

Saint John Bosco School



COURSE CATALOG

2026 -2027

ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR

CORE COURSES • ELECTIVES

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SAINT JOHN BOSCO SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG 2026/2027

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. Classes will focus on a combination of literary discussion and grammar instruction, with occasional short writing assignments and tests. The reading lists will consist of literary works with excellent writing and valuable content, at levels that are appropriate and challenging for each grade level.

LITERATURE STUDIES

Instructor: Jill Matz

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 9

Open to grades 9-12

The major goals of this course: to improve students' ability to understand and appreciate literature, and to increase their ability to express themselves clearly in speech and writing. The course will feature class discussion, quizzes, tests, essays, poetry memorization, and lots of reading.

HISTORICAL LITERARY ANALYSIS

Instructor: Matthew Klima

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 10

Open to grades 9-12

In this course, students will read, discuss, and reflect upon five classic works of literature related to the eras covered in American History. Additionally, they will read a small collection of primary sources, short stories, and poems. The final list is currently being finalized with the aims of a) introducing students to the American and Western literary canons; b) including engaging works likely to resonate with high schoolers; c) providing an opportunity to consider Christian virtue within a literary context.

Honors designation for those earning an A

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. Quizzes, tests, essays.

Honors designation for those earning an A

ADVANCED LITERATURE

Instructor: Jill Matz

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 12

Open to grades 10-12

We'll read classic works by authors such as Shakespeare, Dickens, Austen. Enrolled students will help determine the reading list. The focus will be on close reading and analysis.

Honors designation for those earning an A

SOCIAL STUDIES

7th GRADE AMERICAN HISTORY

Instructor: Matthew Klima

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 7

Open to grades 7-8

In this course, students will study American history from the time of the early explorers through the beginning of the 21st Century. Students will study historical events while building a deep understanding of recurring historical themes. They will also complete various assignments designed to foster critical thinking, reading comprehension, geography skills, and writing development.

8th GRADE ANCIENT HISTORY

Instructor: Matthew Klima

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 8

Open to grades 7-8

This course will begin with a review of the Old Testament and the Hebrew people. We will then study Greek and Roman mythology, which formed the worldview of the ancient West, and which has served as a touchstone for Western literature. We will then proceed through a detailed and extended history of Greece and Rome. Finally, we will close the course with an overview of Early Christianity and a final reflection on the formation of the Christian West.

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: Matthew Klima

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 10

Open to grades 9-12

This history course is a comprehensive survey of American history from the Age of Exploration to the 21st century. Students will receive direct instruction through multiple media, encounter a range of primary sources, and grapple with various perennial issues by engaging in critical thinking. Through writing and discussion, students will demonstrate their understanding of what it has meant to be a Christian American since the days of our founders.

WORLD HISTORY

Instructor: Matthew Klima

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 11

Open to grades 10-12

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 - MONDAY)

Instructor: Matthew Klima

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: Shelly D'Antoni

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.

MATH SUPPORT

Instructor: Michelle Lucas

Open to: Prealgebra and Algebra 1 Students

CONSUMER MATH AND PERSONAL FINANCE (1ST SEMESTER - MONDAY)

Instructor: Matthew Klima

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 and Susan Lindner

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.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Instructor: Katie Kirkland

Grade(s): Open to grades 9-12

Open to grades 9-12

Explore computer science through fun, hands-on projects and creative problem-solving! This introductory course serves as a foundation for learning the concepts and challenges of computer science and its impacts on society from a Catholic perspective. Students will learn how to design, develop, and evaluate computer programs using algorithms and the JavaScript and Python programming languages. Students will learn core CS concepts with engaging activities and have opportunities to design and build games, animations, and websites. Topics will include: Data, Web Design, Physical Computing, App Design, Games and Animations, Art and Design, Programming. This course is open to 9th - 12th grades and requires a laptop computer.

BIOLOGY WITH LAB

Instructor: Kelly Sonnhalter and Susan Lindner

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.

CHURCH HISTORY

Instructor: Bridget Matz

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 9

Open to grades 8-12

This course will give an overview of the life of the Catholic Church throughout history. It will touch on the development of doctrine, the Church's life in art and in the liturgy, and some of the great saints of each historical era.

MASS AND THE SACRAMENTS

Instructor: Chris Melnick

Grade(s): Intended for Grade 10

Open to grades 9-12

In this class, students will learn about the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church. We'll study the nature, origins, and significance of these channels of supernatural grace, and will pay special attention to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

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 - Charged as 2 classes)

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

Latin I introduces students to the foundations of the Latin language with an emphasis on vocabulary development and core grammatical structures. Students will build a working Latin vocabulary through consistent practice and application, enabling them to recognize and interpret common words and phrases. The course focuses on mastering the six indicative active tenses (present, imperfect, future, perfect, pluperfect, and future perfect) within the first two verb conjugations, helping students understand how verbs function across time.

In addition, students will study all five noun declensions, learning to identify case, number, and gender, and to translate noun forms accurately. Instruction also includes first and second declension adjectives, with attention to agreement and proper usage. Through reading, writing, and translation exercises, students will develop analytical skills and gain insight into the structure of language, laying a strong foundation for further Latin study.

SPANISH 1

Instructor: Katie Kirkland

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*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH - WEDNESDAY CLASS - YEAR LONG

Instructor:

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.

SHAKESPEARE ON STAGE, ON PAPER AND IN HISTORY

Instructor: Linda Glenn

Open to grades 7-12

This course allows students to learn to read and appreciate the works of William Shakespeare. It provides an introduction to Shakespeare's life, language, and Elizabethan culture. Students will study one tragedy and one comedy each semester. A focus will be put on the history of the Elizabethan Era and the culture around the theater in Shakespeare's time. Students will dive into biblical themes within the plays and participate in a readers theater. We will practice decoding iambic pentameter, archaic words, metaphors, and puns to gain confidence in reading and enjoying his works. Our class will strive to make Shakespeare feel accessible to each student to cultivate a lifetime of enjoyment from the great playwright.

1st 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.

PUBLIC SPEAKING & COMMUNICATIONS (1st SEMESTER)

Instructor: Dr. Klimenko

Open to grades 7-12

This course is designed to help students grow in confidence, poise, and clarity as communicators, grounded in the values of a Catholic education. Through a variety of engaging and experiential activities, students will develop essential speaking and presentation skills that will serve them in school, leadership, in church, and everyday life.

Students will learn to express themselves with confidence and purpose through informative, persuasive, and demonstration speeches, as well as storytelling, impromptu speaking, and special occasion presentations. The course also includes debates, panel discussions, interviews (including mock job interviews), and introductory marketing and sales presentations.

Emphasis is placed on clear communication, respectful dialogue, critical thinking, and authentic self-expression. Students will be encouraged to use their voice as a gift for speaking with integrity, courage, and compassion in all settings.

By the end of the course, students will have strengthened their ability to communicate effectively, present with confidence, and engage thoughtfully with others.

WRITING CLINIC AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT (1st SEMESTER)

Instructor: Jill Matz, Bridget Matz and Kelly Sonnhalter

Open to grades 7-12

This class will utilize three staff members to assist students with assignments from their Saint John Bosco courses in literature, grammar and mathematics. Students will be expected to come to class prepared to work on current assignments.

STEM (1st and 2nd Semester)

Instructor: Katie Kirkland

Open to grades 7-9

STEAM is a holistic, interdisciplinary approach to learning that combines science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. STEAM takes STEM to the next level by emphasizing innovation, design, and aesthetics. In this engaging, hands-on, project-based environment students will learn through exploration, and classes will focus on group challenges, brainstorming, designing, and building. This is a no homework course, all work will be completed in class with the aim to foster curiosity and creativity, and encourage critical thinking and creative problem solving. All ages are welcome! This will be a fun class involving all 4Cs of STEAM Education:

1. Creativity: Designing unique, artistic solutions to technical problems.
2. Collaboration: Working in teams to build complex, multi-layered projects.
3. Critical Thinking: Testing and refining designs through experiments.
4. Communication: Presenting findings and demonstrating how models function

SACRED MUSIC ENSEMBLE (1st and 2nd Semester)

Instructor: Gabriella Bohnett

Open to grades 6-12

This Sacred Music Ensemble is open to students in grades 6–12 with any level of instrumental experience. Students will come together to make music that is both beautiful and prayerful, exploring sacred repertoire in a collaborative ensemble setting. All parts will be thoughtfully arranged so that each student is met where they are and guided in steady musical growth, developing both confidence and essential performance skills.

Through weekly rehearsals, students will learn to listen, blend, and perform as an ensemble while deepening their appreciation for sacred music as a form of praise. Opportunities may include performances and community or liturgical settings, allowing students to share their gifts in a meaningful way.

Details:

- **Day & Time:** Mondays, 2:30–3:30 PM
- **Who:** Students in grades 6–12 (any instrumental experience welcome)
- **Requirements:** Students must provide their own instrument, music stand, and music/books

This class is ideal for young musicians who desire to grow artistically while offering their talents in service of God.

COFFEE SHOP BUSINESS: MICROECONOMY IN ACTION (1st and 2nd Semester)

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.

DRAMATIC ARTS (1st and 2nd Semester)

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!*

ROBOTICS (1st and 2nd Semester)

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.

2nd SEMESTER

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.

DEBATE (2nd SEMESTER)

Instructor: Dr. Klimenko

Open to grades 9-12

SAT PREP (2nd SEMESTER)

Instructor: Kelly Sonnhalter

Open to grades 9-12

This SAT Preparation course is designed to equip students with the knowledge, strategies, and confidence needed to perform at their best on the SAT. The course provides a comprehensive review of the exam's core sections—Reading, Writing and Language, and Math—while emphasizing critical thinking, time management, and test-taking techniques.

Students will strengthen reading comprehension skills by analyzing passages and identifying key ideas, tone, and evidence. In the Writing and Language section, students will refine grammar, punctuation, and rhetorical skills to improve clarity and effectiveness. The Math portion focuses on both calculator and non-calculator content, including algebra, problem-solving, data analysis, and foundational concepts in geometry and advanced math.

In addition to content review, the course emphasizes proven strategies such as process of elimination, pacing techniques, and recognizing common question patterns. Students will engage in regular practice using SAT-style questions and full-length practice tests to build familiarity and track progress. By the end of the

course, students will have improved their accuracy, speed, and confidence, and will be well-prepared to achieve their highest possible score on the SAT.

STRATEGIES OF CHESS (2nd SEMESTER)

Instructor: Kelly Sonnhalter

Open to grades 7-12

This course introduces students to the strategic thinking behind chess and the broader principles of game theory. Using chess as a primary model, students will explore how to analyze positions, anticipate opponents' moves, and develop long-term strategies. The course covers essential chess concepts such as opening principles, tactical patterns, positional play, and endgame techniques.

By the end of the course, students will be able to think critically, plan strategically, and apply game theory concepts to both competitive games and real-life scenarios. No prior chess experience is required.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS (2nd SEMESTER)

Open to grades 9-12

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.