



# **MERCY HIGH SCHOOL**

**COURSE CATALOG**

**2017-2018**

**Grade 9**



# COURSE CATALOG - GRADE 9

2017-2018

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### MERCY HIGH SCHOOL

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Mercy High School was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1945 and is sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy – West-Midwest Community.

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL admits female students of any race, national or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded to students. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin or sex in the administration of its hiring and personnel policies in compliance with the terms of Title IX of Education Act of 1972, Public Law 92-318 (as amended by Public Law 93-568).

# COURSE PLANNING GUIDE

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Mercy High School is a college preparatory school and thus strongly suggests that students plan their course of studies carefully. Mercy recognizes that not all of its students will go to college immediately after graduation. Therefore, listed below are the minimum requirements for graduation, including credits required by the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

A total of **24 credits** and 8 semesters of full enrollment (**6** classes per semester) are required for graduation. One semester course earns .5 credit.

These 24 credits include:

4 credits English

3 credits Social Studies include:

Two semesters of World History

One semester of American Government

Two semesters of American History

One semester of Economics

4 credits Mathematics include:

Two semesters of Algebra I

Two semesters of Geometry

Two semesters of Algebra II

Two semesters of Additional Math or Math-Related Elective (one semester senior year)

3 credits Laboratory Science include:

Two semesters of Biology

Two semesters of Chemistry or Physics

2 credits of one World Language

3. 5 credits Religious Studies

1 credit Visual, Performing and Applied Arts

.5 credit Design Foundations

.5 credit Speech

.5 credit Physical Education/Swim

.5 credit Health

1.5 credits Electives

### Grade Point Average:

Grade Point Average (GPA) is used for college transcripts, scholarship recommendations, etc. GPA is computed each semester and is based on all grades earned.

## **COURSE FEES**

A number of courses have associated course fees. These fees generally cover the cost of materials / supplies used in class and / or are most often in lieu of purchasing a course textbook, laboratory manual or workbook .The following fees apply to the courses specified and appear on each individual's billing statement.

<b>Course / Department</b>	<b>Fee</b>	<b>Course / Department</b>	<b>Fee</b>
<b>Art – courses range from</b>	<b>\$15-75</b>	<b>Physical Education/Swim</b>	<b>@ \$70</b>

## **FINE ARTS REQUIREMENT**

Each student is required to take **two** semesters in any of the fine or performing arts areas sometime during her four years at Mercy. All Art and Performing Arts classes (except for the required Design Foundations and Speech classes) fulfill the Fine Arts requirement. Yearbook Design, Yearbook Production and Advanced Journalism (Newsprint) will also fulfill the Fine Arts Requirement.

## **SERVICE REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION**

A Mercy Community Action Program (MCAP) service obligation is required of all students who graduate from Mercy High School. Forty hours of community volunteer service is required of all students sometime during their attendance. Community volunteer service must be outside of Mercy through an agency, church, community center, hospital or other organization. Students are supervised and work is evaluated. It is preferable that the service experience be continuous with one agency on a regular basis for a given period of time (i.e. semester, year). Components of the MCAP program include the following: the service experience and regular reflection with the MCAP Coordinator regarding selection of service, performance, progress, learning self-evaluation, completion of service and a final written evaluation/summary of the experience. Students meet with the MCAP Coordinator on a regular basis during their unscheduled time to complete these components.

Students register for MCAP by contacting the MCAP Coordinator and completing an initial application indicating the type of service in which they want to become involved. Students are encouraged to make their own arrangements for service opportunities with the assistance of their parents, through their youth groups, churches and other connections. If students need further assistance in finding a service opportunity guidance will be given by the MCAP Coordinator. The service requirement may be accomplished during the summer months. Students who wish to do this should see the MCAP Coordinator before the end of school in the spring. Seniors involved in MCAP must have all components of the program completed by Easter break of senior year.

# ART

While the art curriculum provides a four-year program designed for the college-bound art major, it also remains flexible to meet the elective needs of all students. Design Foundations is a 9<sup>th</sup> grade requirement. All other classes are open to 9-12<sup>th</sup> grades. All classes are semester classes. Most classes are offered yearly. Sculpture and Fibers are offered every other year. Photo, Film, and Animation Class and Communication Design Class are also rotated. Classes focus on studio art production. Lessons in art history, art criticism, aesthetics, art careers, studio etiquette, and technology are also integrated.

## **\*Design Foundations (Required)**

Design Foundations offers all students an opportunity to discover their own creativity while acquiring knowledge and skill in both fine art and computer art techniques. Students will learn the basic elements of art (line, shape, form, space, color, texture) and the principles of design (balance, emphasis, movement, pattern, repetition, proportion, rhythm, variety, and unity). The Design Foundations requirement acknowledges that we live in a visual world and the ability to communicate effectively in visual mediums is increasingly important. Instruction in these early skills becomes the basis of the student's technology integration experience in high school. It also serves as a prerequisite for other art department courses. Students complete assignments in the areas of photography, video, animation, web page creation, drawing, and painting. (one semester)

**Course fee: \$50**

## **\*Photography, Film, and Animation**

Students will further their knowledge of composition and camera use for both still photography and video. They will advance their editing skills in Adobe Photoshop and Final Cut Pro. Animation will be explored using modeling clay and iStop Motion. This class is offered every other school year. It will be offered in 2018-2019 and 2020-2021. (one semester)

**Prerequisite: Design Foundations**

**Course fee: \$25**

## **\*\*Communication Design (formerly called Graphic, Product & Web Design)**

This course will build upon the visual communication concepts introduced in the Design Foundations class. Composition in digital mediums will be further explored through the study of art created for commercial creative fields or other practical purposes. Students will create computer generated artwork such as logos, letterhead, business cards, greeting cards, book layouts, book illustrations, signage, digital collages, and digital paintings. Students will utilize the Adobe Creative Suite and other CAD software. This class is offered every other school year. It will be offered in 2017-2018 and 2019-2020. (one semester)

**Prerequisite: Design Foundations**

**Course fee: \$15**

## **\*Jewelry 1**

Jewelry 1 is an introduction to three-dimensional design and metalworking techniques. Techniques include piercing, sawing, soldering and riveting. Possible pieces include rings, pendants and bracelets. (one semester)

**Prerequisite: Design Foundations**

**Course fee: \$75**

### **\*Jewelry 2**

Students in Jewelry 2 use basic techniques in new ways and explore advanced jewelry-making and metalworking techniques such as lost wax casting, forging, doming and hollow form construction. The students further develop their design skills and work towards a more individualized and expressive direction in their jewelry making. (one semester)

**Prerequisites: Design Foundations and Jewelry 1**

**Course fee: \$75**

### **\*Sculpture**

Students in Sculpture learn basic techniques to create both relief sculptures and sculptures in the round. The study of form, value and space will be emphasized as students use materials as varied as clay, plaster, foam board, and paper. The practice of mold making is also covered. This class is offered every other school year. It will be offered in 2017-2018 and 2019-2020. (one semester)

**Prerequisite: Design Foundations**

**Course fee: \$75**

### **\*Drawing 1**

Students in Drawing acquire knowledge and perceptual skills to draw objects realistically. They learn to transfer three-dimensional objects to a two-dimensional picture plane. Basic concepts of drawing such as line, negative space, proportion, perspective, and value are covered. A variety of subjects are drawn in pencil including interiors, portraits, and still-life. (one semester)

**Prerequisite: Design Foundations**

**Course fee: \$75**

### **\*Drawing 2**

In Drawing 2, students study the human skeletal structure to draw portraits and the human figure in proportion. Students build upon the basic skills acquired in Design Foundations and Drawing 1. Materials include pencil, charcoal, ink and pastel. This course is of great value to any student who may consider a major in art. (one semester)

**Prerequisites: Design Foundations and Drawing 1**

**Course fee: \$75**

### **\*Painting 1**

Students in Painting 1 further their knowledge and skill in art through various painting techniques. Students continue to build upon the skills acquired in Design Foundations and Drawing 1. Subject matter includes still-life, people and landscapes. Materials include acrylic and watercolor paint. (one semester)

**Prerequisites: Design Foundations and Drawing 1**

**Course fee: \$120**

### **\*Painting 2**

Students in Painting 2 further their knowledge and skill in art through the principles of design (balance, emphasis, movement, pattern, repetition, proportion, rhythm, variety, and unity). Students continue to build upon the skills acquired in Design Foundations, Drawing 1, and Painting 1. Subject matter includes still-life, architecture, landscape and figure. Materials include oil and watercolor paint. (one semester)

**Prerequisites: Design Foundations, Drawing 1 and Painting 1**

**Course fee: \$120**

### **\*Fibers**

Fibers class is an introduction to three-dimensional design as it relates to any material that can be stitched, woven or dyed. Possibilities for both functional and nonfunctional pieces are explored. Fabric dyeing, on-loom weaving, and off-loom weaving such as felting and basketry are some of the techniques covered. This class is offered every other school year. It will be offered in 2016-2017 and 2018-2019. (one semester)

**Prerequisite: Design Foundations**

**Course fee: \$75**

### **\*Ceramics 1**

Students learn basic hand forming techniques and three-dimensional design. Possibilities for both functional and nonfunctional pieces are explored by working with pinch, coil, slab and a combination of these methods. (one semester)

**Prerequisite: Design Foundations**

**Course fee: \$75**

### **\*Ceramics 2**

Studio work in Ceramics 2 focuses on improving technique and skill level. Projects include use of the potter's wheel, press molds, slabs, and coils to further students' knowledge of the ceramic medium and the principles of three-dimensional design. Advanced surface design methods will also be explored. Students may learn how to load and fire kilns and are expected to recycle clay. Projects incorporate both functional and sculptural clay work. (one semester)

**Prerequisite: Design Foundations and Ceramics 1**

**Course fee: \$75**

## **Art Department Course Fees**

In lieu of using a textbook, art students use a variety of supplies and materials as they participate in the artistic process. For the convenience of parents, all supplies are purchased in bulk by the art department and are distributed in class. Parents are asked to reimburse the art department by paying a course fee, which is assessed with tuition. The art department has acquired purchasing power through many years of negotiating with a variety of vendors. Discounts are reflected in the course fees. With the fee, students obtain a variety of supplies. Some are lasting tools such as pencils, paintbrushes and portfolios, which the students own and take with them beyond the class. Some supplies are shared class supplies such as large bottles of paint or boxes of clay. In the case of shared supplies, students are charged for the average portion used per student. The supplies provided vary depending on the media emphasized in each class. For example, course fees in Jewelry 2 pay for sterling silver while course fees in Communication Design pay for specialty papers and ink. Students receive information regarding supplies from the art instructor upon beginning the course. If a student must drop an art course, she will be charged a portion of the course fee for materials. No refund of any portion of course fees will be made after the withdrawal deadline. Students pursuing the AP Studio portfolio track may be charged an additional fee depending upon the scope of her concentration projects and the materials used.

## Information for the College Bound Art Major

A student who applies to a college art program may need to submit a portfolio of her high school art during the admissions process. The student will absolutely need a portfolio to be considered for art merit scholarships and advanced placement opportunities. Portfolio size requirements vary from ten to thirty pieces, depending on the situation. For an Advanced Placement Studio Art exam, a student needs to submit twenty to twenty-nine pieces.

The art instructors provide guidance for portfolio development. It is imperative, however, that a student map her four-year curriculum in the art department to allow time to develop as a student artist and to create the volume of work needed for a quality portfolio. A college-bound art student should register for Drawing 1, Drawing 2, Painting 1, at least one three-dimensional class, and other visual art electives of her choice from the list above.

The student will begin a web portfolio in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade Design Foundations class. Proper procedure for photographing and editing photos of fine art is demonstrated in Design Foundations. A student is expected to photograph her best artwork from each class, edit the files in Photoshop, archive the files, and post art to her web portfolio each semester. The Mercy Art Department utilizes digital SLR cameras and Adobe Photoshop CS6 to accomplish this task. A student will also mat pieces with the help of the instructor as needed.

Strong portfolios contain the following three components:

1. Pieces that showcase craftsmanship. This includes the ability to draw from life. The College Board calls these pieces “quality” pieces and asks that at least five be submitted for the Advanced Placement Studio Art exam.
2. Pieces that show students have experienced a variety of subjects, design topics and media. This includes pieces that show an understanding of the elements of art (line, shape, form, space, color, texture) and the principles of design (balance, emphasis, movement, pattern, repetition, proportion, rhythm, variety, and unity). The College Board calls these pieces “breadth” pieces and asks that twelve be submitted for the Advanced Placement Studio Art exam.
3. Pieces that show the development of a compositional theme in both concept and media. The College Board calls these pieces “concentration” pieces and asks that eight to twelve be submitted for the Advanced Placement Studio Art exam. Creating concentration pieces requires a large time commitment on the part of the student. These pieces are above and beyond the art curriculum of any particular class.

### *Advanced Placement Studio Art Exams*

A senior art student has the opportunity to take Advanced Placement studio art exams in two-dimensional design, three-dimensional design, and drawing. These exams involve the submission of an extensive portfolio to the College Board for jurying around May 1<sup>st</sup>. The art department sponsors workshops to guide students through the submission process. Examples of assignments that are of AP caliber are provided in each class. Students interested in AP exams will need to go beyond the minimum class requirements to complete the AP concentration pieces. For example, if a student is interested in taking the three-dimensional exam with a concentration in clay, she needs to register for Ceramics 1, Ceramics 2 and create extra pieces beyond the regular class curriculum in consultation with her Mercy ceramics instructor.



## **COMPUTER/BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY**

Responsive to the demands of today's high tech society, the course offerings in this area are preparation for today's computer oriented world.

Courses are offered to sophomores, junior and seniors and include:

Accounting 1, Entrepreneurship, Marketing, and Media, Life Skills & Personal Finance, Introduction to Coding.

## **ENGLISH**

### **Honors**

Honors English classes differ from other college prep English courses in their faster pace, which allows time for additional reading and more sophisticated analysis and research. Honors students should require less repetition to learn new concepts, are able to rapidly retain and apply new information, and are diligent about deadlines and responsibilities.

Applying for Honors English does not guarantee a place in the course, nor does placement in Honors English guarantee a place in subsequent honors or Advanced Placement courses. All students who aspire to the next year's honors class should excel in their English class and make their ambitions clear to their teachers. Honors freshmen are selected by entrance exam scores but do not receive preference for the sophomore course. This reflects a desire to neither track nor limit students.

English teachers evaluate potential honors students based on: work ethic, intellectual engagement, ability, active class participation and grades. Students may be asked to respond to a writing prompt in order to allow for a more informed decision about their ability to analyze and write at an advanced level. All students will be placed in the course where they can best develop their writing and critical thinking skills for college success.

#### **\*English 9** (Required of all Ninth Graders)

This course focuses on developing high school level skills of reading and writing. Students read and explore various types of American 20th-21st century literature: novel, short story, poetry, and drama. Students learn the vocabulary associated with different genres; learn to analyze written works through in-depth studies of characters, conflicts and themes; and learn to appreciate classic works intermingled with modern pieces. Through their readings, students learn from the "coming of age" selections, observing fictional teens who, like themselves, grapple to find their own place in the world. Writing assignments constitute a variety of creative, descriptive and analytic pieces, though the main focus will emphasize formal body paragraph writing. (Year)

#### **\*English 9 Foundations**

This year-long course replicates English 9 but goes at a slower pace. Most of the literature and assignments will be the same as those in English 9, but the course places greater emphasis on improving and reviewing basic reading comprehension and writing fundamentals. Placement into this course will be determined by High School Placement Test Scores.

### **\*English 9 Honors**

This accelerated, year-long course focuses on the analytical skills associated with reading, writing, and discussing a variety of American literature from the 20th and 21st centuries. Students will learn the vocabulary associated with different genres and analyze written works through in-depth studies of characters, conflicts, and themes. Honors English 9 will foster intellectual curiosity and observation through “coming of age” selections and thought-provoking discussions about life’s challenges, personal development, and the impact of diversity. Due to the course’s rigorous pace, Honors English 9 students will read additional texts and write more formal body paragraphs and essays than will other freshmen. The class may also require summer reading. Placement into this course will be determined by High School Placement Test Scores.

## **Sophomore English**

### **English 10 – Composition**

In the first semester of sophomore English, students will build upon English 9 writing skills by focusing on the writer’s purpose, style, audience, and context. The class will emphasize the process of writing -- planning, drafting, revising, and editing. Students will complete various writing assignments by responding to a range of texts and prompts, both informational and literary.

### **English 10 -- British Literature/British Literature Honors**

In this second semester of sophomore English, students will explore various forms of British literature including poetry, short stories, a Shakespeare play, and other narrative works. A variety of writing experiences will provide the opportunity to continue the development of composition skills.

### **\*Journalism/Yearbook**

In addition to the required sophomore English, sophomores may be permitted to participate in the Journalism or Yearbook Design program. Each is a one semester course which exposes the student to newspaper or yearbook design to determine if they would like to be on staff to create the school yearbook or newspaper the following year. **Yearbook Design (sophomore year) and Advanced Journalism and Yearbook Production taken in junior and/or senior year will fulfill the 2 semester Fine Arts Credit.**

### **Junior-Senior Electives**

A student designs her choice of literature, writing and publications experiences in the Junior-Senior elective program. These courses extend the learning experiences of the previous years through a variety of semester electives. It is recommended that a student plan her choices so as to experience an intensive study and evaluation of literature and writing experiences during the other four semesters. Each student is given individual guidance in designing her elective schedule. **An English course is required each semester.**

# MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics Department offers a variety of course selections to accommodate the various interests and needs of the students. Four years of math are required for graduation.

## **CORE COURSES**

<b>Regular Sequences</b>			<b>Honors Sequences</b>	
Concepts of Algebra I	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra I Honors	Geometry Honors
Applied Geometry	Geometry	Algebra II	Geometry Honors	Algebra II Trig Honors
Concepts of Algebra II	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus	Algebra II Trig Honors	Pre-Calculus Honors
Senior Math	Pre-Calculus	Calculus or AP Calculus	Pre-Calculus Honors	Calculus or AP Calculus

### **Elective Courses (semester)**

Probability and Statistics

College Algebra

Suggested sequences are shown above. Crossing from one sequence to another is certainly possible and the prerequisites for each course are given with its description. In order for a student to perform her best, placement in the course that corresponds to her present ability is very important. The Math Department will assist the student in her placement through a placement test given to all entering students in late May or early June.

NOTE: Students may elect to take more than one course a semester. Electives are available to all student who meet course prerequisites.

### **\*Concepts of Algebra I (year)**

This class is designed to help students who need work on their basic skills and problem-solving techniques so they can be successful in Geometry, Algebra II and Senior Math. The classes are designed to be small so that more individual attention can be given to students. Concepts of Algebra are for those students who have had difficulty with math in the past. This course teaches the same concepts required by the state for Algebra I.

Students whose grades and Math Placement Test scores indicate that they have difficulties in math will be recommended for this course.

### **\*Algebra I (year)**

The student learns to solve and graph equations and inequalities. Properties of real numbers, thought problems and operations on polynomials and radical expressions are studied. Stress is placed both on skills and the logic behind the skills.

Recommended: Solid 8<sup>th</sup> grade math skills and/or placement test score.

**\*Algebra I Honors** (year)

This course in Algebra is intended for the student with an excellent background in and strong motivation for mathematics. The concepts of Algebra I are studied in greater depth and at a faster pace.

**NOTE: The study of Algebra I is fundamental and necessary for all of the other courses offered. A student should be certain that her understanding of Algebra I is strong before electing to take Geometry in the ninth grade.**

**\*Applied Geometry** (year)

This course is designed for the student who has had difficulty with Math in the past. It focuses on the key topics that provide a strong foundation in the essentials of Geometry. Emphasis is placed on understanding and applying the fundamentals of Euclidean Geometry. Students will gain an understanding of segments, angles, lines, polygons, circles, trigonometry, deductive proofs and geometric constructions in a clear, straightforward manner. Special emphasis will be placed on practicing algebraic skills.

**\*Geometry** (year)

Euclidean Geometry includes the concepts of angle relationships, parallel lines, planes, congruence, similarity and circles. This course is designed to give the student a better understanding of a mathematical system, to improve spatial visualization, to strengthen logical reasoning skills and to apply algebraic concepts. Formal mathematical proof is stressed.

Prerequisite: Algebra I

**\*Geometry Honors** (year)

Honors Geometry is the study of Euclidean geometry with a strong emphasis on multi-step problem solving and formal proof. Students will solve geometric problems using algebraic techniques and geometric definitions, theorems and postulates. Therefore, students are expected to have a thorough understanding of algebraic processes and applications. The course is designed for students who are highly motivated independent learners who want to be challenged. This course moves much faster than the regular geometry course and has more challenging problems.

Recommended: Solid Algebra I Honors skills

## **PERFORMING ARTS**

The Performing Arts Department offers a broad scope of musical and theater experiences.

**MUSIC PROGRAM: The music program offers students a full four-year program in choral and/or instrumental music.**

**\*Glee**

Glee is a non-audition music class open to all grade levels as a basic choral class. Students learn the basic elements of good vocal production, sight reading, rhythm and music theory and are exposed to many styles of music for listening and appreciation. They study a wide variety of music literature and have the opportunity to perform throughout the school year. Individual students may enter the Solo and Ensemble Festival. Emphasis is on performance and presentation. Attendance is mandatory at all performances, including Pizza, Jams and Jeans (Fall Semester), Choral Festival (Winter Semester) and the Christmas/Spring Concerts. This course may be elected for two semesters.

**\*Advanced Glee**

This class is an intermediate level choral class that addresses the technical needs of the changing voice as well as more advanced literature for the purpose of performing. Listening and analyzing skills are strengthened through in-class and out-of-class activities. Music theory, sight reading and rhythm are explored in more depth. This choir attends the District Choral Festival in the spring and individual students may enter the Solo and Ensemble Festival. Emphasis is on performance and presentation. Attendance is mandatory at all performances including Pizza, Jams and Jeans, Choral Festival, and the Christmas/Spring Concerts. This course may be elected for two semesters.

**Pre-requisite: Glee or permission of the music director.**

**Orchestra**

The Mercy Instrumental music program is open to string and wind (woodwind and brass) players demonstrating at least an intermediate level of ability. Students should have a minimum of two years (preferred) of playing experience and be able to read music. Private lessons are strongly recommended. The orchestra classes perform at all major concerts as well as their own chamber recitals. Students learn a variety of music and gain instruction in theory and history. Orchestra students are encouraged to participate in the Michigan Solo and Ensemble Festival. Attendance is mandatory at the Christmas and Spring Concerts. Students may elect this course for two semesters each year.

**\*Orchestra**

The Orchestra is comprised of students studying strings and woodwind instruments to improve their musical skills and gain experience and knowledge of more difficult selections.

**\*Advanced Orchestra**

The Advanced Orchestra is for advanced orchestra students. The orchestra is comprised of strings, woodwinds and brass instruments. Students in the class learn a variety of musical styles and work on rhythmic studies, intonation improvement and blending of the group.

**THEATER PROGRAM:** The theater program offers four years in communications and theater arts. Ninth graders are required to take Speech as a prerequisite for the advanced courses in theater. Broadcasting covers both radio and television. The dramatic arts program begins with a study of the various aspects of the theater and progresses through three years of acting, culminating in a traveling Children's Theater Company that provides entertainment within the community. Below you will find a table, listing the options open to students who may be planning a four-year sequence in theater.

Freshmen	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors
<p><b><u>Requirement:</u></b> Speech</p> <p><b><u>Electives:</u></b> Acting I Acting II</p>	<p><b><u>Electives:</u></b> Acting I Acting II Oral Interpretation Theater Production Broadcasting</p>	<p><b><u>Electives:</u></b> Acting I Acting II Broadcasting Actor's Workshop Oral Interpretation Theater Production Video Production Set Design</p>	<p><b><u>Electives:</u></b> Acting I Acting II Directing Broadcasting Oral Interpretation Theater Production Video Production Set Design</p>

**\*Speech** (Required)

Speech, required of all ninth graders, helps the students to gain confidence and to recognize the importance of speech in daily life. Through a variety of assignments, the students develop vocal and physical qualities necessary in public speaking. The students learn to choose appealing topics, ranging from informative to persuasive, to outline these speeches for greater effectiveness, and to deliver them to an audience. The class will also focus on camera work and a Keynote presentation. (one semester)

**\*Acting I**

To lay the foundation for acting, basic skills of performing are emphasized in this course. Besides studying stage terminology, the students develop their powers of observation and imagination to create different characters and emotions. The students work with their peers to present assignments for analysis. (one semester)

**\*Acting II**

Acting skills are developed further through the performances of mime, improvisations and monologues. Concentration on character motivation is stressed. The student's monologue is used as an audition piece to cast roles in one-act plays that are presented at An Evening of Acting in mid-May. The second quarter of the class is spent in rehearsal for this project. Open to Freshmen. (one semester)

**Prerequisites: Acting I**

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Physical Education has a unique, but not exclusive role in the education of individuals. This role is two-fold: to enhance an individual's physical fitness and well-being and to teach her a wide variety of motor skills. Through its activities and experiences, Physical Education contributes to the shared goals of education -- self-direction, self-esteem and cooperative behavior. Physical Education should also be enjoyable.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

**\*\*\*\*\*One semester of Health plus one semester of Physical Education & Swim or one semester of Health plus one semester of Swim and one semester of Physical Education**

**All students (grades 9-12) participating in Gym or Swim classes must have a current physical(April 15th or after of the previous school year) and proof of insurance form on file.** Due to the fact that health problems may suddenly develop in any person, we feel that this is necessary. Gym uniforms must be purchased through the department. Swimsuits, caps, and goggles may be purchased through the department or brought from home, per department approval. Physicals and insurance forms must be on file by the first day of school and uniforms must be obtained by the end of the first week of the semester in which the class meets.

**\*Swim/Physical Ed:** The swimming portion of this class is structured for those who have little or no experience with water through those who want to improve their basic knowledge of the strokes. This class would suit those whose interests include learning the basic strokes of freestyle and backstroke as well as diving and some water fitness. The physical education portion of this class is structured for students who desire to participate in fitness and conditioning on a regular basis. This class will focus on a variety of aerobic activities as well as strength training and games. The class will prepare and encourage students to include fitness as a part of their daily lives.

**Course Fee: \$24-43 (swim suit, cap, goggles, gym shorts, top and lock)**

**\*Fitness Swim/Weight Training:**

The swimming portion of this class is structured for those who have significant experience in the water. Students taking this class should be proficient in freestyle and backstroke, be able to swim eight (8) lengths of the pool (200 yards) without stopping or resting and be able to tread water for 3 minutes without stopping or resting. The first day of the course, students will be asked to demonstrate the above tasks to ensure their safety while taking this course.

This course will be endurance swimming based, and students will learn all four of the basic strokes. They will also become proficient in both diving and flip turns. Students will learn in- water exercise that promotes life-long activity.

The weight training portion is designed to allow students to develop an individualized weight training program to best suit their needs, goals and body types. The focus will be on total body conditioning while gaining knowledge of the muscular system.

**Course Fee: \$25-43 (swim suit, cap, goggles, gym shorts, top and lock)**

**\*Nutrition and Exercise**

Nutrition and Exercise is a physical education course designed to educate students on the importance behind proper nutrition and exercise. This course takes place both in the classroom (nutrition component) and in the gym (exercise component) for a full semester.

**Course Fee: \$24 (required P.E. uniform, lock) \$20 (Required classroom book)**

**\*Lifetime Fitness**

The Lifetime Fitness class is structured for those students who desire to participate in fitness and conditioning activities on a regular basis. The class will focus on aerobic/anaerobic activities through gym activities and pool activities (approximately 4-5 days per semester). This class will prepare and encourage students to develop a personal fitness program that can become part of their lifestyle. (one semester)

**Course Fee: \$25-43 (required P.E. uniform and lock, swim suit, cap, goggles)**

**\*Lifeguard Training** (Lifeguard Training would fulfill the swim requirement.)

The Lifeguard Training class is for those students who have an advanced knowledge of the strokes as well as a fair amount of swimming endurance ability. The class would lead to certification after successful testing in American Red Cross Lifeguard Training, with First Aid and CPR certification. The requirement to take this class is a minimum age of 15 (student must turn 15 by April 15) and the ability to swim 500 yards continuously. (one semester)

**Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation**

**Course Fee: Approximately \$80-85 (swimsuit, cap, lock, textbook and CPR mask)**

# **RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

The Religious Studies Department offers ten semester courses that address the interests and backgrounds of a diverse student population. These courses provide the opportunity for a solid foundation in Catholic Christianity. Students are also exposed to the contributions of the other Christian Churches and to other religious traditions.

The program in Religious Studies begins with Introductory Theology, the required ninth grade semester course, and continues with courses in the Bible and Christian Morality in the sophomore year. In the remaining four semesters the student has a variety of courses from which to choose, according to her own interests and goals. In addition to the freshman and sophomore requirements, students will choose either Christian Tradition or Catholic Theology. Catholic students are especially encouraged to take Catholic Theology, though all are welcome.

An underlying goal of the entire program is to strengthen and deepen the spirituality, the religious commitment and the faith life of every student. The roles and contributions of women will be highlighted in the various courses.

## **NINTH GRADE COURSE OFFERING**

### **\*Introductory Theology** (Required)

This course introduces students to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Students will understand that Jesus Christ is the ultimate Revelation to us from God. In learning about who he is, students will also learn who he calls them to be. The course serves as an introduction to the other courses in Religious Studies and provides a common vocabulary for articulating the essentials of Catholic teaching. (one semester)

### **10-12 grade Religious Studies Offerings**

Required 10<sup>th</sup> grade courses: Christian Morality and The Bible

Junior/Senior Electives (must take one each semester);

Christian Tradition or Catholic Theology (one required)

Women in the Bible

Relationships

Justice & Peace

World Religions

Prayer & Spirituality



# SCIENCE

The Science Department provides the opportunity for a four year program. Six semesters of a laboratory science fulfill the science requirements for graduation. It is possible for juniors and seniors to carry two sciences, allowing them to take advantage of advanced courses in science.

The main goals of the Science Department are to:

- provide for individual differences in interest areas through a wide range of course offerings,
- provide the most up-to-date, comprehensive and reliable knowledge of science,
- integrate the sciences with other disciplines in order to give the student an adequate foundation for life in modern and future society.

## SCIENCE COURSE SUMMARY

<b>Grade 9</b>	<b>Grade 10</b>	<b>Grade 11</b>	<b>Grade 12</b>
Biology Biology Honors	Biology Biology Honors	Biology	ChemCom or Chemistry AP Chemistry
	Chemistry Chemistry Honors ChemComm	ChemCom or Chemistry Chemistry Honors AP Chemistry	Practical Physics, Physics or AP Physics
	Practical Physics	Practical Physics or Physics	Anatomy & Physiology
		Anatomy & Physiology	Microbiology
		Microbiology	AP Biology
		AP Biology	AP Chemistry

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Biology is the beginning course in the science student's curriculum.
2. Biology, Chemistry and Physics are strongly recommended for all college bound students. These three courses give students a well-rounded background in the basic sciences and will best prepare them for various career choices

### \*Biology

This course is an introductory inquiry into the principles of college prep life sciences. Topics covered include, but are not limited to, the scientific method, general chemistry, biochemical concepts, the cell theory, energetics, cellular respiration, photosynthesis, inheritance, DNA, human genetics and evolutionary theory. Second semester of this year-long course moves into plant and animal sciences, especially the human systems. Lab experimentation supplements course work (at least, one experiment per chapter.) (year)

**Co-requisite:** Algebra I or higher (year)

### **\*Biology Honors**

Honors Biology is an accelerated first year course that gives students a basic understanding of the concepts of biology and their connections to our living world. This course takes a molecular approach to illustrate an important theme in biology called emergent properties. This course also emphasizes the molecular basis of life, use of energy and matter, inheritance, and microevolution as related to living things. Topics will be covered at a significantly deeper level than in the traditional first year biology course. Laboratory work will focus on inquiry, experimental design and critical thinking skills. Students can expect daily practice in analysis and discussion, a quick pace, and independent reading. Placement into this course will be determined by High School Placement Test Scores.

**Co-requisite/Prerequisite: Algebra I or higher**

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

The primary goal of the Social Studies Department is to help develop in each student a person who is aware of the dignity of all persons and of her global responsibilities. All ninth graders are required to take a one year course in World History. In this course students study the social, political and economic history of the peoples of the various world civilizations. In the sophomore year all students take a one semester course in American Government.

In addition all students are required to take one year of American History and one semester of Economics during their Junior or senior year. Juniors and seniors may also choose from a number of other year and semester electives.

<b>Grade 9</b>	<b>Grade 10</b>	<b>Grades 11-12</b>
<b>World History (year) (Required)</b>	<b>American Government (semester) (Required)</b>  Elective: AP World History (year)	<b>American History <u>or</u> AP American History (year) (Required)</b> <b>Economics (Semester) (Required)</b>  Electives: AP World History (year) AP United States Government and Politics (year) Semester Course Offerings: Psychology, Law in Action and Contemporary Issues

### **\*World History** (Required for all freshman)

World History has been evolving since the beginning of time. It is the human story of people all around the globe. This course begins with an overview of history prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and then begins in earnest with the focus of the Era of European Imperialism (1800 AD) and traces events up to the present so that students might better understand current history and the events that have shaped it. The course continually strives to make connections between the past and the present in order to enhance the student's understanding of our world today.

# WORLD LANGUAGES

We believe that learning a foreign language is not only an essential factor in a well rounded education, but also a necessary requirement for college preparation, career training / job marketability and a greater international / global awareness. A four year sequence in at least one language is very highly recommended as an integral part of the student's total curriculum. This four year sequence is usually begun in the ninth grade. Students interested in taking more than one language are encouraged to do so.

**French** French 1, French 2, French 3, AP French

**Latin** Latin 1, Latin 2, Latin 3, AP Latin

**Spanish** Spanish 1, Spanish 2, Spanish 3, Spanish 4, AP Spanish

**Chinese** Chinese 1, Chinese 2, Chinese 3, Chinese 4

## FRENCH OFFERINGS

### **\*French 1**

This class is an introduction to the French language and culture with emphasis on developing proficiency in the skills of speaking and listening. Students become acquainted with reading and writing. France, Canada, Africa and other regions of the francophone world are an integral part of cultural studies and activities.

### **\*French 2**

The basic proficiency skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing continue to be developed. Emphasis is given to communicative activities based on authentic tasks and everyday situations. Students study more in depth the French culture, including the francophone world.

**Prerequisite:** One year of French or its equivalent. **Freshmen who desire to be placed in this level or higher MUST have taken and received a passing score on the French placement exam which is given in May preceding the new school year.**

## LATIN OFFERINGS

### **\*Latin 1**

Latin 1 introduces reading and understanding authentic Latin passages at sight. Students learn pronunciation, grammar, syntax, vocabulary, and English derivations. Culture is integrated into the course.

### **\*Latin 2**

In Latin 2 students continue to develop an understanding of the grammar and syntax components of the language. Students increase their ability to read and to comprehend authentic Latin at sight. Students continue to understand the impact of Roman history and culture on Europe and the West

**Prerequisite:** One year of Latin or its equivalent. **Freshmen who desire to be placed in this level or higher MUST have taken and received a passing score on the Latin placement exam which is given in May preceding the new school year.**

## SPANISH OFFERINGS

### \*Spanish 1

This class is an introduction to the Spanish language with an emphasis on developing proficiency in the skills of speaking and listening. Students become acquainted with reading and writing. Hispanic culture and activities are included.

### \*Spanish 2

The basic proficiency skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing continue to be developed. Emphasis is given to communicative activities based on everyday situations. Hispanic culture and activities are included.

**Prerequisite:** One year of Spanish or its equivalent proficiency based on placement test score.

**Freshmen who desire to be placed in this level or higher MUST have taken and received a passing score on the Spanish placement exam which is given in May preceding the new school year.**

## Chinese Offerings

Chinese (Mandarin) is taught at Mercy High School by a University of Detroit Mercy professor. The course is currently offered as a dual enrollment course which means students earn high school and college credit for sophomores - seniors. We are working to try and provide freshmen the same opportunity. Since college credit would be earned for some students the academic rigor of the course is at the college level.

### \*Chinese I

An introduction to the language includes learning sounds, writing system, vocabulary and structure. Students will experience the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing in a practical scenario with individualized attention. Cultural business themes will be incorporated into instruction. Students will develop an understanding of and critically examine the complexity of elements important to another culture in relation to its history, values, politics, economy, institutions, economy, beliefs and its products, practices and perspectives. **This course is taught by a college professor so Freshman interested in this course should have prior experience with Chinese or be prepared for the rigor of a college course.**

### \*Chinese II

A continuation of Introductory/1100, this course builds on previously acquired language fluency and aims at augmenting vocabulary and structure in a practical context. Increasing attention will be devoted to individual student practice and needs. Emphasis will continue to include culture. Students will develop an understanding of and critically examine the complexity of elements important to another culture in relation to its history, values, politics, economy, institutions, economy, beliefs and its products, practices and perspectives. **Freshmen who have had Chinese in middle school at least for at least two years should consider testing into Chinese II.**