

# VILLA

JOSEPH  
MARIE  
HIGH SCHOOL



# Course Descriptions

## 2023-2024

BE STRONG  
BE SMART  
BE CREATIVE  
BE YOURSELF

# A Message from the Principal

January 2023

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

The course selection process for the 2023-2024 school year will begin February 1<sup>st</sup>. The 2023-2024 Course Description Booklet is available on the Villa website.

Each student will meet with their Guidance Counselor to discuss their course selections. These sessions begin February 6 and continue through March 3.

All students must register for a course selection appointment. The appropriate link will be sent through your *Naviance* account. Please check your email to be sure you have received the appropriate link. Please see your Guidance Counselor if you do not receive the link. The link will also be available on the Villa website. After you sign up, you will see a confirmation; please print out the confirmation, which will serve as your pass for class.

We encourage all students to discuss their selections with present and former teachers, the Department Chairs, and their parents. Remember that you must take a minimum of five - six credits each year pending your grade level, but you are encouraged to take as many as your time and ability will allow. Make decisions that will best serve educational goals both now and in the years to come.

**Course selection must be completed by March 3, 2023.** A *non-refundable* deposit (applied to tuition for 2023-2024) must be completed on your Enrollment Portal ([www.vjmhs.schooladminonlin.com/users/sign-in](http://www.vjmhs.schooladminonlin.com/users/sign-in)). An additional "late fee" of \$50 will be required for forms/payments received after March 3, 2023. ***Please review the information included at the bottom of the Course Selection Sheet.***

Please note that Course Selection Sheets must be **signed by both the student and a parent/guardian**. Once you make a decision, you will be expected to honor it and not request to drop or change any required course or elective. A fee of \$50.00 will be charged for changes requested after the current school year (2022-2023) is completed.



Lauren Carr  
Principal



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# Dual Enrollment 2023-2024

Villa Joseph Marie is excited to announce Dual Enrollment opportunities for the 2023-2024 academic year. After exploring options with several area colleges and universities, we are prepared to announce our first partnerships. Bucks County Community College and DeSales University are coordinating with Villa to offer college credit through select courses. Both institutions have transcripts that are accepted across the state, region, and United States.

Q&A – What does this mean for you?

## **How does a student register for dual enrollment?**

If a student's course is eligible for dual enrollment, you will be able to opt in for that transcript. Should you opt in, there will be a nominal fee and some paperwork needed to provide and release transcripts at the college level.

## **Should we select courses based on the likelihood of dual enrollment?**

No. Course selection should be based on a student's interests and required courses. All dual enrollment designations are determined after the Master Schedule is complete, so there is no need to factor this option into February's course selection process.

## **When will a student know which courses qualify for dual enrollment?**

Communications related to dual enrollment courses will be sent out late Spring. Since Villa's schedule is build based on student interest, the course and faculty member are determined later in the Spring. Upon completion of the Master Schedule, all student and families with a dual enrollment option will be notified and can opt in for the program.

## **Is a student required to participate in the Dual Enrollment option?**

No. If enrolled in the course, your student will have the option to complete the course for Villa credit only. There will be no additional charge in this case.

## **If I opt in for Dual Enrollment, does the class still count toward my Villa transcript?**

Yes. Both the class credit and grade will apply to both the student's Villa and designated college transcripts.

## **What is the cost for Dual Enrollment?**

The costs will depend on the partner college/university. The cost is typically less than \$500.

We are very excited about launching these partnerships and expanding our students' opportunities. Stay tuned for more information later this Spring.



# Graduation Requirements & List of Freshman Electives

## Required Credits

Theology I  
Language Arts I  
Mathematics  
Science  
World History  
Freshman Seminar (.4 credit)

## World Language

All Freshmen must select one of the following:

French  
Latin  
Spanish

*NOTE: Academic Strategies will take the place of a World Language for students enrolled in the Transcend Program.*

## Fine Arts

All Freshmen must select one of the following:

Freshman Art (.6 credit)  
Freshman Chorus (.6 credit)  
Freshman Instrumental Music Theory (.6 credit)  
Freshman Drama (.6 credit)

*NOTE: These courses are taken in conjunction with Freshman Seminar.*

## Graduation Requirements

Attendance at Freshman Retreat  
Service Learning

# Sophomore Course Selection 2023~2024

NAME/HR: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dear Student,

Please discuss your selection with your parents, teachers, and the counselor to make the best choice for your educational goals. Remember to register for your course selection appointment using the appropriate "sign-up" link as provided through your *Naviance* account.

Once your selections are processed, it will be difficult to make changes. *A fee of \$50.00 will be charged for changes requested by the student after the current school year is completed.*

## COUNSELOR APPROVAL for Course Scheduling:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### REQUIRED COURSES:

### Teacher's Initials

<u>X</u>	Theology 2	_____
<u>X</u>	Language Arts	_____
<u>X</u>	World Language	_____

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### ELECTIVES

Elective 1: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Elective 2: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Elective 3: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Elective 4: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please select two Alternatives should one of your Electives be unavailable**

Alternate 1: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Alternate 1: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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:**

- The Course Selection Sheet must be completed and returned on or before March 3, 2023.
- Electronically sign a new enrollment contract via your Enrollment Portal ([vjmhs.schooladminonline.com/users/sign\\_in](http://vjmhs.schooladminonline.com/users/sign_in)) and electronically pay the \$750 NON-REFUNDABLE course selection fee **between Feb. 15– March 3, 2023**.
- LATE registration (after March 3, 2023) requires a NON-REFUNDABLE \$50 late registration fee which will be billed separately.

### **FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY:**

DATE RECEIVED: \_\_\_\_\_ RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

# Graduation Requirements & List of Sophomore Electives

## Required Credits

Theology II | Language Arts II

## Graduation Requirements

Attendance at Sophomore Retreat | Service Learning

## Electives

### Language Arts

Effective Communication  
Aesthetics of Film  
Reality vs. Fantasy (H)  
Media & Journalism

### Mathematics

Advanced Mathematical Studies (H)  
Geometry (H)  
Geometry  
Algebra II  
Algebra II (H)  
Pre-Calculus (H)

### Science

Earth and Environmental Science  
Chemistry (A or H)  
Intro to Engineering & Design  
Biology (A or H)  
Introduction to Nutrition  
Computer Science Principles

### Social Studies

American Civilization I  
AP Human Geography  
Accelerated American Civilization I  
Economics

### Fine Arts

Chorus 10-12  
Lessons (Vocal)  
Lessons (Band)  
Music Theory (Instrumental)  
Music Theory (Vocal)  
Drama  
Dance  
Basic Art  
Theatre Tech Practicum  
Musical Theatre

### Theology

Women in Theology Honors  
Christian Prayer & Spirituality (Dual Enrollment)  
Contemplatives in Action – Spirituality and Our Response to the World

### World Language

French I, II  
Latin I, II  
Spanish I, II

### Leadership/Internship

Leadership Course



# Junior Course Selection 2023~2024

NAME/HR: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dear Student,

Please discuss your selection with your parents, teachers, and the counselor to make the best choice for your educational goals. Remember to register for your course selection appointment using the appropriate "sign-up" link as provided through your *Naviance* account.

Once your selections are processed, it will be difficult to make changes. *A fee of \$50.00 will be charged for changes requested by the student after the current school year is completed.*

## COUNSELOR APPROVAL for Course Scheduling:

	Signature	Date
<b>REQUIRED COURSES:</b>		
<u>X</u> Theology 3		
<u>X</u> Language Arts		

## **ELECTIVES**

Elective 1:		
Elective 2:		
Elective 3:		
Elective 4:		
Elective 5:		

**Please select two Alternatives should one of your Electives be unavailable**

Alternate 1:		
Alternate 1:		

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:**

- The Course Selection Sheet must be completed and returned on or before March 3, 2023.
- Electronically sign a new enrollment contract via your Enrollment Portal ([vjmhs.schooladminonline.com/users/sign\\_in](http://vjmhs.schooladminonline.com/users/sign_in)) and electronically pay the \$750 NON-REFUNDABLE course selection fee **between Feb. 15 – March 3, 2023**.
- LATE registration (after March 3, 2023) requires a NON-REFUNDABLE \$50 late registration fee which will be billed separately.

## **FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY:**

DATE RECEIVED: \_\_\_\_\_ RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

# Graduation Requirements & List of Junior Electives

## Required Credits

Theology III | Language Arts III

## Graduation Requirements

Attendance at Junior Retreat | Service Learning

## Electives

### Language Arts

Effective Communication  
Women in Literature (H)  
Aesthetics of Film  
Media & Journalism  
Reality vs. Fantasy (H)  
Creative Expressions (H)

### Science

Earth and Environmental Science  
Forensic Science  
Conceptual Physics  
Chemistry (A or H)  
Physics (H)  
AP Chemistry  
AP Biology  
AP Environmental Science  
AP Physics 1  
Human Anatomy & Physiology (H)  
Introduction to Engineering and Design  
Aerospace Engineering  
Civil Engineering and Architecture  
Computer Science Principles  
Introduction to Nutrition  
Introduction to Medical Sciences

### Social Studies

AP United States History  
"Reel" History  
Accelerated American Civilization I  
American Civilization I  
American Civilization II  
AP Human Geography  
Economics

### Leadership/Internship

Leadership Course

### Mathematics

Geometry  
Statistics/Probability  
Advanced Mathematical Studies (H)  
Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry  
AP Statistics  
Geometry (H)  
Calculus (H)  
Calculus AB  
Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry (H)

### Fine Arts

Chorus 10-12  
Lessons (Vocal)  
Lessons (Band)  
Drawing & Painting  
2-Dimensional Design  
3-Dimensional Design  
Basic Art  
Commercial Art/Design  
AP Music Theory  
Theatre Tech Practicum  
Musical Theatre  
Dance  
Drama  
Music Theory (Instrumental)  
Music Theory (Vocal)

### Theology

Women in Theology Honors  
Contemplatives in Action – Spirituality and Our Response to the World  
God in All Things  
Christian Prayer & Spirituality (Dual Enrollment)

### World Languages

French I, II, III (H)  
Italian III (H)  
Latin I, II, III (H)  
Spanish I, II, III, III (H)

# Senior Course Selection 2023~2024

NAME/HR: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Student,

Please discuss your selection with your parents, teachers, and the counselor to make the best choice for your educational goals. Remember to register for your course selection appointment using the appropriate "sign-up" link as provided through your *Naviance* account.

Once your selections are processed, it will be difficult to make changes. *A fee of \$50.00 will be charged for changes requested by the student after the current school year is completed.*

## COUNSELOR APPROVAL for Course Scheduling:

		Signature	Date
<b>REQUIRED COURSES:</b>		<b>Teacher's Initials</b>	
<u>X</u>	Theology 4	_____	
<u>X</u>	Language Arts _____	_____	

## **ELECTIVES**

Elective 1:	_____	_____
Elective 2:	_____	_____
Elective 3:	_____	_____
Elective 4:	_____	_____
Elective 5:	_____	_____

**Please select two Alternatives should one of your Electives be unavailable**

Alternate 1:	_____	_____
Alternate 1:	_____	_____

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:**

- The Course Selection Sheet must be completed and returned **on or before March 3, 2023.**
- Electronically sign a new enrollment contract via your Enrollment Portal ([vjmhs.schooladminonline.com/users/sign\\_in](http://vjmhs.schooladminonline.com/users/sign_in)) and electronically pay the \$750 NON-REFUNDABLE course selection fee **between Feb. 15 – March 3, 2023.**
- LATE registration (after March 3, 2023) requires a NON-REFUNDABLE \$50 late registration fee which will be billed separately.

## **FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY:**

DATE RECEIVED: \_\_\_\_\_ RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

# Graduation Requirements & List of Senior Electives

## Required Credits

Theology IV | Language Arts IV

## Graduation Requirements

Attendance at Senior Retreat | Service Learning

## Electives

### Language Arts

Effective Communication  
Aesthetics of Film  
Women in Literature (H)  
Media & Journalism  
Reality vs. Fantasy (H)  
Creative Expressions (H)

### Mathematics

Calculus (H)  
AP Calculus AB  
AP Calculus BC  
AP Statistics  
Advanced Mathematical Studies (H)  
Statistics/Probability  
Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry  
Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry (H)

### Social Studies

Economics  
"Reel" History  
AP Government  
AP Human Geography  
Introduction to Psychology  
American Civilization II  
AP Psychology  
AP United States History

### Science

Conceptual Physics  
AP Biology  
AP Chemistry  
Physics (H)  
AP Physics 1  
AP Physics 2  
AP Physics C  
AP Environmental Science  
Earth and Environmental Science  
Human Anatomy & Physiology (H)  
Forensic Science  
Introduction to Nutrition  
Introduction to Medical Sciences  
Intro to Engineering & Design  
Computer Science Principles  
Civil Engineering and Architecture  
Aerospace Engineering

### World Language

French I, II, III (H), IV (H)  
Spanish I, II, III, III (H), IV (H), AP  
AP Spanish Language and Culture  
Latin I, II, III (H), V  
AP Latin IV

### Leadership/Internship

Leadership Course

### Theology

Women in Theology Honors  
Contemplatives in Action - Spirituality & Our Response to the World  
Christian Prayer & Spirituality (Dual Enrollment)  
God in All Things

### Fine Arts

Basic Art  
Advanced Art  
Drawing & Painting  
2-Dimensional Design  
3-Dimensional Design  
Commercial Art/Design  
Drawing & Painting 2/Mixed Media  
AP Portfolio Class  
Theatre Tech Practicum  
Drama  
Chorus 10-12  
Lessons (Vocal)  
Lessons (Band)  
AP Music Theory  
Music Theory (Vocal)  
Music Theory (Instrumental)  
Dance  
Musical Theatre

# Course Catalog

## Theology

### Theology I

Prerequisites: Freshman standing.

#### Hebrew Scriptures

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

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 of the Body for Teens"

Students will begin the study of "Theology of the Body for Teens." This program is a positive approach to introducing reverence for the gift of sexuality. St. John Paul II gave a series of talks between 1979 and 1984; these reflections have been compiled into a program that teaches students the responsibility to love in the image of God. Chapters one through four are covered in Freshman year.

### Theology II

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing.

#### Church History

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

This course challenges students not only to learn the major truths of the Faith, but also to encourage students to explain and defend 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 of the Body for Teens”**

Students will continue the study of “Theology of the Body for Teens.” Topics include “Hope and Reflection in Christ,” “Truth and Freedom,” “Language of the Body,” “Free, Total, Faithful, and Fruitful,” and “Marriage.” The material comes from a series of talks by St. John Paul II and is based on Scripture.

## **Theology III**

Prerequisites: Junior standing.

### **Moral Theology**

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**

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 of the Body for Teens”**

Students will further their study of “Theology of the Body for Teens.” Topics include “Celibacy and Religious Life,” “Finding Your Vocation,” “Dating with Purpose and Purity,” and “Living the Good (and Free!) Life.”

## Theology IV

Prerequisites: Senior standing.

### 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 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 New American Bible, Revised Edition, 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.

### “Theology of the Body for Beginners”

Students will use a supplemental book, Theology of the Body for Beginners, written by Christopher West, which is a summary of St. John Paul II’s observations and thoughts on the positive nature of sexuality.

# Theology Electives

These courses do not take the place of any of the foundational Theology courses listed on the previous page. Students are still required to take the four years of Theology. These elective courses will be an additional opportunity to expand the current program.

Students should maintain a C+ average in their current Theology course. If a student does not meet this requirement, but she is still interested in taking this course, she should reach out to the Theology Department Chairperson to discuss.

**Note:** Theology Elective courses are weighted as Honors courses.

## Women in Theology Honors “WITH”

Prerequisites: Theology I. Rising Sophomore, Junior and Senior standing.

This course is designed to help young girls discover how biblical women, female saints, and contemporary female social justice activists have influenced the church in the world. It seeks to help young girls discern how they are personally called to be women of the church will into their adulthood. Exploring the lives of biblical women can lead girls to an understanding of the roles that their foremothers played in communities of faith from the ancient Hebrews to the early Church. Exploring the lives of female saints can lead girls to understand that all women are called to sainthood – to be the best version of themselves through acquiring the virtues needed to live a holier life and develop a personal relationship with God. Exploring the lives of contemporary female social justice activists can help young girls to view the world differently, to acknowledge those marginalized in society, find the cause they are most passionate about, and go out and make a difference to alleviate the plight of those less fortunate. It is to develop a womanhood of sisters that not only believe in the mission of the church, but are active in the church.

## God in All Things

Prerequisites: Rising Junior and Senior standing.

This course will challenge students to break down any preconceived notions that God is somehow separate from their teenage lives and guide them to explore where the Holy Spirit may be working in the places and people they least expect: sports, social media, Broadway musicals, poetry, Netflix, school, comedy, nature, etc. Students will develop skills that are essential for success in a myriad of fields and life beyond college: compassion, contemplation, advocacy, centeredness, discernment, critical-thinking, creativity, listening, etc.

## Contemplatives in Action – Spirituality and Our Response to the World

**Prerequisites:** Rising Sophomore, Junior and Senior standing; Theology 1.

This course is designed to help young girls discover how to put Catholic Theology into ACTION. It seeks to have the students spend time understanding the various spiritual exercise of Franciscan, Ignation, Celtic, and Marian spirituality to cultivate an interior life of prayer. The goal is to help young women cultivate a meaningful life of prayer to grow closer to God and find God in all things. Through learning various forms of spirituality, students will explore the spiritual exercises unique to each. By cultivating a deep/meaningful prayer life, and utilizing the various spiritual exercises, the goal is to have the young women be able to fully immerse, create and lead in class retreats centering around these forms of spirituality. Through understanding how these forms of spirituality have been created, students are encouraged to look at their world through a lens of deep empathy to recognize a need they feel vocationally drawn to and ways spirituality/the spiritual exercises can nurture their faith lives into their adulthood. Through retreat-styled spiritual exercises, journaling, and opportunities to lead, students will have the opportunity to discern the young woman God is calling them to become. They will also have the opportunity to create and lead various types of retreats based on the spiritual exercises.

## College Course/Dual Enrollment

**Dual Enrollment:** This is a dual enrollment program with the School of Theological Studies (STS) of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, in which the student takes a college-level Theology course within the high school setting to earn undergraduate credits. Students will receive three undergraduate college credits upon the course's completion. The cost of the course is an additional \$300 (for STS).

**Note:** This course is weighted as an AP course.

## Christian Prayer and Spirituality

**Prerequisites:** Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing and a cumulative GPA of 3.85.

This course will immerse the student in the spiritual life by exploring the many dimensions and attributes of prayer with specific attention to its classic forms (vocal, meditative, and contemplative). Students will consider the foundations, relevance, and efficacy of prayer, as well as common obstacles to a consistent and sustained prayer life. Additionally, students will examine the rich tradition of Christian spirituality, which emerged from the heart of the Church. Key aspects of biblical teaching on prayer will be covered, with particular emphasis on Jesus as master and teacher of prayer. Furthermore, the course will survey the life and doctrine of outstanding spiritual masters through the centuries and significant spiritual movements in the Catholic tradition. Students will be introduced to classic spiritual writings from those periods, offering an overview of various forms of spiritualities, such as Carmelite, Dominican, Franciscan, Ignation, Augustinian, and others, including Marian and Divine Mercy devotions.

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# Language Arts

Students at 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.

## Accelerated English I/II—Grades 9 & 10

Prerequisites: Placement based on entrance exam/standardized testing.

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 in Accelerated I or Accelerated II DO NOT take the AP English Literature or Language Exams.**

**NOTE: Students who wish to move from Academic English to Honors English need to have a “94” 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).**

## Honors English I

Prerequisites: Placement based on entrance exam/standardized testing.

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.



## English I

Prerequisites: Placement based on entrance exam/standardized testing.

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) subject/verb 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.

## Accelerated English II

This is an Advanced Placement level course.

Prerequisites for Sophomore placement: Accelerated English I and teacher recommendation; "94" semester average in Honors English I, teacher recommendation, and Department Chair approval

\*See **Accelerated English I & II** for description

**NOTE: Students in Accelerated I or Accelerated II DO NOT take the AP English Literature or Language Exams.**

## Honors English II

Prerequisites for Sophomore placement: "86" semester average in Honors English I and/or English teacher recommendation; "94" 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.

## 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.

## AP Literature—Grades 11 and 12

Prerequisites for Junior placement: Accelerated English II and teacher recommendation; “94” 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 the AP Examination in English Language and Composition in Junior year AND the AP Examination in English Literature and Composition in Senior year.

## Honors English III/IV

Prerequisites for Junior placement: “86” semester average in Honors English II and/or English teacher recommendation; “94” 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.

## 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. 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.

## AP Literature II—Grade 12

Prerequisites for Senior placement: AP Literature I (Grade 11), teacher recommendation

\*See **AP Literature—Grades 11 & 12** for description.

## Honors English IV

Prerequisites for Senior placement: “86” semester average in Honors English III, teacher recommendation, Department Chair approval.

\*See **Honors English III/IV** for description.

## 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.

## Effective Communication (Class size is limited to two-classes.)

Prerequisites: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing; “83” semester average in current English course; Department Chair approval

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.

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.

## **Honors Women in Literature** (Class size is limited to one class.)

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing; “86” semester average in current English course; Department Chair approval

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.

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, Gwendolyn Brooks, Joyce Carol Oates, Flannery O'Connor, Edith Wharton, Eudora Welty, Virginia Woolf, Alice Walker, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Louise Bogan, Christina Rossetti, and Adrienne Rich.

## **The Aesthetics of Film** (Class size is limited to two-classes.)

Prerequisites: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing; “86” semester average in current English course; Department Chair approval

This 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.

## Honors Reality vs. Fantasy

Prerequisites: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing; “86” semester average in current English course; Department Chair approval

This course seeks to analyze the “real” and the “fantastical” together in order to uncover life’s universal truths. Through students’ reading, discussing, and writing about seminal works of nonfiction (from our Founding Fathers to present day creative nonfiction) in conjunction with the standouts of the fantasy genre (from *Harry Potter* to *The Hobbit*), this course will enable students to analyze their own world within the context of the many other rich worlds that exist between the pages. Each quarter will focus on a central theme which may include, but is not limited to: community, government, and dystopia; identity; good vs. evil; and the philosophy of the human condition. Students will also explore the similarities and differences of these two genres through the analysis of literary elements and figurative language.

## Honors Creative Expressions

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing; “86” semester average in current English course; Department Chair approval

Creative Expressions is a course for the interested writer to explore her creativity. Writing is not merely a form of communication in life, in the workplace, in the academic world. It is not just an outlet for the ideas and thoughts of the intellect. For millennia, writing creatively has been an art form, providing a mouthpiece for the imagination. Poetry, short stories, novels, and plays are our connection to the past and to the writers who composed them. Indeed, the ideas of past and contemporary authors fuel our own thoughts. Therefore, it is important to nurture the imagination of our burgeoning writers in a venue devoted exclusively to the creative temperament. After exploring the literary conventions, techniques, and devices of poetry, the short story, and drama with subsequent reading and analysis of examples from each genre, the student will compose her own original work in each division. Ultimately, the student will assemble and illustrate her work throughout the year for either an individual portfolio or for a class compendium. Students are also required to submit material to Villa’s annual Poet Laureate contest.



## **Honors Creative Expressions** (Class size is limited to one class).

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing; “86” semester average in current English course; Department Chair approval

Creative Expressions is a course for the interested writer to explore her creativity. Writing is not merely a form of communication in life, in the workplace, in the academic world. It is not just an outlet for the ideas and thoughts of the intellect. For millennia, writing creatively has been an art form, providing a mouthpiece for the imagination. Poetry, short stories, novels, and plays are our connection to the past and to the writers who composed them. Indeed, the ideas of past and contemporary authors fuel our own thoughts. Therefore, it is important to nurture the imagination of our burgeoning writers in a venue devoted exclusively to the creative temperament. After exploring the literary conventions, techniques, and devices of poetry, the short story, and drama with subsequent reading and analysis of examples from each genre, the student will compose her own original work in each division. Ultimately, the student will assemble and illustrate her work throughout the year for either an individual portfolio or for a class compendium. Students are also required to submit material to Villa’s annual Poet Laureate contest.

## **Media and Journalism**

Prerequisites: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing; “83” average or better in current English course.

This course will teach the fundamentals of traditional print and video journalism. Areas of focus include: print journalism, layout and design, publication, videography, techniques and elements of production. Students enrolled in this course will be active contributors to the *VJM Journal*, *The Corona*, and other print and media-based school publications.

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# Mathematics

The Honors classes offered at Villa Joseph Marie 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.

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 I

Prerequisites: Placement based on standardized testing and teacher recommendation

This course is the same in content as Algebra I, 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 I

Prerequisites: Placement based on standardized testing and teacher recommendation

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 a “B” in Honors Algebra II, or a consistent “A” in Algebra II with Department and Administration 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 I has an option of completing Honors Geometry and Honors Algebra II in her Sophomore year.

## Geometry

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra II; 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 II

Prerequisites: An average of at least an “A” in Algebra I with Department and Administration approval, or a consistent “B” in Honors Algebra I with current teacher approval. Placement may be based on standardized testing and teacher recommendation.

This course reviews and extends concepts begun in Honors Algebra I. 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 I has an option of completing Honors Geometry and Honors Algebra II in her Sophomore year.

## Algebra II

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra I; 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

Prerequisites: An average of at least an “A” in Algebra II and Geometry with Department and Administration approval, or a “B” in Honors Algebra II and Honors Geometry 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. The course also provides a credit and personal finance supplement.

## Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra II and Geometry and current teacher approval.

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. The course also provides a credit and personal finance supplement.

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 in her Senior year.

## Honors Calculus

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Honors Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry with current teacher approval or Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry with Department and Administration approval.

This course is intended for students who have completed Honors Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry, but whose foundation is not as strong as needed for success in AP Calculus. Through the use of technology, as well as analytic methods, this course deals with the foundations of Calculus and its applications, especially those applications concerned with business and the biological and social sciences. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will have the necessary background to succeed in Calculus at the college level.

## AP Calculus AB (Class size is limited.)

Prerequisites: A consistent “A” average in Honors Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry, teacher recommendation, and Department approval.

This course is intended for students who have completed Honors Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry. It covers an Advanced 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.

## **AP Calculus BC** (Class size is limited.)

Prerequisites: Completion of AP Calculus AB and Department approval.

This course is intended for students who have completed AP Calculus AB. It covers an Advanced Placement Syllabus, and presents a treatment of functions, derivatives, and their applications, integration, and the concepts of limits and continuity. Additionally, the concepts of sequences and series are introduced as well as calculus on polar, parametric and vector functions. 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 II or higher, or an average of at least a “C+” in Honors Algebra II or higher, with Department approval.

This course is intended as an elective. The course develops 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.

## **AP Statistics** (Class size is limited)

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing; “A-” in Honors Algebra II or higher, or “A” in Algebra II or higher, with Department approval.

This course is intended as an elective. The course covers the AP Statistics syllabus, as approved by the College Board, and introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing and drawing conclusions from data. Exploring data, sampling and experimentation, anticipating patterns, and applying statistical inferences are emphasized. Taking the AP Test is a requirement for this course.

## **Honors Advanced Mathematical Studies**

Prerequisites: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing; currently enrolled in Algebra II or a higher mathematics course; Department approval is required. Class size is limited to one class.

This course is an elective intended to provide students with exposure to a variety of key concepts, methods, and skills in mathematics with particular emphasis on: calculus, statistics, probability, logic, number theory, coding, and history of mathematics. The course is designed to be an overview of college level mathematics courses. This course is considered Honors due to the abundance of topics. Quarters will have a focus on one key content area: Calculus and Coding; Probability, Logic, and Number Theory; Statistics; History of Mathematics.



# Science

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. The exceptional student may have the opportunity to take a maximum of two sciences concurrently in Junior and/or Senior year with teacher recommendation.

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.

## Honors Biology

Prerequisites: Freshman standing. 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.

## Biology

Prerequisites: Freshman standing. Freshman placement is based on entrance exam.

This course is devoted to the study of living things and their processes. The course provides students with an opportunity to develop scientific skills, laboratory techniques, and an understanding of the fundamental principles of living organisms. Study and laboratory investigations are inquiry-based. Critical thinking skills will be encouraged and developed. Topics include ecology, structure and chemistry of the cell, cellular transport, genetics, evolution, and human body systems.

## Honors Chemistry

Prerequisites: Grade of "B+" or above in Honors Biology, or a grade of "A" in Academic Biology, and currently enrolled in Honors level mathematics.

Rich and diverse laboratory experiences and group activities are 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.

## Chemistry

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing.

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 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 Physics

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

In this laboratory-based course, students will experience an in-depth, mathematically-oriented description of kinematics, energy, heat, light, electricity, and magnetism. Students learn the basic motions of the universe and the equations that describe them. Experiments will be performed which include interpretation of the results, observations, and activities which involve the assessment of experimental errors and uncertainties. This course is designed for the student who excels in mathematics and has a deep interest in scientific methods and pertinent experimental investigations.

## Conceptual Physics

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing.

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 Human Anatomy and Physiology (Class size is limited.)

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing; a “B+” or above in Honors Biology and Honors Chemistry, or “A” in Academic Biology and Academic Chemistry. Department Chair and Human Anatomy teacher approvals are required.

This course is designed to provide the student with an in-depth study of human anatomy and physiology. The relationship between form and function is stressed throughout the entire course. Students will be expected to apply general information in clinical case studies. Laboratory experiences are emphasized and will include mandatory dissections.

## Earth and Environmental Science

Prerequisites: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing; Successful completion of Biology.

In this course, students will develop an appreciation for the Earth while also examining the basic principles of Environmental Science. The course is designed to give the student a scientific understanding of these principles, as well as the ability to gather scientific data and solve problems creatively with critical reasoning skills. This course will also offer hands-on laboratory experiences. Topics include: earth processes, oceanography, ecology, protection and conservation of wildlife, rocks and minerals, energy resources, pollution, nuclear power, waste disposal, biological engineering, medical research, and other similar topics.

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

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing; an average grade of “B” or higher in Biology and Chemistry; Forensic Science teacher approval is required.

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.

## Introduction to Nutrition

Prerequisites: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing; an average “B” or higher in Biology

This is an academic level class that introduces the role of nutrition in human health. By the end of this course, students will be able to describe the major classes of energy-yielding nutrients (carbohydrates, protein, and lipids), identify the functions of vitamins and minerals, and use food and nutrition labels to evaluate nutrition products for composition and quality. This course will also discuss food advertising, nutrition and disease, and establishing a healthy lifestyle.

## Medical Sciences

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing; an average “B” or higher in Biology

This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of medical careers as they develop the basic skills required in all health and medical sciences. Students will learn terminology, anatomy and physiology, pathologies, diagnostic and clinical procedures, therapeutic interventions, and the fundamentals of medical emergency care.

## 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 Villa Joseph Marie Science Fair is held in early March. Students are expected to exhibit their projects at both the Villa Science Fair and the Bucks County Science Fair, which is usually held during the second week in March. Students who win awards at the Bucks County Science Fair are expected to also compete at the Delaware Valley Science Fair in April.

All assessment is performance-based. The grade received does not depend upon the awards earned at the various Science Fairs. Rather, it is based upon meeting all of the deadlines and producing a scientifically valid data book, research paper, abstract, and poster. Once a student makes a commitment to participate, she is expected to meet all obligations to produce a viable project. A drop-out date will be determined at the beginning of the year. If, for any reason, a student decides not to participate, the mentor teacher must be notified in writing, and parents must also sign-off that the student is “dropping out.” If a student drops out after this date, or does not produce a viable project, the student will unfortunately receive a failing grade for the course.

Students receive .2 credit – course is graded with a pass/fail system (grade will be included in Final Report Card grades).

# STEM /Computer Science

**Note:** STEM/Computer Science courses are weighted as Honors courses.

## **Intro to Engineering and Design (IED)**

Prerequisite: Sophomore, Junior or Senior standing.

Students dig deep into the engineering design process, applying math, science, and engineering standards to hands-on projects. They work both individually and in teams to design solutions to a variety of problems using 3D modeling software, and use an engineering notebook to document their work.

## **Aerospace Engineering**

Prerequisite: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior Standing; and Science Department Chair Approval.

Students explore the physics of flight and bring what they're learning to life through hands-on projects like designing a glider and creating a program for an autonomous space rover.

## **Civil Engineering and Architecture**

Prerequisite: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior Standing; Enrolled in Pre-calculus or Complete Pre-calculus, and Science Department Chair Approval.

Students learn important aspects of building and site design and development, and then they apply what they know to design a commercial building.

## **Computer Science Principles**

Prerequisite: Sophomore, Junior or Senior standing

Using Python® as a primary tool, students develop the in-demand computer science skills critical to thrive in any of today's and tomorrow's careers. This course promotes computational thinking and coding fundamentals and introduces computational tools that foster creativity. It aims to build students' awareness of the tremendous demand for computer scientists and those who have computational thinking skills, and engages students to consider issues raised by the impact of computing on society. Each unit also focuses on one or more computer science-specific career paths.

# AP Sciences

The Villa Joseph Marie Science Department is proud to offer 6 AP level Science courses. Each course has its own specific prerequisites. A student who has an interest in one of these courses should express that interest to the AP teacher of record to determine her 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 both Honors Biology and Honors Chemistry, or an “A” in both Academic Biology and Academic Chemistry; a GPA of 4.0 or better in all Science classes. AP Biology teacher approval is required. Science Department Chair Approval.

This class meets 8 periods per week.

This course is designed to provide students with a solid foundation in an introductory college-level Biology course. The focus of the class is to demonstrate how topics and chapters dealing with cells, cellular energetics, molecular genetics, organismal similarity and diversity, regulation, continuity and change, interdependency in nature, technology and evolutionary biology fit into the four “big ideas” as identified in the College Board AP Biology curriculum.

Critical thinking skills will be emphasized. Multiple laboratory investigations, with inquiry as their focus, are included as part of the program. Successful completion of the course will prepare the student for the Advanced Placement Biology exam.

## AP Chemistry

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing; a grade of “B+” or above in Honors Chemistry or an “A” in Academic Chemistry; a grade of “B+” or above in current Honors level mathematics; a GPA of 4.0 or better in all Science classes. Department Chair Approval..

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 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; a GPA of 4.0 or better in all Science classes. Science Department Chair Approval.

This class meets 7 periods per 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 1

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing; a grade of “A” in Honors Algebra 2 with Pre-Calculus being taken concurrently, or an “A” in Pre-Calculus; a GPA of 4.0 or better in all Science classes. Department Chair Approval.

This class meets 5 periods per week.

This course is Algebra-based, and is the equivalent to a first-semester college course in Algebra-based Physics. The course covers Newtonian mechanics (including rotational dynamics and angular momentum); work, energy, and power; and mechanical waves and sound. It will also introduce electric circuits.

## AP Physics 2

Prerequisites: “B+” in AP Physics 1.

This class meets 5 periods per week.

This course is Algebra-based, and is the equivalent to a second-semester college course in Algebra-based Physics. The course covers fluid mechanics; thermodynamics; electricity and magnetism; optics; and atomic and nuclear physics.



## AP Physics C

Prerequisites: Senior standing; a grade of “A” in Honors Physics; a grade of “B+” or above in Pre-Calculus with AP or Honors Calculus concurrent; a GPA of 4.0 or better in all Science classes. Science Department Chair Approval.

This course meets 8 periods per week.

This course ordinarily forms the first part of the college sequence that serves as the foundation in physics for students majoring in the physical sciences or engineering. The sequence is parallel to or preceded by mathematics courses that include calculus. Methods of calculus are used wherever appropriate in formulating physical principles and in applying them to physical problems. The sequence is more intensive and analytic than that in the B course. Strong emphasis is placed on solving a variety of challenging problems, some requiring calculus. The subject matter of the C course is principally mechanics and electricity and magnetism, with approximately equal emphasis on these two areas. The C course is the first part of a sequence which in college is sometimes a very intensive one-year course, but often extends over one and one-half to two years, with a laboratory component.

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# Social Studies

Social Studies is the integrated study of human society and its contribution, influence, and impact on the world. There are many content areas which combine to create the overarching concept of Social Studies. Villa Joseph Marie High School has delineated the disciplines and developed academic standards in the Social Studies areas to be history, civics and government, economics, geography, and student interpersonal and historical thinking skills. Students are required to complete one year of World History and two years of American Civilizations (at either the academic, accelerated, and/or Advanced Placement levels). These courses encompass history, government, and civics education, which fulfills the PA requirements. Additional elective courses are offered to foster deeper understanding of the Social Studies standards.

## World History

Prerequisites: Freshman standing. Freshman placement is based on entrance exam.

This course provides students with the knowledge of the origins of civilizations and the systematic growth and developments of humanity. The course combines the various disciplines of history including geography, archeology, anthropology, economics, and political science to foster the advancement of reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. Topics studied range from the emergence of Indo-European Ancient Civilizations to modernity including: Ancient Mesopotamia, African civilization, Dynastic China, the Middle East, Rise and Fall of Rome, Christianity, the European Dark Ages through Enlightenment, the French Revolution, The Great War, World War II, and the Cold War.

**Note:** All Academic World History, American Civilization I, and Accelerated Civilization I students will participate in a research project through National History Day (NHD). NHD offers year-long academic programs that engage over half a million middle and high school students around the world annually in conducting original research on historical topics of interest.

## AP World History (class size limited)

Prerequisites: Freshman standing. Freshman placement is based on entrance exam.

This course is an introductory college level modern world history course. Students cultivate their understanding of world history from c. 1200 CE to the present through analyzing historical sources and learning to make connections and craft historical arguments as they explore concepts like humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organizations, and technology and innovation. Students will be expected to fully meet the challenge of the course's rigorous pace in terms of readings, the writing of analytical essays, projects, and intense examination. Course work should be expected over the summer and also over holiday breaks. Review of primary and secondary resources, such as documents, maps, charts, and outside readings, are required and will add to the understanding of aforementioned themes. The AP World History Exam is required.

## American Civilization I

Prerequisites: Sophomore or Junior standing.

This course is designed for students to build real-world and college skill through examining the political, civic, social, and economic development of our nation. The purpose and function of democratic principles are emphasized. Through the analysis of historical events and trends from the colonization of America to the end of Reconstruction, students will read, research, and debate topics relevant to modern day America.

**Note:** NHD is a requirement of this course.

## American Civilization II

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior Standing; successful Completion of American Civilization I.

This course is designed for students to build real-world and college skill through examining the political, civic, social, and economic development of our nation. The purpose and function of democratic principles are emphasized. Through the analysis of historical events and trends from the Gilded Age of American Industry to the present day students will read, research, and debate topics relevant to modern day America. This course is a continuation of American Civilization I and cannot be taken out of sequence.

## Accelerated American Civilization I (Class size limited)

Prerequisites: Sophomore or Junior standing; Department recommendation required (factors to be considered include overall GPA, success in previous Social Studies courses, and expressed student interest).

This course is designed for students who can master advanced reading in American History with an emphasis on critical thinking through writing. It presents economic, social, and political history through the analysis of historical event and trends from the colonization of America to the end of Reconstruction.

**Note:** NHD is a requirement of this course.

## **AP United States History** (Class size is limited.)

**Prerequisites:** Junior or Senior standing; successful completion of Accelerated American Civilization I; Department recommendation required (factors to be considered include overall GPA, success in previous Social Studies courses, and expressed student interest)..

AP United States 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 pre-Discovery to the present with full attention paid to the critical analysis of the various social, political, cultural, economic, and religious themes that shaped the United States we know today. This course begins with a brief review of content covered in Accelerated American Civilization I. Students will be expected to fully meet the challenge of the course's rigorous pace in terms of readings, the writing of analytical essays, projects, and intense examination. Course work should be expected over the summer and also over holiday breaks. Review of primary and secondary resources, such as documents, maps, charts, and outside readings, are required and will add to the understanding of the aforementioned themes. The AP United States History Exam is required.

## **AP Human Geography** (Class size is limited.)

**Prerequisites:** Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing; Department recommendation required (factors to be considered include overall GPA, success in previous Social Studies courses, and expressed student interest).

AP Human Geography is the study of the complex reasons for human movement over time. Content is presented thematically and is organized around the discipline's main subfields: cultural, economic, political, and urban geography. Case studies are drawn from all world regions, with an emphasis on understanding the world in which we live today. Historical information serves to enrich analysis of the impacts of phenomena such as globalization, colonialism, and human-environment relationships on places, regions, cultural landscapes, and patterns of interaction. Students will be expected to fully meet the challenge of the course's rigorous, college-level pace in terms of papers, projects, and intense examination. Course work should be expected over the summer and also over holiday breaks. The AP Human Geography Exam is required.

## **“Reel” History**

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing.

Do you love history? Do you love movies? Then this is the course for you! We will explore a series of popular films that depict modern American history beginning with World War II and moving all the way to the present day. Topics include, but are not limited to, WWII, the Civil Rights Movement, Cold War politics, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and 9/11. Throughout the course, our focus will remain squarely targeted on three related questions:

- 1) How accurate is the historical interpretation presented in each film?
- 2) Why did each filmmaker choose to present his or her story in the way that was selected?
- 3) What does each film tell us about the era and environment in which it was created?

Before viewing each film, you will be trained to read, write, discuss, and research like a historian (using both primary and secondary sources) so that you can critique each movie in a meaningful manner. The course has a strong emphasis on historical writing and discussion; be prepared to speak your mind both on paper and in person. The year-long essential question will be – *Can we trust Hollywood with history?*

## **AP Government and Politics**

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing; Department recommendation required (factors to be considered include overall GPA, success in previous Social Studies courses, and expressed student interest).

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. Course work should be expected over the summer and during holiday breaks. The activities, readings, debates and presentations will provide preparation for the required AP Test.

## **Economics**

Prerequisites: Sophomore, Junior or Senior standing.

This course is designed to help students become more informed about our economy and the economic decisions made at the individual, corporate, and government levels. Students will develop an increased awareness of economics that includes the basic theories and terminology integrated into both the micro and macroeconomic disciplines. Skills developed in this course include graph interpretation and simple mathematical relationships through a variety of assignments to apply their understanding of economics to real-world economic issues.

## Introduction to Psychology

Prerequisites: Senior standing.

Psychology is the study of behavior and mental processes. This course, which is highly discussion-based, will lead students to answer the question: “Why do people behave as they do?” This course will introduce students to the scientific study of psychology by focusing on the following topics: approaches to psychology, neurons and the brain, development, motivation/emotion, personality, consciousness, learning/cognition, memory, stress, social psychology, as well as mental illness and treatment. The curriculum mirrors that of an introductory level psychology course often required of first-year college students.

## AP Psychology

Prerequisites: Senior standing; Department recommendation required (factors to be considered include overall GPA, success in previous Social Studies courses, and expressed student interest).

Psychology is the study of behavior and mental processes. This course will lead students to answer the question: “*Why do people behave as they do?*” 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. Discussion, writing, independent study and critical thinking skills will be emphasized. Course work should be expected over the summer and during holiday breaks. Taking the AP Exam is a course requirement.

# World Language

Villa Joseph Marie offers four years of French, Latin, Spanish. The third and fourth years of each of the respective languages are Honors courses. 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's World Language Honors 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.

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 21st 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 I

Prerequisites: 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 music and film clips.

## French II

Prerequisites: French I 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 communication skills through vocabulary expansion, more advanced grammatical concepts, as well as continued oral/aural practice to improve fluency. 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 Francophone world. Level-appropriate literary excerpts and film clips will enhance students' ongoing mastery of French.



## Honors French III

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation, an average of “B” or higher in French 2, 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. The majority of class is 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.

## Honors French IV

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation, an average of “B” or higher in French 3 honors, and satisfactory results in Department testing.

This course is an 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.

## AP French Language and Culture:

Prerequisites: Prospective students must have an average of “B” or higher in French 4 (Honors), a cumulative GPA of 3.7 or higher, and teacher recommendation.

This course concludes the five-year sequence of French Language and Culture courses offered. It is conducted entirely in French, offering students opportunities to demonstrate their proficiency across the modes of communication: interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational. All students will broaden their knowledge of the various cultures that comprise the French-speaking world through the thematic approach of this course.

Students agree to meet the course’s rigorous, college-level pace in terms of exercises in intensive speaking, listening, and writing in French. Course work is to be expected over the summer and over holiday breaks.

**All students are required to take the AP French Language and Culture exam.**

### **Honors Italian III**

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation; an average of “B” or higher in the previous language course

This course will help students develop proficiency in the Italian language through the four basic language skills. This course will also further students’ understanding of the Italian culture. This course is conducted primarily in Italian. Students will give oral presentations, read short stories, and complete critical thinking writing assignments in Italian. Students will learn more complex verb tenses in order to promote fluency.

### **Honors Italian IV**

Prerequisites: An average of “B” or higher in the previous language course, teacher recommendation, and satisfactory results in Department testing

This course is a more accelerated study of the language, which asks students to review all the skills learned in Italian I, II, and III and apply them to more involved and longer listening, speaking, reading, and writing communication tasks. Students will also continue to deepen their knowledge of Italian culture, heritage, and arts through the study of authentic texts, videos, and films. This intensive course is conducted primarily in Italian.

### **AP Italian**

Prerequisites: An average of “B” or higher in Honors Italian 4, OR an “A-” average or higher in Honors Italian 3, a cumulative GPA of 3.7 or higher, AND teacher recommendation.

This course completes the sequence of Italian Language and Culture courses offered. It is conducted entirely in Italian, offering students opportunities to demonstrate their proficiency across the modes of communication: interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational. All students will broaden their knowledge of the various cultures and traditions that exist in present-day Italy through the thematic approach of this course. Students agree to meet the courses rigorous, college-level pace in terms of exercises in intensive speaking, listening, and writing in Italian. Course work is to be expected over the summer and over holiday breaks. All students are required to take the AP Italian Language and Culture exam.

### **Latin I**

Prerequisites: None

First Year Latin prepares students for reading, translating, and writing elementary Classical Latin. Emphasis is placed on vocabulary acquisition and the application of grammar and syntax in translation. There is a basic, oral component to the course involving simple commands and question/response for classroom and social settings. A broad outline of Roman history is covered with an eye toward the influence of Rome on the modern world. An introduction to the social and cultural nature of Rome provides a framework for the study of the language. Roman mythology is also used to explain the nature of the civilization. Upon successful completion of this course, the student is ready to begin Latin 2 the following year.

## Latin II

Prerequisites: Latin I or Department testing

Second Year Latin builds on the skills learned in Latin 1. Emphasis is placed on applying grammar in syntax to the translation of specific Latin authors. Students at this level are reading, analyzing, and translating intermediate passages and adapted writings from Roman authors such as Caesar, Ovid, Livy, and Plautus. Oral proficiency in simple conversation is also a component of this course. Political developments around the end of the Republic are studied to provide context for the translation passages. This will help the students develop the skills necessary to translate the many different genres of Latin literature and determine how they fit into the culture and heritage of Rome.

## Honors Latin III

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation, Department approval, an average of “B” or higher in the previous language course.

Latin 3 Honors provides a complete and thorough review of the grammar and syntax of the previous two years of study. Students are heavily immersed in the writings of Cicero, Sallust, Pliny the Younger, and Ovid. A portion of the course is also dedicated to the study of Post-Classical Latin. Students begin to study the passages not just for translation skills, but also to analyze style and literary techniques used by the authors. Author biographies and English supplements further expand the student’s comprehension of the works. The student will develop a thorough knowledge of Latin grammar. This will allow her to critique the passages as well as translate them.

## AP Latin IV

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation, Department approval, an average of “B” or higher in the previous language course and a cumulative GPA of 3.7 or higher.

Advanced Placement Latin 4 is the study of two major authors of Latin literature: Vergil and Caesar. This is in preparation for taking the Advanced Placement Latin Test. The translation of the language is now complemented by an analysis of the style, symbolism, and historic context of the literature. The importance of these authors and their influence on the Roman Empire and the world is considered. Critiques and scholarly dissertations are included to enrich the study of the subject matter.

## Latin V: Advanced Latin Literature: On the Nature of Friendship

Prerequisite: Completion of Latin 4 with a “B” average or higher or instructor approval.

This course will examine the definition and nature of personal and political friendship in Rome. Students will start with various philosophic treatises on the nature of friendship. We will then use Cicero’s *De Amicitia*, works by the lyricists Horace and Catullus, and epigrams from Martial to illuminate the Roman attitude toward the nature and value of friendship. Readings from Seneca and Livy will illuminate the Roman attitude toward personal and professional friendship and other social affiliations.

## **Spanish I**

Prerequisites: 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, are based on common situations and help students become proficient in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

## **Spanish II**

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish I or Department testing.

This course is designed to enhance the four basic language skills by stressing grammatical principles and focusing on the development of speaking fluency and vocabulary. Students will improve their basic reading, writing and conversational abilities with the active use of the language in the four areas of language development: listening comprehension, speaking expression, reading, and writing.

## **Spanish III**

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish II and teacher recommendation.

This Spanish III 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.

## **Honors Spanish III**

Prerequisites: An average of “B” or higher in the Spanish II 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 speaking 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, but new grammar topics will be explained in English.

## **Honors Spanish IV**

Prerequisites: An average of “B” or higher in the Honors Spanish III 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 students’ identity as citizens of the world. Students will thoroughly review the grammar from previous years of study, and read and discuss a short story while developing their writing skills. Lectures will also provide a survey of Hispanic culture including art, music, geography, sports, literature, and daily life. This course is extremely writing-intensive, and is conducted in Spanish.

## **AP Spanish Language and Culture**

Prerequisites: An average of “B” or higher in Spanish IV (Honors), a cumulative GPA of 3.7 or higher, and teacher recommendation.

This course concludes the five-year sequence of Spanish Language and Culture courses offered. It is conducted entirely in Spanish, offering students opportunities to demonstrate their proficiency across the modes of communication: interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational. All students will broaden their knowledge of the various cultures that comprise the Spanish-speaking world through the thematic approach of this course. All students are required to take the AP Spanish Language and Culture exam.

# Academic Strategies

Prerequisites: Documented learning difference; Transcend Program approval\*\*.

Students taking this course meet 5 times weekly for a full year – students receive .5 credit.

Students participating in the Transcend Program are enrolled in the Academic Strategies course which is designed as a supplemental, academic support for students with a documented learning difference. The goal of the course is to provide a structured, research-driven approach to strategy development within the rigors of the Villa curriculum. At each grade level (Freshman thru Senior), students will learn to identify and develop their learning strengths, compensate for their learning needs, and maximize their academic potential. The use of academic coaching, coupled with direct instruction in effective learning techniques (such as textbook reading; study skills, organizational skills) is the hallmark of the Academic Strategies class.

Students meet with a learning specialist daily in a ratio of two to one. Those who are newly identified with learning differences/attentional needs or who need a more structured support to succeed are welcome to apply to the Transcend Program at any time. If accepted and space is available, students will be recommended for the appropriate Academic Strategies course. Techniques that will help the student succeed in an academic setting are the focus of her learning.

**\*\*NOTE:** There is an additional fee required for students enrolled in the Transcend Program.

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

\*Full-year course in conjunction with Freshman Seminar – students receive .6 credit for this course.

## Freshman Art \*

Prerequisites: Freshman standing.

This course 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 and will be given opportunities to critique and discuss their personal thoughts about works of art. The emphasis is placed on gaining knowledge through studio activity.

Full-year course in conjunction with Freshman Seminar – students receive .6 credit for this course.

## Freshman Art Portfolio \*

Prerequisites: Freshman standing; with department approval.

This course is an advanced entry level art course offered to students who have received an Art Scholarship. The course is intended to meet the foundation and prerequisite requirement for all elective courses in Art. As in Basic Art, the student is presented with aspects of *art history*, covering major periods of art as well as master artists. In combination with their hands-on studies, the student will gain a sense of the visual developments in the history of art leading up to the modern era. Independent work at home or in the art studio is a necessary component for the student to meet the course requirements.

## Freshman Instrumental Music Theory \*

Prerequisites: Freshman standing.

This course is open to students who play, or would like to begin playing\*, a musical instrument (guitar, horn, piano and orchestra instruments). Instrumental books will be provided for each instrument chosen. Music theory books will also be provided. Students will be instructed in the proper playing method for their instrument. Music theory concepts will be taught (analysis of written music, sight reading, etc.). Monthly tests (written and performance) will be given.

Students in this class will be expected to rehearse once a month with the school band as an extra practice. All members must perform with the band/orchestra at all scheduled school assemblies and activities as well as all evening concerts.

- *An instrument will be provided for students who do not have prior experience.*



## **Freshman Chorus \***

Prerequisites: Freshman standing.

This course focuses on the development of musical concepts as related to choral singing. Stress is placed on vocal technique, etiquette, and music theory. Interested students may audition for All Catholic or All County Chorus.

## **Freshman Drama\***

Prerequisites: Freshman standing.

This course touches lightly on a wide range of academic and practical aspects of acting, theatre history, and theatre 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 theatre history.

## **Basic Art—Level One Fine Arts Elective** (Class size is limited.)

Prerequisites: 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. Students are expected to bring an open mind toward the study of art and are not required to have any previous experience. 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—Level Two Fine Arts Elective** (Class size is limited.)

Prerequisites: 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. 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.

## **2-Dimensional Design—Level Two Fine Arts Elective** (Class size is limited.)

Prerequisites: Basic Art; Junior or Senior standing.

This course explores concepts of 2-Dimensional design through assigned projects. Methods and history of basic printmaking techniques, such as block and screen printing, will be used to develop 2D design skills. Projects will include hands on, as well as photography and digitally based designs using Adobe Photoshop. This course will also focus on further developing students' drawing and painting skills. Emphasis will be on application of the elements of art and design principles to create designs and works of art. Experimentation and problem solving are the foundation of this course. This is an excellent project based course to explore possibilities for students taking or considering taking AP Art.

Class meets 5 times weekly for a full year.

## **3-Dimensional Design—Level Two Fine Arts Elective** (Class size is limited.)

Prerequisites: Basic Art; Junior or Senior standing.

This course explores the study of 3-Dimensional form, while continuing to build upon drawing and painting skills. This project based class explores 3D problem solving through materials such as clay, plaster, and a variety of mixed media. Students will explore form building, using casting methods as well as armature and coil based sculpture. Emphasis will be on application of the elements of art and design principles to create designs and works of art. This is an excellent, project based course to explore possibilities for students taking or considering taking AP Art.

Class meets 5 times weekly for a full year.

## **Commercial Art/Design—Level Two Fine Arts Elective** (Class size is limited.)

Prerequisites: Basic Art; Junior or Senior standing.

Commercial artists and graphic designers shape our visual environment through the experimentation and use of image, form and typography. Students will learn to decipher, create and express themselves through visual images. Project, hands-on, and technology based learning includes advertising, posters, package design, and illustration. Students will explore color theory, imaging techniques, photography and digital imaging using Adobe InDesign, Photoshop, and Illustrator software. Upon successful completion of the course, the student will receive one credit.

Class meets 5 times weekly for a full year.

## **Drawing & Painting 2/Mixed Media—Level Three Fine Arts Elective**

(Class size is limited.)

Prerequisites: Basic Art and Drawing & Painting; 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—Level Three Fine Arts Elective** (Class size is limited.)

Prerequisites: Basic Art; Completion of a Level 2 Class; Teacher approval (portfolio-based).

Additionally students are encouraged to take an advanced level art course in order to assure completion of the rigorous AP curriculum, i.e., Drawing & Painting 2; 2- or 3-Dimensional Design.

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.

**NOTE: Students will need to purchase a portfolio for this class.**

Class meets 5 times weekly for a full year.

## **Advanced Art: Open Studio—Level Three Fine Arts Elective**

Prerequisites: Basic Art; Completion of a Level 2 Class; Teacher approval (portfolio-based).

This course is designed as a standalone, advanced level exploration of studio art. It is also intended as an optional support class for students taking AP Portfolio, or those wishing to create a Portfolio for college applications.

Students will create works from life for portfolio purposes. Each student will have the opportunity to explore media of their choice on a more in-depth level, with instructor guidance. Additionally, students will be encouraged to follow individual interests in subject matter and style; thereby developing a sense of their own visual voice, evident in their final portfolio of works.

**NOTE: Students will need to purchase a portfolio for this class.**

Class meets 5 times weekly for a full year.

## Dance

Prerequisites: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing.

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 – students receive .6 credit.

## Drama

Prerequisites: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing.

This course touches lightly on a wide range of academic and practical aspects of acting, theatre history, and theatre 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 theatre history.

Class meets 5 times weekly for a full year.

## Theatre Tech Practicum

Prerequisites: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing.

Students enrolled in this course will gain practical, hands-on experience in all technical areas of theatre both in the classroom setting and for Villa's stage productions including, but not limited to: scenic design and carpentry, construction, and painting techniques; properties design and construction; costume design, pulling and alterations; lighting equipment and electronics; sound design and equipment. Students will also gain insight and experience in the area of stage management.

Class meets 5 times weekly for a full year.

## Chorus 10-12

Prerequisites: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing.

This 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. Students will also be introduced to basic music theory and composition. Choral members will participate in outside performances throughout the year in addition to providing a choral group for Villa's liturgies and major functions. Interested students may audition for All Catholic or All County Chorus.

Class meets 5 times weekly for a full year. Students receive 1 full credit.

## **Band/Orchestra/Instrumental**

Prerequisites: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing

Course is open to all students interested in participating in instrumental groups. Class will be during school hours. Students will be responsible for learning the appropriate scales for the instrument, and songs for the instrumental group. Students will be required to attend 2 extra morning group practices per semester. Must participate in all Christmas and Spring concerts. Instruments can be provided.

## **Music Theory—Vocal (Elective)**

Prerequisites: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing.

This course aims to provide students with an understanding of the building blocks of music. Concepts covered in this course include notation, study of the piano keyboard, circle of 5ths, major and minor scales, intervals of the chromatic scale, major/minor triads, and basic chord progressions. Activities will include writing music, sight-reading, aural analysis of melodies, intervals and chords, visual analysis of intervals, chords and chord progressions, and playing scales, intervals and simple chords on the piano.

Class meets 5 times weekly for a full year.

## **Music Theory—Instrumental**

Prerequisites: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing.

This course is open to Sophomores, Juniors, or Seniors who play, or would like to begin playing\*, a musical instrument (guitar, horn, piano and orchestra instruments). Instrumental books will be provided for each instrument chosen. Music theory books will also be provided. Students will be instructed in the proper playing method for their instrument. Music theory concepts will be taught (analysis of written music, sight reading, etc.). Monthly tests (written and performance) will be given.

Students in this class will be expected to rehearse once a month with the school band as an extra practice. All members must perform with the band/orchestra at all scheduled school assemblies and activities as well as all evening concerts.

*\* An instrument will be provided for students who do not have prior experience.*

Class meets 3 times weekly for a full year – students receive .6 credit.

## **Musical Theatre**

Prerequisites: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing

The Musical Theatre class will be an exploration of American Musical Theatre. Students will study the work of the actor/singer/dancer and use their gained knowledge to develop as performers. Students will prepare and present as soloists, as well as participate in small group performances and larger ensembles. Since this is a workshop course, students will prepare material for class presentation and critique. There will also be a focus on the audition process, as well as musical theater history and repertoire. Finally, the class may participate in a culminating showcase performance at the end of the year.

## **AP Music Theory**

Prerequisites: Junior or Senior standing; successful completion of Vocal or Instrumental Music Theory OR a passing score on the course placement test; Teacher approval.

This elective course is primarily designed for those students in grades 11-12 who have completed a Music Theory course and want to further their studies in music. Studies of the processes of music performance, composition, and analysis will be included. The course will focus on the development of complex aural skills, skills in written analysis of functional harmony, sight singing techniques, musical composition skills, keyboard skills, and understanding musical form and history. Instrumental or vocal arrangements will be performed for analysis. All students enrolled in this AP course will be required to take the AP Music Theory Examination.

Class meets 5 times weekly for a full year.

## **Lessons—Band**

Prerequisites: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing.

Individual lessons will be offered in addition to instrumental class. Instrumental students will work on instrumental development, sight-reading, music theory and appreciation of solo literature on a more advanced level than the Instrumental class.

Class meets 1 time weekly for a full year – students receive .2 credit.

## **Lessons—Voice**

Prerequisites: Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing.

Individual lessons will be offered opposite the Chorus class. Voice students will work on vocal development, sight-reading, music theory and appreciation of solo literature on a more advanced level than the Chorus class.

Class meets 1 time weekly for a full year – students receive .2 credit.

## **Instrumental (Electives)**

### **Band Class**

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

This class meets weekly on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings (7 to 7:50 a.m.). Instrumental instruction (private lessons) will be required twice weekly during lunch periods. Extra band practice will be held either after school or on a weekend. Students must be present for all performances.

Students receive .5 credit – course is graded with a pass/fail system.

### **Drumline Class**

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

This class meets weekly on Monday mornings (7 to 7:50 a.m.). In addition, one weekly private instrumental lesson will be given during a lunch period. Extra practice will be held either after school or on a weekend. Students must be present for all performances.

Students receive .2 credit – course is graded with a pass/fail system.

### **Guitar Class**

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

This class meets weekly on Thursday mornings (7 to 7:50 a.m.). In addition, one weekly private instrumental lesson will be given during a lunch period. Extra practice will be held either after school or on a weekend. Students must be present for all performances.

Students receive .2 credit – course is graded with a pass/fail system.

### **Orchestra Class**

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

This class meets weekly on Friday mornings (7 to 7:50 a.m.). In addition, one weekly private instrumental lesson will be given during a lunch period. Extra practice will be held either after school or on a weekend. Students must be present for all performances.

Students receive .2 credit – course is graded with a pass/fail system.



# Freshman Seminar

## Freshman Seminar

Prerequisites: This is a required course for all Freshmen.

This unique enrichment course for Freshmen has been created with the supposition that academic success and personal growth can be fostered in a group setting. To this end, students will be mentored in several areas including, but not limited to: study and test-taking skills, organizational skills, presentation skills, leadership skills, and Christian citizenship skills. Students will be introduced to Villa's network systems, network file and print sharing, data storage options, Wi-Fi capabilities, and CANVAS. Concepts in computer applications associated with styling/structure of a research paper, spreadsheet management, and charting applications will also be discussed. Classroom time will be used not only to teach the aforementioned skill areas, but also to provide time for practicing the skills gained. Regular attendance and class participation are absolutely essential. *This class will be graded with a pass/fail system.*

This class meets two times weekly for a full year – students receive .4 credit. The course is taken in conjunction with Freshman Art, Freshman Art Portfolio, Freshman Chorus, or Freshman Instrumental Music Theory.

# Leadership/Internship

## Leadership Course

**Prerequisites:** Junior and Senior Standing. Enrollment is limited. Approval process for this course requires an application and signature from Mrs. Flynn Hensel. **Please note:** This course may only be available on an alternating year rotation beginning in the 2024-25 school year and may not be available for seniors in that school year.

**Note:** This course is weighted as an Honors course.

This course will provide students the opportunity to develop and practice leadership skills through real-world learning and engagement, most notably through guest Alumnae speakers and mentors, community businesswomen, as well as a partnership with the Travis Manion Foundation's Character Development Program. The goal of the course is for students to develop self-awareness and increasing mastery of their leadership gifts through practice and reflection. Not only will it give them a competitive advantage in school and life, but it will empower them to become moral leaders who advance the Casimir core values of community, stewardship, spirituality and mission.

In this class, students will actively engage in authentic learning opportunities, both in school and out. They will participate in a variety of school initiatives, and identify and complete a service project, mentorship, and/or internship with a local or regional business/organization in an area of their interest. This course will include opportunities for introspection, team building, and study of historic and modern-day leaders. Attention will focus on building skills in the following areas: communication, organization, managerial skills, character development, goal-setting, decision-making, group process, conflict resolution, public speaking, and personal growth through feedback and reflection.