



CREATE. IMAGINE. INVENT.

Upper School Academic Guide

ASPIRE 2 EXCELLENCE

2026 - 2027

PO Box 4000
2280 Watertower Rd
Collegeville, MN 56321-4000 USA

320.363.3315
800.525.7737
sjpoffice@sjprep.net

Table of Contents

General Information

Page 3	Welcome to Saint John's Prep
Page 3	School Portals
Page 3	Using the SJP Academic Guide
Page 3	Weighted Courses
Page 3	Prerequisites
Page 3	Daily Schedule
Page 4	Course Add/Drop/Change Protocol
Page 4	Progress Reports
Page 4	Incompletes
Page 4	Head of School – Principal Lists
Page 4	Global Experiences
Page 5	Aspire2Excellence Program
Page 6	4 Year Course Plan
Page 7	CSB SJU College Classes

Curriculum Departments and Course Overviews

Pages 8 - 9	English	
Page 10	English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)	
Page 11	Fine Arts – Music	
Page 12	Fine Arts – Theatre	
Pages 13 – 15	Fine Arts - Visual	
Pages 16 – 17	General	
Pages 18 – 19	Health and Wellness	
Page 20	Interim	
Pages 21 – 22	Mathematics	
Pages 23 – 25	Science	
Pages 26 – 27	Social Studies	
Pages 28 – 29	Theology	
Pages 30 – 31	World Languages – Chinese	
Pages 32 – 33	World Languages – German	
Pages 34 – 35	World Languages - Spanish	
Pages 36 – 45	Aspire2Excellent Program Opportunities	
	English	Pages 37 – 38
	Mathematics	Page 39
	Performing Arts – Music	Page 40
	Performing Arts – Theatre	Page 40
	Science	Page 41
	Social Studies	Page 42
	Theology and Benedictine Studies	Page 43
	Visual Arts	Page 44
	Global Experiences	Page 45
	World Languages	Page 46

General Information

Welcome to Saint John's Prep

Learning is about more than academics. It's about self-reflection, connection and purpose. Our globally diverse community, rooted in Catholic Benedictine values, offers students an experience that prepares them for the future—as agents of leadership, learning and service

We take learning seriously at Saint John's Prep. Our outstanding faculty and staff challenge our students to reach beyond the familiar to try something new, to create, imagine or invent. We engage our students not only as they are but in relation to all that they can become.

To assist students in planning their four years of high school and preparation for college, this guide outlines SJP academic policies, requirements and courses. The SJP Student Services Team (SST) will work with all students to craft individual and unique 4-year plans that address each student's passions, interests, and academic strengths.

Finally, though perhaps most importantly, SJP provides a school environment for all students to feel safe and supported, respected and valued, and to chase their dreams. In short, SJP is a special place, and we are excited to have you join us!

School Portals

Saint John's Preparatory School utilizes two (2) school portals: Connect2Prep and Schoology. Parents and students will receive log in information when official enrollment has been established.

- **Connect2Prep**
This portal is the school's "file cabinet" of student information. Students and parents will have access to view attendance, class schedules, progress reports (report cards), calendar, unofficial transcripts and general student data, i.e., name, date of birth, status.
- **Schoology**
For day-to-day class information including assignments, on-line discussions, quizzes and tests. This portal is also the general method of school announcements for classes, activities and athletics.

Using the SJP Academic Guide

Within the SJP Academic Guide, courses are listed by academic department, and each department is listed in alphabetical order. Critical information is listed to each course, and a course description is also provided. Courses are color-coded by **required**, **elective**, are **weighted** or have a **prerequisite** course. The color-code is as follows:

R	Required Course
E	Elective Course
W	Weighted Course
P	Prerequisites

Weighted Courses

Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors noted courses will use weighted scales to differentiate from regular courses. AP courses and Honors courses will have an additional .50 on the grading scale. Honors courses considered for weighting must meet similar standards of academic rigor and have a comparable AP end-of-course examination. Both unweighted and weighted gpas (grade point averages) will be reflected on student transcripts.

Grade	Unweighted	Weighted
A	4.000	4.500
A-	3.667	4.167
B+	3.333	3.833
B	3.000	3.500
B-	2.667	3.167
C+	2.333	2.833
C	2.000	2.500
C-	1.667	2.167
D+	1.333	1.833
D	1.000	1.500
D-	0.667	1.167
F	0.000	0.000

Prerequisites

Some courses require prior completion of other, related courses prior to enrollment. Refer to individual course descriptions for complete information.

Daily Schedules

The Prep School operates on an eight-period rotating schedule. While students may have up to eight classes per semester, they must have a minimum of five (5) classes. All eight periods rotate in an eight-day cycle. Class periods are 65 minutes each, allowing for in-depth instruction, lab work, and assessments.

8:00 AM START - 65 MINUTES/8 DAY CYCLE									
DAY	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Minutes
8:00 - 9:05	PERIOD 1	PERIOD 6	PERIOD 3	PERIOD 8	PERIOD 5	PERIOD 2	PERIOD 7	PERIOD 4	65
9:10 - 9:35	COMMUNITY TIME								25
9:40 - 10:45	PERIOD 2	PERIOD 7	PERIOD 4	PERIOD 1	PERIOD 6	PERIOD 3	PERIOD 8	PERIOD 5	65
10:50 - 11:55	PERIOD 3	PERIOD 8	PERIOD 5	PERIOD 2	PERIOD 7	PERIOD 4	PERIOD 1	PERIOD 6	65
12:00 - 12:50	COMMON LUNCH								50
12:55 - 2:00	PERIOD 4	PERIOD 1	PERIOD 6	PERIOD 3	PERIOD 8	PERIOD 5	PERIOD 2	PERIOD 7	65
2:05 - 3:10	PERIOD 5	PERIOD 2	PERIOD 7	PERIOD 4	PERIOD 1	PERIOD 6	PERIOD 3	PERIOD 8	65

"Z" day will be a modified class period day to accommodate community masses and special events that required additional community time.



Course Add/Drop/Change Protocol

All upper school students must always have a complete schedule of a minimum of five (5) academic courses that meet five (5) times each eight (8) day cycle. Students may amend their assigned course schedules in accordance with the parameters outlined in this section.

First Five (5) Days of each Semester

Students may add/drop/change courses based on need, requirements or recommendation.

Schedule Changes

The following are the justifiable reasons accepted for schedule changes. In addition, schedule changes will only be approved if the destination course/section has seats available.

To address

- A computer error
- A deficiency in required credits for graduation
- A course section size imbalance
- Schedule conflicts
- Staff recommended course level adjustment

Schedule changes will not occur due to concerns including, but not limited to:

- Preference for a different teacher
- Preference for a different class period
- Preference to be in a course with friends

Progress Reports

Progress Reports (report cards) are posted to Connect2Prep (student and parent portal) twice per semester. Progress reports are not retained within a student's permanent academic record. Only grades submitted at the end of each semester are recorded on their permanent record (transcript). Progress Report grades are reflective of the student's progress within the course to date. Unofficial transcripts are also available via Connect2Prep portal.

Incompletes

All incomplete (INC) final semester grades must be made up within ten (10) weekdays, not including holidays, starting the day after the last class day of the semester. If work has not been submitted by the tenth day the INC grade will become a failing grade for the course and semester. In unique and rare circumstances, such as cases of emergency, illness or other special reasons, more time may be provided by the school's principal.

Head of School – Principal Honor Lists

- **Head of School's Honor List**
At the end of each semester, a list of those students who have achieved a weighted semester GPA of 3.50 or higher for the term is recognized on the Headmaster's Honor List.
- **Principal's Honor List**
A similar list of those students who have achieved a weighted semester GPA of 3.00 to 3.499 are recognized on the Principal's Honor List.

Global Experiences

- **Centro Escolar del Lago Study Abroad Program**
The Central Escolar del Lago (CEL) Program is a unique study abroad program in Mexico. Saint John's offers a semester long travel/study option at Centro Escolar del Lago, a preparatory school based on Benedictine values and academic excellence, in Cuautitlán Izcalli, Mexico. CEL is located just northwest of Mexico City, about one hours by car from the airport. This program features a full academic curriculum enriched by a homestay and other cultural activities within Mexico.
- **German Friendship Program**
German friendship Program is a twofold, it consists of one month exchange program and a virtual program. Be a part of a four-week home-and-home German exchange program. This program includes hosting a student from Germany for four weeks and going to Germany to be hosted by a German family.

Virtual Friendship Connection Program is for students grades 8-12 interested in developing a friendship with a student from Germany without the commitment of hosting or visiting Germany. The students will commit to a 6-month virtual interaction (February-August) with a German student who is matched based on age, interests and hobbies. This fun experience creates life long lasting friendships!
- **Guatemalan Faces Program**
The Prep students interested in Faces Cultural Program will travel to Guatemala City in June/July and experience the Guatemalan culture, first-hand, by sharing with a host family and participating in social, educational, and sporting activities. During their stay, participants attend a private, bilingual school in Guatemala City and stay with a carefully selected host family. The program length could be anywhere between 1-4 weeks, and it is open to students 12-18 years old who value enrichment and diversity, have a desire to learn and grow through experiences, are eager to make new friends and share their culture with others. Tuition, accommodation and food are covered by the Program and the students are responsible for the flight and insurances fees (Tikal trip is optional and covered by the student).
- **Kaisei Gakuin School Exchange Program**
The students will immerse themselves in Japanese culture by serving as a teaching assistant. As a classroom leader, the students will help Kaisei Gakuin School students improve the conversational English skills. This program will provide opportunities for Prep students to learn how to adapt to new environments and work across cultures. The program is open to current Juniors and Seniors and limited to three participants a year. The program dates are end of May to end of June (4 weeks). Accommodation and food are paid for, the students are responsible for their flight and insurance
- **Melk Study Abroad Program**
The Melk Program is a unique study abroad program in Austria. Saint John's offers a yearlong travel/study option at the 900-year-old Benedictine Abbey of Melk in Melk, Austria. Melk is located on the Danube River about one hour west of Vienna by train. This program features a full academic curriculum enriched by travel throughout Austria and in other countries in Europe.

ASPIRE 2 EXCELLENCE

Saint John's Preparatory School's exclusive program, *Aspire2Excellence*, allows students to be the architect of their own experience and future. Our distinctive approach to education challenges students to be deeply creative thinkers, intellectual risk-takers, experiential learners, and imaginative problem solvers. Our students have opportunities to develop a personalized learning plan made up of core courses, merits, and distinctions. We provide them with the flexibility and encouragement to discover who they are and what they love.

Core Courses and Foundational Program

- Required Course Planner

The following table demonstrates the required course information for SJP graduation. Additional information is available in each department's course descriptions.

Academic Department	Requirement Information
English – ESOL	English-ESOL course required each semester of enrollment
Fine Arts – Music, Theatre, Visual	2 credits: 2 semesters during 9 th /10 th grades and 2 semesters during 11 th /12 th grades
Health and Wellness	1 semester of health Athletic/extracurricular participation required each year of enrollment
Mathematics	3 years required; 4 years recommended
Interim	Participation required each year of enrollment
Science	Required courses of Physics, Chemistry and Biology
Social Studies	Social Studies course required each semester of enrollment. One credit/year of United States History required for graduation.
Theology	1 semester course required each year of enrollment
World Languages – Chinese, German, Spanish	3 years of the same world language

- Graduation Requirements

Students are required to complete high school graduation requirements as adopted by the State of Minnesota and Saint John's Preparatory School.

- ✓ **Each full year course:** 1.00 credits earned
- ✓ **Each semester offered course:** .50 credits earned
- ✓ **Each course scheduled three (3) times per eight (8) day cycle:** .25 credits earned
- ✓ **Each year of Interim Participation:** .25 credits earned

Total Credits Required for High School Graduation:

Class of 2027 25.00 total credits
 Class of 2028 25.00 total credits
 Class of 2029 25.00 total credits
 Class of 2030 25.00 total credits

Academic Distinction

We encourage our students to pursue educational pathways that provide opportunities for academic distinction in particular academic disciplines – beyond minimum graduation requirements. Distinctions are awarded in seven disciplines:

- English
- Mathematics
- Performing Arts (*Music and/or Theatre*)
- Science
- Social Studies
- Theology
- Visual Arts
- World Languages - Global Studies (*Chinese, German, Spanish*)

Distinction requirements include:

- Four (4) merits beyond graduation requirements in the discipline. Merits can be achieved through additional coursework, co-curricular activities, or other departmental requirements. A full list of Merit opportunities can be found starting on page 36.
- Attainment of a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher within the discipline in the junior and senior year.

Academic Honors

Honors is the highest level of academic distinction at Saint John's Prep. Students who graduate with Honors demonstrate exceptional academic and intellectual depth and achievement.

Honors requirements include:

- Completion of three distinctions (equivalent of 12 merits)
- Completion of an interdisciplinary faculty-advised *Senior Capstone* based on a combination of research/original creative work, writing, and presentation. The *Senior Capstone* will be managed through a course offered each fall and spring.
- Students receiving a final grade of F, U or NG during their 10th – 12th grades will be ineligible for Academic Honors
- Attainment of a composite weighted cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher
- Successful completion of Honors Knowledge and Truth and Honors Senior Capstone courses

SAINT JOHN'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL
ASPIRE 2 EXCELLENCE
 4 YEAR COURSE PLAN

Grade 9

1	English 9 or ESOL	
2	World History I	
3	Physics	
4	Mathematics	
5	World Language	
6	Theology	Health/PE
7	Fine Arts	
8		

Grade 10

1	American Literature or ESOL	
2	World History II	
3	Chemistry	
4	Mathematics	
5	World Language	
6	Theology II	Fine Arts
7		
8		

Credits: SM I _____ SM II _____

Credits: SM I _____ SM II _____

Grade 11

1	300 or 400 Level English	300 or 400 Level English
2	300 or 400 Level Social Studies	300 or 400 Level Social Studies
3	Biology or AP Biology	
4	Mathematics	
5	World Language	
6	300 or 400 Level Theology	Fine Arts
7		
8		

Grade 12

1	300 or 400 Level English	300 or 400 Level English
2	300 or 400 Level Social Studies	300 or 400 Level Social Studies
3	Science recommended, not required	
4	Mathematics recommended, not required	
5	World Language recommended, not required	
6	300 or 400 Level Theology	Fine Arts
7		
8		

Credits: SM I _____ SM II _____

Credits: SM I _____ SM II _____

TOTAL PLANNED CREDITS: _____ + 1 (4 YEARS OF .25 INTERIM CREDITS) = _____

Total Credits Required for High School Graduation:

Class of 2027	25.00 total credits
Class of 2028	25.00 total credits
Class of 2029	25.00 total credits
Class of 2030	25.00 total credits

CSB|SJU College Classes

Choosing college classes is different from high school courses. For one thing, colleges can offer hundreds, even thousands, of classes. The following information and procedures are specific to Saint John's Prep, the College of Saint Benedict's and Saint John's University. Much of the information will be like any college or university students may attend within the United States after high school.

These are some strategies that can help students choose classes.

Review the CSB-SJU course catalog. If students know their major, choose some courses that fulfill general requirements in that area. If students are not sure what they want to study, pick some classes in subjects that spark an interest.

Be aware of when the college class meets to coordinate with your SJP classes and activities. Students should be sure to have time over the week to study and engage in other activities each day. While it may not seem like much class time, students will soon discover that college classes are more rigorous and demand more of their out-of-class time.

Meet with the SJP college counselor who is here to assist with the decision-making process. Come with a list of questions. If the college counselor cannot answer everything, they will assist students in finding someone who can.

Does the college course have core requirements or prerequisites? The core requirements and prerequisites vary from course to course. If this is the student's first time taking a college class, they should look at the Level 100 courses, i.e., ECON 111. Once they have completed a course, students could possibly move to Level 200 or 300 courses within the same academic discipline.

Think about taking a writing class. Good writing skills are a life-long asset in any class and whatever career is chosen.

SJP's prerequisites for taking a college class:

- Students must be a junior (11th grade) or senior (12th grade)
- Have a 3.50 unweighted cumulative GPA or higher and a strong interest in course content. Exceptions may be made based on student's interest/need of a course.
- Be enrolled in a minimum of five (5) SJP classes. The five (5) SJP classes does **not** include any independent study courses.
- SJP students are allowed to register for one (1) course per semester.

Final Grades for a College Class: CSB/SJU uses the following grade scale for their classes:

A AB B BC C CD D F WD

Any SJP student receiving a final grade for any college class of a **CD** or lower will be restricted from enrolling in a college class the following semester.

- If a student receives a **CD** grade or lower in a course during the fall term, the student will not be allowed to enroll in any college courses spring term. The student may enroll in a college class the following academic year.
- If a student receives a **CD** grade or lower in a course during the spring term, the student will not be allowed to enroll in any college courses fall term the next academic year. The student may enroll in a college class the following spring term.

Any SJP student receiving a final grade for any college class of a **C** will be restricted from enrolling in a college class the following semester in the same academic area.

- If a student receives a **C** grade in Calculus II fall term, the student will not be allowed to enroll in a mathematics course spring term. The student may enroll in a mathematics course the next academic year.

Note: CSB-SJU college courses are open to SJP students on a space available and schedule-permitting basis. CSB-SJU students have priority over SJP students and scheduled by the university registrar's office first. Students should have back-up classes in case the one requested is already closed and an override request has been denied.

What is an override request? When a section of class is full (with no available seats), the SJP registrar will contact the university department chair and professor of the course to request an override for the SJP student to be enrolled in the closed section of class. The department chair/course professor have the option of granting or denying the request.

English

Department Requirements

- Four (4) full years/credits (*Non-native speaking students will be evaluated and placed in appropriate ESOL or English course.*)
- Students must be enrolled in an English/ESOL course each semester

Courses Offered

ENG 101: English 9
ENG 201: American Literature and Composition
ENG 301: Writing for Media
ENG 302: British Literature
ENG 311: World Literature I: Africa, Europe, and Latin America
ENG 312: World Literature II: Asia, Middle East, and Russia
ENG 321: Creative Writing
ENG 322: Genre Literature
ENG 401: AP English Literature and Composition

Department Sequence

ENG 101: English 9
ENG 201: American Literature and Composition
Upper Division English Electives

ENG 101: English 9

R	Meets Requirement: English
Grades: 9	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

This course focuses on literature, composition, and language skills. The focus is on reading diverse types of literature, including classic and modern novels, poetry, short stories, drama, and non-fiction. Students will have a range of writing and speaking assignments, including formal and informal creative and expository projects.

ENG 201: American Literature and Composition

R	Meets Requirement: English
Grades: 10	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

ENG 201 focuses on the analysis of various classic texts in American Literature. Students will become familiar with several seminal movements within American Literature, such as Colonial Literature, Transcendentalism, the Harlem Renaissance, Modernism, and the Beat Generation. Additionally, writing is an ongoing expectation as students will write a major research paper, as well as literary analyses and other smaller writing assignments. There is also an expectation to deliver formal presentations.

ENG 301: Writing for Media

E	Meets Requirement: English
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (<i>Fall</i>)

This hands-on course prepares students to write effectively in a variety of professional contexts. Students may examine writing for journalism, public relations, advertising, social media, and more. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to identify and analyze the characteristics of various forms of media writing and understand how to write differently for specific audiences.



ENG 302: British Literature

E	Meets Requirement: English
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester II (<i>Spring</i>)

This survey-style class approaches British Literature by looking at seminal works from a variety of eras, including Medieval, Renaissance, Romanticism, Victorian, Modern, and Post-Modern. Students can expect to study fiction – in the form of novels and short stories – non-fiction, drama, and poetry. The goal is to help students understand the relationship between the works of literature we read and the era that the literature was produced. This is a discussion-oriented class that will feature a range of final projects (including essays, presentations, creative works, and multimodal creations).

ENG 311: World Literature I: Africa, Europe, and Latin America

E	Meets Requirement: English
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (<i>Fall</i>)

Students in this course will study works of literature from Africa, Europe, and Latin America to explore how literature reflects cultural identity, historical change, and the human experience. Students may read novels, short stories, poetry, drama and folklore. Students will practice close reading, analytical writing, and thoughtful discussion while developing a global perspective on literature's ability to connect diverse worlds.

ENG 312: World Literature II: Asia, Middle East, and Russia

E	Meets Requirement: English
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester II (<i>Spring</i>)

Students in this course will study works of literature from Asia, Middle East, and Russia to explore how literature reflects cultural identity, historical change, and the human experience. Students may read novels, short stories, poetry, drama and folklore. Students will practice close reading, analytical writing, and thoughtful discussion while developing a global perspective on literature's ability to connect diverse worlds.

ENG 321: Creative Writing

E	Meets Requirement: English
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester II (<i>Spring</i>)

In this course, students will read and write in a variety of genres. Students may write short fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and graphic narrative. Students will be encouraged to write in a variety of styles and will read works of literature to better understand different ideas of creative writing. The goal of this course is for students to gain confidence in their creative writing, be encouraged to experiment with different writing voices and styles, and to share their writing with others. To that end, this course encourages students to become published writers in the Prep literary magazine and/or other print or electronic publications.

Note: Creative Writing is an English elective for 9th and 10th grades (and thus count as a merit as an additional English class); can be used as a required English class for 11th and 12th grades.

ENG 322: Genre Literature

E	Meets Requirement: English
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (<i>Fall</i>)

Students will read and study a range of classic and contemporary novels, novellas, and graphic narratives that span a wide-range of popular genres including fantasy, science-fiction, mystery, horror, and romance (among others). Students will explore the conventions, tropes, and reader expectations associated with each genre. Special attention will be given to plot, setting, characterization, narration, language/style, and theme. Through close reading and discussion, students will not only deepen their understanding of genre conventions but also develop a broader appreciation for how genre literature reflects and shapes cultural values, social issues, and the human experience.

Note: Genre Literature is an English elective for 9th and 10th grades (and thus count as a merit as an additional English class); can be used as a required English class for 11th and 12th grades.

ENG 402: AP English Literature and Composition

E W	Meets Requirement: English
Grades: 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

AP English Literature and Composition is an introductory college-level literary analysis course. Students cultivate their understanding of literature through reading and analyzing texts as they explore concepts like character, setting, structure, perspective, figurative language, and literary analysis in the context of literary works. The course will follow the nine-unit guides of Advanced Placement: Short Fiction I-III, Poetry I-III, and Longer Fiction and Drama III. The course will culminate in the AP exam in May.

Recommendation: This course is recommended for students with a GPA of 3.5 or higher in English to be considered for the class.



English as a Second Language (ESOL)

Department Requirements

Advancement to the Advanced ESOL Course

Intermediate ESOL students must demonstrate that they are making sufficient advances in English language proficiency to enter the Advanced ESOL course by:

- Receiving a B or higher final grade, which includes the final examinations
- Showing significant gains in periodically scheduled English language competence and reading level assessments
- Making satisfactory progress in their other classes (the ESOL instructor will consult with teachers of other subjects)

Exceptional students may be able to move up to the next level early (beginning of the semester or mid-year) at the instructor's discretion.

Advancement to the Non-ESOL English Courses

Advanced ESOL students must demonstrate that they are making sufficient advances in English language proficiency to enter the non-ESOL English courses by:

- Receiving a B or higher final grade (average of fall and ESO spring semester final grades), which includes the final examinations
- Showing significant gains in periodically scheduled reading level (Lexile® measure) and English language competence (CEFR level) assessments
- Producing evidence that they can write quality essays (writing samples will be shared with the English Department teachers in order to determine readiness for Regular English)
- Making satisfactory progress in their other classes (the ESOL instructor will consult with teachers of other subjects)

Exceptional students may be able to exit the ESOL program early (start of the semester or mid-year) at the instructor's discretion. Students exiting ESOL in the 9th grade will enter English 9; other students will enter American Literature.

Courses Offered

ESOL 201: Intermediate ESOL and Grammar

ESOL 301: Advanced ESOL

Note: Students enrolled in either ESOL course level will focus on their English language proficiency and will not be able to add an additional World Language (German, Spanish, Chinese) to their course load.

Department Sequence

ESOL 201: Intermediate ESOL and Grammar

ESOL 301: Advanced ESOL

ENG 201: American Literature

Upper Division English Electives

ESOL 201: Intermediate ESOL and Grammar

	Meets Requirement: English
Grades: 9, 10, 11	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

This course uses engaging and relevant multimedia content aimed specifically at teenage learners to advance the listening, speaking, reading, grammar, and writing skills necessary for intercultural communication and cross-curricular academic success. Utilizing materials at the B2+ CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) level, students will learn English while exploring who they are and who they want to be through learning activities, online practice modules, and projects that emphasize global citizenship, active participation, and self-expression. Grammar lessons will be integrated into the unit themes and expanded upon in greater depth to foster grammatical competence. Students will have the opportunity to improve their writing by focusing on advanced structures, paragraph development, and essay composition. To build the oral communication skills necessary for academic success, students will participate in class discussions, lead small-group discussions, give oral presentations, and practice notetaking. For improving reading fluency and expanding vocabulary, students will read a variety of nonfiction and fiction texts, including short articles and literature from our leveled library.

NOTE: This is a double period course.

ESOL 301: Advanced ESOL

	Meets Requirement: English
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

This course provides a scaffolded, standards-based English Language Arts curriculum, which is designed to transition students efficiently from the ESOL program to mainstream English classes. Students will build scholarly rigor, expand their academic vocabulary, and improve their grammar via exposure to dynamic multimedia content at the C1+ CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) level. Through intensive and extensive reading assignments, students will be expected to think critically as they explore overarching themes. There will be ample opportunities to apply and develop reading skills and strategies as students read a balance of leveled and grade-level informational texts (narrative nonfiction, arguments, and expository texts) and authentic multicultural literature (poems, plays, classics, and contemporary novels). Concurrently, students will be able to develop their argumentative, expository, and narrative writing and research skills by making connections to their readings. Students will further develop their oral communication skills by participating in class and small-group discussions, listening to short stories and poems, and planning and presenting oral projects.

Fine Arts - Music

Department Requirements

- Two (2) semesters of fine arts during student's 9th/10th grades (Two semesters within two years)
- Two (2) semesters of fine arts during student's 11th/12th grades (Two semesters within two years)

Courses Offered

MUS 111: Concert Band
MUS 121: Concert Choir
MUS 131: Orchestra

Department Sequence

None

MUS 111: Concert Band

E	Meets Requirement: Fine Arts
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

Concert Band is designed to give students the opportunity to develop instrumental skills. Students are exposed to basic music theory and music history. Students learn and practice rehearsal skills and develop music listening skills. The concert band gives two to four concerts per year in cooperation with the other musical groups in the school. The band also plays as a pep band at several athletic events throughout the year. Solo and ensemble opportunities are available to all students. All members have lessons with music faculty to receive academic credit for band. The program seeks to develop an awareness of musical style by performing music from a variety of musical periods and by a variety of composers.

MUS 121: Concert Choir

E	Meets Requirement: Fine Arts
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

The Concert Choir is an ensemble for mixed voices performing primarily a cappella music. The program seeks to develop good singing habits and the ability to sing together as a well-blended group. Music from a variety of musical periods and by a variety of composers is used to develop an awareness of musical style. All members receive vocal lessons from faculty to achieve academic credit. Solo and small group opportunities are provided. The choir performs three to five concerts per year in cooperation with other music groups of the school as well as other area schools.

MUS 131: Orchestra

E	Meets Requirement: Fine Arts
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

This course is comprised of rehearsal and performance of string/orchestral works from the Eighteenth to Twenty-First centuries and can range from traditional classic literature to symphonic movie scores. The String Orchestra at Saint John's Preparatory School provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play orchestral stringed instruments. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, the ability to read music with increasing fluency, the building of technical skills, cooperative group rehearsal skills and responsible individual and rehearsal habits. Students will heighten listening skills and increase their ability to analyze and evaluate music and music performances. Attention will also be given to relating their music experiences to the time and culture of the pieces. The String Orchestra performs at least two major public performances each year.



Fine Arts – Theatre

Department Requirements

- Two (2) semesters of fine arts during student's 9th/10th grades (Two semesters within two years)
- Two (2) semesters of fine arts during student's 11th/12th grades (Two semesters within two years)

Courses Offered

THEA 112: Fundamentals of Theatre
THEA 120: Acting I
THEA 220: Acting II
THEA 320: Theatre Seminar

Department Sequence

THEA 112: Fundamentals of Theatre
THEA 120: Acting I
THEA 220: Acting II
THEA 320: Theatre Seminar

THEA 112: Fundamentals of Theatre

E	Meets Requirement: Fine Arts
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (<i>Fall</i>) Semester II (<i>Spring</i>)

Theatre is a dynamic, collaborative, and live art form. In this Theatre elective students are given the opportunity to make theatre as creators in designing, directing, and performing. This course will cover a wide variety of theatre traditions, theatre theorists, performance styles, play texts, and technical components to present a comprehensive assessment of the theatre process. Students will also engage in viewing live theatre to acquaint themselves and be able to articulate the execution of these practices.

THEA 120: Acting I

E	Meets Requirement: Fine Arts
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (<i>Fall</i>)

An introductory course of the world of an actor. Students will develop a movement vocabulary to aid in the achievement of creating a well-rounded character. Theatre games will be used to help establish the importance of working as an ensemble as well as developing improvisational skills. The semester would start with individual non-dialogue work and gradually grow to partnered scene work with dialogue.

THEA 220: Acting II

E P	Meets Requirement: Fine Arts
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester II (<i>Spring</i>)

A continuation from THEA 120: Acting I. Working in groups within a studio environment, students will study of a variety of current acting methodologies appropriate for the different mediums of acting for stage, screen, and microphone. This will include solo work or work with another student or students as appropriate. Feedback and discussion will assist in the study and consideration of performance choices.

Prerequisite: THEA 120: Acting I

THEA 320: Theatre Seminar

E P	Meets Requirement: Fine Arts
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (<i>Fall</i>) Semester II (<i>Spring</i>)

A continuation of **THEA 112: Fundamentals of Theatre** with more advanced levels of theory, performance, and design. A syntheses of all aspects of theatre resulting in a final study of one discipline of the students choosing. Students will be able to choose from acting, directing, technical production, sound design, stage management, dramaturgy, or an instructor approved discipline after receiving a written submission. Lab hours outside of the classroom may be required in performance and/or production construction. Students will continue to engage in viewing performances of live theatre followed by group analysis and discussion. Students can take this class multiple times

Prerequisite: THEA 112: Fundamentals of Theatre **or**
THEA 120: Acting I

Note: This course will be offering as an Independent Learning Project (ILP) not as a regularly scheduled class.



Fine Arts – Visual

Department Requirements

- Two (2) semesters of fine arts during student's 9th/10th grades (Two semesters within two years)
- Two (2) semesters of fine arts during student's 11th/12th grades (Two semesters within two years)

Courses Offered

ART 111: Ceramics I
ART 112: Sculptural Ceramics
ART 121: Digital Photography and Imaging I
ART 131: Drawing I
ART 133: Printmaking
ART 141: Painting I
ART 152: 3D Art
ART 211: Ceramics II
ART 231: Drawing II
ART 241: Painting II
ART 311: Ceramics III
ART 411: Advanced Ceramics
ART 511: Honors Visual Arts Studio I
ART 512: Honors Visual Arts Studio II

Department Sequence

ART 111: Ceramics I
ART 211: Ceramics II
ART 311: Ceramics III
ART 411: Advanced Ceramics

ART 131: Drawing I
ART 231: Drawing II

ART 141: Painting I
ART 241: Painting II

ART 511: Honors Visual Arts Studio I
ART 512: Honors Visual Arts Studio II

ART 111: Ceramics I

E	Meets Requirement: Fine Arts
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (<i>Fall</i>) Semester II (<i>Spring</i>)

This class involves studio work that introduces the student to hand-building techniques in clay along with wheel thrown pottery items. Students will gain basic skills in throwing functional items such as cups and bowls. A variety of decorative techniques will be explored including glazing, under glazing, relief work and adding hand-made embellishments to wheel thrown work. Students will learn the process of caring for and reconditioning clay as well.

ART 112: Sculptural Ceramics

E P	Meets Requirement: Fine Arts
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester II (<i>Spring</i>)

This sculpture course introduces students to working with clay to create 3D art, covering fundamental hand-building techniques such as slab, coil, pinch and extruded clay as well as the combination of wheel thrown and sculptural forms. Students are encouraged to develop personal expression through the development of technical skills and conceptual development.

Prerequisite: ART 111: Ceramics I

ART 121: Digital Photography and Imaging I

E	Meets Requirement: Fine Arts
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (<i>Fall</i>)

Do you love to take pictures? Have you always wanted to learn more about photography and digital manipulation? If you enjoy making photographic images, then this course is for you. Learn what all the buttons and gadgets do on your digital camera. You will learn the basics of photography as well as composing, capturing, and manipulating digital imagery. As you create your own work, you will explore amazing photography from contemporary artists as well as traditional photographers who have paved the way for artists today. Explore broad topics such as portrait, landscape, macro, and wildlife photography as well as your own personal interests. This course will help you to become a better photographer as well as introducing you to Adobe Photoshop, the industry standard for image manipulation. You will have the opportunity to enhance and retouch your images in Photoshop as well as completely changing them to create new and original imagery. No experience necessary. You must have some type of digital camera for this class.



ART 131: Drawing I

E	Meets Requirement: Fine Arts
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (Fall)

This course will start from the basics of technique and exploration of the elements of drawing and the principles of design. We will explore perspective in landscape and architecture, still life, portraits and more. Enjoy learning about graphite, charcoal, and ink as creative tools for expression.

ART 133: Printmaking

E	Meets Requirement: Fine Arts
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester II (Spring)

Explore the classic art form of printmaking from bold and colorful print designs created with linoleum and wood to plate etching and one-of-a-kind monotype designs. Students will learn techniques of fine art printmaking including relief printing, monotype, intaglio, collagraph and collage. We will explore and learn about tools, inks, paper, plate preparation and registration. Students will be able to produce multiple images by hand printing and using a press while exploring personal visual expression. Hand printmaking techniques will engage students with problem solving in drawing, design and color.

ART 141: Painting I

E	Meets Requirement: Fine Arts
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester II (Spring)

Explore the world of painting with this survey course. Will explore the basics of watercolor and acrylic techniques and color mixing through a variety of practice exercises and projects. You will have the opportunity to work in wet into wet, wet into dry and saturated wet, and experimental and mixed media approaches while exploring a variety of subject matter in watercolor painting. In acrylic painting, we will experiment with textures, brush technique and various painting surfaces including paper and canvas. In addition, you will learn about painting in the context of historical and contemporary society.

ART 152: 3D Art

E	Meets Requirement: Fine Arts
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (Fall) Semester II (Spring)

A class focused on 3D art and design. We will be looking at a variety of artists, styles, and materials. From Marcel Duchamp's ready made to land art and other 3D mediums such as clay. Students will be able to create and use different techniques and materials to influence the art they make this semester.

ART 211: Ceramics II

E P	Meets Requirement: Fine Arts
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (Fall) Semester II (Spring)

The student will further develop throwing skills of cups, bowls and plates as well as exploring new forms. Learn to make teapots, lidded ware such as honey pots, and larger ware. We will develop a place setting with style and explore the process of altering forms into shapes that are not round. Take a more in-depth look at glazes and decorative techniques and begin to develop your own style. All students will be responsible for studio upkeep and clay reconditioning.

Prerequisite: ART 111: Ceramics I

ART 231: Drawing II

E P	Meets Requirement: Fine Arts
Grades: 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (Fall)

Refine your drawing skills while exploring new applications of media and creating new, original pieces of artwork. Further explore still-life, perspective and figure drawing as well as learning about mixed media.

Prerequisite: Drawing I

ART 241: Painting II

E P	Meets Requirement: Fine Arts
Grades: 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester II (Spring)

Build upon the knowledge gained in Painting I in this course, designed to refine your painting technique and your ability to communicate through your preferred painting media. This semester, we will begin to explore how painters convey ideas and messages through art. You will have an opportunity to develop your own personal style while reflecting upon the work of others. In addition to acrylic, watercolor or mixed media, we will begin to explore water-based oil paint and see how it is different from acrylic painting.

Prerequisite: ART 141: Painting I



ART 311: Ceramics III

E P	Meets Requirement: Fine Arts
Grades: 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (<i>Fall</i>) Semester II (<i>Spring</i>)

Continue your clay exploration by exploring taller and wider forms as well as developing new decorative techniques. Third semester students will create such items as candlestick holders, casserole dishes and teapots. Learn to mix glazes, load, and unload the kiln and more. You will be working alongside Ceramics I and II students.

Prerequisite: ART 111: Ceramics I
ART 211: Ceramics II

ART 411: Advanced Ceramics

E P	Meets Requirement: Fine Arts
Grades: 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (<i>Fall</i>) Semester II (<i>Spring</i>)

Now that you have mastered the basics of throwing technique, begin to explore your own personal interests in advanced ceramics. Choose from a range of personal projects, as well as common functional ware such as casserole dishes, small sieves, stemware and more. Enjoy the opportunity to explore hand-built pieces as well. You must have completed Ceramics I, II and III. Advanced Ceramics may be taken more than one time for credit, as your personal goals will be different each semester.

Prerequisite: ART 111: Ceramics I
ART 211: Ceramics II
ART 311: Ceramics III

ART 511: Honors Visual Arts Studio I

E W	Meets Requirement: Fine Arts
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

This one-year course is specially designed for those students who desire a more in-depth opportunity to develop their own artwork with the intention of building a portfolio of work for college admission and scholarship or because they simply love art and want the space to develop their talents. Students will learn about the art-making process, aesthetics, investigation and inquiry, the importance of culture and intention in art and how to curate their own work for display and exhibition. The result of the class will be an exhibition of work at the conclusion of the course. Students may enroll in the course for one or two years.

ART 512: Honors Visual Arts Studio II

E P W	Meets Requirement: Fine Arts
Grades: 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

This continuous course continues students' work from Visual Arts Studio I. It is designed for those students who desire to further their own artwork with the intention of building a portfolio of work for college admission and scholarship or because they simply love art and want the space to develop their talents.

Prerequisite: ART 380: Visual Arts Studio I



General

Department Requirements

- Courses listed in this section are offered for general graduation credit, not linked to any specific academic area.

Courses Offered

GEN 221: Chamber Choir
GEN 231: Jazz Ensemble
GEN 301: Outdoor Skills
GEN 303: Yearbook
GEN 401: Film Studies
GEN 402: Public Speaking
GEN 501: Honors Knowledge and Truth
GEN 502: Honors Senior Capstone

Department Sequence

For Distinction of Honors:
GEN 501: Knowledge and Truth
GEN 502: Capstone

GEN 221: Chamber Choir

E	Meets Requirement: Overall
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

Chamber Choir is an auditioned ensemble open to students who are enrolled in either Concert Band, Concert Choir, or Orchestra. The ensemble is an extension of music training received through the main music ensembles. Through the course students will refine vocal skills and develop skills needed for performing vocal music as a small ensemble. This course meets before the regular school day begins. Membership is by audition and is open to students who are members of at least one of the Saint John's Preparatory School large ensembles (Band, Choir or String Orchestra).

GEN 231: Jazz Ensemble

E	Meets Requirement: Overall
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

The Jazz Ensemble performs a wide variety of selections from Swing to contemporary Jazz. Independent practice for all selected music is required. Students will learn basic improvisational and jazz interpretation skills. Essential listening to selected Jazz artists and music will be required. The instructor will provide these listening materials to student members. The number of members in the ensemble will be determined by the successful level of musicianship of its members. Membership is open to advanced wind/percussion students who are members of at least one of the Saint John's Preparatory School large ensembles (Band, Choir or String Orchestra). Admittance is by Instructor permission only and an audition may be required for membership to the Jazz Ensemble. This group meets at least one morning per week (before school) for rehearsal. The Jazz Ensemble plays for various school and community functions, attends jazz band competitions, plays in concert performances and the annual "A Night of Jazz". Credit received for this course is applied to the overall graduation credits, not Fine Arts requirements.

GEN 301: Outdoor Skills

E	Meets Requirement: Overall
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester II (Spring)

Students will develop and expand their outdoor skills with this spring semester class taught by Saint John's Outdoor University staff. Using the surrounding campus as our classroom, students will learn how to explore and recreate in the outdoors safely and responsibly. Potential activities include Nordic skiing, orienteering, fishing, map reading, maple syruping, and photography.



GEN 303: Yearbook

E	Meets Requirement: Overall
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (<i>Fall</i>) Semester II (<i>Spring</i>)

This course is centered around learning the design and construction of the Saint John's Prep yearbook. Students will learn and practice a variety of skills from photography, to design, and journalism. This course is for anyone who wants to help make a lasting impression by creating and documenting a bit of this school's history. A true service to the school community, students use their collective creativity to go from conception of the theme for the book to its final form in the hands of fellow students. Skills necessary to create an excellent product will be shared and practiced in class. Opportunities for growth in leadership and teamwork skills are all part of the course.

NOTE: This course may be taken once for credit.

GEN 401: Film Studies

E	Meets Requirement: Overall
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (<i>Fall</i>)

Students will learn about several aspects of film: history, terms, form, and criticism. Several feature films from a variety of genres and time periods will be viewed along with clips and instructional videos. Students will be expected to participate frequently with written responses and oral participation.

NOTE: This one-semester course, offered to students in grades 9 – 12, is a general elective and does *not* fulfill any Saint John's Prep English graduation requirement. However, it can earn a merit from the English department in the Aspire to Excellence program.

GEN 402: Public Speaking

E	Meets Requirement: Overall
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester II (<i>Spring</i>)

In this one-semester elective class, students will learn about the fundamentals of public speaking with the goal of practicing and gaining essential communication skills. Units will include the communication process, verbal and non-verbal communication, parts of a speech, and the rhetorical techniques of ethos, pathos, and logos. Students will have the opportunity to perform several mini speeches as well as three to four major speech assignments. This course is interactive and student-centered, with the teacher acting as facilitator while students explore, practice, and grow in their skills of public speaking.

NOTE: This one-semester course, offered to students in grades 9 – 12, is a general elective and does *not* fulfill any Saint John's Prep English graduation requirement. However, it can earn a merit from the English department in the Aspire to Excellence program.

GEN 501: Honors Knowledge and Truth

E W	Meets Requirement: Overall/Theology
Grades: 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (<i>Fall</i>) Semester II (<i>Spring</i>)

Also known as "Theory of Knowledge," this course is concerned with understanding what it means to *know*. Rather than study a particular subject, students look to consider conceptual ideas about how we learn and how to apply critical reflection to real-world scenarios. It is both a theoretical and practical endeavor and differentiates itself from philosophy by concerning itself primarily with broad ideas in epistemology, a topic only touched upon briefly in Theology 302: Philosophy. However, students should expect to engage in high-level, abstract thought processes which are typically more challenging for younger students.

NOTE: This course is required for those seeking to graduate with honors and may be taken at various grade levels to accommodate scheduling conflicts.

GEN 502: Honors Senior Capstone

E W	Meets Requirement: Overall
Grades: 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (<i>Fall</i>)

This challenging Aspire to Excellence course for highly motivated seniors enables students to develop advanced research, writing, and presentation skills while grappling with essential questions that span disciplines. It will pull together and further refine the skills that students have developed and advanced in their courses and Areas of Distinction at Saint John's Preparatory School. This one-semester course will culminate in the Aspire to Excellence Scholarship Day in May, in which senior Honors students will formally present their interdisciplinary Capstone research and creative work to the school and larger community.

The Senior Capstone course will include two main components: a substantial research paper and a significant original creative work. Throughout the course students will engage in inquiry-based, self-driven learning while researching, collecting, analyzing, evaluating, and presenting information from a variety of sources, all focused on two of their chosen Areas of Distinction. Throughout the course, students will report on research and work progress through a website they design and a weekly blog.

The research paper will require students to formulate a sophisticated, inter-disciplinary research question on an academic, artistic, cultural, sociological, scientific, technological, or community-based topic of deep personal interest. Capstone faculty will guide students through the college-level process of research and academic writing. The original creative work may take multiple forms, including: writing and performing a one-act play or work of fiction, creating a significant work of art, developing a mobile app, analyzing real-world data, producing a documentary film, conducting and documenting a laboratory investigation, planning for community action, etc. We will showcase the work in the form of a series of individual presentations on Aspire to Excellence Scholarship Day.

Health and Wellness

Department Requirements

- One (1) semester of health is a requirement for graduation
- Participation in Physical Education or after school activities is required each year.
- Intramural courses are before/after school activities. They are required for graduation but do not received credit for graduation since the activities are outside of the class day.

Courses Offered

HPE 101: Health
HPE 102: Health and Physical Education 9
HPE 103: Living Well
HPE 111: High School Intramurals (Grade 9)
HPE 211: High School Intramurals (Grade 10)
HPE 311: High School Intramurals (Grade 11)
HPE 411: High School Intramurals (Grade 12)

Department Sequence

Sequence is based on student grade level and when they enroll at Saint John's Prep.

HPE 101: Health

R	Meets Requirement: Health and Wellness
Grades: 10, 11, 12	Credits: .25
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (<i>Fall</i>) Semester II (<i>Spring</i>)

This one-semester, meeting once every eight (8) day cycle class, is designed to develop health literacy in regard to physical, social and mental/emotional parts of an individual's overall health. The student will be able to obtain, interpret, and understand basic health information. Topics include nutrition, fitness and healthy choices. Each student will demonstrate the ability to use such information in ways that will enhance his/her health.

HPE 102: Health and Physical Education 9

R	Meets Requirement: Health and Wellness
Grades: 9	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (<i>Fall</i>) Semester II (<i>Spring</i>)

The health portion of this course is designed to develop health literacy in regard to physical, social and mental/emotional parts of an individual's overall health. The student will be able to obtain, interpret, and understand basic health information. Topics include nutrition, fitness, and healthy choices. Each student will demonstrate the ability to use such information in ways that will enhance his/her health. The Physical Education portion of this class will emphasize sports and activities that develop cardiovascular and over-all fitness. Activities may include volleyball, basketball, floor hockey, soccer, football, kickball, frisbee, broomball and softball.

Note: Ninth grade students who will be participating on 2 or 3 sports team during the academic year may request permission to be to be placed in the health only section of this course with the approval of the Athletic Director.

HPE 103: Living Well

E	Meets Requirement: Overall
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester II (<i>Spring</i>)

Do you want to be healthier, happier and more grounded? This is the class for you. We will focus on physical, mental, and emotional health covering topics such as exercise, mindfulness, nutrition, etc. Some topics will be based on student interest. We will also regularly participate in physical activities such as weight lifting, yoga, and other forms of exercise.

Note: This does not replace 9th grade Health/PE, it would be in addition to 9th grade Health/PE



HPE 111: High School Intramurals (Grade 9)

R	Meets Requirement: Health and Wellness
Grades: 9	Credits: 0
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

Ninth grade students continuing from the SJP Middle School with a proven history of participating on a minimum of two sports teams may request permission to be placed in the Health only section of Health and PE with the approval of the Athletic Director. Participation in these activities will be tracked through HPE 111.

HPE 211: High School Intramurals (Grade 10)

R	Meets Requirement: Health and Wellness
Grades: 10	Credits: 0
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

Tenth grade students are required to participate in three (3) after school activities, two (2) of which must be physical in nature (a sport or intramural).

HPE 311: High School Intramurals (Grade 11)

R	Meets Requirement: Health and Wellness
Grades: 11	Credits: 0
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

Participation in at least two (2) activities, one of which must be a physical activity (a sport or intramurals).

HPE 411: High School Intramurals (Grade 12)

R	Meets Requirement: Health and Wellness
Grades: 12	Credits: 0
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

Participation in at least two (2) activities, one of which must be a physical activity (a sport or intramurals).



Interim

Department Requirements

- Four (4) years of required participation earning .25 credits each year for a total of one (1) credit to be applied to the overall graduation credits.
- Participation requirement will be prorated for students entering SJP in the 10th, 11th or 12th grades.
- Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory assessments will be given each year and be reflected on students' transcript/permanent record with credits earned.

Courses Offered

Offerings vary year to year

Department Sequence

Sequence is based on student grade level and when they enroll at Saint John's Prep.

INTM 901: Interim

R	Meets Requirement: Interim
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: .25
Length: 4 Day Course	Offered: January/February of each academic year

This program in which students engage in targeted learning experiences offered by faculty and staff of the school. The content of Interim courses may include field trips, off-campus study, topical subjects, hands-on experiences, and many other forms which may not be available in a typical classroom format. All upper school students are required to participate in the Interim program each year.

NOTE: There may be a fee for specific activities. This information will be included when the options are published in December of each year.



Mathematics

Department Requirements

- Three (3) full years/credits (*Credits earned during 9th – 12th grades*)
- A fourth year of mathematics is strongly recommended; many colleges require four years of mathematics for admission

Courses Offered

MATH 101: Algebra I
MATH 151: Geometry
MATH 201: Algebra II
MATH 301: Precalculus
MATH 401: AP Precalculus
MATH 425: AP Calculus
MATH 452: AP Statistics

Department Sequence

MATH 101: Algebra I
MATH 151: Geometry
MATH 201: Algebra II
Upper Division Mathematics Electives

NOTE: Students requesting to move forward with mathematics options at CSB/SJU, i.e., Calculus I, Calculus II, Linear Algebra, will coordinate with the SJP Registrar to enroll in a CSB-SJU college mathematics course based on seat availability and SJP class schedule. Registration for a college mathematics course must be approved by the SJP Mathematics instructors, Principal and Student Services Team.

MATH 101: Algebra I

R	Meets Requirement: Mathematics
Grades: 9, 10	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

The student is introduced to the basic structure of algebra and develops problem solving techniques. The topics are basic properties of real numbers; linear equalities and inequalities; an introduction to functions, relations, and graphs; systems of linear equalities and inequalities; polynomials and rational expressions; irrational numbers and radicals; quadratic equations and functions.

MATH 151: Geometry

R	Meets Requirement: Mathematics
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

The course is a balance of geometric theory and application. The students practice problem solving and writing proofs. Topics treated are: points, lines, planes, and angles; definitions and logic (if-then statements, direct and indirect reasoning); triangle congruence; polygons; similarity; coordinate geometry; trigonometry; vectors; reflections, transformations and congruence; measurement formulas; three-dimensional figures; surface areas and volumes; applications of the properties of circles; fractal geometry; and non-Euclidean geometries.

MATH 201: Algebra II

R	Meets Requirement: Mathematics
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

The student rigorously studies second year algebra. The topics are review of elementary algebraic concepts; variations & graphs; linear relations; matrices; systems; parabolas & quadratic equations; functions; powers & roots; exponents & logarithms; trigonometry; polynomials; quadratic relations; series, combinations & statistics; and dimensions & space.

MATH 301: Precalculus

E P	Meets Requirement: Mathematics
Grades: 10, 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

Students will study polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions. Students will also study trigonometric identities, conic sections, sequences, series, probability, polar equations, and vectors in two dimensions

Prerequisite: MATH 201 Algebra II



MATH 401: AP Precalculus

E W P	Meets Requirement: Mathematics
Grades: 10, 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

This course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Precalculus Exam given in May. Students will study polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions. Students will also study trigonometric identities, conic sections, sequences, series, probability, polar equations, and vectors in two dimensions.

Prerequisite: MATH 201 Algebra II

NOTE: Each student is expected to own a TI-84 Plus graphing calculator (cost is approximately \$100.00).

MATH 425: AP Calculus

E W P	Meets Requirement: Mathematics
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

This course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Calculus Exam given in May. The concept of the derivative is introduced, along with its applications, slopes of tangent lines, rates of change, maximums and minimums, related rates, and other topics. Integral Calculus is also introduced with the concept of the antiderivative and its applications.

Prerequisite: MATH 301 Precalculus or
MATH 401 AP Precalculus

MATH 452: AP Statistics

E W P	Meets Requirement: Mathematics
Grades: 10, 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

This course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Statistics Exam given in May. The course will equip students with basic statistical analysis and statistical inference skills. We will consider proper and well-established techniques for data collection and will learn traditional methods of describing data sets and making inferences from that data through establishing confidence intervals and conducting hypothesis testing.

Prerequisite: Algebra II

NOTE: Each student is expected to own a TI-84 Plus graphing calculator (cost is approximately \$100.00).



Science

Department Requirements

- One full year of each of the following in science courses:
Physics, Chemistry, Biology

Courses Offered

PHYS 101:	Physics
PHYS 111:	Astronomy
PHYS 301:	AP Physics
CHEM 101:	Chemistry
CHEM 111:	Intro to Organic Chemistry
CHEM 112:	Medicinal Chemistry
CHEM 302:	AP Chemistry
BIO 101:	Biology
BIO 201:	Environmental Studies
BIO 210:	Nature and Natural Experience
BIO 301:	AP Biology
BIO 310:	Honors Human Body Systems and Biotechnology

Department Sequence

PHYS 101:	Physics
CHEM 101:	Chemistry
BIO 101:	Biology
Upper Division Science Courses	

PHYS 101: Physics

R	Meets Requirement: Science
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

Physics serves as an introductory course to the formal study of science and is an exploration of physics, the most basic and the oldest of the sciences. Students will develop basic concepts of the nature of motion, force, energy, matter, heat, sound, light, and electricity. Students will learn to analyze the results of laboratory experiments and will build a laboratory portfolio which includes results of each of the major investigations throughout the year. The skills of experimental design, data collection and graphical analysis will be emphasized. This course will serve as an introductory physics course and will provide the prerequisite knowledge needed for the study of chemistry, biology, and advanced studies in physics. The text for this course is Conceptual Physics by Paul Hewitt, a professor emeritus at San Francisco Junior College.

PHYS 111: Astronomy

E	Meets Requirement: Overall
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (Fall)

Astronomy is a one-semester course in which students will investigate the heavens from both an historical and modern approach. Through class lectures, videos, computer simulations, demonstrations, research and class discussions, students will learn about the wondrous universe in which we live. Topics such as the solar system, the birth and death of stars, telescope observing, and modern ideas concerning black holes, quasars, and supernovae will be researched and discussed.

PHYS 301: AP Physics

E W P	Meets Requirement: Overall
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

This course is mainly algebra and trigonometry based (calculus of limits etc. will be taught as needed). The intent of the course is to prepare students for college level science and physics. Topics studied include mechanics, thermodynamics, wave motion, electricity and magnetism, and modern physics. In this course many demonstrations are employed to enhance the understanding of the physics involved. The prerequisites for this course include the satisfactory completion of Algebra II/Trigonometry or its equivalent. The text for this course is Physics: Principles with Applications by Douglas C. Giancoli.

Prerequisite: PHYS 101: Physics



CHEM 101: Chemistry

R	Meets Requirement: Science
Grades: 10, 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

This course is designed to give the student a working knowledge of chemistry by emphasizing chemistry-related technology issues now confronting our society and the world community. This course is also designed to give the student a working knowledge of many major topics of chemistry. Emphasis in the course is on learning and relating chemical principles with each other and then using mathematics in chemical problem solving. The main areas of study are: Atomic structure, Periodic law, Formula writing and equations, Mole concept and stoichiometry, Gas laws, Acids and bases, Equilibrium, Nuclear chemistry, Kinetics, and Electrochemistry. Another major emphasis is on laboratory work and the proper use of the scientific method.

CHEM 111: Intro to Organic Chemistry

E P	Meets Requirement: Overall
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (Fall)

Intro to Organic Chemistry will cover the fundamental basics of organic chemistry, preparing students to be successful in a university level organic chemistry course. Topics will include homologous series including functional groups such as alkanes, alkenes, alkynes, alcohols, ketones, esters, ethers, and carboxylic acids.

Prerequisite: CHEM 101: Chemistry

Note: This course is offered alternating years with CHEM 304: Medicinal Chemistry.

CHEM 111: Intro to Organic Chemistry offered **Fall 2026**
CHEM 112 Medicinal Chemistry offered **Fall 2027**

CHEM 112: Medicinal Chemistry

E P	Meets Requirement: Overall
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (Fall)

Students will engage with chemistry topics found in medicinal fields. Students will investigate pharmaceuticals and drug actions, opiates, chemical regulation of system in human bodies, anti-viral medications, environmental impact of medicine, and nuclear medicine.

Prerequisite: CHEM 101: Chemistry

Note: This course is offered alternating years with CHEM 303: Intro to Organic Chemistry

CHEM 111: Intro to Organic Chemistry offered **Fall 2026**
CHEM 112 Medicinal Chemistry offered **Fall 2027**

CHEM 301: AP Chemistry

E W P	Meets Requirement: Overall
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

This course offers an in-depth investigation on topics not reached in general chemistry. Focus will be on reaction rates, equilibrium, acid – base chemistry, and electrochemistry. There will be further opportunity for students to engage in inquiry-based projects in chemistry. All students will be expected to complete subject research.

Prerequisite: CHEM 101: Chemistry

BIO 101: Biology

R	Meets Requirement: Science
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

Biology is a yearlong required course. During the first semester, there is an emphasis on ecology, the cell, photosynthesis, and respiration. During the second semester, the topics include DNA, genetics, evolution, immunology, and bacteria and viruses. Instructional techniques will include a combination of lecture, laboratory work, research projects and computer simulations.

Note: BIO 301 AP Biology can be taken in place of BIO 101 Biology.

BIO 201: Environmental Studies

E	Meets Requirement: Overall
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

Students will learn scientific principles and methodologies necessary to understand the interrelationships in the natural world, identify and analyze environmental problems and explore various solutions for resolving and preventing environmental problems. Two large projects will delve into the natural biomes of the world, and the ways we can reduce our impacts on these natural areas in a way that benefits nature and people. This course will include lecture and videos, field and lab work, discussions, research projects, and computer simulations.

BIO 210: Nature and Naturalist Experience

E	Meets Requirement: Overall
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (Fall)

How well do you know the remarkable landscape that surrounds you at Saint John's Prep? The *Nature and Naturalist Experience* class will take a deep dive into the natural world that makes up this amazing campus. Through daily hands-on experiences and reflection, you will emerge as a naturalist with skills in observation, identification and critical thinking and a renewed curiosity and respect for nature. Taught by Saint John's Outdoor University, the class will include reading and reflection, discussion, journaling, and frequent outdoor excursions.

BIO 301: AP Biology

E W	Meets Requirement: Overall
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Year Long	Offered: Year Long

This course will cover the AP curriculum preparing students for an AP exam in May. There is an emphasis on ecology, chemistry of life, cells, DNA, genetics, and evolution. As well as lecture and group work, students will perform investigations and learn to design, collect data and analyze data. Students will design and perform an independent investigation into a biological topic of their choice (with instructor approval). They will present their findings through a poster presentation.

Note: BIO 101 Biology can be taken in place of BIO 301 AP Biology.

Recommendation: This course is recommended for students with a GPA of 3.5 or higher in science to be considered for the class.

BIO 310: Honors Human Body Systems and Biotechnology

E W P	Meets Requirement: Overall
Grades: 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Year Long	Offered: Year Long

This is a dynamic and engaging course designed specifically for seniors who have already completed a biology or AP biology course. This class is tailored to delve into the intricate workings of the human body while exploring the cutting-edge field of biotechnology. Through hands-on experiences, case studies, and laboratory investigations, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of advanced biological concepts.

By the end of this course, you will not only understand the human body's intricate design and functionality but also a keen awareness of the transformative potential of biotechnology in shaping the future of medicine and beyond. Join this exciting journey of discovery and application in Anatomy, Physiology and Biotechnology Exploration.

Prerequisite: BIO 101: Biology or BIO 301: AP Biology

Recommendation: This course is recommended for students with a GPA of 3.5 or higher in science to be considered for the class.



Social Studies

Department Requirements

- Four (4) full years/credits following the Department Sequence
- Students must be enrolled in a Social Studies course each semester
- One (1) full year/credit of American or United States History is a SJP and State of Minnesota graduation requirement.

Courses Offered

HIST 111: World History I: The Ancient World
HIST 211: World History II: The Modern World
HIST 311: United States History
HIST 341: World Affairs I: Political Institutions, World Events
HIST 342: World Affairs II: Introduction to Today's World
HIST 343: History and the Humanities
HIST 401: AP Macroeconomics
HIST 402: AP Microeconomics
HIST 403: AP Comparative Government
HIST 404: AP United States Government and Politics

Department Sequence

HIST: 111: World History: The Ancient World
HIST: 211: World History II: The Modern World
HIST 311: United State History
Upper Division Social Studies Electives

HIST 111: World History I: The Ancient World

R	Meets Requirement: Social Studies
Grades: 9	Credits: 1.00
Length: Year Long	Offered: Full Year

In this introductory survey course, students learn about many of the great ancient civilizations of the world and how these civilizations contributed to the current era. The class is structured with a thematic /chronological approach from the earliest stages of human history to the Fifteenth Century. Attention is given to developing basic and advanced geography and social studies skills.

HIST 211: World History II: The Modern World

R	Meets Requirement: Social Studies
Grades: 10	Credits: 1.00
Length: Year Long	Offered: Full Year

World History II focuses broadly on the history of the peoples of the world from the Fifteenth Century to the present including political, cultural, and social concerns. The goal of the course is for the student to gain a comprehensive structural framework from which to view the world. Social Studies skills are reinforced and further developed in continuation of basic and advanced geography and social studies skills introduced and developed in World History I

HIST 311: United States History

R	Meets Requirement: Social Studies
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

This advanced-paced course covers major social, political, and topical themes by focusing on the history of the United States and its relationship with other nations in the western hemisphere. Students will follow a rigorous schedule of readings, discussions, and writing assignments designed to develop the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in United States and global history.

HIST 341: World Affairs I: Political Ideologies, World Events

E	Meets Requirement: Social Studies
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (Fall)

Social studies skills such as analysis, historical research, critical thinking, and writing will be reinforced as students explore the current events, political ideologies and political institutions that affect the world as we experience it today. This class is usually followed by World Affairs II.



HIST 342: World Affairs II: Introduction to Today's World

E	Meets Requirement: Social Studies
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester II (<i>Spring</i>)

Students explore regional Issues and Conflicts with historical backgrounds through current events, research, discussion, debate, and presentations. This class is taken usually taken following World Affairs I.

HIST 343: History and the Humanities

E	Meets Requirement: Social Studies
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester II (<i>Spring</i>)

This course is for those who wish not only to learn about history but to experience history, this course will be project oriented and topically structured linking history with art, literature, music, and field experiences. The goal of the course is to introduce students to living history and have the opportunity to apply kinesthetic and artistic interests in the study of History. The student will be able to, through projects and experiment, make connections between history and our current society. Topics will be examined through a historical approach and may include: Origins of Writing, Archaeology, Architecture, Impressionism, Historical Writing, and Music of the World. Assessment will include portfolio, testing, and performance.

HIST 401: AP Macroeconomics

E W	Meets Requirement: Social Studies
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (<i>Fall</i>)

AP Macroeconomics is a one - semester course that will provide students with a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. Such a course places particular emphasis on the study of national income and price-level determination, and also develops students' familiarity with economic performance measures, the financial sector, a nation's GDP, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international economics. Analysis is an integral part of this course and students will be expected to make narrative as well as graphical analyses of topics throughout the course. This course can be taken following AP Microeconomics for a more in-depth understanding of how the economy works or on its own for a large scale study of the economy. Students will also be expected to maintain current knowledge of Macroeconomic topics as we proceed through the course by monitoring current periodicals.

HIST 402: AP Microeconomics

E W	Meets Requirement: Social Studies
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester II (<i>Spring</i>)

AP Microeconomics is a one-semester course designed to promote the student's understanding of the economic principles involving the individual decision makers within the economic system. Primary emphasis is placed on the interactions of producers and consumers in product and resource markets. The course also includes a study of the ways in which the government attempts to correct market failures. Analysis is an integral part of this course and students will be expected to make narrative as well as graphical analyses of topics throughout the course. Students will also be expected to maintain current knowledge of Microeconomic topics as we proceed through the course by monitoring current periodicals.

HIST 403: AP Comparative Government

E W	Meets Requirement: Social Studies
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (<i>Fall</i>)

AP Comparative Government and Politics is an introductory college-level course in comparative government and politics. The course uses a comparative approach to examine the political structures; policies; and political, economic, and social challenges of the United States and six selected countries: China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom. Students cultivate their understanding of comparative government and politics through analysis of data and text-based sources as they explore topics like power and authority, legitimacy and stability, democratization, internal and external forces, and methods of political analysis.

Note: This course is offered alternating years with HIST 404: AP United States Government and Politics.

HIST 404: AP United States Government and Politics offered
Fall 2026

HIST 403: AP Comparative Government offered **Fall 2027**

HIST 404: AP United States Government and Politics

E W	Meets Requirement: Social Studies
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (<i>Fall</i>)

AP Comparative Government and Politics is an introductory college-level course in comparative government and politics. The course uses a comparative approach to examine the political structures; policies; and political, economic, and social challenges of the United States and six selected countries: China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom. Students cultivate their understanding of comparative government and politics through analysis of data and text-based sources as they explore topics like power and authority, legitimacy and stability, democratization, internal and external forces, and methods of political analysis.

Note: This course is offered alternating years with HIST 403: AP Comparative Government. Refer to above information.

Theology

Department Requirements

- Students entering in the 9th: Four (4) courses beginning with Theology I: A Sense of Place
- Students entering in the 10th: Three (3) courses beginning with Theology I: A Sense of Place
- Students entering in the 11th: Two (2) courses beginning with Theology I: A Sense of Place
- Students entering in the 12th: One (1) course of Theology I: A Sense of Place
- Transfer students (10th, 11th, and 12th grades) who have had religious study courses at their previous school will be assessed and placed in the appropriate level of theology course.
- Students must be enrolled in a theology course each year

Courses Offered

THEO 101: Theology I: A Sense of Place
 THEO 201: Theology II: The Human Story
 THEO 301: Theology III: Topics in Theology
 THEO 302: Theology IV: Philosophy
 THEO 401: Faith, Science, and Reason

Department Sequence

THEO 101: Theology I: A Sense of Place
 THEO 201: Theology II: The Human Story
 Upper Division Theology Electives

THEO 101: Theology I: A Sense of Place

R	Meets Requirement: Theology
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (<i>Fall</i>) Semester II (<i>Spring</i>)

This course is designed to be an inviting journey into Benedictine Values, the monks of St. John's, and the entire St. John's campus. Students of all spiritual orientations are challenged to better understand their own thoughts on spirituality by viewing them through the lens of the phenomenal place we arrive at each day for school. This course is predominately project-based, and we begin the semester with a project that examines the relationship between spirituality and our own daily life. This project serves as an introduction to upper school theology and precedes units involving the application of Benedictine Values and how they have shaped the physical and spiritual nature of St. John's and its prolific endeavors such as the St. John's Bible. Finally, students will explore several of life's big questions as viewed through the community of St. John's and select worldviews today.

THEO 201: Theology II: The Human Story

R	Meets Requirement: Theology
Grades: 10, 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (<i>Fall</i>) Semester II (<i>Spring</i>)

This course focuses on better understanding world religions through a mix of sacred texts, mythologies, and the great, spiritual hero stories passed down since recorded history. By navigating worldviews in this manner, students are encouraged to inflect their own life experience into the storylines of those who have undertaken the fascinating spiritual quests that form the foundation of religious experiences and traditions. The course begins by offering an overview of how humans have pondered the Transcendent throughout history and understanding the general structure of religious belief systems. Subsequently, students will study the primary stories and tenets of Christianity and Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Taoism, and Indigenous Sacred Ways. The course ends by discussing why religion matters and the fate of the human spirit in a secular age. The Benedictine values of focus are as follows: Listening (RB Prologue), Humility (RB 7), Awareness of the Divine (RB 19), Stewardship (RB 31), Community & Respect for Persons (RB 33 & 72), Balance (RB 48), Hospitality (RB 53), and of course Good Zeal (also RB 72).



THEO 301: Theology III: Topics in Theology

E	Meets Requirement: Theology
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester II (<i>Spring</i>)

This is a modular theology course that examines how theology can be applied to better understand major ethical, social, and political contexts. Each application is focused on how to address and understand an aspect of the human experience within a society or cultural. Modules will vary from year-to-year depending on current events and could include topics such as Moral Theology, Political Theology, Black Theology, Liberation Theology, Feminist Theology, AI Theology, cognition and theology, disability and theology, and more. Students will survey a selection of theological movements while evaluating their historical significance and analyze how these movements have influenced modern theological perspectives.

THEO 302: Theology IV: Philosophy

E	Meets Requirement: Theology
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester I (<i>Fall</i>)

This course introduces students to philosophy. Philosophy is a systematic, critical inquiry into profound and challenging questions and concerns in humanity. In this course, students will develop tools for inquiry and practice them through exercises, discussion and engagement with prominent thinkers and philosophical problems in the Western tradition. Areas of investigation will include logic, Plato's "Republic," consciousness and self, the nature of reality, free will and determinism, and philosophy of religion. Students will consider arguments and ideas, and develop skills in analysis and evaluation, as well as proficiency in expression of their own arguments.

THEO 401: Faith, Science, and Reason

E	Meets Requirement: Theology
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: .50
Length: Semester	Offered: Semester II (<i>Spring</i>)

In this discussion-based course, students will analyze the relationship between Catholic Theology and modern science. Content knowledge will be developed in both science and theology and students will apply this knowledge to moral, metaphysical, and epistemological topics. The framework for this course includes: The History of the Church and Modern Science, Interrelationality of Christianity and Science, and The Problem of Evil.



World Languages

Chinese

Department Requirements

- Three (3) full years of same SJP offered world language (*Enrolled during 9th – 12th grades*)
- All native English-speaking students (*including students from English speaking countries outside of the USA*) must fulfill the World Languages requirement
- A fourth year of World Language is strongly recommended

Courses Offered

CHIN 101: Chinese I
 CHIN 151: Chinese II
 CHIN 201: Chinese III
 CHIN 251: Chinese IV
 CHIN 401: AP Chinese Language and Culture
 CHIN 450: Chinese Language and Cultural Heritage

Department Sequence

World language sequence is based on the level of world language the students begin when entering upper school at Saint John's Preparatory School.

CHIN 101: Chinese I

	Meets Requirement: World Languages
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

This course is for students to learn Mandarin Chinese at a basic level. Students will learn to listen, speak, read, and write in Chinese Pinyin and character. They will learn simple Chinese language structure to express them and communicate with others on topics closely related to their own experiences and daily life. Students will explore culture through current events, songs, idioms, TV programs and movies.

CHIN 151: Chinese II

	Meets Requirement: World Languages
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

This course in elementary Chinese is designed for students who have completed Chinese I or its equivalent. Students will learn to talk about when, where, what, how things are happening, have happened and will happen. They will learn to give more complex description and commands and begin to support arguments. Students will learn the basic vocabularies, sentence patterns, and their usages.

CHIN 201: Chinese III

	Meets Requirement: World Languages
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

This course in intermediate Chinese is designed for students who have completed Chinese II or its equivalent. The course will help students develop reading, speaking, listening, and writing skills and the awareness of cultural aspects through a range of texts and materials. Students will learn the uses of new vocabularies and idiomatic expressions. Students will explore Chinese culture and literature through selected readings and video materials.

CHIN 251: Chinese IV

	Meets Requirement: World Languages
Grades: 10, 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

A rigorous course in intermediate Chinese is designed for students who have completed Chinese III or its equivalent. Students will learn to express themselves using complicated grammar structures in the sentences, paragraphs, and essays. They will learn to give more complex description and commands and begin to support arguments. Students will study history of China and more Chinese culture through selected readings, current events, songs, idioms, TV programs and movies.



CHIN 401: AP Chinese Language and Culture

W	Meets Requirement: World Languages
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

The AP Chinese Language and Culture is designed to provide students with various opportunities to further improve their proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills to be ready for the AP Chinese exam held every May. Students are expected to use Chinese only in the class. Students enrolled in this class will also have maximal exposure to Chinese cultural elements that are integrated in the process of learning the language. Throughout the course, assessments are frequent, varied, and explicitly linked to the content and skills that comprise the learning goals of each unit of study. The students will be able to gain necessary knowledge of the Chinese language including vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, and grammatical structures. Students will be able to apply their growing cultural knowledge to communicative tasks in real-life contexts and develop ability to write and speak in a variety of discourse styles, using both keyboarding and handwriting skills, to an audience of readers and listeners. Students will also be able to acquire vocabulary and structures that enable them to understand and analyze contextualized materials (advertisement, posters, newspaper, magazine articles, emails, and letters etc.).

CHIN 450: Chinese Language and Cultural Heritage

	Meets Requirement: World Languages
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

This class is designed for students from the Chinese immersion program, and is designed to continue advancing their overall listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. They will practice all these skills individually, and in group and pair work, through vocabulary exercises, listening, speaking, reading and writing exercises and tasks, as well as through grammar review. At the end of this class, they should have reached a level between HSK 3 and 4.



World Languages

German

Department Requirements

- Three (3) full years of same SJP offered world language (*Enrolled during 9th – 12th grades*)
- All native English-speaking students (*including students from English speaking countries outside of the USA*) must fulfill the World Languages requirement
- A fourth year of World Language is strongly recommended

Courses Offered

GERM 101: German I
 GERM 151: German II
 GERM 201: German III
 GERM 251: German IV
 GERM 301: German V
 GERM 401: AP German Language and Culture I
 GERM 402: AP German Language and Culture II

Department Sequence

World language sequence is based on the level of world language the students begin when entering upper school at Saint John's Preparatory School.

GERM 101: German I

	Meets Requirement: World Languages
Grades: 9,10,11,12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

This course is designed as an introduction to German language and culture. No prior knowledge of German is assumed or expected. Throughout the year, we will progress through eight units. Each unit will last about one month and will conclude with a comprehensive and a vocabulary test. The tests will assess vocabulary, grammar, reading comprehension, listening comprehension, writing, and speaking. On occasion, quizzes will be used to assess specific topics. In addition to German language, there will be a strong emphasis on German-speaking culture.

GERM 151: German II

	Meets Requirement: World Languages
Grades: 9,10,11,12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

This course is designed as an intermediate course in German language and culture which expands upon what was learned in German I. Throughout the year, we will progress through eight units. Each unit will last about one month and will conclude with a comprehensive and a vocabulary test. The tests will assess vocabulary, grammar, reading comprehension, listening comprehension, writing, and speaking. On occasion, quizzes will be used to assess specific topics. In addition to German language, there will be a strong emphasis on German-speaking culture.

GERM 201: German III

	Meets Requirement: World Languages
Grades: 9,10,11,12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

This course is designed as an intermediate-advanced course in German language and culture which expands upon what was learned in German II. By the end of German III, students will have been exposed to all components of German grammar. Throughout the year, we will progress through eight units. Each unit will last about one month and will conclude with a comprehensive and a vocabulary test. The tests will assess vocabulary, grammar, reading comprehension, listening comprehension, writing, and speaking. On occasion, quizzes will be used to assess specific topics. In addition to German language, there will be a strong emphasis on German-speaking culture.



GERM 251: German IV

	Meets Requirement: World Languages
Grades: 10, 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

This course is designed as an intensive exploration of German literature, culture, and language. Throughout the year, we will be exploring this academic domain through the study of major works of literature, short stories, poetry, and texts about history and culture. There will also be a rigorous review of grammar and usage. Throughout the year, there will be several formal written and oral assignments.

GERM 301: German V

	Meets Requirement: World Languages
Grades: 10, 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

German V is a continuation of German IV and is usually taken in the same combined class for a second year. Students follow the same cultural and thematic units as German IV but are expected to work with greater depth, accuracy, and independence as they approach pre-AP level. The course targets solid Intermediate High proficiency and prepares students for AP German.

GERM 401: AP German Language and Culture I

W	Meets Requirement: World Languages
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

The AP German Language and Culture is designed to provide students with various opportunities to further improve their proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills to be ready for the AP exam held every May. Students are expected to use German only in the class. Students enrolled in this class will also have maximal exposure to German cultural elements that are integrated in the process of learning the language. Throughout the course, assessments are frequent, varied, and explicitly linked to the content and skills that comprise the learning goals of each unit of study. The students will be able to gain necessary knowledge of the German language including vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, and grammatical structures. Students will be able to apply their growing cultural knowledge to communicative tasks in real-life contexts and develop ability to write and speak in a variety of discourse styles, using both keyboarding and handwriting skills, to an audience of readers and listeners. Students will also be able to acquire vocabulary and structures that enable them to understand and analyze contextualized materials (advertisement, posters, newspaper, magazine articles, emails, and letters etc.).

GERM 402: AP German Literature and Culture II

W P	Meets Requirement: World Languages
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

AP German Level II is a continuation of AP German Level I and is often taken in the same combined class for a second year. Students revisit the six AP themes with new materials and greater depth, strengthening accuracy, fluency, and cultural understanding. Frequent, timed AP-style practice across reading, listening, speaking, and writing supports students in reaching Advanced Low proficiency.

Prerequisite: GERM 401: AP German Language and Culture I



World Languages

Spanish

Department Requirements

- Three (3) full years of same SJP offered world language (*Enrolled during 9th – 12th grades*)
- All native English-speaking students (*including students from English speaking countries outside of the USA*) must fulfill the World Languages requirement
- A fourth year of World Language is strongly recommended

Courses Offered

SPAN 101: Spanish I
 SPAN 151: Spanish II
 SPAN 201: Spanish III
 SPAN 251: Spanish IV
 SPAN 401: AP Spanish Language and Culture I
 SPAN 402: AP Spanish Literature and Culture II

Department Sequence

World language sequence is based on the level of world language the students begin when entering upper school at Saint John's Preparatory School.

SPAN 101: Spanish I

	Meets Requirement: World Languages
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

An introduction to the basic elements of Spanish. Practice in understanding, speaking (including work with pronunciation), reading and writing, grammar, and culture. Students will develop a vocabulary in basic conversational Spanish, which serves as a foundation for further study.

SPAN 151: Spanish II

	Meets Requirement: World Languages
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

Review and continued study of grammar and vocabulary, together with additional training in understanding, speaking, reading, and writing. Refinement of grammar skills and vocabulary to the intermediate level. Practice in carrying on meaningful conversation in realistic situations.

SPAN 201: Spanish III

	Meets Requirement: World Languages
Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

This course builds on the basic knowledge of vocabulary and grammar and is intended to further the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills that the students already possess. Students will begin an acquaintance of Spanish and Latin American authors and their works. The grammar learned in the first two years is refined and reviewed. Great emphasis is placed on conversational skills and the use of Spanish in the classroom. Students continue to foster an appreciation for the culture and civilization of the Spanish speaking people.

SPAN 251: Spanish IV

	Meets Requirement: World Languages
Grades: 10, 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

Fourth year attempts to integrate, reinforce and expand previously learned communication skills in Spanish. Students will learn about the Americas as well as Spain while surveying contemporary literature in forms of short stories, poems, novels, newspapers, and magazine articles. Students will also study music, art, and movies from the various Spanish-speaking countries. Increased awareness about political, historical, literary, and other cultural issues and newly formed opinions will be reflected in frequent small group discussions and reaction papers.



SPAN 401: AP Spanish Language and Culture I

W	Meets Requirement: World Languages
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

The AP Spanish Language and Culture is designed to provide students with various opportunities to further improve their proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills to be ready for the AP exam held every May. Students are expected to use only Spanish in class. Students will have maximal exposure to Spanish cultural elements that are integrated in the process of learning the language. Throughout the course, assessments are frequent, varied, and explicitly linked to the content and skills that comprise the learning goals of each unit of study. The students will be able to gain necessary knowledge of the language including vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, and grammatical structures. Students will be able to apply their growing cultural knowledge to communicative tasks in real-life contexts and develop ability to write and speak in a variety of discourse styles, using both keyboarding and handwriting skills, to an audience of readers and listeners. Students will also be able to acquire vocabulary and structures that enable them to understand and analyze contextualized materials (advertisement, posters, newspaper, magazine articles, emails, and letters etc.).

SPAN 402: AP Spanish Literature and Culture II

W P	Meets Requirement: World Languages
Grades: 11, 12	Credits: 1.00
Length: Full Year	Offered: Full Year

AP Spanish Literature is equivalent to a college level introductory survey course of literature written in Spanish. Students continue to develop their interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational skills in Spanish language as well as critical reading and analytical writing as they explore short stories, novels, plays, essays, and poetry from Spain, Latin America, and U.S. Hispanic authors along with other non-required texts.

Prerequisite: SPAN 401: AP Spanish Language and Culture I



SAINT JOHN'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL

ASPIRE EXCELLENCE

Merit Opportunities for 2026-2027

Distinction

- Four (4) Merits beyond graduation requirements in a discipline. (*Merit options are listed below by discipline*)
- Attainment of a weighted cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher within the discipline in the junior and senior year

Honors

- Completion of three distinctions (equivalent of 12 merits)
- Completion of an interdisciplinary faculty-advised *Senior Capstone* based on a combination of research/original creative work, writing, and presentation. The *Senior Capstone* will be managed through a course offered each fall and spring.
- Attainment of a weighted composite cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher
- Knowledge and Truth and Honors Senior Capstone are both required courses
- Students receiving a final grade of F, U or NG during their 10th – 12th grades will be ineligible for Academic Honors

Academic Areas Offering Merit Opportunities Index

Pages 37 - 38	English
Page 39	Mathematics
Page 40	Performing Arts - Music
Page 40	Performing Arts - Theatre
Page 41	Science
Page 42	Social Studies
Page 43	Theology and Benedictine Studies
Page 44	Visual Arts
Page 45	Global Experiences
Page 46	World Languages – Chinese, German and Spanish

Note: Participation in any of the merit opportunities must be preapproved with the noted academic teacher.

In all areas, students must fully and successfully complete merit opportunities prior to any merits being awarded.

There is an approximate \$75 cost per AP Exam, per student.

SAINT JOHN'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL

ASPIRE EXCELLENCE

English

Merit Opportunities	Description	Awarded Merit
Published submission to <i>The Triangle</i>	This is a piece created independently from any Saint John's Prep coursework	.50 merit per year, limit of two years
Lengthy Creative Work Council	Students in grades 9-12 must apply and be accepted by the English faculty for this opportunity. The Creative Work Council is a collaborative group for students who are passionate about writing and supporting fellow writers; specifically, student writers opting for the Lengthy Creative Work. Required commitments include outside reading and evaluation of student work (novellas, poetry, short stories) and then attendance at several prearranged meetings by English faculty. Students will provide annotations and written feedback to the English instructor in advance of the meetings. The council is expected to ask thoughtful questions, provide constructive feedback, discuss techniques of the craft, and help to build a supportive, creative community. Applications will be available in April for participation the following school year.	.50 merit, one-time limit
Lengthy Creative Work (novella, novel, short stories, poetry, non-fiction prose)	This is a student-generated writing project that must be approved by the English faculty in advance. The final product must be edited and shared with an audience through oral and/or written form. Students have twelve months to complete this from the time of approval. The student will work with the Lengthy Creative Work Council for feedback throughout the process.	1 merit, one-time limit
1000-page Summer Reading Challenge	Students will read a minimum of 1000 pages during the summer from a list of approved titles. Assigned assessment from the English department will be completed by August 10.	.50 merit, limited to one summer
Independent Project with Oral Classroom Presentation	For English 9 and/or American Literature, a student may complete an independent work that will culminate in a classroom presentation of approximately ten minutes. The presentation will be scheduled during the final 1 ½ weeks of the semester. Each independent work must be approved in advance by the course instructor who will set a date for proposals being due.	.50 merit, limit of one per course
Independent Project with Oral Classroom Presentation	For any junior/senior elective course (British Literature, Creative Writing, World Literature, AP English), a student may complete an independent work that will culminate in a classroom presentation of approximately ten minutes. The presentation will be scheduled during the final 1 ½ weeks of the semester. Each independent work must be approved in advance by the course	.50 merit, limit of two courses

English - continued

Merit Opportunities	Description	Awarded Merit
Elective: Public Speaking Course	One semester general credit course	1 merit
Elective: Film Studies Course	One semester general credit course	1 merit
Additional English elective one-semester course	This extra course is in addition to the Saint John's Prep graduation requirement of two semesters of English per year.	1 merit per semester with a possibility of 2 total merits
AP English (<i>Senior year course</i>)	This year-long course is compulsory for students seeking a distinction in English.	1 merit
Additional English Course at CSB/SJU	This extra course is in addition to the Saint John's Prep graduation requirement of two semesters of English per year. Students must receive a final grade of a "B" or higher and have active participation and attendance.	1 merit per semester with a possibility of 2 total merits
Participation in a pre-approved summer writing camp	1 week	.50 merit
	2 weeks or more	1 merit

*See Mr. Kirchoff for more details.

SAINT JOHN'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL

ASPIRE EXCELLENCE

Mathematics

Merit Opportunities	Description	Awarded Merit
Achievement on an External Exam	- AMC 12 Exam (earned once per year): Scoring in the top half of nationwide scores - AMC 10 Exam (earned once per year): Scoring in the top half of nationwide scores - St. Cloud State Mathematics Contest (earned once per year): Scoring in the top 10% of grade level scores	.50 merit
Independent Research Project with presentation at a Mu Alpha Theta meeting	Can be done a maximum of two times and must be completed outside of the required coursework.	.50 merit
Achievement on an external exam	- AP Pre-Calculus: Exam score of 4 or 5 - AP Statistics Exam: Exam score of 4 or 5 - AP Calculus AB Exam: Exam score of 4 or 5	.50 merit <i>*Available only prior to senior year</i>
Upper Level Mathematics Courses	- MATH 352 AP Pre-Calculus - MATH 401 AP Calculus - MATH 452 AP Statistics	1 merit per full year course
CSB SJU Mathematics Course	Must receive a final grade of a "B" or higher and have active participation and attendance	1 merit
Khan Academy Summer Course	Get Ready for Algebra 2 Get Ready for Pre-Calculus Get Ready for AP Pre-Calculus Get Ready for AP Calculus Get Ready for AP Statistics	.50 merit, limit two summers
Mu Alpha Theta "Plus"	Consistent, year-long preparation for, and participation in, various school-sponsored Mathematics competitions. Learning mathematics publishing software LaTeX.	0.50 merit per year, limit two years

**See Mr. Grandy or Mr. Young for more details.*

SAINT JOHN'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL

ASPIRE EXCELLENCE

NOTE: Students can accomplish a Performing Arts distinction with a combination of Music and Theatre merits.

Performing Arts - Music

Merit Opportunities	Description	Awarded Merit
Superior or Excellent Rating at Solo/Ensemble with research on music selection	This merit will be awarded after successful participation in the A2E Recital.	.5 merit each event achieved up to 1 merit per contest
MMEA All State	Attendance at the summer camp and the February MMEA performance is required.	1 merit upon successful audition and participation
Concert Choir Concert Band Orchestra	Full participation in the same music ensemble for more than two (2) years.	1 merit per additional year
Chamber Choir		.50 merit per year
Jazz Ensemble		.50 merit per year
Participation in a music camp (Must be preapproved by Mr. Engholm or Mr. Jacobson)	1 full week = .50 merit 2 weeks or more = 1 Merit	.50 Merit or 1 Merit

**See Mr. Engholm or Mr. Jacobson*

Performing Arts - Theatre

Merit Opportunities	Description	Awarded Merit
Leading Role in Musical/Fall Play		1 merit may be achieved for a production per academic school year
Stage Manager in Theater		1 merit may be achieved for a production per academic school year
Pit Orchestra for Musical		.50 merit each play completed
Chorus or Crew Musical/Fall Play		.50 merit may be achieved for a production not to exceed 1 merit per academic year
Theater Capstone Course	There is a prerequisite of taking either Acting I or Fundamentals of Theatre	1 merit upon successful completion of the full-semester course & meeting the A2E GPA requirement

** See Mr. Anderson for more details.*

SAINT JOHN'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL

ASPIRE EXCELLENCE

Science

NOTE: To earn a distinction in science you MUST take one of the 3 advanced science courses offered: AP Physics, AP Chemistry, AP Biology, or Honors Human Body Systems and Biotechnology

Merit Opportunities	Description	Awarded Merit
Summer Research		.50 merit
Achievement on an external exam	- Drake Physics Exam: Score in top half of state or national - AP Science Exam: Score of a 4 or 5 - Chem 12 News Exam: Score in top half of state of national - Chemistry Olympiad: Score in top half of state or national	.50 merit <i>*AP Exam Merit available only prior to senior year</i>
Science Elective Courses	- Astronomy - Environmental Studies - Medicinal Chemistry - Nature and the Naturalist - Organic Chemistry - AP Chemistry - AP Physics - Honors Human Body Systems and Biotechnology	1 merit per semester elective course
AP Biology, AP Physics or AP Chemistry	1 Merit for a full year (.5 per semester) if the course is part of the graduation requirement. 2 Merits for a full year (1 per semester) if the course is not part of the graduation requirement.	1 Merit or 2 Merits <i>(for full year course)</i>
CSB SJU Science Course	Must receive a final grade of a "B" or higher and have active participation and attendance	1 merit
Science Fair	Develop, complete, and present a science research project at the MN Academy of Science Regional Science Fair	.5 Merit

**See Ms. Pasela, Mr. Miller, Mr. Yanke or Ms. Hengel for more details.*

SAINT JOHN'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL

ASPIRE EXCELLENCE

Social Studies

NOTE: At least one semester of an AP Class and the appropriate AP Exam must be completed for the completion of a Distinction.

Merit Opportunities	Description	Awarded Merit
Wild Card Option with Department Approval (<i>Grades 9 – 12</i>)	Examples, but not limited to: • College Class could count with approval. • Extra Elective • Additional AP Tests not associated with an AP course offered (score of 3+) • Outside Student (initiated) Experiences: History Day, Girls'/ Boys' State, Volunteer, National Recognition-Page program, etc.	.50 – 2 merits for Wild Card based on department approval <i>and successful completion</i> . Extra Elective above requirement: 1.0 Successful completion (score of 3+)
Beyond the Classroom in • World History I • World History II • United States History	May include a preapproved project or a successful score (score of 3+) on an associated AP Exam	.50 merit per work/experience/AP Exam <i>AP Exams Available: AP World History (Modern) AP US History</i>
Social Studies Elective Courses (<i>In addition to required credits</i>)	11 th & 12 th grade courses such as • AP Comparative Government • AP US Government and Politics • History and the Humanities • World Affairs I • World Affairs II	1 merit per semester elective course <i>(Pre-approval must be given)</i>
AP Economics	1 for full year 1 for Macro AND Micro AP Test <i>At least ONE semester of an AP course and the appropriate AP Exam must be taken for the completion of a Distinction</i>	.50 merit per semester .50 merit per AP Exam in Economics 1 - 2 merits with a potential max of two merits

*See Mr. Nydeen or Ms. Drakkar for more details.

SAINT JOHN'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL

ASPIRE EXCELLENCE

Theology and Benedictine Studies

Merit Opportunities	Description	Awarded Merit
Additional Theology/Philosophy Courses	This extra course is in addition to the Saint John's Prep graduation requirement of one semester of Theology per year.	1 merit
Summer Theology Programs Preapproval requirements	1 - 3 week program - More than 4 weeks	.50 merit 1 merit
Prayer Services/Mass Participation	Students will participate in 40 hours of service in religious programming. Service hours will be approved in advance by an instructor.	.50 merit two-time limit
Independent Project <i>Preapproval Required</i>	Must be completed outside of required coursework. Each independent project must be approved in advance by a course instructor who will set a due date for proposals.	.50 to 1 merit
CSBSJU Theology/Philosophy Courses <i>Preapproval Required</i>	Theology/Philosophy College Class completed in addition to Saint John's Prep graduation requirement with a final grade of "B" or higher.	1 merit
CSBSJU Lectures or Special Events <i>Preapproval Requirements</i>	Attend at least 5 CSB/SJU/SOT Theological and/or Philosophical lectures or events. Each lecture and respective work must be approved in advance by instructor who will set parameters.	.50 merit one-time limit
Benedictine Service	Students will participate in 40 pre-approved hours of Benedictine Service or Leadership.	.50 merit two-time limit
Leadership Programs <i>Preapproval Requirements</i>	1-3 week program - More than 4 weeks	.50 merit 1 merit

*See Mr. Ames or Ms. Huus for more details.

SAINT JOHN'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL

ASPIRE EXCELLENCE

Visual Arts

Note: Merits will not be awarded for independent studies
1 year of Visual Arts Studio is required for Distinction

Merit Opportunities	Description	Awarded Merit
Scholastic Art Awards Entry and Recognition	Regional gold key/national medalist single piece	.50 merit
	Portfolio gold key/national medalist	1 merit
Solo Exhibition	See Mrs. Fremo for more details and specifications	.50 merit
Selected semester-long Visual Arts courses with additional components completed	• 3D art • Ceramics II, III, Advanced • Drawing I, II • Painting I, II • Photography and Digital Imaging • Printmaking • Sculptural Ceramics <i>(Merits cannot be earned in Ceramics I)</i>	1 merit per semester course
Honors Visual Arts Studio I		2 merits per year
Honors Visual Arts Studio II		2 merits per year
Summer Art Intensive or Pre-College Program		.50-1.0 Merit based on department approval
Additional Art Course at CSB/SJU	This extra course is in addition to the Saint John's Prep graduation requirement. Students must receive a final grade of a "B" or higher and have active participation and attendance.	1 merit per semester with a possibility of 2 total merits

*See Mrs. Fremo for more details.

SAINT JOHN'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL

ASPIRE EXCELLENCE

Global Experiences

Merit Opportunities	Description	Awarded Merit
Centro Escolar del Lago Study Abroad Program	The Central Escolar del Lago (CEL) Program is a unique study abroad program in Mexico. Saint John's offers a semester long travel/study option at Centro Escolar del Lago, a preparatory school based on Benedictine values and academic excellence, in Cuautitlán Izcalli, Mexico. This program features a full academic curriculum enriched by a homestay and other cultural activities within Mexico	2 merits
Immersion Camp <i>Preapproval is required</i>	1 – 2 weeks 4 weeks or more	.50 merit 1 merit
Melk Study Abroad Program	This is a yearlong travel/study option at the 900-year-old Benedictine Abbey of Melk in Melk, Austria. Additional information available on Page 4 of the Upper School Academic Guide.	4 merits
Participation in Guatemalan Faces Program	Students interested in Faces Cultural Program will travel to Guatemala City in June/July and experience the Guatemalan culture, first-hand, by sharing with a host family and participating in social, educational, and sporting activities. Additional information is available on Page 4 of the Upper School Academic Guide.	.50 – 1.5 merits
Participation in Kaisei Gakuin School Exchange Program (Japanese)	The students will immerse themselves in Japanese culture by serving as a teaching assistant. As a classroom leader, the students will help Kaisei Gakuin School students improve the conversational English skills. Additional information available on Page 4 of the Upper School Academic Guide.	1 merit
School Sponsored International Travel Preapproval required	• Minimum of six (6) days of travel • 2 – 4 weeks • 5-8 weeks • One semester • One academic year	.50 merits 1 merit 1.5 merits 2 merits 4 merits
Serve as a host family	Host an international exchange student in your home for 8 weeks	1 merit
Serve as a Home Away from Home Family	Host an international student in your home for holidays, long weekends, and other school breaks (at least one activity per month)	.5-1 merit

*See Ms. Roth for more details.

SAINT JOHN'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL

ASPIRE EXCELLENCE

World Languages – Chinese, German, and Spanish

Merit Opportunities	Description	Awarded Merit
Community based project or academic research paper and presentation in the target language	Complete an independent work that will culminate in a classroom presentation of approximately ten minutes. The presentation will be scheduled during the final 2 weeks of the semester. Each independent work must be approved in advance by the course instructor who will set a date for proposals being due.	1 merit
Lectures/Fine Arts events/culturally relevant events	Over two academic years: 5 events = .5 merits	.5 merit Maximum 1 merit
World Language AP Course	AP Course within the graduation requirements	1 merit
Achievement on an External Exam	Chinese HSK Exam: Passing Score National German Exam: Gold Level National Spanish Exam: Gold Level AP Language Exam: 5	1 merit
Additional Year-Long Course	This is an additional year after the required years of a language is completed for graduation requirement. AP course beyond graduation requirement earns 2 merits-one per semester.	1 merit per semester Limit 2 semesters
College Level World Language Course	Must receive a final grade of a "B" or higher and have active participation and attendance.	1 merit
Conversation Exchange Program	Participate in an 8-week language exchange with exchange or international students. Meet 8 times during an open or lunch period for 60 minutes and discuss a topic for 30 minutes in the target language and 30 minutes in English. Write a short reflection (100 words) after each meeting and submit a final document at the end of the fall semester. Could be in person or virtual.	.5 merit Limit two semesters
Tutor Position	Students work as world language tutors for a minimum of 20 hours over the course of a semester. Tutors and students may use the Student Services offices, or the LRC for meetings.	.5 merit limit two semesters
Participation in German Friendship Program	German friendship Program is a twofold, it consists of one month exchange program and a virtual program. Additional information is available on Page 4 of the Upper School Academic Guide.	1 merit
SPARK for German	The German SPARK Program engages intermediate to advanced German students in designing and presenting introductory mini lessons on language and culture. Participants receive guidance in instructional methods and lead peer sessions during lunch or after school. This program cultivates leadership, communication, and teaching skills while strengthening community engagement in world language learning. Must be enrolled in German III or higher.	.5 merit, Limit 4 semesters

*See Ms. Roth, Ms. Frame, Ms. Boyce or Ms. Shi for more details.

Updated as of 4/16/26