



Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School

Course Directory

2025 - 2026 Academic Year

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Updated: September 24, 2025

	Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028	Class of 2029
English	4 Credits of English one each year English I, English II, English III, English IV			
Global Language	2 Credits of Global Language Must be in same target language			
Mathematics	4 Credits of Math one each year Completion of Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, at least one math beyond Algebra 2			
Science	3 Credits of Science Biology a Physical Lab Science one other science course			
Social Studies	3 Credits of Social Studies World History United States History Government (.5 credit) Economics and Personal Finance (.5 credit)			
Theology	4 Credits of Theology One each year Revelation of Jesus in Scripture / Who is Jesus Christ The Mission of Jesus / Jesus' Church Sacraments as encounters with Jesus/ Living as a disciple of Jesus Christ in society Life in Jesus Christ / Catholic American History			
Physical Education	.5 Credit of PE .5 Credit of Health			
Fine Arts	1 Credit of Fine Arts			
Electives	2 Credits of Electives			
Total Credits to Graduate	24 Credits to Graduate			

Notes

- Credit is earned by semester in all courses; 0.5 units earned for each semester course successfully completed. Courses are two semesters long unless noted.
- The contents of this directory represent preliminary decisions about course offerings for the following academic year. The final scheduling of courses depends upon enrollment figures and students' expressed preferences during the registration process. Alternative course selections may have to be made due to scheduling conflicts.
- AP courses are offered to juniors and seniors only. Students are recommended to take no more than 3 Advanced Placement (AP) courses each of those years.
- Courses designated with an * may be offered online through Catholic Virtual.
- Students taking an elective in the first year must take the 1st year of the elective (i.e. Publications 1, Art 1, etc.), unless the student is able to “test out” of the placement or provide a portfolio of work as outlined by the teacher. This does not apply to all electives and is at the discretion of school administration.
- Last Update – Feb 4, 2025

ENGLISH

While credits are awarded by the semester, students must be enrolled in a course from this subject every semester.

English I (Grade 9)

English I is the study of literature from a variety of periods, genres, and cultures. Emphasis will be placed on reading comprehension, writing, basic grammar skills, vocabulary study for PSAT preparation, and public speaking. Students will practice research skills and develop an understanding of MLA format and works cited lists.

Prerequisites: none

Honors English I (Grade 9)

This course is an intensified approach to the genres of literature studied in English I. It is the study of literature from a variety of periods, genres, and cultures. Emphasis will be placed on reading comprehension, writing, basic grammar skills, vocabulary study for PSAT preparation, and public speaking. Students will practice research skills and develop an understanding of MLA format and works cited lists. Students will work more independently than in English I. Success in this course depends on the student's interest in and enthusiasm for literature and learning, ability to build on the teacher's feedback to improve writing, and personal responsibility for keeping up with all assignments.

Prerequisites (two of the three criteria must be met): B+ or higher in the previous English class, eighth grade teacher recommendation, or an acceptable High School Placement Test Score.

English II (Grade 10)

This course is a study of world literature covering genres ranging from classic to contemporary that reflect themes pertinent to modern thought and culture. Students will read a variety of works including novels, short stories, drama, poetry, and nonfiction. Emphasis is placed on reading, vocabulary in context and for SAT/ACT preparation, formal and informal writing, and analysis of literature. Students will write essays, conduct research, study writing strategies, and read extensively.

Prerequisites: English I

Honors English II (Grade 10)

This course is an intensified study of world literature covering genres ranging from classic to contemporary that reflect themes pertinent to modern thought and culture. Students will read a variety of works including novels, short stories, drama, poetry, and nonfiction. Emphasis is placed on reading, vocabulary in context and for SAT/ACT preparation, formal and informal writing, and analysis of literature. Students will write essays, conduct research, study writing strategies, read extensively, and speak in class. Success in this course depends on the student's interest in and enthusiasm for literature and learning, ability to build on the teacher's feedback to improve writing, and personal responsibility for keeping up with all assignments.

Prerequisites (two of the three criteria must be met): An "A" average in English I (or a minimum of a "B" in Honors), teacher recommendation, or a 500 EBRW PSAT score.

English III (Grade 11)

This course is a comprehensive study of American literature from the colonial period to the present. Study includes the historical background to the literature, essays, sermons, short stories, poetry, drama, and novels. Emphasis is placed on reading, vocabulary in context and for SAT/ACT preparation, formal and informal writing, and analysis of literature. Students will write essays, conduct research, study writing strategies, and read extensively.

Prerequisites: English II

Honors English III (Grade 11)

This course is an intensified study of American literature from the colonial period to the present. Study includes the historical background to the literature, essays, sermons, short stories, poetry, drama, and novels. Emphasis is placed on reading, vocabulary in context and for SAT/ACT preparation, formal and informal writing, and analysis of literature. Students will write essays, conduct research, study writing strategies, and read extensively.

Success in this course depends on the student's interest in and enthusiasm for literature and learning, ability to build on the teacher's feedback to improve writing, and personal responsibility for keeping up with all assignments.

Prerequisites (two of the three criteria must be met): An "A" average in English II (or a minimum of a "B" in Honors), teacher recommendation, or a 550 EBRW PSAT score.

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition (Grade 11)

This year-long course is for students who already have strong written and communication skills and are ready to transition to college level writing competency. The AP Language and Composition course aligns with introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based, analytic, and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages of drafts. Students will evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Throughout the course, students develop a personal style by making appropriate grammatical choices. Additionally, students will analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, primary sources, literature, poetry, and visual images from many disciplines and historical periods. This is a reading and writing intensive course and students are expected to read extensively outside of class, as well as engage actively in the writing and revision process. Students are required to take the AP Language and Composition exam in May.

AP Exam Fee required.

Prerequisites (two of the three criteria must be met): An "A" average in Honors English II, teacher recommendation/assessment, or a 600 EBRW PSAT Score.

English IV (Grade 12)

This is a study of the development of British literature from early Anglo-Saxon times through the 20th century. Selections will include examples of poetry, essays, novels, and drama. Emphasis will be placed on the development of critical responses to literature, both written and oral. A research paper with documentation in MLA format is a requirement as well as several class presentations.

Prerequisites: English III

Honors English IV (Grade 12)

This is an intensified study of the development of British literature from early Anglo-Saxon times through the 20th century. Selections will include examples of poetry, essays, novels, and drama. Students will work more independently than in English IV. Emphasis will be placed on the development of critical responses to literature, both oral and written. More emphasis is placed on written responses in Honors English IV with the aim of producing more elegant and sophisticated writing. A research paper using MLA documentation, several presentations and seminar participation are all key elements of the course. Success in this course depends on the student's interest in and enthusiasm for literature and learning, ability to build on the teacher's feedback to improve writing, and personal responsibility for keeping up with all assignments.

Prerequisites (two of the three criteria must be met): An "A" average in English III (or a minimum of a "B" in Honors), teacher recommendation, or a 600 EBRW PSAT Score.

Advanced Placement English Literature (Grade 12)

This course includes a study of selected major works and composition in preparation for the Advanced Placement examination. Students will learn to form judgments about the effectiveness of language and style, to determine the relationship of passages to the theme of a work and to write effectively under timed and un-timed conditions. Students will be expected to complete summer reading, read extensively outside of class, complete research papers, and participate actively in class discussion.

Students are required to take the AP exam in May. **AP Exam Fee required.**

Prerequisites (two of the three criteria must be met): An "A" or higher in Honors English III (or B or higher in AP English Language), teacher recommendation, or a 650 EBRW PSAT Score.

English Electives:

(These courses do not replace English requirements)

Yearbook 1 & Honors Yearbook 2 & 3 (Grades 10, 11, 12)

This is a publication intensive course. Students will be responsible for the planning, development, and completion of *Blueprints*, the school's yearbook. Tasks will include long and short-term planning, developing page design and layouts; writing copy; taking pictures and integrating digital photography and imaging; and generating income by selling advertisements. Students electing to take this course should possess strong writing skills, organization, interpersonal communication skills, and attention to detail.

Prerequisites: Application and Interview

Publications 1 & 2, Honors Publications 3 & 4 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12) - .5/1 credit

This student-centered course is dedicated to planning, developing, and producing the school newspaper, *The Villain Nation*. Students will utilize tools to explore written, photographic, and creative possibilities by experimenting with journalistic conventions, graphic tools, and digital imaging. Students will be involved in every state of the planning, writing, editing, layout, and publication of the newspaper. Emphasis will be placed on journalistic, photographic, and creative development and mastery. Students will be assigned various pages and tasks that must be completed by specific deadlines. Responsibility and cooperation are of great importance in publishing endeavors, and honing these qualities is an integral part of success in this course.

Prerequisite for Honors: Junior or Senior and Teacher recommendation.

FINE ARTS

Visual Arts I (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

Art I is primarily devoted to deliberate and systematic presentations of various art processes, procedures, theories, and historical developments. Students will have experiences in producing two-dimensional and three-dimensional artworks through drawing, design, painting and sculpture in a variety of media. The course emphasizes the study of the elements of art and the principles of design, color theory, vocabulary, art criticism, art history, and responsibility in the art room.

Prerequisites: None

Visual Arts II (Grades 10, 11, 12)

Art II builds on the student's technical skills and foundation of knowledge developed in Art I. The study of the elements of art and principles of design, color theory, vocabulary, and art history continue in Art II in a less teacher-directed situation. Various art processes, procedures, and theories are presented in a problem-solving manner which allows for independent choices and personal solutions to problems. The approach to art experiences is less experimental and based more on informed choices. Student research of art and artists is a major source for gaining knowledge and understanding of past and present art forms. A greater fluency in the use of the elements of art and principles of design, color, theory, and vocabulary is stressed in Art II.

Prerequisites: Art I

Honors Visual Arts III (Grades 11, 12)

This course continues the study of Art I and Art II. Students will delve deeper into various media and subject matter to produce artwork more independently both in and outside of school. The focus continues to be on using the ability to notice and to work from real life subjects as well as from imagination. Students are expected to complete a portfolio of work each semester.

Prerequisites: Art II and teacher recommendation.

Honors Visual Arts IV (Grades 11, 12)

This course is both independent study and teacher guided projects with focus on preparation of portfolio for college admission. Students must be highly engaged, skilled artists with a sincere interest in continuing their art education.

Prerequisites: H Art III and/or teacher recommendation.

Advanced Placement Art History (Grade 11, 12)*

The AP Art History course will engage students at the same level as an introductory college art history survey. This course involves critical thinking and will develop an understanding and knowledge of diverse historical and cultural contexts of architecture, sculpture, painting, and other media. In the course, students examine and critically analyze major forms of artistic expression from the past and the present from a variety of cultures. Art history emphasizes understanding works of art within their historical context by examining issues such as politics, religion, patronage, gender, function, and ethnicity. The course teaches students to understand works of art through both contextual and visual analysis. This course will be taught every other school year and will next be offered during the 2025-2026 school year. Students are required to take the AP exam in May. **AP Exam Fee required.**

Prerequisites: One art class and teacher recommendation.

Advanced Placement Art 2D (Grade 11, 12)*

Students should be highly motivated, independent, and competent artists with a firm grasp on a variety of skills required to create finished works of art. 2-D design is the most advanced level course in our Visual Arts curriculum. The course is designed around portfolio development and based both on the current portfolio requirements by top art colleges in the country and AP Studio Art Drawing Portfolio guidelines. The framework of the class focuses on concepts and skills emphasized within college art and design foundation courses. The intent is to help students become inquisitive, thoughtful artists and to be able to articulate information about their work. The students will be developing and applying skills of inquiry and investigation, practice, experimentation, revision, communication, and reflection. This class develops higher-level thinking, a broad range of technical skills in a range of mediums and styles, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics. All students will develop a portfolio that demonstrates inquiry through art and design and skillful synthesis of materials, processes and ideas through practice, experimentation, and revision. This course will be offered in the 2026-2027 school year. Students are required to take the AP exam in May. **AP Exam Fee required.**

Prerequisites: Honors Art III (or comparable honors art class) and teacher recommendation and/or portfolio submission.

Pottery I (Grade 10, 11, 12), Pottery II (Grade 10, 11, 12) - .5 credit each

Pottery is taught as a studio course with focus on the hands-on experience of working with clay and glazes. Students will create works using hand building and wheel throwing techniques including vessels and sculpture. Oral and written analysis and evaluation of work will be used during critique. Research into the history and current trends in pottery and clay sculpture will give students opportunity to increase awareness of the diversity of works produced in clay.

Prerequisites: None

Honors Pottery III (Grade 11, 12), Honors Pottery IV (Grade 11, 12) - .5 credit each

Pottery is taught as a studio course with focus on the hands-on experience of working with clay and glazes. Research into the history and current trends in pottery and clay sculpture from different cultures will give students opportunity to explore of the diversity of works produced in clay. Pottery III students will work independently on personal goals toward a greater understanding of functional and sculptural works in clay. Pottery III is offered in the first semester only.

Prerequisites: Pottery II or permission of the instructor. Limit 15.

Pottery IV continues personal exploration of clay and glazes as well as teacher directed assignments. Pottery IV is offered in the second semester only.

Prerequisites: Pottery III or permission of the instructor.

Honors Pottery V (Grade 12)

Honors Pottery V is designed to encourage experienced students to refine their own style in ceramic art – both in hand-built and wheel-thrown forms. The first semester focuses on solving specific 3D design problems. In the second semester, students pursue their own focus from a single concept integrated into the constraints of 3D design. Oral and written analysis for evaluation of work will be used during critique. A journal recording experimentation with skills and techniques, results of glaze tests, notes, and sketches will be checked regularly. Students will create a college ready portfolio showcasing their

work and upload the images to a public website. Students will help maintain the firing of the kiln, be available to help students in lower-level pottery classes and assist in overseeing the general order and maintenance of the studio. This class may not be offered every year.

Prerequisites: Pottery IV and permission of the instructor.

Fibers and Textiles (Grade 10, 11, 12)

Fibers and Textiles is a hands-on course where students will explore various processes and techniques in fiber arts such as weaving, basketry, batik, surface design and sewing. The role of fibers and textiles in functional products as well as fine art will be explored through research. Oral and written analysis and evaluation will be used to critique work. A portfolio evidencing broad base of knowledge and in-depth understanding of personal art forms along with written reflections will be developed and refined each semester.

Prerequisites: None

MUSIC

Concert Choir I (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12) - .5 / 1 Credit

The BMCHS Concert Choir showcases a diverse repertoire, spanning various genres and historical periods, from the works of early composers such as Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven to contemporary vocal jazz, film scores, and beyond. Performing regularly throughout the school year, the choir has received invitations to sing at events across the Piedmont Triad. Mandatory performances include the Fall Music Concert, Fine-Arts Christmas Concert, Spring Music Concert, Fine Arts Day, and occasional after-school events. Choir members also enjoy opportunities to lend their voices to school masses and other special occasions.

Prerequisites: None

Concert Choir II (Grades 10, 11, 12) - .5 / 1 Credit

The BMCHS Concert Choir showcases a diverse repertoire, spanning various genres and historical periods, from the works of early composers such as Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven to contemporary vocal jazz, film scores, and beyond. Performing regularly throughout the school year, the choir has received invitations to sing at events across the Piedmont Triad. Mandatory performances include the Fall Music Concert, Fine-Arts Christmas Concert, Spring Music Concert, Fine Arts Day, and occasional after-school events. Choir members also enjoy opportunities to lend their voices to school masses and other special occasions.

Prerequisites: Concert Choir I

Honors Concert Choir III/IV (Grades 11, 12) - .5 / 1 Credit

The BMCHS Concert Choir showcases a diverse repertoire spanning various genres and historical periods, ranging from early classical compositions to contemporary vocal jazz and film scores. Performing regularly throughout the school year, the choir has earned invitations to sing at events across the Piedmont Triad. Mandatory performances for choir members include the Fall Music Concert, Fine-Arts Christmas Concert, Spring Music Concert, Fine Arts Day, and occasional after-school events. Additionally, students in the choir have opportunities to lend their voices to school masses and participate in various other events. This course provides students with additional responsibilities and roles within the ensemble.

Prerequisites: Concert Choir II/III and teacher recommendation.

Orchestra I (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12) - .5 / 1 Credit

The BMCHS Orchestra is a performance-oriented class open to instrumentalists (in some cases students may be asked to supplement this class with private instrumental instruction outside of school). Required performances include the Fall Music Concert, Fine-Arts Christmas Concert, Spring Music Concert, Fine Arts Day, and additional events. Students must own or rent their instrument, including all appropriate materials and accessories. The BMCHS Concert Orchestra works on a wide variety of music styles, ranging from Classical Orchestral to Film/TV music.

Prerequisites: New students will need to schedule a personal new-member meeting with the instructor, prior to course sign-up.

Orchestra II (Grades 10, 11, 12) - .5 / 1 Credit

This course is for second year orchestra students. The BMCHS Concert Orchestra is a performance-oriented class open to all students (in some cases students may be asked to supplement this class with private instrumental instruction outside of school). Required performances include the Fall Music Concert, Fine-Arts Christmas Concert, Spring Music Concert, Fine Arts Day, and additional events.

Students must own or rent their instrument, including all appropriate materials and accessories. The BMCHS Concert Orchestra works on a wide variety of music styles, ranging from Classical Orchestral to Film/TV music.

Prerequisites: Orchestra I

Honors Orchestra III/IV (Grades 11, 12) - .5 / 1 Credit

The BMCHS Concert Orchestra is a performance-oriented class open to all students (in some cases students may be asked to supplement this class with private instrumental instruction outside of school). Required performances include the Fall Music Concert, Fine-Arts Christmas Concert, Spring Music Concert, Fine Arts Day, and additional events. Students must own or rent their instrument, including all appropriate materials and accessories. The BMCHS Concert Orchestra works on a wide variety of music styles, ranging from Classical Orchestral to Film/TV music. Students in this course will have additional responsibilities and roles in the ensemble.

Prerequisites: Orchestra II and teacher recommendation.

Guitar Ensemble I (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

The BMCHS Guitar Ensemble is a performance-oriented class open to all students (in some cases students may be asked to supplement this class with private instrumental instruction outside of school). Required performances include the Fall Music Concert, Fine-Arts Christmas Concert, Spring Music Concert, Fine Arts Day, and additional events. Students must own or rent their instrument, including all appropriate materials and accessories. The BMCHS Guitar Ensemble performs a wide variety of music styles ranging from Classical Guitar to Film/TV music.

Prerequisites: New students will need to schedule a personal new-member meeting with the instructor, prior to course sign-up.

Guitar Ensemble II (Grades 10, 11, 12)

This course is for second year guitar ensemble students. The BMCHS Guitar Ensemble is a performance-oriented class open to all students (in some cases students may be asked to supplement this class with private instrumental instruction outside of school). Required performances include the Fall Music Concert, Fine-Arts Christmas Concert, Spring Music Concert, Fine Arts Day, and additional events. Students must own or rent their instrument, including all appropriate materials and accessories. The BMCHS Guitar Ensemble performs a wide variety of music styles ranging from Classical Guitar to Film/TV music.

Prerequisites: Guitar Ensemble I

Honors Guitar Ensemble III/IV (Grades 11, 12)

The BMCHS Guitar Ensemble is a performance-oriented class open to all students (in some cases students may be asked to supplement this class with private instrumental instruction outside of school). Required performances include the Fall Music Concert, Fine-Arts Christmas Concert, Spring Music Concert, Fine Arts Day, and additional events. Students must own or rent their instrument, including all appropriate materials and accessories. The BMCHS Guitar Ensemble performs a wide variety of music styles ranging from Classical Guitar to Film/TV music. Students in this course will have additional roles and responsibilities in the ensemble.

Prerequisites: Guitar Ensemble II and audition and teacher recommendation.

Technology in the Arts I, II (Grades 10, 11, 12) - .5 / 1 Credit

The BMCHS Technology in the Arts course is a hands-on, objective-focused music elective that prepares students for the technical aspects of the performing arts. Tailored for those interested in behind-the-scenes work, the course explores various areas within the audio and visual tech industry, offering insights into real-world careers. Students engage with software programs on their laptops, covering audio engineering tools like "Logic Pro" and compositional programs such as "Finale." Additionally, they work with video editing software like iMovie and design programs like Canva and Adobe. All enrolled students are responsible for running audio and lighting equipment at all BMCHS performing arts concerts and shows. The course challenges students with in-class assignments and projects, aiming to provide unique opportunities to explore the audio/recording industry, engineer professional-level performances, build connections, and discover diverse career paths within the technological realm of the arts.

Prerequisite: None.

Honors Technology in the Arts III (Grades 11, 12)

The BMCHS Technology in the Arts course is a hands-on, objective-focused music elective that prepares students for the technical aspects of the performing arts. Tailored for those interested in behind-the-scenes work, the course explores various areas within the audio and visual tech industry, offering insights into real-world careers. Students engage with software programs on their laptops, covering audio engineering tools like "Logic Pro" and compositional programs such as "Finale." Additionally, they work with video editing software like iMovie and design programs like Canva and Adobe. All enrolled students are responsible for running audio and lighting equipment at all BMCHS performing arts concerts and shows. The course challenges students with in-class assignments and projects, aiming to provide unique opportunities to explore the audio/recording industry, engineer professional-level performances, build connections, and discover diverse career paths within the technological realm of the arts.

Prerequisites: Technology in the Arts I, II and teacher recommendation.

Advanced Placement Music Theory (Grade 11, 12)*

The AP® Music Theory curriculum presents a course of study that develops the comprehensive skills of music literacy and music theory. Through the course, students develop fluency in the vocabulary and symbols used to describe musical elements and their interaction and acquire mastery through both hearing and notating. Speed and fluency with the materials of music are emphasized, and the development of aural, composition, analytical, and performance skills are considered important elements of the course. Students are required to take the AP exam in May.

AP Exam Fee Required.

Prerequisites: Prior music experience and teacher recommendation.

DRAMA

Theater Arts I (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

Learn basic theater principles in stage movement, voice, diction, and pantomime. Study the history and vocabulary of theater. Practice techniques to overcome stage-fright and develop self-confidence. Concentrate on improvisational techniques and acting skills for in-class performance and video projects.

Prerequisite: None

Theater Arts II (Grades 10, 11, 12)

This course is a continuation of the study of Theater, building on the curriculum of Theater Arts I. The class will further the student's technique and knowledge in playwriting, character development, improvisation, and theatre history. Theatre II will also have a heavier concentration on partner/ group scene acting. This course will culminate in multiple staged performances acted by and directed by students.

Prerequisite: Theater Arts I

Honors Theater Arts III/IV (Grades 11, 12)

This course is a continuation of the study of Theater, building on the curriculum of Theater Arts I & II. This class is entirely project based. Students will apply previous theatre education into performances, directorial experiences, and playwriting creations. Students must be comfortable and willing to explore all facets of theatre by this honors level.

Prerequisites: Theater Arts II and/or audition and teacher recommendation.

GLOBAL LANGUAGES

French I (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

A study of the basic elements of the French language, geography, and culture: Students will learn the elementary grammatical structures of the French language. Students will be expected to ask and answer questions in French and to read, write, comprehend, and speak in a simple form of the language.

Prerequisites: None

French II (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

A continued study of the French language and culture: Students will learn the past tense and will increase their working vocabulary and conversational skills in French. Students will be expected to read and write short paragraphs as well as to speak and understand French in the classroom.

Prerequisite: French I

Honors French III (Grades 10, 11, 12)

A continued study of the French language, culture, and French speaking nations: Students will learn the future, the conditional, the subjunctive and extensive past tenses and will increase their conversational skills and vocabulary. Students will be expected to speak and understand French in the classroom, to read various excerpts from French literature and to write short compositions.

Prerequisites: “B” average in French II and teacher recommendation.

Honors French IV (Grades 11, 12)

A continued study of the French language, history, and culture: Students will learn more complex grammatical structures and vocabulary. Students will be expected to read various works of French literature and modern articles, to write compositions and to converse in French.

Prerequisites: “B” average in H French III and teacher recommendation.

Latin I (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

A study of elementary Latin grammar, literature, and culture: Students will learn Latin grammar usage through the speaking, writing, and reading of original Latin. Students will be expected to read and understand elementary Latin literature. Students will be taking the National Latin Exam during this course.

Prerequisites: None

Latin II (Grades 10, 11, and 12)

A continuing study of elementary Latin grammar, literature, and culture: Students will learn Latin grammar usage through the speaking, writing, and reading of mythology and history in Latin. Students will be expected to read and understand elementary Latin literature. Students will be taking the National Latin Exam during this course.

Prerequisite: Latin I

Honors Latin III (Grades 11, 12)*

In this course, you will continue your study of Latin, the language spoken by the ancient Romans, a diverse group of people who built an empire that encircled the Mediterranean Sea and encompassed most of what we think of today as Europe, the Middle East and northern Africa. The influence of Latin did not come to an end with the eventual collapse of the Roman Empire. It continued to be studied, taught, and used for

more than 1500 years by the greatest scholars, leaders, and scientists in western civilization. We will begin the year by doing a thorough review of all Latin grammar as we begin to read Latin Literature. Most of the class will be a survey of Latin Literature. We will read selections from Caesar, Virgil, Ovid, Catullus, and Cicero. Students will be taking the National Latin Exam during this course.

Prerequisites: “B” average in Latin II and teacher recommendation

Advanced Placement Latin A (Grades 11, 12)

A study of *Pliny’s letters* and Vergil’s *Aeneid*: Students will learn to read *Pliny’s letters* and the *Aeneid* with facility and rapidity and will prepare to take the Advanced Placement Exam. Students will be expected to be totally at ease with Vergil’s *Aeneid* and with Latin poetic devices, relevant Roman history and current literature dealing with Rome’s Augustan Age. Students will be expected to be totally at ease with *Pliny’s letters*, relevant Roman history and current literature dealing with the Roman Republic of the 1st Century BCE. Students are required to take the AP Exam in May. This course may be offered every other year. AP Exam Fee required.

Prerequisites: “B” or higher in H Latin IV and teacher recommendation or an “A” in H Latin III and teacher recommendation.

Spanish I (Grade 9, 10, 11, 12)

A study of the basic elements of the Spanish language and culture: Students will learn grammatical structures and vocabulary in an oral setting. Students will be expected to understand, speak, read, and write in the present and the preterit verb tenses of the Spanish language.

Prerequisites: None

Spanish II (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

A continued study of the Spanish language and culture: Students will learn to use various verb tenses including the imperfect, subjunctive, perfect tenses, future and conditional, all pronouns, command forms, as well as other fine grammar points. Students will increase their working vocabulary, and will be expected to understand, speak, read, and write in Spanish.

Prerequisites: Spanish I or demonstrated proficiency on the placement exam.

Honors Spanish III (Grades 10, 11, 12)

A continuing study of the Spanish language and culture: Students will learn the formation and use of the subjunctive, the future and conditional tenses, as well as the perfect tenses. There is a great increase in vocabulary as well as writing skills. Students will be expected to speak Spanish, write short and longer compositions, read edited works in Spanish.

Prerequisites: “B” average in Spanish II and teacher recommendation.

Honors Spanish IV (Grades 11, 12)

A continuing in depth study of the Spanish language: Students will learn the formation and use of the imperfect subjunctive past and continue to study the fine points of grammar. Vocabulary will continue to grow and speaking and writing will be emphasized. Students will speak Spanish, discuss literature, and develop short and longer compositions.

Prerequisites: “B” average in H Spanish III and teacher recommendation.

Advanced Placement Spanish (Grade 12)

An in-depth study of Spanish with emphasis on all skills: Students will continue to improve their self-expression through speaking, reading, and writing and will prepare to take the Advanced Placement Exam. Student will be expected to speak, understand, read, and write on a college level. Students are required to take the AP exam in May. **AP Exam Fee required.**

Prerequisites: “B” or higher in H Spanish IV and teacher recommendation or an “A” in H Spanish III and teacher recommendation

MATHEMATICS

NOTE: All mathematics classes at BMCHS require a graphing calculator.

***While credits are awarded by the semester, students must be enrolled in a course from this subject every semester. ***

Algebra I (Grade 9)

This is the standard Algebra I class which is intended to prepare students for Geometry and Algebra II. Topics include variables, algebraic expressions, equations, factoring, graphing, and problem solving. Students who succeed can go on and complete a rigorous high school mathematics program and the possibility of being recommended for honors in the future.

Prerequisites: None

Honors Algebra I (Grade 9)

This course focuses on an understanding of functions—linear, quadratic, exponential, and piecewise—while developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Students will connect key concepts such as sequences, functions, polynomials, quadratics and factoring, and refine precision through work with systems, inequalities, transformations, and expressions. Emphasis on applications and proper notation prepares students for advanced mathematics.

Prerequisites: Sufficient score on a math placement test and teacher recommendation

Geometry (Grades 9 and 10)

This is Euclidean Geometry and topics will include points, lines, planes, angles, triangles, polygons, circles, and solids. Geometry exposes students to the structure of mathematics which moves from definitions to theorems and proof. Students will be expected to complete proofs, make constructions and problem solve.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra I

Honors Geometry (Grades 9 and 10)

This is Euclidean Geometry and topics will include points, lines, planes, angles, triangles, polygons, circles, solids, and trigonometric functions. This is our most rigorous course in geometry and students will be challenged to complete proofs, make construction, think critically and problem solve.

Prerequisites for Ninth Grade (two of the three criteria must be met): “A” or higher in Algebra I, teacher recommendation, or a sufficient score on the High School Math Placement Test.

Prerequisites for Tenth Grade (two of the three criteria must be met): “A” or higher in Algebra I, “B” or higher in Honors Algebra I teacher recommendation, or 500 on the PSAT Math Test.

Algebra II (Grades 9, 10 and 11)

Topics will include equations, inequalities, linear and polynomial functions, radicals, piece-wise functions, rational functions, exponents, and logarithms with emphasis on graphing.

Prerequisites: Algebra I and Geometry

Honors Algebra II (Grades 9, 10 and 11)

This course is designed to help students build the skills needed to analyze functions graphically, analytically, verbally and numerically. Topics will include investigating and graphing absolute value, quadratic, polynomial, rational, radical, piecewise, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric

functions. Other topics include identifying arithmetic and geometric sequences, solving equations and inequalities, solving linear and nonlinear systems, operations and transformation of functions, inverse relationships, and matrices.

Prerequisites (two of the three criteria must be met): completion of Geometry with an “A” (or Honors Geometry with a “B” or higher), teacher recommendation, or a 520 PSAT Math score (or a sufficient High School Placement Math Test score for rising ninth graders).

Precalculus (Grades 11 and 12)

This course is designed for students who have completed Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry, but need more of a foundation before going on to upper-level mathematics. The class will help prepare students for college placement tests in mathematics. The course will review all skills from Algebra I and II and move on to studying functions and graphing leading to Calculus concepts. Functions include: Polynomial, Rational, Piecewise, Exponential, Logarithmic and Trigonometric Functions. Sequences and conic sections will be discussed as time permits. Students completing this course successfully would be prepared for Honors Calculus or Statistics the following year.

Prerequisite: Algebra II

Honors Pre-Calculus AB (Grades 10, 11, and 12)

This course is designed to prepare students for AB Calculus through a strong review of all topics in Algebra and Geometry and an introduction to the basic concepts of Calculus. The focus of the Precalculus class is building the concept of the function both graphically and analytically. Polynomial, power, rational, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric, logistic, and piecewise functions are all investigated in this course, along with sequences, polar equations, and conic sections.

Prerequisites (two of the three criteria must be met): Appropriate grade (“B” or higher in Honors Algebra II or an “A” in Algebra II), teacher recommendation, or a 550 PSAT Math score.

Honors Pre-Calculus BC (Grades 10 and 11)

This fast-paced course is designed to prepare students for BC Calculus through a strong review of all topics in Algebra and Geometry, an introduction to important concepts seen in BC Calculus, and an introduction to the basic concepts of Calculus. The focus of the Precalculus class is building the concept of the function both graphically and analytically. Polynomial, power, rational, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric, logistic, and piecewise functions are all investigated in this course. In addition, students will explore BC-related concepts such as conic sections, sequences, vectors, parametric equations, and polar equations.

Prerequisites (two of the three criteria must be met): “A” or higher in Honors Algebra II, teacher recommendation, or a 600 PSAT Math score.

Statistics and Financial Literacy (Grade 12)

This year-long course introduces students to the fundamentals of statistics in the first portion of the course and financial math in the second portion. During the first portion, students will explore descriptive and inferential statistics, including data representation with graphs, measures of center and variability, bivariate data analysis, regression lines, probability basics, confidence intervals, and significance testing. In the second portion of the course, the focus shifts to practical financial skills, such as budgeting, money management, and other essential consumer applications. Extensive use of graphing calculators and computer-based tools is required throughout the course.

Prerequisite: Algebra II

Honors Calculus (Grades 12)

This is differential and integral calculus designed to mimic a college level Calculus class. This class does not provide college credit but is a strong foundation for further study in calculus.

Prerequisites: “B” or higher in Honors Pre-Calculus or “A” in Pre-Calculus, a 520 Math PSAT, or teacher recommendation.

Advanced Placement Calculus AB (Grades 11 and 12)

This course is designed to introduce students to the themes of Calculus, which is the mathematical study of change, speed, and area. There are three main concepts to be covered in this course: the limit and continuity of functions, the derivative, the integral. The course is designed to prepare students for success on the Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus AB exam. As with all advanced math courses, students will also learn how to use a variety of strategies to solve problems in many disciplines, pursue mathematical truth through constructing proofs and using appropriate reasoning, improve their ability to communicate ideas about mathematics in writing and speaking, and begin to realize the beauty of how mathematical ideas relate to each other and contribute to the mathematical structure.

AP Exam Fee required.

Prerequisites (two of the three criteria must be met): An “A” in Honors Pre-Calculus, teacher recommendation, and/or a 600 PSAT Math score

Advanced Placement Calculus BC (Grades 11 and 12)*

This most rigorous Calculus course offering is designed to cover all the topics covered in a college Calculus I and Calculus II class. Those topics include a review of limits and derivatives (topics seen in Calculus AB), along with additional integral applications and series representations. The course is designed to prepare students for success on the Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus BC exam. As with all advanced math courses, students will also learn how to use a variety of strategies to solve problems in many disciplines, pursue mathematical truth through constructing proofs and using appropriate reasoning, improve their ability to communicate ideas about mathematics in writing and speaking, and begin to realize the beauty of how mathematical ideas relate to each other and contribute to the mathematical structure. This course may be offered online. Because of the considerable amount of the material in BC Calculus and the fast pace of the course, students may be asked to attend a zero period approximately once a week.

AP Exam Fee required.

Prerequisites (two of the three criteria must be met): An “A” in Honors Pre Calculus or AP Calculus AB, 650 PSAT Math Score, and a Teacher Recommendation

Advanced Placement Statistics (Grades 11 and 12)

The Advanced Placement (AP) Statistics course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Particularly, students will investigate four major themes of statistics: how to observe patterns and departures in patterns of data (descriptive statistics), how to decide what is necessary for a successful study, how to produce a model of reality using probability and simulation, and how to draw conclusions from data (inferential statistics). A graphing calculator and computer-based applications are used extensively in this course and are necessary for students to successfully complete the course. The course is designed to prepare students for success on the Advanced Placement (AP) Statistics exam. As with all advanced math courses, students will also learn how to use a variety of strategies to solve problems in many disciplines, pursue mathematical truth through constructing proofs and using appropriate reasoning, improve their ability to

communicate ideas about mathematics in writing and speaking, and begin to realize the beauty of how mathematical ideas relate to each other and contribute to the mathematical structure.

AP Exam Fee required.

Prerequisites (two of the three criteria must be met): A “B” or higher in Honors Calculus or Honors Precalculus, teacher recommendation, or a 1150 combined PSAT Reading/Writing and Math Score."

Math Electives

(Classes that do not meet Math credit requirements)

Honors Computer Science (Grades 11 and 12)*

Honors computer science introduces students to the foundational concepts of computer science and challenges them to explore how computing and technology can impact the world. With a unique focus on creative problem solving and real-world applications, this class develops concepts and principles for students for college and career. Whether it's 3-D animation, engineering, music, app development, medicine, visual design, robotics, or political analysis, computer science is the engine that powers the technology, productivity, and innovation that drives the world.

Prerequisites: An “A” in Algebra 2

AP Computer Science Principles (Grades 11 and 12)*

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

Prerequisites: “B” or higher in Honors Pre-Calculus, 550 or higher on the Math PSAT, and/or teacher recommendation

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH

Physical Education (Grade 9, 10, 11, 12) - .5 credit

PE offers instruction in team sports, aerobics, fitness, and recreational activities. Students will learn rules and skills associated with specific sports and will be expected to recall rules on written tests, perform fitness and skill tests and report on sports topics.

Prerequisites: None

Health (Grade 9, 10, 11, 12) - .5 credit

Health is a semester long course that will guide students through many dimensions of health and wellness. Students will develop necessary skills needed in confronting difficult situations. By the end of the semester students will understand health prevention and promotion techniques that will aid them in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Prerequisites: None

Strength and Conditioning I (Grade 10, 11, 12) - .5 credit

Emphasis will be on weight training and conditioning utilizing free weight equipment and sprint training along with plyometrics and distance training.

Prerequisites: Health/PE

Strength and Conditioning II (Grade 10, 11, 12) - .5 credit

Emphasis will be on weight training and conditioning utilizing free weight equipment and sprint training along with plyometrics and distance training.

Prerequisites: Strength and Conditioning I

Strength and Conditioning III/IV (Grade 11 and 12) - .5 credit

Emphasis will be on weight training and conditioning utilizing free weight equipment and sprint training along with plyometrics and distance training. Students will be responsible for tracking and documenting athletic information to track progress in key strength and conditioning data points.

Prerequisites: Strength and Conditioning II

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

***While credits are awarded by the semester, students must be enrolled in a course from this subject every semester. ***

Biology (Grade 9)

A study of living organisms: emphasis will be given to characteristics of life, cells, heredity, diversity, ecology and similarities among organisms and the evolution of organisms. Students will participate in laboratories, individual and group projects, and in-class activities.

Prerequisites: None

Honors Biology (Grade 9)

An advanced study of living organisms: emphasis will be given to characteristics of life, heredity, diversity, ecology and similarities among organisms and the evolution of organisms. Students will work more independently than in the biology class. Students will participate in labs, individual and group projects, and in-class activities.

Prerequisites (two of the three criteria must be met): An “A” or higher in previous science course, eighth grade teacher recommendation, and a sufficient High School Placement Test score.

Advanced Placement Biology (Grades 11, 12)

A college-level biology course: emphasis will be given to a study of molecular and cellular, organismal, and ecological and evolutionary concepts. Lab work will be included. Students are required to take the AP exam in May. **AP Exam Fee**

required.

Prerequisites (two of the three criteria must be met): A “B” or better in current AP science **or** an “A” in Honors Chemistry, teacher recommendation/assessment, a 600 PSAT EBRW test, **and** 550 PSAT Math.

Chemistry (Grades 10, 11, 12)

A study of matter and its relationship to the universe: emphasis will be given to learning basic chemical concepts as applied to the reactions of matter. Students will be expected to demonstrate the ability to comprehend chemical systems by both laboratory and in-class exercises.

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

Honors Chemistry (Grades 10, 11, 12)

An in-depth study of matter as it relates to phenomena of the universe: emphasis will be given to chemical concepts and their application to the reactions of matter. Students will be expected to demonstrate the ability to comprehend chemical systems by laboratory exercises, in-class lecture, testing and individual projects.

Note: While not a prerequisite, content from Algebra 2 will be utilized in the second semester of this course.

Prerequisites: A “B” or higher in Honors Biology (or an “A” in Biology) an “A” in Algebra 1 or a co-requisite of Algebra 2, teacher recommendation, and a 560 PSAT Math score.

Advanced Placement Chemistry (Grades 11, 12)

An advanced study of the role of matter and the explanation of phenomena in the universe: emphasis will be given to learning advanced techniques in chemical problem solving. Students will be expected to complete all laboratory assignments, an independent research project, and are required to take the AP Chemistry Exam in May. **AP Exam Fee required.**

Prerequisites (two of the three criteria must be met): An “A” or higher in Honors Chemistry, teacher recommendation, or a 580 PSAT Math score.

Honors Anatomy & Physiology (Grades 11, 12)

A study of the anatomy (structure) and physiology (function) of the human body: emphasis will be given to learning the major systems of the body and developing dissection techniques and skills. Students will be expected to handle a rigorous course of study.

Prerequisites: “A” or “B” average in previous year’s science course and completion of Chemistry and/or teacher recommendation

Environmental Science (Grade 10, 11, 12)

Environmental Science is a study of the interdisciplinary interaction between humans and the natural world. It is intended for students with a wide variety of career goals. Among the issues discussed will be regional environmental concerns, ecology, energy, human activities affecting ecosystems, and pollution. The goal of the course is to provide students with an understanding of the human influence and consequences of their actions on our planet.

Prerequisites: Biology

Advanced Placement Environmental Science (Grades 11, 12)

This course is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester college course in Environmental Science. The environment, by definition, makes up everything that surrounds us. The goals of this course are to provide you with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. The course follows the curriculum recommended by the College Board. Students will be expected to complete a great deal of reading and writing, all laboratory assignments, independent research projects, field experiences, and are required to take the AP Environmental Science Exam in May. **AP Exam Fee required.**

Prerequisites: An “A” in recent Honors level science course, PSAT EBRW of 550 and Math of 500, or science teacher recommendation.

Honors Physics (Grades 11, 12)

This course provides a strong foundation for understanding the physical world and the governing principles of matter and energy. Students will explore key topics, including velocity, acceleration, forces, energy, momentum, and electric charge, with an emphasis on applying these concepts to solve complex, real-world problems. Designed for motivated students, the course fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and hands-on learning through labs and collaborative projects. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the laws of physics while refining their analytical and experimental skills, preparing them for advanced studies in science, engineering, medicine, and related fields.

Prerequisites: “B” or better in Honors Algebra 2 and Honors Chemistry *or* an “A” in Algebra 2 and Chemistry

Science Electives

(Classes that do not meet Science credit requirements)

Engineering I (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

This course covers principles of engineering (civil, mechanical, aeronautical), basic computer science/intro to computer programming, intro to digital electronics/robotics, math review (algebra, geometry) needed for Aviation classes.

Prerequisites: None

Aviation I (Grades 10, 11, 12)

This course is taught in two sections. Semester 1 will be an introduction to flight including types of aircraft, physics and forces as applied to flight, aircraft controls, and aircraft maneuvering. Semester 2 is a focus on Aircraft Systems including aerodynamics, propulsion, model electrical systems, and vectors of flight.

Prerequisites: A “B” in Geometry, Teacher Recommendation, and completion of Engineering I

Aviation II (Grades 11 and 12)

This course is taught in two sections. Semester 1 is a focus on flight operations including aircrafts, the airport, tower communications and will culminate with the FAA examination for private pilots. Semester 2 will be focus on flight planning or unmanned aerial systems.

Prerequisites: Completion of Aviation I, Algebra II, and teacher recommendation.

Medical Terminology (Grades 10, 11, 12)

This course is an introduction to the principles of medical word building to develop the necessary medical vocabulary used in health care settings. Using a systems-approach, students’ study, analyze and interpret root words, prefixes and suffixes with emphasis on spelling, pronunciation, definition and use of medical terms. As part of the learning process, students are exposed to basic anatomy, physiology, pathology of disease, and clinical procedures.

Prerequisites: Biology

H Sports Medicine I (Grades 11 and 12)

Sports Medicine I is designed for students interested in pursuing a career in sports medicine. Students will have the opportunity to receive various certifications, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), first aid, automated external defibrillator (AED), among others. The primary focus will include, but is not limited to athletic training (AT) scope of practice: anatomy, injury prevention, treatments, rehabilitation, nutrition, basic taping and bandaging, emergency injury management, sport psychology, and administrative functions. After school requirement.

Co-requisite: H Anatomy and Physiology.

SOCIAL STUDIES

World History (Grade 10)

World History is a study of major western and non-western cultures from prehistoric times to the present: emphasis will be placed on understanding the patterns of development and change that has taken place in major cultures in Europe, as well as those in Africa, Asia, and the Americas as they relate to the development of European culture.

Prerequisites: English I

Honors World History (Grade 10)

This course is an in-depth survey of world history from the ascent of humans to the end of the Cold War. Emphasis will be given to the development of Western Europe and of Africa, Asia, and the Americas as those regions affect the development of European culture. These objectives will be accomplished using the assigned textbook, maps, supplementary readings, primary source documents, and individual, original research projects. This course will require a large amount of reading and writing, as well as critical analysis of historical material.

Prerequisites: “A” in English I or “B” or higher in Honors English I, 500 PSAT EBRW, and/or teacher recommendation.

U.S. History (Grade 11)

This course is a study of the political, social, and economic events that have shaped the United States from the founding of Jamestown to the present day. The first semester will cover the period up to 1876, and the second semester will cover from 1876 to present day. Students will learn the basic concepts concerning the founding of the federal government, the development of state governments and how the two interact. Additionally, students will be expected to understand the cause and effect of specific events in U.S. History while making connections to current domestic and international affairs. These objectives will be accomplished using the assigned textbook, maps, supplementary readings, primary source documents, and individual, original research projects. Supplemental reading books are *required* of all students.

Prerequisites: World History

Honors U.S. History (Grade 11)

This course is an intensive study of the political, social, and economic events that have shaped the United States from the founding of Jamestown to the present day. The first semester will cover the period up to 1876, and the second semester will cover from 1876 to present day. Students will learn the basic concepts concerning the founding of the federal government, the development of state governments and how the two interact. Additionally, students will be expected to understand the cause and effect of specific events in U.S. History while making connections to current domestic and international affairs. These objectives will be accomplished using the assigned textbook, maps, supplementary readings, primary source documents, and individual, original research projects. Supplemental reading books are *required* of all students.

Prerequisites: A grade of “B” or higher in Honors World History or an “A” in World History, PSAT EBRW of 550, and/or teacher recommendation.

Advanced Placement U.S. History (Grade 11)

Students will explore American history from early Native-American cultures through the present and will learn to analyze and interpret historic events. This college-level course meets graduation requirements for the state of North Carolina but also provides the opportunity to earn college credit if proficiency is demonstrated on the Advance Placement Exam. Students are required to take the AP exam in May. **Exam Fee required.**

Prerequisites (two of the three criteria must be met): An “A” in Honors World history, PSAT EBRW of 600, and/or teacher recommendation

Government and Civics (Grade 12) - .5 credit

A study of American government with respect to its ideological underpinnings and structure: strong emphasis is placed on the values and ideals embodied in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Students will study the elements in decision-making at all levels of government and learn the importance of citizen participation in the political culture of the United States.

Prerequisites: US History

Economics and Personal Finance (Grade 12) - .5 credit

A study of the American economics system: students will study basic concepts of the price system, supply and demand, the tax system, and financial markets. Emphasis is placed on the application of value in economic decision-making to solve fundamental contemporary economic problems.

Prerequisites: US History

Honors Government and Civics (Grade 12) - .5 credit

An in-depth study of American government with respect to its ideological underpinnings and structure: strong emphasis is placed on the values and ideals embodied in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. In addition, students will be required to read supplementary materials and submit several papers on a variety of topics emphasizing analysis and interpretation.

Prerequisites: “B” or higher in Honors or AP U.S. History or an “A” in US History, PSAT EBRW of 550, and/or teacher recommendation

Honors Economics and Personal Finance (Grade 12) - .5 credit

An in-depth study of the American economic system: students will study concepts of the price system, supply and demand, the tax system and financial markets. Strong emphasis is placed on the application of value in economic decision-making to solve fundamental contemporary economic problems. In addition, students will be required to read supplementary materials and/or submit research papers or projects dealing with the study of Economics.

Prerequisites: “B” or higher in Honors or AP U.S. History or an “A” in US History, PSAT EBRW of 550, and/or teacher recommendation

Social Studies Electives:

(These courses do not replace history requirements)

Ancient World History / Foundations of Civilization (Grades 9, 10) - .5 credit/ 1 credit

This class will acquaint the student with the major world civilizations from the dawn of history (with a brief glance at prehistory) down to the year 1200 A.D. We will have occasion, as our study moves forward in time to consider in greater depth issues of politics, international affairs, economics, society, culture, and religion and how these things contributed to the rise and fall of successive city-states and empires over the several thousand years we will study. The course culminates at the year 1200 A.D. the later centuries of which correspond to the early Church and the period of the Apostolic and Church Fathers. This will give us the opportunity to study the sources of our own Catholic faith.

Prerequisites: None

Honors Sociology (Grades 11, 12)

The Introduction to Sociology and Social Justice class is an interdisciplinary approach in examining the role of the individual as a community participant. The class emphasizes theories in Metaphysics, Sociology, Theology and Social Activism. Combined, these fields will effectively prepare students to become effective advocates poised to tackle complex changes that impact our society and protect those who are the most vulnerable among us. This course will focus on service leadership and the role that is has in our engagement in society. The students will learn that they have a place in society and that each one has a purpose. The course emphasizes quantitative and qualitative research, comparative analysis, activism, and community outreach. The students should be comfortable with these areas before registering for the class.

Prerequisites – “A”/ “B” in most recent history class, PSAT EBRW of 550, and/or teacher recommendation.

Advanced Placement Psychology (Grade 11, 12)

The purpose of AP Psychology is to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. Major concepts, theories, and methodologies of psychology will be studied. Students are required to take the AP exam in May. **AP Exam Fee required.**

Prerequisites (two of the three criteria must be met): An “A” in current honors history (or “B” or higher in AP US History), teacher recommendation/assessment, or a 550 PSAT EBRW score

Advanced Placement European History (Grades 11, 12)

Students will study the key social, economic, political, and cultural factors that changed the face of Europe from the Renaissance through modern history and current events. The course will emphasize critical evaluation of primary source documents that include letters, treaties, newspapers, pamphlets, artwork, and other original sources. Students will supplement their study of the course textbook with several period novels, and other works, that represent the writing achievements of the great European writers. The course will include a two-week review for the required Advanced Placement Exam which will be held in early May. Students are required to take the AP exam. **AP Exam Fee required.**

Prerequisites: An “A” in Honors World History, Honors US History, or “B” in AP US History, 600 PSAT EBRW Score, and teacher recommendation

Honors American Legal System (Grades 11, 12)

This is an honors course designed to expose the student to the fundamentals of the American legal system. Students will explore a brief history of the American legal system, learn about the legal profession and the roles of legal professionals, and develop an understanding of ethics and legal responsibility in the law. They will also learn about constitutional law, civil and criminal law, torts and personal injury law, international law, and the law of human rights. They will study landmark legal cases and the effect of those decisions on modern law and society. Students will also develop legal research and writing skills and learn the importance of legal advocacy and the art of persuasion by participating in mock trials and debates. This course provides a solid foundation for students interested in pursuing further studies and careers in law.

Co-Requisite/Prerequisite: An “A” average in US History or World History (or a minimum of a “B” in Honors), teacher recommendation, or a 550 EBRW PSAT score.

St. Gabriel Program Courses

Guided by the call of the Church to provide an educational opportunity for all students and aligned with our mission of forming the intellect, character, and faith of our students in a diverse, engaged community, Bishop McGuinness offers the St. Gabriel Program to serve and support young men and women with a learning difficulty or other diagnosis that interferes with their ability to be successful in a traditional classroom. Courses listed in this section are specifically for students in the St. Gabriel Program.

Math Foundations 1, 2, 3, 4 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

This course for students in the St. Gabriel Program provides individualized instruction for students to progress at their optimal pace to gain a strong base in fundamental mathematical concepts and skills. This course serves as a bridge between earlier math studies and more advanced math topics. A student may take up to four years of Math Foundations, as each year is customized for the student's unique learning needs.

Core English 1, 2, 3, 4 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

In Core English, students will strengthen their reading and writing skills through individualized instruction, guided practice, and hands-on activities. Designed for students in the St. Gabriel Program, this course will teach strategies to help students understand what they read, build vocabulary, and share ideas more clearly in writing. This class is designed to help students grow into more confident readers and writers while working at their own pace, aligned to the curriculum offered in standard English classes of the same grade-level.

Core Biology (Grade 9)

This course provides a comprehensive curriculum in biology, with a focus on the essential skills and concepts of Life Science. This course is designed for students in the St. Gabriel Program to acquire basic knowledge and appreciation of the complexity and wonder of living organisms. Students will use an interactive notebook and participate in labs, projects, and in-class activities to further their scientific knowledge.

Core Chemistry (Grade 10)

This course provides a comprehensive curriculum in the fundamental skills and concepts of chemistry. This course is designed for students in the St. Gabriel Program to acquire a foundation in chemical principles, problem-solving, and to understand how chemistry connects to everyday life. Students will use an interactive notebook and participate in labs, projects, and in-class activities to further their scientific knowledge.

Pathways 1, 2, 3, 4 (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

This course is designed to help students navigate their high school journey with confidence and purpose. Designed especially for students in the St. Gabriel Program, this course supports neurodivergent students in building essential skills for success in school, friendships, and everyday life. Through interactive lessons and real-life practice, students will strengthen communication, organization, emotional awareness, and self-advocacy. Rooted in the belief that each student has a unique path and purpose, *Pathways* helps them discover their God-given strengths and grow in self-understanding and independence.

THEOLOGY

***While credits are awarded by the semester, students must be enrolled in a course from this subject every semester. ***

Theology 9: Faith and Revelation, Knowing God through Sacred Scripture - Fall (Grade 9) - .5 credit

The purpose of this course is to give students a general knowledge and appreciation for Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture as God's divine revelation, and faith as the appropriate human response to God's revelation. Through their study of the Bible, students will encounter God's presence throughout human history, culminating in the supreme revelation of God, Jesus the Christ. In addition to gaining thorough exegesis skills, the students learn Bible structure and development.

Prerequisites: None

Theology 9: The Blessed Trinity and Christian Vocation – Spring (Grade 9) - .5 Credit

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to a mature understanding of the Trinity. The students examine Church teaching about each person within the Godhead, and yet discern that there is no division in God. They discover how these teachings developed over time from the promises made in Jewish scripture, to the coming of Jesus as the ultimate revelation of God and continue through the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the Church. In learning about the mystery of God, reflected especially through Jesus, the Incarnate God, the students also learn who they are called to be.

Prerequisites: None

Theology 10: The Message and Mission of Jesus Christ - Fall (Grade 10) - .5 credit

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

(USCCB Curriculum Framework)

Prerequisites: None

Theology 10: The Church – Spring (Grade 10) - .5 credit

The purpose of this course is for students to come to know and experience the person of Jesus Christ through the Church, the Church founded by Christ fortified through the teaching of the Apostles and sustained by the Holy Spirit. Students will come to know that the Church is the living Body of Christ today. This Body has both divine and human elements. Both these elements will become obvious through a close look at some key historical and sacramental events. The Church carries on the mission of Jesus Christ first through the proclamation of the Kingdom of God, preaching and teaching the ongoing plan of salvation history, revelation and tradition. The nature of the teaching authority of the Church and the ongoing need in the Church to address concerns of the times throughout its history in ways that are faithful to the proclamation of the Gospel will be key areas of study throughout the semester.

Prerequisites: None

Honors Theology 11: Life in Christ – Morality - Fall (Grade 11) - .5 credit

This course is a study of the principles of Catholic moral teaching which involve understanding how one forms one's conscience and arrives at moral, life-giving decisions. The key principles studied include specific magisterial teachings and the life and teachings of Jesus. The course will unpack each of the Ten Commandments which form the basis of our commitment with God so we can look forward to living the ideal life as described by the Beatitudes of Jesus.

Prerequisites: None

Honors Theology 11: Social Justice - Spring (Grade 11) - .5 credit

This course introduces students to the rich history and application of Catholic Social Teaching rooted in the Biblical prophets and the message and mission of Jesus. The principles of Catholic Social Teaching are the basis for the social documents that offer a rational and just framework for considering life issues including the economy, nonviolence, and migration and other current issues. Students will be trained to “see, judge and act” upon a plethora of injustices that obstruct the Kingdom of God and their effect on the most vulnerable. The course intends to raise students’ consciousness that the injustices within institutions and structures are not just issues but affect real people with dignity endowed by God the Creator. Students will be challenged to “work toward justice in order to have peace” Pope Paul VI.

Prerequisites: None

Honors Theology 12: Sacraments as Privileged Encounters with Jesus Christ- Fall (Grade 12) - .5 credit

This course is a study of the visible signs of efficacious grace that have been instituted by Christ and entrusted to his Church. The Church's sacramental view of reality is founded on Christ, who is the model of sacrament. The biblical institution of the seven sacraments will be presented, as well as their rituals, signs, symbols, and effects. This semester on the sacraments will be organized according to their functions in the Christian life: the Sacraments of Initiation, the Sacraments of Healing, and the Sacraments at the Service of Communion.

Prerequisites: None.

Honors Theology 12: Responding to the Call of Jesus Christ – Spring (Grade 12) - .5 credit

The purpose of this course is to help students to understand the vocations of life: how Christ calls us to live. In this course, students should learn how all vocations are similar, flowing from the universal call to holiness, and how they differ. Students will learn what it means to live life for the benefit of others and the value in considering a vocation in service to the Christian community. The course is structured around the vocations of married life, priestly life, religious life, and single consecrated life. Special emphasis will be given to the vocation to married life and the study of St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body.

Prerequisites: None

Theology Electives

(These courses do not replace content requirements)

Honors Peer Ministry (Grades 11, 12)

A Theology elective for students involved in peer ministry. Students will learn about Christian leadership, how to work together as a team, and how to plan a retreat and liturgy. They will have an opportunity to put these lessons into practice by planning the class retreats and helping with school Masses.

Prerequisite: Application and Approval

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES

Honors Bishop Peer Partnership (Grades 11, 12)

Students in this course will work with students in our St. Gabriel program through those student's general education courses. The Bishop Peer Partner will assist the student in general classroom activities such as note taking, maintaining attention, etc. Students who are interested in this class need to be self-motivated, attentive to other people's needs, strong communication skills, willingness to try new things, and strength in their own academic subject areas. Requirements include summer training and frequent check-ins with partner students and their teachers.

Prerequisites: Application approval.

Academic Skills (Grade 9)

This year long course is designed to help students transition to high school by fostering essential academic and life skills. Students may opt-out after the first semester to another course if they prefer. In this course, students will learn more about how they learn best and gain confidence in their abilities. They will strengthen executive function skills such as goal setting, organization, time management, and self-monitoring. Through hands-on activities, discussions, and guest speakers, students will also improve communication, time management, and professional skills that will help them succeed in school and in life.

Prerequisites: None

ONLINE AND DUAL ENROLLMENT ELECTIVE COURSES

Catholic Virtual Academy and Forsyth Tech Community College *College and Career Promise* courses are opportunities for Bishop McGuinness students to take courses that align with the mission and vision of the school, but are not offered in our building. These courses afford students the opportunity to explore new opportunities and learning environments while maintaining the priorities of BMCHS.

Courses taken by enrolled students online through Catholic Virtual, Forsyth Technical Community College, or any other online course provider will appear on a student's Bishop McGuinness transcript. These course grades WILL NOT be included in a student's Bishop McGuinness GPA. Courses options are available to juniors and seniors with an unweighted GPA of 2.8 or higher.

ONLINE ELECTIVES THROUGH CATHOLIC VIRTUAL ACADEMY

Students can accumulate 1 credit per school year through Catholic Virtual dual enrollment beginning in the junior year: whether taking one .5 credit course each semester or taking a 1.0 credit course for the entire year. Elective choices are limited to the courses listed in the Bishop McGuinness Course Directory. Course credits are not included on the transcript but will count toward graduation credit requirements. Course credits are not calculated into students GPA. Students may take one additional credit during the summer following their sophomore and junior years. Students must meet academic requirements outlined by the school to participate in the CVA dual enrollment program. There is an additional fee per credit for participation in the CVA dual enrollment program of \$400 per half credit.

Accounting (0.5 credit)

In this semester course, students explore accounting and accounting careers. They learn basic accounting skills and procedures both with and without a computer for general journals, general ledgers, cash payments journals, cash receipts journals, sales journals, accounts payable ledgers, and accounts receivable ledgers. Students also learn how to reconcile a bank statement and to prepare payroll records.

Prerequisites: None

Architectural design I (0.5 credit)

In Architectural Design I, students will review various concepts used in the design and architecture field. They will learn about basic drafting equipment and how to use and maintain it. They will analyze challenges and solutions within the development of design. They will also learn how to prepare drawings manually and using AutoCAD software. A substantial portion of the course will be spent on sequential processes so that students develop an understanding of creating and annotating drawings as well as how to apply standard rules regarding line types, offset objects, creating layers, and setting up a page for plotting. They will also explore three-dimensional drawings and use coordinating and navigation systems to create them.

Prerequisites: None

AI in the World (0.5 credit)

Artificial Intelligence in the World is an introductory course that guides students through the concepts, tools, and building blocks of artificial intelligence. This course provides students with a broad overview

of how AI is used in decision-making and problem-solving worldwide. Students will learn how ethics impacts AI and will also have the opportunity to explore the various parts of AI with hands-on activities through the use of chatbots and other exciting interactives.

Prerequisites: None

Building Maintenance Technology I (0.5 credit)

The Building Maintenance Technology course will focus on all aspects of the construction industry from health and safety to the tools that every construction professional needs in their collection. Students will learn about the various roles in the industry as well as job outlooks, educational and experiential requirements, and salary information. Some activities will focus on career exploration to discover career options that best align with interests and talents. Students will learn basic construction math and how it is applied during design and building phases of projects. They will learn specifics about carpentry, construction drawings, framing floor systems, framing walls, and framing roofs. Throughout, they will establish a foundation for what opportunities exist for them in the industry.

Prerequisites: None

Computer and Network Security Fundamentals (0.5 credit)

This inspiring course covers the fundamentals of computer safety, network security, and prevention of digital attacks. Students experience a hands-on approach to security strategies, expand their computer and networking security techniques, and improve their problem-solving skills. Students will also explore numerous employment opportunities in one of the fastest-growing industries – Cybersecurity.

Prerequisite: Digital Information Technology (recommended)

Cybersecurity (0.5 credit)

In the Cybersecurity course, students will learn about the practice of protecting networks, systems, and programs from digital attacks. They will better understand the aim of these attacks, such as destroying information, extorting money and resources, or disrupting business operations. They will learn about the challenges and opportunities that implementing cybersecurity measures can present. As attackers become more innovative, it is more important than ever to have effective cybersecurity channels in place to counter them. Students will learn about countermeasures and role recovery and their integral function in the cybersecurity realm. Additionally, students will learn what makes certain networks and systems more vulnerable to attacks. They will become adept at identifying potential viruses, worms, threats, and malware. The Cybersecurity course acts as a foundation on which to build extensive knowledge about threats to digital security.

Prerequisites: None

Digital Information Technology (1.0 credit)

Dive into an exciting course that will provide you with the foundational skills needed for exciting careers like game development, military defense, web design, and software engineering! You will explore Microsoft Office online applications, web design, emerging technologies, operating systems, project management, communication methods, Information Technology careers, and much more in this course. Learn about your strengths and how they relate to different career paths.

Prerequisites: None

Engineering and Product Development (0.5 credit)

This semester-long course provides an overview of the concepts of product engineering and development. Students analyze the life cycle of a product to prepare a product for distribution and for target markets. The course begins with building an understanding of the product life cycle, from the initial idea to drafting requirements to using 3-D modeling tools and other design tools. The final unit focuses on assembling the pieces within a project plan to achieve a product and evaluating the plans for a successful product launch. In addition, the course provides information about the different careers available to students interested in engineering, product development, and project management.

Prerequisites: None

Foundations of Programming (1.0 credit)

Foundations of Programming will teach students the fundamentals of programming using the computer language Python. The course provides students with the concepts, techniques, and processes associated with computer programming and software development. Students will also explore the many programming career opportunities available in this high-demand field.

Prerequisites: None

Introduction to AI (0.5 credit)

This course teaches what every student should know about Artificial Intelligence. AI is a fast-moving technology with impacts and implications for both our individual lives and society as a whole. In this course, students will get a basic introduction to the building blocks and components of artificial intelligence, learning about concepts like algorithms, machine learning, and neural networks. Students will also explore how AI is already being used, and evaluate problem areas of AI, such as bias. The course also contains a balanced look at AI's impact on existing jobs, as well as its potential to create new and exciting career fields in the future. Students will leave the course with a solid understanding of what AI is, how it works, areas of caution, and what they can do with the technology.

Prerequisites: None

Introduction to Information Technology A and B (0.5 credit each)

This course introduces students to the essential technical and professional skills required in the field of information Technology (IT). Through hands-on projects and written assignments, students gain an understanding of the operation of computers, computer networks, Internet fundamentals, programming, and computer support. Students also learn about the social impact of technological change and the ethical issues related to technology. Throughout the course, instructional activities emphasize safety, professionalism, accountability, and efficiency for workers within the field of IT.

Prerequisites: None

Introduction to Java programming (0.5 credit)

JAVA is one of the most widely used computer languages in the world. This course teaches students Java by having them complete multiple projects, including games such as mad libs, player vs. computer games, battleship, tic-tac-toe, picture shuffler, and many more. This course assumes no Java coding experience and includes self-graded quizzes and tests.

Prerequisites: None

Swift App Development (0.5 credit)

In this course, students will learn about the Swift App and its components. Apple developed the powerful and user-friendly programming language Swift for creating iOS, Mac, Apple TV, and Apple Watch apps. Developers have more freedom than ever before, and the open-source app allows anyone with an idea to create something incredible. From planning to navigation to building, students will learn how to take an idea and create something potentially revolutionary!

Prerequisites: None

German I (A and B) (0.5 credit each) - Does not meet foreign language requirement.

This introductory course teaches basic communication and comprehension in German. Students are introduced to the fundamentals of German conversation and grammar.

Prerequisites: None

Procedural Programming (1.0 credit)

Procedural Programming (ProP) teaches advanced programming concepts using the computer language Python. You will learn techniques and processes associated with computer programming and software development. This course continues the study of computer programming concepts with a focus on the creation of software applications employing procedural programming techniques.

Prerequisites: None

**Dual Enrollment – Forsyth Technical Community College
College and Career Promise**

Course options through FTCC are limited to the courses listed below. Courses offered through FTCC will be 8 week accelerated courses offering .5 high school credit and varying weights of college credit hours. If a course offers college credits, these course credits will follow a student throughout their college career. Students will be permitted to take courses that align with the mission and vision of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School. Decisions about offered courses are the sole discretion of the school administration. Courses have varying prerequisites. For more information regarding specific classes, please see the Assistant Principal.

Courses listed below may allow students to receive a specific certification in the given content area.

****Courses may not transfer directly to your college of choice. For specific information regarding college credit transfer, please talk to your counselor****

Courses that may potentially be available and are subject to the availability of FTCC and enrollment thereof include (Courses in parenthesis are prerequisites of the listed course):

Accounting and Finance/Business Administration

ACC 120 – Principles of financial accounting

BUS 115 – Business Law I

ACC 121 (ACC 120) – Principles of managerial accounting

BUS 116 (BUS 115) – Business Law II

MKT 120 – Principles of marketing
BUS 137 – Principles of management
INT 110 – International Business

Medical Office Administration

OST 137 – Office applications
OST 149 – Medical legal issues

Project Management Technology

PMT 110 – Intro to project management
PMT 111 – Project management assessing risk
CTS 240 – Project management

Early Childhood

EDU 119 – Intro to early childhood education
EDU 153 – Health safety and nutrition
EDU 144 – Child development I

Information and Digital Technology

CIS 110 – Introduction to computers
CIS 115 – Introduction to Prog and Logic
CCT 110 – Introduction to cyber crime
CCT 121 - Computer crime investigation
CCT 112 – Ethics and high technology
CTI 110 – Web prog and database foundations
CTI 120 (CTI 110) – Network and security foundations
DBA 120 (CTI 110) – Database programming
CSC 151 (CIS 115) – Java programming
WEB 151 – Mobile App Development
NET 125 – Introduction to networks
CTS 155 – Tech support functions
CTS 120 (CIS 110) – Hard/software support
CTI 150 (CIS 110) – Mobile computing devices