

St. John Paul II Catholic High School



Course Catalog 2020-2021

Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama

All courses listed in this catalog follow the Alabama State Department of Education Course of Study curriculum standards and the published standards of the Diocese of Birmingham and incorporate the Cardinal Newman Society's Catholic Curricular Standards.

Revised Jan. 27, 2020



The Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama

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* Course offerings listed in this catalog should meet a minimum enrollment requirement of 10 students. Course offerings that do not meet the minimum enrollment may be subject to removal at the discretion of the Headmaster.

Introduction

Welcome Statement

We extend a warm welcome to each student and family of the St. John Paul II Catholic High School community. Each family brings unique personal qualities to our school. As students, parents, and school staff, we must work together to blend these qualities into a thriving Christian community. In choosing St. John Paul II Catholic High School, you have indicated a willingness to accept and promote the values and philosophy of a Catholic school. We invite all students to take full advantage of all opportunities for personal growth as they continue to discover their individual talents.

Established in 1996, St. John Paul II Catholic High School is a Roman Catholic college preparatory school for students in grades 9-12. The school functions under the sponsorship of the Diocese of Birmingham and is a member of the National Catholic Educational Association. St. John Paul II Catholic High School is accredited as a college prep school by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and is a member of the Alabama High School Athletic Association.

Our Vision

St. John Paul II Catholic High School teaches as Jesus did, challenging, loving, and guiding our young people to develop their God-given gifts and talents to be academically prepared, socially responsible, humble in service to others, and active participants in the life of the Church.

Our Mission

St. John Paul II Catholic High School develops young people in spirit, mind and body to foster a lifelong discipleship of Christ in the sacramental life of the Church. We encourage, challenge, and support each student to learn enthusiastically, lead honorably, and live responsibly.

Our Values

Faith and Service – We practice the teachings of the Catholic Church and call each member of our community to a life of ministry and service.

Dignity and Diversity – We honor and respect individuals, embracing differences in a unified loving community.

Excellence and Quality – We promote the highest standards of achievement in our four pillars of Academics, Arts, Athletics, and Spiritual formation.

Academic Program

At St. John Paul II Catholic High School, the college-preparatory curriculum provides all students with a foundation for higher learning. Electives enable students to individualize their academic program by catering to a variety of the students' own personal interests. Our students are prepared for entry into rigorous college programs.

Our faculty of 45 educators provide comprehensive curriculum instruction in core courses and electives. All of our educators hold a minimum of a Bachelor's degree, with many earning advanced degrees, including 24 Masters and 3 Doctorates. THE JP II administration operates under the President/Headmaster model. Additionally, we provide full student support through our Dean of Academics, Director of Counseling Services, Dean of Students, Associate Dean of Students, and Athletic Director. The St. John Paul II Catholic High School staff is dedicated and determined to provide our students with a quality education in a caring, Christian environment.

Graduation Requirements

All students graduating must satisfy the credit requirements listed below. Students must also complete **100** hours of Community Service as a graduation requirement.

<u>Required Subjects</u>	<u>Credits</u>
Theology	4.0
English	4.0
Mathematics <i>(Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II/Trigonometry)</i>	4.0
Science <i>(Biology, Chemistry, Physics required)</i>	4.0
Social Studies	4.0
Foreign Languages <i>(2 consecutive years of the same language)</i>	2.0
Fine Arts	1.0
Physical Education	1.0
Electives	3.0
Health	0.5
Career Preparedness A	0.5
Career Preparedness B	0.5
One hundred hours of Community Service	<i>no credit</i>
Total Credits Required for Graduation	28.5

Administration reserves the right to substitute and/or waive course(s) or graduation requirements due to schedule conflicts or extenuating circumstances for any transfer, International, or other students. Transfer and International students only need Theology classes for the years they attend St. John Paul II Catholic High School to meet graduation requirements.

Students Doubling in Math

Any student recommended to double up in math must take a math every year they attend St. John Paul II Catholic High School. The extra math class will count toward their graduation electives. Students doubling up in math sophomore year must take a study hall and may not take an AP history course. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Dean of Academics.

Study Hall

Study Hall is a zero-credit structured study environment course for students. Students must use their time in study hall to prepare, organize, plan, and complete assignments for their academic classes. Freshmen must have administrative approval for a Study Hall period.

Study Skills

The Study Skills course is designed to help students learn, understand, and reinforce concepts and/or assignments presented in the general curriculum. Students have the opportunity to develop and strengthen good study habits and learning strategies through various instructional methods and strategies. The study skills teacher will collaborate with subject teachers on an on-going basis to develop study strategies and design lessons to best meet the academic requirements of the classroom. Study Skills is a support class for taking regular education classes. Emphasis is placed on the five core classes.

1.0 credit

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

AP Courses offered include:

Biology	European History
Calculus AB	U.S. Government
Chemistry	U.S. History
English-Language and Composition	World History
English-Literature and Composition	Physics 1 & 2

(Transfer students who wish to take the AP courses must have been on a college prep track and have maintained a B+ average in all related subject areas.)

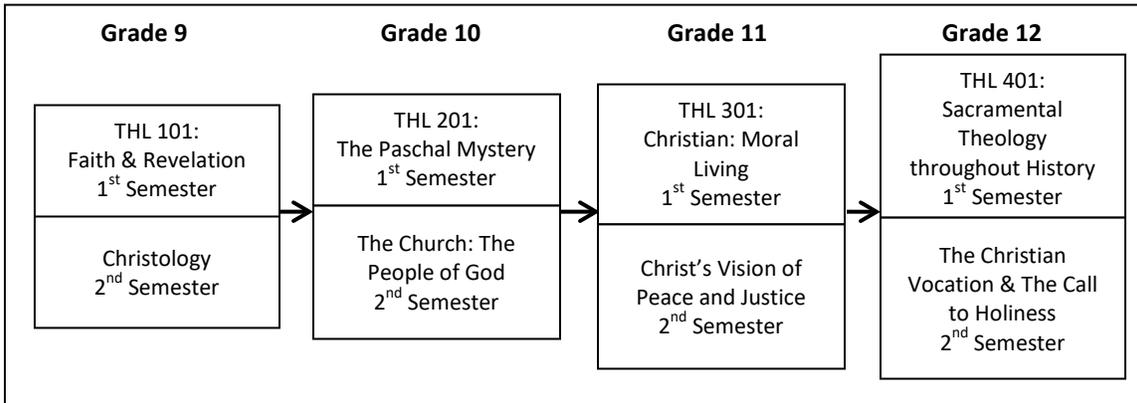
Dual Enrollment

St. John Paul II Catholic High School participates in the Dual Enrollment programs at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (11th and 12th graders only) and at Calhoun Community College (10th, 11th, and 12th graders). Students who enroll in either of these programs must meet UAH or Calhoun Community College Dual Enrollment eligibility requirements and have permission from JP II Administration. Students register for classes through the college but must have forms signed off by the Counseling Department. Students should seek classes that least interfere with their JP II schedule. Senior Privilege will be a priority for students taking these classes. Such courses appear on the student's transcript designated as "UAH" or "CCC" class.

While most colleges accept Dual Enrollment course credits, it is the student's responsibility to petition his/her college of choice to accept transfer credit for Dual Enrollment classes. Dual Enrollment courses receive a 0.5 credit qualifier on the student's GPA.

Theology

All course listings are guided by Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition as presented in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) following the 2008 publication by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB): *Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age*.



THL 101: Faith and Revelation/Christology (USCCB Course I & II)

The course presents students with an overview of the Roman Catholic faith and Divine Revelation. Students will study the Thomistic proofs of God's existence and learn how to use the Bible and CCC. Students will develop a religious literacy by learning key terminology from Sacred Scripture and Tradition. This course will foster a love for the Scriptures as God's Revelation of God's self to humanity. Through prayer, worship, and reflection, students will develop an appreciation for their unique Catholic identity.

The second part of the course introduces students to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God, and the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. In this course, students will understand that Jesus Christ is the ultimate Revelation from God to us. In learning about who Jesus is, the students will also learn who Jesus calls them to be. In coming to understand the Incarnation and Christ's Passion, students will come to know the infinite love of God and the dignity of the human person. Students will reflect upon human suffering in light of the Passion of Christ.

1 credit

THL 201: The Paschal Mystery/The Church (USCCB Course III & IV)

The course is for students to understand the redemptive process, set forth by God and accomplished in Jesus Christ. Students will discover that Christ's saving mission has been revealed throughout salvation history, from the origins of creation continuing through the Old Testament prophecies. In the New Testament, students will come to know and appreciate the great gift of Jesus' Incarnation, life, death, Resurrection and Ascension. Through reflections on grace, suffering and sacrifice, the implications for the life of the believer will become clear, encouraging students to accept Jesus' call to discipleship.

The second part of the course is for students to learn that the Church was founded by Christ, through the Apostles and continues to be animated and sustained by the Holy Spirit. Students will learn that various images of Church were prefigured and are rooted in Sacred Scripture and have been developed in Tradition. Rather than historical events in the life of the Church, students will come to understand the sacred nature of the Church. Reflecting on the Marks of the Church from the past, the present, and for the future, will assist students to discern the application of those “marks” to the themes of; unity, diversity, culture, universality, ecumenism, holiness, evangelization and the responsibilities of the believer.

1 credit

THL 301: Christian Moral Living

The purpose of this course, in light of Divine Revelation and Catholic moral teaching, is to reflect on the basic moral questions: “What kind of person am I becoming? What kind of person do I want to become?” Through an examination of classical moral virtues, students will understand the importance of character formation. Students will come to know basic moral principles, Catholic moral precepts, and a method for moral decision making. In an atmosphere of respectful inquiry and research, students will apply their knowledge of Catholic morality to contemporary moral issues, enabling students to recognize the “consistent ethic of life” in the moral teachings of the Church. Students will understand that God’s commandments are for human fulfillment and happiness.

The second half of the course introduces students to the body of doctrine known as Catholic Social Teaching (CST). Students will learn the seven major themes of CST, the various types of justice as well as the concepts of peace and charity. Students will apply CST to human society for the purpose of guiding themselves and others in the mission of Jesus in the world. Students will examine the concept of social sin and the social dimension of the Commandments and the Beatitudes. Students will learn how the Scriptures and the Church’s social doctrine enable them to critically examine society according to the criteria of peace and justice, thus preparing them to live as Disciples of Christ.

1 credit

THL 401: Sacramental Theology through History/Vocations

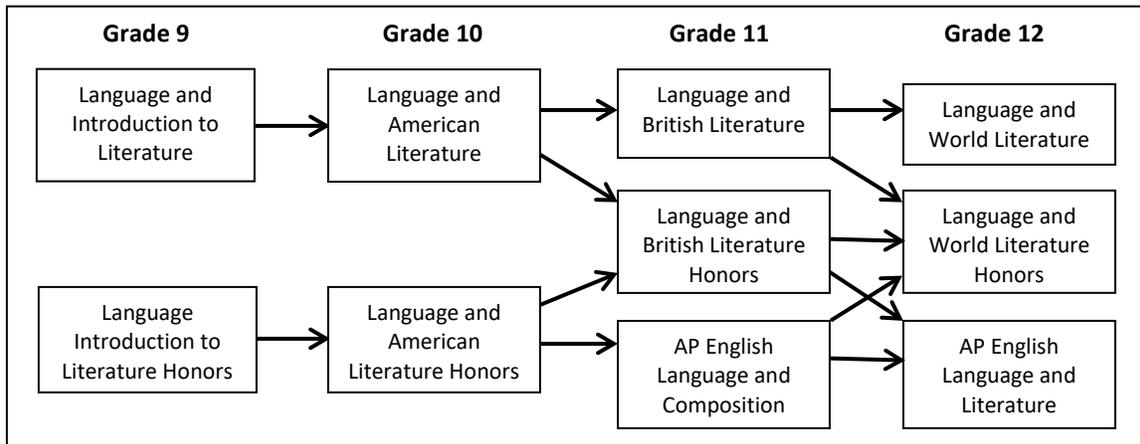
The purpose of this course is to discover the full meaning of each of the seven Sacraments, including their roots in Sacred Scripture and historical evolution in the Church. Students will examine the efficacious nature of the Sacraments. Students will understand that the Sacraments were initiated by Jesus Christ and with the working of the Holy Spirit; Jesus continues to act through them. Students will learn the Church is the sign and the instrument of the communion of God and God’s people. Grace, healing, sanctification and Christ’s presence and redemption is experienced through the seven Sacraments. In the particular study of each Sacrament, students will come to know the Sacraments of Initiation, Healing and Service. As they grow in knowledge, students will come to appreciate the Sacraments as sacred encounters with the Risen Christ.

The second half of the course guides students to an understanding of the universal call to holiness: how Jesus Christ calls us to live. Students will study: married life, single life, priestly life, and consecrated life, understanding that each person is called to discern their vocation and how a believer serves God in the world. Students will learn from Sacred Scripture and Tradition the origins and God's plan for humanity. Students will become knowledgeable about the celebrations, effects, challenges, and the joys for each of the vocations. Students will examine the lives of the saints, seeing them as spiritual guides and role models, in order to begin to discern their own personal vocation and their call to holiness.

1 credit

English Language Arts

St. John Paul II Catholic High School requires four credits of English and places a strong emphasis on writing, reading, and critical thinking skills.



Language and Introduction to Literature

Ninth grade students will learn grammar, mechanics, MLA format, vocabulary, and composition usage skills. They will learn to write correct paragraphs, theses, and formal, academic essays. They will practice the four modes of discourse: exposition, narration, description, and persuasion. Students will practice grammar concepts, including punctuation, syntax, and correct sentence formation. They will learn to gather and synthesize research information, and they will write both brief and extensive research papers. Students will have an opportunity to develop their creative writing skills through poetry, short stories, and other genres. In literature, students will study a variety of literary themes, forms, and genres, including short story, poetry, drama, and novel. Students will read at least one book during the summer and various outside readings each semester.

1 credit

Language and Introduction to Literature Honors

Ninth grade students will come to class expected to have mastered basics in grammar, mechanics, MLA format, vocabulary, and composition usage skills. They will immediately begin writing formal academic essays with thesis statements because they will have already demonstrated the ability to write well-developed paragraphs with strong topic sentences. They will practice the four modes of discourse: exposition, narration, description, and persuasion. Students will continue to practice grammar concepts, including punctuation, syntax, and correct sentence formation. They will learn to gather and synthesize research information, culminating in various research writings. Students will have an opportunity to develop their creative writing skills through poetry, short stories, and other genres. In literature, students will study a variety of literary themes, forms, and genres, including short story, poetry, drama, and novel. Students will read at least one book during the summer and various outside readings each semester.

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

1 credit

Language and American Literature

Tenth graders will fortify their ability to read, write, speak, and listen effectively, while also focusing on conventions of the English language, correct paper format as prescribed by the Modern Language Association (MLA), and vocabulary as a means for communication. Students will write for many different purposes, most of which fall within three categories: explanatory, persuasive, and narrative. Students will also read a variety of materials both literary and informational, discuss ideas in small- and large-group settings, and formally present perspectives and findings from research. Students will read at least one book during the summer and various outside readings each semester.

1 credit

Language and American Literature Honors

Tenth grade students will continue to develop their ability to read, write, speak, and listen effectively, while also focusing on conventions of the English language, correct paper format as prescribed by the Modern Language Association (MLA), and vocabulary as a means for communication. Students will write for many different purposes, most of which fall within three categories: explanatory, persuasive, and narrative; they will also read a variety of materials both literary and informational, discuss ideas in small- and large-group settings, and formally present perspectives and findings from research. At the honors level, special emphasis is placed on college preparedness by students' ability to comprehend, analyze, and create at an advanced level without compromising conventions like editing and formatting. Students will read at least one book during the summer and various outside readings each semester.

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

1 credit

Language and British Literature

Eleventh grade students continue to expand their listening, speaking, reading, writing, and grammar skills through application. All reading material will be by or about British authors, from Anglo-Saxon England to 1900. In addition to the summer reading novels and the literature in our textbooks, students will read one novel or play by a British author each quarter. Students will continue to develop their grammar, composition, and usage skills through the writing of numerous essays and reports, including narrative, expository, persuasive, and analytical essays. In the spring students write a longer research paper.

1 credit

Language and British Literature Honors

Eleventh grade honors students continue to expand their listening, speaking, reading, writing, and grammar skills through application. All reading material will be by or about British authors, from Anglo-Saxon England to 1900. In addition to the summer reading novels and the literature in our textbooks, students will read one novel or play by a British author each quarter. Students will continue to develop their grammar, composition, and usage skills through the writings of numerous essays and reports, including narrative, expository, persuasive, and analytical essays. In the spring students write a longer research paper.

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

1 credit

AP English Language and Composition

Eleventh grade Advanced Placement students will concentrate on writing essays in various forms (narrative, exploratory, expository, and argumentative) and of increasing complexity in both style and content. These essays will be based on class readings of prose, both fiction and nonfiction, written in a variety of periods and rhetorical contexts. The readings and essay writing will prepare the students for the test in AP English Language and Composition, given in the spring. Students will read at least one book during the summer and various outside readings each semester.

Prerequisite: Must have a B+ average in English and Teacher Recommendation

1 credit

Language and World Literature

English 12 students will develop their abilities to understand and respond to works of world literature through class discussions, research projects, oral presentations, and the writing of critical essays. Particular emphasis will be placed on revision and research skills and on vocabulary enrichment. The text includes selections from a variety of world cultures, with representative authors such as Homer, Dante, Goethe, and Ibsen. In addition to the textbook selections, students will read one novel or play per quarter. Students will read at least one book during the summer.

1 credit

Language and World Literature Honors

Honors English 12 students will read and respond to works of literature from a variety of world cultures, with representative authors such as Homer, Dante, Shakespeare, Goethe, and Ibsen. These readings from the text will be supplemented by outside sources, including essays about literature, historical and biographical information, and selections from the Bible and mythology. In addition, students will read one extra novel or play per quarter. Honors 12 students will regularly write reports and critical essays, some requiring outside research, and will be assigned one oral presentation and one project per year. Emphasis will be placed on understanding literature in context and developing an in-depth grasp of what is read, with an expectation that independent student work and research will enrich class discussion. Students will read at least one book during the summer.

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

1 credit

AP English Literature and Composition

Twelfth grade Advanced Placement English students will develop their abilities to understand and respond to works of literature through class discussions, research projects, and the writing of critical essays. The readings and essay writing will prepare the students for the test in AP Literature and Composition, given in the spring. A score of “3” or higher on this exam will allow students to exempt up to two freshman English classes at many colleges. The course is shaped around four thematically-connected units that include novels, plays, short stories, and poetry from a variety of authors, cultures, and time periods. Emphasis will be on in-depth reading and evaluation of literature for the purpose of understanding its literary elements as well as its universal themes. Students will also prepare for the AP exam by taking sample AP tests and writing representative AP essays. Students will read at least one book during the summer and various outside readings each semester.

Prerequisite: Must have a B+ average in English and Teacher Recommendation

1 credit

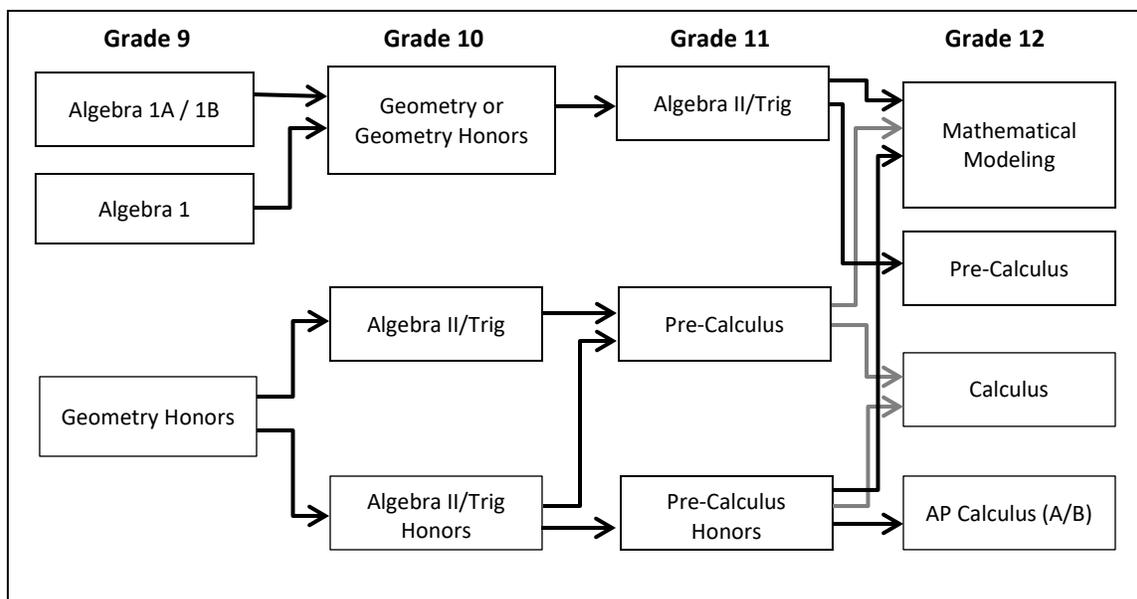
Mythology

Mythology is a semester class in which students will read and discuss stories from Greece and Rome, Scandinavia, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Emphasis will be given to identifying commonalities between these mythologies and their cultures. All grade levels are welcome to join in becoming familiar with some of the most influential and exciting tales that have ever been told.

0.5 Elective credit

Mathematics

St. John Paul II Catholic High School requires four credits of Mathematics. Students are required to take a math class at the school every year they are enrolled.



Algebra IA and Algebra IB

This course emphasizes review of basic math skills and also introduces and develops the following knowledge areas: operations on numbers and variables; writing and solving equations and inequalities; solving systems of equations and inequalities; operations on polynomial expressions; relations, functions and graphs; variation; irrational numbers; radicals; quadratic equations and factoring; rational equations. This course meets for a full block every day to allow more time for the review of these skills. Algebra IA and IB students are not eligible to double-up on math classes during their sophomore year.

Prerequisite: Recommendation of admissions review team and 8th grade math teacher

2 credits

Algebra I

This course introduces and develops the following knowledge areas: operations on numbers and variables; writing and solving equations and inequalities; solving systems of equations and inequalities; operations on polynomial expressions; relations, functions and graphs; variation; irrational numbers; radicals; quadratic equations and factoring; rational equations.

1 credit

Geometry

This course introduces and develops the knowledge of plane and solid geometry: parallel lines and planes; triangles; quadrilaterals and other polygons; circles; area; volume; coordinate geometry; and basic transformations. Deductive reasoning in the form of proofs is applied throughout the course.

Prerequisite: Algebra I

1 credit

Geometry Honors

This course introduces and develops the knowledge of plane and solid geometry: parallel lines and planes; triangles; quadrilaterals and other polygons; circles; area; volume; coordinate geometry; transformations; vectors; and geometric probability. A strong Algebra I background is required. Deductive reasoning in the form of proofs is applied heavily throughout the course.

Prerequisite: Algebra I and/or recommendation of admissions review team and 8th grade math teacher. Student should already be proficient in solving systems of equations and factoring.

1 credit

Algebra II/Trigonometry

This course expands on concepts in Algebra I, adding the following areas: applications of linear equations and inequalities; matrix algebra; complex numbers; graphing and solving linear, quadratic, polynomial, absolute value, radical and rational equations and inequalities; piecewise functions; solving systems of equations; logarithmic and exponential functions; conic sections; and trigonometry.

Prerequisite: Algebra I and Geometry or Geometry Honors

1 credit

Algebra II/Trigonometry Honors

This course is designed for students who have either completed Geometry Honors or who are concurrently taking Geometry Honors. This course expands on concepts in Algebra I, adding the following areas: applications of linear equations and inequalities; matrix algebra; complex numbers; graphing and solving linear, quadratic, polynomial, absolute value, radical and rational equations and inequalities; piecewise functions; solving systems of equations; logarithmic and exponential functions; conic sections; and trigonometry. Students will be expected to apply the skills they have learned to rigorous word problems and real-world simulations throughout the year.

Prerequisites: Algebra I and Geometry Honors (or current enrollment in Geometry Honors) and recommendation of current math teacher.

1 credit

Pre-Calculus

This course is designed to prepare students for college-level Pre-calculus or Calculus. Topics include advanced algebra; analysis; analytic geometry; functions; trigonometry; vectors and parametric equations; polar coordinates; complex numbers; conics; exponential and logarithmic functions; and sequences and series.

Prerequisite: Algebra II/Trigonometry or Algebra II/Trigonometry Honors

1 credit

Pre-Calculus Honors

This course is designed to prepare students to take Calculus or AP Calculus in high school. Topics include advanced algebra; analysis; analytic geometry; functions; trigonometry; vectors and parametric equations; polar coordinates; complex numbers; conics; exponential and logarithmic functions; sequences and series; and basic first- and second-derivatives for polynomial functions. Students will be expected to apply the skills they have learned to rigorous word problems and real-world simulations throughout the year.

Prerequisite: Algebra II/Trigonometry Honors and recommendation of current math teacher.

1 credit

Mathematical Modeling

This course reinforces algebraic and geometric concepts by applying them to real-world phenomena. It is designed to engage students in analyzing, discussing, and making decisions about mathematics, statistics, and modeling in everyday life. Topics included are: interpreting statistical studies, design in three dimensions, financial planning and management, and creating functions to model changes in the environment and society. Technology is used extensively.

Prerequisite: Algebra II/Trigonometry

1 credit

Calculus

This course consists of a full high school academic year of work that is comparable to a first semester college Calculus. Topics included are: functions; graphs; limits; continuity; derivatives; and integrals. Topics are approached through a combination of numerical, graphical, and theoretical exercises, and real-world activities.

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus or Pre-Calculus Honors and recommendation of current math teacher.

1 credit

AP Calculus (A/B)

This course is an Advanced Placement course in Calculus and students are required to take the AP Calculus exam at the end of the course. This course consists of a full high school academic year of work that is comparable to a first semester college Calculus course. Topics included are: functions; graphs; limits; continuity; derivatives; and integrals. Topics are approached through a rigorous combination of numerical, graphical, and theoretical exercises, and real-world activities.

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus Honors and recommendation of current math teacher

1 credit

Honors Geometry Placement

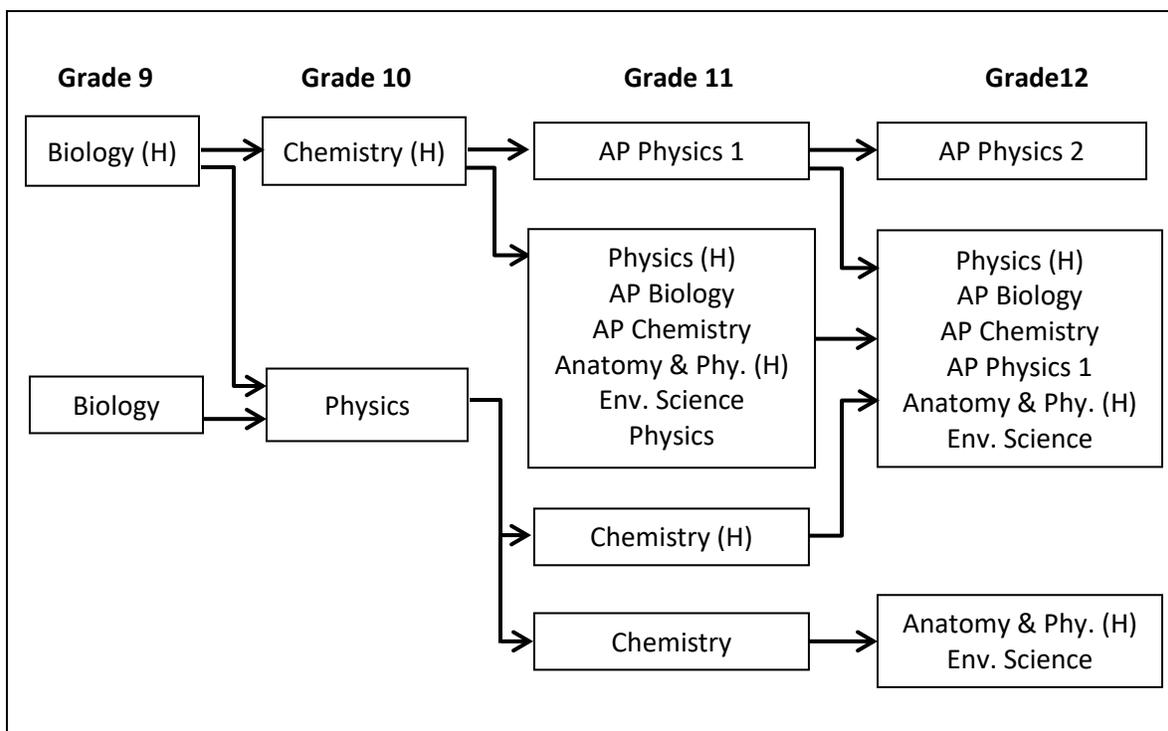
St. John Paul II Catholic High School recognizes that mastering the basics of mathematics is essential to success. Incoming 9th grade students who meet the following criteria will be considered for Geometry Honors:

- Received no less than a B in Algebra I;
- Scored at least in the 70% percentile on a standardized test (e.g., MAP or IOWA);
- Scored at least a 60 on the math placement test.

Students who do not meet the criteria will be placed in Algebra I at JP II. Students will have the option of taking both Geometry Honors and Algebra II/Trig Honors as Sophomores, pending approval from the math department chair.

Science

St. John Paul II Catholic High School provides full laboratory facilities. Most courses (excluding AP and senior-level courses) require a science fair project and a related project report. A school-wide science fair is held every January. The department also sponsors Science Olympiad and the American Rocketry Challenge teams that compete locally, regionally and nationally. Students must complete one credit each in a Biology, Chemistry, and Physics course.



Biology

This course is a laboratory course that presents a basic introduction to biological science. Topics include biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, evolution, and the diversity of life. Major activities include fetal pig dissection and microscopy explorations.

1 credit

Biology Honors

This course is a laboratory course that presents a basic but thorough introduction to biological science in preparation for future AP science courses. Topics include biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, evolution, and the diversity of life. Major activities include fetal pig dissection and microscopy explorations.

Prerequisites: Algebra 1

1 credit

Chemistry

This course is designed to establish a fundamental understanding of chemistry and its importance to everyday life. Emphasis is on vocabulary and the application of principal formulas and laws through labs and hands-on activities. Topics include the history of chemistry, atomic structure, periodic laws and trends, chemical bonding and reactions, basic stoichiometry, solutions, gas laws, and rudimentary thermochemistry. All students must complete a science project.

Prerequisites: Biology, Physics, Algebra II/Trig (or current enrollment)

1 credit

Chemistry Honors

This course is a lab-oriented course that offers students a basic but thorough introduction to chemistry. Topics include scientific measurement, problem solving, atomic structure, the periodic table, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, behavior of liquids and gases, titrations, redox reactions, and introductory thermodynamics.

Prerequisites: Biology/Biology Honors, Algebra II/Trig (or current enrollment) and current science teacher and guidance department recommendation

1 credit

Physics

This course is designed to give students a basic understanding of the physical world while focusing on both physical concepts with real-life applications and problem solving. Concepts are reinforced via demonstrations, hands-on activities, and laboratory sessions. Topics include kinematics, linear mechanics, heat, optics, and waves and sound. All students must complete a science project.

Prerequisites: Biology and Sophomore or Junior standing

1 credit

Physics Honors

This course is designed to give students a basic understanding of the physical world as well as to enable students to learn problem-solving skills in both word problems and in laboratory sessions. Concepts are reinforced via a plethora of demonstrations, hands-on activities, and laboratory sessions. Topics include Fundamentals of Kinematics in one and two dimensions; Fundamentals of Linear Mechanics; Fundamentals of Work, Energy, and Power; Fundamentals of Thermal Physics and Fluid Mechanics; and Fundamentals of Electrostatics and Electric Circuits.

Prerequisites: Chemistry Honors, Algebra II/Trig

1 credit

AP Physics 1

AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course that explores topics such as Newtonian mechanics (including rotational motion); work, energy, and power; mechanical waves and sound; and introductory, simple circuits as outlined by the AP College Board. This course requires that 25 percent of the instruction time be spent in hands-on laboratory work, with an emphasis on inquiry-based investigations that provide students with opportunities to apply the science practices. This is a two period course that will meet daily, one class period on each A and B day. Laboratories will be performed weekly to satisfy the 25 percent minimum classroom requirement. Both instructor-led and inquiry-based (student-led) laboratories will be conducted throughout the year. Lectures will be balanced with recitation for in-depth homework solutions and discussions. Completion of the AP Physics 1 exam is required.

Prerequisites: **Chemistry Honors, Pre-Calculus Honors (or current enrollment) and recommendations from current science and math teachers**

2 credits

AP Physics 2

AP Physics 2 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course that explores topics such as Electrostatics, Electric circuits, Magnetic fields, Electro-Magnetism, Fluid Mechanics and Thermal Physics; Wave motion and Optics; and Nuclear and Atomic Physics as outlined by the AP College Board. This course requires that 25 percent of the instruction time be spent in hands-on laboratory work, with an emphasis on inquiry-based investigations that provide students with opportunities to apply the science practices. This is a two period course that will meet daily, one class period on each A and B day. Laboratories will be performed weekly to satisfy the 25 percent minimum classroom requirement. Both instructor-led and inquiry-based (student-led) laboratories will be conducted throughout the year. Lectures will be balanced with recitation for in-depth homework solutions and discussions. Completion of the AP Physics 2 exam is required.

Prerequisites: **AP Physics 1 and AP Calculus or Calculus (or current enrollment) and recommendations from current science and math teachers**

2 credits

Human Anatomy and Physiology Honors

This course gives students with an interest in health-related topics and careers an opportunity to study in-depth the structure and functions of the major human body systems. The major body systems explored include the integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, cardiovascular, respiratory, digestive, and urinary systems.

Prerequisites: **Biology and Chemistry**

1 credit

Environmental Science

This course gives students a fundamental understanding of environmental science and its importance to everyday life. This course involves the study of the interrelationships of organisms with their environment, promotes awareness and an appreciation for the environment, and promotes an understanding of the factors that affect the environment, including energy sources and pollution.

Prerequisites: **Biology and Chemistry**

1 credit

Forensic Science

This elective course involves the application of science (chemistry, physics, and biology) to the criminal and civil laws that are enforced by agencies in a criminal justice system. It includes criminal profiling, types of death, decomposition, the investigation of fingerprinting, fiber analysis, ballistics, arson, trace evidence analysis, poisons, drugs, among many other topics. Students are taught the proper collection, preservation, and analysis of different types of evidence.

Prerequisites: Chemistry Honors (B average or above)

1.0 Elective credit

AP Biology

This two-period course is a college-level biology course, with a comprehensive emphasis on biochemical processes and the study of all living things in preparation for the AP exam. AP Biology includes an advanced laboratory program in which all of the College Board-designated AP labs are completed. Topics include biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, evolution, botany, ecology, and animal form and function. The second period is utilized for laboratory experiences, regular coursework, and independent study halls.

Prerequisites: Biology Honors, Chemistry Honors and current science teacher recommendation

1.5 credits

AP Chemistry

This two-period course is a college-level chemistry course designed to enable students to attain a depth of understanding of the fundamentals of chemistry. AP Chemistry includes a comprehensive set of laboratory experiences. Topics include structure of matter, states of matter, nuclear chemistry, reaction types, stoichiometry, chemical equilibrium, kinetics, and thermodynamics. The second period is utilized for both laboratory experiences and further instruction.

Prerequisites: Chemistry Honors and current science teacher recommendation

2 credits

Chemistry Lab Assistant

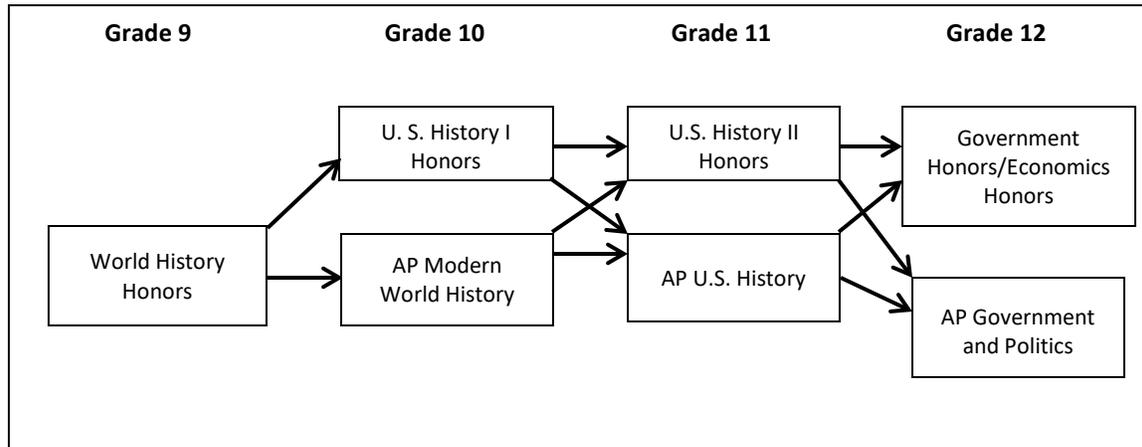
The Chemistry Lab Assistant is responsible for helping the AP Chemistry instructor with preparations for and clean up after AP Chemistry and Chemistry I Honors labs, as well as tracking/managing chemical inventories. The Chemistry Lab Assistant is a year-long assignment. Experience will be gained in preparing chemical solutions, proper safe chemical handling, and a variety of tasks associated with managing a chemistry lab.

Prerequisites: AP Chemistry and AP Chemistry teacher recommendation

0.5 Elective credit

Social Sciences

St. John Paul II Catholic High School requires four credits of Social Studies. The course of study emphasizes the understanding of ideas and values that lay the foundation for responsible citizenship, while fostering the development of analytical and critical thinking through the study of history, geography, economics, and political science.



World History Honors

This course introduces students to the study of world history since the mid-14th century. Students will explore topics including the European Renaissance, Chinese Dynasties, Industrialization, Imperialism, World Wars, post-colonialism, and globalization. Students will have opportunities to survey and investigate significant events and ideas which contributed to our modern world, as well as sharpening analytical, critical thinking, and research skills.

1 credit

U.S. History I Honors

This course engages students in the study of United States history from the Colonial era to Reconstruction. Students will have opportunities to survey and investigate significant events and ideas in the development of the United States, as well as explore its role in world affairs, while sharpening analytical, critical thinking, and research skills.

Prerequisite: World History Honors

1 credit

U.S. History II Honors

This course engages students in the study of United States history from Reconstruction to the present day. Students will have opportunities to survey and investigate significant events and ideas in the development of the United States, as well as explore its role in world affairs, while sharpening analytical, critical thinking, and research skills.

Prerequisite: U.S. History I Honors

1 credit

Government Honors

This one semester civics course for twelfth grade students gives a broad overview of the policies and institutions of the United States government. While becoming knowledgeable about the foundations, the structures, and the theories underpinning the United States' system of government, students will also gain an understanding of how a democratic republic functions, including their own role as active and informed citizens.

Prerequisites: U.S. History II Honors, AP U.S. History

0.5 credit

Economics Honors

This one semester social science course for twelfth grade students provides students with an introduction to the basic characteristics of the American economic system. It covers the economic principles that influence business decisions and the role of government and individuals in the economy. The curriculum incorporates the study of healthy personal finance practices.

Prerequisites: U.S. History II Honors, AP U.S. History

0.5 credit

AP United States History

This college-level course, taken primarily by eleventh grade students, examines the evolution of the political, economic, diplomatic, social, and cultural history of the United States from the Colonial era to present day. This course engages students in the comprehensive study of critical issues and events of American history. Students will engage in college-level assignments which focus on analytical and evaluative writing, historical research, Document-Based Questions, comparative analysis, thematic categorization, and primary and secondary source synthesis. This course is designed for students who want to benefit from positive peer interactions in a topic of similar interest. This college course is equivalent to two three-hour United States History courses. Only students who score well on the AP Exam in May and choose a university which accepts AP credit can receive college credit for this course.

Prerequisite: U.S. History I

1 credit

AP Government and Politics

This college-level political science course, taken primarily by twelfth grade students, is a yearlong course of study. Students gain an introduction to the discipline of political science while also acquiring an in-depth understanding of the American system of government, from its foundations to present day. Disciplinary practices include political concept application and reasoning, understanding and applying Supreme Court decisions, quantitative data analysis, foundational document analysis, and argumentative writing. This college course is equivalent to a three-hour college Political Science course. Only students who score well on the AP Exam in May and choose a university with accepts AP credit can receive college credit for this course.

Prerequisite: AP U.S. History or World History II Honors

1 credit

AP Modern World History

This course introduces students to the study of world history since the mid-13th century and foundations of religion and philosophies. Students will explore topics including the European Renaissance, Chinese Dynasties, Industrialization, Imperialism, World Wars, post-colonialism, and globalization. Students will engage in college-level assignments which focus on analytical and argumentative writing, historical research, Document-Based Questions, comparative analysis, thematic categorization, and primary and secondary source analysis. This college course is equivalent to a three-hour Western Civilization course. Only students who score well on the AP Exam in May and choose a university which accepts AP credit can receive college credit for this course.

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

1 credit

Psychology

This year-long social science course presents an overview of the science of the mind. Students will engage in activities focusing on personality theories and developmental psychology. Students will also explore topics such as personality disorders and treatment.

Prerequisite: Juniors and Seniors Only

1 Elective credit

Geography

This one semester social science course engages students in the study of the physical environment and human population of our planet Earth. Students will participate in multiple activities to learn about the countries in our world. Students will also have opportunities to locate landforms, nations, and cities using latitude and longitude, study Earth's biomes and climates and their impact on the human population, discuss the impact of typical and extreme weather patterns on both the environment and humans, and analyze the causes and effects of deforestation, salinization, agriculture, and other environmentally altering human actions. Students will examine the intersection of geography and world religions and develop an appreciation for good stewardship of the Earth's resources. Additionally, throughout the semester, students will research the Earth's physical environment both historically and currently.

Prerequisite: Juniors and Seniors Only

0.5 Elective credit

Contemporary World Issues

Students analyze governments, economies, peoples, and cultures from around the world in this course. Instruction emphasizes the structures and policies of the United States and how they compare to other systems in the international community. Students apply critical thinking and research skills to examine current events and contemporary issues facing the United States and the world.

Prerequisite: Juniors and Seniors Only

0.5 Elective credit

Foreign Languages

St. John Paul II Catholic High School offers four foreign languages: French, Spanish, German and Latin. Latin will place emphasis on primary source translation instead of conversational skills. Additional language classes may be available through our Dual Enrollment program with UAH and CCC. Students must complete two years of the same foreign language for graduation requirements. The levels offered in each language may vary from year to year based on course enrollment.

Level One

The language is introduced through a proficiency-based program that helps the student to develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Cultural themes and basic conversational patterns are taught. Spanish, Latin, French and German offered.

1 credit

Level Two

Material from the first level is reviewed and a more detailed study of vocabulary and grammar is included. More complex structures of the language along with the intermediate conversational skills are presented and cultural themes of the first level are expanded. Spanish, Latin, and French offered.

Prerequisite: Level One or Passed Proficiency Test

1 credit

Level Three

More advanced conversational skills are emphasized. The finer points of grammar are given due attention. Translation skills are developed. Significant historical figures, authors and the literature of the target language are studied. Spanish, Latin, and French offered.

Prerequisite: Level Two of same foreign language

1 credit

Level Four

Continuance of skills emphasized in level three with emphasis on history, music, art, literature and refinement of grammatical structures. Spanish and Latin offered.

Prerequisite: Level Three of the same foreign language

1 credit

Spanish I Placement

Some of our incoming 9th graders have a strong background in Spanish and would like to begin their studies in level II of the language. Students may take a Spanish I proficiency test which covers the material taught in a Spanish I course. A student that successfully completes the Spanish I test may begin with Spanish II and will then take Spanish III in the 10th grade.

Please note: This test directly correlates to requirements in the Alabama Course of Study for Spanish I. Portions of this test are not part of or required to be a part of any middle school curriculum.

Fine Arts

St. John Paul II Catholic High School offers Fine Arts Courses in the Visual Arts and in the Performing Arts.

Visual Arts

St John Paul II Catholic High School offers a four-year curriculum in visual art (Art I – Art IV). Student art at all four levels is exhibited locally and regionally in competitions and shows. Assignments build sequentially in technical difficulty and in complexity. Therefore, students must have Art I (or its equivalent) before taking Art II, etc. If transferring from another high school, students are encouraged to bring examples of their previous artwork for proper placement.

Art I Fundamentals of Drawing and Design

Students explore a wide variety of traditional media, building skills and enlarging their acquaintance with art elements (e.g., line, shape, value) and the principles of good design. Accurate observation is emphasized. Both two- and three-dimensional work is produced, including gesture and contour drawing, white charcoal, glue line relief, collage, papier-mâché, watercolor, clay modeling, and colored pencil.

1 credit

Art II Art History and Modern Masters

Experience in drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture is expanded and further developed. Additional media are introduced including black charcoal, clay modeling, linoleum and woodblock printmaking. Career-minded students begin preparing work for inclusion in a portfolio.

Prerequisite: Art I

1 credit

Art III Advanced Media and Portfolio Development

Students research the wide range of career opportunities in art. Added media include, advanced painting, advanced printmaking, clay modeling, and color and gray-scale soft pastels. Students planning to major in art in college assemble portfolios of their best work and are invited to attend National Portfolio Day sponsored by NACAD (National Association of Colleges of Art and Design) in the fall.

Prerequisite: Approval of Instructor

1 credit

Art IV Advanced Drawing, Painting and Art History

Art students continue to develop drawing skills, with emphasis on life drawing and the human figure. They work on advanced assignments in oil painting, clay modeling, and printmaking. They plan and supervise production of an annual *Senior Project*. Students with specific art interests are allowed to incorporate selected independent studies into their assignments for the year.

Prerequisite: Approval of Instructor

1 credit

Performing Arts

Concert Choir

Vocal music class provides training in proper vocal technique and studies in music theory, sight-reading, and exposure to a vast array of choral literature. The ensemble performs at three major concerts: the Sacred Arts Concert, Christmas Concert, and the Spring Concert; as well as the Veterans Day program, State Choral Performance Assessment (SCPA) and graduation. The group also sings at such events as school liturgies and concerts at area schools. In addition, students have many optional opportunities to perform including the Alabama All-State Chorus, Madison County Honor Choir, Alabama Honor Choir, and Solo/Ensemble Festival. The choir also participates in a Regional Choral Festival each spring. Past regional festivals have been to New Orleans, Gatlinburg, Cincinnati, Atlanta, and New York.

1 credit

Intro to Drama

This course offers study in many aspects of “the theatre,” including theatre designs, theatre history, improvisation, stagecraft, stage lighting, theatrical makeup, scene design, props, and costumes. Students also study the body and voice and develop the skills necessary to perform before an audience. Students have the opportunity to perform in the community and at school functions.

1 credit

Play Production

This course will provide the student with practical experience in the production of a dramatic presentation with assignments in acting and stage management. It will also include the study of style/movement, and the study of voice for the performer. The class will rehearse and perform a play and a musical. ***Class fee of \$150.00.***

Prerequisite: Intro to Drama

1 credit

Film Exploration and Production

In the first quarter of this film appreciation class, the student will master the art of camera movement, camera angles, editing, producing, and acting culminating in the creation of several short films. Students will learn the vocabulary of film cinematography, movement, sound, writing, and acting, and will analyze these elements in representative films. The course will also include a unit on film history.

Prerequisite: Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors only

1 Elective credit

Intro to Technical Theater

This course focuses on beginner techniques that are the foundation for technical theatre. The class will provide the student with slow, extensive, and practical experience in the design and production of a dramatic presentation with assignments in scenery, lighting, properties, sound, costumes, make-up, publicity, and other aspects of theatre production. The class may be taken more than once and may be taken for one semester or as a yearlong course. Students will be required to attend and participate in some technical work, rehearsals, and/or performances, beyond the school day, to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom.

0.5 Elective credit/1 Elective credit

Advanced Technical Theater

This class will provide the student with fast paced, practical experience in the design and production of a dramatic presentation with assignments in scenery, lighting, properties, sound, costumes, make-up publicity, and other aspects of theatre production. The class may be taken more than once and may be taken for one semester or as a yearlong course. Students will be required to attend and participate in some technical work, rehearsals, and/or performances, beyond the school day, to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom.

Prerequisite: Intro to Technical Theater

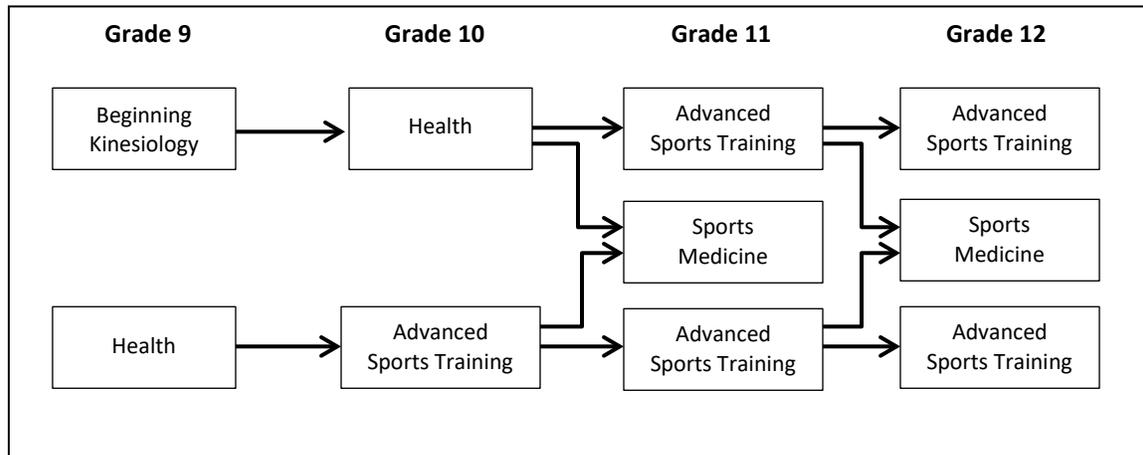
0.5 Elective credit/1 Elective credit

Band

The JPII band consists of the concert band, marching band, pep band and jazz band. The concert band performs at least four concerts per year: Sacred Arts Concert, Veterans Day, Christmas Concert, and Spring Concert. In addition, they provide music for graduation and also perform for the annual State Music Performance Assessment. All of these events require mandatory attendance. The marching band performs for all home and away football games, marching exhibitions and competitions, and selected community events. The pep band plays for all pep rallies. All members of the JPII band participate in concert, marching, and pep bands. The jazz band is a new ensemble and meets after school. The band takes a trip each year and has been to Disney World (3 times), Universal Studios, New York City (twice), New Orleans (twice), Atlanta, and Dollywood. ***Class fee TBD.***

1 credit

Physical Education and Health



Beginning Kinesiology

Beginning Kinesiology is the physical education course required for graduation. It is a stand-alone course which encompasses the basic concepts of athletics and fitness, and introduces students to the basic physiological, psychological, sociological, and mechanical principles of human movement. Students will be empowered to make choices, meet challenges, and develop positive behaviors in fitness, wellness, and movement activity for a lifetime. It is highly recommended that students take Beginning Kinesiology in grade 9.

1 credit

Varsity Athletics

Varsity Athletics is a year-long restricted elective course only for high school athletes. This course offers development of skills and personal potential for student athletes interested in improving their performance or preparing for further competition at the collegiate or professional level. The standards address more than the sport itself. Coaches will assist athletes with learning and achieving higher levels of performance and physical literacy.

Prerequisite: Current member of an athletic team and recommendation from appropriate Head Coach.

1 credit

Health

This semester-long course is required to fulfill the health credit needed for graduation. Students will identify the relationship between health and wellness as well as describe strategies that will help them take charge of their health. Students will learn the importance of nutrition and physical activity for good health.

0.5 credit

Introduction to Sports Medicine

This year-long elective course provides high school students with a general overview of athletic training, sports medicine and its history. It includes introductory information about the athletic trainer's scope of practice: injury prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, emergency injury management and administrative functions. This course is intended to help students gain an understanding of sports medicine, various associated disciplines, and the role they play in the physically active community. There is a hands-on experience available in and out of the classroom. Students will have the opportunity to be CPR certified at the end of the course. **Students enrolled in this class will not provide patient care.**

1 Elective credit

Physical Education Waiver

Students who are members of an approved JPII athletic team or the marching band may waive the Beginning Kinesiology credit required for graduation. Students should indicate, at the time of course selection, their intent to waive the Beginning Kinesiology graduation requirement. The band director and appropriate athletic coach(es) will collaborate with the physical education teachers to develop an academic plan which will meet the curriculum standard established for Beginning Kinesiology.

Computer and Business Technology

St. John Paul II Catholic School requires Career Preparedness A and Career Preparedness B for graduation. Elective courses for Business include: Yearbook and Library Aide.

Career Preparedness A

This course will cover personal decision making, academic planning, career development, and personal skills assessment. It will also cover basic and advanced technology concepts including diagnosing problems, file manipulation, operating systems, emerging technologies, digital citizenship, collaborative learning, and ethics.

0.5 credit

Career Preparedness B

This course will cover academic planning, career development, postsecondary admission processes, and employment process. It will also cover personal finance concepts including budgeting, saving/investing, banking, credit/debit, and insurance.

Prerequisite: Career Preparedness A

0.5 credit

Library Aide

The Library Aide program allows students to experience and practice many of the skills necessary in operating a library. Participation in this program also fosters a commitment of service to students and faculty, and encourages student leadership.

Prerequisite: Juniors and Seniors only

0.5 Elective credit

Office Aide

This opportunity will provide students with the experience of learning basic skills as they assist in the completion of various office operations as assigned. The office aide is expected to dress appropriately for the school setting in accordance with school guidelines, understand and comply with confidentiality protocol and maintain a professional demeanor at the front desk. The office aide will report directly to the Front Office Administrative Assistant.

Seniors only: students must be in good standing; meeting all curriculum and service hour requirements for graduation and to be considered.

0.5 Elective credit

Yearbook/Journalism

Students learn to deal with budgets and deadlines while choosing and implementing a theme for the year's publication of the yearbook. Students are expected to take photographs for the publication. Journalistic writing is emphasized including headlines, reporting techniques, angle, quotes, and writing style. Students will also learn different aspects of advertising and marketing.

Prerequisite: Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors only

1 Elective credit