places. Students will develop critical thinking and problem solving skills as they investigate the physical geography, climate, economy, culture, political systems and demographics of modern countries in the world. Major local, national and world places and events will be explored. This course will emphasize Pennsylvania landmarks.

<b>United States/PA History I</b>			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Required
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: This early American course examines the history of the United States from the colonial period to the Civil War or Reconstruction era. The goal of this course is for students to gain an appreciation for the key historical figures, events, and places that shaped the formation of our country. Students will create projects and give presentations in addition to the teacher-led instruction throughout the year. This course typically includes a historical overview of political, military, scientific, and social developments as well. Local history and landmarks/figures are also emphasized and highlighted throughout the various modules of study.</p>			

<b>World History</b>			
Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Social Studies Required
Prerequisite Course(s): United States/PA History I			
<p>Course Description: This course examines world history and cultures from the Byzantine Empire to the Industrial Revolution while examining political, economic, social, religious, military, scientific, and cultural developments. This course includes world geography components taught simultaneously with the history and cultural events. .</p>			

<b>United States/PA History II</b>			
Grade(s): 11-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Social Studies Required
Prerequisite Course(s): World History			
<p>This course delves into the history of the United States from the World War I era to 1980, with an emphasis on both U.S. and Pennsylvania history. It covers key</p>			



political, military, scientific, and social developments that shaped the nation during this period. It is recommended that students have completed U.S. / PA History I before enrolling in this course.

## American Government

Grade(s): 11-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Social Studies Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): World History			
Course Description: The American Government course focuses on the foundations of American government from the national, state, and local levels. The Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of government will be discussed along with public policies and the impact that many aspects of government have on the lives of citizens. Political parties, citizenship, and civil liberties will be incorporated into the overall coverage of the course.			

## Modern United States/PA History

Grade(s): 11-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Social Studies Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): World History			
This course explores the history of the United States from the 1980s to the present, with a focus on both U.S. and Pennsylvania history. Students will analyze key political, military, scientific, and social developments that have shaped modern America during this period.			

## History of Pittsburgh Sports

Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.25	Graduation: Social Studies Elective
Prerequisite Course(s):			

**Course Description:** This course explores the rich and storied history of Pittsburgh sports, examining the city's transformation into a powerhouse of athletic achievement and cultural pride. From the Steel City's iconic professional teams—the Steelers, Penguins, and Pirates—to its legendary athletes and memorable moments, students will delve into the historical, social, and economic impact of sports on the region.

Through a combination of lectures, discussions, and multimedia presentations, students will analyze key events, such as the Steelers' Super Bowl dynasty, the Penguins' Stanley Cup victories, and the Pirates' World Series triumphs. The course will also cover the evolution of collegiate, amateur, and youth sports in Pittsburgh, highlighting the role of sports in shaping community identity and civic pride.

Special topics include the influence of sports on Pittsburgh's industrial heritage, the role of women and minority athletes in breaking barriers, and the city's contributions to national and international sports culture. Students will engage with primary sources, including archival footage, interviews, and memorabilia, as well as visit local landmarks like the Heinz History Center's Sports Museum.

By the end of the course, students will have a deeper appreciation for how Pittsburgh's sports legacy reflects broader societal trends and continues to inspire future generations.

## College History I: United States to 1877

Grade(s):  
11-12

Length:  
Semester

Credits:  
1

Graduation:  
Social Studies  
Elective

Prerequisite Course(s): World History

This rigorous course covers the history of the United States from the beginnings of world history up to the Civil War and Reconstruction era (Beginnings to 1877), with attention to both U.S. and Pennsylvania history. It includes a comprehensive review of political, military, scientific, and social developments during this time. Extensive reading and writing will be required throughout the course.



**SAINT FRANCIS**  
UNIVERSITY become that someone

This course is accredited through Saint Francis University. Three (3) College Credits may be earned with the successful completion of this course and a final

grade (Y1) of 70% or better. Participation in college accreditation is required and fees will be paid for by California Area School District.

## College History II: United States from 1877 - Present

Grade(s): 11-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Social Studies Elective (Can replace US/PA History II)
--------------------	---------------------	---------------	--


Prerequisite Course(s): World History

This rigorous course explores the history of the United States from the post-Reconstruction era to the present (1877 to today), with an emphasis on both U.S. and Pennsylvania history. Students will engage in an in-depth analysis of key political, military, scientific, and social developments. Extensive reading and writing are required throughout the course.



**SAINT FRANCIS**  
**UNIVERSITY** become that someone

This course is accredited through Saint Francis University. Three (3) College Credits may be earned with the successful completion of this course and a final grade (Y1) of 70% or better. Participation in college accreditation is required and paid for by the California Area School District.

Introduction to Psychology			
Grade(s): 11-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Social Studies Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: The goal of this class is to create active intellectual and emotional involvement by the student in the study of human psychology. The human brain is studied from a functional and physiological standpoint. How people learn, experience emotions, and gain motivation are studied. Issues of heredity versus environmental factors in human development are covered as well as different theories of human personality. Ways to manage conflict and stress are studied, and different types of mental disorders are examined. These and other topics will help students understand the field of psychology. Psychology courses introduce students to the study of individual human behavior. Course content typically includes (but is not limited to) an overview of the field of psychology, topics in human growth and development, personality and behavior, and abnormal psychology..</p> <div>  <div> <b>SAINT FRANCIS</b>  <b>UNIVERSITY</b> </div> <div>become that someone</div> </div> <p>This course is accredited through Saint Francis University. Three (3) College Credits may be earned with the successful completion of this course and a final grade (Y1) of 70% or better. Participation in college accreditation is required and fees will be paid for by California Area School District.</p>			

Introduction to Sociology			
Grade(s): 11-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Social Studies Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: This course provides an in-depth exploration of three key conceptual areas in sociology: culture, social structure, and population/ecology. Students will engage with a variety of theoretical frameworks, including conflict theory, functionalism, and symbolic interactionism, to analyze social phenomena. Specific theories, such as political process theory in the context of social movements, exchange theory regarding social interactions, and labeling theory in relation to deviance, will be examined to deepen understanding of these</p>			

concepts. This course will introduce students to the study of human behavior within societal contexts. This course will cover essential topics, including social institutions and norms, the processes of socialization and social change, and the intricate relationships among individuals and groups. Extensive reading and writing assignments will be integral to the course, encouraging students to critically engage with sociological texts and develop their analytical skills. By the end of the course, students will have a solid foundation in sociological principles and theories, enabling them to critically assess the complexities of human behavior in society.



This course is accredited through Saint Francis University. Three (3) College Credits may be earned with the successful completion of this course and a final grade (Y1) of 70% or better. Participation in college accreditation is required and paid for by the California Area School District.

## AP European History

Grade(s): 11-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Social Studies Elective
--------------------	---------------------	---------------	---

Prerequisite Course(s): World History

Course Description: AP European History is an introductory college-level European history course. Students cultivate their understanding of European history through analyzing historical sources and learning to make connections and craft historical arguments as they explore concepts like interaction of Europe and the world; economic and commercial developments; cultural and intellectual developments; states and other institutions of power; social organization and development; national and European identity; and technological and scientific innovation.



This course curriculum is aligned with the [CollegeBoard AP Curriculum](#). Participation in the AP Exam at the end of the course is a requirement to obtain CAHS course credit. The AP Assessment fees are paid by the CASD.

## History of Modern American Music

Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 1	Graduation: Social Studies Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p><b>Course Description:</b>            The History of Modern American Music is a course designed to familiarize students with the history of American Music, starting as early as the 1950's. Prominent players and groups of each era will be covered, as well as sociological, economic and cultural factors that shaped the many styles of Rock music. Classroom activities will include listening, analyzing, writing, class discussions, research, and presentations. This course will rely heavily on classroom discussions and project-based learning.</p> <p>During this course students will evaluate the role groups and individuals from Pennsylvania played in the social, political, cultural, and economic development of the US and the world; evaluate the role groups and individuals from the U.S. played in the social, political, cultural, and economic development of the world. Evaluate the role groups and individuals played in the social, political, cultural, and economic development throughout world history.</p>			

## AP African American Studies

Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p><b>Course Description:</b>            AP African American Studies is an interdisciplinary course that explores the rich and complex history, culture, politics, and contributions of African Americans. Students will examine key themes, including the origins of the African diaspora, the transatlantic slave trade, the Civil Rights Movement, and contemporary issues affecting African American communities. This course integrates literature, art,</p>			

sociology, political science, and economics to provide a comprehensive understanding of African American experiences and their global impact.

Through primary and secondary sources, students will engage in critical analysis, discussions, and research to develop a deeper understanding of the African American identity, resistance, and resilience across centuries. The curriculum emphasizes skills in critical thinking, evidence-based argumentation, and cross-disciplinary analysis, preparing students for advanced academic study and active citizenship.



This course curriculum is aligned with the [CollegeBoard AP Curriculum](#). Participation in the AP Exam at the end of the course is a requirement to obtain CAHS course credit. The AP Assessment fees are paid by the CASD.

## Careers Course Descriptions:



### Exploratory Career Planning

Grade(s):  
7-8

Length:  
Year-long

Credits:  
0.0

Graduation:  
Exploratory

Prerequisite Course(s): N/A

#### Course Description:

Welcome to Exploratory Career Planning, a dynamic middle school course designed to empower students to explore their passions, discover potential career paths, and develop a foundational understanding of the educational and financial aspects associated with various professions. Through engaging activities, interactive discussions, and real-world explorations, students will embark on a journey of self-discovery and career exploration, laying the groundwork for informed decision-making as they navigate their educational journey and beyond.

#### Topics will Include:

**Self-Discovery:** Reflect on personal interests, strengths, and values to identify potential career paths. Engage in activities and assessments designed to uncover individual aptitudes and passions.

**Career Exploration:** Explore a diverse range of careers across various industries. Gain insights into the day-to-day responsibilities, challenges, and rewards associated with different professions through guest speakers, field trips, and virtual simulations.



**Educational Pathways:** Investigate the educational requirements and pathways leading to different careers. Understand the importance of academic preparation, skill development, and lifelong learning in achieving career goals.

**Financial Literacy:** Introduce basic financial concepts related to different careers, including salary expectations, budgeting, and financial planning. Explore the connection between education, career choices, and financial well-being.

**Goal Setting:** Develop short-term and long-term career goals based on personal interests and aspirations. Create actionable plans that outline the steps needed to achieve these goals, considering the educational and financial aspects.

Career Planning			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 1	Graduation: Required
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: Students will be exploring their own personal interests and develop personal pathways to their graduation and explore career and college pathways they may pursue upon graduation. Students will explore their own personal interests and align their interests with career pathways. Students will then research their career pathways to discover more information about their career pathways - including: how to obtain that career, what training is involved, what is the expected job outlook for that position, salary, benefits, and more. Through personal, workforce, college, and career exploration, students will learn their interests, aptitudes, and skills in order to identify academic pathways and the process of selecting a major and/or career path in the transition from high school to post-secondary endeavors. Learning methods will include interest inventories, post-secondary school searches, scholarship searches and applications (including essay writing), mock interviews, guest speakers (including human resource and admission officers and college/career development personnel), job shadowing, and career exploration projects/presentations. Application of the decision-making process based on research will assist students with making the connection between the skills necessary to compete in the workplace and employment success.</p>			

## Child Development

Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.25	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: This course takes you through the various stages of childhood development and examines the key principles necessary to ensure proper growth. The course teaches students how to interact with children, how children develop academically, socially, emotionally, and their fine motor skills evolve. A component of this course is a practicum working with elementary-aged students at the California Area Elementary School.</p>			

# Business, Computers, Information, & Technology

## Course Descriptions:



Exploratory Coding & Robotics			
Grade(s): 8	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0	Status: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
Course Description: The Exploratory Coding and Robotics class will introduce the students to the use of Python code for robotics. Students will program virtual robots.			

Exploratory Technology			
Grade(s): 7-8	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0	Status: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
Course Description: The Exploratory Technology Education class introduces students to basic 3D modeling, 3D Printing, and Laser Cutting.			

Exploratory Media			
Grade(s): 7-8	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0	Status: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
Course Description: Students will learn the basic skills needed to successfully produce multimedia projects using the school's media equipment. Students will work with digital cameras, microphones, audio/video editing software, tripods,			

and SD cards. Students will explore both sides of media: on air and “behind the scenes.” This allows students to pursue their interests as the course progresses throughout the nine weeks. This mainly project-based course presents students with the opportunity to produce video specials, interviews, podcasts, and commercials.

## Transportation Technology

Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.25	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
Course Description: This class will focus on the four environments of transportation: land, air, water, and space. Students will complete various hands-on activities to study transportation systems. Some of the activities will include CO2 cars, fixed wing aircrafts, model rockets, mousetrap powered vehicles, and others.			

## Energy Technology

Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.25	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
Course Description: Energy Technology is an overall introduction to energy issues as they relate to generation, delivery, conversion and efficiency. Topics include energy definitions, energy measurement; efficiencies of both new and established energy generation and conversion methods; electricity generation by fossil fuels, nuclear, solar, wind and hydro-power. Other topics include space heating and cooling by traditional methods vs. alternative ones, transportation energy in automobiles, mass transit and freight, and energy considerations in the oil and gas industry.			

## Construction Technology

Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.25	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			

Course Description: Construction Technology is a comprehensive course which provides students with basic knowledge and skills required for construction of commercial, residential, and institutional structures. These courses provide information (typically including career opportunities and training requirements) regarding construction-related occupations such as carpentry, cabinetmaking, bricklaying, electrical trades, plumbing, concrete masonry, and so on.

## Graphic Design

Grade(s):  
9-12

Length:  
Year-long

Credits:  
0.25

Graduation:  
Elective

Prerequisite Course(s): N/A

### Course Description:

Students will learn how to use software to manipulate photographs. Students will also learn to create scalable vector graphics. Students will also create projects using a vinyl cutter and a laser engraver.

## Digital Communication

Grade(s):  
9-12

Length:  
Year-long

Credits:  
0.25

Graduation:  
Elective

Prerequisite Course(s): N/A

### Course Description:

Digital Communications is a course which enables students to effectively communicate ideas and information through experiences dealing with electronic communication, video productions, photography, telecommunications, and computers. Additional topics covered in the course include information storage and retrieval.

## Introduction to Robotics & Automation

Grade(s):  
9-12

Length:  
Year-long

Credits:  
0.25

Graduation:  
Elective

Prerequisite Course(s): N/A

Enrollment or Completion of Algebra I or Algebra IB
<p>Course Description: This is an entry level course designed to expose students to the development, design, and application of robotics and automated technological systems in our world. Students will study the components that make up a robot, as well as their application in various realms of industrial and societal use. Hands-on practice and instruction with VEX robotics kits will help students to understand the concepts of robot anatomy. Additionally, students will explore how programming is used to command and control robots.</p>

Advanced Robotics			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.25	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): Robotics & Automation			
<p>Course Description: This course further enhances students' understanding of the fundamentals of robotics. In this course, students will design, build, test, and analyze their own robot based on a series of progressive challenges. Students will also reinforce and enhance their understanding of programming through more rigorous design activities. Students will be expected to identify and describe some of these challenges, as well as compare and contrast the effects that robotics has on our society, economy, and environment. There will be group activities as well as individual activities. Students will also learn programming languages using self-paced tutorials.</p>			

Introduction to Drafting & Design			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.25	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: This is an introductory level course in mechanical drafting. Students will study and practice the fundamentals skills and content knowledge of drafting. Students will apply these skills in order to develop highly accurate technical drawings and blueprints. Activities will include hand drafting, as well as a brief introduction to Computer Aided Drafting and Design (CADD). This course is intended to provide students with a basic working knowledge of the role of drafting in engineering and design, and to provide them with foundational skills which can be further refined in subsequent course offerings.</p>			

<b>Computer-Aided Drafting &amp; Design (CADD)</b>			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.25	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s):			
<p>Course Description: This course builds on the content knowledge and skills covered in “Introduction to Drafting &amp; Design”. Students will further enhance their drafting skills through instruction and hands-on experience with computer-aided drafting software. Students will utilize AutoCAD and AutoCAD Inventor software to create more advanced drawings and designs. Rigorous instruction in both two-dimensional and three-dimensional design styles will allow students the opportunity to gain practical, real-world knowledge and experience with tools and techniques that reflect current industry standards.</p>			

<b>3-Dimensional Design &amp; Modeling</b>			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.25	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): Computer-Aided Drafting			
<p>Course Description: This course further enhances the drafting skills of the student who has successfully completed both previous drafting courses. Students will learn to create effective three-dimensional designs through the use of cutting-edge design software and 3D printing tools. This is a culminating course that accurately reflects the challenges and responsibilities encountered in today’s engineering and design careers. A “B” average or higher in CADD is recommended.</p>			

<b>Principles of Invention &amp; Innovation</b>			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.25	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s):			
<p>Course Description: This course explores the methods humans use to create new technologies and enhance existing ones. Students will learn how engineers and</p>			

designers use the Engineering Design Process to shape and mold their creative ideas into effective real-world solutions. A course of study in this class will include experience in engineering-based problem solving strategies, application of technological skills from previous tech classes, as well as guided instruction in reverse-engineering.

## STEM-Based Research, Design, & Development

Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.25	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): Computer-Aided Drafting (strongly encouraged)			
Course Description: This is a capstone course in Technology Education. Students will begin the course by researching real-world problems in their school, community, or personal life that can be addressed and solved through the application of technology. They will select a viable problem to solve at the beginning of the course. Thereafter, the student, under the tutelage and guidance of the instructor, will research, analyze, and study the problem. Through the application of scientific, technological, engineering, and mathematical knowledge, the student will design, develop, test, analyze, and implement an effective solution to the problem.			

## Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence

Grade(s): 11-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.25	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
Course Description: This course will explore the following: What Is Cybercrime? How is it investigated? What regulations exist related to the collection and use of electronic evidence? Students explore the technical and legal challenges in searching for, extracting, and preserving electronic evidence, while simultaneously looking at the legal implications of crimes that are committed in the realms of cyberspace. In addition to Cyber Security Administration, this course addresses implications that are crucial for a variety of fields and disciplines, including computer science, criminal justice, business, health care, and pre-law.			





**SAINT FRANCIS**  
**UNIVERSITY** become that someone

This course is accredited through Saint Francis University. Three (3) College Credits may be earned with the successful completion of this course and a final grade (Y1) of 70% or better. Participation in college accreditation is required and fees will be paid for by California Area School District.

### Computer Literacy

Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.25	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
Course Description: Students will acquire knowledge of and experience with the use of previously written software packages. The course will explore word –processing, spreadsheets, and database programs along with presentation technology and desktop publishing.			

### Introduction to Media Production

Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.25	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
Course Description: This is a hands-on course that allows students to work with computers, video cameras, audio equipment, and editing equipment to produce video projects. Additionally, students will rehearse voice and diction skills necessary for good on-air presentation. The creation of video interview specials for Trojan TV News will be the focus. This course is reserved for mature students who can be trusted to work with others in a project-based setting.			

### Media Production / PORTALS

Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 1	Graduation: Elective
--------------------	----------------------	---------------	-------------------------

Prerequisite Course(s): Introduction to Media Production
<p>Course Description: This class allows students to enhance and advance their skills by producing projects and serving as audio-visual support for school events. Students are expected to maintain and improve skills for handling different types of audio-visual equipment. Students must also improve on-air skills by conducting interviews. The main job of students will be to serve on the Trojan TV News team by preparing for the daily live YouTube broadcast. Students are expected to give of their time as needed to complete projects throughout the year, including after-school and/or evening videotaping assignments. Mature students with the dedication to meet demanding deadlines and with the ability to work collaboratively and independently will find success and satisfaction in the course.</p>

Business & Wall Street			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 1	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description:</p> <p>Business &amp; Wall Street is an engaging and dynamic high school course designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of key concepts in entrepreneurship, accounting, and investing. This course aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the world of business and finance, preparing them for future success in the rapidly evolving global economy.</p> <p>Students will explore the fundamentals of starting and managing a business. Topics covered include ideation, business planning, market research, funding options, and the development of a viable business model. Through real-world case studies and interactive projects, students will gain practical insights into the entrepreneurial process.</p> <p>Students will delve into the essential principles of accounting, acquiring the skills necessary to interpret and analyze financial information. Key topics include financial statements, budgeting, basic bookkeeping, and understanding the role of accounting in decision-making. Practical exercises and simulations will reinforce students' ability to apply accounting concepts to real-world scenarios.</p> <p>Students will learn how to analyze financial markets, evaluate stocks and bonds, and make informed investment decisions. Guest speakers from the financial industry may provide insights into the real-world application of investment strategies.</p>			

Students will work on a comprehensive project that requires them to create a business plan, develop financial statements, and propose an investment strategy. This practical application will showcase their ability to integrate and apply the concepts learned throughout the course.

## Economics (AP Macroeconomics & AP Microeconomics)

Grade(s):  
10-12

Length:  
Year-long

Credits:  
1.0

Graduation:  
Elective

Prerequisite Course(s): Recommended to take Business & Wall Street

### Course Description:

This year-long course has two components - Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. Students will be required to take both AP Macroeconomics and AP Microeconomics Exams.

AP Macroeconomics is a college-level course that introduces students to the principles that apply to an economic system as a whole. The course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price-level determination. It also develops students' familiarity with economic performance measures, the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international economics. Students learn to use graphs, charts, and data to analyze, describe, and explain economic concepts.

AP Microeconomics is a college-level course that introduces students to the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual economic decision-makers. The course also develops students' familiarity with the operation of product and factor markets, distributions of income, market failure, and the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. Students learn to use graphs, charts, and data to analyze, describe, and explain economic concepts.



This course curriculum is aligned with the CollegeBoard AP Curriculum for [Macroeconomics](#) and [Microeconomics](#). Participation in the AP Exam at the end of the course is a requirement to obtain CAHS course credit. The AP Assessment fees are paid by the CASD.

## World Language & Cultures Course Descriptions:




### Exploratory Spanish

Grade(s): 7-8	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0	Status: Required
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: Exploratory Spanish is a nine-week course designed for middle school students to explore the Spanish language and Spanish-speaking cultures. In addition, they will understand their own culture better as they learn to appreciate different aspects of Spanish-speaking cultures. Students will learn vocabulary included, but not limited to: Students will learn basic linguistic skills and start to develop a sense of understanding basic grammatical skills.</p>			




### Spanish I

Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 1	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: Spanish I is open to all students in grades 9 through 12. The level one Spanish course is designed for students to begin their exposure to the Spanish language and develop foundational language skills in listening comprehension, reading proficiency, writing skills, and speaking ability in the target language. Essential vocabulary includes greetings, goodbyes, numbers, alphabet, calendar, weather, hobbies/likes, personal descriptions, school supplies and subjects, emotions, and much more! Students will learn basic grammatical structures and conversational skills while aiming to gain a Novice High proficiency level and cultural understanding.</p>			

Spanish II			
Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 1	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): Spanish I			
<p>Course Description: The level two Spanish course is designed for students to continue their study of the Spanish language and culture. Students will continue to develop foundational language skills in listening comprehension, reading proficiency, writing skills, and speaking ability in the target language. Essential vocabulary includes food, family, clothing &amp; shopping, house, chores, parties &amp; holiday celebrations, body parts, daily routine, and more! Students will learn more advanced grammatical structures and conversational skills while aiming to gain an Intermediate Low proficiency level and cultural understanding.</p>			

Spanish III			
Grade(s): 11-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 1	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): Spanish II			
<p>Course Description: The student is encouraged to use and reinforce the four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) while developing an up-to-date awareness of Hispanic culture. Functional vocabulary and grammar from Spanish I and II is reincorporated and expanded throughout the year. A more in-depth study of grammar is pursued and a strong emphasis is placed on real world applications.</p> <div>  <div> <b>SAINT FRANCIS</b>  <b>UNIVERSITY</b> </div> <div>become that someone</div> </div> <p>This course is accredited through Saint Francis University. Three (3) College Credits may be earned with the successful completion of this course and a final grade (Y1) of 70% or better. Participation in college accreditation is required and paid for by the California Area School District.</p>			

AP Spanish Language & Culture
-------------------------------

Grade(s): 12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 1	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): Spanish III			
<p>Course Description: Students continue developing their listening, reading, writing and speaking skills in Spanish, aiming for the intermediate high/advanced level of proficiency. Students will learn how to use more complex and advanced grammar techniques; read novels, watch movies, and listen to podcasts in Spanish; and participate in outreach programs with the local elementary school students. Additionally, travel, medical, and/or business world Spanish topics and vocabulary will be studied, so that students can survive in the global world of today in their careers and their lives when faced with situations in Spanish.</p> <div>  <div> <b>SAINT FRANCIS</b>  UNIVERSITY become that someone </div> </div> <p>This course is accredited through Saint Francis University. Three (3) College Credits may be earned with the successful completion of this course and a final grade (Y1) of 70% or better. Participation in college accreditation is required and fees will be paid for by California Area School District.</p> <div>   </div> <p>This course curriculum is aligned with the CollegeBoard AP Curriculum for AP Spanish Language &amp; Culture. Participation in the AP Exam at the end of the course is a requirement to obtain CAHS course credit. The AP Assessment fees are paid by the CASD.</p>			

Exploratory German			
Grade(s): 7-8	Length: Nine Weeks	Credits: 0	Status: Required
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: Students will learn about German cultures, holidays, traditions, and customs. A focus on language, speech, reading, and writing the</p>			

German language will be introduced. Vocabulary includes, but not limited to: numbers, alphabet, family unit, verbs, colors, and school terms.

<b>German I</b>			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 1	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s):			
Course Description: German I is open to all students in grades 9 through 12. In this course there is emphasis on listening and speaking. Opportunities for self-expression are abundant through standard dialogues, student-created situations and written paragraphs. Students are motivated toward linguistic control of the fundamental elements of German through basic vocabulary, common idiomatic expressions and grammar. German videos, audio and resources will provide enrichment.			

<b>German II</b>			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 1	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): German I			
Course Description: Although the approach is still verbal, the student begins the study of the structure of the German language. Greater effort is made to increase the functional vocabulary of the student. There is an emphasis on providing situations and casual examples for the language concepts presented. Students will understand common vocabulary terms and phrases, use a wide range of grammar patterns in their speaking and writing, and participate in dialogues and respond appropriately to conversational prompts..			

<b>German III</b>			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 1	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): German I; German I			

Course Description: Each student progresses in the study of a foreign language proportionately to his/her innate ability and initiative; he/she should be taught to get thought and meaning without resorting to a conscious translation. He/she who learns to express his own ideas in a world language usually learns to express himself/herself clearly in his own native language.

## AP German Language & Culture

Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 1	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): German I; German II; German III			
<p>Course Description: German IV is a continuation of German III, covering those units not finished during the third year. Opportunities for self-expression abound as the student is required more and more to think in the target language as well as react using the four skills. With the goal of maximizing self-expression in the German language, students embrace the opportunity to engage in fluent conversation with their peers. They demonstrate comprehension through the use of correct vocabulary, its pronunciation and associated intonation as well as its proper grammatical standing. Moreover, the topics covered throughout this section of the course extend beyond the utilization of basic terminology to account for the complexity of the language encouraging students to exhibit control and proficiency in their interactions.</p>			

## Exploratory Mandarin

Grade(s): 7-8	Length: Nine Weeks	Credits: 0	Status: Exploratory
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: This middle school-level course offers students an immersive experience in Mandarin Chinese culture, cooking, and language. Through engaging activities, students will gain a broad understanding of Mandarin Chinese, exploring its rich traditions, culinary delights, and basic language fundamentals. This course provides a vibrant introduction to the beauty of Mandarin Chinese, fostering cultural appreciation and laying the foundation for further language study.</p>			



Cultural Exploration: Delve into the vibrant traditions, festivals, and customs of Mandarin-speaking communities.

Cooking Adventures: Experience the culinary delights of Mandarin cuisine through hands-on cooking sessions.

Language Introduction: Learn basic Mandarin Chinese greetings, expressions, and simple conversational phrases.

Mandarin I			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 1.0	Status: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description:</p> <p>Mandarin I is a comprehensive introductory course designed for high school students eager to delve into the fundamentals of Mandarin Chinese language and culture. This course focuses on developing essential language skills, including listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Through interactive lessons, cultural insights, and practical exercises, students will build a solid foundation in Mandarin, setting the stage for further language proficiency.</p> <p>Language Proficiency: Develop fundamental Mandarin Chinese language skills, including pronunciation, vocabulary, and basic grammar.</p> <p>Cultural Immersion: Explore the cultural nuances of Mandarin-speaking communities, gaining insights into traditions, art, and social customs.</p> <p>Practical Communication: Engage in everyday conversations, role-playing scenarios, and language activities to enhance practical communication skills.</p>			

Mandarin II			
Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 1.0	Status: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description:</p> <p>Mandarin II builds upon the foundation laid in Mandarin I, taking high school students on a journey towards increased language proficiency and cultural fluency. This course delves deeper into complex language structures, expands vocabulary, and explores more advanced cultural themes. Through interactive projects, group activities, and authentic language use, students will further develop their Mandarin skills, preparing them for more advanced language studies or real-world applications.</p>			

Advanced Language Skills: Enhance listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills with a focus on more complex language structures.

Cultural Fluency: Deepen cultural understanding through the exploration of contemporary issues, literature, and media in Mandarin.

Project-Based Learning: Apply Mandarin skills in practical scenarios, fostering creativity and critical thinking.

American Sign Language			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.5	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: This course will immerse students in “voice off” and “eyes on” communication using signs and the linguistic principles that describe visual spatial communication. The course uses a functional-notional approach that focuses on the functions or communicative purposes of people’s everyday interaction and functions that establish and maintain social relationships. The course introduces students to vocabulary associated with a topic and the grammatical structures needed for the communicative activities of each unit. Participants will be exposed to the sign language varieties used by the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. The course aims to develop basic communicative competencies and will be taught with a blend of interactive elements of communicative language teaching, an emphasis on target language immersion and a focus on using visual-spatial grammar and the functional use of the language.</p>			

# Visual, Musical, and Performing Arts

## Course Descriptions:



<b>Exploratory Art</b>			
Grade(s): 7-8	Length: Nine Weeks	Credits: 0	Status: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: This course is designed to introduce students to the elements of art (line, shape, space, form, color, value, and texture) and principles of design (emphasis, contrast, movement, pattern, variety, proportion, balance, harmony, unity). Each project is associated with an element or principle. This course of study prepares students for high school art courses, while helping them develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills. Students will have a chance to create a visual journal in this course and experiment with collage and mixed media techniques.</p>			

<b>Exploratory Concert Band</b>			
Grade(s): 7-8	Length: Nine Weeks	Credits: 0	Status: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: This course is designed to provide students with an enriching and diverse instrumental music education by performing music of various genres and time periods. The class will perform two concerts during the year to demonstrate their learning of such music. The middle school band will also perform an adjudicated performance at the end of the school year. The daily objective of the course is to foster and promote music growth through the playing of an instrument by the student, at an appropriate level of difficulty. As the band works as a team, group effort and cooperation are necessary for a successful program. Band is a skilled effort in which each student is expected to show technical and musical growth throughout the course. Middle school band students will be invited to participate in the High School Marching Band. This is</p>			

an after school activity where students will learn and perform with the High School students through all Football Games, Parades and Band Festivals. Rehearsals typically begin in Late July. Season calendars will be available typically around March for the upcoming season.

<b>Exploratory Music</b>			
Grade(s): 7-8	Length: Nine Weeks	Credits: 0	Status: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: This course is designed for a middle school age student that has chosen to study more about music. Students will have the opportunity to explore more than just traditional band aspects to the subject of music. Students will explore the following topics: music reading, instrument families, film score compositions, various composers and much more! Students will have an opportunity to research a group or individual and give a presentation based on their choice.</p>			

<b>Ceramics and Sculpture</b>			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 0.5	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: This introductory course emphasizes the power of surfaces to convey meaning, students will explore a range of techniques and materials that tell a story in three-dimensional form.</p> <p>In this course, we will look at history, from ancient artifacts to contemporary installations, discovering how artists through the ages have used materials to reflect cultural values, personal identity, and creative expression.</p> <p>Through hands-on projects and group discussions, students will develop creative thinking and problem-solving skills. By the end of the course, students will have created a personal collection of works that demonstrate their unique voice and vision.</p>			

<b>Drawing</b>			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 0.5	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: In this introductory course, students will have a chance to explore topics that focus on their interests through two dimensions, with an emphasis on drawing. Students will learn how to accurately draw a still life and develop the skills and techniques for shading and creating a full range of value in their drawings. Students will complete drawing projects using a variety of materials including graphite pencil, charcoal, scratchboard, colored pencil, and mixed media.</p>			

<b>Tattoo Art: History, Culture, and Practice</b>			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 0.5	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): Drawing I			
<p>Course Description: This course explores the rich world of tattoo art, delving into its history, cultural significance, and its powerful impact on contemporary visual language as both a business and an art form. Students will investigate the evolution of tattooing across cultures, examining styles and symbolism from indigenous traditions to modern tattoo studios.</p> <p>Through hands-on projects, students will practice designing their own tattoo art using various techniques. They will explore henna and temporary tattoo methods and develop their skills by applying designs on synthetic “fake skin” to experience the artistry and precision that tattooing requires.</p> <p>In addition to developing artistic skills, students will engage in discussions on the cultural, ethical, and professional aspects of tattooing. By the end of the course, students will have a foundational understanding of tattoo art’s place in both history and contemporary society, and will develop a portfolio of their own designs that reflect their personal style and understanding of this unique art form.</p>			

<b>Painting</b>
-----------------

Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 0.5 each	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: This course is for students who like to paint and formally introduces students to painting techniques and concepts. In this course, students will have a chance to explore topics that focus on their interests through two dimensions, with an emphasis on painting. A variety of materials will be used including pencil, watercolor, acrylic, tempera, and mixed media. Students will learn about color theory, mixing colors, watercolor painting techniques, and gelli prints. Students will learn about what brushes to use and brushstroke techniques, as well as proper care of painting tools and supplies.</p>			

AP Art History			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 1	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>AP Art History is an advanced, college-level course that provides an in-depth exploration of global art, encouraging students to investigate the connections between art, culture, and historical context. Aligned with the College Board's curriculum framework, this course covers a wide range of artworks spanning prehistoric times to contemporary art, with a balanced study of Western and non-Western art traditions.</p> <p>Students will analyze 250 required works of art, examining their form, function, content, and context, as well as the techniques and materials used. Through this study, students will develop critical visual analysis skills, learning to interpret how social, political, religious, and cultural factors influence the creation and meaning of art. They will explore themes across time periods and cultures, building a comprehensive understanding of art's role in shaping human experience.</p> <p>Emphasizing close reading, visual analysis, and comparison, AP Art History fosters students' analytical writing and discussion skills. By the end of the course, students will be prepared to take the AP Art History exam, demonstrating their ability to think critically about art and its impact on society.</p>			



This course curriculum is aligned with the [CollegeBoard AP Curriculum](#). Participation in the AP Exam at the end of the course is a requirement to obtain CAHS course credit. The AP Assessment fees are paid by the CASD.

## Foundations of Art II

Grade(s):  
9-12

Length:  
Semester

Credits:  
0.5

Graduation:  
Elective

Prerequisite Course(s): Foundations of Art I

Course Description: Students in Foundations of Art II will develop their skills in greater depth through drawing, painting, sculpture, and mixed media. Collaborative grid drawing, linear perspective, abstract design, handbuilding pottery techniques, and batik are skills that students will learn in this course.

## Concert Band

Grade(s):  
9-12

Length:  
Year-long


Credits:  
0.5 or 1.0

Graduation:  
Elective

Prerequisite Course(s): N/A

Course Description: The High School Band is open to students in Grades 9 through 12 who have had previous instrumental training or are willing and ambitious to learn an instrument. Students will be playing and practicing a variety of music that covers different genres, eras and styles. Throughout the fall, the primary focus of this ensemble will consist of music for the Marching Band; it is not mandatory for all students enrolled in the course to participate in Marching Band; however, it is strongly preferred. This course will annually perform in two concerts: one in the winter and one in the spring. It is an expectation of the course to participate in both concerts. This course will also have the opportunity to participate in a PMEA Adjudicated Performance in the Spring. Students may enroll in band all four years of high school.

Introduction to Music Theory			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 0.5	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description:</p> <p>This semester-long course provides a solid foundation in the fundamental concepts of music theory. Through a combination of interactive lessons, practical exercises, and hands-on activities, students will explore topics such as notation, rhythm, scales, chords, harmony, and basic composition. This course aims to enhance students' understanding of how music is created and the principles that underlie it, fostering a deeper appreciation for the art of sound. No prior musical experience is necessary, making this course accessible to all music enthusiasts.</p>			

AP Music Theory			
Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 1	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): Instruction to Music Theory (recommended)			
<p>Course Description: AP Music Theory is an introductory college-level music theory course. Students cultivate their understanding of music theory through analyzing performed and notated music as they explore concepts like pitch, rhythm, form and musical design. Other topics that students will explore include key signatures, clef reading, music notation, cadences types and identification, ear training, music composition and chord building. Throughout the AP Curriculum, students will have the opportunity to take the AP Test at the end of the school year where it will focus on three areas of expertise: written theory, aural theory and a sight singing portion. Students should understand that extensive projects will be required throughout the course. Recommended for students who have been in band, choir, or other musical endeavors to which they are confident in their music skill set.</p>			
<div style="text-align: center;">  <div> <b>SAINT FRANCIS</b>  <b>UNIVERSITY</b> </div> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; font-size: small;">become that someone</div> </div> <p>This course is accredited through Saint Francis University. Three (3) College Credits may be earned with the successful completion of this course and a final grade (Y1) of 70% or better. Participation in college accreditation is required and paid for by the California Area School District.</p>			





This course curriculum is aligned with the [CollegeBoard AP Curriculum](#). Participation in the AP Exam at the end of the course is a requirement to obtain CAHS course credit. The AP Assessment fees are paid by the CASD.

## Applied Music

Grade(s):  
9-12

Length:  
Semester

Credits:  
0.5

Graduation:  
Elective

Prerequisite Course(s): N/A

### Course Description:

Immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of musical history as we traverse through decades and explore diverse musical traditions from around the world. The Applied Music course offers high school students a unique opportunity to deepen their understanding of music, transcending temporal and cultural boundaries. Through a hands-on and experiential approach, students will actively engage with the evolution of music over decades and its vibrant manifestations across various nations and cultures.

Trace the evolution of music across decades, examining key genres, movements, and influential artists. Explore the societal and cultural factors that shaped the musical landscape throughout history. Dive into specific decades, unraveling the distinctive sounds and styles that defined each era. Analyze the impact of historical events on the music of the time.

Explore a kaleidoscope of musical traditions from different cultures and regions. Understand the unique rhythms, scales, and instrumentation that characterize diverse musical expressions.

Engage in practical applications of musical concepts through instrument play, composition, and performance.

Develop skills in playing instruments relevant to different musical genres and cultures.

Examine specific musical genres in detail, such as jazz, rock, classical, world music, and more.

Investigate the cultural roots and evolution of each genre across time periods.

Collaborate with classmates to explore and create music that blends elements from different cultures.  
Foster an appreciation for the interconnectedness of global musical traditions.

Analyze the role of music in social and political movements throughout history. Understand how artists use music as a powerful tool for expression and activism. This Applied Music course transcends traditional boundaries, providing students with a holistic understanding of music as a universal language that evolves through time and resonates across cultures. Join us for an immersive journey that celebrates the dynamic and ever-changing world of music.

Music Technology			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 0.5	Status: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: This course is designed for students interested in music and exploring the world of music technology. The Music Technology class will equip students with a working knowledge of industry tools for composition and notation, sound recording/engineering and the history of commercial music making. Students will be equipped with a working knowledge of the art of music through the use of software and hardware designed to assist in the creation, amplification and alteration of music. Numerous digital applications will be used with students that vary year to year, based upon the most updated forms of electronic technology available at that time.</p>			

Exploratory Chorus			
Grade(s): 7-8	Length: Nine Weeks	Credits: 0.0	Graduation: Exploratory
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: Middle School Chorus is an enriching musical experience that invites students to explore the joy of singing together. This course focuses on building vocal skills, musical literacy, and a love for choral performance. Students will learn a diverse repertoire of songs spanning various genres and cultures, fostering an appreciation for musical diversity. Through vocal exercises, collaborative rehearsals, and public performances, students will develop confidence, teamwork,</p>			

and a lifelong passion for music. Join us in creating harmonies and building a supportive musical community in Middle School Chorus!

<b>Chorus</b>			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 0.5	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: This course is designed to give vocal instruction and performance opportunities to beginning and advanced students. Previous vocal training is not required but some singing ability is necessary. A variety of music will be experienced including classical, pop, and jazz. Performances will be based upon the progress of the ensemble. A variety of voices are needed including both male and female. As with band, students may enroll in Chorus all four years of high school.</p>			

<b>Exploratory Drama</b>			
Grade(s): 7-8	Length: Nine Weeks	Credits: 0.0	Graduation: Exploratory
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: Middle School Drama is an exciting exploration of the world of performance arts. Students will engage in creative expression through acting, improvisation, and theatrical activities. This course fosters confidence, teamwork, and effective communication skills through the lens of drama. Students will delve into script analysis, character development, and stage presence, culminating in dynamic performances.</p>			

<b>Drama &amp; Theatre Fundamentals</b>			
Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 0.5	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			

Course Description: The objective of this course is to allow students to explore the human condition through the Dramatic Arts. This course covers topics such as story structure, Aristotle's key elements, styles and genres, text analysis, performance and auditioning techniques, technical theater terminology, and playwriting.

<b>Drama &amp; Theatre Performances</b>			
Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 0.5	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): Drama Fundamentals			
Course Description: Drama Performances is a course in more advanced techniques of acting and staging plays for students who have excelled in and found an interest in Drama I. In addition to more advanced instruction in communication through voice and body, basic aspects of play production will be explored. Students will design and present two major projects. (Students may elect to participate in the annual school play to fulfill one of these projects.) The course will be beneficial to those students planning to pursue further theatrical activities in high school, college, or the community.			

<b>String Orchestra</b>			
Grade(s): 7-12	Length: Semester	Credits: 0.5	Status: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
Course Description: The String Orchestra class offers beginning instruction on violin, viola, cello, and string bass instruments with a focus on the skills necessary for long-term success. Fundamentals stressed include proper posture and playing position, development of characteristic tone quality and training in music literacy. Students of any grade level are welcome. These groups will perform in the Winter and Spring Music Concerts. The school will provide the instrument, if needed.			

<b>Guitar</b>			
Grade(s): 7-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.25	Status: Elective

Prerequisite Course(s): N/A
<p>Course Description: Guitar is a one-semester course covering the basics of the instrument and an application of essential music fundamentals. Students will learn the basics of playing guitar at a beginning level through studying music notation, chord symbols, and peer modeling. A brief history of the guitar along with a study of its respective musical styles will also be covered in this course. Students will learn how to read music notation, chord symbols, and tablature. If the student has a guitar, they can bring the instrument to class. The school will provide a classroom guitar, if needed.</p>

Printmaking			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.25	Status: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: This high school-level course offers students the opportunity to explore various printmaking techniques, fostering creativity and honing artistic skills. From traditional methods to contemporary approaches, students will delve into the dynamic realm of printmaking, developing a unique artistic voice through hands-on projects and experimentation.</p> <p>Traditional and Contemporary Techniques: Gain a comprehensive understanding of both traditional printmaking methods, such as linocut and etching, and contemporary approaches like screen printing and digital printmaking.</p> <p>Exploration of Materials: Experiment with a diverse range of materials, including inks, papers, and printing surfaces, to create visually compelling prints.</p> <p>Artistic Process and Critique: Engage in the complete artistic process, from conceptualization to printing, and participate in constructive critiques to refine and improve artistic work.</p> <p>Cultural and Historical Context: Explore the historical and cultural significance of printmaking, studying the works of renowned printmakers and understanding how printmaking has evolved as an art form.</p>			

Photography & Design			
Grade(s):	Length:	Credits:	Status:

9-12	Year-long	0.25	Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p><b>Course Description:</b>  This is an immersive high school course that explores the dynamic intersection of visual storytelling, design principles, and technical proficiency in photography. This course is designed to empower students to harness the power of images, cultivating their creativity and skills in both photography and graphic design. Through hands-on projects and a blend of traditional and digital techniques, students will embark on a visual journey, capturing and creating compelling narratives through the lens.</p> <p>Master the basics of photography, including composition, lighting, and exposure. Learn to operate digital cameras, experiment with different lenses, and develop technical proficiency in capturing visually stunning images.</p> <p>Explore the principles of graphic design, including layout, typography, and color theory. Develop skills in using industry-standard design software for creative expression and visual communication.</p> <p>Engage in a series of hands-on projects that integrate both photography and design elements. From creating photo essays to designing promotional materials, students will apply their skills to real-world scenarios.</p> <p>Dive into the world of post-production with in-depth lessons on digital image editing. Learn to use software like Adobe Photoshop to enhance, manipulate, and refine your photographic creations.</p> <p>Build a comprehensive portfolio showcasing your evolving skills and personal style. Receive constructive feedback to refine your work and prepare for future artistic pursuits or college applications.</p>			

# Physical Education, Health, and Wellness

## Course Descriptions:



Exploratory Physical Education & Health			
Grade(s): 7-8	Length: Quarter	Credits: 0.0	Graduation: Required
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: This course provides students with the opportunity to learn a variety of sports and sport related movements as well as health and fitness concepts. Health topics relate to nutrition, fitness, health and wellness. Emphasis is placed on active participation and positive social interaction during fitness and sport activities.</p>			

Physical Education & Health			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.25	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: Each student at California Area High School is required each year to take a one-semester course in Physical Education/Health. The program is intended to help the students meet lifelong physical and recreational needs. The students will experience basic to advanced movement skills necessary to improve their physical and neuromuscular development. Emphasis will also be placed on the relationship of physical activity to mental, social, and emotional development. Some of the activities included in the program include: volleyball, hockey, pickleball, basketball, team handball, cardiovascular endurance/muscular strength and endurance, wiffleball, and badminton. This course is designed to assist students in forming wholesome health habits and attitudes based on scientific knowledge of health and disease. Through the study of personality development, body systems, first aid, nutrition, disease, and drug use and abuse,</p>			

students gain a solid background to make choices and assume increasing responsibility for their personal health.

<b>Fitness</b>			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.25	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: This course is designed to apply knowledge of movement skills, skill-related fitness and movement concepts to identify and evaluate physical activities and promote personal lifelong participation. The students will analyze and engage in physical activities emphasizing cardiovascular, muscular strength and endurance, flexibility, and body composition in the least restrictive environment that are developmentally/individually appropriate and support achievement of personal fitness and activity goals. Ultimately, the students will be able to create an individualized plan that promotes lifelong participation in physical activity.</p>			

<b>Sports &amp; Games</b>			
Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.25	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: This class is designed for students interested in learning skills and strategies of various sports and games. This course will include skill coaching and implementation of those skills into a competitive game setting. Sports may include: basketball, flag football, soccer, ultimate frisbee, frisbee golf, pickleball, badminton, floor hockey, wiffleball, lacrosse, bowling, and volleyball. Physical education credit or elective credit can be selected with this course. Sports and Games promotes a desire for physical fitness, lifetime physical activity, and healthy leisure time habits through individual activities, sports, and games. Good sportsmanship, respect, and responsibility are incorporated in Sports and Games.</p>			

<b>Athlete: Physical Education &amp; Health</b>			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.25	Graduation: Elective



Prerequisite Course(s): N/A
Course Description: This class is designed for students simultaneously enrolled in an extracurricular athletic sport within the California Area High School. The purpose of this class is to allow athletes the ability to focus on their individual needs based upon their in-season sport. Students must be an active member on a California Area High School team or a board approved co-op sport or independent competitive athlete.

Zumba®			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.25	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
Course Description: Zumba classes combine latin and international music and dance to create a dynamic calorie-burning form of workout for people of all fitness levels and age groups. This effective fitness system features aerobic training that is a fusion of slow and fast rhythms to tone and sculpt your body.			

## College & Career Readiness:



Work Co-Op (MVCTC)			
Grade(s): 11-12	Length: Varies	Credits: Varies	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisites: 80% minimum in MVCTC Program during Sophomore Year 80% minimum in MVCTC Program during Work Co-Op			

70% minimum in all CASD Courses Approval of CAHS Principal Approval of MVCTC Principal
Program Description: This program offers eligible students the opportunity to gain work experience in a field related to their coursework at the Mon Valley Career and Technical Center. Eligible students demonstrate exemplary behavior and attendance. The MVCTC co-op coordinator and the high school guidance counselor monitor student progress.

Learning in Leadership			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Varies	Credits: Varies	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisites: 70% minimum in all CASD Courses Approval of CAHS Principal			
Program Description: This course is available for students in Grade 9-12 who have demonstrated and modeled leadership. This course focuses on improving public speaking, organizational, leadership, managerial, and other skills needed to be a leader. Students will be provided individualized opportunities based upon their skillset and future plans.			

Technical Math I			
Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 1.0	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisites: Approval of CAHS Principal Approval of MVCTC Principal			
Program Description: This math course is provided through a partnership with the Mon Valley Career & Technology Center. Students must be enrolled at the MVCTC and be in good standings. This course provides instruction on mathematics found in the workforce.			

<b>Technical Math II</b>			
Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 1.0	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisites: Approval of CAHS Principal Approval of MVCTC Principal			
Program Description: This math course is provided through a partnership with the Mon Valley Career & Technology Center. Students must be enrolled at the MVCTC and be in good standings. This course provides instruction on mathematics found in the workforce.			

<b>Independent Study</b>			
Grade(s): 7-12	Length: Varies	Credits: Varies	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisites: N/A			
Program Description: This option may be appropriate for students as recommended by a high school instructor. See the school counselor for more information. This option must be approved by the principal.			

<b>Community Service</b>			
Grade(s): 7-12	Length: Varies	Credits: Varies	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisites: N/A			
Program Description: This course is available for students who have met all expectations in accordance with their graduation plans, have achieved all credits, and are seeking time for community service. All community service requests must be approved by the Principal.			

<b>English as a Second Language</b>			
Grade(s):	Length:	Credits:	Graduation:

7-12	Varies	Varies	Elective
Prerequisites: N/A			
Program Description: This course is for students whose primary language is other than English. The course is designed to instruct the students in the English language according to his or her proficiency level. The student will take this course until fluency in the English language is achieved.			

<b>Gifted Individualized Education Plan (GIEP)</b>			
Grade(s): 7-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.0	Graduation: Optional
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
Program Description: The district provides enrichment opportunities for students through specially designed instruction within and outside the general education classroom. Students identified as gifted receive instruction and support to meet their abilities and needs. The district, along with parents and guardians, strive to develop instruction that will challenge the learner. Gifted education provides exceptional students opportunities to work with similar-ability peers, small group settings, develop logical and critical thinking skills, academic competitions, effective communication, the ability to transfer and apply knowledge to meaningful experiences. Contact the Director of Student Services if you are interested in the Gifted Program.			

<b>Veterinary, Animal Health Technology, Technician, and Veterinary Technician</b>			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 3.0	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisites: N/A			
Program Description: A program that prepares individuals, under the supervision of veterinarians, laboratory animal specialists, and zoological professionals, to provide patient management, care, and clinical procedures assistance as well as owner communication. Includes instruction in animal nursing care, animal health and nutrition, animal handling, clinical pathology, radiology, anesthesiology, dental prophylaxis, surgical assisting, clinical laboratory procedures, office administration skills, patient and owner management, and applicable standards and regulations.			

Education, General			
Grade(s): 9-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 3.0	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisites: N/A			
<p>Program Description:</p> <p>This course is designed to teach instructional strategies and introductory skills in the field of Education to students seeking to pursue a career in education.</p> <p>At the completion of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and appreciate the essential qualifications and personal demands of teaching as a profession</li> <li>• Define and evaluate his/her own teaching dispositions and learning style</li> <li>• Recognize the essential function of professional ethics, personal morals, and a strong value system in the role of the teacher, including the importance of confidentiality and liability issues pertaining to family/school relationships.</li> <li>• Reflect on personal reasons for entering the teaching profession and write an initial statement of educational philosophy.</li> <li>• Review current teacher licensure laws in the Commonwealth of PA.</li> <li>• Define and describe the nature, purpose and responsibilities of the public education system in a democratic society. Compare and contrast with the role of public education in other countries.</li> <li>• Review the history of American education and identify the philosophical foundations of education and their global roots.</li> <li>• Identify and observe in the classroom various elements of diversity that affect K-12 student learning and accomplishment.</li> <li>• Recognize and examine the diversity in schools in the United States and globally.</li> <li>• Identify and observe in the classroom the cultural, family, and environmental factors that affect students in schools.</li> <li>• Complete a minimum of twenty (20) hours of supervised service learning/field work experience in a classroom and reflect on the experience in relation to personal skills, dispositions, and future professional decisions.</li> </ul>			

## Programs of Learning:



# Moonshot Program - Individualized Learning Plan

Grade(s): 7-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.0	Graduation: Optional
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Program Description: Moonshot is a student-centered learning experience where students identify their topic interests for the instruction and the relevant PA Standards are aligned to their interests. . Students in the Moonshot program do not receive grades and their academics are focused on progressive feedback toward mastery. . This focus helps students better understand what they are doing correctly and what needs more work without the stress of grades. All students receive an individualized learning experience.</p>			

# Gifted Individualized Education Plan (GIEP)

Grade(s): 7-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 0.0	Graduation: Optional
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Program Description: The district provides enrichment opportunities for students through specially designed instruction within and outside the general education classroom. Students identified as gifted receive instruction and support to meet their abilities and needs. The district, along with parents and guardians, strive to develop instruction that will challenge the learner. Gifted education provides exceptional students opportunities to work with similar-ability peers, small group settings, develop logical and critical thinking skills, academic competitions, effective communication, the ability to transfer and apply knowledge to</p>			

meaningful experiences. Contact the Director of Student Services if you are interested in the Gifted Program.



### **Dual Enrollment Courses through Mon Valley Career & Technology Center**

Students may elect for one, two, or three years of Career and Technology Studies; however, it is strongly encouraged that students commit to completing three years of the same program in order to complete the entire curriculum and obtain all necessary skills and certifications to enter the workforce in this trade.

Career or program specific mathematics is offered to interested students or students with a schedule conflict. Credits apply toward graduation requirements.

A student doing satisfactory work at the MVCTC and home school may be eligible for a paid work experience during school time in their field of study.

### **Agricultural Technology**

Grade(s):  
10-12

Length:  
Year-long

Credits:  
4.0

Graduation:  
Elective

Prerequisite Course(s): N/A

Course Description: An instructional program that generally describes the principles and practices of agricultural research and production and may prepare individuals to apply such knowledge and skills to the solution of practical agricultural problems. This program includes instruction in basic animal, plant, soil science and mechanization, animal husbandry, plant cultivation, soil conservation and mechanical technology. Instruction may include an emphasis in aquaculture, hydroponics, food science and/or environmental science. This program includes instruction in processes, scientific principles and management decisions concerned with agricultural production of agriculture-related processing and storage techniques.

<b>Automotive Technology</b>			
Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 4.0	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: This course offers the students practical instruction in the diagnosis and repair of all automotive systems and their components. It is designed to provide instruction in the theory and principles of the automobile engine, electrical circuitry, chassis, clutch, transmission, lubrication systems, electrical controls, and computerized controls. Students can train to become an automotive technician or focus upon an area of specialization such as 4-wheel alignment, electrical/electronic diagnosis, and others. The students are also afforded the opportunity to obtain the SP/2 Safety certifications and ASE Certifications prior to graduation.</p>			

<b>Carpentry</b>			
Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 4.0	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: Students in this program will be prepared to interpret designs and specifications in order to build residential, commercial and industrial construction projects. Students learn to erect, install and repair structures using all types of construction material, as well as to estimate and select the specific materials needed for each project. Students learn to lay out projects using the framing square, transit and various measuring, cutting and assembling instruments. They also learn to apply interior and exterior finishes and to fit and install prefabricated cabinets, plastic laminates, floor and ceiling tiles, insulation, weather-stripping, finish hardware and locksets.</p>			

<b>Computer Engineering Technology</b>			
Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 4.0	Graduation: Elective



Prerequisite Course(s): N/A
<p>Course Description: This course will cover computer repair basics and maintenance that will give students the knowledge to obtain entry level positions in the computer repair industry. With this training, students will understand the basics of computer repair and will be able to incorporate skills that they learned to troubleshoot hardware and software problems. Students will receive training in network wiring, configuration and Administration. They will also learn how to design and implement local and wide area networks. After completing this three-year course students will be able to take certification exams in Comptia A+, Comptia Network+, and Microsoft Certified Systems Administrator</p>

Construction Technology			
Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 4.0	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: This course prepares students to apply technical knowledge and skills required for the design, development, installation, and erection of buildings and other structures. Students will develop technical and math skills required in all stages of the construction process including safety, blueprint reading, rough framing, door and window installation, stair construction, roofing and siding, basic wiring, design and layout, finishing and trim installations, as well as masonry, plumbing and HVAC.</p>			

Cosmetology			
Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 4.0	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: Practical skills taught in the program include shampooing, cutting, wet setting, thermal styling, relaxing, coloring, permanent waving, manicuring, and giving facials. Included in the instruction are, management, marketing and public relations. Students who successfully complete 200 hours are eligible to take the Pennsylvania State Board of Cosmetology Nail Care Technician Examination and become certified as licensed nail care technicians. Students who successfully complete 300 hours are eligible to take the Pennsylvania State Board of Cosmetology Esthetician Examination and become certified as licensed estheticians. Students choosing this course, who successfully complete 1,250</p>			

hours of instruction in this program, are eligible to take the Pennsylvania State Board of Cosmetology Examination and become certified as licensed cosmetologists.

## **Culinary Arts**

Grade(s):  
10-12

Length:  
Year-long

Credits:  
4.0

Graduation:  
Elective

Prerequisite Course(s): N/A

Program Description: Culinary Arts is a course that provides practical instruction and applied theory to a broad range of skills concerning the selection, preparation and handling of foods. Skill development will center on: safety and sanitation, proper use and handling of food service tools and equipment, preparation of food, dining room service, buffet and banquet service, baking, meat cutting and basic management skills. Unlike the home economics courses offered by most high schools, the instruction and on the job training will be conducted in the school's fully equipped, commercial kitchen and restaurant.

## **Electrical Power**

Grade(s):  
10-12

Length:  
Year-long

Credits:  
4.0

Graduation:  
Elective

Prerequisite Course(s): N/A

Course Description: The electrical technology program provides instruction on the installation of all types of wiring systems including residential, commercial and industrial facilities, as well as powerline technologies. Students will learn to layout, assemble, install, and test electrical components in wiring systems. The course also introduces students to basic robotic engineering, security systems and programmable logic controls (PLC's). In addition to training as a construction electrician, students will also receive competencies as a maintenance electrician, teaching them to maintain the equipment they install. Graduates are not only limited to building trade construction but they are also prepared to enter maintenance, and industrial electrical occupations. Seniors are given the opportunity to complete the first year of apprenticeship with the Associated Builders and Contractors.

## **Emergency Medical Services (EMS)**

Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 4.0	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Course Description: This is a program that prepares individuals, under the remote supervision of physicians, to recognize, assess, and manage medical emergencies in prehospital settings and to supervise ambulance personnel. Includes instruction in basic, intermediate, and advanced EMT procedures; emergency surgical procedures; medical triage; rescue operations; crisis scene management and personnel supervision; equipment operation and maintenance; patient stabilization, monitoring, and care; drug administration; medical terminology, legal and ethical aspects of health care and communications; identification and preliminary diagnosis of diseases and injuries; communication and computer operations; basic anatomy, physiology, pathology, and toxicology; and professional standards and regulations</p>			

Health Occupations			
Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 4.0	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			
<p>Program Description: The Health Occupations curriculum is a cluster program designed to introduce careers in health care. The Health Occupations core instruction includes planned courses in Health Care Careers, Safety Practices, Anatomy, Legal and Ethical Issues, Communications, Medical Terminology, Growth and Development, Nutrition, Infection Control, and Health Care Skills. Graduates of this program often pursue careers in nursing as well as in the rehabilitation fields such as physical therapy and occupational therapy. Students prepare and will have the opportunity to test for CPR Certification.</p>			

HVAC-R (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration)			
Grade(s): 10-12	Length: Year-long	Credits: 4.0	Graduation: Elective
Prerequisite Course(s): N/A			

**Program Description:**

This is an instructional program that prepares individuals to apply technical knowledge and skills to install, repair and maintain commercial and domestic heating, air conditioning and refrigeration systems. Instruction includes theory and application of basic principles involved in conditioning of air (cooling and heating); filtering and controlling humidity; operating characteristics of various units and parts; blueprint reading; use of technical reference manuals; the diagnosis of malfunctions; overhaul, repair and adjustment of units and parts such as pumps, compressors, valves, springs and connections; and repair of electric/electronic and pneumatic control systems.

## **Multimedia Design Technology**

Grade(s):  
10-12

Length:  
Year-long

Credits:  
4.0

Graduation:  
Elective

Prerequisite Course(s): N/A

**Program Description:** This program gives students the freedom to be creative, imaginative, and inspired artistically to design presentations for entertainment, industrial and commercial use. Students will learn to use digital and video cameras. Today's designers must be familiar with many forms of production, illustrative techniques, computer graphics and photography. From simple line drawings to computer generated imaging, the students create art that requires them to apply technical theory. Students will apply their designs on state-of-the-art equipment including digital printers, laser engravers, vinyl cutters, a sublimation system and embroidery machines. This program is designed to allow students to bring together many areas of creative graphic design and production technologies. The course content is designed to create animations, manipulate photographs, create pictures, present podcasts, and create websites using state-of-the-art Illustrator software. Both platforms of personal computers and Apple Macs are taught. Finally, students complete a digital portfolio showcasing their "best works."

## **Welding**

Grade(s):  
10-12

Length:  
Year-long

Credits:  
4.0

Graduation:  
Elective

Prerequisite Course(s): N/A

Program Description: This is an instructional program that prepares individuals to apply technical knowledge and skills in a variety of metalworking occupations. Instruction includes welding and cutting processes; setting up and operating machine tools (precision machining); metal fabricating, forming and cutting machines; and assembling of metal products and structures. Instruction is also provided in the use of hand and portable power tools in making computations related to work dimensions, the physical properties of materials and other related instruction and skills associated with metalworking occupations. Metals are cast, formed, shaped, molded, heat-treated, cut, twisted, pressed, fused, stamped or otherwise worked upon.