



SAINT GEORGE
ACADEMY  Est. 1968

COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE

Fall 2026 – Spring 2028

Saint George Academy

MATHEMATICS

MYP Mathematics Year 4 – Grade 9

MYP Mathematics Year 4 builds students' mathematical reasoning, problem-solving, and communication skills through an integrated study of number, algebra, geometry, measurement, statistics, probability, and mathematical modeling. Students strengthen foundational algebraic skills while exploring patterns, relationships, functions, equations, proportional reasoning, geometric properties, and data analysis. Emphasis is placed on applying mathematics to real-world contexts, explaining thinking clearly, using multiple strategies, and developing confidence as independent learners. The course prepares students for continued study in MYP Mathematics Year 5 and upper-level high school mathematics.

MYP Mathematics Year 5 – Grade 10

MYP Mathematics Year 5 extends students' understanding of algebra, functions, geometry, trigonometry, statistics, probability, and mathematical modeling. Students investigate linear and nonlinear relationships, solve increasingly complex equations, analyze geometric and spatial situations, interpret data, and apply mathematical concepts to authentic problems. The course emphasizes inquiry, logical reasoning, precision, and communication using appropriate mathematical language and representations. Students are expected to justify solutions, evaluate strategies, and make connections across mathematical topics. This course prepares students for advanced high school mathematics pathways, including Precalculus, Statistics, or other upper-level courses.

Algebra II / Trigonometry

This course extends algebraic concepts into advanced function analysis and formal trigonometry. Students study polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions; complex numbers; sequences and series; and trigonometric identities and applications. Emphasis is placed on modeling real-world phenomena and preparing students for advanced statistics or precalculus coursework.

Precalculus & Discrete Mathematics

Available for Dual Enrollment Credit with St. John's University

This advanced course prepares students for university-level calculus through the study of function behavior, limits, advanced trigonometry, and analytic geometry. The discrete mathematics component introduces combinatorics, graph theory, recursion, logic, and foundational data structures used in computer science and quantitative fields. Students who meet eligibility requirements may earn transferable college credit through St. John's University.

Applied Statistics I

Available for Dual Enrollment Credit with St. John's University

This college-level course introduces statistical reasoning and data analysis. Students study descriptive statistics, probability foundations, sampling distributions, confidence intervals, and hypothesis testing. Emphasis is placed on real-world data interpretation and quantitative decision-making. Eligible students may earn college credit through St. John's University.

Applied Statistics II

Available for Dual Enrollment Credit with St. John's University

Building on Applied Statistics I, this course advances inferential methods and applied modeling techniques. Topics include regression analysis, ANOVA, nonparametric methods, and multivariate analysis. Students complete applied research projects involving data collection and analysis. College credit is available through St. John's University for qualified students.

University Calculus I

Available for Dual Enrollment Credit with St. John's University

This rigorous course introduces differential calculus, including limits, continuity, derivatives, and applications such as optimization and rates of change. Students develop both conceptual understanding and technical proficiency. Eligible students may earn transferable college credit through St. John's University.

University Calculus II

Available for Dual Enrollment Credit with St. John's University

A continuation of Calculus I, this course focuses on integral calculus, techniques of integration, applications of definite integrals, sequences and series, and introductory differential equations. Students deepen theoretical understanding while applying calculus to scientific and quantitative problems. Dual enrollment credit is available through St. John's University.

Probability and Statistics I

Available for Dual Enrollment Credit with St. John's University

This advanced course integrates probability theory with statistical modeling. Students examine discrete and continuous probability distributions, expected value, variance, and foundational inferential frameworks. The course emphasizes mathematical rigor and prepares students for advanced quantitative study. College credit may be earned through St. John's University.

Probability and Statistics II

Available for Dual Enrollment Credit with St. John's University

This culminating course expands into advanced statistical theory and applied modeling, including estimation, hypothesis testing, regression modeling, and statistical inference at a more formal level. Students complete a substantial analytical project demonstrating mastery of quantitative reasoning. Eligible students may earn St. John's University credit.

ENGLISH

In Grades 9 and 10, students complete the final two years of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP). Within the MYP framework, English is designated as Language & Literature, a core subject that develops students' ability to analyze texts critically, communicate effectively across modes, and understand how language shapes identity, culture, and power. Over these two years, students deepen their skills in literary analysis, structured argument, research, oral presentation, and creative expression, culminating in the independent Year 5 Personal Project, a sustained inquiry driven by individual passion and reflection.

In Grades 11 and 12, students transition to semester-long English electives designed to build advanced analytical, research, and writing skills. Select courses are offered for dual credit in partnership with St. John's University, allowing students to earn college credit while completing their high school graduation requirements.

MYP Year 4 Language & Literature (Grade 9)

Identity, Justice, and the Construction of Voice

This course invites students to examine how literature shapes—and challenges—our understanding of identity, justice, and power. Through a range of genres including short fiction, memoir, historical nonfiction, drama, and Shakespearean comedy, students explore how writers use craft to represent personal experience and interrogate social systems. The course is concept-driven, grounded in the IB MYP focus on identity, perspective, culture, and communication.

The year begins with a study of short texts centered on personal identity, as students analyze how race, class, language, family, and environment influence self-perception and belonging. Students then read *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah, examining how humor, tone, and narrative voice reveal the realities of institutional racism in apartheid and post-apartheid South Africa.

Questions of justice and culpability deepen through a paired study of *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck and excerpts from *The Central Park Five* by Sarah Burns. Students analyze how setting, structure, and characterization illuminate systemic inequality across time and place. The course then turns to *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez, exploring how historical fiction can restore voice to those silenced by dictatorship. The year concludes with *The Taming of the Shrew* by William Shakespeare, where students interrogate constructions of gender and power, comparing early modern social norms with contemporary cultural narratives.

Throughout the year, students develop the skills central to MYP Language & Literature: close textual analysis, structured academic writing, comparative thinking, research, and formal discussion. By the end of Year 4, students understand how literature reflects social realities—and how voice, perspective, and narrative framing shape what we come to see as truth.

MYP Year 5 Language & Literature (Grade 10)

Language, Power, and Resistance

MYP Year 5 Language & Literature challenges students to examine how language both reinforces and resists systems of power. Through dystopian fiction, postcolonial literature, classical tragedy, magical realism, memoir, and spoken word performance, students explore how writers confront censorship, authoritarianism, injustice, and cultural silencing. The course is structured around the IB MYP emphasis on conceptual inquiry, global context, and authentic expression.

The year opens with *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury, where students analyze how technology, mass media, and censorship shape public consciousness. In *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, students explore how voice and structure illuminate themes of freedom, cultural identity, and coming of

age under political and domestic constraint. The tension between personal conscience and civic duty continues in *Antigone* by Sophocles, where students analyze rhetorical appeals and debate the ethics of civil disobedience.

A study of magical realism, including *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, allows students to examine how blending realism and the fantastical can reveal cultural and moral truths. The year culminates with *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi, as students consider how reading and dialogue become acts of intellectual resistance in oppressive societies.

The final unit shifts from analysis to creation through original spoken word poetry. Drawing on the year's central themes of identity, justice, and agency, students craft and perform original pieces addressing contemporary issues. Situated within the rich performance tradition of the Nuyorican Poets Cafe in our own neighborhood, this unit emphasizes authentic audience, rhetorical delivery, and language as action.

By the end of Year 5, students demonstrate mastery of the MYP assessment criteria through literary analysis, comparative argument, research writing, and oral performance. They leave the course with a sophisticated understanding that language is never neutral—it shapes perspective, constructs power, and can serve as a profound tool for resistance and change.

MYP Personal Project (Grade 10)

The Personal Project is a chance for students to design and complete a major independent project based on something they genuinely care about. Whether researching a topic, creating an original work, solving a real-world problem, or developing a new skill, students take full ownership of the process from idea to final product. With the support of a faculty mentor, students learn how to plan a long-term project, conduct meaningful research, manage their time, and reflect on their progress. The experience culminates in a public exhibition where students showcase their work and share what they discovered about their topic—and about themselves as learners.

Grades 11 and 12

Introduction to American Literature: Romanticism to Renaissance

Dual Credit Available through St. John's University ENG 2060

Introduction to American Literature: Romanticism to Renaissance chronologically examines the American literary movements occurring between 1850 and 1930 to explore a new nation's attempts at self-definition. Beginning with American Romanticism, students read poetry by Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson to contemplate poetic interpretations of the individual, imagination, nature, and spiritual intercourse. Students then study Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* to question the possibility of achieving true, democratic literary realism. The final unit examines how American Modernism and the Harlem Renaissance constructed new conceptions of selfhood through reading the poetry and short fiction of HD, Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot, William Carlos Williams, Hemingway, Stein, and Lowell, concluding with a study of Nella Larsen's *Passing*. Emphasis is placed on developing college-level interpretive skills while engaging enduring questions about freedom, belonging, gender, and the moral imagination.

American Horror and the Literature of Fear

Dual Credit Available through St. John's University ENG 2060

What does a culture fear—and why? This course investigates American literature through the rich and unsettling tradition of horror, tracing how fear reveals hidden truths about power, identity, and the boundaries of the human. Beginning with the psychological terror of Edgar Allan Poe and extending to the gothic unease of Shirley Jackson and the contemporary reinventions of Carmen Maria Machado and selections from *Out There Screaming* edited by Jordan Peele, students examine horror as a

serious literary mode rather than merely a popular genre. Works such as *Beloved* and fiction by Stephen King further complicate distinctions between the supernatural and the deeply human. Students analyze how horror engages questions of race, gender, otherness, embodiment, and social anxiety while refining skills in literary criticism, argumentation, and academic writing.

Literature, Film, and the Art of Adaptation

Dual Credit Available through St. John's University ENG 2060

Stories rarely remain confined to the page. This course examines the dynamic relationship between literature and film, asking what is gained, transformed, or lost when written works are adapted for the screen. Students study major American texts alongside their cinematic interpretations, analyzing adaptation as an act of creative and cultural translation rather than simple reproduction. Topics include narrative structure, visual storytelling, authorship, audience expectation, and the evolving influence of technology on how stories are told and consumed. Through comparative analysis, critical essays, and discussion, students evaluate how directors, screenwriters, and performers reinterpret literary meaning for new historical moments.

Literature in a Global Context: Ireland, Colonization, and Cultural Identity

Dual Credit Available through St. John's University ENG 1100

This writing-intensive course examines Irish literature through the enduring legacy of colonization and its influence on cultural identity, language, land, and political imagination. Students explore how Irish writers have grappled with domination, resistance, independence, and diaspora, asking how literature both records historical rupture and participates in the making of national consciousness. Reading across modern and contemporary works, the course considers themes such as cultural erasure, religious authority, migration, intergenerational memory, and the tensions between tradition and modernity. Through sustained analytical writing, revision, and seminar discussion, students develop the ability to construct nuanced arguments, situate texts within historical frameworks, and think critically about cultural differences and global interconnectedness.

Literature in a Global Context: Britain After Empire

Dual Credit Available through St. John's University ENG 1100

This writing-intensive course examines British literature in the decades following World War II, a period marked by decolonization, migration, and profound shifts in national identity. Through novels such as *Wide Sargasso Sea* read in conversation with *Jane Eyre*, alongside contemporary works including *Exit West* and *The High House*, students explore how writers reimagine "Britishness" in an increasingly interconnected world. Attention is given to postcolonial voice, displacement, environmental precarity, and the legacy of empire. Students engage in sustained analytical writing and revision while developing critical frameworks for understanding how literature both reflects and challenges cultural inheritance.

Literature & Culture: Dystopia, Media, and the Culture of Spectacle

Dual Credit Available through St. John's University ENG 1100

This course examines the relationship between literature and culture through narratives that imagine societies shaped by surveillance, competition, and mediated reality. Pairing major dystopian texts such as *1984*, *The Hunger Games*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Battle Royale*, *Tender Is the Flesh*, *The Long Walk*, *The Memory Police*, *The Compound*, and *1Q84* with contemporary cultural frameworks, students investigate why imagined futures often illuminate present anxieties. Attention is given to the commodification of human experience, the psychology of spectatorship, and the ethical implications of entertainment as a cultural force.

Literature & Culture: Theater and Social Transformation

Dual Credit Available through St. John's University ENG 2150

Literature and the Stage explores works of dramatic performance as literary texts to understand the role of the stage in the construction of Western conceptions of performance, illusion, free will, creativity, and imitation. Students gain a foundational understanding of dramatic theory through reading seminal works by authors such as Aristotle, Brunetiere, Sartre, and Dolan. Students then apply this critical framework to a range of plays from the Western theatrical canon including works by Sophocles, Miller, Fommes, Wilde, and Beckett, analyzing how playwrights use the stage to challenge social norms, expose moral tensions, and reimagine the possibilities of modern life.

Introduction to British Literature

Dual Credit Available through St. John's University ENG 2210

In Introduction to British Literature, students explore major literary texts, themes, and questions that shaped British culture and identity from the Early Modern period through the Victorian era. Beginning with Aphra Behn's *Oroonoko*, students consider early representations of colonialism, slavery, race, and body politics. The course then turns to the Enlightenment and Romantic periods through a selection of Romantic poetry and Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. The Victorian era is explored through Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations* and Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Sign of Four*, both of which question the role of social class, industrialization, imperialism, and social code in a continuously modernizing society.

First-Year Writing: Screenwriting and Visual Storytelling

Dual Credit Available through St. John's University ENG FYW 1000

This writing-intensive course introduces students to the craft of screenwriting as a powerful form of narrative and rhetorical expression. Through the study of screenplay history, terminology, and cinematic storytelling, students learn how writers shape character, conflict, and meaning for the screen while developing the analytical and compositional skills expected in a college-level writing course. Writing assignments move from personal narrative and observational writing toward more complex creative and analytical work, culminating in an original short screenplay supported by reflective writing and revision.

First-Year Writing: Playwriting

Dual Credit Available through St. John's University ENG FYW 1000

This writing-intensive course introduces students to playwriting as a dynamic process that blends storytelling, collaboration, and performance. Through the practice of theatrical devising, students explore how characters are constructed, how dialogue reveals relationships, and how movement and staging contribute to dramatic meaning. Students collaborate to develop a devised theatrical work, moving from early brainstorming to drafting, revision, and rehearsal. Emphasis is placed on writing as an iterative process: students read one another's work, provide structured feedback, and refine their scenes to clarify intention, message, and audience impact.

Land, Identity, and the American Dream

This advanced seminar explores how American writers have imagined the relationship between self, land, and belonging while questioning who has historically had access to the promises of the American Dream. Students begin by examining the philosophical foundations of American individualism through selected works by Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. The course then turns to F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, situating the novel within the cultural and economic landscape of the Roaring Twenties. Placing these texts in conversation with Indigenous perspectives, students read the

work of Robin Wall Kimmerer and the poetry of Diane Burns. The seminar culminates with Tommy Orange's *There There*, a novel that centers contemporary Indigenous experiences.

Technology, Migration, and Moral Choice

This course explores what it means to be human in an era shaped by technological innovation, global displacement, and evolving social realities. Through contemporary fiction, poetry, and nonfiction, students examine how writers grapple with questions of identity, belonging, love, loneliness, and ethical responsibility. Students begin with Kazuo Ishiguro's *Klara and the Sun*, then turn to Mohsin Hamid's *Exit West*, paired with poetry by Warsan Shire and essays from *The Displaced: Refugee Writers on Refugee Lives*. The semester concludes with Toni Morrison's *Sula*, through which students explore friendship, community, moral independence, and the enduring tension between individuality and social expectation.

FILM

Film as Story & Identity (Grade 9)

This introductory semester course invites students to explore film as a language for storytelling, identity, and personal expression. Grounded in the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) framework, the course emphasizes inquiry, creativity, and reflection. Students examine how filmmakers use visual and auditory techniques—such as framing, lighting, editing, and sound—to construct meaning and evoke emotion. Students also engage in introductory production work, experimenting with short video projects that emphasize narrative clarity and intentional design choices. By the end of the course, students will be able to identify core film techniques, analyze how meaning is created, and begin to express their own ideas through moving image.

Film as Culture & Design (Grade 10)

This semester course extends students' understanding of film by examining it as both a cultural artifact and a designed product. Building on Grade 9, students deepen their analytical skills while engaging more intentionally with the MYP design cycle—planning, creating, and evaluating their own film work. Students study films from a range of global contexts, exploring how social, historical, and cultural forces shape cinematic expression. Students produce short films with increasing technical sophistication, applying principles of cinematography, editing, and sound design. Assessment emphasizes both analysis and creation, with students reflecting on their process and growth.

Analysis, Context, and Production (Grade 11)

Throughout this yearlong class, students carry out an in-depth study of film, exploring it both as a creative art form and as a cultural phenomenon. Students develop advanced analytical skills through close study of film texts, exploring how meaning is constructed through formal elements and contextual influences. Students begin to engage with film theory and critical frameworks, using discipline-specific language to construct sophisticated arguments. Emphasis is placed on connecting analysis to production, helping students understand how creative choices reflect broader artistic and cultural intentions.

Synthesis, Specialization, and Portfolio (Grade 12)

In this culminating yearlong course, students synthesize their analytical, research, and production skills at an advanced level. Students engage deeply in global cinema traditions, theoretical perspectives, and ethical considerations in filmmaking. Students refine their individual voice as filmmakers while situating their work within broader cinematic traditions. The course emphasizes independence, critical reflection, and sustained creative inquiry. A final screening and reflective portfolio showcase students' work as both scholars and creators.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Ukrainian Language Sequence

Ukrainian I: Beginning Ukrainian Language & Culture

This introductory course develops foundational skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Ukrainian. Students learn basic vocabulary, grammar structures, pronunciation, and conversational patterns through interactive and immersive activities. Topics include family, daily life, school, traditions, food, geography, and contemporary culture. Aligned with the philosophy of the International Baccalaureate, the course emphasizes intercultural understanding, communication, and global awareness. Students engage with authentic materials such as music, media, short texts, and cultural traditions while building confidence in practical communication and introductory literacy skills.

Ukrainian II: Intermediate Ukrainian Communication & Culture

This intermediate course strengthens students' proficiency in spoken and written Ukrainian through increasingly complex communication tasks and cultural exploration. Students expand their vocabulary and grammatical knowledge while developing greater fluency in conversation, reading comprehension, and structured writing. The course explores themes such as identity, migration, media, history, community, and contemporary Ukrainian society. Students engage with authentic texts, journalism, film excerpts, and discussion-based activities while refining interpretive and interpersonal communication skills.

Ukrainian III: Contemporary Ukrainian Voices

This advanced course develops higher-level proficiency in Ukrainian through the study of contemporary literature, film, media, and global issues affecting Ukraine and the Ukrainian diaspora. Students engage in sustained discussion, analytical writing, presentations, and collaborative inquiry using authentic Ukrainian-language materials. Topics include cultural identity, resilience, migration, artistic expression, language preservation, and the relationship between history and contemporary society.

Ukrainian IV: Ukrainian Literature & Global Perspectives

This culminating course offers advanced study of Ukrainian language, literature, culture, and contemporary global issues through an inquiry-based framework inspired by the IB Diploma Programme. Students engage with a range of literary and non-fiction texts, films, historical documents, and media sources while participating in seminar-style discussion and independent research. Themes include national identity, diaspora experiences, memory and history, social change, ethics, and global interconnectedness. The course emphasizes independent inquiry, intercultural understanding, and advanced expression in spoken and written Ukrainian.

Spanish Language Sequence

Spanish I: Beginning Spanish Language & Culture

This introductory course develops foundational communication skills in Spanish through speaking, listening, reading, and writing activities. Students learn essential vocabulary and grammar structures while exploring the cultures and traditions of the Spanish-speaking world. The course emphasizes practical communication in everyday situations, including introductions, school life, family, food, travel, and community. Through music, storytelling, media, and interactive activities, students begin to build confidence and cultural understanding within an inquiry-based learning environment.

Spanish II: Intermediate Spanish Communication & Culture

This intermediate course expands students' communicative abilities and cultural understanding through more advanced speaking, reading, writing, and listening tasks. Students deepen their understanding of grammatical structures and begin expressing more nuanced ideas in Spanish. The course explores themes such as identity, relationships, traditions, global issues, media, and contemporary life across the Spanish-speaking world. Students engage with authentic materials including articles, short stories, music, and film excerpts while strengthening fluency and interpretive skills.

Spanish III: Spanish Across the World

This advanced course develops students' proficiency in Spanish through the study of global perspectives, contemporary issues, and cultural expression throughout the Spanish-speaking world. Students participate in sustained discussion, analytical writing, presentations, and collaborative projects using authentic Spanish-language materials. Topics include migration, identity, environmental issues, social justice, media, and cultural traditions across Latin America, Spain, and multilingual communities in the United States.

Spanish IV: Spanish Language, Literature & Society

This culminating course offers advanced study of Spanish language, literature, culture, and contemporary global issues through an inquiry-based framework inspired by the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Students engage deeply with literature, film, journalism, and non-fiction texts while refining advanced speaking and writing skills. Students examine themes such as identity, power, migration, ethics, memory, and globalization through seminar-style discussion, analytical writing, and independent inquiry.

MUSIC

Community Chorus

Community Chorus is a four-year performing ensemble rooted in the cultural traditions of the school community. Students participate in collaborative vocal performance throughout all four years of high school, developing musicianship, vocal technique, ensemble skills, and artistic confidence through regular rehearsal and public performance. The chorus performs at a range of school and community events including holiday concerts, cultural festivals, and special community gatherings. Repertoire reflects the school's multilingual and multicultural identity and includes works performed in Ukrainian and other languages connected to the traditions and backgrounds of the school community.

Grounded in the philosophy of the International Baccalaureate, the course emphasizes intercultural understanding, collaboration, reflection, and the arts as a means of community engagement and global connection. As students progress through the four-year sequence, they take on increasing levels of musical independence and leadership, contributing to the artistic life of the school and strengthening connections between the school and the broader community.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Social Studies program is designed to build historical thinking, civic engagement, research skills, and global awareness through an inquiry-based and interdisciplinary approach to the study of history, government, economics, and contemporary global issues. Inspired by the philosophy and analytical approach of the International Baccalaureate, the program emphasizes primary and secondary source analysis, interpretation of multiple perspectives, analytical writing, discussion, and independent inquiry. Across all grade levels, students explore themes such as identity, migration, power, conflict, ethics, citizenship, and social transformation within both local and global contexts.

Global History: Conflict, Power & Perspective (Grade 9)

This advanced course introduces students to thematic and comparative approaches to the study of history through examination of major global developments and historical questions. Students explore topics such as conflict, political systems, ideology, nationalism, social movements, migration, and international relations through close analysis of primary and secondary sources. Students develop advanced skills in historical interpretation, comparative analysis, historiography, discussion, and analytical writing. Emphasis is placed on understanding how historical narratives are constructed and interpreted across cultures and perspectives.

Advanced Historical Inquiry & Global Studies (Grade 10)

This culminating course emphasizes independent analysis, global perspectives, and advanced historical inquiry through thematic and comparative study of major historical and contemporary issues. Students investigate questions related to power, identity, migration, conflict, human rights, memory, and social transformation through engagement with historical scholarship, primary source analysis, seminar discussion, and research. Students are expected to synthesize multiple perspectives, construct sophisticated historical arguments, and engage in sustained independent inquiry.

United States History & Civic Foundations (Grade 11)

This course introduces students to major themes and developments in United States history while establishing foundational skills in civic engagement and historical inquiry. Students examine political, economic, social, and cultural transformations in American history through analysis of historical sources, discussion, and evidence-based writing. Topics include constitutional foundations, immigration, industrialization, reform movements, civil rights, and the evolving meaning of citizenship and democracy in the United States. The course also introduces students to foundational concepts in government and civic responsibility.

Government, Economics & Global Systems (Grade 12)

This course examines how political and economic systems shape societies, institutions, and everyday life at local, national, and international levels. Students explore foundational principles of government and economics through contemporary and historical case studies, inquiry-based projects, discussion, and policy analysis. Topics include constitutional principles, comparative political systems, globalization, labor, sustainability, economic decision-making, public policy, and the role of international organizations.

RELIGION

The Religion program is rooted in the spiritual, liturgical, and intellectual traditions of the Eastern Rite Catholic tradition. Students engage in the study of scripture, theology, ethics, symbolism, and spirituality through an inquiry-based and reflective approach that emphasizes both intellectual exploration and personal meaning-making.

The program encourages students to examine questions of identity, morality, community, faith, justice, and human dignity through historical, theological, artistic, and contemporary lenses. Throughout all four years, students are invited to engage thoughtfully with sacred texts, tradition, ritual, and the role of faith within both personal and global contexts.

Emphasis is placed on the richness of the Eastern Christian tradition, including iconography, liturgical practice, symbolism, contemplative spirituality, and the historical experiences of the Ukrainian Catholic community.

Old Testament (Grade 9)

This course introduces students to the foundational narratives, themes, and theological ideas of the Old Testament. Students are encouraged to consider enduring questions related to faith while developing familiarity with the liturgical and spiritual traditions of the Eastern Rite Church.

New Testament (Grade 10)

This course examines the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, the development of the early Christian Church, and the theological foundations of the New Testament through the perspective of the Eastern Catholic tradition. Students engage in discussion, textual analysis, and reflection while exploring how the teachings of the New Testament continue to shape individuals and communities throughout the world.

Iconography: Art, Symbol & Sacred Presence (Grade 11)

This course explores the history, theology, symbolism, and spiritual significance of Christian art, architecture, and iconography. Students learn to interpret sacred visual and architectural forms within their historical, theological, and aesthetic contexts. The course examines Christian symbols, monograms, mosaics, frescoes, icons, and major artistic and architectural styles from the Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, Modern, and Post-Modern periods. Particular attention is given to how color, composition, gesture, perspective, symbolism, and architectural elements communicate theological meaning and spiritual presence. Through historical analysis, artistic interpretation, reflective writing, and creative projects, students develop the skills to read, explain, and appreciate Christian art and architecture as expressions of faith, culture, and beauty.

Moral Questions: Ethics, Justice & Human Responsibility (Grade 12)

This culminating course invites students to examine complex moral and ethical questions through theological, philosophical, historical, and contemporary perspectives. Students participate in seminar-style discussions, case study analysis, reflective writing, and inquiry-based projects that encourage thoughtful engagement with diverse perspectives and real-world ethical dilemmas. The course emphasizes critical thinking, compassion, discernment, and the development of a reflective moral framework grounded in both faith and global awareness.

World Religions: Belief, Ritual & Global Perspectives

Dual Credit Available through St. John's University

This course offers a critical introduction to the study of world religions through exploration of major belief systems, sacred traditions, rituals, ethical frameworks, and spiritual practices from both historical and contemporary perspectives. Students examine how religions shape identity, culture, morality, community, and global society while engaging with essential questions concerning meaning, suffering, justice, transcendence, and human responsibility.

SCIENCE

Foundations of Biology (Grade 9)

This introductory biology course explores the fundamental principles of life science through inquiry, experimentation, and real-world application. Students investigate the structure and function of living organisms while developing scientific reasoning and laboratory skills through hands-on activities, observation, and collaborative investigation. Topics include cell biology, genetics, evolution, ecosystems, biodiversity, human body systems, growth and development, and the relationships between organisms and their environments. Inspired by the philosophy of the International Baccalaureate, students are encouraged to think critically about the role of biology in understanding both local and global challenges.

Urban Ecology & Sustainable Systems Science (Grade 10)

This interdisciplinary science course introduces students to the study of urban ecology, environmental systems, sustainability, and food science through inquiry-based investigation and hands-on experimentation. Topics include plant biology, soil science, biodiversity, pollinator systems, climate and sustainability, food systems, and ecological relationships within cities and community environments. Through laboratory work, gardening, field investigations, cooking labs, and scientific observation, students examine how sustainable practices can support both environmental health and human well-being. The course integrates scientific illustration and botanical observation as tools for inquiry and documentation.

Upper-Level Science & Dual Credit Opportunities

In the upper grades, students have the opportunity to pursue advanced coursework in the sciences through a range of inquiry-based courses designed to support college readiness, interdisciplinary thinking, and scientific investigation. Several upper-level science offerings may also provide opportunities for dual credit through St. John's University, allowing qualified students to engage in college-level academic work while still in high school.

General Chemistry I

Dual Credit available through St. John's University – CHE 1210

This course introduces students to foundational principles of chemistry through an inquiry-based and laboratory-centered approach to the study of matter, energy, and chemical systems. Students explore topics such as atomic structure, chemical bonding, reactions, equilibrium, kinetics, acids and bases, electrochemistry, and the properties of matter. Emphasis is placed on scientific reasoning, quantitative problem-solving, laboratory investigation, and the application of chemistry to real-world contexts.

General Chemistry II

Dual Credit available through St. John's University – CHE 1220

This advanced chemistry course builds upon foundational concepts through continued exploration of chemical principles, reactions, and the behavior of matter. Students investigate acid-base chemistry, electrochemistry, transition metals, nuclear chemistry, and the structure and properties of chemical compounds through laboratory work, inquiry, and analytical problem-solving. The course prepares students for advanced scientific study and college-level laboratory expectations.

College Physics I

Dual Credit available through St. John's University – PHY 1610

This course introduces students to the fundamental principles governing the physical world through the study of mechanics, motion, heat, waves, and sound. Students develop conceptual understanding through mathematical modeling, laboratory investigation, experimentation, and real-world application of physical laws. The course emphasizes scientific inquiry, analytical reasoning, quantitative problem-solving, and interpretation of data.

College Physics II

Dual Credit available through St. John's University – PHY 1620

This advanced physics course continues the study of the physical world through topics including optics, electricity, magnetism, atomic physics, and nuclear physics. Students apply mathematical reasoning, experimentation, and scientific inquiry to analyze complex physical systems and interactions. The course prepares students for advanced study in science, engineering, and related fields while supporting the development of critical thinking and scientific literacy.

Introduction to General Physics

Dual Credit available through St. John's University – PHY 1410

This course provides students with a foundational introduction to physics and the mathematical skills necessary for success in scientific study. Designed for students with limited prior background in physics, the course develops understanding of mechanics, waves, optics, heat, electricity, magnetism, vectors, and introductory scientific mathematics through inquiry, experimentation, and applied problem-solving.

Principles of Contemporary Science

Dual Credit available through St. John's University – PHY 1030

This interdisciplinary course explores the fundamental scientific principles that shape understanding of the physical world through a non-mathematical and inquiry-based approach. Students examine topics including matter and energy, atomic and nuclear science, Earth systems, the universe, and the influence of scientific discovery on human thought and society. The course emphasizes scientific literacy, critical thinking, ethical inquiry, and the relationship between science, technology, and global society.

Introduction to Psychology

Dual Credit available through St. John's University – PSY 1000

This course introduces students to the scientific study of human behavior and mental processes through exploration of the major fields and methods within psychology. Students examine topics such as cognition, learning, memory, perception, development, emotion, personality, motivation, psychological disorders, social behavior, and the relationship between biology and behavior. Through discussion, case studies, media analysis, and research-based inquiry, students develop foundational understanding of psychology as both a scientific discipline and a lens for understanding the human condition.

Anatomy and Physiology

Anatomy and Physiology is an advanced laboratory science course that explores the structure and function of the human body and the interconnected systems that sustain life. Students investigate the organization of the body from cells and tissues to organs and organ systems, examining how structure influences function and how the body maintains homeostasis in changing environments. Through inquiry-based investigations, laboratory experiences, case studies, and scientific research, students

study the integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, cardiovascular, respiratory, digestive, urinary, and reproductive systems.

Kinesiology, Exercise & Health Science

This interdisciplinary course explores the scientific study of human movement, exercise, health, and physical performance through an inquiry-based approach inspired by the philosophy and structure of the International Baccalaureate Sports, Exercise and Health Science framework. Students examine the relationship between anatomy, physiology, biomechanics, psychology, nutrition, training, and overall well-being. The course emphasizes the integration of scientific theory with practical application, encouraging students to critically evaluate contemporary issues related to health, athletics, performance, lifestyle, and human development.

The Living City: Urban Science, Infrastructure, and Design

Cities are among the most complex human-made environments on Earth. This course examines the scientific and engineering principles that allow cities to function, including transportation systems, energy networks, water systems, waste management, environmental sustainability, and the built environment. Using New York City as a case study, students engage in fieldwork, mapping, data collection, and design-based problem solving. Projects may include analyzing traffic patterns, studying public transportation systems, evaluating environmental impacts, and developing proposals for more sustainable and resilient communities.

Ethnobotany, Environmental Science & Natural Product Chemistry

Grades 11–12 | Advanced Science Elective

This advanced interdisciplinary science course examines the relationships between plants, ecosystems, chemistry, human health, and cultural knowledge systems through laboratory investigation, fieldwork, and applied scientific inquiry. Students explore ethnobotany, environmental science, introductory chemistry, and plant biology while investigating sustainable agricultural systems, biodiversity, nutrition, and natural product development. Laboratory investigations may include food science, extraction methods, fermentation, preservation, and analysis of plant-based compounds.

CODING & COMPUTER SCIENCE

Foundations of Coding: Linux & Command Line Thinking (Grade 9)

This introductory semester course introduces students to the foundations of computer science through the Linux operating system and command-line interface. Students develop computational thinking by learning how to navigate file systems, manage data, and execute commands using Bash. Grounded in the inquiry-based framework of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP), the course emphasizes problem-solving, systems thinking, and design. By the end of the course, students will be able to confidently use the terminal, manipulate files and directories, and apply foundational coding logic to simple tasks.

Applied Coding: Systems, Security & Design (Grade 10)

Building on foundational skills, this semester course explores coding as a tool for designing, analyzing, and securing digital systems. Students expand their work in Linux and scripting (Bash and introductory Python), while engaging in more complex problem-solving through real-world applications. Topics include data manipulation, process control, system operations, and an introduction to cybersecurity concepts such as ethical hacking, penetration testing, and digital forensics. Students also explore robotics and automation through coding, applying the MYP design cycle to plan, create, and evaluate projects.

Computer Science I: Systems, Networks & Cybersecurity (Grade 11)

This yearlong course marks the transition into advanced computer science study, with a focus on systems-level thinking, networks, and cybersecurity. Students deepen their expertise in Linux environments, scripting, and system management while exploring topics such as networking, secure communication, and data protection. Concepts of ethical hacking, penetration testing, and computer forensics are introduced within a structured and responsible framework. The course emphasizes analytical thinking, technical precision, and real-world application.

Computer Science II: Advanced Coding, Automation & Innovation (Grade 12)

This culminating course integrates advanced coding, systems design, and creative problem-solving. Students work across multiple programming environments (including Bash and Python) to design and implement complex projects involving automation, data synchronization, and system control. Advanced topics include shell scripting, task automation, remote system execution, robotics integration, and multimedia processing through code. The course culminates in a capstone project in which students design, develop, and present an original solution to a real-world problem, demonstrating both technical mastery and critical reflection.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

The Health & Wellness coursework is designed to support the intellectual, emotional, physical, and social well-being of students through an interdisciplinary and inquiry-based approach to human development and healthy living. Rooted in the philosophy of the International Baccalaureate, the program emphasizes reflection, self-awareness, responsible decision-making, and the development of lifelong habits that support individual and community well-being.

Students examine the relationships between physical health, mental health, nutrition, movement, stress management, identity, relationships, digital life, and environmental influences through discussion, research, experiential learning, and real-world application. The curriculum encourages students to think critically about contemporary health issues while developing practical strategies for resilience, balance, communication, and self-care.

Emphasis is placed on holistic wellness, including the connection between body and mind, ethical responsibility toward self and others, and the role of community, culture, and environment in shaping health outcomes. Students are encouraged to develop the habits of reflection, empathy, collaboration, and personal responsibility necessary for long-term well-being in a rapidly changing world.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Fall 2026 (Anticipated)

Futsal

Students explore spatial awareness, tactical decision-making, and technical ball control through small-sided competitive play. The course emphasizes agility, quick transitions, and collaborative strategy in fast-paced environments. Students analyze patterns of movement and evaluate how positioning and communication influence outcomes. Reflection and goal setting support continuous skill refinement and personal growth in endurance and coordination.

Basketball

This course examines offensive and defensive systems while developing shooting mechanics, ball handling, and team coordination. Students investigate how communication, leadership, and adaptability contribute to successful performance. Through structured gameplay and peer feedback, students evaluate their strategic choices and technical execution. Emphasis is placed on ethical competition, resilience, and measurable improvement over time.

Floor Hockey

Students develop stick control, passing accuracy, and spatial positioning in a competitive team setting. The course emphasizes tactical awareness, anticipation, and coordinated offensive and defensive systems. Students analyze gameplay to identify strengths and areas for improvement. Reflection encourages accountability, collaboration, and sustained skill progression.

Pickleball

Students refine agility, reaction time, and strategic shot placement in this racquet-based sport. The course emphasizes precision, anticipation, and adaptability in both singles and doubles play. Through performance tracking and peer feedback, students evaluate court positioning and tactical decisions. Emphasis is placed on growth in coordination, endurance, and sportsmanship.

Pilates

Students develop core strength, postural alignment, and controlled muscular engagement through structured sequences on the mat. The course emphasizes precision, stability, and movement quality. Students evaluate progression in endurance and balance. Reflection supports awareness of alignment and structural integrity.

Hatha Yoga and Meditation

Students explore alignment, balance, flexibility, and breath control as foundations for sustainable movement. The course emphasizes muscular engagement, postural awareness, and controlled transitions between poses. Students reflect on how intentional movement supports stress regulation and physical resilience. Ongoing self-assessment encourages measurable progress in flexibility, strength, and focus.

Zumba

Students build cardiovascular endurance and coordination through choreographed routines inspired by global dance traditions. The course emphasizes rhythm, expressive movement, and sustained aerobic activity. Students track fitness progression and reflect on the relationship between music, movement,

and energy expenditure. Emphasis is placed on confidence, cultural appreciation, and physical stamina.

Running

Students develop pacing strategies, cardiovascular endurance, and goal-setting skills through structured training sessions. The course emphasizes measurable improvement in stamina and mental resilience. Students analyze performance data to monitor growth and adapt training strategies. Reflection connects sustained effort to long-term fitness development.

Spring 2027 (Anticipated)

Volleyball

Students investigate offensive systems, defensive positioning, and coordinated team movement. The course emphasizes communication, timing, and adaptability within structured gameplay. Through peer feedback and performance analysis, students evaluate technical execution and strategic decisions. Reflection supports growth in leadership and collaborative responsibility.

European Handball

Students develop agility, passing precision, and spatial awareness in a high-energy team sport. The course emphasizes coordinated offensive play and defensive transitions. Students analyze decision-making under pressure and refine tactical execution. Reflection supports resilience and cooperative strategy.

Indoor Lacrosse

Students refine stick control, positioning, and coordinated team systems within a modified indoor format. The course emphasizes communication, agility, and strategic anticipation. Students evaluate performance through structured drills and competitive play. Continuous reflection supports technical precision and collaborative growth.

Wiffle Ball

Students explore throwing mechanics, batting technique, and field positioning in a modified bat-and-ball format. The course emphasizes hand-eye coordination and strategic thinking. Students reflect on teamwork and fair participation while tracking skill development. Emphasis is placed on adaptability and performance improvement.

HIT Class

Students engage in structured interval training designed to improve cardiovascular capacity and muscular endurance. The course emphasizes intensity regulation, recovery cycles, and personal discipline. Students monitor performance indicators and evaluate physiological responses to exercise. Reflection connects effort, consistency, and measurable growth.

Vinyasa Flow Yoga

Students practice dynamic sequencing that links breath and movement to build endurance and coordination. The course emphasizes controlled transitions, balance, and sustained muscular engagement. Students reflect on how fluid movement enhances focus and resilience. Self-assessment supports progress in flexibility and strength.

Pranayama Breathwork

Students explore structured breathing techniques that regulate heart rate and support performance recovery. The course emphasizes lung capacity, rhythm control, and nervous system awareness. Students analyze how breath patterns influence focus and endurance. Reflection supports self-regulation and sustained well-being.

Community Walks

Students walk through neighborhood murals, community gardens, and the Union Square Farmers Market while examining how physical movement connects to place and community identity. The course emphasizes pacing, posture, and sustained low-impact conditioning. Reflection encourages awareness of how environment influences well-being and civic connection.

Fall 2027 (Anticipated)

Basketball

Students deepen tactical understanding and refine team coordination through competitive play. The course emphasizes strategic adaptation, communication, and leadership. Students evaluate game performance and set measurable improvement targets. Reflection supports accountability and collaborative growth.

Badminton

Students develop agility, reaction time, and precision shot placement in competitive match play. The course emphasizes footwork, anticipation, and strategic variation. Students analyze performance through peer feedback and structured drills. Reflection supports continuous technical refinement.

Hacky Sack

Students build balance, rhythm, and neuromuscular coordination through repetitive skill progression. The course emphasizes concentration, timing, and collaborative challenge. Students reflect on persistence and incremental improvement. Emphasis is placed on focus and controlled execution.

Boxing Conditioning

Students develop reaction speed, footwork, and cardiovascular stamina through non-contact drills and conditioning circuits. The course emphasizes precision, discipline, and controlled power. Students analyze technique and track endurance progression. Reflection connects resilience and technical growth.

Dance Yoga

Students integrate expressive movement with structured yoga sequences to develop coordination and balance. The course emphasizes creative transitions and sustained muscular control. Students reflect on how expressive movement enhances confidence and focus. Ongoing assessment supports flexibility and endurance growth.

Pilates

Students develop core strength, postural alignment, and controlled muscular engagement through structured sequences on the mat. The course emphasizes precision, stability, and movement quality. Students evaluate progression in endurance and balance. Reflection supports awareness of alignment and structural integrity.

Principles of Stretching

Students examine flexibility training methods and their impact on injury prevention and recovery. The course emphasizes range of motion, muscular balance, and safe technique. Students track improvements in flexibility and reflect on long-term performance sustainability. Emphasis is placed on disciplined practice and structural awareness.

Running

Students refine endurance, pacing strategy, and performance tracking through structured training. The course emphasizes resilience and incremental growth. Students evaluate stamina development and adjust training goals accordingly. Reflection connects sustained effort to measurable outcomes.

Spring 2028 (Anticipated)

Volleyball

Students apply advanced coordination and strategic systems in structured competitive play. The course emphasizes communication, adaptability, and ethical participation. Students evaluate technical precision and tactical decisions. Reflection supports sustained improvement and team accountability.

Futsal

Students refine ball mastery, agility, and rapid tactical transitions in small-sided gameplay. The course emphasizes collaborative strategy and spatial awareness. Students analyze performance data and set personal development goals. Reflection supports resilience and teamwork.

European Handball

Students deepen understanding of coordinated offensive and defensive systems. The course emphasizes agility, anticipation, and communication under pressure. Students evaluate strategic execution and refining technique. Reflection supports performance growth.

Indoor Lacrosse

Students strengthen stick control, positioning, and collaborative play within competitive scenarios. The course emphasizes precision and coordinated movement systems. Students reflect on teamwork and technical refinement. Continuous assessment supports measurable improvement.

Calisthenics and Strength

Students engage in progressive bodyweight training to develop muscular endurance and controlled strength. The course emphasizes disciplined technique, joint stability, and movement precision. Students track benchmarks and evaluate growth over time. Reflection connects structured conditioning to long-term physical development.