



West Catholic High School
2025-26 Curriculum Guide

grwestcatholic.org

Mission/Vision

Mission:

To form Disciples of Christ through a dynamic, excellence-driven Catholic education

Vision:

Inspired by St. John Paul II, West Catholic High School is dedicated to the transformation of students who will live their earthly and eternal lives as humble servants of God.

Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

Rights and Responsibilities

Every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected—the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

Solidarity

We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they live. Learning to practice the virtues of solidarity means learning that "loving our neighbor" has global dimensions in an interdependent world.

Care of God's Creation

We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

“Do not be afraid. Open, I say **open wide the doors for Christ.**”

*Saint John Paul, II
October 22, 1978*

The West Catholic Curriculum Guide is a working and fluid document. Every effort has been made to prepare the most correct and clearly expressed information for your course planning purposes. Any discrepancy between the information included in this Curriculum Guide and West Catholic High School policy and standards, West Catholic reserves the right to notify West Catholic parents and students of the correction to this Curriculum Guide while upholding established policies and standards.

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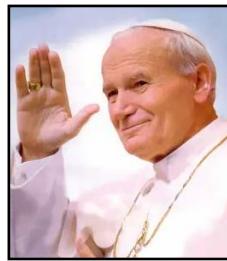
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PART ONE

Academic Departmental

Course Offerings

Intercession to Saint John Paul II



O Holy Trinity,
we thank you for having given to the Church
Saint John Paul II,
and for having made him shine with your fatherly tenderness,
the glory of the Cross of Christ and the splendor of the Spirit of love.

He, trusting completely in your infinite mercy
and in the maternal intercession of Mary,
has shown himself in the likeness of Jesus the Good Shepherd
and has pointed out to us holiness as the path to reach
eternal communion with You.

Grant us, through his intercession,
according to your will, the grace that we implore.

Amen.

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Program Goal:

To cultivate a comprehensive understanding of computer hardware, software systems, programming concepts, and business-related applications, empowering students with lifelong technological skills, efficiency, and expertise to succeed in an increasingly digital world.

- Navigate and utilize operating systems like Windows and iOS with advanced techniques and personalization.
- Create and format professional documents, presentations, and spreadsheets using Microsoft Office and Google Workspace
- Develop foundational programming skills in Python and C#, including control structures, functions, and object-oriented concepts.
- Design web pages using HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and tools like Dreamweaver and Google Sites.
- Apply digital security measures and practice responsible technology use.
- Explore computer hardware, networking, and career opportunities in technology and programming.

Computer Science Department Offerings:

AP Computer Science Principles

AP Computer Science

Programming-Game Development (Python)

Programming-Game Development (C#) I/II

Introduction to Digital Technology I

Introduction to Digital Technology II

C147 Programming – Game Development I

(Offered Odd-Numbered Years)

Course Description: (Formerly C# Programming I). This course introduces students to computer programming using the C# programming language. Students will develop a strong foundation in programming by learning key concepts such as data types, user input, conditional statements, and loops. Through hands-on activities and problem-solving exercises, students will explore logic and basic program design while creating programs that demonstrate core programming principles and mathematical operations. This course is highly recommended for students interested in careers in engineering, mathematics, computer science, or other technical fields.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

C148 Programming – Game Development II

(Offered Odd-Numbered Years)

Course Description: (Formerly C# Programming II). This course builds upon the foundational concepts taught in Game Development (C#) I, introducing students to more advanced programming techniques. Topics include functions, arrays, and classes, with a focus on object-oriented programming principles. Students will deepen their understanding of programming logic and design through hands-on projects and practical applications of advanced programming skills. This course emphasizes real-world problem-solving and prepares students for further studies or careers in technical fields.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Game Development (C#) I

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

C121 AP Computer Science Principles

Course Description: AP Computer Science Principles offers a multidisciplinary approach to teaching the underlying principles of computation. The course will introduce students to the creative aspects of programming, abstractions, algorithms, large data sets, the Internet, cybersecurity concerns and computing impacts. AP Computer Science Principles also gives students the opportunity to use current technologies to create computational artifacts for both self-expression and problem solving. Together, these aspects of the course make up a rigorous and rich curriculum that aims to broaden participation in computer science.

1 credit elective

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

C120 AP Computer Science

Course Description: This course emphasizes object-oriented programming methodology with a concentration on problem solving and algorithm development, and is meant to be the equivalent of a first-semester college-level course in computer science. Students will design and implement solutions to problems by writing, running and debugging computer programs; use and implement commonly used algorithms and data structures to solve problems; and code fluently in an object-oriented paradigm using the programming language Java.

1 credit elective

Prerequisite: Students must take one of the following courses prior to AP Computer Science: Programming-Game Development (Python), Programming-Game Development (C#) I, or AP Computer Science Principles

Open to grades: 10, 11, 12

C146 Programming-Game Development (Python) **(offered even-numbered years)**

Course Description: This introductory-level course is designed for students with little to no programming or computer science experience. Through hands-on activities and projects, students will learn problem-solving strategies, software design principles, and foundational programming concepts using Python. The course focuses on text-based programming, teaching students to think logically and develop computational problem-solving skills applicable to real-world scenarios. This course also prepares students for advanced computer science studies, such as AP Computer Science A and AP Computer Science Principles, while fostering a scientific mindset and 21st-century skills.

There are no prerequisites, but a basic understanding of computer operations and applications, as well as familiarity with basic algebra, is recommended.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

C152 Introduction to Digital Technology I

Course Description: (Formerly Business Technology) This course introduces students to essential digital skills and tools for personal, academic, and business applications. Students will learn to navigate and personalize the Windows operating system and Apple iOS on iPads, including tasks like installing printers. The curriculum covers formatting and creating documents, presentations, and spreadsheets using Microsoft PowerPoint, Word, and Excel, as well as Google Slides, Docs, and Sheets. Students will also develop proper typing techniques to enhance their efficiency. If time permits, the course will introduce database management using Microsoft Access, providing a comprehensive foundation in digital technology.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

C154 Intro to Digital Technology II

Course Description: (Formerly Computer Essentials) This course equips students with foundational computer skills and knowledge for practical, everyday use. Students will learn to navigate and personalize the Windows operating system and Apple iOS on iPads. Topics include installing and managing hardware like printers, exploring computer hardware by disassembling and reassembling computers, and understanding basic networking concepts. The course also covers the history of computing, online safety, and effective internet use. By the end of the course, students will have a solid understanding of computer systems, troubleshooting techniques, and digital citizenship, preparing them for success in today's technology-driven world.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

ENGINEERING AND INNOVATION DEPARTMENT

Program Goal:

To elevate the world around us by developing critical thinkers that can solve complex problems through the application of knowledge and processes.

The student will:

- Engage in strategies for solving real world problems (engineering design process, design thinking).
- Gain real world experience with mechanical, electrical, programming, and control systems.
- Research, design, prototype, build, and program robotic creations.
- Learn the importance of communication, deadlines, group dynamics, and feedback through the management of team projects.
- Recognize the importance of ethical decision-making in the fields of technology and engineering.
- Explore careers in the fields of engineering and emerging technologies.

ENGINEERING AND INNOVATION DEPARTMENT OFFERINGS:

Pre-Engineering	Robotics I
Design Thinking	Robotics II

S920 Pre-Engineering

Course Description: This course will provide students with an overall view of engineering. This includes an introduction to the engineering design process and resource design tools by means of projects, lecture and classwork. Team projects require the application of creativity, engineering analysis and computational tools. Lectures and discussions also examine the areas of technology in society, and engineering ethics. The computer and various software tools are introduced and used for this course.

1 credit elective

Co-requisite: Physics

Departmental approval required

Open to grades: 11, 12

C144 Robotics I

Course Description: Robotics I allows students to design, program and test innovative technological designs related to robotic systems. Topics involve mechanics, pneumatics, control technologies, computer fundamentals and programmable control technologies. Students will design, build and optimize robots to perform a variety of pre-designated tasks. Students will also investigate aspects of the various industries related to robotics design and innovation.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

C145 Robotics II

Course Description: In Robotics II students will further apply the safety, design, building and programming skills learned in Robotics I. Additional emphasis will be placed on the design process, team objectives, team specialization, communication, strategy, and optimization. Students will work in partnership with the West Catholic FIRST Robotics team (Enigma #2075) on various design and competition challenges. Experience with mechanical, electronic, pneumatic, and control systems will all be applied through the design and development of a robot that will meet unique design challenges. Individuals or small teams may choose to participate in organized robotic competitions or develop their own events during the course. Students will also explore collegiate programs of student and careers in related industries.

½ credit elective

Course may be repeated for CR only

Prerequisite: Robotics I or Teacher Approval

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

C143 Design Thinking

Course Description: This is a hands-on course in which students employ the design process to solve problems. Students will explore various technologies through problem-based projects. Professional communication, collaboration, prototyping, design ethics, emerging technologies, and programmable/ robotic devices will be major areas of focus for the course. Students will have the opportunity to work with new technologies, tools and machines in this course.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Program Goal:

Through a faith-based education with an emphasis on the principles of Catholic doctrine, students will develop respect for others, effective communication skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listening), critical thinking skills, and intellectual curiosity that will prepare them for success in college and in life.

Note: The difference in the courses at each grade level will include emphasis, pace, and student expectation, as stated in the course descriptions. Standardized test scores, grades, and teacher recommendations will be taken into consideration for placement in Honors and AP courses.

English Department Offerings:

CORE:

English Fundamentals

Honors English I or English I

Honors English II or English II

AP Language and Composition or English III

AP Language and Composition, AP Literature and Composition or English IV

ELECTIVE:

Oral Communication

E204 English Fundamentals

Course Description: This course, primarily for English Language Learners, is designed to improve basic English skills necessary for success at the high school level. It focuses on grammar with special attention to syntax, vocabulary development, reading, and writing for academic purposes.

1 credit

Permission of School Counselor,
English Department Head required

E206A Honors English I A

Course Description: Will delve into different genres and styles of literature, focusing on analyzing themes, character development, and narrative techniques. Emphasis will be placed on composing various forms of essays, from analytical to persuasive, to develop strong writing skills. The course will focus on how grammatical choices and vocabulary can enhance writing quality. This course is the first in a series that is meant to prepare students for success in advanced placement courses and potential college credits. Strong reading skills will be essential for success.

½ Credit

E206B Honors English I B

Course Description: Students will continue to explore a variety of literary works, focusing on drawing sophisticated connections between different texts and contexts. Building on the essay-writing skills developed in the first semester, students will engage in more complex writing assignments, including research-based and comparative essays.

½ Credit

E205A English I A

Course Description: Designed to engage students in the rich and diverse world of language and literature. Throughout this course, students will explore various facets of English, including grammar and vocabulary building. Students will explore and develop writing skills essential for high school and beyond, while fostering critical thinking and effective communication skills.

½ Credit

E205B English I B

Course Description: Builds upon the foundations laid in the first semester, delving deeper into the analysis and comprehension of various texts. The semester is structured to enhance critical reading and writing skills, encouraging students to explore texts with a discerning eye and to express their insights with clarity and precision. Students will engage in close reading to understand complex ideas, themes, and literary techniques.

½ Credit

E208A Honors English II A

Course Description: Centered around exploring American literature, with a focus on understanding its cultural and historical contexts. Students will delve into various literary works, examining how they reflect and shape American culture and history. This semester serves as a deep dive into the rich tapestry of American literary heritage.

½ Credit

E208B Honors English II B

Course Description: Integrates the study of American literature with themes of Catholic faith, advanced argumentation, and refined writing techniques. This semester is designed to deepen students' critical thinking and persuasive writing skills in the context of literature and faith.

½ Credit

E207A English II A

Course Description: Designed to further develop the writing and reading skills that students developed in English I. Students will explore American literature, focusing on the connections to culture, history, and our Catholic faith. Writing will focus on constructing full essays, utilizing informative writing, argument, as well as other writing genres. Students can expect to further study grammar rules, focusing on the application of the rules to their own writing.

½ credit

E207B English II B

Course Description: Designed to build essential research skills, introduce students to academic writing, and provide students opportunity to explore public speaking. Throughout this course students will develop skills to become critical thinkers when it comes to the information they encounter. The curriculum is designed to equip students with the tools for effective research, articulate public speaking, and mastery of language conventions.

½ credit

E209A English III A

Course Description: Designed to refine high school juniors' skills in critical writing and analysis. Throughout this course, students will engage in a variety of writing exercises aimed at enhancing their ability to critically evaluate texts, formulate and articulate well-reasoned arguments, and understand the historical and societal contexts of literature.

½ credit

E209B English III B

Course Description: Continues to build upon the skills developed in the first semester, with a focus on advanced composition techniques and the integration of information from multiple texts. This semester aims to refine students' abilities in grammatical choices, constructive feedback, and synthesizing information from various sources.

½ credit

E210A English IV A

Course Description: Designed as the capstone course for our English instruction. It focuses on ensuring that students are able to articulate their thoughts about texts in a clear, organized, and culturally aware manner. This course encourages students to engage with texts from multiple perspectives, fostering a deep understanding of how these viewpoints influence a text's meaning and impact.

½ credit

E210B English IV B

Course Description: Focuses on developing students' writing prowess and analytical skills. Effort is made to ensure students can independently complete the entire writing process, from brainstorming to publishing, in multiple modes of communication, with an emphasis on creating high-quality writing that leaves the student ready for college level English courses and real-world applications of their skills.

½ credit

E219 AP English Lang. & Comp.

Course Description: This course emphasizes rhetoric and style in writing. Students study well-known works of creative world literature while analyzing nonfiction readings that reveal the linguistic power and expository effectiveness of various writers and of prose pieces. Students write extensively in this course to project their own voices, practice advanced writing techniques, and express logical and insightful thoughts based on experience, research, discussions, debates, and readings. **Participants are required to take the AP English Language and Composition exam in May.**

Open to grades: 11, 12

1 credit

E222 AP English Lit. & Comp

Course Description: This course is geared toward advanced placement credit and college English through the careful reading of world literature. The works will be of recognized literary merit that are likely to be taught in an introductory college literature course. Analysis of rhetorical techniques in literature will be emphasized in the writing assignments. **Participants are required to take the AP Literature exam in May.**

Open to grade: 12

1 credit

E229 Oral Communication

Course Description: This one-semester class will include coursework in nonverbal, interpersonal, group, and one-to-group communication. Students will learn to become more confident and effective communicators in a variety of speaking situations. Listening skills and leadership techniques will also be stressed

½ credit elective

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: None

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Program Goal:

All students will experience the understanding, the appreciation and the creation of the Fine Arts in a Catholic/Christian setting for lifelong learning.

Students will develop the following skills:

- Expressing oneself creatively in various media in the visual and performing arts
- Communicating with others through the language of the arts
- Respecting the rights of others' artistic expression
- Critically evaluating the artistic works of self and others
- Comprehending the arts in a historical and cultural context
- Cultivating creative solutions to problems and opportunities
- Learning to be a discerning artist while manifesting an open mind to the arts in everyday life

Fine Arts Department Offerings:

Artist Workshop I (formerly Art I)

Drawing & Painting I (formerly Art III Studio Art)

Drawing & Painting II

Artist Workshop II (formerly Art II)

Art IV Portfolio Prep

Art Palette

A021A Artist Workshop I A

Course Description: (Formerly Art I-Drawing A). Basic drawing techniques are taught using various media. These techniques are applied to a variety of still life projects including white geometric forms, colored objects, reflective objects, transparent objects, and textured objects. Art vocabulary and terminology are taught and the relationship of drawing to art history is incorporated. Students are required to work in a sketchbook weekly.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

A021B Artist Workshop I B

Course Description: (Formerly Art I-Drawing B). Basic drawing techniques are taught using various media. These techniques are applied to a variety of subjects such as portrait, profile, and figure drawing, perspective, and landscape drawing. Art vocabulary and terminology are learned. Students are required to work in a sketchbook weekly.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

A022A Artist Workshop II A

Course Description: (Formerly Art II-Design A). Basic elements of design - line, shape, form, value, color, and texture - are applied to solving problems in various areas, including graphic design, three-dimensional design, and fine art. Various media may include: tempera, wood, pastels, block printing, and computer graphics. Art history, vocabulary and critique methods are integrated into this course. Students are required to work in a sketchbook weekly.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Art I Drawing

Open to grades: 10, 11, 12

A022B Artist Workshop II B

Course Description: (Formerly Art II-Design B). Basic elements of design - line, shape, form, value, color, and texture - are applied to solving problems in various areas, including graphic design, three-dimensional design, and fine art. Various media may include: tempera, wood, pastels, acrylic and watercolor painting and computer graphics. Art history, vocabulary and critique methods are integrated into this course. Students are required to work in a sketchbook weekly.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Art I Drawing

Open to grades: 10, 11, 12

A027A Drawing and Painting I A

Course Description: (Formerly Art III-Studio Art A). Students who take this class will gain skills that help them proceed to Advanced Placement (AP) art in the future. Students will gain experience and learn a higher level of techniques and rigor in 2D and 3D mediums. These media and techniques will build upon the basic Principles and Elements of art on a more conceptual level. Various media may include: ebony pencil, White Prisma on black paper, charcoal and chalk, charcoal subtractive, stenciling, lacquer film, and silk screening. Art vocabulary, art history and art criticism will help reinforce more complex and conceptual concepts. This course is a suggested prerequisite for Advanced Placement (AP) Art.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Art II Design

Open to grades: 11, 12

A027B Drawing and Painting I B

Course Description: (formerly Art III-Studio Art B). Students who take this class will gain skills that help them proceed to Advanced Placement (AP) art in the future. Students will gain experience and learn a higher level of techniques and rigor in 2D and 3D mediums. These media and techniques will build upon the basic Principles and Elements of art on a more conceptual level. Various media may include: pastel, watercolor, oil painting, and pottery. Art vocabulary, art history and art criticism will help reinforce more complex and conceptual concepts. This course is a suggested prerequisite for Advanced Placement (AP) Art.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Art II Design

Open to grades: 11, 12

A016A Art IV Portfolio Prep A

Course Description: The student has the opportunity to work independently and concentrate study in various areas of art, depending on student's interest and teacher approval. Students work independently but are expected to participate in group critiques. Each student will have a retrospective exhibit of his or her artwork at year-end. Significant artists throughout history are emphasized. Students are required to work in a sketchbook weekly and will prepare their own portfolio.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Art III

Open to grade: 12

A016B Art IV Portfolio Prep B

Course Description: The student has the opportunity to work independently and concentrate study in various areas of art, depending on student's interest and teacher approval. Students work independently but are expected to participate in group critiques. Each student will have a retrospective exhibit of his or her artwork at year-end. Significant artists throughout history are emphasized. Students are required to work in a sketchbook weekly and will prepare their own portfolio.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Art III

Open to grade: 12

A028 Drawing and Painting II

Course Description: This course is designed for students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of art and wish to develop mastery in the concept, composition, and execution of their ideas. Drawing and Painting II students will submit portfolios for evaluation at the end of the school year. In building the portfolio, students experience a variety of concepts, techniques and approaches designed to help them demonstrate their abilities as well as their versatility with techniques, problem solving and ideation. Students also develop a body of work for the concentration section of the portfolio that investigates an idea of personal interest to them. The second semester of this year-long class is designed for students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of art and wish to develop mastery in the concept, composition, and execution of their ideas. Students will submit portfolios for evaluation at the end of the school year. In building the portfolio, students experience a variety of concepts, techniques and approaches designed to help them demonstrate their abilities as well as their versatility with techniques, problem solving and ideation. Students also develop a body of work for the concentration section of the portfolio that investigates an idea of personal interest to them.

1 credit elective

Prerequisite: Art III Studio Art with department approval

Open to grades: 12

A011 Art Palette

Course Description: This semester-long hands-on art history course is designed to give students a positive experience in various aspects of the visual arts. The students' cultural discovery will be developed by exposure to many different art media, various periods, genres and significant artists.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

MU025 Marching Band

Course Description: This course is available to all musicians who have actively studied an instrument and have attained a music proficiency level meeting the director's standards set for incoming freshmen. This class consists of preparing for and executing several marching performances and the Christmas concert.

Requirements for ALL Bands: Men are required to have white dress shirts and black ties. Women are required to wear the pre-selected band dress. All are required to have black shoes and black socks.

All members are required to attend Band Camp prior to the start of school and weekly evening rehearsals in the fall. Dates and times TBA.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Audition or Director permission required

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

MU026 Concert Band

Course Description: This class consists of learning to play concert music at a high intrinsic level. This will be achieved through careful indoor rehearsals and performances. Individuals will also have the opportunity to participate in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association's District Solo and Ensemble Festival. Basic music theory and some music history will also be instructed. **Marching Band first semester is required.** Concert performances are required.

½ credit elective

Second Semester

Prerequisite: Previous semester

Marching Band

and Director permission

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

MU027 Jazz Band

Course Description: Jazz Band students will further refine musical abilities through jazz on their primary or secondary instruments. Selections will be performed at concerts and at various events throughout the year. Jazz Band meets afterschool 2 days per week (TBA). Auditions take place just after the beginning of the school year.

Credit only-no grade assigned; credit may be repeated

Prerequisite: Current member of

Marching Band, Concert Band or Choir

Audition or Director Permission

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

MU018 Music Appreciation

Course Description: From Bach to Pop, music is appreciated, researched, and analyzed. How is music used? Why is it important? How does it impact us? How does it reflect our culture, history, and faith? Students will learn to listen to music critically and recognize both the positive and negative influences it can have. They will also learn of the various instruments used to make music, primarily in the western tradition.

½ credit elective

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

MU028 Concert Choir

Course Description: Basic vocal and choral techniques will be employed on a daily basis. Students will explore music theory and sight-reading as a way of understanding the musical language. A wide variety of choral literature will be studied and performed. A desire to learn and perform music to the best of their ability should motivate students to enroll in this class. Selections will be performed at concerts, liturgies and other outside events throughout the year. These performances are required.

1 credit elective; credit may be repeated

Prerequisite: Teacher Approval

Signature Required

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

MU028Z Concert Choir-0 Hour

Course Description: See Concert Choir description (above). This course begins at 7:15 a.m. and is held Tuesday - Friday.

Credit only-no grade assigned; credit may be repeated

Prerequisite: Teacher Approval

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Requirements for ALL Choirs: Men and Women are required to wear the pre-selected choir uniforms (black shirt, tuxedo pants, and dresses). All are required to have black dress shoes and black socks.

MU023 Theatre I

Course Description: Students will learn the basics of the theatre including theatre vocabulary, movement, vocal interpretation, improvisation, theatre history, and acting. This course is an introductory course to the world of theatre and requires a number of projects and performances designed to expose students to the various elements of theatre for a well- rounded understanding of the art form. Final showcase performances may be scheduled for the evening and are required.

½ credit elective

First Semester

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

MU024 Theatre II

Course Description: Building on things covered in Theatre I, in this course students will learn the basics of different aspects of theatre including understanding the cultural influence of theatre, the development of creative expression in ensemble/small group/solo performances, directing, designing, and critiquing theatre. This course seeks to deepen students' understanding of theatre production as a whole and requires a number of projects and performances designed to expose students to the various elements of theatre for a well -rounded understanding of the art form. This is primarily a performance-based class. A prerequisite of Theatre I OR director permission is required. Final showcase performances may be scheduled for the evening and are required.

½ credit elective

Second Semester

Prerequisite: Theatre I or

Director Approval

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

LIFE SKILLS DEPARTMENT

EDU01A Personal Power A

Course Description: Personal Power A is a skills for life, hands-on, elective course for students in grades 9-12 that equips students with practical life skills necessary to thrive in the 21st century. This course explores key facets of everyday living, emphasizing the importance of informed decision-making, making healthy choices, and responsible citizenship. Students will become prepared for the following areas: nutrition and wellness, communication skills, relationship building, understanding diverse perspectives, family and home management, and problem-solving skills. Students will gain a deeper understanding of how their personal, family, and consumer choices align with their faith and contribute to a more just society.

*Students who will be receiving a West Catholic Certificate of Completion are open to take Personal Power A multiple times throughout their high school career.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

EDU01B Personal Power B

Course Description: Personal Power B is a skills for life, hands-on, elective course for students in grades 9-12 that equips students with practical life skills necessary to thrive in the 21st century. This course explores key facets of everyday living, emphasizing the importance of informed decision-making, making healthy choices, and responsible citizenship. Students will become prepared for the challenges and opportunities of adulthood by enhancing their competence and confidence in the following areas: career exploration, job readiness, community engagement, and personal finance. Students will gain a deeper understanding of how their personal, family, and consumer choices align with their faith and contribute to a more just society.

*Students who will be receiving a West Catholic Certificate of Completion are open to take Personal Power B multiple times throughout their high school career.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12



MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Program Goal:

The study of mathematics provides:

- A foundation of logic, reasoning and calculation skills and an experience in current technology which will enable the student to succeed in his/her chosen career, whether or not it is a mathematical field.
- Challenges and methods of operating which serve to increase one's problem solving capabilities and critical thinking skills.

NOTE: Most classes require that the student have access to a graphing calculator. A TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is recommended.

Pathways to Completing Graduation Requirements in Mathematics

Exceptions to these will be dealt with on an individual basis

<i>9th Grade</i>	<i>10th Grade</i>	<i>11th Grade</i>	<i>12th Grade</i>
Pre-Algebra	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II
or	or	or	or
Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Math Elective
or	or	or	or
Geometry	Algebra II	Math Elective	2 nd Math Elective

****To graduate, students must complete 4 credits of mathematics with at least one math course during their senior year.**

****STUDENTS STARTING IN GEOMETRY/HONORS GEOMETRY MUST TAKE ALGEBRA II, PRE-CALCULUS AND ANOTHER YEAR OF MATH ELECTIVE.**

Mathematics Department Offerings

Pre-Algebra	Pre-Calculus
Algebra I	Honors Pre-Calculus
Geometry	Personal Finance
Honors Geometry	Calculus
Algebra II	AP Calculus BC
Honors Algebra II	Statistics
	<i>AP Statistics</i>

M411A Pre-Algebra A

Course Description: Students revisit concepts in number and operations, expressions and equations, ratio and proportion, basic functions.

½ credit elective

Pre-requisite: 8th grade math, standardized test scores and teacher recommendation

Open to grade: 9

Scientific calculator required, but graphing calculator is recommended

M411B Pre-Algebra B

Course Description: More basic functions, continued use of expressions and equations, geometry, and data. By the end of the course, students are ready to begin high school Algebra I.

½ credit elective

Pre-requisite: Pre-Algebra A or teacher recommendation

Open to grade: 9

M412A Algebra I A

Course Description: Making sense of numbers and expressions; solving linear equations and inequalities, algebraically and graphically; systems of equations and inequalities.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite for 9th grade: Based on standardized test scores, math grades and teacher recommendation.

Open to grade: 9, 10

A scientific calculator is required, but a TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is recommended.

M412B Algebra I B

Course Description: Making sense of exponents and quadratic functions, introduction to rational functions, and basic statistics/probability.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite for 9th grade: Algebra A or teacher recommendation

Open to grade: 9, 10

M415A Geometry A

Course Description: This course will focus on topics of Euclidean Geometry through the use of vocabulary, two dimensional properties, logic, technology and activities to enhance life connections. Topics include proofs, parallel and perpendicular lines, angles, polygons, relationships between geometric figures, constructions, area.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite for 9th grade: Placement is based on Algebra I grades, standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

Open to grades: 9, 10

At minimum, a scientific calculator is required, but a TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is recommended.

M415B Geometry B

Course Description: An extension of Geometry A, this course will focus on Euclidean Geometry through the use of technology and activities to enhance life connections, three dimensional properties, parallel and perpendicular lines, angles, polygons, relationships between geometric figures, area and volume.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite for 9th grade: Geometry A

Open to grades: 9, 10

M416A Honors Geometry A

Course Description: This course will focus on topics of Euclidean Geometry and demands in-depth understanding and extensive utilization by students. Topics include proofs, parallel and perpendicular lines, angles, polygons, relationships between geometric figures, constructions, area. Students will be introduced to selected non-Euclidean topics where appropriate and as time allows.

½ credit elective

Open to grades: 9, 10

Prerequisite for 9th grade: Placement is based on Algebra I grades, standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

At minimum, a scientific calculator is required, but a TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is recommended.

M416B Honors Geometry B

Course Description: An extension of Honors Geometry A, this course will focus on Euclidean Geometry through the use of technology and activities to enhance life connections, three dimensional properties, parallel and perpendicular lines, angles, polygons, relationships between geometric figures, area and volume. Students will be introduced to selected non-Euclidean topics where appropriate and as time allows.

½ credit elective

Open to grades: 9, 10

Prerequisite for 9th grade: Honors Geometry A

At minimum, a scientific calculator is required, but a TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is recommended.

M417A Algebra II A

Course Description: This course will focus on topics in trigonometry, including trig functions; properties and transformations of functions, linear and functions and systems of equations.

½ credit requirement

Prerequisite for 10th, 11th, & 12th Grades:

**Geometry or Honors Geometry and
department recommendation**

Prerequisite for 9th grade: Placement is based on grades in Algebra I and Geometry, standardized test scores and teacher recommendation. Any TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required.

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11

M417B Algebra II B

Course Description: An extension of Algebra II A, this course will focus on quadratic, exponential and rational functions and equations: solving and using, both algebraically and graphically. Introduction to logarithms, conic sections and basic statistics/probability.

½ credit requirement

Prerequisite: Algebra II A

Any TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required.

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11

M418B Algebra II B

Course Description: An extension of Algebra II A, this course will focus on quadratic, exponential and rational functions and equations: solving and using, both algebraically and graphically. Introduction to logarithms, conic sections and basic statistics/probability.

½ credit requirement

Prerequisite: Algebra II A

Any TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required.

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11

M425A Honors Algebra II A

Course Description: This class will emphasize advanced applications of solving equations and inequalities, graphing and use of technology with the following topics: making sense of numbers and expressions; solving linear equations and inequalities algebraically and graphically; systems of equations and inequalities; and exponents.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite for 10th, 11th & 12th grades:

Honors Geometry or Geometry with department recommendation

Prerequisite for 9th grade: Placement is based on grades in Algebra I

And Geometry, standardized test scores and teacher recommendation

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11

Any TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required.

M425B Honors Algebra II B

Course Description: This class will emphasize advanced applications of solving equations and inequalities, graphing, and use of technology with the following topics: quadratic, polynomial and absolute value functions, basic statistics/probability, basic trigonometry and an introduction to rational functions.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Honors Algebra II A

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11

Any TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required.

M323A Pre-Calculus A

Course Description: Use of and analyzing functions: polynomial, exponential, rational, logarithmic, and trigonometric; using and solving systems of equations and inequalities, including use of matrices.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Algebra II or Honors

Algebra II

Open to grades: 10, 11, 12

Any TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required.

M323B Pre-Calculus B

Course Description: Continued work with functions and systems; conic sections; Sequences and Series; Combinations and permutations with probability; vectors, polar coordinates and an introduction to limits.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus A

Open to grades: 10, 11, 12

A TI-83 or any TI- 84 graphing calculator is required.

M421A Honors Pre-Calculus A

Course Description: Designed for high achieving students, this class is a more rigorous treatment of topics found in Honors Algebra II. The skills learned will prepare students for success in AP Calculus.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Honors Algebra II or Algebra II with department recommendation.

Open to grades: 10, 11, 12

A TI-83 or any TI- 84 graphing calculator is required.

M421B Honors Pre-Calculus B

Course Description: Continued work with functions and systems; conic sections; Sequences and Series; Combinations and permutations with probability; vectors, polar coordinates and limits and an introduction to derivatives and integrals.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Honors Pre-Calculus A

Open to grades: 10, 11, 12

A TI-83 or any TI- 84 graphing calculator is required.

M427 Personal Finance

Course Description: Personal finance will teach students to be decision makers by knowing how to establish a budget, how to set and achieve financial goals and understanding different types of loans and investments. The class will include tithe as part of the budget process.

½ credit elective

Open to grade: 11, 12

M423A Calculus A

Course Description: This course is a thorough study of the two branches of calculus: derivatives and integrals. **AB exam of the AP Calculus test is optional**, as all topics of AP Calculus AB will be covered, but independent work will be needed to prepare for the added rigor of the AP exam.

Course topics: Limits, derivatives and properties of derivatives, applications of derivatives, to include optimization and related rates, graphical analysis.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Honors Pre-Calculus or

Pre-Calculus

Open to grades: 11, 12

A TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required.

M423B Calculus B

Course Description: (See Calculus A about optional AP exam.)

Course topics: Anti-differentiation, integration and applications of integration.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Calculus A

Open to grades: 11, 12

A TI-83 or any TI-84 calculator is required.

M424A AP Calculus BC A

Course Description: This course contains an in-depth coverage of all topics required for the AP Calculus BC exam. **Students are required to take the AP exam.** Course topics: Limits, derivatives and properties of derivatives, applications of derivatives, to include optimization and related rates, graphical analysis, anti-differentiation, introduction to integration.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Honors Pre-Calculus or

Pre-Calculus with teacher recommendation

Open to grades: 11, 12

A TI-83 or any TI-84 graphing calculator is required.

M424B AP Calculus BC B

Course Description: (See AP Calculus BC A for information about AP exam.)

Course topics: Integration and its applications, the calculus of polar functions, parametric functions, vectors, and sequences and series, including error bounds.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: AP Calculus BC A

Open to grades: 11, 12

A TI-83 or any TI-84 calculator is required.

M343 Statistics

Course Description: This course covers descriptive and inferential statistics which include techniques for collecting, analyzing and reporting conclusions and making inferences from the data.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Algebra II

Open to grades: 11 (with departmental approval), 12

A TI-83 or any TI-84 calculator is required.

M334A AP Statistics A

Course Description: This course contains an in-depth coverage of all topics required for the AP Statistics exam, including techniques for collecting, analyzing and reporting conclusions and making inferences from the data. **Students are required to take the AP Statistics exam.** Course topics: Data collecting, reporting/displaying and calculating statistics; probability and sampling distributions, basic analysis of data.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Honors Algebra II, or Algebra II with Teacher Recommendation

Open to grades 11, 12

(offered even-numbered years)

A TI-83 or any TI-84 calculator is required

M334B AP Statistics B

Course Description: (See AP Calculus BC A for information about AP exam.)

Course topics: *Making inferences based on the data/ statistics, including a variety of confidence intervals and hypothesis tests.*

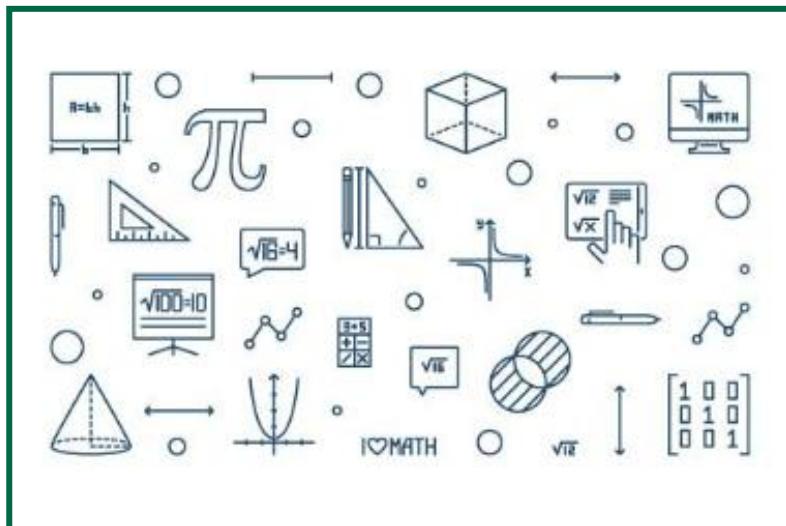
½ credit elective

Prerequisite: *AP Statistics A*

Open to grades: 11, 12

(offered even-numbered years)

A TI-83 or any TI-84 calculator is required



MEDIA ARTS AND DESIGN DEPARTMENT

Program Goal:

To harness the power that digital mediums have to shape our physical world, communicate to a global audience, and elicit emotion and joy.

The student will:

- Create and publish original works using various types of media (text, graphics, photos, audio, video).
- Develop skills using industry standard software platforms and hardware tools to develop and publish high quality content.
- Experience the various roles and responsibilities associated with planning, capturing, editing and producing digital content.
- Understand intellectual property rights and practice appropriate usage of copyrighted material.
- Explore careers in the fields of print media, digital media, and social media.

Media Arts and Design Department Offerings:

Communication Design for Professional Settings

Video Production

Web Page Design

Digital Photography

Yearbook

Graphic Design

Graphic Communications I-II

C153 Communication Design for Professional Settings

Course Description: (Formerly Broadcast Media) Communication Design for Professional Settings is designed to provide students with basic knowledge and skills related to the digital media and broadcasting industry. This course includes instruction and hands-on assignments in the following areas: audio/video systems, lighting systems, pre-production, studio operations, visual effects/graphics and copyright laws. Students will have the opportunity to apply skills for writing scripts, storyboarding and developing shows for the West Catholic Community. Positions in the Communication Design for Professional Settings course can be competitive depending on demand. All students must apply to be members of the Student Broadcast team. Students with the recommended Prerequisite(s) or prior experience will be given priority. Students will be expected to do some coursework outside of schools hours (capturing video/livestream/etc.)

½ credit elective

Class can be repeated for CR with Teacher Approval

Prerequisite: Video Production or Teacher Approval

Open to Grades 10, 11, 12

A020 Graphic Communication I

Course Description: (Formerly Digital Photography). Students will explore the fundamental applications and techniques of acquiring, manipulating, and outputting digital photographic images. Students will learn to use manual camera settings and the effects of the ISO, aperture, and shutter speed. Students will learn how to plan and produce photographic compositions that demonstrate an understanding of light and shadow, composition, unity, balance, color and visual impact. Students will learn proper vocabulary and terminology. The relationship of photography to contemporary life is incorporated. Cameras will be provided for students to share in pairs. Students may also use their own cameras provided they have manual setting: ISO, shutter speed, and aperture.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

C119 Graphic Design

Course Description: Graphic Design is the process of using the computer and specific types of software to combine typography and graphics to produce documents such as posters, book jackets, newsletters, brochures, menus, CD covers, etc. Students will be using graphic design software to create visual communications for professional printing. Students will learn the elements and principles of design, learn to use different typefaces, embed illustrations and graphics. Students will be exposed to the following programs: Adobe Illustrator, Adobe FireWorks, Paint, Sketch Up and Microsoft Power Point. Students will be provided a laptop in class.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

C117 Video Production

Course Description: This course is designed for students interested in exploring the world of digital media and video production. Students will gain hands-on experience using industry-standard tools like Adobe Premiere and iMovie while mastering essential filming techniques, including the rule of thirds, varied camera angles, and shot composition. The curriculum emphasizes the creative process, guiding students through storyboarding, scriptwriting, and incorporating diverse shot types to craft compelling visual stories. By the end of the course, students will develop foundational skills in video editing, movie production, and digital storytelling.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

C113 Web Page Design

Course Description: This course introduces students to the fundamentals of web design and development, equipping them with the skills to create engaging and functional web pages. Students will learn foundational coding languages such as HTML and CSS, progressing to basic JavaScript for interactive elements. They will use tools like Dreamweaver, Google Sites, and Wix to design web pages and develop design techniques and best practices. Additionally, the course addresses important topics like copyright issues related to web content.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

C132 Yearbook

Course Description: This course provides students with a hands-on opportunity to create and publish the WCHS Yearbook. Students will engage in all aspects of yearbook production, including designing layouts, editing, photography, writing captions and stories, conducting interviews, and meeting deadlines. This real-world experience also requires students to attend after-school events and sell business advertisements to support the yearbook's production. Success in this course requires strong organizational skills, attention to detail, a commitment to teamwork, and the ability to manage deadlines effectively.

1 credit elective

Prerequisite: A "B" average in English and Teacher approval

Open to grades: 10, 11, 12

C151 Graphic Communications II

Course Description: Students in Graphic Communications II will gain real life experience as they apply their previous knowledge from Graphic Design, Graphic Communication I, Communication Design for Professional Settings or Web Page Design to an assortment of assigned projects. Students will work independently and possibly sometimes in groups depending on the project. Students will participate in group critiques of their work on a regular basis. Students will be responsible for creating content of high craftsmanship and meeting deadlines. Projects may include: photography of events, screen graphics for school TVs, scoreboard art for games and events, brochures for school related activities and events, informative videos, etc.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Students must have taken one of the following: Graphic Design, Graphic Communication I, Communication Design for Professional Settings, or Web Page Design

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Program Goal:

Through a faith-based wellness program, students will develop and demonstrate the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviors required for healthy, active living.

Physical Education Department Offerings:

Physical Education Activities	Team Sports
Health Education	Sports Officiating
Strength Training	Leadership A/B

PE618 Physical Education Activities

Course Description: This course is designed to develop or enhance the knowledge of personal fitness, individual and team sports through participation, with emphasis on fair play, basic skills and team work. The knowledge and skills gained in this program will serve to develop valuable use of leisure time for lifelong learning, activity, and enjoyment.

*Students who will be receiving a West Catholic Certificate of Completion are open to take Physical Education Activities multiple times throughout their high school career.

½ credit required

Prerequisite: None

Open to grade: 9

PE615 Health Education

Course Description: The study of health or our general physical, mental and social well-being is about making wise choices throughout life. In order to make healthy decisions, students will learn about nutrition, disease prevention, social and emotional health, first aid and substance abuse. This semester-long course offers students rich opportunities for analyzing their behaviors and learning ways to create a happier and healthier lifestyle.

½ credit required

Open to grades: Grade 9, 10, 11, 12

Strongly recommended 9, 10

Prerequisite: None

PE620 Strength Training

Course Description: This one-semester course provides instruction in proper strength training, but will also include work capacity (conditioning). This will include proper lifting technique, lifting pace, spotting, weight room behavior and etiquette, dynamic warm-up speed and agility. Instruction will be both to the group and to the individual to provide the greatest benefit to all those participating. This course is strongly recommended for those interested in improving their overall strength and athleticism.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

PE612 Team Sports

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of team sports while emphasizing the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship, and strategic thinking. Through participation in various team sports, students will develop fundamental skills, improve their physical fitness, and learn to work effectively as part of a team. This course will also help create well-rounded athletes and positive team members through both skill development and character building.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

PE624 Sports Officiating

Course Description: This unique course provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to become certified MHSAA sports officials. Through in-depth training, practical experience, and mentorship, students will learn the rules, mechanics, and etiquette of football, basketball, volleyball, and soccer. Students will also be given the opportunity to study one additional sport of choice. Students will be required to observe and evaluate varsity officials during two varsity sports contests. This will be done outside of normal class time. Upon completion of this course, students will receive free official registration with the MHSAA for one year.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior

Open to grades: 11, 12

PE626 Leadership

Course Description: Leadership is a Unified Physical Education course that provides a unique opportunity for students with and without disabilities to come together through ongoing athletic and physical education activities. Students will gain knowledge and skills necessary to maintain a health-enhancing lifestyle. Additionally, the class supports the development of leadership skills for all students and the empowerment of objectives are structured around the national physical education standards and focus on activity-specific skill development, increased physical fitness, application or sport specific rules and the ability to work as a team and make better health and lifestyle choices. Students enrolled in this course will also participate in our Unified athletic competitions.

*Students who will be receiving a West Catholic Certificate of Completion are open to take Leadership multiple times throughout their high school career.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Teacher or Counselor Approval

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

RELIGION DEPARTMENT

Program Goal:

Each student will

- Have a deeper knowledge of the Catholic faith and its relevance throughout life.
- Develop a greater love of God, the dignity of all people and the value of all creation.
- Serve others in response to Christ's call for justice and be a person of conscience motivated by the Holy Spirit.

Religion Department Offerings:

9th: Introduction to Scripture/Christology 9th-12th Introduction to Catholic Theology
10th: The Paschal Mystery/The Church
11th: Sacraments/Morality
12th: Church History/Catholic Social Teaching

R710A Introduction to Catholic Theology A

Course Description: The course begins with an overview of revelation and the Nicene Creed. Salvation history is outlined through a study of the Old Testament.

½ credit

Departmental Approval Required

Open to Grades: 9, 10, 11 and 12

R710B Introduction to Catholic Theology B

Course Description: The course begins with an overview of the New Testament and also includes background knowledge in sacraments, ecclesiology, morality, and social teaching.

½ credit

Departmental Approval Required

Open to Grades: 9, 10, 11 and 12

R701 Introduction to Scripture

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to give students a general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. Through their study of the Bible, they will come to encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. In the course they will learn about the Bible, authored by God through Inspiration, and its value to people throughout the world. They will learn how to read the Bible and will become familiar with the major sections of the Bible and the books included in each section. The students will pay particular attention to the Gospels, where they may go to know and love Jesus Christ more personally.

½ credit required

Grade 9

R702 Christology

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. In this course students will understand that Jesus Christ is the ultimate Revelation to us from God. In learning about who He is, the students will also learn who He calls them to be.

½ credit required

Grade 9

R703 The Paschal Mystery

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

½ credit required

Grade 10

R704 The Church

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to help students understand that in and through the Church they encounter the living Jesus Christ. They will be introduced to the fact that the Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by him through the Holy Spirit. The students will come to know that the Church is the living Body of Christ today. The Body has both divine and human elements.

½ credit required

Grade 10

R722 Sacraments

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to help students understand that they can encounter Christ today in a full and real way in and through the sacraments, and especially through the Eucharist. Students will examine each of the sacraments in detail so as to learn how they may encounter Christ throughout life.

½ credit required

Grade 11

R723 Morality

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

½ credit required

Grade 11

R718 Church History

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to supply the students with a general knowledge of the Church's history from apostolic times to the present. Students will be introduced to the fact that the Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by him throughout history through the Holy Spirit. Students will come to know that the Church is the living Body of Christ today and, as such, has both divine and human elements. In this course, students will learn about the Church's 2000 years of history and about how the Church is led and governed by the successors of the Apostles.

½ credit required

Grade 12

R724 Catholic Social Teaching

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the Church's social teaching. In this course, students are to learn how Christ's concern for others, especially the poor and needy, is present today in the Church's social teaching and mission.

½ credit required

Grade 12

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Program Goal:

The student will

- Possess a comprehensive knowledge base in science.
- Apply science to everyday life.
- Apply the scientific method to solve problems.
- Analyze scientific information using technology when appropriate.
- Demonstrate scientific curiosity and confidence in the ability to understand and communicate regarding scientific issues.
- Apply moral and ethical principles when explaining the impact of science and technology on society.

Science Department Offerings:

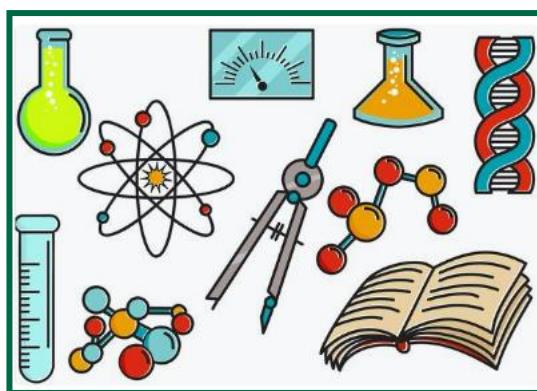
Life Sciences

Biology
Honors Biology
AP Biology
Anatomy/Physiology

Physical Sciences

AP Environmental Science
Integrated Science
Chemistry
Honors Chemistry
AP Chemistry
Physics
AP Physics
Astronomy

- *Students must take the AP exam if enrolled in the AP course - see AP Enrollment Criteria on page 68.*



LIFE SCIENCES

S813A Biology A

Course Description: This is a survey course in which the learner becomes scientifically literate in basic biological topics, developing skills of problem solving, communication, goal setting and attainment, while applying that knowledge and skills to understand real-world events and life systems. Students will be able to experience science using equipment such as microscopes, computers and other current technologies.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: None

S813B Biology B

Course Description: Emphasis will be an exploration of animal anatomy including the dissection of a diverse group of specimens. Testing on dissection skills as well as the anatomy of a variety of differing systems.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: None

S814 Honors Biology

Course Description: In Pre-AP Biology, students engage in real-world data analysis and problem solving that sparks critical thinking about our living world. As students engage in grade-level content, they utilize the kind of scientific reasoning skills needed to analyze the natural world—and to succeed in future science and social science courses in high school and college.

<https://pre-ap.collegeboard.org/courses/course-descriptions/biology>

1 credit elective

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Open to grades: 9, 10

S830 AP Biology

Course Description: Topics covered will be the biochemistry of molecules and cells, including cellular energetics, coupled reactions and the cell cycle. Also investigated will be heredity and molecular genetics. Students will be required to complete a number of AP Biology laboratory investigations. Students taking this course are required to take the AP exam in May.

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/ap-biology-course-and-exam-description.pdf>

1 credit elective

Prerequisite: Honors Chemistry

Departmental approval required

Open to grades: 11, 12

S434A Anatomy/Physiology A

Course Description: This course presents the anatomy and functions of the human body. It is presented through a unit method covering the skeletal, muscular, nervous, respiratory, circulatory, digestive, integumentary, endocrine, excretory and reproductive systems. Knowledge presented in this course will be helpful for students considering a career in medicine, nursing and health related fields.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Biology; Chemistry (previously or concurrently)

Open to grades: 11, 12

S434B Anatomy/Physiology B

Course Description: Emphasis will be an exploration of *an anatomical dissection of a cat and a fetal pig* as an integral part of this course. These dissections are done due to their similarity to human anatomy.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Anatomy/Physiology A

Open to grades: 11, 12

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

S811A Integrated Science A

Course Description: This course will define and improve upon students' base scientific skills of: data analysis, scientific literacy, lab practices, identifying appropriate SI units and metric conversions. Students will polish these skills by studying essential concepts found in Environmental Science and Earth and Space Science.

½ credit elective

Open to grade: 9

S811B Integrated Science B

Course Description: Emphasis will be an exploration of introductory Physics. Through lessons from each field, students will have the opportunity to fine tune their abilities that will set a foundation for the rest of their science experience at West Catholic.

½ credit elective

Open to grade: 9

S829A Chemistry A

Course Description: This Chemistry course will allow students to develop a basic knowledge and understanding of the concepts of chemistry. The course will provide the students with laboratory activities designed to enhance chemical concepts. Topics covered are chemical formulas and equations, modern atomic structure, and phases of matter.

½ credit elective

Open to grades: 10, 11, 12

S829B Chemistry B

Course Description: Emphasis will be an exploration of the mole concept, periodic trends, atomic radii, as well as ionic and covalent bonding.

½ credit elective

Open to grades: 10, 11, 12

S819 Honors Chemistry

Course Description: This course covers the same content as Chemistry, with the difference being emphasis, pace and student expectations. In Chemistry there will be a greater emphasis on computational problem solving in areas of stoichiometry, atomic trends, and molar masses as well as a greater emphasis on inquiry-based lab activities.

1 credit elective

Departmental approval required

Open to grades: 10, 11, 12

S824 AP Chemistry

Course Description: AP Chemistry will provide students with the opportunity to pursue and receive credit for college-level coursework. Enthusiasm for science is a must. Topics such as structure of matter, kinetic theory of gases, chemical equilibria, chemical kinetics and basic concepts of thermodynamics will be presented in considerable depth to prepare students for the multiple-choice section of the AP Chemistry Test. The course also consists of four parts: writing and predicting chemical equations, mathematical essays, non-mathematical essays and equilibrium problems. Students will solve problems during laboratory investigations and through chapter reviews, computer-generated problems and AP Chemistry test reviews. Students will learn to apply given information to new situations as expected in the free response section of the AP Chemistry Test. **Students taking this course are required to take the AP exam in May.**

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/ap-chemistry-course-and-exam-description.pdf>

1 credit elective

Departmental approval required

Open to grades: 11, 12

S820A Physics A

Course Description: Students will develop an understanding of physics in the world around them by using mechanics and electricity and magnetism. Students will use Algebra II and Trigonometry concepts to solve problems and analyze data gathered in laboratory situations. Situations will be analyzed using Newton's laws and the conservation of energy.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Algebra II

Department approval required

Open to grades: 11, 12

S820B Physics B

Course Description: Emphasis will be an exploration of electricity and magnetism and electrical circuits, simple harmonic motion, sound, and light. As time permits, modern physical theories will be explored.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Physics A

Open to grades: 11, 12

S822 AP Physics

Course Description: AP Physics will provide students with the opportunity to pursue and receive credit for college level coursework. Enthusiasm for science is a must. Topics such as kinematics, dynamics, uniform circular motion, energy, momentum, rotational motion and simple harmonic motion will be presented in considerable depth to prepare students for the multiple choice section of the AP Physics Test. Students will solve problems during laboratory investigations and through chapter reviews, computer-generated problems and AP Physics test reviews. Students will learn to apply given information to new situations as expected in the free response section of the AP Physics Test. **Students taking this course are required to take the AP Physics Exam in May.**

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/ap-physics-1-course-and-exam-description.pdf>

1 credit elective

Prerequisite: Algebra II

Open to grade: 11, 12

S832 AP Environmental Science

Course Description: Equivalent of a one-semester introductory college course in environmental science, this class provides students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. AP environmental science will provide students with the opportunity to pursue and receive credit for college level coursework. AP environmental science is unique because it is multidisciplinary, drawing its content from geology, biology, earth science, chemistry, meteorology, geography, and social issues. Attendance at fieldwork experiences is mandatory. **Students are required to take the AP Environmental Science exam in May.**

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/ap-environmental-science-course-and-exam-description.pdf>

1 credit elective

Prerequisite: Biology and Chemistry

Departmental approval required

Open to Grades: 11, 12

S827 Astronomy

Course Description: This course will examine the major components of the Astronomy: the solar system along with stellar formation, the death of stars and the remnants of that process, and observations of objects that we can see in the night sky with and without the aid of a telescope. Night time observation will be a requirement of this course.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: None

Open to Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Program Goal:

Students will exercise the rights and responsibilities of participatory citizenship by

- Possessing a comprehensive knowledge base in social studies encompassing historical, geographic, civic, economic, psychological and sociological perspectives.
- Demonstrating the skills needed to acquire, organize and use information and to be an ethical decision-maker in an ever-changing world.
- Utilizing their faith to acknowledge and respect the values of others and society through democratic and religious perspectives.
- Accepting the responsibility to see, care and act on issues in the community, nation and the world.

Social Studies Department Offerings:

World History/AP World History	Economics/AP Microeconomics/
World Geography	AP Macroeconomics
Global Issues	Psychology/AP Psychology
US History/AP US History	Sociology
Government/AP Government & Politics	AP European History

- AP course prerequisites: Review of MAPS/NWEA scores will accompany departmental approval for admissions to these courses. Students taking AP courses are required to take the AP Exam.
- Students must take either US History or AP US History, Economics or AP Microeconomics or AP Macroeconomics, Government or AP Government.
- Students must take one credit in any combination of World History, AP World History, Geography or Global Studies.
- Please note: Psychology, AP Psychology, and Sociology are electives and do not fulfill the Social Studies requirement for graduation.
- Exceptions: Students who take the combination of AP US History, AP Government and AP Micro/Macroeconomics will have met the World History requirement as World History topics are embedded in the course curriculum.

SS913A US History A

Course Description: This is a one semester course in basic American History, systematically surveying the events that led to the development of the United States. To this end, we will cover the events of the first people in the Americas and continue through the Civil War and Reconstruction Era. The political, economic, and social aspects of American life will be considered.

½ credit

Required for grade 10 or grade 11

Prerequisite: None

SS913B US History B

Course Description: This is a one semester course in basic American History, systematically surveying the events that led to the development of the United States. To this end, we will cover the events of Post-Reconstruction America and continue through the modern era. The political, economic, and social aspects of American life will be considered.

½ credit

Required for grade 10 or grade 11

Prerequisite: None

SS920 AP US History

Course Description: This is an accelerated and enriched program for highly motivated students who would like to pursue the study of American History in depth. It will be the equivalent of a full-year college history course. The students will receive a thorough treatment of the facts as well as their significance: context, causes and results. Emphasis will be placed on reading primary historical material analytically and critically, the weighing of historical evidence and interpretations, and the arriving at conclusions on the basis of fact rather than prejudice. Students will develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format. **Students are required to take the AP exam.**

1 credit elective

Prerequisite: None

Department approval required

Open to grades: 10, 11

SS916 Government

Course Description: This course is a study of the foundation of the American governmental system. It is intended to provide the student with a basic understanding of the organization and functions of government and the rights and responsibilities of participatory citizens. The legislative, executive and judicial branches of federal, state, and local government are studied. Students will also engage in comparative economic and social systems as part of the course.

½ credit

Required in 11th or 12th grade

Prerequisite: US History

SS541 AP Government & Politics

Course Description: This is an accelerated and enriched program to help motivated students study American government in depth. This course studies the general concepts of government and American politics with an emphasis on critical thinking and analytical writing. **Students are required to take the AP exam.**

1 credit

Fulfills 11th or 12th grade requirement

Prerequisite: US History or

AP US History

Departmental approval required. May take after strong scores in regular Government.

SS918 Economics

Course Description: This course surveys the basic concepts found in microeconomics, macroeconomics, money and banking, and international economics. We will explore how these concepts affect our everyday life.

½ credit

Required in 11th or 12th grade

Prerequisite: US History or

AP US History

SS543 AP Macroeconomics

Course Description: This course offers an accelerated, college-level study of macroeconomic principles. Using laws of supply and demand, students will explore classical, neo-classical and Keynesian theory as it relates to fiscal and monetary policy and its effects in the international marketplace. Basic economic concepts, measurements of performance, growth and productivity, national income and price determination, the financial sector, inflation, unemployment, stabilization policies, and international trade and balance of payments are covered in depth. **Students are required to take the AP exam.**

½ credit

Fulfills 11th or 12th grade requirement

Prerequisite: US History or

AP US History, Strong Math Skills required

Departmental approval required. May take after strong scores in regular Economics.

SS917 AP Microeconomics

Course Description: This course provides a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision makers, both consumers and producers, within the larger economic system. It places primary emphasis on the nature and functions of product markets, and includes the study of factor markets and of the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. Basic concepts such as scarcity, supply, demand and resources allocation, various market and industry structures; shortages, controls, social costs and benefits, international trade and comparative systems will be covered. **Students are required to take the AP exam.**

Micro and Macro AP may be taken individually, but it is strongly suggested that if you have not completed regular economics, you take both.

½ credit elective

Fulfills 11th or 12th grade requirement

Prerequisite: US History or AP US History and strong math skills

Department Approval Required

May take after strong scores in regular Economics

Open to grades: 11, 12

SS911A World History A

Course Description: This one semester course is a general survey of historical events beginning with the origin of man and continuing through to the Renaissance. Topics include: Prehistoric Man, Ancient and Classical Civilizations of the East and West, the Middle Ages and the Reformation Period. Religion, art, culture and patterns of thought will be discussed. This class is highly recommended as a foundation for studies in other disciplines as well as the social studies curriculum.

½ credit/1 credit elective

Fulfills Social Studies graduation requirement

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

SS911B World History B

Course Description: This one semester course is a general survey of historical events beginning Post Renaissance and continuing through to modern civilizations. Topics include: Scientific Revolution, Age of Exploration and the Emergence of World Powers. Religion, art, culture and patterns of thought will be discussed. This class is highly recommended as a foundation for studies in other disciplines as well as the social studies curriculum.

½ credit/1 credit elective

Fulfills Social Studies graduation requirement

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

SS922 AP World History

Course Description: Course goals for World History and AP World History will be the same; however, the difference in the courses will be one of emphasis on pace, student expectations and Modern History in the Honors course. (See course description above.)

Students are required to take the AP exam.

1 credit elective

Fulfills Social Studies graduation requirement

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

SS923A World Geography A

Course Description: This is a one semester course in basics of World Geography, focusing on North America, Latin America, and Europe. Foundation for the class is grounded in the five themes of Geography (location, place, region, interaction with the environment, and movement), Cultural Diffusion, and Global Independence. Strong emphasis will be placed on the characteristics of physical and cultural geography. Units studied will include the political, historical, cultural, and agricultural makeup of each region.

½ credit/1 credit elective

Fulfills Social Studies graduation requirement

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10

SS923B World Geography B

Course Description: This is a one semester course in basics of World Geography, focusing on Africa, Asia, and the Pacific region. Foundation for the class is grounded in the five themes of Geography (location, place, region, interaction with the environment, and movement), Cultural Diffusion, and Global Independence. Strong emphasis will be placed on the characteristics of physical and cultural geography. Units studied will include the political, historical, cultural, and agricultural makeup of each region.

½ credit/1 credit elective

Fulfills Social Studies graduation requirement

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10

SS910 Global Issues

Course Description: This semester-long class is an introduction to current, world-wide issues such as terrorism, poverty, genocide, dictators and immigration. Global Issues is designed to introduce the student to numerous current issues confronting the globe's policy-makers and populations. Specifically, the course provides information that fosters community responsibility and global understanding.

½ credit

Fulfills Social Studies graduation requirement

Prerequisite: none

Open to grades 11, 12

SS914 Psychology

Course Description: This course is designed to survey the basic principles underlying the science of human behavior, with emphasis on heredity and environment and the various factors that affect the emotional, social and mental development of a person. It examines the different types of modern psychology such as Psychoanalysis, Behaviorism, and Humanism, and then considers their enduring influence upon modern American culture. Additionally, it considers how psychologists seek to explain and treat disorders of modern American life such as depression, substance abuse, stress and eating disorders. This course is recommended for students who desire to pursue a career in working with people.

½ credit elective

Does not fulfill Social Studies graduation requirement

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 11, 12

SS925 AP Psychology

Course Description: This is an accelerated and enriched program for self-directed and intrinsically motivated students who would like to examine the major core concepts and theories of psychology. It will be the equivalent of a college Psychology course. Course content emphasizes preparation for the AP Psychology exam in May. Students should learn the basic skills of psychological research, apply psychological concepts to their own lives, develop critical thinking skills and build their reading, writing and discussion skills. **Students are required to take the AP Psychology exam in May.**

1 credit elective

Does not fulfill Social Studies graduation requirement

Department Recommendation

Required

Open to grades: 11, 12

SS915 Sociology

Course Description: This course is a comprehensive examination of the basic concepts of the scientific study of sociology. An emphasis will be placed on understanding the sociological perspective and its application to social and personal issues of everyday life. The five basic sociological units (individuals, groups, organizations, cultures and societies) and their interrelationships will be studied. Key topics will include age groups, ethnic and racial groups, social class, cultures, norms, roles and social structures.

½ credit elective

Does not fulfill Social Studies graduation requirement

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 11, 12

SS926 AP European History

Course Description: This course focuses on developing students' understanding of European history from approximately 1450 to the present. Students will investigate the content of European history for significant events, individuals, developments and processes in four historical periods, developing and using the same thinking skills and methods employed by historians when they study the past. The course also provides five themes (interaction of Europe and the world; poverty and prosperity; objective knowledge and subjective visions; states and other institutions of power; and individual and society) that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places. **Students are required to take the AP European History exam in May.**

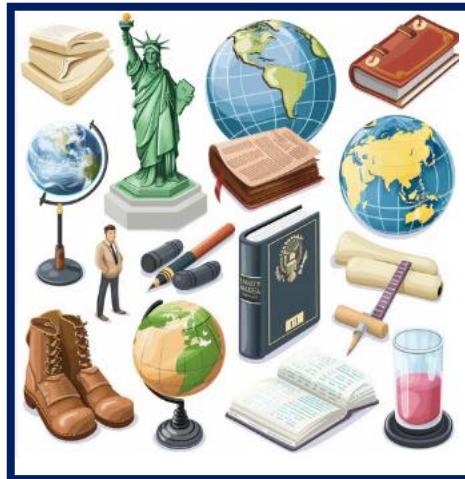
1 credit elective

Fulfills Social Studies graduation requirement

Department Recommendation

Required

Open to Grades 11, 12



WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

Program Goal:

Students will learn to

- Communicate in the target language.
- Recognize, appreciate and respect the cultures, customs and traditions of the people and regions of the target language and how they relate to the student's own language and culture.
- Understand the structure of the target language and how grammatical structure varies from language to language.
- Explore and understand the value and benefits of studying other languages and cultures.

World Language Department Offerings:

Spanish I/II

Spanish III

Spanish III

AP Spanish Language

Study Abroad: Spain

Latin I/II

Online Language: Students interested in other language options should schedule a meeting with their counselor.

Graduation Requirement:

Students will be required to complete two credits of a World Language per the requirements set by Michigan Non-Public School Accrediting Association (MNSAA) and those of the Catholic Secondary School Board. Students may substitute an approved Career Technical Education (CTE) course for the 2nd year of a World Language. Interested students need to have a CTE Substitution Form filled out with their School Counselor.

Freshmen wishing to enroll in Spanish II:

The Spanish I entrance exam is given in August to incoming freshman during their first week of school.

FL319A Spanish I A

Course Description: This course is an introduction to Spanish. Basic speaking, listening, reading and writing skills are developed through the study of vocabulary, grammar and Hispanic cultures. A student will learn the high frequency words of the present tense through picture talks, movie talks and readings. Students will be able to explain their likes and dislikes, describe a flag, write the date, tell the time, describe the weather and other basic sentences in Spanish.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Note: *Students who fail 1st semester Spanish I will be placed into another class for 2nd semester.*

Students will be placed into the class again the following year and will be able to replace their failing grade if a higher grade is earned.

FL319B Spanish I B

Course Description: Students will learn how to describe their family using adjectives (intrinsic and extrinsic), expand on their high frequency vocabulary of the top 16 verbs in Spanish in the present tense. Students will also learn possessive adjectives, prepositions, locations, and other useful Spanish vocabulary.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

FL320A Spanish II A

Course Description: During the second year of Spanish, the material which was covered in Spanish I is reinforced and more stress is placed on the mechanics of grammar. The student will be better able to comprehend spoken Spanish as well as read, write and speak the language. Cultural facets of the Spanish speaking world are also presented. Students will learn and review present tense structures: stem changers, dolvere, near future, and progressive. Students will also learn vocabulary in the following topics : body parts, health, comparisons, clothing and demonstrative adjectives.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Spanish I or equivalent with a C or higher

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

(May place into class with passing grade on the entrance exam)

FL320B Spanish II B

Course Description: Students will learn preterite, imperfect and informal commands. Students will also learn vocabulary in the following topics: travel, country descriptions/research (of Spanish speaking countries) and object pronouns. Students will grow their knowledge by reading fables.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Spanish I or equivalent with a C or higher

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

FL321A Spanish III A

Course Description: Advanced Spanish is oriented toward students who have an interest in pursuing the study of Spanish to its highest level at this high school; thus, preparing them to enroll in AP Spanish Language the following year. Students qualified for this class must perform above and beyond expectations, receiving top scores on tests, class work, homework, and oral participation. A positive attitude and the ability to work hard are required. Advanced Spanish is a comprehensive review of Spanish III concepts combined with grammar and vocabulary presented in a Spanish IV class. It is fast-paced and demands not only independent study, but also an optimal ability to speak, listen, read, and write in the target language. Students will intensely review and achieve proficiency in the preterite and imperfect tenses with travel vocabulary. Students will also learn formal commands, environmental vocabulary and cooking vocabulary.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Spanish II with an A/B average and teacher recommendation.

Open to grades: 10, 11, 12

FL321B Spanish III B

Course Description: Students will learn the following tenses: future, conditional, subjunctive with dependent clauses, present perfect, past perfect, future perfect and conditional perfect. Many different themes will be learned to prepare for the 6 themes presented on the AP Spanish Language and Culture test.

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: Spanish II with an A/B average and teacher recommendation.

Open to grades: 10, 11, 12

FL400 Study Abroad: Spain

Course Description: Students who show FL321 proficiency are eligible to apply for a three-week study abroad program with homestay in Spain. See Mrs. Coste de Falk for more details. Proposed class would entail project completion, a presentation in Spanish and promotional work.

½ credit elective (not eligible for the two credits of World Language graduation requirement)

Prerequisite: Spanish III level of proficiency.

FL323 AP Spanish Language

Course Description: AP Spanish Language is a course that focuses on taking the AP test in the spring. In this course the student will expand his/her knowledge of the target language through grammar review, classroom discussion and active participation. An in-depth study of the literature, culture, history and current issues relevant to the countries being studied will be an integral part of this course. Students are expected to converse and receive instruction in Spanish. **Students are required to take the AP Spanish exam in May.**

1 credit elective

Prerequisite: Advanced Spanish with teacher recommendation

Open to grades: 11, 12

9th	10th	11th	12th			
Spanish I	→	Spanish II	→	Spanish III	→	AP Spanish

Spanish II* → Advanced Spanish → AP Spanish → College Spanish

**May place into class with passing grade on the entrance exam*

FL331 Latin I

Course Description: Latin I is an introduction to the world of Ancient Rome. Students will learn about everyday Roman culture, history, and mythology. Through a study of basic grammar and vocabulary, students will read and write simple Latin sentences and stories. The use of Latin today will be stressed through a study of English derivatives and common Latin mottos and abbreviations.

1 credit elective

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

FL334 Latin II

Course Description: Latin II continues the study of Ancient Rome. Students will learn about the contributions of the Roman Army in the spread of Roman institutions, culture, and language. Through reading and multimedia experiences, students will study the heroes of Classical Mythology and Roman History. Students will expand their ability to use Latin grammar through a variety of reading, writing and oral exercises.

1 credit elective

Prerequisite: Latin I

Open to grades: 10, 11, 12



WEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES **DEPARTMENT OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT**

The Department of Academic Support guides families through the process of requesting and renewing Accommodation Agreements. An Accommodation Agreement is a document which identifies a student's strengths and weaknesses to address their unique learning needs. These needs are derived from current data in the form of a diagnosed educational disability, mental health condition, and/or medical diagnosis. West Catholic students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) are monitored by a team of Special Education professionals from Grand Rapids Public Schools.

G010A Mastery Skills A

Course Description: Previously known as Academic Support Center (ASC). Mastery Skills provides a unique opportunity for students to receive individualized assistance and instruction in their areas of established need. Master Skills addresses students' needs by offering a small, structured classroom where students receive direct instruction and support on homework, class work, essay writing, note taking, organization, time management, study skills and test taking strategies. Mastery Skills ensures future academic success as students progress through their high school career at West Catholic and prepare for post-secondary placements. Appropriate student candidates to enroll in Mastery Skills are those with diagnosed learning needs, those undergoing intervention services, and those with a documented history of academic struggle.

Credit only – no grade assigned

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9,10, 11, 12

G010B Mastery Skills B

Course Description: See Mastery Skills A

Credit only – no grade assigned

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9,10, 11, 12

001A/B Sidekick Program

Course Description: West Catholic juniors and seniors who enjoy helping others learn, have a heart for classmates who learn differently, or have an interest in working in education after high school are encouraged to apply to be a sidekick. As a sidekick, students serve as a peer tutor to a student who receives support services through curriculum modifications, accommodations, or is seeking a West Catholic Certificate of Completion. Sidekicks act as academic role models, working to create positive study skills. Sidekicks must display the skills of responsibility, collaboration, leadership, and empathy. Interested students must fill out an application and may be asked to have an interview with the Director of Academic Support. This is a credit/no credit elective that will require students to attend training sessions during FOCUS and participate in whole school inclusion efforts.

Credit only – no grade assigned

Prerequisite: Application and Director approval

Open to grades: 11, 12

GENERAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Study Hall 000A/B

Course Description: A non-credit hour during the school day for students to study and prepare homework.

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Focus Time

Students will have 25 minutes, twice per week, directed by a teacher or faculty member to be utilized for academics, school counseling, administrative business or specific organizations. Students must sign themselves into a particular Focus section.

Pomodoro

Facilitated by teachers and support staff, Pomodoro provides opportunities during school hours for students who may need or want additional instruction in a given area. Students will have 25 minutes, twice per week. They may elect to attend or be required to attend by a teacher, counselor, or administrator. Assignment to a specific teacher's Pomodoro takes precedence over all games, practices, clubs or organizational meetings, and detentions.

POLICIES FOR ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Introduction

While many educational opportunities are offered at West Catholic High School, we understand that some students require an even greater diversity in learning experiences in order to be successful and develop their gifts. Due to this need, the Support Services staff at West Catholic works with qualifying students and their families to open up even more educational opportunities. We offer classroom accommodations and curriculum modifications to welcome a wide spectrum of learning abilities. These services provide many benefits to our students, but they also may have implications regarding college requirements and expectations. All students must work with Support Services staff and their School Counselor to consider their post-secondary goals and carefully select an appropriate path to graduation. Students and families are asked to meet with Support Services and their School Counselor to receive more detailed information and to determine if utilizing a given opportunity is an appropriate option.

Curriculum Modifications

Any student who needs curriculum modifications as deemed appropriate by current diagnostic data because of a disability is granted this level of support to access our curriculum. Modifications are provided to students who have moderate to severe disabilities. Students who receive modifications may be seeking a diploma or certificate of completion depending on their needs. West Catholic general education teachers and support services teachers partner alongside students and families to provide appropriate modifications to maximize student learning and provide access to our rigorous curriculum. Students who receive curriculum modifications and are seeking a diploma, must meet all graduation requirements as outlined by the state of Michigan. All course modifications are noted on a student's transcript.

West Catholic High School strives to provide an inclusive Catholic high school education to those with moderate cognitive disabilities and significant learning disabilities. West Catholic Support Services offers a Certificate of Completion to these exceptional learners who require a modified and/or personalized curriculum in order to have the opportunity to engage in the West Catholic High School experience. West Catholic general education teachers and support services teachers partner alongside students and families to provide appropriate modifications to maximize student learning. Candidates to receive the West Catholic High School Certificate of Completion upon graduation must have a current Individualized Education Plan which will continue to be monitored by Support Services staff and Grand Rapids Public Schools, a current diagnostic evaluation, and must have the ability to follow behavior expectations, maintain self-care independently, initiate written and verbal expression, and participate in classroom activities without the use of an aide. If you would like further information and / or feel as if a Certificate of Completion may be appropriate for your child, please contact Emily Hoffman at emilyhoffman@grwestcatholic.org

PART TWO

General Information

WEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Root Beliefs and Core Values

Root Beliefs

1. Become Eucharistic Disciples of Christ

We are called to be Disciples of Christ, renewed constant at the Eucharist, who live with Christ, who sit at His feet and learn how to love from the God Who is Love.

2. Educate the whole person, one student at a time

West Catholic educates the mind, body and soul. More than an excellent academic institution, we invite each student, with his or her unique gifts and challenges, to live well, seek excellence, make careful distinctions and judgments, and care for others.

3. Act rightly, serve generously

Through living example, high expectations, and practice in self-discipline, we challenge students to develop their consciences to live moral lives of virtuous action and service.

4. “Open wide the doors to Christ”- John Paul II

West Catholic enthusiastically invites new members into our shared life. We strive to show, through our actions, words and compassion, that each person is a worthwhile and meaningful part of our community. Nurtured by Catholic tradition and the life of St. John Paul II, we follow his example of being a Disciple of Christ.

Core Values

1. Joy

Joy expresses the call of Pope Francis to evangelization: that the mark of the disciple is one who is joyful. And, it expresses how we want everyone to experience our community, our classrooms, and everything we do.

2. Learning

Intentional education based on faith and reason brings about transformative learning that deepens our students' understanding of God and His magnificent creation.

3. Living

At West Catholic, high school is not an interruption of real life, nor a waiting room for future life, but a rich experience of being fully, joyfully alive.

4. Commitment

Commitment expresses our tenacity, our strength, that West Catholic is an institution of excellence. We expect excellence from our staff and students because we know that they, made in the image of God, are capable of achieving it.

5. Caritas

Caritas is the Latin word for love/charity. Imbued with selflessly loving and caring for others, *Caritas* best describes all of our relationships in which we strive to emulate the *Caritas* of God for His people.

ACADEMICS

(III. ACADEMIC POLICIES from WCHS Student Handbook)

A. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In compliance with the requirements set by the Michigan Non-Public School Accrediting Association (MNSAA), West Catholic High School requires the following credits for graduation. A credit is a primary method used to determine and document that students have met their academic requirements. Each semester course is worth .500 credit.

MINIMUM OF 24 CREDITS

Religion	4 credits
English	4 credits
Mathematics	4 credits
Science	3 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
World Language	2 credits
Health/Phys Ed	1 credit
Computer Science, Engineering & Innovation, Media Arts & Design, Visual Performing Arts	1 credit
Electives	2 credits

WEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

West Catholic High School strives to provide an inclusive Catholic high school education to those with moderate cognitive disabilities and significant learning disabilities. West Catholic Support Services offers a Certificate of Completion to these exceptional learners who require a modified and/or personalized curriculum in order to have the opportunity to engage in the West Catholic High School experience. West Catholic general education teachers and support services teachers partner alongside students and families to provide appropriate modifications to maximize student learning. Candidates to receive the West Catholic High School Certificate of Completion upon graduation must have a current Individualized Education Plan which will continue to be monitored by Support Services staff and Grand Rapids Public Schools, a current diagnostic evaluation, and must have the ability to follow behavior expectations, maintain self-care independently, initiate written and verbal expression, and participate in classroom activities without the use of an aide. If you would like further information and / or feel as if a Certificate of Completion may be appropriate for your child, please contact Emily Hoffman at emilyhoffman@grwestcatholic.org

B. GRADING PROCESS

Grading Scale

Grade	Minimum Percent	GPA	Grade	Minimum Percent	GPA
A+	96.5 – 100	4.0	C+	76.5 – 79.4	2.4
A	92.5 – 96.4	4.0	C	72.5 – 76.4	2.0
A-	89.5 – 92.4	3.7	C-	69.5 – 72.4	1.7
B+	86.5 – 89.4	3.4	D+	66.5 – 69.4	1.4
B	82.5 – 86.4	3.0	D	62.5 – 66.4	1.0
B-	79.5 – 82.4	2.7	D-	59.5 – 62.4	0.7
			E	0.0 – 59.4	0.0

Bonus Points – Honors and AP courses receive a .018 add-on per $\frac{1}{2}$ credit hour in computing the cumulative GPA.

Grade Explanation:

- A grade of “A” indicates a cumulative weighted score of 89.5 - 100 for the three Grading Categories indicating a strong understanding of the curriculum standards and executive functioning skills.
- A grade of “B” indicates a cumulative weighted score of 79.5 - 89.4 for the three Grading Categories indicating above average fulfillment of the curriculum standards and executive functioning skills.
- A grade of “C” indicates a cumulative weighted score of 69.5 - 79.4 for the three Grading Categories indicating fulfillment of all the curriculum standards as well as exhibition of executive functioning skills.
- A grade of “D” indicates a cumulative weighted score of 59.5 - 69.4, the minimum passing range for the combined three Grading Categories.
- A grade of “E” indicates a cumulative weighted score of 0 - 59.4 for the three Grading Categories indicating failure to achieve the minimum curriculum standards required to earn credit for the course. To obtain credit in a required course and thus meet graduation requirements, the student must repeat the course.

2. **Report cards** are compiled four times a year and are posted on Infinite Campus. Parents requesting that a printed report card be mailed home should contact the Registrar. Teachers will post progress report grades on Infinite Campus during the middle of each nine-week period.

- a. Quarter grades are not posted to the permanent record. They are intended to inform students and parents about student progress. Quarter grades represent 40 percent of the semester grade.
- b. First and second semester grades consist of two quarter grades and the grade from a comprehensive final exam which counts for 20 percent. Only the final semester grade is recorded on the student’s permanent transcript and used to calculate the cumulative grade point average.

3. **Incompletes** - A student who receives an incomplete in a class is responsible for working with the teacher to determine what is missing. Generally, an incomplete grade must be made up within ONE week of the end of the marking period. Extensions may be given with the approval of the teacher and the Administration. When students are missing grades due to excused absences, the teacher will set a reasonable date by which all make-up work must be completed. If a student does not make up the work by the assigned date, the teacher is to record a zero for all work not completed.

4. **Progress Reports** - Grades are updated weekly through each marking period/academic quarter and may be viewed at any time on Infinite Campus. Teachers will post progress report grades on Infinite Campus during the middle of the nine-week period. Parents needing a written progress report should contact the Registrar.

C. ACADEMIC CREDIT

1. A transcript is the record of grades and is sent to colleges and institutions when applying for admission. An official transcript is delivered, by request of the student and/or parent, to a college or institution with the school seal or sent via Naviance. An unofficial transcript is delivered by request to the student and/or parent. An unofficial transcript is available to view in Infinite Campus.

2. The **Michigan Seal of Biliteracy** is awarded to graduating seniors who are proficient at an "intermediate-high" level in two or more languages. Students qualify for the Michigan Seal of Biliteracy by having a qualifying grade in their English courses as well as one of the following three pathways in the second language:
 - a.) Intermediate-high score on the Advanced Placement (AP) world language exam: score of 4 or 5.
 - b.) For international students, official transcripts of qualifying grades in native language courses in sixth grade or higher.
 - c.) For non-native English speakers, a state approved proficiency test can be taken.
3. **Advanced Placement Courses** - AP courses are designed as year-long programs of study. If a student is interested in taking an AP Course during the next academic year, an AP Contract requiring student and parent/guardian signatures will be provided. Families who may require financial assistance regarding the cost of the AP exam should contact the School Counseling Office. Once enrolled in an AP course, as stated in the Curriculum Guide, students must take the AP exam for the course. This is a requirement of enrollment in the AP course as it honors both the dignity of the student's decision to take on the challenge of college-level work and the integrity of the AP program. If, for any reason, a student does not complete an AP exam in May for an AP course in which he or she is enrolled or was enrolled during the first semester, the AP Exam testing fee is forfeited and the student will earn a zero for the course exam, comprising 20% of the semester grade for the AP Course.
4. **Dual Enrollment** - Students/families will be responsible for any costs not covered by the funds from the State of Michigan. Students who participate in dual enrollment are expected to follow the institution's policies and school calendar. Grades earned in dual enrollment courses will be added to the West Catholic transcript and will be awarded bonus points (0.018 points per semester class). If a student fails a course, the State of Michigan will no longer provide funds and it will be the student/family's responsibility to pay the entire bill. Due to FERPA the college will only communicate directly with students, not the parents or the school. Students should meet with their counselor where they will receive the required Dual Enrollment Application. This form must be signed by the student and parent.

For Dual Enrollment options go to:
<https://www.grwestcatholic.org/curriculum-guide/>

5. **Independent Study:** A student enrolled on a regular basis at West Catholic High School may take Independent Study with prior approval of the Administration in order to earn credit. Independent Study is offered on an exceptional basis, usually due to a scheduling conflict. A maximum of one course (0.5 credit) per semester is allowed, and a student may earn up to a total of four (4) credits for independent study.

Credit for Independent Study will be granted on a credit/no credit basis. No letter grade will be awarded or applied to the student's cumulative GPA. Credit will be granted for Independent Study courses not supervised by a West Catholic High School faculty member only if the independent study is conducted by a recognized and West Catholic-approved high school program. All costs for this independent study course, including online courses, will be assumed by the family.

6. Credit Recovery: Students who fail a course are responsible to meet with their counselor and enroll in approved courses for required credit recovery. Summer school information is available in the School Counseling Office. There may be additional tuition costs for credit recovery. The credit recovery program only allows the student to remediate failed course content and earn a passing credit. Seniors who do not receive a diploma upon graduation due to failed required courses have one year from the date of graduation to recover the needed credit(s). All credits earned outside of West Catholic High School must be pre-approved by both the department head and Administration to count toward graduation requirements.

- a. A course that is repeated at West Catholic, because of a failure and receives a passing grade when retaken, will appear on the permanent record. The passing grade will replace the original failing grade in determining the GPA. If a course is repeated outside West Catholic, the course and credit will be listed on the transcript. The credit will count toward the total required for graduation, but the grade in the repeated course will not replace the original failure; and the grade will not be computed in the cumulative grade point average.
- b. Course(s) failed in Religion must be repeated through a credit recovery program at WCHS during the summer break. It is the student's responsibility to register/pay for course recovery through the Religion Department in June.

7. Replacement Credit

- a. In order to receive replacement credit on a student's transcript, the course must be retaken within one year. In order to receive replacement by retaking a course, permission must be granted by the administration prior to the beginning of the semester.
- b. Students and parents are encouraged to schedule a meeting with their school counselor to discuss the grade replacement process and understand how replacement credits will be reflected on a student's transcript.
6. **Credit/No Credit Grading** – Granting credit/no credit is at the discretion of the school Administration and are on a case by case basis. Additionally, International students with limited English proficiency may be given credit/no credit grades for their first semester at West Catholic High School.

D. ACADEMIC HONORS CRITERIA

1. **Honor Roll:** Students will be on the Honor Roll if they have earned a grade of B- or higher in each course. Honor Roll is based on quarter grades only.
2. **GPA:** A student's "base or un-weighted" grade point average will be determined using a 4-point scale (example: A=4.0; B=3.0). In addition, Honors and AP courses receive a .018 add-on per $\frac{1}{2}$ credit hour in computing GPA.
3. **Awards Distribution:** Students may be recognized for academic achievement through successful completion of membership in the National Honor Society and/or our annual Awards Convocation(s).
4. **Honors Convocation:** Honors Convocation is held during the month of May to honor student achievements for the school year.

5. Academic Awards:

Gold Scholar Award

Awarded to juniors and seniors with a cumulative grade point average of 4.0 and above

Silver Scholar Award

Awarded to juniors and seniors with a cumulative grade point average of 3.8 and above

Bronze Scholar Award

Awarded to juniors and seniors with a cumulative grade point average of 3.6 and above

6. Criteria for Valedictorian/Salutatorian: Students will have attained the top two cumulative GPAs of the senior class at the conclusion of eight semesters. The majority of credits must be earned at WCHS and the student must be at full-time enrollment each semester of high school.

E. CURRICULUM INFORMATION/ENROLLMENT

1. Each student must carry a **minimum of six (6)** credit bearing courses per semester. All students must remain in the school building through the 7th period of the day, unless approved by the administration. A student must complete his/her required courses at West Catholic High School. A “required course” is one designated as such in the West Catholic Curriculum Guide and must be successfully completed to receive a West Catholic diploma.
2. Four years of daily attendance in a **Religion class** offered at West Catholic High School is required of all students who attend West Catholic High School.
3. **Schedule changes** are made only through a formal procedure denoting departmental, parental, counselor and administrative permission. Some electives may place considerable demands on students. It is imperative that students and parents/guardians familiarize themselves with the demands of course selections before course registration. Class changes can cause serious disruptions to the order of the school. Teacher hiring and assignment decisions are made on the basis of course selections in the spring.
4. Changes, therefore, will only be made for very serious reasons. If a schedule is not complete, required subjects are not included, or if a class was assigned that wasn't selected by the student, a request in writing should be made to correct the situation. Students must remain in currently assigned classes until they receive written add/drop notification.
5. Class Change Request Forms are available in the school counseling office.
 - Students will have a three-week period to access Class Change Request Forms in each semester for semester-long courses only. After three weeks, no drops will be made with the exception of drops initiated by administration for medical or other serious circumstances.
 - For year-long classes, Change Request Forms are available for the first three weeks of the school year. Students must remain in currently assigned classes until they receive written add/drop notification.
 - Schedule changes will not be made due to teacher preference.
 - Core classes will not be overloaded due to elective or study hall preferences.
 - Please note: Counselors have the right to adjust class hours to balance classes.
5. **Withdrawal from School:** Students who withdraw from school do so through the office of the Administration and School Counseling Department. Before a transcript of records can be released, the student must not have outstanding obligations (iPad with charging brick/cord, textbooks and materials must be returned), or any other place where school materials have been used (such as athletic uniforms). All tuition fees and negative lunch account balances must be paid in full. An exit form signed by the student, parent and administrative representative must be completed.

F. ASSIGNED WORK POLICY

Students may have assigned work, in formative or summative form, that requires completion outside of the school day. Successful and consistent completion of all assigned work is expected of all students. Assigned work contributes to students' quarter grades and performance on assessments. Students falling behind in their school work may be assigned to Pomodoro for an unspecified amount of time until their work is caught up. Students are responsible for being aware of due dates and ensuring work is completed and turned in by the given date.

Work Deadline

All work assigned a deadline must be submitted in person or electronically by the assigned date and time. Any work not submitted by the deadline can be subject to a late policy.

Late Work

Formative Assessments

Formative assessments are ongoing checkpoints designed to measure student understanding and inform instructional adjustments.

- Formative assignments can be completed for credit up **until the day** before the corresponding summative assessment.
- After the summative assessment, the grade for missing formative assessments will be marked with a score of zero and noted as missing in the grade book to indicate that the assessment cannot be made up.

Summative Assessments

Summative assessments evaluate overall student achievement at the conclusion of a unit or grading period.

- Students who miss a summative assessment because of an **unexcused absence** must complete the assessment, but will be penalized by having their score reduced by 50 percent. The earned score would be noted in the comment section of the gradebook.
- Students who miss a summative assessment because of an **excused absence** must make up the assessment on the day they return to school.
- Students who are absent due to an extended illness (more than 2 school days) are encouraged to make up work as soon as possible, but may have 2 days to make up work for each school day missed. For example, a student who misses 3 days would have 6 days to make up the summative assessment.
- All summative assessments are required and must be completed in a timely manner, as defined above. Students who do not take a summative assessment in a timely manner can be penalized by having their score reduced 50 percent. The earned score would be noted in the comment section of the gradebook. Students and parents are encouraged to contact the teachers to arrange a schedule that best meets the needs of the teacher and student.

Extended Absences for Reasons Other than Illness

Approval for an excused extended absence (two or more days) of this type will require meeting specific criteria, including preapproval from the Assistant Principal. See the Attendance section of the handbook, "Excused Absence from School" and "Foreseeable Absences." These criteria include parents understanding and agreeing that:

1. They have read and understand the school's attendance policy above.
2. A "Pre-Approved Extended Absence Request Form" must be completed and submitted to the Assistant Principal at least one week in advance of the absence.
3. Teachers will determine which assignments are to be made up and the timeline in which they are to be completed. Conversations with teachers must take place prior to the student leaving for the extended absence.
4. There should be no expectation of special assistance with class material.
5. Approval for an excused absence does not guarantee protection from gaps in learning and/or earning a lower grade. It is up to the student to make up missing work within the timeline noted above. Other factors such as lower test scores may ultimately affect a student's overall performance and/or grade.

Parents who elect to remove a student from school under these circumstances assume all academic risk.

G. EXAMINATION POLICIES

Exams are given at the end of each semester and must be taken to complete the course. Students who have missed exams due to an absence are expected to take missed exams on the scheduled exam make-up day. Exams that remain incomplete after the scheduled make-up day will be given a zero grade unless prior written arrangements have been made with administration.

Exam Accommodations

Students Support Services will coordinate alternative exam arrangements for students who qualify for accommodated testing. Extended time and other accommodations will be granted according to the student's accommodation plan.

Senior Exam Exemption

The exemption is granted at the professional discretion of each individual teacher and is used for the second semester only of a year-long course or for either semester of a one-semester course.

1. The student must have scored a minimum letter grade of "B" in the two quarters preceding the exam.
2. Teachers do not round off grades or points.
3. If a student wants to earn a higher grade for the semester, he/she must take the final exam.
4. Students taking AP courses are required to complete the official AP Exam(s) and may be exempt from taking a final examination.

Cancellation of Exams

In the event exams have to be cancelled on a regularly scheduled exam day, they will be made up the next weekday, moving all exams back a day. For example, if Wednesday exams are cancelled, the exams originally scheduled for Wednesday are moved to Thursday, and Thursday exams are moved to Friday.

H. ACADEMIC PROBATION

Every effort will be made to assist students who are struggling academically, and/or are failing or near failing in their studies. Students will benefit from the Responsive Scheduling programming at WC by being assigned to attend sections of Pomodoro and Focus. However, if a student has received academic assistance and fails to improve over time, that student may be placed on Academic Probation at the determination of the administration.

Academic Probation is the course of action taken for students who are performing below expectations due to personal choices that affect the student's academic progress negatively.

1. A student may be placed on Academic Probation at any time, though usually, such placement will occur at the completion of a marking period or semester.
2. A student may be placed on Academic Probation for excessive absences should it be determined that the absences have negatively affected academic performance.
3. A student may be placed on Academic Probation due to a second or subsequent episode of academic dishonesty.
4. A student placed on Academic probation, along with their parent/guardian will be required to sign a Probationary Contract.
5. An administrator placing a student on Academic Probation will consider, but is not limited to, the following criteria as they apply to individual situations when writing the Probationary Contract:
 - A meeting will be held with the student, parent(s), and administrator to discuss the Probationary Contract. Other high school staff may also be involved in the initial meeting.
 - The student will be required to submit all assigned work to each teacher in each assigned class, including work completed in or out of the classroom.
 - All assigned material must be completed and submitted on time. If absent when work is assigned or due, the probationary student must meet the criteria established for each class in order to receive credit.
 - The student may be required to work with a tutor in a specified subject area(s).
 - The student will participate in pre-arranged tutoring sessions with the teacher as necessary.
 - The student may not have unexcused absences and may be denied pre-arranged absences during the probationary period.
 - The student will be evaluated at intervals as determined by the administrator, not to exceed one quarter of the school year.
 - The student will remain on Academic Probation for a duration determined by the administrator.
 - The student will not be allowed to advance in any subject that is sequential unless the prior course is successfully completed.

When a student violates a Probationary Contract, the administrator reserves the right to redefine the terms of the contract and to evaluate the student's future enrollment at West Catholic. If dismissed, the student, after successfully completing a semester and earning credits at a non-Grand Rapids Catholic Secondary school, may be considered for re-enrollment.

I. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Occasions of academic misconduct that undermine and are counter to our mission of forming disciples of Christ, including any forms of cheating or plagiarism, will not be tolerated. All academic work submitted by students to their instructors is expected to be the student's own work. Dishonesty in any form is an extremely serious offense. The personal integrity of each member of our school community and a sense of respect and responsibility to self, family, church and community is so important to building a positive school culture. Academic dishonesty may also affect eligibility for, induction to, or dismissal from National Honor Society. Students must sign the school's AI Policy on the first day of each academic year, which can be accessed [here](#).

Acts of Cheating or Plagiarism

Acts of cheating and plagiarism include, but are not limited to the following actions: prompting an AI chatbot (such as ChatGPT) to create a full writing assignment, generating an image using an AI tool when asked to produce an original work, using an AI tool to perform mathematical calculations for an assignment, leaving a virtual assessment in the middle of the allotted time, copying assignments and submitting as "original;" writing formulas, codes, keywords on your person or an object for use on a test; using programmed material in personal or school-owned devices when prohibited; giving or receiving answers; taking someone else's assignment and submitting it as your own; submitting material (written or designed by someone else) without citing the source; submitting work created by family, friends, or tutors; taking credit for group work without doing your fair share; Submission of identical papers or work for two different courses without the explicit approval of both teachers; or submitting as your own ideas, words, organization, work or opinion copied or paraphrased from another source, such as a book, a magazine, a manuscript or speech, or internet source, without written acknowledgment.

Use of AI Tools & Technologies

Students are responsible for understanding the proper use of AI tools and technologies in their academic work. When using AI, students must seek approval from their instructor before using AI tools for any assignment or assessment; clearly indicate and cite any AI-generated content within their work and take responsibility for its accuracy or lack thereof; and use AI ethically and responsibly, recognizing the limitations of AI-generated content and avoiding overreliance on such tools.

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools** are now being used more frequently in the field of education. This policy seeks to promote ethical behavior and provide parameters around the responsible use of AI tools to complete academic work. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is defined in this policy as the following: The ability of a machine or computer system to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings. This can be seen in applications such as image recognition, image generation, language translation, and text generation.
- **AI-Assisted Cheating** is the misuse of AI tools or technologies, such as language models, to complete or assist in academic work without teacher approval or proper citation. The inappropriate use of AI encompasses all forms of academic work, including but not limited to homework, quizzes, tests, essays, projects, presentations, and any other assignments or assessments.

Academic Fraud

A student who allows another student access to his/her work is also guilty of academic fraud and will be penalized as well for violating the academic integrity policy. When working on collaborative assignments, it is the student's responsibility to know the extent to which collaboration is allowed/expected in any assignment. Unless an instructor has explicitly explained that students may collaborate on a homework assignment, essay, or project, all the work that is turned in must be the student's own work.

Teachers' Academic Integrity Policies

Each teacher's academic integrity policy may differ from the school's policy in order to better address the specific needs and challenges of their individual classroom environment. While the school's policy provides a broad framework to ensure consistency and fairness across the institution, a teacher might implement additional or modified guidelines that reflect the unique expectations in their classroom. This allows each teacher to tailor the policy to better suit the subject matter, the level of the students, and the specific learning objectives of the course.

The teacher is the ultimate authority in deciding if the student has committed an act of academic dishonesty. Upon determining that a student has violated the school's policy on academic integrity, the teacher will penalize the student academically, contact the parents, and work with the assistant principal to assign appropriate penalties. If a student feels that an error has been made in determining they have violated the academic integrity policy, they may request a re-evaluation of the matter by the instruction specialist and the assistant principal. The decision of this committee is final.

Academic Integrity Violations

Any suspected violation of this policy will be investigated using the school's established procedures for academic dishonesty. Disciplinary actions are cumulative across all courses and carry over from year to year.

First Violation of Academic Integrity Policy:

The student receives a score of zero points (0%, letter grade E) and is assigned a service work detention. The teacher will call the parent to inform the parent of the incident.

Second Violation of Academic Integrity Policy:

In addition to the consequences stated for a first violation of the Academic Integrity Policy, a second violation will also result in that student being placed on Academic Probation (see section in handbook for specific details).

Subsequent Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy:

In addition to the consequences stated in the first and second violations, the probation plan will be referenced and modified if necessary during a parent meeting and the student will be ineligible for extracurricular activities for three days. Instances surpassing the third violation will result in suspensions from school.

J. ONLINE RESOURCES AND POLICIES

All West Catholic students will be issued a school-owned iPad to use as their personal device in and out of the classroom. West Catholic will provide an appropriate internet filter, a mobile device management platform, and the necessary iPad apps. Students and parents must sign and follow the Diocesan Acceptable Use policy as well as follow classroom rules and procedures set by the individual instructor.

1. Computer Use/Acceptable Use Guidelines

All West Catholic students and a parent/guardian are required to sign the *Diocese of Grand Rapids Electronic Information Access and Acceptable Use of School Systems* policy. To view this policy, please visit the Technology Info section under the Parents link of the West Catholic website at www.grwestcatholic.org

2. Additional 1:1 (iPad) Resources

It is the goal of West Catholic High School to enhance and transform learning with the assistance of iPads within the classroom. We believe that educating our students with technology will better prepare them for higher education, employment, and their personal life. School expectations for device usage as well as Parent Resources are available in the Technology section of the school website.

3. Resources

The following electronic resources are available to enhance education at West Catholic. They are accessible under the student and parent tabs on the website at grwestcatholic.org

Infinite Campus

The Infinite Campus Portal is a Student Management System that provides parents and students access to view grades, attendance, behavior, food service and much more for both students and parents.

Canvas

Canvas is a Learning Management System (LMS) that allows teachers to provide instructional support, class calendars, assignments and resources for students in a safe online environment. For traditional face to face classes, Canvas is an integral part of sharing blended classroom instruction.

Google Apps for Education

All West Catholic students are setup with a school-managed Google account. This account gives users a free platform for document creation, document storage, collaboration and email communication.

Naviance

Online platform that allows schools to set goals and priorities for individual students, track their progress, and measure student outcomes to improve college and career readiness. Naviance also manages electronic transcripts and recommendations.

JAMF Parent App

JAMF Parent is an app that will give you an optional layer of control over your son/daughter's school issued iPad from your own device. In addition to the safeguards that are already in place for all student devices, this app allows you to restrict content and apps, setup rules on devices and create timeframes for access. This functionality is available to parents only outside of school hours.

iPad Tutorials

Sometimes we all need a little reminder on how to do certain tasks and sometimes we need some tips on how to troubleshoot a problem. iPad Tutorials provides some helpful How To and Troubleshooting tutorials on frequently asked questions and can be found on the website at grwestcatholic.org/students

Minga

All-in-one tool for school operations, including hall passes, school check in/out, digital ID's and more.

K. THE “MAK”

The MAK is open from 6 a.m. until needed. Students are welcome to study before school and after school (unless the MAK is reserved for another school function). KCTC Students and Dual Enrollment students are also welcome to use the MAK.

L. COUNSELING

Counseling and the communication of information to parents and students are vital aspects of a good high school. West Catholic has counseling staff who meet with individual students, groups of students, and parents to develop an educational plan for each student. Personal counseling is critical to many students as they mature during their high school careers and is available to every student. In addition to the general goal of giving students individual attention, counselors are also responsible for the maintenance of student records, registering and scheduling all students, providing standardized test information to students and parents, promoting college and career planning, and interpreting school policies and rules. Students wishing to see their counselor should sign up on the appointment sheet in the counseling office. Parents are encouraged to call if they have any questions or would like an appointment. The school telephone numbers are 616-233-5909 or 616-233-5900.

M. RECORD KEEPING

Each student has a personal school counseling file. A personal school counseling file includes an academic achievement record of standardized test results, a four-year plan, and career/occupation interest information, which are used to plan postsecondary options for the students. To ensure that the student is working toward success, the school reports on periodic progress, through mid-term reports, quarter grades, and semester finals.

WEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM PLANNING GUIDE

DEPARTMENT	9TH GRADE	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE
ART	Artist Workshop I Art Palette	Artist Workshop II Art Palette	Drawing and Painting I Art Palette	Art IV Drawing and Painting II Art Palette
COMPUTER SCIENCE	AP Computer Sci Principles Intro to Digital Technology I Intro to Digital Technology II <i>Program-Game Develop</i> Program-Game Develop I Program-Game Develop II	AP Computer Sci Principles AP Computer Science Intro to Digital Technology I Intro to Digital Technology II <i>Program-Game Develop</i> Program-Game Develop I Program-Game Develop II	AP Computer Sci Principles AP Computer Science Intro to Digital Technology I Intro to Digital Technology II <i>Program-Game Develop</i> Program-Game Develop I Program-Game Develop II	AP Computer Sci Principles AP Computer Science Intro to Digital Technology I Intro to Digital Technology II <i>Program-Game Develop</i> Program-Game Develop I Program-Game Develop II
ENGINEERING AND INNOVATION	Robotics I Robotics II Design Thinking	Robotics I Robotics II Design Thinking	Robotics I Robotics II Design Thinking Pre-Engineering	Robotics I Robotics II Design Thinking Pre-Engineering
ENGLISH	Honors English I English I Oral Communication	Honors English II English II Oral Communication	AP Eng. Lang. & Comp. English III Oral Communication	AP Eng. Lang. & Comp. AP Eng. Lit. & Comp. English IV Oral Communication
LIFE SKILLS	Personal Power A/B	Personal Power A/B	Personal Power A/B	Personal Power A/B
MATHEMATICS	Pre-Algebra Algebra I Geometry H-Geometry Algebra II H-Algebra II	Geometry H-Geometry Algebra II H-Algebra II Pre-Calculus H-Pre-Calculus	Algebra II H-Algebra II Pre-Calculus Calculus H-Pre-Calculus AP Calculus Statistics AP Statistics	Analysis Pre-Calculus Calculus H-Pre-Calculus AP Calculus Statistics AP Statistics Personal Finance
MEDIA ARTS AND DESIGN	Graphic Communication I Graphic Communication II Graphic Design Video Production Web Page Design	Comm. Design-Profess. Setting Graphic Communication I Graphic Communication II Graphic Design Video Production Web Page Design Yearbook	Comm. Design-Profess. Setting Graphic Communication I Graphic Communication II Graphic Design Video Production Web Page Design Yearbook	Comm. Design-Profess. Setting Graphic Communication I Graphic Communication II Graphic Design Video Production Web Page Design Yearbook
INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL MUSIC	Concert Band Marching Band Jazz Band Music Appreciation Concert Choir Theatre I/II	Concert Band Marching Band Jazz Band Music Appreciation Concert Choir Theatre I/II	Concert Band Marching Band Jazz Band Music Appreciation Concert Choir Theater I/II	Concert Band Marching Band Jazz Band Music Appreciation Concert Choir Theater I/II
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Physical Activities Health Leadership Strength Training Team Sports	Health Leadership Strength Training Team Sports	Leadership Sports Officiating Strength Training Team Sports	Leadership Sports Officiating Strength Training Team Sports
RELIGION	Introduction to Scripture Christology Intro to Catholicism	The Paschal Mystery The Church Intro to Catholicism	Sacraments Morality Intro to Catholicism	Church History Catholic Social Teaching Intro to Catholicism
SCIENCE	Integrated Science Biology H-Biology Astronomy	Biology H-Biology Chemistry H-Chemistry Astronomy	Anatomy Chemistry H-Chemistry AP Chemistry AP Biology Physics AP Physics AP Environmental Science Astronomy	Anatomy Chemistry H-Chemistry AP Chemistry AP Biology Physics AP Physics AP Environmental Science Astronomy
SOCIAL STUDIES	World Geography World History AP World History	World Geography World History AP World History US History AP US History	World History AP World History US History AP US History Government AP Government/Politics Economics AP Macroeconomics AP Microeconomics Psychology AP Psychology Sociology Global Issues AP European History	World History AP World History Government AP Government/Politics Economics AP Macroeconomics AP Microeconomics Psychology AP Psychology Sociology Global Issues AP European History
WORLD LANGUAGE	Spanish I Spanish II Latin I	Spanish II Latin II	Spanish III AP Spanish Study Abroad: Spain	AP Spanish College Spanish Study Abroad: Spain

WEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
CREDIT COMPARISON CHART

1 credit = 2 semesters = 1 year
 .50 credit = 1 semester = $\frac{1}{2}$ year

SUBJECT	WEST CATHOLIC	RECOMMENDED COLLEGE	NCAA CORE REQUIREMENTS
ENGLISH	4 credits	4 credits	4 credits
RELIGION	4 credits	-----	-----
MATH	4 credits	4 credits including Alg. II	3 credits - does not include Pre-Algebra or any remedial level math course
SCIENCE	3 credits	4 credits	2 credits - must Include 1 cr. lab science 1-Phys. Science
SOCIAL SCIENCE	3 credits	3 credits	2 credits
PHYS. ED.	$\frac{1}{2}$ credit	-----	-----
HEALTH	$\frac{1}{2}$ credit		
ELECTIVES	2 credits	5-7 credits	4 credits in above areas, or foreign language, computers
WORLD LANGUAGE	2 credits	2-4 credits	
COMPUTER SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & INNOVATION, MEDIA ARTS & DESIGN AND VISUAL/PERFORMING ARTS	1 credit		NOTE: 1 year of additional courses in Math, English or Natural or Physical Science
TOTAL	24 credits	22-26 credits	**16 core credits

A GUIDE FOR THE COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENT ATHLETE

Student-athletes should thoroughly research and identify colleges that not only offer their desired sport but also align with their academic goals. It's essential to recognize that college athletics fall under various organizations such as the NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA, each with its own set of eligibility criteria for student-athletes. Understanding and meeting these requirements is crucial, as athletes must be both academically and athletically eligible to participate in college sports.

There are many ways to prepare for collegiate athletics, listed below are **some** basic guidelines to become and remain eligible to play at your chosen college.

- Begin preparing for the college recruitment process as early as freshman or sophomore year of high school.
- Maintain good grades throughout high school. Many athletic organizations have academic requirements students must meet to be eligible to play.
- Familiarize yourself with the NCAA or NAIA eligibility requirements. Maintain eligibility by meeting academic standards and avoiding violations of recruiting rules. Verify requirements of other organizations to ensure compliance.
- Seek guidance from high school coaches, counselors, and recruiting services. They can offer valuable advice and assistance throughout the recruitment process.

For detailed guidance on college options and eligibility, student-athletes are encouraged to schedule meetings with their school counselor.



NCAA ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

To study and compete at a Division I school, you must earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits, earn a minimum 2.3 core-course GPA and submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

For specific information contact the NCAA Eligibility Center or your school counselor.

To study and compete at a Division II school, you must earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits, earn a minimum 2.2 core-course GPA and submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

For specific information contact the NCAA Eligibility Center or your school counselor.

IMPORTANT POINTS:

- **These requirements will not apply to NCAA Division III institutions, where eligibility for financial aid, practice and competition will continue to be governed by institutional, conference and other NCAA regulations.**
- **This legislation establishes a minimum standard for athletic eligibility.** It is not a guide to a student's admission to the institution. Under NCAA legislation, a student's admission is governed by the regularly published entrance requirements of each college.
- In January 2023, NCAA Divisions I and II adopted legislation to remove standardized test scores from initial-eligibility requirements. Check with the NCAA school you plan to attend regarding whether standardized test scores are necessary for admission or scholarship requirements.

These requirements are NCAA Division specific. For additional athletic associations, please consult with your School Counselor or Athletic Director.



WEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
NCAA APPROVED CORE COURSES

English	Science	Social Science
English I	Anatomy	Economics
Honors English I	Astronomy	AP Macroeconomics
English II	Biology	AP Microeconomics
Honors English II	Honors Biology	Government
English III	AP Biology	AP Government
AP English Language & Comp.	Chemistry	Psychology
English IV	Honors Chemistry	AP Psychology
AP English Literature and Comp.	AP Chemistry	Sociology
Oral Communications I	Integrated Science	U.S. History
	Physics	AP U.S. History
Mathematics	AP Physics	World Geography
Algebra I	AP Environmental Science	World History
Algebra II		AP World History
Honors Algebra II		Global Issues
Analysis		AP European History
Calculus		Additional Core Courses
AP Calculus		Spanish I
Geometry		Spanish II
Honors Geometry		Advanced Spanish/Spanish III
Pre-Calculus		AP Spanish
Honors Pre-Calculus		Latin I
Statistics		Latin II
AP Statistics		

ALTERNATIVE OFFERINGS

KENT CAREER/TECHNICAL CENTER (KCTC)

The Kent Career/Technical Center (KCTC) is an educational service of the Kent Intermediate School District. The center provides students with quality training in over 30 career and technical programs which include core technical training, academic integration and alignment with post-secondary education. Upon completion of their training, students are assisted by counselors and work-based learning coordinators in finding employment and in exploring further educational opportunities.

Juniors and seniors may enroll in a program offered at Kent Career/Technical Center. WC Students may attend **the first session** (6:55 a.m.-9:30 a.m.) and return to school in time for their 3rd hour class. Most KCTC courses of study are designed as two-year programs.

Prospective students are strongly encouraged to visit KCTC during their 1st semester and attend a session in their program of interest before making an enrollment decision in March. Arrangements for these visits are made through the School Counseling Office at West Catholic.

For more information visit www.thetechcenter.org

CAREER INTERNSHIP

West Catholic seniors are allowed to complete a career internship that will be assigned .500 credits per semester. The internship has to be approved by the Administration and Counseling Office. Students are responsible for securing a position that will allow them to arrive to West Catholic in time for their second hour or to leave after sixth hour to go to their internship. Throughout the semester, students will be required to complete weekly time logs. Students will complete a final presentation about their internship. Internship supervisors will also complete an evaluation of the student. *This is a Credit/No Credit course.*



HONORS ENROLLMENT CRITERIA

West Catholic High School offers Honors, and AP level courses that provide an exceptional academic challenge for those students who desire it and whose classroom performance and/or ability indicates that such placement would be appropriate. When making the determination of placement into an Advanced or Honors level course, the following factors are given consideration:

- Student's desire to enroll in the course
- Student's previous academic performance (in general and in specific/related content areas)
- Student's ability as determined by a recent standardized instrument
- Student's academic achievement as measured by a recent standardized instrument
- Current and/or previous teacher's evaluation (including 7th/8th grade teacher evaluation)
- Parental input and support
- Number of spaces available per session of a course
- Current placement procedures by department

AP ENROLLMENT CRITERIA

The Advanced Placement Program (College Board) is a cooperative, educational endeavor between secondary schools and colleges and universities. It allows high school students to undertake college- level academic learning in AP courses and gives them the opportunity to show that they have mastered the advanced material by taking AP exams. Students have the opportunity to receive credit for high school and/or from thousands of colleges and universities that participate in the Advanced Placement Program. West Catholic High School offers 18 Advanced Placement Courses.

Advanced Placement courses make substantial academic demands on students. Most classes are year-long. Students are required to do considerable outside reading and other assignments to demonstrate the analytical skills and writing abilities expected of first-year students in a strong college program. This experience helps students develop the intellectual skills and self-discipline they will need in college.

In May, those students who are enrolled in an AP course must take the Advanced Placement Examination. The multiple choice portions of the exams are scored by computer, and the free response sections are scored by college and school consultants at the AP Reading in June.

Because there is significant evidence that participation in AP courses strongly correlate with student achievement, college readiness and college completion, all West Catholic students are highly encouraged to take at least one AP course prior to graduation.

Requirements for Taking Advanced Placement Courses

Students should refer to the West Catholic High School CURRICULUM GUIDE Department Course Listings for the requirements needed to be placed in Advanced Placement Courses. Please consult your School Counselor to determine which course(s) best fit your educational program.

AP Tests

All students who are enrolled in Advanced Placement classes are required to take the AP test in those subject areas. There is a fee for each test and each student is responsible for payment of the fee before taking the AP tests. Financial Assistance is available for those who qualify. The tests take place during the month of May. Test results are made available to students online in mid-July.

HONORS/AP AND DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSE OFFERINGS

Below are the Honors and AP Courses offered at all grade levels. *Students will be allowed to enter advanced or honors courses with the consideration of school transcripts and/or standardized test scores and teacher feedback. Course offerings are subject to change.*

	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
<u>ENGLISH:</u>	Honors English I	Honors English II	AP English Lang & Comp	AP Eng. Lit & Comp
<u>MATH:</u>	Honors Geometry	Honors Geometry Honors Algebra II	Honors Algebra II Honors Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus AP Statistics
<u>SCIENCE:</u>	Honors Biology	Honors Biology Honors Chemistry	Honors Chemistry AP Chemistry AP Biology AP Environ. Sci.	AP Physics AP Chemistry AP Biology AP Environ. Sci.
<u>SOCIAL STUDIES:</u>	AP World History	AP US History AP World History	AP US History AP Govt & Politics AP World History AP European Hist. AP Psychology AP Microeconomics AP Macroeconomics	AP Govt & Politics AP World History AP Psychology AP European Hist. AP Microeconomics AP Macroeconomics
<u>TECH :</u>	AP Computer Science Principles	AP Computer Science AP Computer Science Principles	AP Computer Science AP Computer Science Principles	AP Computer Sci. AP Computer Sci. Principles
<u>WORLD LANGUAGE:</u>			AP Spanish Dual Enrollment	AP Spanish Dual Enrollment

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM

<u>GRADE 9-12:</u>	Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles Advanced Placement World History
<u>GRADE 10-12:</u>	Advanced Placement Computer Science
<u>GRADE 10 OR 11:</u>	Advanced Placement U.S. History
<u>GRADE 11:</u>	Advanced Placement English Language & Composition
<u>GRADE 11 OR 12:</u>	Advanced Placement Calculus Advanced Placement Statistics Advanced Placement Chemistry Advanced Placement Biology Advanced Placement Environmental Science
<u>GRADE 11 OR 12:</u>	Advanced Placement Government Advanced Placement Microeconomics Advanced Placement Macroeconomics Advanced Placement Psychology Advanced Placement European History Advanced Placement Spanish
<u>GRADE 12:</u>	Advanced Placement English Literature Advanced Placement Physics

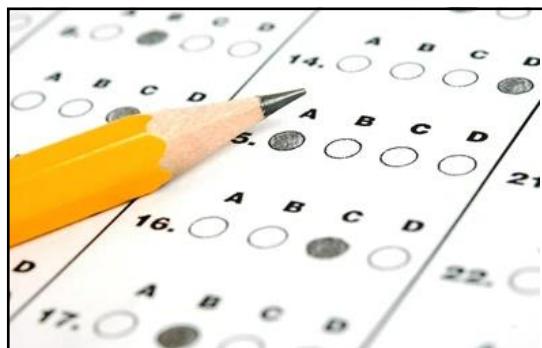
TESTING PROGRAM AT WEST CATHOLIC

West Catholic has a testing day for freshmen, sophomores and juniors. Freshmen will take the **PSAT 8/9**; and sophomores and juniors will take the **PSAT/NMSQT**. In the junior year the **PSAT/NMSQT** is used as a qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Competition. Both are practice SAT tests that measure academic achievement and college readiness in Writing & Language, Reading and Math. Test results are shared with teachers, parents and students; and may be used to assist with course placement.

Juniors are encouraged to take the **SAT** (Scholastic Aptitude Test) in the Spring of their junior year. They will register for the test online at www.collegeboard.org. The SAT is given seven times at various locations throughout the year. This test is always given on a Saturday and at a cost to the student. College admissions personnel may use the scores along with the student's transcript to determine acceptance into college. These are just two criteria that may be used in the admissions process. Students may also opt to take the **ACT** (American College Test) which measures a student's English, Math, Reading and Science skills. Students may take the ACT and SAT more than once. Additional testing could result in higher test scores, more college acceptances and higher scholarship earnings.

Fee waivers for the ACT and SAT are available to families on free or reduced lunch. Students with a written accommodation plan on file at the school may qualify for testing accommodations for the ACT and/or SAT. Counselors should be contacted to assist with applying for accommodations.

The design and continuity of the testing program are such that all results will be utilized in educational planning and post-secondary placement. All students are required to participate in the program.



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Requirements for Entrance Consideration for the National Honor Society

INVITATIONS WILL BE DELIVERED IN THE FIRST WEEK OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR.

1. To be considered, a candidate must be a junior or senior and have achieved a minimum 3.80 cumulative G.P.A. by the end of the previous school year.
2. To be approved, a candidate must show that he/she has the following qualities: Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character. These qualities are defined by the National Honor Society as the following:

Scholarship: Scholarship is more than a report card; it represents a dedicated commitment to lifelong learning. It's about optimizing the educational opportunities offered and pursuing knowledge within and beyond academic confines. Scholarship necessitates a consistent effort, with an aspiration to contribute positively to the world through one's own knowledge, skills, and experiences.

Service: Service represents the choice of stepping outside oneself to meet the needs of others, fueled by an unwavering passion for a cause, heartfelt empathy for others, or driven by personal circumstances. It's about performing selfless acts that transcend the ordinary, engendering transformative changes that resonate through our schools, ripple across our communities, and reverberate on a global scale. In the noble act of service, we sculpt a better world with our hands, our hearts, and our humanity.

Leadership: Leadership is more than a position or title; it means embodying the spirit of initiative, innovation, and influence. It's about inspiring peers through actions, nurturing a collaborative environment, and championing positive change. Student leaders embrace the responsibility of shaping their academic community, all while fostering personal growth and development. It's an interplay of intellect, empathy, and resilience, guiding others while continually learning and evolving.

Character: Character is the essence of who we are. It is about valuing diversity, building relationships grounded in empathy, and exhibiting qualities like perseverance, respect, integrity, and honesty. Character lies not in public acts of virtue or visible mistakes, but in the consistent commitment to ethical and compassionate decision-making that positively affects both oneself and others.

3. To assess each candidate, the following method of evaluation will be used:

- The candidate must complete an information packet that includes writing a paragraph or more about his or her leadership qualities and service to the community and how they have demonstrated leadership and service during their time in high school.
- In September, ALL staff members will provide confidential comments about each student who applied to the NHS. The names of all the candidates will be provided and the staff will be asked to consider and comment on the following attributes for each candidate:
 1. Demonstrates good study habits
 2. Shows respect for the subject matter
 3. Demonstrates his/her love of learning and knowledge
 4. Shows respect for the faculty, staff, and fellow students
 5. Adds positive qualities to the school and classroom culture
- The adviser will ask for input from the administration regarding any disciplinary actions that may affect a student's acceptance.

- The Faculty Board, a small group of school faculty and staff, will review all information gathered and will provide the adviser with a list of students who are invited to join the National Honor Society at West Catholic. When the faculty board reviews applications, the identity of the applicant is unknown. Decisions are made purely based on the merits of the application.
- After the applications have been reviewed, students will be provided a letter of acceptance, a letter of conditional acceptance, or a letter of denial. There is not an appeal process for a denial. If a student would like to inquire about a denial, he/she can set up an appointment with the advisor.
 - If a junior candidate is not accepted into the society, he/she can reapply during senior year as long as the required G.P.A. or higher is maintained and the other requirements are met.

4. All applicants who have been accepted will be sworn in during a ceremony with current members soon after receiving their acceptance. The exact date varies due to the school schedule.

5. After each semester, all members of the National Honor Society are re-evaluated on the above four qualities (leadership, service, scholarship and character), maintaining the minimum GPA of 3.8, and the required time spent tutoring (minimum 10 hours per semester). If the member fails to meet the above standards, he/she will be placed on probation for one semester. If sufficient improvement has not been demonstrated, the student will be dismissed from the Society for the remainder of his/her high school career. There is no probationary period available for seniors who do not meet the requirements in the second semester, but they will not be recognized as an NHS member at graduation.

ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

Paragon Award

The most prestigious accolade that a student can earn at West Catholic. One male and one female judged most worthy of respect and admiration by classmates for their involvement at West Catholic.

Ed Wagner Award

Recipient has demonstrated a great sense of initiative, a determined and dedicated attitude, while working cooperatively with both teachers and students in accomplishing goals.

Harvard Book Award

Sponsored by Harvard University. This award is given to a junior selected on the basis of rank in class, coursework and subject load.

Francis Geary Alumni Scholarship

The CC/WC Alumni Association awards this to at least two juniors who must apply for it. They are chosen on need and accomplishment.

Tom Regan Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to a freshman student who has been dedicated to their education and has exhibited a willingness to help others in all aspects of their lives.

Everybody Love Everybody Scholarship

Awarded to a female and male graduating senior who has made others' lives better because of their daily caring and compassion in word and deed.

Father Dennis Morrow Leadership Award

Presented to a student who plans on pursuing a career in Public Safety.

Dan Savage Award

Presented to a senior student who plans on studying criminal justice.

Grand Rapids Lions Club

One male and one female scholar/athlete having contributed to their community at West Catholic and community at-large.

Daughters of the American Revolution Award

Given to a senior who exemplifies good citizenship and democratic principles.

Congressional Medal of Merit

Presented to one student who has achieved academically over four years. Consideration is given to school citizenship, academic excellence, peer respect, community service and involvement in extra-curricular activities. This person works to make the school a better place.

National Merit Scholarship

Commended student(s) show exceptional academic promise. Semi-Finalist student(s) score among the top 1/2% of our state's seniors. Finalist students show high academic achievement and high SAT scores. Less than 1/2% of the seniors in our state achieve this level.

National Honor Society

Juniors and seniors who have achieved a minimum 3.8 cumulative GPA, have verifiable service achievements and have demonstrated leadership and character in the school setting.

Departmental Awards

Each academic department will establish criteria for qualifying for individual awards within that department.

Falcon Award

Selected by the head coaches. Based on athletic, academic and citizenship contributions to West Catholic. Not necessarily the best athlete.

Len Skrycki Greatness Award

Presented to a Student-Athlete exemplifying sincerity, determination and kindness.

Bob Misner Spirit Award

Presented to a Student-Athlete who represents school spirit, humility, enthusiasm and Falcon Pride.

Dan Jaskiewicz Award

Presented to one male and one female athlete who exemplifies leadership, initiative and sportsmanship

Eugene Jaglowski Falcon Award

One male and one female top ten student-athlete chosen by the Administration, Counselors, Faculty and Varsity Coaches. Award winners symbolize excellence, achievement and integrity.

MHSAA Scholar-Athlete

Presented to seniors based on achievement and leadership in athletics and activities.

Music Awards

Eric Wendlandt Music Award

Presented to a senior who plans to continue performing music.

John Phillip Sousa Award

A famous marching band composer and arranger. This is a nationally recognized award given to a four-year band member.

National Choral Director's Award

A nationally recognized award for musical excellence in choral music.



*School Mascot: Falcons
School Colors: Green and White*

FALCON FIGHT SONG

Written by: Eric Wendlandt and Sister Marcia

Fight! Fight! Falcons Fight! We'll go on to a victory!
On the West Side of the Valley, there's a team we love so well
They're the boys from on the hilltop,
All together hear us yell.
We're the green and the white, and we're full of fight,
We will challenge every foe,
Weather cloudy or fair, we'll always be there with our cry
Of Go West Go.
We're the green and the white, and we're full of fight,
We'll go on to VIC-TO-RY.
Fight! Fight! Falcons Fight! We'll go on to a Victory.

WEST CATHOLIC ALMA MATER

Written by: Eric Wendlandt

Here's to the school that we love so well,
Precious and dear to us all.
Sing to our Alma Mater,
Ever standing proud and tall.
Here's to West Catholic High School
And to mem'ries
Old and new
Forgotten never, remembered ever,
We.....love.....you.
(Instrumental interlude)
We.....love.....you.

