

Villa Joseph Marie

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2010 - 2011

Issue Date: February, 2010

Principal's Message

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

It is the time of year when the course selection process for the 2010-2011 school year begins!! Making choices, while exciting, can be challenging and difficult. This booklet is designed to assist you in making responsible choices for the coming school year.

Your decisions should reflect a realistic appraisal of your ability, your interests, your potential, and your needs. Make decisions that will best serve you now and in the years to come. Consultations with your present and former teachers are a must. Talk over your plans with your Guidance Counselor, the Department Chairs, and your parents.

Remember that you must take a minimum of six credits each year, but you are encouraged to take as many as your time and ability will allow. However, once you make a decision you will be expected to stay with it, and not request to drop or change any required course or elective.

Course selection must be completed by April 23, 2010. A non-refundable deposit of \$500 (applied to tuition for 2010-11) must be included with the Course Selection Form. An additional "late fee" of \$50 will be required for forms/payments received after April 23.

Any student taking an Advanced Placement (AP) course is required to take the AP Exam for the course. You will automatically be included on the test roster and payment will be required by March 1, 2011 for AP courses taken during the 2010-2011 school year.

I encourage you to choose wisely and to take advantage of the many offerings. Good luck and thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Diana Koopman
Principal

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Graduation Requirements Summary

Twenty-four units of credits are required for your graduation, including the following:

4 units of Language Arts	1 unit of Biology
4 units of Theology	2 additional units of Science
3 units of Social Studies	Physical Education (.4 credit)
3 units of Mathematics	Health (.6 credit)
2 units of World Language	Fine Arts (.6 credit)
	Freshman Seminar (.4 credit)

NOTE: Attendance at RETREATS and performance of COMMUNITY SERVICE for each grade level are also required for graduation.

Following are the required credits to be taken for each grade level. Elective courses are then selected to complete the course roster/schedule as appropriate for each grade level.

Freshman Year

REQUIRED CREDITS:	Language Arts 1	Biology
	Mathematics	World Language
	Theology 1	World History
	Fine Arts (.6 credit)	Freshman Seminar (.4 credit)

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: Attendance at Freshman Retreat; Community Service

Sophomore Year

REQUIRED CREDITS:	Language Arts 2	Physical Education and Health
	Mathematics	World Language
	Theology 2	Science

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: Attendance at Sophomore Retreat; Community Service

Junior Year

REQUIRED CREDITS:	Language Arts 3	Theology 3
	American History	Mathematics
	Science	

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: Attendance at Junior Retreat; Community Service

Senior Year

REQUIRED CREDITS:	Theology 4
	Language Arts 4
	Principles of Government/Sociology

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: Attendance at Senior Retreat; Community Service

2010 - 2011
Villa Joseph Marie High School
Freshman Course Selection

NAME: _____

Dear Student,

Listed below are your required courses for freshman year. A total of 8 courses should be selected. Your signature and the signature of your parent/guardian are required.

REQUIRED COURSES:

<u> X </u>	Theology I
<u> X </u>	World History
<u> X </u>	Freshman Seminar
<u> X </u>	English
<u> X </u>	Mathematics
<u> X </u>	Biology

World Language:

Please indicate your language preference by placing a 1, 2, and 3 next to the appropriate choices:

_____	French I
_____	Latin I
_____	Spanish I

Fine Arts:

Select ONE:

_____	Music/Art Appreciation
_____	Chorus

NOTE: Every effort will be made to schedule a student with their first choice for World Language and Fine Arts. However, if there is a scheduling conflict with other academic subjects, the student's alternative choice will be scheduled.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND LIST OF ELECTIVES

FRESHMEN – GRADE 9

REQUIRED CREDITS: Language Arts 1 (English)
World History
Mathematics
Biology
Freshman Seminar (.4 credit)
Theology 1

World Language:

All freshmen must select one of the following:

French 1
Latin 1
Spanish 1

Fine Arts:

All freshmen must select one of the following:

Music/Art Appreciation (.6 credit)
Chorus (.6 credit)

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: Attendance at Freshmen Retreat
Community Service

Villa Joseph Marie High School
SOPHOMORE COURSE SELECTION SHEET
2010 - 2011 School Year

NAME: _____ HOMEROOM: _____

Dear Student,
 Please discuss your selection with your parents, teachers, and the counselor to make the best choice for your educational goals. Once your selections are processed, it will be difficult to make changes. *A fee of \$25.00 will be charged for changes requested by the student after scheduling has been completed.*

REQUIRED COURSES:	COUNSELOR APPROVAL:
<u> X </u> Theology 2	_____
<u> X </u> Physical Education/Health	_____
	Signature _____ Date _____

SELECT One From EACH Discipline **Teacher's Initials**

World Language (Select Level 1, 2, 3, or Hon. 3)

_____ French Level _____	_____
_____ Latin Level _____	_____
_____ Spanish Level _____	_____

Mathematics

_____ Geometry	_____
_____ (H) Geometry	_____
_____ Algebra 2	_____
_____ (H) Algebra 2	_____

Language Arts

_____ English 2	_____
_____ (H) English 2	_____
_____ Accelerated English 2	_____

Science

_____ Chemistry	_____
_____ (H) Chemistry	_____
_____ Earth and Environmental Science	_____

ELECTIVES (Select First Choice and One Alternate):

Elective 1: _____ **Alternate** _____

NOTE: The school reserves the right to cancel courses for which there is insufficient enrollment, lack of facilities, or unavailability of teaching personnel. If a course is cancelled, the student will be notified and asked to make another choice.

_____ Parent/Guardian Signature	_____ Student Signature	_____ Date
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TO REGISTER FOR COURSES:

- A **NON-REFUNDABLE** deposit of \$500 for TUITION for the 2010-11 school year must be made on or before April 23, 2010.
- Late Registration (after April 23, 2010) requires a **NON-REFUNDABLE** deposit of \$550 for TUITION for the 2010-11 school year. *Only \$500 will be applied toward tuition - \$50.00 will be applied as "late fee".*
- **ALL monetary fees for the current school year must be paid in full in order to complete 2010-11 registration.**

Students who have not registered by May 3, 2010, will be dropped from the Villa Joseph Marie Register for the 2010-11 school year.

For SCHOOL USE ONLY:

DATE RECEIVED: _____ CHECK NUMBER: _____

AMOUNT: _____ BUSINESS MANAGER INITIALS: _____

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND LIST OF ELECTIVES

SOPHOMORES – GRADE 10

REQUIRED CREDITS: Language Arts 2 Physical Education and Health
Mathematics World Language
Theology 2 Science

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: Attendance at Sophomore Retreat
Community Service

ELECTIVES:

English: Effective Communication
Aesthetics of Film

World Language: French 1, 2
Latin 1, 2
Spanish 1, 2

Social Studies: Current Global Issues
AP European History

Technology: Computer Applications (MS Office)

Fine Arts: Chorus
Drama
Dance
Band
Orchestra
Basic Art

Villa Joseph Marie High School
JUNIOR COURSE SELECTION SHEET
2010 - 2011 School Year

NAME: _____ HOMEROOM: _____

Dear Student,

Please discuss your selection with your parents, teachers, and the counselor to make the best choice for your educational goals. Once your selections are processed, it will be difficult to make changes. *A fee of \$25.00 will be charged for changes requested by the student after scheduling has been completed.*

REQUIRED COURSES:	COUNSELOR APPROVAL:
_____ X _____ Theology 3	_____

	Signature	Date
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<u>Social Studies – SELECT One:</u>	<u>Teacher’s Initials</u>
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_____ American History	_____
_____ AP American History	_____

<u>Language Arts - SELECT One:</u>	
---	--

_____ English 3	_____
_____ (H) English 3	_____
_____ AP Literature 1	_____

Mathematics - SELECT One:

_____	_____
Name and Level of Course	

Science - SELECT One:

_____	_____
Name and Level of Course	

ELECTIVES (Select 2 and Alternates)

Elective 1: _____	_____
Elective 2: _____	_____
Alternate 1: _____	_____
Alternate 2: _____	_____

NOTE: The school reserves the right to cancel courses for which there is insufficient enrollment, lack of facilities, or unavailability of teaching personnel. If a course is cancelled, the student will be notified and asked to make another choice.

_____	_____	_____
Parent/Guardian Signature	Student Signature	Date

TO REGISTER FOR COURSES:

- A **NON-REFUNDABLE** deposit of \$500 for TUITION for the 2010-11 school year must be made on or before April 23, 2010.
- Late Registration (after April 23, 2010) requires a **NON-REFUNDABLE** deposit of \$550 for TUITION for the 2010-11 school year. *Only \$500 will be applied toward tuition - \$50.00 will be applied as "late fee".*
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For SCHOOL USE ONLY:

DATE RECEIVED: _____ CHECK NUMBER: _____

AMOUNT: _____ BUSINESS MANAGER INITIALS: _____

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND LIST OF ELECTIVES

JUNIORS – GRADE 11

REQUIRED CREDITS: Language Arts 3
Theology 3
American History **OR** AP American History
Science
Mathematics

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: Attendance at Junior Retreat
Community Service

ELECTIVES:

English: Effective Communication
Women in Literature (H)
Aesthetics of Film

World Language: French 1, 2, 3(H)
Latin 1, 2, 3 (H)
Spanish 1, 2, 3, 3(H)

Science: Chemistry or (H) Chemistry
AP Chemistry
AP Biology
Earth and Environmental Science
AP Environmental Science
Human Anatomy & Physiology (H)
Conceptual Physics
Physics (H)
Forensic Science (H)

Mathematics: Algebra 2 or (H) Algebra 2
Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry or (H) Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry
Statistics/Probability
Business Mathematics

Technology: Computer Applications (MS Office)

Social Studies: Current Global Issues
AP European History

Fine Arts: Band
Orchestra
Chorus
Drama
Dance
Basic Art
Drawing and Painting
Printmaking/3D Design
Drawing II & Painting II/Mixed Media

Villa Joseph Marie High School
SENIOR COURSE SELECTION SHEET
2010 - 2011 School Year

NAME: _____ HOMEROOM: _____

Dear Student,
 Please discuss your selection with your parents, teachers, and the counselor to make the best choice for your educational goals. Once your selections are processed, it will be difficult to make changes. *A fee of \$25.00 will be charged for changes requested by the student after scheduling has been completed.*

REQUIRED COURSE:

Theology 4

COUNSELOR APPROVAL:

 Signature Date

Language Arts – SELECT One:

- _____ English 4
- _____ (H) English 4
- _____ AP Literature 2

Teacher's Initials

Social Studies – SELECT One:

- _____ Principles of Government/Sociology
- _____ AP Government and Politics

Teacher's Initials

ELECTIVES (Select 4 and Alternates):

Teacher's Initials

Elective 1: _____	_____
Elective 2: _____	_____
Elective 3: _____	_____
Elective 4: _____	_____
Alternate 1: _____	_____
Alternate 2: _____	_____
Alternate 3: _____	_____
Alternate 4: _____	_____

NOTE: The school reserves the right to cancel courses for which there is insufficient enrollment, lack of facilities, or unavailability of teaching personnel. If a course is cancelled, the student will be notified and asked to make another choice.

 Parent/Guardian Signature Student Signature Date

TO REGISTER FOR COURSES:

- A **NON-REFUNDABLE** deposit of \$500 for TUITION for the 2010-11 school year must be made on or before April 23, 2010.
- Late Registration (after April 23, 2010) requires a **NON-REFUNDABLE** deposit of \$550 for TUITION for the 2010-11 school year. *Only \$500 will be applied toward tuition - \$50.00 will be applied as "late fee".*
- **ALL monetary fees for the current school year must be paid in full in order to complete 2010-11 registration.**

Students who have not registered by May 3, 2010 will be dropped from the Villa Joseph Marie Register for the 2010-11 school year.

For SCHOOL USE ONLY:

DATE RECEIVED: _____ CHECK NUMBER: _____

AMOUNT: _____ BUSINESS MANAGER INITIALS: _____

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND LIST OF ELECTIVES

SENIORS – GRADE 12

REQUIRED CREDITS: Theology 4
Language Arts 4
Principles of Government/Sociology OR AP Government and Politics

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: Attendance at Senior Retreat
Community Service

ELECTIVES:

English:

Effective Communication
Aesthetics of Film
Women in Literature (H)

World Language:

French 1, 2, 3(H), 4(H)
Latin 1, 2, 3(H), 4(H), AP-Vergil
Spanish 1, 2, 3, 3(H), 4(H)

Social Studies:

Current Global Issues
AP European History
Psychology (H)
AP Psychology

Fine Arts:

Basic Art
Drawing and Painting
Drawing II & Painting II/Mixed Media
Printmaking/3D Design
AP Portfolio Class
Drama
Dance
Chorus
Band
Orchestra

Science:

AP Chemistry
Chemistry or (H) Chemistry
AP Biology
Conceptual Physics
Physics (H)
AP Physics B
AP Physics C
Earth and Environmental Science
AP Environmental Science
Human Anatomy & Physiology (H)
Forensic Science (H)

Technology:

Computer Applications (MS Office)

Mathematics:

Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry or (H) Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry
Calculus (H)
AP Calculus
Statistics/Probability
Business Mathematics

Mathematics

Department Philosophy

The honors classes offered at Villa Joseph Marie High School by the mathematics department are designed for the highly motivated student with above-average ability. Classes at this level are fast-paced and quite challenging. Students in these honors classes are expected to maintain a consistent “B” average. Homework assignments should take no longer than approximately thirty-five (35) minutes on the average.

Teachers in the department are aware of the demands of courses at the honors level as well as the ability and work ethic of their students. For this reason, they are best able to assess who will succeed in these classes. Students are selected for honors and advanced placement courses based on their performance in their current math class as well as their previously demonstrated abilities. Students desiring to advance to the honors level must have maintained a consistent “A” average in their current academic course, as well as satisfy the requirements below. A student’s selection is contingent upon department and administration approval.

Honors Algebra 1

Prerequisites: Placement by standardized testing (minimum of 86th in local percentile), teacher recommendation and approval of the department and administration.

This course is the same in content as Algebra 1, but moves at a more progressive pace. It includes an introduction to logic as a basis for writing proofs, solving quadratic equations by factoring, completing the square, the quadratic formula, the graphing and solving of systems of linear equations and inequalities, and more.

Algebra 1

Prerequisites: Freshman standing with department and administration approval.

This course introduces the fundamental properties of the real number system. Course topics include evaluating, simplifying, and factoring algebraic expressions, as well as solving equations and inequalities in one and two variables. Graphing on the number line and in the coordinate plane is also part of the curriculum. The course helps students develop reasoning skills essential for problem solving.

Honors Geometry

Prerequisites: An average of at least “B” in Honors Algebra 1, or a consistent “A” in Algebra 1, or the equivalent grade in a similar course in another school, and current teacher approval.

This progressive course is geared toward students of above-average mathematical ability. It presents the fundamental properties of Euclidean geometry, writing of proofs independently by means of logic, solid and coordinate geometry with respect to similarity and congruence, and teaches writing of analyses in algebraic form to arrive at a solution. It also introduces some trigonometry of right angles. Critical thinking skills are emphasized. Please note: The accelerated and highly motivated student who has maintained a “B+” in Honors Algebra 1 has an option of completing Honors Geometry and Honors Algebra 2 in their sophomore year.

Geometry

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra 1, and current teacher approval.

This course acquaints students with the fundamental properties of plane and solid geometry. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to use the “language of geometry” both in writing and speaking. Students continue to develop their reasoning skills by analyzing geometric figures and writing of basic deductive proofs. While the content of the course is similar to that of Honors Geometry, the pace is adjusted.

Honors Algebra 2

Prerequisites: An average of at least an “A” in Geometry with department and administration approval, or a consistent “B” in Honors Geometry with current teacher approval.

This course reviews and extends concepts begun in Honors Algebra 1. Students work with numbers in the complex number system. The course emphasizes linear, quadratic, exponential and logarithmic and polynomial functions both from a graphical and algebraic perspective. It contains units on systems of equations and inequalities. This course places emphasis on critical thinking and development of computational problem solving techniques.

Please note: The accelerated and highly motivated student who has maintained a “B+” in Honors Algebra 1 has an option of completing Honors Geometry and Honors Algebra 2 in their sophomore year.

Algebra 2

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Geometry, and current teacher approval.

This course presents the similarities and differences among some of the principles of the real numbers. It examines the fundamental properties of linear, quadratic, logarithmic, and exponential functions. It covers topics such as systems of linear and quadratic equations, as well as rational and irrational numbers.

Honors Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry

Prerequisite: An average of at least an “A” in Algebra 2 with department and administration approval, or a “B” in Honors Algebra 2 and current teacher approval. The student must have successfully completed two honors math courses prior to entering this class.

This course is intended to provide a comprehensive course in trigonometry. It includes such topics as analytic geometry, polynomial functions, complex numbers, matrices, determinants, conic sections, probability, and introduces limits, derivation, and integration.

Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, and the approval of the current Algebra 2 teacher.

This course is intended as an alternative to Honors Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry. It offers a comprehensive and thorough course in equations and inequalities, functions and their graphs, polynomial, rational, exponential and logarithmic function analysis, trigonometry, and analytic trigonometry.

Please note: A consistent “A” in this course as a Junior, with current teacher and Department Chair approval, would make the student eligible for Honors Calculus their Senior year.

Honors Calculus

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Honors Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry, or Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry.

This course is intended for students who have completed Honors Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry, but whose foundation is not as strong as is needed to succeed in AP Calculus. Calculus is explored through the use of technology, as well as analytic methods. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will have the necessary background to succeed in Calculus at the college level.

AP Calculus (Class size is limited to 20 students by invitation only)

Prerequisites: Total GPA of 3.75 or better by mid-year of Junior year, a consistent “A” average in Honors Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry, teacher recommendation, department and administration approval, along with Principal’s signature.

This course is intended for students who have completed the Honors Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry. It covers an AP Placement Syllabus, and presents a treatment of functions, derivatives, and their applications, integration, and the concepts of limits and continuity. A college text is used. Critical thinking skills are emphasized. Taking the AP Exam is required.

Statistics/Probability

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing; an average of at least a “B” in Algebra 2, or an average of at least a “C+” in Honors Algebra 2, with department approval.

This course is intended as an elective. The course develops the students’ ability to gather, organize, interpret and present data related to problem-solving or decision-making situations. Topics covered include frequency distributions, graphs and charts, measures of central tendency, normal distribution, standard deviation, probability theory and problem solving.

Business Mathematics

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior standing.

This course is a project-based course designed to apply mathematical concepts of proportions, percents, decision making, and critical thinking to the real world of personal finance and business practices. Students will thoroughly explore career planning, budgeting, and investing. The students will implement an entrepreneur unit and investigate the current personal tax structure.

Computer Applications

Microsoft Applications

This course is offered to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors.

“Stepping Through Microsoft Office 2003” presents advanced concepts and skills of Microsoft Office 2003 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access).

Through a learn-by-doing approach, students are challenged to master Microsoft Office within a business context. Additional features throughout the book, such as Lesson Case Studies, Apply It Exercises, Career Corners, Business Connections, and Tech Talk, also provide insight into how software skills can be used in other academic areas and in the business world. (Class meets 3 times weekly for a full year.)

Fine Arts (Art, Dance, Drama, and Music)

Art Appreciation

This is a required **Freshman** course that provides an understanding of art through a variety of learning experiences. Students will study and gain a working knowledge of the language of art through studio experiences and discussions. Students will study the history of art using many different methods and will be given opportunities to critique and discuss their personal thoughts about works of art. The emphasis is placed on gaining knowledge both through study and studio activity.

(Class meets 3 times weekly for one semester - Music Appreciation is taken other semester.)

Music Appreciation

This is a required **Freshman** course that provides an understanding of music through a variety of learning experiences. Music theory, as well as choral and instrumental experiences, is presented. Students study the history of music as well, starting with primitive music, up to and including present day musicals. Emphasis is placed on knowledge and appreciation of classical and modern music.

(Class meets 3 times weekly for one semester - Art Appreciation is taken other semester.)

Freshman Chorus

*This **Freshman** course may be taken in place of the required Music/Art Appreciation course to fulfill the Fine Arts requirement.*

This course focuses on the development of musical concepts as related to choral singing. Stress is placed on vocal technique, etiquette, and music theory. Students who are interested in auditioning for All Catholic or All County Chorus must be enrolled in a choral class.

(Class meets 3 times weekly for a full year.)

Drawing and Art History are integral elements in all of the following elective art courses. Class emphasis is on creative expression and problem solving.

Basic Art (Class size is limited to 12 students.)

Pre-requisite: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing

This course covers the use of the fundamental elements of art and principles of design in both two and three-dimensional artwork. Creative expression and problem solving is emphasized. Art history, as well as experimentation with a variety of media and tools, completes the course.

(Class meets 5 times weekly for a full year.)

Drawing & Painting (Class size is limited to 12 students.)

Prerequisite: Basic Art, Junior or Senior standing.

Fundamental and creative drawing techniques are explored through different media. Fine art, as well as technical drawing involving perspective and the figure, is covered in this course. Art history continues in this class, along with research into career options.

Drawing & Painting (continued)

For those wishing to explore a career in fine art, the fashion industry, or architecture, this course is a 'must'.

The course is grounded in drawing methods with further development and exploration of various techniques and media in painting including acrylic, pastels, watercolor and mixed media. Color study will be emphasized. Drawings and paintings will be used in building the student's portfolio.

(Class meets 5 times weekly for a full year.)

Printmaking / 3D Design (Class size is limited to 12 students.)

Prerequisite: Basic Art, Junior or Senior standing.

This course covers methods and history of basic printmaking techniques, including block printing, monotype, woodcut, intaglio, relief and screen printing. Experimentation and problem solving is vital when executing various methods of printmaking and design.

The second component of this course explores the study of 3-Dimensional form, while continuing to build upon drawing and painting skills. This class promotes 3D problem solving primarily through clay, but also using a variety of mixed media to explore the creation of 3D forms and sculptures. This is an excellent course to explore creative possibilities.

(Class meets 5 times weekly for a full year.)

Drawing II & Painting II/Mixed Media (Class size is limited to 12 students.)

Prerequisite: Basic Art, Drawing & Painting or Printmaking/3D Design, Junior or Senior standing.

Students will continue to explore creative expression through in-depth study of drawing and painting. Emphasis is on individual development and focus in an area of study. Art history will be a cornerstone of the course, helping to identify the student's interest and area of concentration. The ability to work independently is a requirement. Students will complete works building upon previous drawing and painting skills, while delving deeper into mixed media methods. Student works can be used as portfolio pieces.

(Class meets 5 times weekly for a full year.)

AP Portfolio Class (Class size is limited to 10 students.)

Prerequisite: Basic Art, Completion of Level 2 Class, Teacher Approval.

Students will have an opportunity to receive college credits while creating a focused portfolio of their work for submission to the *AP COLLEGE BOARD EXAMINERS*.

(Class meets 5 times weekly for a full year.)

Dance (Elective)

This course is open to Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors. This course focuses on the individual rhythm, coordination and flexibility through the art of dance. Throughout the year students will explore the four performance styles of dance: Ballet, Tap, Jazz, and Modern. In addition to learning historical facts, musical principles and anatomical rules, students will be actively involved in barre work, center work, and choreographed dance routines. Students will participate in a group choreography project for their final assignment.

(Class meets 3 times weekly for a full year.)

Drama (Elective)

This course is open to Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors. This course touches lightly on a wide range of academic and practical aspects of acting, theater history, and theater production. There is an emphasis on performance while students implement acting strategies and technical knowledge to produce monologues, scenes, and larger productions from a variety of periods in theater history.

(Class meets 3 times weekly for a full year.)

Chorus 10, 11, 12 (Elective)

This course is open to Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors. The course will concentrate on the application of vocal technique, etiquette, and music theory. Students will study a variety of musical selections of the past and present, with emphasis on vocal development, sight-reading, music theory and appreciation of choral literature. Advanced choral member will participate in outside performances throughout the year in addition to providing a choral group for Villa's liturgies and major functions. Students who are interested in auditioning for All Catholic or All County Choir must be enrolled in a choral class.

(Class meets 3 times weekly for a full year.)

Instrumental (Elective)

Band Class:

Instrumental instruction (private lessons) will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, twice weekly during lunch period. One band practice per month is held before or after school (depending on availability). Student must be present for all performances. Students will receive half (.5) credit for this class.

Alternate Band Class:

Class meets on Wednesday morning before school. In addition, one instrumental instruction (private lesson) will be given during lunch period. One band practice per month is held after school. Student must be present for all performances. Students will receive 2/10 (.2) credit for this alternate class.

Orchestra/Guitar Class:

Class meets on Thursday morning before school (7:05 AM to 7:50 AM). In addition, one private lesson per week will be given during lunch period. Students perform in two (2) concerts during the school year. There are four (4) practices during the school year with the Band Class. Students will receive 2/10 (.2) credit for this class.

Social Studies

Homework is a tool used to introduce or reinforce key historical concepts. Questions will be assigned to bolster critical thinking skills. Students should expect homework each night.

Homework load will depend on course level and/or grade level. A homework grade will be given each quarter.

World History

This is a required Freshman course that provides students with the understanding of the origins of civilizations and the systematic growth and development of nations. The course combines the various disciplines of history, geography, archeology, anthropology, economics and political science. The material is organized chronologically as follows: Pre-History, Early Civilizations (Mesopotamia, Egypt), Classical Civilizations (Greece, Rome), World of Christendom, Middle Ages, World of Africa, and the Renaissance.

Current Global Issues

Elective course open to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors.

This is a social science course designed to introduce students to world issues in departments of anthropology, sociology, history, and political science. The course will focus on the general issues and trends facing the contemporary world using a variety of media resources.

AP European History (Each class is limited to 15 students.)

Sophomore Prerequisites: Sophomores must have a GPA of 3.75 or above, with no grade of “C+” or lower. Students must have received an “A” for the year in World History AND an “A” in English I, a “B+” in Honors English, or a “B” in AP English.

Junior/Senior Prerequisites: Juniors and Seniors must have a GPA of 3.75 or above, with no grade of “C+” or lower. Students must have received an “A” in previous history courses AND an “A” in English, or “B+” in Honors English, or a “B” in AP English.

NOTE: Approval by current/previous history teacher, Department Chair, Administration, and AP teacher is also required.

AP European History is offered to those students who truly love history. The course is an expansive study of the development of Europe from pre-Renaissance to the present with full attention paid to the critical analysis of the various social, political, cultural, economic, and religious themes that shaped the Europe we know today. Students will be expected to fully meet the challenge of the course’s rigorous pace in terms of papers, projects, and intense examination. Homework should be expected over the summer and also over “breaks”. Review of primary resource documents, maps, and outside readings will add to the understanding of the themes mentioned above. The AP European History Exam is required.

American History

Required Junior year.

This course emphasizes the development of America, exploring the social, political, economic, and cultural dimensions of the past as well as today. The "process" of history is stressed as students are asked to take on the role of historian in making sense of historical data. Critical thinking is stressed, and the application of historical lessons to current situations is a recurring theme throughout the class. A loose chronological approach is used which highlights major concepts and events throughout American History. The purpose and function of democratic principles are emphasized.

Principles of Government/Sociology

Required Senior year.

This course runs a full year. The first semester covers the American system of government. This course emphasizes the way in which the U.S. government operates, as well as comparison studies of other systems of government. Foreign policy, government relation to economic systems, theoretical foundations of government, and elections are stressed as well as other topics relating to government. Throughout the semester, students are encouraged to find their place in the wide range of political opinions of the political spectrum.

The second semester covers the systematic study of society, or sociology. Understanding and applying the sociological perspective to present day society is the predominant theme throughout the course. An emphasis is placed on topics that relate directly to the student's everyday life, including socialization, sociological theory and thinkers, education, media, gender, and social class in the United States and the world.

AP American History (Each class is limited to 15 students.)

Prerequisites: Juniors (in place of the required American History course) must have a GPA of 3.75 or above, with no grade of "C+" or lower. Students must have received an "A" in previous history courses AND an "A" in English, or "B+" in Honors English, or a "B" in AP English.

NOTE: Approval by current/previous history teacher, Department Chair, Administration, and AP teacher is also required.

AP American History is an in-depth study of America's development as a nation. This survey course is a college level introduction to United States History from Colonial times to the present. Emphasis will be on reading outside sources, in addition to the textbook, and writing analytical essays. Homework should be expected over the summer and also over "breaks". The AP American History Exam is required.

AP Government and Politics (Each class is limited to 15 students.)

Prerequisites: Seniors (in place of the required Principles of Government/Sociology course), must have a GPA of 3.75 or above, with no grade of "C+" or lower. Students must have received an "A" in previous history courses AND an "A" in English, or "B+" in Honors English, or a "B" in AP English.

NOTE: Approval by current/previous history teacher, Department Chair, Administration, and AP teacher is also required.

AP Government and Politics (continued)

This AP course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the United States Government and its evolution over time. This course is meant to be the equivalent of a college-level course and will be executed as such. Emphasis is placed on essay writing, critical and evaluative thinking skills, and interpreting and analyzing primary sources. Homework should be expected over the summer and during “breaks”. The activities, readings, debates and presentations will provide preparation for the required AP Test.

Honors Psychology (Seating is limited to one class of 20 students - Course is closed when this limit is reached).

Prerequisite: Senior standing and a mid-semester average of 3.6 in Junior year with no grade lower than a “B”. A recommendation from the Junior-year English teacher is required. Interested students must show course instructor their mid-semester report card. Course instructor has final approval.

This course is designed to introduce the students to the study of human behavior and emotions including the history of psychology and the study of psychological concepts, theories, and theorists. The goal of this study is that the student will begin to better understand herself, as well as others, while becoming cognizant of the interconnection among the disciplines of psychology, physiology, and sociology. The ultimate goal is to produce an informed, as well as compassionate, young woman who is equipped to deal with the stresses of modern life.

AP Psychology (Class size is limited to 15 students.)

Prerequisites: Senior standing, a mid-semester average of 3.75 in Junior year with no grade lower than a “B”, as well as a “B” in AP English or “B+” in Honors English or “A” in Academic English. A recommendation from the Junior-year English teacher is required. Interested students must show course instructor their mid-semester report card. Course instructor has final approval.

This course is designed to prepare the student for the AP Psychology Exam by completing the requirements for an introductory psychology course at the college level. A college text is used. Content covers methods, approaches, and history of the field; biological bases of behavior; sensation and perception; states of consciousness; learning; motivation and emotion; developmental psychology; personality; abnormal psychology; treatment of psychological disorders, and social psychology. Critical thinking skills will be emphasized. Homework should be expected over the summer and during “breaks”. Taking the AP Exam is a course requirement.

Philosophical Studies Of Theology

In order to reinforce and make classroom time more efficient, students are ordinarily given approximately twenty minutes of homework Monday thru Thursday. Homework may consist of reading a few pages from the textbook, answering questions from material taught in class and/or studying notes given in class. Long-term assignments involving outside reading assignments (not in the textbook) or oral presentations are announced weeks in advance in order for the student to prepare them.

Theology I

Perspectives of Ancient Cultures: Literature, Law and Tradition

Hebrew Scriptures - First Semester

Students are introduced to the Bible and its purpose and relevance to the Church. The study of the nature and structure of the Bible is implemented with emphasis on major figures and how they respond to God's call. Beginning with the Hebrew Scriptures, students trace Jewish history from creation to the century before Christ.

Christian Scriptures - Second Semester

The students continue the study of the Bible with major focus on Jesus and His teachings. His miracles and parables of His public ministry are studied along with the accounts of His passion, death, and resurrection. An additional emphasis of this section of the course deals with the importance of chastity and knowing Christ personally by responding positively to God's grace.

Theology II

Church History - First Semester

This course covers the history of the Catholic Church from the time of Christ to the present day. Students will learn to appreciate the key persons involved in the spread of the Gospel. Students will also learn of current events in the Church. The appreciation of the Faith results from understanding the joys and sorrows of the Catholic Church and seeing God's providence in the overall development of the past, present and future church.

Fundamentals of Catholicism - Second Semester

This course challenges the students to not only learn the major truths of the Faith, but also to encourage the students to explain and defend the church teachings. Students focus on the "four pillars" of catechesis: the creed, Christian life, the sacraments, and prayer. In addition to the classroom textbook, students will utilize the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Students also learn to identify and explain Marian doctrines.

Theology III

Moral Theology - First Semester

Students examine the covenant relationship with God, and the roots of morality in natural law, the Scriptures, and the teachings of the Church. Emphasis is placed on the formation of conscience and the making of moral decisions. There is extensive study of the teaching of the Church on the major moral issues of contemporary society.

Peace and Social Justice - Second Semester

Students explore the social issues of peace and social justice in the light of the message of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the popes and bishops. Students apply these principles to such issues as economic justice, the rights and responsibilities of workers and employers, abortion, capital punishment, racial and ethnic diversity, stewardship of the environment, and the Christian response to war and violence.

Theology IV

Vocation – Our Response to God’s Call

The purpose of this course is to show students, regardless of their states of life or careers, how they are to live out God’s call. This Senior course helps the students discern God’s calling to them to be single or married lay persons or members of the consecrated life. The course also examines the ordained ministry. Students utilize the textbook, the Catholic Women’s Bible, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church in order to educate them to hear and to respond to God’s call for them to serve others. Students learn the role of the Eucharist and other sacraments that nourish and give them the grace to discern the universal call to holiness.

World Religions

This course serves as a springboard for students to pursue further study in college or independent research on the relevance of religion in today’s world, the history of religion, and the basic concepts of the major religions present in society today. The course avoids partiality and it has a perspective of neutrality. The course will include the three major monotheistic religions: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. It also includes an overview of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Taoism. It culminates in religion in the modern world, new religious movements, and the role of science in religion.

World Languages

Villa Joseph Marie High School offers four years of French, Latin, and Spanish. The third and fourth year of each of the respective languages are Honors courses with the exception of Spanish 3 which is offered at both the academic and honors levels. An AP Latin course will be offered based on approval and course enrollment. Students are urged to pursue four years of a world language, with the option to start a second world language as a sophomore. Villa Joseph Marie High School's world language Honors and AP classes are designed for highly motivated students with a desire to further develop their target language skills and to obtain a deeper understanding of their respective target language cultures.

Homework is given each night according to school policy. Homework assignments range from written exercises to various reading selections, as well as speaking and listening activities. Each of these different learning techniques enables students to master their target language skills. Homework is checked and reviewed daily. Homework points contribute to a student's overall quarter grade and vary per language and level. Specific requirements are detailed in Classroom Policy and Procedure forms distributed by each classroom teacher for each language and level. Absent students are still responsible for homework. Generally, students should plan to spend thirty minutes per night on homework. Honors classes and AP classes will require more time.

Language acquisition is gradual and each level builds on prior mastery of skills. Daily review, reinforcement and continued practice are invaluable in developing strong language learners, successful target language communicators, and culturally-aware global citizens prepared to take their places in the twenty-first century.

World language classes are taught to meet the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines for Language Acquisition and follow the national standards for teaching world languages. The national standards are: Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities

French 1

Prerequisite: None

This course is an introduction to the French language and the various French-speaking cultures. The course introduces students to the four basic target language skills. Students will learn to read, write, listen and speak through a program which concentrates on real-life situations such as greeting one another, asking questions, expressing likes and dislikes, expressing feelings and interacting with friends and family. Students will also compare various Francophone cultures through language study. This program provides a variety of activities and exercises through a multimedia approach with integrated technology to aid students in becoming proficient in speaking, listening, reading and writing French. Various video-scenes which support the text will be shown, as well as several films.

French 2

Prerequisite: French 1 or Department testing

This course is a continuation of the study of the French language and a further exploration of the diverse cultures in the Francophone world. It is designed to further develop and enhance students' language proficiency through continued study and practice of the four basic communications skills through vocabulary expansion, a series of grammar drills, as well as continued oral/aural practice to improve fluency in French. Students will continue to actively develop and improve their reading comprehension and writing skills in this multimedia format, as they learn more about the diverse French-speaking world. Level-appropriate literary and cinematic selections will enhance students' mastery of French.

French 3 (Honors)

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, an average of 86 or better in the previous language course, and satisfactory results in Department testing.

Through progressive study of the four basic language skills, students will develop proficiency in the French language, as well as further understand the various cultures in the Francophone world to help them become global citizens. Students will give oral presentations, read more sophisticated selections from novels, short stories, plays and poems which promote critical thinking skills, and they will learn to write in more fluent language constructions. Classes are conducted in French. Language learning through film will continue to provide cultural and linguistic clues. Complex verb tenses, as well as idiomatic expressions will be learned in order to promote fluency.

French 4 (Honors)

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, an average of 86 or better in the previous language course, and satisfactory results in Department testing.

Accelerated study of the four basic language skills, including more complex idiomatic expressions and more complex verb forms enhance advanced students' linguistic proficiency. Students further immerse into novels, poetry, short stories and plays of both historic and contemporary genres written by French speakers from various parts of the French-speaking world. Students participate in creative current events discussions to further understand diverse Francophone cultures and their impact on the French language. Students analyze literature in a historical context. Creativity and critical thinking are highly encouraged. Cross-curricular activities include art, design, history, government, music, film, and geography reflected in materials from various French-speaking countries. This class is conducted in French.

Latin 1

Prerequisite: None

In this course, the student is introduced to the basic forms, grammar, and vocabulary in a cumulative manner in order to advance proficiently. English-to-Latin /Latin-to-English translations are emphasized, as well as derivatives and etymology to show the language's influence on English. Other components of the course include classical mythology, Roman history, and Roman civilization. All students are required to take the National Latin Exam in March.

Latin 2

Prerequisite: Latin 1 or Department testing

More grammatical features are studied, including irregular verb forms, pronouns, clauses, and the fourth and fifth declensions. Students continue to study mythology, Roman history, and Roman civilization. Students translate more advanced passages, such as sources from Julius Caesar and the Twelve Labors of Hercules. All students are required to take the National Latin Exam in March.

Latin 3 (Honors)

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, Department approval, an average of 86 or better in the previous language course.

Students continue to learn more advanced grammatical constructions, as well as participles, gerunds, infinitives, deponent verbs, and the subjunctive mood. The works of various prose authors such as Cicero and Pliny are used for translation purposes. Reading selections from Ovid offer an introduction to Latin poetry and versification. Independent research projects promote in-depth study of classical mythology, Roman history and Roman civilization. All students are required to take the National Latin Exam in March.

Latin 4 (Honors)

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, Department approval, an average of 86 or better in the previous language course.

The main feature of this level is the study, recitation, scansion, and translation of Roman poetry. Authors such as Virgil, Horace, Catullus, and Ovid are translated. Students work independently on research projects on classical authors and their works. All students are required to take the National Latin Exam in March.

AP Latin: Vergil

Prerequisites: Total GPA of 3.75 or higher by mid-year of Junior year, "A" average in Honors Latin 3, teacher recommendation, and Department Chair approval.

This course is designed to prepare the student for the AP Latin: Vergil exam. Students translate a corpus of 1856 lines of Vergil's *Aeneid*, while reading the entire work in English.

Weekly exercises prepare the student to translate as literally as possible, to sight read passages, to scan dactylic hexameter, and to recognize and interpret figures of speech. Reading and research broaden knowledge of Roman history, with particular emphasis on the political, social, and cultural context of the *Aeneid*. Students will complete at least one AP style essay per week. All students are required to take the Advanced Placement Examination in May.

Spanish 1

Prerequisite: None

This course is an introduction to the four basic skills of the Spanish language. Students will learn to read, write, listen and speak through instruction that focuses on situations such as greeting others, inviting friends, expressing emotions and opinions, and seeking information. A variety of exercises and activities, designed with an emphasis on using the language over learning about the language, are based on common situations and help students become proficient in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Spanish 2

Prerequisite: Spanish 1 or Department testing

This course is designed to enhance the four basic language skills by stressing and drilling grammatical principles and by focusing on the development of oral fluency and vocabulary.

Students will improve their basic reading, writing, and conversation abilities by grammar review and the active use of the language in the four areas of language development: aural comprehension, oral expression, reading, and writing.

Spanish 3

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish 2 and teacher recommendation.

This Spanish 3 course will review the grammar skills learned in the previous level and it will emphasize proficiency in sentence structure, vocabulary building and verb tenses so that students will become increasingly competent in producing sentences as well as in writing compositions. Also, more time will be spent on building conversation skills in order to increase the daily use of the language through oral activities, spontaneous language exchanges and listening-comprehension exercises.

Spanish 3 (Honors)

Prerequisite: An average of 86 or better in the Spanish 2 course, teacher recommendation, and satisfactory results in Department testing.

The primary goal of this course is to help students develop proficiency in the Spanish language to better equip them to become citizens of the world. It also aims to increase students' appreciation of the cultures in the Spanish speaking world. Students will expand the four areas of language development through more complex readings, critical thinking writing assignments, and oral presentations. The degree of difficulty in grammar increases at this level to include extensive study of verb forms. This course is conducted primarily in Spanish.

Spanish 4 (Honors)

Prerequisite: An average of 86 or better in the Honors Spanish 3 course, teacher recommendation, and satisfactory results in Department testing.

This course presents more complex structures of basic language, continues to expand cultural awareness of the language and keeps promoting the students' identity as citizens of the world. It offers an in depth study of grammatical forms that aid students in working with progressively more challenging materials. Readings focus on the works of native writers and include: fables, short stories, novels, and plays. Also, lectures and supplemental readings provide a survey of Hispanic poetry, music, geography, history, and art. This course is conducted primarily in Spanish.

Language Arts

Depending on the level of her English course, the student should expect thirty to forty minutes per night of homework. Students in all levels are expected to budget their time accordingly to accommodate long-term projects and assignments, reading assignments, nightly study and review, and regular weekly assignments throughout the year. It should be noted that Honors and AP courses will involve more time.

English I

To be effective, English must provide for a continuous repetitive process. English I stresses basic grammar, standard usage, and mechanics such as (a) parts of speech, (b) pronoun usage, (c) verb-subject agreement, (d) sentence structure, (e) troublesome verbs, (f) capitalization and punctuation, and (g) vocabulary building. To achieve competence in writing, the mastery of these basic skills is essential. Students are also given instruction in basic literary skills and essay/research paper composition. Emphasis is placed on reading literature critically with comprehension of plot, setting, characterization, style, theme, and tone.

Honors English I (Class size is limited to fifteen students.)

This course provides, for the gifted student, the opportunity to explore in depth the various techniques and types of literature. Students are taught to analyze and appreciate poetry, the novel, short stories, and plays from various regions and eras. The material and concepts presented are, after an introduction to the basics, more intense and complex. Students are introduced to essay and descriptive writing and are shown the basic format for executing a paper. Vocabulary and grammar studies are accelerated although the basics in both are constantly reaffirmed. Oral presentations, both individually and in groups, are emphasized.

Accelerated English I & II - Grades 9 and 10 (Class size is limited to fifteen students.)

This two-year Advanced Placement program introduces gifted freshmen and sophomores to advanced literary study and analysis. World literature selected from past civilizations to present times and exemplifying all literary genres is studied. Critical reading, thinking, and writing skills are developed. Students will also improve their skills in essay, descriptive, and persuasive writing and will complete a short research/reaction paper. Vocabulary and grammar studies are accelerated, and group/individual oral presentations are a regular part of the curriculum.

NOTE: Students who wish to move from Academic English to Honors English need to have an "A" semester average in their present English course. Students who wish to move from Honors English to Advanced Placement English: Please see prerequisites for Accelerated II and AP Literature (junior placement). All students must talk to their current English teacher about the possibility of moving, at which point the teacher will submit a referral to the Department Chairperson. The English Department Chairperson will require writing samples, at least one interview with the student, and the results of an aptitude test (which she will administer to the student on a designated day after school) in order to determine the appropriateness of the move for the student. NOTE: No student will be allowed to move to Honors English IV or AP Literature II (senior year).

English II

Since English is a cumulative subject, each year adds to the student's mastery of language skills. English II stresses basic grammar with particular emphasis on sentence structure so that students will become increasingly competent in handling sentences as well as in planning and organizing compositions, essays, and papers. Continued study of vocabulary is emphasized. In literature, the student develops the critical literary skills necessary to distinguish the good from the mediocre. She learns to read in depth in order to appreciate the author's artistry.

Honors English II (Class size is limited to fifteen students.)

Prerequisites: "B+" semester average in Honors English I and/or teacher recommendation; "A" semester average in English I, teacher recommendation, and Department Chair approval.

This course strengthens the rudimentary historical considerations of literary analysis gained in Honors English I. Analytic skills are further developed, and more complicated styles and types of literature are studied. Essay writing is continued, and students learn the skills of the research paper and are required to write a short paper. Vocabulary and grammar studies are accelerated, and oral presentations are emphasized.

Accelerated English II (AP) (Class size is limited to fifteen students.)

*Prerequisites for Sophomore placement: Accelerated English I and teacher recommendation; "A" semester average in Honors English I, teacher recommendation, and Department Chair approval. *SEE ACCELERATED ENGLISH I & II FOR DESCRIPTION*

English III

American authors dating from the days of the Puritans to the present are read. This is supplemented by the works of Hawthorne, Crane, James, Miller, Lee, Wharton, Melville, Knowles, and Twain. Grammar is reviewed, and special emphasis is given to sentence compounding and to subordinate clauses. Reading and writing skills (essay writing and paper composition) are further developed. The student is given many opportunities for creative writing, both in poetry and prose. Also, units and drills on vocabulary, reasoning, figures of speech, etc., are done throughout the course. Word study/analysis is considered frequently to increase the student's vocabulary and ability to spell.

Honors English III/IV (Class size is limited to fifteen students.)

Prerequisites for Junior placement: "B+" semester average in Honors English II and/or teacher recommendation; "A" semester average in English II, teacher recommendation, and Department Chair approval.

Honors English III/IV is a two-year honors program for American and British Literature. Students will also study the history of the English language and continue their vocabulary study. There is a continued emphasis on essay writing, the techniques of research, and oral presentations. The material covered is the same as that covered in English III and English IV, but it is accelerated. More independence of thought is expected from the student, and a more critical and analytical approach to literature is fostered.

AP Literature - Grades 11 and 12 (Class size is limited to fifteen students.)

Prerequisites for Junior placement: Accelerated English II and teacher recommendation; "A" semester average in Honors English II, teacher recommendation, and Department Chair approval.

AP Literature is a two-year Advanced Placement program for American Literature and British Literature. Although advanced vocabulary study is an integral part of the course, the emphasis is on literary analysis and critical reading, thinking, and writing. In Part I, American Literature is studied chronologically from the Puritan Era to the present. Particular emphasis is on the history and philosophy of a period as indicators of literary themes. In Part II, British Literature is studied from the Anglo-Saxon period to the present.

In addition to studying the history of the English language, students will be given a background in the history of England and its influence on the literature. Literature will also be studied thematically. Students will do an independent study of the culture, art, music, philosophy, and theology of the Medieval, Elizabethan, Enlightenment, Romantic, Victorian, and Modern eras and will also be required to hand in two major critiques. Students in this program are required to take both the AP Examination in English Language and Composition AND the AP Examination in English Literature and Composition.

English IV

British literature from the Anglo-Saxon period to the present is studied. Selections are examined within the framework of Christian values. Grammar study is continued with emphasis on essay writing and research-paper composition. Students learn to limit and develop appropriate research topics. Vocabulary is studied with particular emphasis on etymological work.

Honors English IV (Class size is limited to fifteen students.)

Prerequisites: "B+" semester average in Honors English III, teacher recommendation, and Department Chair approval.

*SEE HONORS ENGLISH III/IV FOR DESCRIPTION

AP Literature - Grade 12 (Class size is limited to fifteen students.)

Prerequisites: AP Literature (Grade 11) and teacher recommendation.

*SEE AP LITERATURE (Grades 11 & 12) FOR DESCRIPTION

Effective Communication (Class size is limited to fifteen students with a two-class maximum.)

Prerequisites: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing; "B" semester average in current English course.

The goal of this course is to develop skills for writing and speaking effectively for success in school, career, and personal life. Students study techniques of paragraph development and organization as well as rules of punctuation, usage, and spelling. Through daily journal entries and various exercises in persuasive writing, students will learn to think critically and will develop a strong voice and personal style. There will also be ample opportunity for creative expression in the writing of poems, short stories, and personal narrative.

Effective Communication (continued)

The speech section of this course is designed to teach the student how to handle herself and her voice in a variety of speech situations. Particular emphasis is placed on training the voice to develop good diction, pleasing voice quality, variations in speech and inflections, and the use of phrasing, pausing, and emphasis. In addition, the student will acquire self-confidence and poise. Assignments will include the student's oral presentation of her written work.

Women In Literature (Honors) (Class size is limited to one class of no more than fifteen students.)

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing; "B" semester average in current English course.

Women have always played an important part in the history and literature of the world. This course offers students the opportunity to examine the contributions women have made not only to world literature, but also to civilization itself. Students will study the impact women have had on literature, art, music, social and political history, and cinema. The course is divided into two sections.

In Part I, the student will examine the different attitudes held by men towards women as literary characters through readings with subsequent analysis. The readings will be selected from different periods and geographical areas. The divisions of study include: 1. Woman as Enchantress; 2. Woman as Troublemaker; 3. Woman as the Paragon of Virtue; 4. Woman as the Submissive Female; 5. Woman as Man's Prey. The list of authors includes: Virgil, Poe, Sophocles, Henry James, Tennyson, Malory, Dante, Petrarch, Shakespeare, Hawthorne, Keats, Sidney, Chekhov, Ibsen, and Crane.

In Part II, the student will study the contribution of women to the world of literature. The list of authors includes: Emily Dickinson, Amy Lowell, H.D., Edna St. Vincent Millay, Marianne Moore, Sylvia Plath, Anne Sexton, Gwendolyn Brooks, Doris Lessing, Joyce Carol Oates, Flannery O'Connor, Edith Wharton, Eudora Welty, Willa Cather, Jane Austen, the Brontes, Virginia Woolf, Alice Walker, Harper Lee, Mary Shelley, and Louisa May Alcott.

The Aesthetics Of Film (Class size is limited to fifteen students with a two-class maximum.)

Prerequisites: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing; "B" semester average in current English course or recommendation of current English teacher.

This full-year course will explore the history and importance of film in American society and the use of film to translate the written word to the screen. In addition to viewing films and reading works of literature, students should expect group discussion, oral presentations (individually and in groups), and essay work.

First Quarter – Film History: An in-depth examination of the American film industry.

Second Quarter – Film Criticism: Students will learn to identify the techniques of film in order to appreciate the medium's aesthetics.

Third Quarter – Literature as Film: Students will study literary classics and compare each work to its film translation.

Fourth Quarter – Film Creation: Students work through all phases of film development in order to create a short film.

Freshman Seminar

This is a required course for all Freshmen.

This course has been formed with the supposition that academic success and personal growth can be fostered in a group setting. To this end, students will be mentored in five areas: study and test-taking skills, organizational skills, presentation skills, leadership skills, and Christian citizenship skills. Classroom time will be used to instruct the above-mentioned skill areas, as well as to provide time for practicing skills gained, thereby requiring the attendance and participation of each student. This class will be graded with a pass/fail system. (Class meets 2 times weekly for a full year.)

Physical Education

This is a required course for graduation.

The PE program at Villa Joseph Marie is based on providing a rewarding, challenging, and pleasurable experience for students of all levels of physical abilities. All PE experiences can be subdivided into three areas: conditioning, team sports, and lifetime activities. Conditioning-type activities such as plyometrics, aerobic dancing and physical fitness are designed to develop a healthy, coordinated individual in our society. Team games such as hockey, basketball, and soccer are vital to understanding the interaction necessary when working with a group. Lifetime sports such as volleyball, badminton, and wiffle ball are strongly encouraged for future use outside the classroom.

Health

This is a required course for graduation.

This course covers a broad range of topics, including areas of mental, physical, and social health. It is designed to teach self-responsibility and focuses on the development of a student's decision making skills. The importance of positive self-esteem is emphasized as a key element to one's well being.

Topics covered include, but are not limited to:

Physical, mental, and social health
Nutrition
Body composition
Managing stress and anxiety
Skills for healthy relationships
Prenatal development and birth
Disabilities

Endocrine/reproductive systems
Weight management
Alcohol
Medicines and drugs
STI's, HIV, AIDS
Non-communicable disease

Science

Homework for science courses may consist of reading, written assignments, or review. Written homework will be reviewed in class at the teacher's discretion. Some assignments will be collected and graded. Students taking academic courses should expect twenty to thirty minutes of homework each night. Students in honors courses should expect thirty to forty-five minutes of homework each night. Students taking AP courses should expect at least one hour of homework each night.

Although the Villa Joseph Marie science program is presented as separate disciplines, each course integrates scientific knowledge and scientific procedure so the student can use these in a technological society. Students are strongly encouraged to take one year each of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Students may take Environmental Science and one other science in their Sophomore year with teacher recommendation. The exceptional student may have the opportunity to take a maximum of two sciences concurrently in Junior and/or Senior year with teacher recommendation.

Academic Biology

Prerequisite: Freshman standing.

This survey of biological topics is designed to acquaint the student with cell structure and function, genetics, evolution, the six taxonomic kingdoms, human body systems, and the ecological relationships that exist among organisms in the biosphere. Relevance to daily life is a key feature of the course. Study and laboratory investigations are carried out in an inquiry mode and technological issues are discussed as they emerge.

Honors Biology

Freshman Placement is based on Entrance Exam.

This course is an in-depth introduction to Biology using the biomolecular approach. It encompasses a thorough investigation of cellular structure and function, genetics, evolution, the six taxonomic kingdoms, animal systems and development, and basic ecological principles. Laboratory experiences are integral and emphasis is placed on content level understanding and critical thinking skills.

Honors Human Anatomy and Physiology (Class size is limited.)

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing; an average of "B+" or higher in Honors Biology and Honors Chemistry; an average of "A" in Academic Biology and Academic Chemistry. Human Anatomy teacher approval is required.

This course is designed to provide the student with a framework of normal human anatomy and physiology. The relationship between form and function is stressed throughout the entire course of study. Students will be expected to apply general information in clinical case studies. Laboratory experiences are emphasized and will include dissections – real, virtual, or both.

Academic Chemistry

Prerequisites: Grade of "C+" or above in Academic Biology.

The purpose of this course is to build problem-solving skills, which will enable the student to solve chemistry problems. These skills will carry over into any other academic areas. Topics covered include: interpretation of data contained in the periodic table, chemical reactions and equations, chemical bonding, kinetics, chemical quantities and acid-base theory. The backbone of this course is the hands-on laboratory experience. Although the texts differ, the main difference between this course and Honors Chemistry is the extent of mathematical applications.

Honors Chemistry

Prerequisites: Grade of “B+” or above in Honors Biology, or a grade of “A” in Academic Biology, and a grade of “B” or above in current Honors level mathematics.

A rich and diverse laboratory experience, as well as group activities, is integral parts of this course. Topics covered include: scientific measurement; balancing equations; stoichiometry; chemical periodicity; properties of solids, liquids and gases; chemical bonding; electrochemistry; nuclear chemistry and properties of acids and bases. Development of critical thinking skills is stressed, as well as evaluation of issues in chemical technology, and preparation for the AP level of Chemistry.

Conceptual Physics

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior standing; grade of “C” or above in Academic Chemistry.

This course is designed to promote an understanding of physics concepts with mathematical calculations. The traditional topics of mechanics, properties of matter, heat, light, electricity, and magnetism are covered. Emphasis is placed on laboratory experiences.

Honors Physics

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing; grade of “B+” or above in current Honors level math.

The mathematics of interaction of forces and energy with matter is explored utilizing text, laboratory experiments, and demonstrations. Simple machines, kinematics, motion, electricity and magnetism; sound and light; quantum mechanics, and the environmental aspects of energy production from nuclear sources are taught. The course is designed for the student who excels in mathematics and has a deep interest in scientific methods and pertinent experimental investigations.

Earth and Environmental Science (Class size is limited.)

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Biology; Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing. The student will develop theories that explain the mechanisms of the world by working collaboratively with her peers using critical analysis skills, while reviewing topics such as weather/climate, population interactions, biomes, and astronomy. In order to understand the role humans play in the biosphere, laboratory and field exercises will be emphasized. The student will also learn to collect and interpret data.

Honors Forensic Science (Class size is limited to 20 students.)

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing; a grade of “B+” or higher in a first-year Biology course; a grade of “B+” or higher in a first-year Chemistry course; and departmental approval.

Forensic science is defined as “the application of science to the criminal and civil laws that are enforced by police agencies in a criminal justice system.” This course will include examination and evaluation of a crime scene, examination and significance of physical evidence, forensic drug analysis and toxicology, DNA evidence, and other relevant topics. Correlating laboratory experiments and case studies will complete the course.

Advanced Laboratory Techniques (Class size is limited to 3 students per Science teacher.)

NOTE: This course is selected AFTER the school year begins.

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation and approval of Science Department Chair.

This class meets 2 periods per week. There is no one-period-per-week option. Students must report during the preparation period of the faculty member.

Advanced Laboratory Techniques is a course designed to teach laboratory techniques not covered in the basic Science courses. Students will learn safe handling and disposal techniques; how to prepare standard solutions; and how to prepare an inventory of chemical stock and general supplies using the latest computer technology. Students are always supervised, but are encouraged to develop independent work habits and to set attainable goals. Topics in instrumental analysis will be included as time permits. Students receive 0.2 credit for the year for this course.

Independent Science Research

NOTE: This course is selected AFTER the school year begins.

The purpose of this course is to guide and mentor students who wish to prepare a Science Fair project. The VJM Science Fair is held in late February or early March. Students are expected to exhibit their projects at both the VJM Science Fair and the Bucks County Science Fair, which is usually held during the second week in March. Students who win certain awards at the Bucks County Science Fair are invited to compete at the Delaware Valley Science Fair.

Students receive 0.2 credit for the year for this course. If the student is not invited to participate in the Delaware Valley Science Fair, she must prepare a brief scientific research paper on a topic of her choice in order to receive a fourth quarter grade. Students acquire an appreciation for the methods of preparing and documenting a scientific research project, and gain a valuable credential for college admission.

Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS)

NOTE: This course is selected AFTER the school year begins.

The purpose of this course is to guide and mentor students who wish to prepare a project to present to the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS). Students present their research in an oral presentation not-to-exceed 10 minutes. They use transparencies that they prepare as visual aids. Students present to a panel of 2 or 3 judges. The Region 1C competition is in mid to late February. Students who earn a gold medal at this competition are invited to present their research at the State competition at Penn State University in University Park in late May. This is a three-day competition, and students are responsible for all work that they miss while attending the competition.

Students receive 0.1 credit for the year for this course. If the student is not invited to participate in the State competition, she must prepare a brief scientific research paper on a topic of her choice in order to receive a fourth quarter grade. Students acquire an appreciation for the methods of preparing and documenting a scientific research project, gain experience in presenting their research before a panel, and acquire a valuable credential for college admission.

AP Sciences

The VJM Science Department is proud to offer 5 AP level Science courses. Each course has its own specific prerequisites. Students who have an interest in one of these courses may express this interest to the Science Department Chair who will then confer with the rest of the Department to determine the student's eligibility. **All students who enroll in an AP Science course will be required to take the appropriate AP Exam.**

NOTE: ALL AP Science courses have a limited class size. In order for an AP course to be offered, a minimum number of students must be enrolled.

AP Biology

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing; a grade of "B+" or above in Honors Biology or an "A" in Academic Biology; "B+" or above in Honors Chemistry or an "A" in Academic Chemistry. Department Chair and AP Biology teacher approval is required.
This class meets 8 periods a week.

This course is designed to acquaint students with the basic biological principles included in a college level course. Topics covered include molecules and cells, heredity and evolution, and organisms and populations. The course uses a biochemical approach and stresses relationships between animal and plant structures and their functions. Successful completion of this course will prepare the student for the Advanced Placement Biology Exam. The twelve laboratory exercises required by the College Board are included as part of the program. Critical thinking skills will be emphasized.

AP Chemistry

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing; a grade of "B+" or above in Honors Chemistry or an "A" in academic Chemistry; and a grade of "B+" or above in current Honors level mathematics; Math and Science teachers must both initial the course selection sheet, and Science Department Chair approval is required.
This class meets 8 periods per week.

This course is designed to prepare the student for the AP Chemistry Exam by completing the requirements for introductory level college chemistry. A college text is used. The content includes further concepts of chemical bonding; the rates and mechanisms of chemical reactions; electrochemistry; biochemistry; nuclear chemistry; organic chemistry, and natural and synthetic molecules. The laboratories deal with advanced techniques including spectroscopy, gel electrophoresis, chromatography, organic synthesis, and independent research. Other topics include aspects of semiconductors, non-ideal gases, thermodynamics, and coordination compounds.

AP Environmental Science

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing; a grade of “B+” or higher in Honors Biology, Honors Chemistry, and Honors Algebra 2; a grade of “A” in academic Biology, academic Chemistry, and academic Algebra 2. Approval of the AP Environmental Science teacher and Department Chair is required.

This course meets 7 periods a week.

This course is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester, introductory college course in environmental science. Environmental science encompasses a wide variety of topics including geology, biology, chemistry, geography, demographics, and medicine. The following themes lay the foundation for this subject: science is a process, energy conversions underlie all ecological processes, the earth is one interconnected system, humans alter natural systems, environmental problems have a cultural and social context, and human survival depends on developing sustainable systems.

AP Physics B

Prerequisites: Senior standing with a grade of “A” in Honors Algebra 2 with Pre-Calculus being taken concurrently, or an “A” in Pre-Calculus and a grade of “B+” or above in Honors Physics or an “A” in Conceptual Physics, and Department Chair approval.

This course meets 8 periods a week.

The Physics B course provides a systematic introduction to the main principles of physics and emphasizes the development of problem solving abilities. Topics include concepts of mechanics, thermal physics, electricity, magnetism, optics and atomic physics. This course utilizes texts, demonstrations, and laboratory experiments. This is recommended for students expecting to major in science, engineering, architecture, pre-medicine and applied sciences.

AP Physics C

Prerequisites: Senior standing with a grade of “A” in Honors Physics; a grade of “B+” or above in Pre-Calculus with AP or Honors Calculus concurrent, and Department Chair approval.

This course meets 8 periods a week.

This course is designed to prepare the student for the AP Physics Exam. The course is taught using a college level textbook. Topics include the concepts of mechanics, dynamics and electricity and magnetism. Laboratories will be project based. The course is recommended for students expecting to major in science, engineering or architecture.