



2025-2026

COURSE CATALOG

CORE COURSES ● ELECTIVES ● ENRICHMENT

SAINT JOHN BOSCO SCHOOL

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SAINT JOHN BOSCO SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG 2025/2026

ENGLISH

7th and 8th GRADE ENGLISH

Instructor: Bridget Matz

Grade(s): 7 & 8

The 7th and 8th Grade English courses will be separated into two independent courses, with differing book selections. The purpose of both courses is for the student, through the reading and discussion of great stories and poems, to become a more proficient and analytical reader. The reading list will consist of literary works that are excellent in both their literary form and their moral values at a level that is appropriate and challenging for each grade level.

LITERATURE STUDIES

Instructor: Jill Matz

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 9

Open to grades 9-12

The goal of this course is to improve the student's ability to understand and appreciate literature. As we read and analyze classic works of poetry and prose, we'll focus on comprehension, writing skills, and vocabulary. Our vocabulary studies will be based on Greek and Latin roots. The course will feature class discussion, quizzes, tests, essays, poetry memorization, and lots of reading.

HISTORICAL LITERARY ANALYSIS

Instructor: John Harrison

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 10

Open to grades 9-12

The Historical Literary Analysis class, we will cover essays, short stories, novels, plays, and poetry. The focus is on great works of literature that address interesting historical-political topics. Some authors that will be read in this class include Rudyard Kipling, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, C. S. Lewis, and G. K. Chesterton. The course will include classroom discussions, tests, and writing assignments.

CLASSICAL LITERATURE

Instructor: Jill Matz

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 11

Open to grades 10-12

This course begins with a quick survey of Greek mythology and continues through works by Homer, Sophocles, Virgil, and St. Augustine. The emphasis will be on close reading of the texts, class discussion, and analytical writing. Through these studies, students will gain a greater understanding of the foundations of Western literature and culture. The course will include quizzes, tests, and essays.

ADVANCED LITERATURE

Instructor: John Harrison

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 12

Open to grades 10-12

In the Advanced Literature class, we will cover short stories, novels, plays, and poetry. The focus is on great works of hagiographical literature. Some authors that will be read in this class include Mark Twain, Sigrid Undset, T. S. Eliot, and Evelyn Waugh. The course will include classroom discussions, tests, and writing assignments. In addition to this, students will have the opportunity to learn how to write their own short stories.

GRAMMAR & VOCABULARY STUDIES

Instructor: Jill Matz

Grade(s): Intended for Grades 7-9

Open to grades 7-12

In this class, we'll study English grammar, usage, mechanics, and vocabulary. We'll cover the parts of speech, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, common errors in writing, etc. Our vocabulary studies will focus on the Greek and Latin roots commonly found in English words. These studies will deepen the student's understanding of the English language and strengthen his or her ability to speak, write, and think with clarity. The class will include written exercises, quizzes, and tests.

This class is a supplemental course, it is not considered an English credit.

SOCIAL STUDIES

7th GRADE AMERICAN HISTORY

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 7

Open to grades 7-8

This course will use the Catholic history book, *The History of the United States*, by Seton Press, to cover American History from the discovery of America to the Civil War. The course will include the study of firsthand sources and include interactive project-based studies, to enrich the lessons. Students will be expected to cover a chapter every two weeks and will be asked to prepare reports and presentations as part of their studies.

Students who complete this course will continue on to the second half of American history from the Civil War through modern day in their 8th grade studies.

8th GRADE AMERICAN HISTORY

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 8

Open to grades 7-8

This course will use the Catholic history book, *The History of the United States*, by Seton Press, to cover American History from the discovery of America to the Civil War. The course will include the study of firsthand sources and include interactive project-based studies, to enrich the lessons. Students will be expected to cover a chapter every two weeks and will be asked to prepare reports and presentations as part of their studies.

HISTORY OF THE PRESIDENCY

Instructor: Dr. John Kornacki

Grade(s): Open to grades 9-12

8th graders who have completed their Confirmation, upon request

How has the role of the president and the powers of the presidency evolved over time? How have circumstances and events in history shaped the presidency? What did individual presidents do to affect these changes for better or worse? And what about the presidents we don't know much about? All of them contributed to the America we know today. This new two-semester class will look at each one of them. Information from the National Archives and Presidential Libraries will be used for lessons and assignments. Each student will choose an American President to profile in a term paper at the end of each semester.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY AND CULTURE

Instructor: Katie Kirkland

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 9

Open to grades 9-12

This course provides the students with an engaging and dynamic journey across our beautiful planet. Students will learn the political and geographical history of each continent, along with major landmarks, topography and architecture. In addition, students will dive into the culture and religion of the various regions of each part of our beautiful world.

AMERICAN HISTORY

Instructor: John Harrison

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 10

Open to grades 9-12

This course will explore the history of America from the earliest explorers to the modern era. Students will draw their knowledge from the study of primary documents, speeches and journalistic media, in addition to selected core readings. Throughout this course, students will improve their ability to answer complex questions and formulate their own detailed arguments based on historical data. The course will also focus on important contributions and developments of Catholicism in American culture and notable Catholic Americans.

WORLD HISTORY (Prehistory to fall of the Roman Empire)

Instructor: Dr. Katie Vizenor

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 11

Open to grades 10-12

Using primary and secondary sources, alongside narrative nonfiction and fiction, students will actively engage in understanding historical events. Our interactive curriculum includes dramatic interpretations of the "Epic of Gilgamesh", hands-on projects like chicken mummification, and crafting Sanskrit tablets to bring ancient cultures to life. This course offers a dynamic and immersive approach to discovering how ancient events and cultures shape our modern world.

MODERN HISTORY (WW1 to Present)

Instructor: Dr. Katie Vizenor

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 11

Open to grades 10-12

This class will mirror the format of Ancient World History, offering engaging projects, interactive discussions, and creative ways to explore history. If you've ever wanted to dive into the events and movements that have shaped our world today, this course is for you!

GOVERNMENT

Instructor: Bridget O'Donnell

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 12

Open to grades 11-12

This course will demonstrate to your student, the Christian foundation that our American Government was founded upon. Students will study the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and other original documents, to demonstrate the original intent the founding fathers had for the framework of our government. All three branches of the government will be studied along with the role each American citizen has in governing our nation. To further enrich their studies, students will explore the profiles of great Americans, including American Catholic Saints. This course will demonstrate to your student through its studies how the United States' government allows her citizens the "unalienable rights" of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

ECONOMICS (1ST SEMESTER)

Instructor: John Harrison

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 11

Open to grades 10-12

This course focuses on the concepts of free enterprise capitalism, introducing students to free markets with emphasis on work, wealth, and stewardship. Students will gain an understanding of the difference between market and command economies, including the roles of individual consumers, producers, and the government.

MATHEMATICS

PRE-ALGEBRA

Instructor: Michelle Lucas

Open to grades 7-12

This course is intended to prepare students for higher levels of mathematics. Students will be introduced to and further explore negative numbers, order of operations and solving for the unknowns, among other topics. Students will become fluent in understanding calculations with negative numbers, working with exponents, place value, evaluating radicals and identifying the least common multiple and greatest common factor. In addition, the course will further explore common mathematical principles, including the use of the Pythagorean Theorem, computing surface area and volume, converting temperature between Celsius and Fahrenheit, and adding and multiplying polynomials, among other skills.

ALGEBRA I

Instructor: Michelle Lucas

Open to grades 7-12

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

This course uses Saxon Algebra 1, 3rd Edition, and provides students with the knowledge needed to understand mathematical problems and functions. Students will explore key topics such as: signed numbers, exponents and roots, absolute value, equations and inequalities, scientific notation, unit conversions, polynomials, graphs, factoring, quadratic equations, direct and inverse variations, exponential growth, and probability. By being exposed to these concepts, students will develop a foundation for advanced problem-solving and analytical thinking, preparing them for success in both Geometry and Algebra 2.

To be successful in this Algebra 1 course, students should have a solid understanding of pre-algebra concepts.

GEOMETRY

Instructor: Shelly D'Antoni

Open to grades 7-12

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

Explore shapes, patterns, and logical reasoning with this Geometry course. Using the textbook, *Geometry: Seeing, Doing, Understanding*, students will learn the principles of Euclidean Geometry. Topics covered include: theorems, postulates, deductive reasoning, proofs, lines and angles, congruence, inequalities, parallel lines, quadrilaterals, similarity, right triangles and trigonometry, circles, congruence theorems, polygons and area, surface area and volume, coordinate geometry, and transformations.

To succeed in this course, students must possess a solid understanding of Algebra 1 concepts, such as solving quadratic and linear equations.

ALGEBRA II

Instructor: Shelly D'Antoni

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

The Algebra II course will expand further on concepts learned in Algebra 1 as well as cover such topics as advanced factoring, imaginary and complex numbers, the binomial theorem, the quadratic formula, and motion problems. Graphing conic sections and solving systems of equations will be included as well as the introduction of vectors. There will be daily assignments and unit tests.

PRE-CALCULUS

Instructor: Kelly Sonnhalter

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Algebra 2

Following the Math-U-See curriculum, this year-long course will cover the mathematics concepts that will help prepare students for the Calculus course and beyond. Major Topics include understanding the unit circle and trigonometric ratios, their reciprocals, and inverses. working with trigonometric expressions and identities; graphing and analyzing trigonometric functions; working with arithmetic and geometric sequences and series; understanding polar coordinates, radian measure, and vectors; understanding and working with exponential and logarithmic functions (including Euler's number and natural logarithms); continuing with absolute value and radical

equations and inequalities; and introducing limits and continuity.

CONSUMER MATH AND PERSONAL FINANCE (1ST SEMESTER)

Held Based on Interest

Open to grades 9-12

Students apply basic mathematical principles to the economic choices of individuals and families. Students study topics like budgets, savings accounts, debt management, and taxes. They also examine specific decisions in case studies such as purchasing, food, clothing, entertainment as well as making investments, and paying taxes. Students will apply the lessons learned through weekly math exercises, word problems, and practical examples.

SCIENCE

LIFE SCIENCE (7th Grade)

Instructor: Katie Kirkland

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 7

Open to grades 7-8

This full-year middle school course focuses on introducing students to the building blocks of life, the diversity of life from bacteria to animals, and how organisms interact with each other and their environment. The course includes an overview of scientific principles and procedures and leads students toward a clearer understanding of cells and heredity, the five kingdoms, human body systems, and ecology. As students refine and expand their understanding of life science, they will apply their knowledge in investigations that require them to ask questions and explore the world around them. Throughout the course, students will also solve problems, reason abstractly, and learn to think critically.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE (8th Grade)

Instructor: Kelly Sonnhalter

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 8

Open to grade 8

Prerequisite: must have completed Pre-Algebra

The 8th grade physical science course is intended to prepare your students for the rigor of high school level college preparatory science courses. In this course, students will explore an entire year of chemistry, physics, earth science, and scientific research. Students will work through 15 different modules, with a laboratory write-up and test following each module, through bi-weekly laboratory experiments. In addition, students will learn and be expected to document the scientific method while completing their lab exercises. At the conclusion of this course, students should have a firm knowledge of the building blocks of chemistry, physics and earth science in addition to the ability to plan, execute, and document a scientific experiment. The class will move quickly with the introduction of a new module every two weeks. Students can expect to have roughly 3-4 hours of homework per a week.

EARTH SCIENCE

Instructor: Katie Kirkland

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 9

Open to grades 9-12

From earthquakes and volcanoes to clouds and galaxies, show your child the features of God's Creation here on earth as well as the Great Beyond with Science: Earth and Space! This course guides your student through a study of geology, oceanography, meteorology, astronomy, and environmental science. A thorough study of rocks, soil, and fossils will give your student a solid foundation in the study of our Earth.

BIOLOGY WITH LAB

Instructor: Kelly Sonnhalter

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 9

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: must have completed Pre-Algebra

Church teaching and the wonder of God's Creation are emphasized in this high school Biology with Lab course. The engaging and unique pedagogy begins with Botany, capturing the students' interest with an in-depth study of the familiar and ending with the awe-inspiring wonder of the last unit, Cytology. Dissections and microscope work will be completed throughout the year, along with other hands-on activities to increase understanding and aid retention of the material.

The A Beka Biology materials are used in this course. It is written from a literalist Protestant point of view. A section written from a Protestant view of the Reformation is omitted (and/or corrected). Evolution/Creation is taught according to Church teaching, and the students read *Humani Generis*, the encyclical on evolution. This beautifully written, pro-life book gives credit to our Creator throughout. In the Human Anatomy & Physiology unit, students are reminded that we are made in God's image, and that we are different from other creatures by virtue of our immortal souls. This textbook lays the groundwork for the students to understand the teachings of *Humani Vitae* when they encounter it later in their lives.

There is one section of Biology. It meets on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

CHEMISTRY WITH LAB

Instructor: Susan Lindner

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 10

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: must have completed Algebra 1

Hands-on learning is emphasized in this high school Chemistry with Lab course. All typical high school-level Chemistry topics will be presented, and many typical labs will be completed.

There is one section of Chemistry. It meets on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

PHYSICS

Instructor: Kelly Sonnhalter

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 11-12

Open to grades 10-12

Prerequisite: must have completed Algebra 2

This year-long course, designed to teach students about the workings of the physical world and how to explain, describe, and predict the same, using mathematics. We'll cover kinematics, force, momentum, energy, gravitation, periodic motion, electricity, basic circuitry, magnetism, and electromagnetic interaction. As time permits, we may also discuss additional topics in wave mechanics, optics, sound, material science, and modern physics. This course will include occasional laboratory experiments, graded largely in terms of clarity of communication in lab reports.

NUTRITIONAL SCIENCE

Instructor: Katie Kirkland

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 11-12

Open to grades 9-12

Nutritional science examines the impact of nutrition and food on health and disease throughout the lifespan. This is the science behind how food powers our bodies, prevents disease, and brings communities together. Course topics include nutritional biology and metabolism, food science and safety, disease, and nutrition assessment. This course aims to provide an in-depth understanding of how nutrition and exercise impact health and will equip students with the knowledge to make informed decisions about their diet and lifestyle. This interactive class can help students develop healthy habits that they can carry into adulthood.

THEOLOGY

MIDDLE SCHOOL RELIGION

Instructor: Bridget O'Donnell

Grade(s): Intended for Grades 7-8

Open to grades 7-8

Our middle school religion course is a preparation course for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Students will study the doctors of the church, Works of Mercy, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, in addition to other important pillars of the Catholic Faith. This two-year course will use the curriculum *Faith and Life*, in conjunction with the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the study of influential Saints, to build a strong foundation and understanding of the Catholic Faith prior to their Confirmation.

For students who attend Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church, this course will meet the requirements of preparation for Confirmation. Students who attend other parishes will need to contact their Director of Religious Education to determine if any additional requirements will need to be met. SJBS will provide any information requested.

SALVATION HISTORY

Instructor: John Harrison

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 9

Open to grades 8-12

The goal of this course is to teach students how Sacred Scripture is the foundation for understanding the Catholic Faith. Along with the Holy Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we will use a textbook written by Dr. Scott Hahn.

From the [Midwest Theological Forum](#): "This text examines Divine Revelation, presenting Sacred Scripture as the inspired Word of God unveiled gradually throughout the history of salvation. It examines how the Magisterium of the Church transmits the Deposit of Faith infallibly and how our understanding of God's Revelation leads us to a more intimate relationship with the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity in this life and to eternal life in Heaven. It also explains how to read the Bible, emphasizing how the New Testament in Christ fulfills the covenants and promises that God made with his people in the Old Testament."

APOLOGETICS

Instructor: Chris Melnick

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 10

Open to grades 9-12

This two-semester course aims to provide a better understanding of Church teaching and while strengthening spiritual faithfulness facing young Catholics in the modern world. The readings and videos recall the history of defending one's faith over time, examining the centrality of the Eucharist, and all the Sacraments as and the power of prayer. Assignments include short reflective essays and group discussion. The course provides practical steps in applying Catholic social teaching to the challenges facing teens preparing for college and career. Each student will prepare a personal action plan as a guide for continuing to practice their faith as young adults.

CATHOLIC DOCTRINE: FAITH AND MORALS

Instructor: Jill Matz

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 11

Open to grades 10-12

The purpose of this class is to lay a solid foundation of knowledge of the Catholic Faith and of what our conduct must be if we are to grow in holiness. We will cover the intellect and the will, the Blessed Trinity, creation, angels, original sin, our redemption through Christ, the mystery of suffering, the Blessed Virgin Mary, actual and sanctifying grace, heaven, hell, purgatory, the sources of Faith, our duties toward God, ourselves, and our neighbors, the elements of a moral act, conscience, temptation, virtue, etc. The class will feature quizzes, tests, short writing assignments, and plenty of discussion.

SPIRITUAL CLASSICS (2 Credit Course)

Instructor: Katie Kirkland

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 12

Open to grades 11-12

In this course we will delve into the great works of the spiritual masters, many of them declared Doctors of the Church. Through their writings we will learn about and explore different types of prayer and how to practice it, the scriptural history and deep meaning of the Eucharist, the stages of the spiritual life, contemplation and mysticism, the importance of spiritual friendships, building a foundation for a moral life, etc. We will read the poetry of St John of the Cross, the timeless advice from St Teresa of Avila, explore the Little Way of St Therese of Lisieux, the sage wisdom for the laity from St Francis de Sales, the miraculous conversion of St Augustine, the lessons of moral theology from St Alphonsus de Liguori and so many more! This course explores more advanced theological concepts of the Catholic Faith. Students will examine how to build a foundation for a moral life through the writings of the greatest saints in the Church. Due to the heavy focus on literature and writing, this course may count towards both a theology credit and literature credit.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

LATIN 1

Instructor: Bridget Matz

Open to grades 7-12

The SJBS Latin courses use the Memoria Press Latin *Forms Series*.

From Memoria Press: The uniqueness of the *Forms Series* lies in its commitment to the trivium model of teaching grammar systematically to facilitate retention and understanding.

After finishing *First Form*, the student will have mastered:

- The six indicative active tenses of the first two verb conjugations
- Five noun declensions
- First and second declension adjectives
- 185 vocabulary words

LATIN 2

Instructor: Susan Lindner

Open to grades 7-12

The SJBS Latin courses use the Memoria Press Latin *Forms Series*.

From Memoria Press: From Memoria Press: The uniqueness of the *Forms Series* lies in its commitment to the trivium model of teaching grammar systematically to facilitate retention and understanding. In Latin 2 students further increase their facility with translation.

After finishing *Second Form*, the student will have mastered:

- Six indicative active and three indicative passive tenses of all four verb conjugations
- Five noun declensions, including **-er/-ir** nouns and i-stem nouns
- Adjectives in three declensions
- Personal pronouns
- Prepositions
- 365 vocabulary words (185 in *First Form*, and another 180 new words in *Second Form*)

SPANISH 1

Instructor: Erika Field

Open to grades 7-12

Spanish I is an introductory course into both the language and culture of Spanish speaking countries. The course presents a comprehensive introduction to Spanish vocabulary and parts of speech. The vocabulary for Spanish 1 is focused on everyday life activities, numbers, months, and terms related to school and home, as well as common phrases. In addition, the class will discuss the culture and geography of Spanish speaking countries around the world. Lastly, students will study specific dialogue and proactive everyday conversations. At the conclusion of the course, the students will have an ability to master asking and answering basic questions and identify and respond to simple statements in Spanish.

SPANISH 2

Instructor: Gabriela Bohnett

Open to grades 7-12

Spanish 2 is a transitional course from basic Spanish skills learned in Spanish 1, working towards conversational fluency. Students will work independently and in small groups to build on the knowledge, vocabulary and grammar learned in Spanish 1. The course will introduce new concepts, such as forms of the past tenses, present participles, prepositions, pronouns, compound tenses, and adverbs, all within the context of everyday situations. At the conclusion of the course, the student will have a greater understanding of the Spanish language, including grammatical structure, comprehension, and improved reading and writing proficiency.

ADVANCED SPANISH

Instructor: Gabriela Bohnett

Open to grades 7-12

Advanced Spanish is an immersion course for students who have completed a minimum of two years of Spanish instruction. In this course, students will continue to work towards fluency in both spoken and written language. The course is taught fully in Spanish, and the students are expected to participate using their knowledge of the Spanish language. Students will improve their knowledge and proficiency through practice and application of the Spanish language in both individual and group activities, projects and written reports.

ELECTIVES

*HELD BASED ON INTEREST
SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

ART THROUGH THE AGES: A HANDS-ON JOURNEY

Instructor: Jackie Dupuy

Open to grades 7-12

Explore the evolution of art by traveling through history—one brushstroke at a time! This course will examine major artistic movements, from prehistoric cave paintings to contemporary masterpieces, through engaging discussions and hands-on projects. Students will study the techniques, styles, and cultural influences of different time periods and apply their knowledge by creating their own artwork inspired by historical masterpieces.

Through painting, drawing, sculpture, and mixed media, students will gain a deeper appreciation of art's role in human history while developing their own creative expression. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced artist, this class will challenge you to see art in a new way and bring history to life through your own creations.

Key Topics & Activities:

- Ancient & Classical Art: Cave paintings, Egyptian hieroglyphs, Greek and Roman sculpture
- Medieval & Renaissance Art: Illuminated manuscripts, fresco painting, perspective drawing
- Baroque to Romanticism: Dramatic compositions, storytelling through art
- Modern Movements: Impressionism, Cubism, Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism
- Contemporary Art & Personal Expression: Exploring today's art world and developing a personal style

By the end of the course, students will have a portfolio of historically inspired artwork and a deeper understanding of art's evolution.

No prior experience is necessary—just curiosity and a willingness to create!

CHAOS TO CONTROL (1st SEMESTER)

Instructor: Jackie Dupuy

Open to grades 7-12

Does your student struggle with time management, consistent and effective use of their agenda, and general organization? If so, this class may be helpful. In this practical and engaging course, students will develop essential organizational skills to manage their time and space effectively. This NAPO-certified, professional organizer-led class will focus on helping your student develop and utilize organizational systems to make the most efficient use of their time. Through hands-on assignments and step-by-step guidance, students will gain the confidence and tools needed to stay organized, reduce stress, and improve productivity. Whether struggling with clutter, missed deadlines, or a packed schedule, this course provides the strategies to help students take control and stay on top of daily life.

Some skills that will be covered include identifying priorities, scheduling for success, effective use of their agenda, determining what to keep/donate/throw out when it comes to personal possessions, how to organize drawers, clothes folding, bed making, and laundry.

Mrs. Dupuy is also an interior designer, and some classes will focus on floor plans, color theory, furniture placement, design styles and decorating as well.

COFFEE SHOP BUSINESS: MICROECONOMY IN ACTION

Instructor: Katie Kirkland

Open to grades 7-12

Adolescents exist between two worlds: they are no longer children but they aren't yet adults. On this bridge to adulthood, adolescents need opportunities to develop real, meaningful, adult-level skills. They aspire to do what adults do. They are curious about how to make their own way in the adult world. In this hands-on course students collaborate to design, plan, and run a coffee shop business together. They will be supplied with a coffee cart, equipment, and the first-round of supplies. After this, they are responsible for all aspects of the business including offering service, managing money and expenses, daily operational tasks, problem solving, and advertising. The practical experience of running a business helps adolescents develop a sense of purpose, independence, belonging, and self-worth, while also preparing them for future economic roles. It also provides opportunities for students to contribute to the school community or even the broader community by creating a gathering spot where parishioners, parents, teachers, and students can interact informally, enhancing community ties. The students will discuss and determine how much money should be reinvested into the business to help it grow or how much money should be reinvested in the greater community. Note: If signing up for 1st period, students need to be at school by 8:30 am to help set up the coffee shop.

CREATIVE WRITING (2nd SEMESTER)

Instructor: Bridget Matz

Open to grades 7-12

Students interested in creative writing will receive support and instruction to help them develop their skills. This course includes reading select, short literary works or excerpts in order to examine their techniques; class discussion on various elements of creative writing (particularly fiction) such as plot, description, dialogue, character, and setting; and writing assignments in order to hone particular skills throughout the course.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS (2nd SEMESTER)

Open to grades 7-12

Many young people today think about starting a business someday and this course looks at the skills, lessons, and tools used in building a successful enterprise. They will explore the power of creativity, innovation, and risk-taking. Case studies are presented, and occasional guest entrepreneurs discuss their own experiences in starting a business. Each student gets to create his or her own small business plan and then present the business idea to the rest of the class toward the end of the semester.

ESSAY WRITING (1st SEMESTER)

Instructor: Bridget Matz

Open to grades 7-12

This course is designed to teach students the fundamentals of planning, outlining, and writing an academic essay. It will focus on the basic forms of the essay - particularly the argumentative essay - working with overall tone and structure, examining the component parts needed to build an essay, and teaching students how and why to construct clear, convincing writing that accurately conveys their own ideas.

LEADERSHIP FOR TODAY'S YOUTH (1st SEMESTER)

Instructor: Adam Stanislawski

Grade(s): Intended for Grades 7-12

Open to grades 7-12

Come and learn from one of the great influencers in the 1930s, Dale Carnegie, as we explore his timeless book, *How to Win Friends and Influence People*. As a class, we will discover and put into practice principles that form the basis for success and leadership involving healthy friendship, engaging with people, listening well, being a good conversationalist, having tough conversations, cooperation, and more! Journey along with your peers through reading, journaling, and lively class activities.

LIFE SKILLS FOR INDEPENDENCE (2nd SEMESTER)

Instructor: Jackie Dupuy

Open to grades 7-12

This practical, hands-on course equips students with essential life skills to build confidence and independence in everyday living. Through interactive lessons and real-world applications, students will learn the fundamentals of personal hygiene and etiquette, including grooming, dressing appropriately for different occasions, and practicing respectful social interactions.

Students will also explore how to create a comfortable and functional living space by learning basic decorating principles, furniture arrangement, and organization techniques. The course will cover essential household tasks such as doing laundry efficiently, understanding fabric care, basic sewing skills and maintaining a clean and tidy environment.

In addition, students will develop valuable meal-planning and cooking skills from grocery shopping on a budget to preparing balanced, nutritious meals. They will gain hands-on experience in following recipes, using kitchen tools safely, and cooking simple meals that they can confidently make for themselves and others.

By the end of the course, students will have the practical knowledge and confidence to manage their personal space, maintain hygiene and etiquette, and prepare meals, setting them up for success in adulthood.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Instructor: Adam Stanislawski

Open to grades 7-12

This course includes the practice and acquisition of motor skills needed to participate in a variety of team and individual sports as well as lifetime recreation and fitness activities. The development of personal fitness, leadership, teamwork/strategy, goal-setting, and sportsmanship are emphasized through play. Activities will vary based on student interest, equipment availability, and weather conditions, but we try to play games such as soccer, handball, ultimate frisbee, football, wiffleball, ladderball, Kan Jam, Spike Ball, a variety of cooperative games such as capture the flag or variations of tag, and a SJBS exclusive, BOSCO ball!

Our class functions as a team and we support each other in strengthening our physical and fitness skills. We recognize our unique dignity as sons and daughters of God, and so we respect individual differences and abilities through encouragement and use this time to sharpen each other physically, mentally, spiritually, and socially. From this perspective, we are mindful that these dimensions of health are integrated into our well-being as equally important gifts from our Creator.

DRAMATIC ARTS

Instructor: Katie Kirkland

Open to grades 7-12

Students learn the basics of theatre arts by exploring a character through such activities as pantomime, improvisation and effective speaking using articulation, projection and breathing. Students also explore elements of technical theatre by exploring the use of such elements as costumes, props, stage sword fighting, and scenery. Students will practice writing and explore various theatre roles and functions. Two public performances will serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Drama courses can teach great communication skills, deeper empathy, develop concentration and confidence, encourage teamwork and collaboration, problem solving, form new friendships, and develop creativity. *All ages welcome!*

FORENSIC SCIENCE/EXPLORATION IN SCIENCE (2nd SEMESTER)

Instructor: Katie Kirkland

Open to grades 7-12

First 8 weeks: Come explore the fascinating world of forensics. This is a lab and project-based learning course in which students will learn the basic scientific principles, laboratory techniques, and reasoning skills used to solve crime. Topics to be explored include latent prints, serology, DNA, chemical analysis, trace evidence, crime scene investigation, digital forensics, toxicology, investigations and crime mapping. Students will develop critical thinking skills to solve simulated criminal cases while gaining an understanding of the legal system and career paths within forensics. All ages welcome!

Second 8 weeks: Whoosh, Bam, Soar! We will explore the world of science and engineering that sometimes explodes and foams, flies through the sky, and occasionally tastes really good! We will try our hand at building spacecraft, mixing chemicals that explode and foam, and making different types of food with kitchen chemistry! All ages welcome!

ROBOTICS

Instructor: Shelly D'Antoni

Open to grades 7-12

Aligning with the FIRST Technical Challenge framework, this course paves the way for students to develop the skills and confidence needed to potentially form a competitive robotics team in the following year. In this course, students will gain hands-on experience in designing, coding, and building robots to solve challenges. The ultimate goal, beyond building functional robots, is to equip students with valuable skills such as problem solving and reasoning.

TEENAGE FLOURISHING: ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS FOR TEENS

Instructor: Katie Kirkland
Open to grades 7-12

This course is an introduction to the study of behavior and mental processes that will provide a broad overview of human development, consciousness, perception, learning, memory, emotion and motivation, social behavior, personality, health and well-being. Students will also encounter models for the integration of the Christian vision of the human person into life in general. Drawing on the theological, philosophical, and psychological foundations of Catholic anthropology, the course also examines the human, religious, and spiritual resources necessary for the mature discernment of vocation, the free exercise of virtue, the operation of reason, the cultivation of healthy relationships, the process of personal growth, the avenues of healing, and, ultimately, growth in faith, hope, and love. We will explore essential life skills for teens such as coping with failure, handling change, regulation of technology, standing up for yourself, achieving goals through planning, how to be a leader, how to help others through developing greater empathy and listening skills, the importance of friendship and community service, and more.

INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

Instructor: Dr. Nadya Klimenko
Open to grades 9-12

In this Introduction to Psychology class, we will explore the core areas and theories of psychological science, ranging from cognitive neuroscience to the dynamics of human social interactions. This course will help students gain knowledge of the history and theories of psychology. We will explore major theories and studies of human behavior and mental processes which can help relate to others more effectively, improve communication skills, and even gain insights into our own behavior and emotions. Furthermore, we will review scientific literature and psychology journals and learn through lectures and discussions.

Additionally, during this course, students will be introduced to such topics as neuropsychology, discovering how our brain works, learning parts and functions of various brain areas and how it impacts our daily life, memory, learning, and emotions. We will learn about the famous Pavlov's dog and Classical Conditioning, B.F. Skinner's Operant Conditioning, and much more. The class will also discuss models of learning and we will explore techniques to improve learning, studying, and memory. We hope that this class will inspire students, as well as prepare them for future college courses in Psychology.

SACRED MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Instructor: Gabriela Bohnett

Open to grades 7-12

This class is designed for students of all musical backgrounds, from beginners to experienced musicians. Together, we'll learn to read and interpret music, develop our vocal and instrumental skills, and prepare for inspiring performances.

Class Objectives:

- Develop musical literacy: Learn to read sheet music, understand musical notation, and interpret sacred and classical repertoire.
- Vocal and instrumental training: Explore various instruments and vocal techniques to enhance your musical expression.
- Performance preparation: Rehearse and perform sacred and classical pieces, fostering teamwork and musical growth.
- Spiritual growth: Explore the intersection of music and faith, deepening your understanding of the Catholic tradition.

Repertoire:

- Sacred choral music (e.g., Gregorian chant, Renaissance polyphony)
- Classical instrumental pieces (e.g., Bach, Mozart)
- Contemporary sacred music (e.g., Taizé, contemporary Catholic composers)

No prior musical experience necessary! All are welcome to join this enriching musical journey, regardless of prior experience. Our goal is to create a nurturing community where students can grow in their faith and musical abilities.

Performance Opportunities:

- Regular class performances
- School liturgies and events
- Community concerts and outreach programs