



**MCDONELL AREA  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**  
Est. 1882

**McDonell Central Catholic  
High School**

**Course Offerings &  
Graduation Requirements**

**2025-2026**

**McDonell Central Catholic High School  
Chippewa Falls, WI**

McDonell Central Catholic High School and Notre Dame Middle School are Catholic Schools in the Diocese of La Crosse. As Catholic Schools we will teach and advocate our Catholic Faith. All Students are welcome in our schools and all parents and legal guardians must understand that Catholic Doctrine will be taught. The passing on of our Catholic Faith is our number one priority.

## **Our Vision**

MACS will be a beacon of faith, hope, and love by inspiring each student to embrace his or her identity as a beloved son or daughter of God, while discovering and developing their unique gifts.

We will immerse students and families in an authentic Catholic culture which fosters love of truth, beauty, and goodness. We will challenge all students to pursue academic excellence, critical thinking, and intellectual inquiry.

We will prepare McDonell graduates to be a transforming force within society, sharing the Gospel and working for the common good as productive, virtuous citizens.

## **Our Mission**

Centered on Jesus Christ and His Church, we partner with families to nurture young people's spiritual, intellectual, physical, and moral formation through a PreK-12 Catholic liberal arts education and vibrant student life of discipleship, athletics, and the arts.

## **Our Core Values**

Faith, honor, academic excellence, healthy living, community, and servant leadership

*McDonell Central Catholic High School is accredited by Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation organization.*

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# Graduation Requirements

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**Graduation:** Students must successfully complete the following course of study to graduate

Requirements	
English Language Arts	4.0 Credits
Foreign Language	2.0 Credits
History/Social Sciences	4.0 Credits
Math	3.0 Credits
Arts: Performing and Fine Arts	2.0 Credits
Business, Technology, Career	1.0 Credit
Physical Education	1.5 Credits
Health	0.5 Credit
Science	4.0 Credits
Theology	4.0 Credits
Electives	5.0 Credits
<u>CREDITS REQUIRED TO GRADUATE</u>	<u>31 Credits</u>

**Note:**

Courses worth  $\frac{1}{2}$  (0.5) credit are one trimester long, and courses worth 1 credit are two trimesters long. Some activities are worth .25 credit.

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**Course Prerequisites:**

Prerequisites may be waived only with the permission of the school counselor, department head, teacher, and school principal. Students should note that a certain level of performance is required to enter advanced level courses.

**Advising:**

Students must obtain departmental approval and have taken the proper prerequisites for certain courses. The school counseling department reviews individual schedules of all students for overall course load and appropriateness of choices. For students taking Student Success Strategy courses, this review is done in partnership with Student Support Services personnel.

## Grades 9 - 12 **REQUIRED** Courses for McDonell (2025-26)

Some classes might be taken outside of the year listed below - all courses are still required, regardless of grade they are taken.

### GRADE 9

- Scripture (.5 credit)
  - Christology (.5)
  - English 9 (1.0)
  - Western Civilization (1.0)
  - Intro to Logic (.5)
  - Mathematics (Alg 1(1.0), Alg Full(1.5) or Geometry (1.0))
  - Science 9 (1.0)
  - Health (.5)
  - Spanish I (1.0) (can be pushed to sophomore year with schedule conflicts)
  - Intro to Art (Art Foundations) (.5)
- 

### GRADE 10

- Ecclesiology (.5 credit)
  - Sacraments (.5)
  - English 10 (1.0)
  - The Christian Era (1.0)
  - Digital Citizenship (.5)
  - Mathematics (1.0) (Geometry or Alg II)
  - Biology (1.0)
  - Physical Education (.5)
  - Spanish I or II (1.0)
  - Rhetoric & Communication (.5)
- 

### GRADE 11

- Apologetics (.5 credit)
  - Morality (.5)
  - English 11 (1.0) or AP Eng Lit and Comp (1.5)
  - United States History (1.0) or APUSH (1.5)
  - Mathematics (1.0) (Alg II if not taken)
  - Chemistry (1.0)
  - Spanish II (1.0)
  - Physical Education (.5)
  - Personal Finance (.5)
- 

### GRADE 12

- Vocations in Christ (.5)
- English (if under 4 credit requirement)
- Science (if under 4 credit requirement)
- Language (if under 4 credit requirement)
- United States Government (.5) (*ALL graduating seniors must pass the Wisconsin State Civics exam*)
- Economics (.5)
- Mathematics (if under 3 credit requirement or missing Personal Finance)
- PE (if under 1.5 credit requirement)

# Grading System & Trimester Schedule

Letter Grade	% value	Grade Point	Letter Grade	% value	Grade Point
A	93-100	4.000	C	73-77	2.000
A-	90-92	3.667	C-	70-72	1.667
B+	88-89	3.333	D+	68-69	1.333
B	83-87	3.000	D	63-67	1.000
B-	80-82	2.667	D-	60-62	0.667
C+	78-79	2.333	F	0-59	0.000

F = Failure    \*I = Incomplete    P = Pass

*\*An incomplete must be completed within two (2) weeks of the end of the term or it will be changed to an "F".*

## Honor Roll:

Honor roll is posted after each term.

High Honors - Grade point average of 3.667 and above

Honors - Grade point average 3.33 - 3.66

## Class Load:

Students must take six courses per trimester. (Exception: seniors and students with special ALO / off campus learning opportunities)

## Course Offerings:

McDonell Central Catholic High School reserves the right to cancel any course for which there is not sufficient demand and/or enrollment. Consequently, a \$50 fee will be incurred for dropping a class after 3 school days and an "F" will be recorded for that class.

## Trimester Daily Schedule

McDonell Central Catholic High School runs on a Trimester Schedule. This is the daily schedule for the 2025-26 school year.

- ☐ 7:50-8:52 - 1st Period
- ☐ 8:55-9:55 - 2nd Period
- ☐ 9:58-10:58 - 3rd Period
- ☐ 11:01-12:22 - **4A** - Resource 11:04-11:35 *Lunch* 11:35-12:05 Resource 12:05-12:21
- ☐ 11:01-12:22 - **4B** - Resource 11:04-11:45 *Lunch* - 11:45-12:15 Resource 12:15-12:21
- ☐ 11:01-12:22 - **4C** - Resource/Band 11:04-11:51 *Lunch* - 11:51-12:21
- ☐ 12:24-1:24 - 5th Period
- ☐ 1:27-2:27 - 6th Period
- ☐ 2:30-3:30 - 7th Period

# Course Registration Process

## **Review this course handbook and the Graduation Requirements before selecting courses**

It is the student's responsibility in partnership with parents, teachers, and the school counselor to select courses that meet McDonell Central Catholic High School graduation requirements as well as align to student's interests, abilities and future plans. In selecting courses, students should consider the following:

- **The school's master schedule is built on student requests and requirements.**

**Students will be expected to take required courses and chosen electives.**

**Once the trimester has begun, changes to schedules will ONLY be made for special circumstances and in the first three days of a term. Approval from the teacher, school counselor, and parent are required to add or drop a course.**

**We will enforce this for the 2025-26 school year.**

The completed approval form must be signed by the principal before the course change is made official.

- Review and be familiar with the requirements for graduation from McDonell Central Catholic High School.
- Before selecting a course, read the course description and be sure all prerequisites (if any) are met.
- Secure teacher written consent if the course indicates teacher approval is needed.
- Be aware of post-secondary entrance requirements. (Your school counselor can assist with this.)
- Continue to work from the personalized high school 4-year plan and make adjustments where necessary. These plans should continue to be rigorous in nature to ensure opportunities upon graduation.
- **Selecting a course does not guarantee getting that course.**

Every effort is made to honor student course requests. Scheduling conflicts or class sizes determine the availability of course offerings. Students sign up for courses, not specific periods, teachers or class sections.

## **Advanced Placement (AP) Courses**

Advanced Placement is a program run by College Board (the makers of the SAT) that allows students to take high school courses that prepare them for more advanced classes within a collegiate setting, and/or attain college credits with a passing score. They are designed to give students the experience of intro-level college courses while still in high school. When a student successfully completes their AP course and takes the designated AP Exam administered in May, students can earn college credit. (This is dependent on scores and the requirements of the University.)

A fee is involved for students taking an AP Exam (not for the class itself)

## **Additional Learning Opportunities (ALO)**

McDonell Area Catholic Schools has agreements with various credible vendors to offer additional learning opportunities for students. Since these offerings are done outside the traditional school/class setting, there may be additional fees in addition to tuition costs as well as other requirements.

### **Students wishing to be considered for ALOs must meet the following criteria:**

- The student is enrolled as a full-time senior or junior (special circumstance) at McDonell Central Catholic High School
- The student must be in good standing and on track for graduation
- The course requested may not be similar to a course that is offered at McDonell Central Catholic High School, unless the required course does not fit within the students' schedule
- Any costs, including tuition and travel, will be the responsibility of the student and/or the parent or guardian
- If the ALO is asynchronous (learn on student's own schedule within McDonell's trimester), the student must have

demonstrated successful student/study habits which include good attendance, timeliness of assignments and readings, mature student etiquette, able to reach out for support or to ask questions.

- The student must not have any disciplinary problems while enrolled at McDonell Central Catholic High School
- The class must be able to be worked into the student's schedule at McDonell Central Catholic High School
- The student must complete the appropriate application within the prescribed timeline. The application is available through the high school counselor. Approval from the corresponding McDonell curriculum department head may be required.

\*Please see the ALO contract for more information. The contract must be completed in order for a student to access ALO opportunities.

**The Counseling department and MACS Administration are continuing to work towards Catholic Liberal Arts standards for the school. Our priority is to provide a robust educational program within the school as the standard, with virtual or off-site coursework as a secondary option.**

### **Catholic Virtual and Wisconsin Virtual School**

**Any of these options can be discussed in a one-on-one appointment with the student's counselor:**

#### **Students taking any online course are subject to:**

- Being placed within a classroom space for online learning with a teacher that is not aligned with the coursework
- Falling in line with the ALO requirements listed above
- Completion of any online orientation
- Completion of the course within the allotted trimester, or two trimester schedule
- Usage of science lab with permission from on-site teacher for any science elective
- Responsibility for communication with their online instructor, either during or after school hours
- Responsibility for staying on pace with the course throughout the trimester

- **Grades below a C+ will result in the student paying for the course, whether or not it is a required course for graduation.**

- At this time, World Language classes will be free for students

- Catholic Virtual costs are \$310 per regular course, and \$290 for Wisconsin Virtual School (This is per trimester, most classes have an A and B section)

If the course is needed to graduate and prior staff / accommodations were not made for graduation, the course will not be assessed a fee.

### **CVTC (Chippewa Valley Technical College)**

These courses are taught by certified instructors from CVTC using technical college books and materials. Students can receive high school and/or regular technical college credit upon completion of the course (dual credit). Upon successful completion of the course, students will receive an official transcript with grade and credit(s) recorded at the technical college. Due to the trimester schedule, the online High School Academy classes most closely align with the MACS schedule. <https://www.cvtc.edu/admissions/college-credit-opportunities-in-high-school/hs-academies>

**Students/parents pay for two-thirds of the overall course cost, and MACS pays one-third of the cost.**

**Fees: range from \$152 - \$180 per credit (There may be additional costs associated with book fees. This varies by course selected.)**



### **Viterbo University - La Crosse Diocesan HS College Credit Program (DHS CCP)**

A program has been initiated in cooperation with Viterbo University in La Crosse. This program enables students to complete up to three college courses for credit while attending McDonell Central Catholic High School.

These courses are taught by MACS faculty who are approved for college level courses.

Students who would like the college credit for taking the course are responsible for all tuition fees. Students, with successful course completion, will receive dual credit (high school credit as well as transferable University credit). To enter the program, students need to have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. College credit earned through dual enrollment courses may or may not transfer to other colleges or universities. Please work with a school counselor concerning transferability.

**Fees: Approx. \$50 per Viterbo credit (Classes range from 3-4 credits)**

### **Wisconsin Youth Apprenticeship Program (12th grade)**

The [Wisconsin Youth Apprenticeship Program](#) is a school AND work based learning program, designed as an opportunity for students to gain valuable real-world experiences by applying what they are learning in the classroom to the work they are doing on the job! Students are enrolled in academic classes which relate to their selected youth apprenticeship program pathway (i.e. career focus area/career field) while also being employed by a participating employer and under the supervision of a skilled mentor.

The program pathways coincide with the WI Department of Public Instruction's (DPI) career clusters. The program holds students to a high standard and is geared towards students who are looking for experiences going above and beyond. Students must meet certain qualifications to be a part of this program. Interested students should talk with the School Counselor for more information.

<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/apprenticeship/ya-applicants.htm>

Students' schedules have to be open and available to accommodate missing class time to be on site for CVYA.

### **Chippewa Falls High School**

While the opportunity still exists for students to take extracurricular classes at Chippewa Falls High School, we are still on a trimester schedule for the 2025-26 school year. Any parent/student that feels there is a need for a student to take courses at Chi-Hi must obtain approval from the counselor and administration, and fill out necessary paperwork. The student will also have a gap in their schedule in which they will need to take a Catholic Virtual course, or Service Learning in the interim, between trimesters. Please confer with a school counselor for more details.

## **Post-Secondary Education**

### **Four Year College Entrance Requirements**

When developing a high school graduation plan, a student should strive for a plan that will allow for many opportunities upon graduation.

One of those opportunities is attending a four-year college.

Four-year colleges take the following into account as part of their admissions decision:

1. The quality and rigor of the student's course study while in high school.
2. Grades earned in courses and the resulting Grade Point Average (GPA).
3. Admission test scores (ACT, SAT, etc). Many Wisconsin schools require [ACT](#) and will begin to accept this as part of the college application process in 2025.
4. The personal recommendations of school counselors and teachers.

5. Involvement in activities and service in and out of school.

Colleges and universities have their own specific requirements regarding admission. Students should identify those requirements when reviewing potential colleges and work to ensure that requirements are met.

McDonell Central Catholic High School recommends students who plan on attending a four-year college take the [PSAT](#) in the fall of their junior year. PSAT scores determine eligibility for the National Merit Scholarships.

**Below are the minimum course requirements for the University of Wisconsin System:**

Please note: Private colleges, universities and out of state schools may have different requirements.

**Core College Prep Credits Needed for UW System Admission. (13 credits)**

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English	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits (including Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2)
Natural Science	3 credits
History/Social Science	3 credits

**Electives** chosen from English, mathematics, natural science, history/social science, foreign language, fine arts and other academic areas. **(4 credits)**

**Foreign Language** - Two years of a single foreign language are required for admission to UW-Madison and is highly encouraged at other UW System campuses. Universities in Minnesota also require two years of a single foreign language. **(2 Credits)**

**All five University of Minnesota campuses require four credits of math for admission.** This must include two credits of Algebra and one credit of Geometry

**It's a good idea to get more than the minimum college prep credits because many of the UW System schools have additional college prep requirements. The students and parents must work together in planning and preparing for future school requirements.**

## Two Year College Entrance Requirements

Students may start their college education at a two-year UW college and then transfer to a four-year campus to earn a bachelor's degree. After fulfilling certain credit and grade point requirements, students that participate in the Guaranteed Transfer Program are guaranteed admission to any of the four year campuses in the UW system. The Guaranteed Transfer Program guarantees admission to the baccalaureate institution only and not to the specific program or major.

Two-Year UW colleges are different from technical colleges.

Entrance requirements/ expectations include:

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English	4 credits
Mathematics	3 credits (including Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2)

Natural Science 3 credits

History/Social Science 3 credits

**Electives** chosen from English, mathematics, natural science, history/social science, foreign language, fine arts and other academic areas. **(4 credits)**

**Foreign Language** - Two years of a single foreign language are *highly recommended*. **(2 Credits)**

If your high school record, placement test scores, or other previous academic performance indicates that you may have difficulty with university work, you may be required to participate in special programs and course work aimed at preparing you to succeed at university-level coursework.

### Technical College Entrance Requirements

Technical colleges provide affordable, career oriented programs for many high skilled jobs. Small class sizes, flexible scheduling, and a high job placement rate are all attractive features of these schools. Technical college students spend much of their class time in job-related settings where they receive hands-on training from experienced instructors. Program options include short term certification programs, technical diplomas, and associate degrees which take one to two years to complete.

Technical colleges generally have an open enrollment policy which requires a high school diploma or equivalent. Specific programs have specific requirements or placement tests for admittance. For instance, the Nursing Program requires high school students with a grade of "C", CNA certification, a background check, and required scores on the **COMPASS or ACT test**.

- It is important to check the specific program requirements in the college catalog or on the college Website.

# Course Description by Department

## Arts: Performing and Fine Arts

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### Statement of Philosophy

*"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." ~ Picasso*

*"Music is a more potent instrument than any other for education, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul." ~ Plato*

The arts embody the four pillars of our mission - mind, body, spirit, and community. Music and fine arts touch our souls and minds, reveal truth and beauty and pull us all in through the experience. Through the creative pursuits of the arts, we help build connections in the brain to strengthen our cognitive ability/resilience. The arts also connect to our emotional bodies to help with our mental well being. The arts improve fine motor skills as well as help the body build flexibility of movement. Through beauty, the Spirit moves through the arts in a way that helps bring us hope and unity. The arts are for all. Music, performance, and fine art are accessible to all and build a sense of belonging. It is good, it is true, and it is beautiful.

The fine art courses help students see the beauty in art. The program helps students with creative visual expression and literacy through disciplined work to reveal each student's individual gifts. The fine arts follow the four principles/elements of design: Create, Present, Respond, and Connect.

The performing arts program also emphasizes beauty but through music and rhetoric. The vocal music program works toward healthy vocal technique and the development of a beautiful, rich choral tone. Students explore sacred, spiritual, folkart, repertory from Broadway and contemporary music. The instrumental music program allows students to authentically experience music and encourages independent musicianship. The program lessons include listening, analyzing, composing, improvising, and performing. This fosters an appreciation of beauty through understanding music.

### Required Courses - 2 Credits Required

9 - Intro to Art (Art Foundations)  
10 - Rhetoric and Communication

### Electives - Performing Arts

Concert Band	History of Musical Theater
Concert Choir	Jazz Ensemble
Discovering God Through Music	Jazz Improvisation
General Music Appreciation	Music Composition
History of Jazz & Blues	Music Theory

### Electives - Fine Arts

AutoCAD	Metals(And Mosaics)I
Ceramics I	Metals (And Mosaics) II
Ceramics II	Photography I
Drawing and Painting I	Photography II
Drawing and Painting II	

### **Introduction to Art (Art Foundations)**

Grade(s): 9

Credit: .5

Required

Prerequisites: None

Fees: None

Students enrolled in Art Foundations will develop basic concepts and skills for both 2- dimensional and 3-dimensional art. Using the proper tools and techniques, a wide variety of media, and the elements of design, students will be encouraged to observe the world more carefully and express themselves in a visual manner. Students will participate in units including: drawing and design, color theory, ceramics in the round, painting, relief, photography, perspective, and portraiture. This course introduces all areas of the visual arts for further investigation in the following courses.

### **Rhetoric and Communication**

Grade(s): 10

Credit: .5

Required

Prerequisites: None

Fees: None

This course is designed to give students an understanding of rhetoric, the art of persuasion through speeches, debates and arguments. The course will study theory and application of persuasion by knowing the three appeals - Ethos, Pathos, and Logos and three types of speech - Deliberative, Ceremonial, and Judicial. Students will also explore, analyze and discuss examples of rhetoric from throughout history. One of the goals of this course is to help students speak with wisdom and eloquence.

## **PERFORMANCE ARTS**

### **Concert Band**

Grade(s): 9-12

Credit: 1

Not a required class

Prerequisites: None

Fees: None

Through instruction in this course, the student will understand and apply the elements of music, develop aesthetic awareness and sensitivity through group performance, and be provided with an opportunity for visible success and achievement in the school community

### **Concert Choir**

Grade(s): 9-12

Credit: 1

Not a required class

Prerequisites: None

Fees: None

Concert Choir explores knowledge of a variety of vocal music from different time periods, cultures, and composers. Students learn proper singing technique, music reading, musical expression, and performance etiquette. The meaning behind music may explore themes relating to history, literature, art, or religion. The science of how the breath and voice create music will also be explored. Feeling and counting rhythms relate to math. Students prepare music for

performances through group rehearsals. Students present their skills regarding vocal technique, reading skills, musical expression and performance etiquette in concerts and other performances throughout the year.

### **Discovering God Through Music**

Grade(s): 9-12	Prerequisites: None
Credit: .5	Fees: None
Not a required class	

Discovering God through Music is one quarter elective that focuses on how God has revealed his beauty through the medium of music through time. We begin with sacred music of the medieval period and move throughout all the periods to culminate in the present day. This class is more than just a music appreciation class. We will spend time in prayer and contemplation as we discover the truth, beauty, and goodness of God through music.

### **General Music Appreciation**

Grade(s): 9-12	Prerequisites: None
Credit: .5	Fees: None
Not a required class	

This course is a survey of the history and development of music from the Medieval period to modern day. In this course you will learn about various genres of music and composers from throughout the world. Topics include: church music, symphonies and other orchestral music, opera and musical theater, world music, blues and jazz, and popular music, including rock & roll and rap.

### **History of Jazz/Blues**

Grade(s): 10-12	
Credit: .5	Fees: None
Not a required class	

This class traces the history and elements found in the earliest renditions of American Jazz and Blues music and connects them to modern music styles and popular culture. The majority of this course will involve students listening to and discussing various recordings through the decades, learning proper technical musical terminology, and discussing the social and cultural significance of different artists and pieces of music. The final goal of this course is for students to have a full understanding of America's most unique and significant contribution to our world's culture: Jazz and Blues music.

### **History of Musical Theater**

Grade(s): 9-12	Prerequisites: None
Credit: .5	Fees: None
Not a required class	

This course explores the history of Western musical theater from Ancient Greek theater to modern shows. Students will explore this through the evolution of musical theater and events that move theatrical productions forward including vaudeville, Rodgers and Hammerstein, mega musicals, and much more. Students complete projects focussing on the main elements of theater - music and lyrics, book and libretto, staging, choreography, and physical production.

### **Jazz Ensemble**

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Credit: 1

Fees: None

Not a required class

This course will explore the world of jazz improvisation in depth for the instrumentalist or the vocalist. Students will learn how to construct improvisational musical solos through transcription. Students will also learn how to build a vocabulary out of jazz scales, chords, and phrases. This is a very hands-on class with opportunity to practice during the mornings, before school.

### **Jazz Improvisation**

Grade(s): 10-12

Prerequisites: Jazz ensemble, band or choir

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Not a required class

Through instruction in this course, the student will become aware of means for creativity and self-expression through jazz improvisation, gain a sense of our history and cultural heritage through the study of jazz rhythm, and be provided with opportunities for visible success and achievement in the school community.

### **Music Composition**

Grade(s): 10-12

Prerequisites: 3+ terms of band and/or choir

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Not a required class

Music Composition introduces techniques and music theory behind writing classical, popular, and world music. Students will explore rhythm, melody, harmony, tone color, and instrumentation of music from across cultures in various time periods. Students will write their own music on paper (possible through computer software) that shows their knowledge of classical, world, and popular techniques.

### **Music Theory**

Grade(s): 11, 12

Prerequisites: 3+ terms of band and/or choir

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Not a required class

This course is intended for students who are already prepared with a working knowledge of music notation and show motivation toward understanding the more complex workings of music, including identifying intervallic relationships by sight and sound and elements of voice leading.

## FINE ARTS

### **AutoCAD Fundamentals**

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: None

Fees: Course Fee \$60

Introduction to CAD will develop basic skills in the area of computer-aided drafting. Auto-CAD is used to teach the basic CAD commands to make 2D drawings. Topics will include: occupational information, the study of basic CAD commands, and the development of orthographic and isometric drawings of machine parts.

### **Ceramics I**

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Intro to Art (Art Foundations)

Fees: None

In this course you will gain a clear understanding of how to throw on a potter's wheel and create pieces such as mugs, plates, vases, and tea pots. Students will also learn various hand-building techniques such as coil, slab, and sculpting. Students will also learn about different glazing and firing processes.

### **Ceramics II**

Grade(s): 11, 12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Intro to Art (Art Foundations), Ceramics I

Fees: None

In this course you will learn more advanced wheel throwing techniques and will create larger sized ceramic pieces on the wheel. The class encompasses and builds upon both the wheel and hand-building skills previously learned in the Ceramics I course.

### **Drawing and Painting I**

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Intro to Art (Art Foundations)

Fees: None

This course is designed for the student who is looking to develop their drawing skills. You will learn different drawing mediums such as graphite pencil, pen and ink, marker, charcoal and oil pastel. You will complete in-class assignments, as well as weekly sketches in your sketchbook. Students enrolled in this course will also learn about composition, observational/life drawing, different mark-making techniques, perspective, and foreshortening. Students will also be introduced to techniques in watercolor, acrylic, batik, and oil paint. Students will learn how to paint on a variety of surfaces such as canvas, paper, fabric, wood, and found objects. Students will also study important historical and contemporary painters and observe their unique painting styles.



## **Drawing and Painting II**

Grade(s): 11, 12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Intro to Art (Art Foundations), Drawing and Painting I

Fees: None

In this course students will learn more advanced and alternative drawing techniques and create larger sized pieces. This class builds upon the skills previously taught. In order to take this class, you must have already taken the Drawing and Painting I course as a prerequisite. In this course students will also learn more advanced and alternative painting techniques and create larger sized pieces. This class encompasses and builds upon the painting skills previously learned.

## **Metals (And Mosaics) I**

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Intro to Art (Art Foundations)

Fees: None

Metals and Mosaics are combined as they both incorporate and overlap shared materials. Students will learn how to work with jewelry-making tools and equipment to create metal pendants, rings, and copper enameled pieces. Students will also learn how to safely cut glass and solder (join) metal to create beautiful mosaic window hangings. Having knowledge in both materials will enable you to create unique work encompassing both glass and metal together.

## **Metals (And Mosaics) II**

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Intro to Art (Art Foundations), Metals (And Mosaics) I

Fees: None

In this course you will learn more advanced Metal and Mosaic working techniques and create 3-dimensional sculptures and cast metal rings. The class will build upon the skills previously taught in the Metals and Mosaics I course. In order to take this class, you must have already taken the Metals and Mosaics I course as a prerequisite.

## **Photography I**

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Intro to Art (Art Foundations)

Fees: *Access to 35mm film camera*

Description: This course is designed to provide the student with knowledge of proper photographic techniques using a darkroom. Students will be taught the correct use of the 35 mm SLR camera, how to process black and white film, and darkroom printing procedures. In black and white film photography, the focus will be placed on how to create a good composition as well as how to use natural light effectively for film.

**Photography II**

Grade(s): 11, 12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Intro to Art (Art Foundations), and  
Photography I

Fees: *Access to 35mm film camera*

In this course students will learn more advanced darkroom printing techniques and will create larger sized and creative prints in the darkroom. This class builds upon both traditional and alternative darkroom printing techniques, such as: solarization, double exposure, photograms, and photographic montages.

## Business, Technology, and Career

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### **Required Courses** - 1 Credit Required

Digital Citizenship  
Personal Finance

### **Electives**

Entrepreneurship

#### **Digital Citizenship**

Grade(s): 10-12  
Credit: .5  
Required

Prerequisites: None  
Fees: None

This course develops and refines the crucial skills of being responsible citizens in the digital world. Students will learn about internet etiquette and not only how to stay safe on the world wide web but also how to be instrumental in bringing goodness, beauty and truth to this platform. Students will create an awareness campaign by developing print material for parents with school age children, creating a Public Service Announcement (PSA) to teach their peers about digital citizenship and cyber hygiene, and giving a presentation to middle school students.

#### **Personal Finance**

Grade(s): 11, 12  
Credit: .5  
Required

Prerequisites: None  
Fees: None

Personal Finance course content is designed to help students make wise spending, saving, and credit decisions and to make effective use of income to achieve personal financial goals. Students will also learn to apply decision-making skills to evaluate career choices and set personal goals. Topics covered in this course include: Savings, Investing, Credit, Debt, Financial Responsibility, Money Management, Insurance, Risk Management, Income, Philanthropy, and Careers.

#### **Entrepreneurship**

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12  
Credit: .5  
Not a required class

Prerequisites: None  
Fees: None

In this introductory business course, students learn the basics of entrepreneurial businesses. Whether they want to start their own money-making business or create a non-profit to help others, this course helps students develop the core skills they need to nurture the entrepreneurial spirit. They learn how to come up with new business ideas, attract investors, and market their business through understanding personality types and best practices. Students hear inspirational stories of teen and local entrepreneurs who have turned their ideas into reality.

## Statement of Philosophy

*"Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers and new grass, like abundant rain and tender plants," ~ Deuteronomy 32:2*

*"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you." ~ Psalm 32:8*

The English program at McDonell Central Catholic High School incorporates into its curriculum American, British, and World literature with advanced classes offered during junior and senior years. Throughout the curriculum there is an emphasis on developing speaking and writing skills through analysis and discussion of literature. The program exposes students to the great books of the western intellectual tradition in order that they gain the necessary cultural literacy to understand common references and the modern world around them. Through seminar discussion, students are trained to think logically and analyze literature constructively with their peers.

The study and discussion of good literature conveys to students the meaning of things through the representation of human experience using particular images and events through story and philosophy. Good literature always portrays in some way the true, the good, and the beautiful, but it sometimes reveals the suffering, evil, and ugliness in order to provide insights into our fallen humanity.

Addressing the mind, body, spirit and role in the community when analyzing literature allows the students to take different perspectives when encountering all genres of literature.

**Required Courses** - 4 Credit Requirement ( 3 English and 1.0 AP / OR 3 English and 1.0 Elective)

### **Electives**

English 9 - Multi Genre Literature and Composition  
English 10 - Great American Novels, Short Stories, and Composition  
English 11 - American Literature and Shakespeare (or AP Literature and composition - teacher approval)

12- AP English Language and Composition  
11 - AP English Literature and Composition  
Advanced Novels - Great Classics  
Advanced Writing

Creative Writing I  
Creative Writing II  
Grammar  
Journalism  
Real World Literature - Non Fiction

### **English 9 - Multi Genre Literature and Composition**

Grade(s): 9  
Credit: 1  
Required

Prerequisites: None  
Fees: None

This course refines the basic skills of communication. Writing skills, including grammar usage, vocabulary, spelling, etc., will be emphasized on an as-needed basis. Through literature, students will focus on the genres of poetry, short story, non-fiction, and fictions. Students will also examine the oral tradition of Greek mythology and bring these myths to life through creative writing and playwriting.

A speech unit will help students improve interpersonal communication skills, including the preparation and presentation of informational and persuasive speeches/multimedia presentations. Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* will be studied so students can make connections between language and social class. Students will also study a Shakespearean play to understand the techniques of drama.

Students will show mastery of basic literature concepts in a variety of ways, including essay writing and creative writing. The use of technology will also be incorporated into writing and literature.

### **English 10: Forming the Human Heart through Literature and Composition**

Grade(s): 10

Prerequisites: English 9

Credit: 1

Fees: None

Required

English 10 deepens students' engagement with literature through the Catholic liberal arts tradition, emphasizing the formation of the moral imagination, clear thinking, and virtuous living. Anchored in texts such as *Beowulf*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *A Raisin in the Sun*, the course invites students to explore themes of heroism, justice, human dignity, and conscience. Poetry, sacred texts, and classical and modern art are integrated throughout to cultivate wonder and deepen reflection.

Students will grow as readers, writers, speakers, and thinkers. Writing instruction focuses on crafting well-structured literary analysis essays, short reflective compositions, and a formal research paper using MLA format, including accurate citations and a works cited page. Students will also strengthen their command of grammar, sentence structure, and vocabulary through ongoing composition practice. Oral presentations, Socratic discussions, and creative projects provide additional opportunities to express understanding and develop confidence.

By the end of English 10, students should demonstrate the ability to write clear and coherent essays, analyze literature thoughtfully, engage in reasoned discussion, and recognize the moral and spiritual dimensions of great works. The course fosters not only academic skill but the capacity to see truth, beauty, and goodness in the human experience.

### **English 11 - American Literature and Shakespeare**

Grade(s): 11

Prerequisites: English 9, English 10

Credit: 1

Fees: None

Required

This course samples American Literature from the time of the earliest settlers to the present. Through short stories, journals, poetry, speeches, and more, students examine writings from influential American writers, focusing on the author's purpose and tone. John Smith, Ben Franklin, Thomas Paine, Walt Whitman, and Emily Dickinson are just a few important authors/poets who will be examined closely. Arthur Miller's play "The Crucible" gives students a chance to relate a piece of work to a historical time period.

Discussion groups, individual projects, and written work are part of this course. Included are techniques of narrative and descriptive writing as an art to transfer experiences, ideas, impressions, and feelings from one person to another. The shift in purpose of writing from early American settlers to the present day will also be examined. Essay writing and creative writing are among the assessments used. A portion of the course will also be devoted to Shakespeare through the reading of "The Merchant of Venice."

### **Advanced Novels - Great Classics**

Grade(s): 11, 12 or teacher's approval

Prerequisites: English 9, English 10

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Not a required class

Step into a world of powerful stories that challenge, inspire, and transform. This course invites students to explore timeless literature that wrestles with the deepest questions of human existence—questions about courage, identity, justice, faith, and the search for meaning. Rooted in the Catholic liberal arts tradition, students will engage in close reading, thoughtful discussion, and reflective writing that sharpens both mind and heart.

Through exploring profound themes and complex characters, students will develop critical thinking, clear communication, and moral insight. Emphasis on strong composition skills, proper research and citation, and confident presentation prepares students to express their ideas with clarity and conviction. This course offers not just academic growth, but the formation of young men and women equipped to encounter truth, beauty, and goodness in the world around them.

### **Advanced Placement (AP) English Language and Composition**

Grade(s): 12

Prerequisites: English 9, English 10; Teacher approval

Credit: 1

Fees: AP exam

Not a required class

Students will develop writing and rhetorical skills through reading, analyzing, and writing about college-level texts. Non-fiction texts will be the focus of this class. Slave narratives, influential persuasive speeches, Plato's Allegory of the Cave, and JFK's Profiles in Courage are just some of the important texts that students will examine to understand the art of rhetoric.

A variety of researched-based essays will be used to assess students' ability to persuade, argue, and explain with reasoned, fact-based evidence. This class will help students prepare for the AP English Language and Composition exam. *Students are encouraged to take the AP test, and have the option of taking the Advanced Placement Test in May and need to pay the AP fees when they become available.*

### **Advanced Placement (AP) English Literature and Composition**

Grade(s): 11, 12

Prerequisites: English 9, English 10; (*This class may be taken in place of English 11 with teacher approval*)

Credit: 1.5

Fees: AP exam

Not a required class

This class includes a comprehensive study of a variety of novels, prose, plays, and poetry. Many historical periods in literature will be covered. For example, the literary works from the Romantic, Regency, Victorian to Contemporary periods will be read. From the metaphysical poetry of John Donne, to the Romantic poetry of William Wordsworth, students will read, annotate, and analyze a variety of poems. Similarly, works of prose such as "A Hard Man is Hard to Find, or "Araby" will be read to identify the literary devices used by the authors. Books such as Wuthering Heights or Heart of Darkness as well as the play Hamlet will be read, followed by an in depth group discussion on all aspects of the novels. With such a variety of literature at the students' disposal, projects related to art, music, creative writing, and technology will be assigned to apply learned materials as a cross curricular assignment.

Written evaluations, following the format of the written test on the AP test, will be given regularly. The use of AP Classroom, an online program provided by the AP College Board, will be assigned regularly in preparation for the AP test.

*Students are encouraged to take the AP test, and have the option of taking the Advanced Placement Test in May and need to pay the AP fees when they become available.*

### **Advanced Writing**

Grade(s): 11, 12

Prerequisites: English 9 and English 10

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Not a required class

This course is to prepare students for college-level writing or for those who would like to perfect their writing skills. Students will first learn how to improve their writing using the six traits of writing: ideas, organization, voice, sentence fluency, word choice, and conventions. Once the traits are mastered by writing paragraphs, students will incorporate the traits into extensive forms of descriptive, narrative, expository, informative, analytical, persuasive, and argumentative writing. Documentation and research skills are taught. Students are instructed on how to find reputable resources via the internet and databases such as Badgerlink. Locating books and other resources using the MORE system through the local library will also be required. Upon completion of a 8-10 page research paper, a presentation using Google Slides will be completed and presented in class. The proper formatting and criteria for making a professional-looking presentation will be introduced. All writing is done in class with the teacher's supervision. Rough drafts are revised and a final copy is submitted on all assignments

### **Creative Writing I**

Grade(s): 9, 10

Prerequisites: None

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Not a required class

Students will enhance their creativity by writing various forms of poetry, personal narratives, tall tales, fables, "show-me" and stories based on selected story starters. There will be an emphasis on descriptive writing and word choice to enhance writers' work. The class culminates with a short story, focusing on the different parts of a plot. Writing is done in class with the teacher's supervision.

### **Creative Writing II**

Grade(s): 11, 12 or teacher's approval

Prerequisites: Creative Writing I

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Not a required class

Advanced forms of poetry are introduced including such types as contrast poems, month metaphors using poetic techniques, and free verse poems based on the use of ten random words. Students progress to story writing, incorporating the use of setting, plot, climax, and dialogue where appropriate. Stories will be based on picture story starters, some of which can be professional works of art. Students will also create their own tall tales and fractured fairy tales. The cumulative assignment will be a short story which can be science fiction, fantasy, a mystery, or romance. All writing is done in class and compiled in a showcase portfolio. Cooperating with the elementary school, the high school students will provide a questionnaire to one classroom, and based on their responses, the Creative Writing II students will create a children's book for each student in that particular classroom. Part of the pages will remain blank so the children can illustrate their books. Students will be asked to evaluate their work in the portfolio and to select three poems and two stories to share with the class.

## **Grammar**

Grade(s): 9, 10

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: None

Fees: None

Intro to grammar involves the study of the English language. The class will focus on structure and sentence patterns, writing and spelling systems, review and reinforcement of grammatical fundamentals, and uses as a communication tool. Students will apply grammatical structures through writing and identify grammatical structures used in writing samples. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate improved proficiency, comprehension and grammatical accuracy.

## **Journalism**

Grade(s): 11, 12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Current Issues

Fees: None

This course seeks to let students encounter various genres of journalism, and what goes into crafting a successful article. Students will also be given a short history on journalism, and will be able to learn and discuss the unique and essential role it plays in our country's democracy. This course seeks to give students a lasting appreciation of quality journalism that will last beyond the final day of class.

Throughout the term, students will get the opportunity to create four main types of journalistic writing: hard news, featured stories, opinion columns, and sport/event stories. For each of these writings, students will be guided through proper research techniques, as well as learning the basics of professional interviewing skills. At the end of the course (time permitting), students will be able to compile their writings into a coherent "portfolio" of sorts in order to showcase their newfound journalistic skills.

## **Real World Literature - Advanced Nonfiction Novels**

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: English 9

Fees: None

Dive into powerful stories that confront real human struggles and triumphs, inviting students to wrestle with questions of justice, identity, faith, and perseverance. This course offers a journey through compelling narratives that illuminate the complexity of the human heart and the challenges of living with courage and integrity.

Students will engage deeply with these works through thoughtful discussion, close reading, and critical analysis. Writing essays to support their own interpretations and positions will be a key focus, helping students develop clear, evidence-based arguments. Oral presentations and collaborative projects will further enhance communication skills and confidence.

This course challenges students not only to become skilled readers and writers but also to grow as compassionate, thoughtful individuals ready to encounter the real world with insight and virtue.



# Foreign Language

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## Statement of Philosophy

***“Learning another language is not only learning different words for the same things, but learning another way to think about things. ~ Flora Lewis***

Foreign language is taught in an atmosphere of kindness and respect. Students experience the beauty of the arts as a tool for deeper thinking and language acquisition. Language study enables students to see the world from a fresh perspective, while learning a new language and new culture. Students become aware of an expanded worldview, while at the same time crossing disciplines in art, music, English grammar and social studies.

### **Required Courses** - 2 Credits *Required*, 4 Credits *encouraged*

9 or 10 - Spanish I  
10 or 11 - Spanish II

#### **Encouraged for 4 year college acceptance**

11 - Spanish III - Virtual Option  
12 - Spanish IV - Virtual Option  
OR - two years within another foreign language  
*Counselor approval required*

### **Electives**

Virtual Foreign Languages

**\*\*All additional language classes need to be Counselor approved, with a signed ALO document and approval for advancement *in Spanish* from current Spanish teacher.**

### **Spanish I - Introduction to Spanish**

Grade(s): 9-12  
Credit: 1  
Required

Prerequisites: None  
Fees: None

This course introduces the Spanish language through video stories/songs by Jim Woolrich, short films, short novels for language learners by Blaine Ray and the textbook, Realidades 1. Key words and phrases, as well as simple grammar of the present and past tenses are emphasized through comprehensible input, in order to create memorable language acquisition. This course will enable students to begin speaking, reading and writing Spanish as well as to hear and understand the spoken language.

### **Spanish II - Conversational Spanish**

Grade(s): 10-12  
Credit: 1  
Required

Prerequisites: Spanish I  
Fees: None

This course continues the practice of foundational words and phrases, while adding new words related to picture studies, song studies, jointly created stories, dialogues and discussions. Songs/stories (Amnesia) by Jim Woolrich teach new grammar and invite class discussions. The key novel for this class is Esperanza, by Carol Gaab, which will acquaint students with the current situation in Guatemala. Many artists' work, portraying the refugee crisis, will be shown,

studied and discussed. A research paper on the current refugee situation in Latin America will be completed by students. Mi Propio Auto is another possible novel by Lisa Ray Turner and Blaine Ray.

# History

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## Statement of Philosophy

***“History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again.”***

***– Maya Angelou***

***“For inquire, please, of bygone ages, and consider what the fathers have searched out. For we are but of yesterday and know nothing, for our days on earth are a shadow. Will they not teach you and tell you and utter words out of their understanding?” - Job 8:8-10***

The History and Social Sciences program at McDonell provides the four courses required for graduation (World and American History, Economics, and American Government) as well as numerous advanced electives for upperclassmen. Throughout the curriculum teachers promote the development of critical thinking skills through the analysis and discussion of historical events. Students are also exposed to elements of social studies that promote human dignity, social justice, and the centrality of our God to our world.

The study and discussion of historical events conveys to students the meaning of the human experience. Social Studies, especially history, generally portrays the truth, good, and beauty of our world, but sometimes reveals the reality of suffering, evil and ugliness. In both cases it provides insight into our fallen humanity. This realization allows students to become better informed citizens of our world today and in the future.

At McDonell we require 4 credits of History/Social Science to graduate. This is to guarantee that our students are prepared for the world in which they will be stepping into upon graduation. Although most universities only require 2 years of Social Studies, we believe that our classes not only teach content, but also skills for a successful life, such as critical thinking, communication, and time management.

### **Required Courses** - 4 Credits Required

9 - Western Civilization  
9- Intro to Logic  
10 - The Christian Era  
11 - United States History  
US Government  
Economics

### **Electives**

AP United States History (APUSH)  
Australia and the Pacific Islands History and Culture  
Current Issues  
Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity  
Service Learning  
Psychology/Sociology

### **Western Civilization**

Grade(s): 9  
Credit: 1  
Required Class

Prerequisites: None  
Fees: None

This course examines global civilizations with an emphasis on European history. The course covers over 10,000 years of human history. The first half of the course looks at the ancient civilizations from the settlement of Mesopotamia

to the fall of ancient Rome. The second half of the course focuses on the European Middle Ages to the Age of Exploration. From there the goal is to get all the way to the World Wars. Throughout the course students will have the opportunity to analyze music and pictures that have to do with various topics covered in the class as well as create various projects displaying their knowledge of the content.

*Prerequisite for all Social Studies classes, except Geography.*

### **Introduction to Logic**

Grade(s): 9

Prerequisites: None

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Credit: Required Class

This course will explore what an argument is, how to make a good argument, and learn about the logical fallacies that can be present. Students will examine arguments made by others to test them for logical fallacies as well as construct their own. This course teaches that realizing that most of what we believe is merely opinion; we must learn to embrace mystery and strive for truth.

### **The Christian Era**

Grade(s): 10

Prerequisites: History 9

Credit: 1

Fees: None

Required Class

This course will seek to explore the world from the birth of Jesus Christ to the post-Reformation period. Beginning with the historical context of the Roman Empire and building forward, students will be able to examine the impact that Christ and Christianity have had and continue to have on the story of humanity. Students will analyze the political, economic, geographic, and social changes of Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and the broader world in relation to Christianity. Through the reading of primary sources, discussion, and projects students will deepen their understanding and historical awareness of this time period.

### **United States History**

Grade(s): 11

Prerequisites: Western Civilization/World History

Credit: 1

Fees: None

Required Class

This course provides students the opportunity to chronologically study the development of the United States of America from discovery and colonization to the present. Using primary source documents, students analyze political ideas and events as well as the social, economic, and cultural changes that have influenced the growth of the nation. This analysis includes looking at significant development in U.S. history through a Catholic lens. The geographic features of the nation are emphasized.

## **United States Government**

Grade(s): 11, 12

Credit: .5

Required Class

Prerequisites: United States History

Fees: None

This course is a survey of the United States political system, including its foundations in Western political thought. The course is taught through a series of seminars on topics that include Greek and Roman antecedents. With that foundation, we then examine the constitutional underpinnings of the United States government, political ideologies and parties, the role of interest groups and mass media in the political process, voting behaviors, institutions of government, public policy, and civil rights and civil liberties. Through a continual interaction with Church teachings, we will also learn the nature of virtuous statesmanship. This course will serve to lay the basis for a life-long role as a competent, alert, and interested citizen of the United States. Students will also take the state civics test in this course.

**\*Passing the civics test with a 60 or better (100 points) is a requirement for graduation.**

## **Economics**

Grade(s): 11, 12

Credit: .5

Required Class

Corequisite: United States History

Fees: None

Economics is the study of human action, particularly as it is directed toward the use of means to achieve ends. This course is designed to help students think like an economist as well as understand the economic world in which they live. The fundamental objective is to provide students with a basic understanding of the economic system of the United States. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to understand economic events as reported in the media and understand fallacies that can occur with economic thinking. A good grasp of economics serves our overall objective of cultivating wisdom and virtue in students who will one day take leadership in the economic sphere. The course also helps students gain an appreciation of the benefits of living in an economic system that protects individual freedoms.

## **Advanced Placement (AP) United States History (APUSH)**

Grade(s): 11, 12

Credit: 1.5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Western Civilization/World History, with teacher approval

Fees: AP Exam

Can be taken, when approved, in place of United States History. This course studies the events that led to the development of the United States of America. The First half of this year-long course covers European Colonization through the Civil War. The second half focuses on topics in 20th century America including World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, the Vietnam War, Watergate, and more. This course allows students to explore issues and events of history in greater depth through reading and discussion outside the text. This course will prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May. *Students are encouraged to take the AP test, and have the option of taking the Advanced Placement Test in May and need to pay the AP fees when they become available. \*\* Permission of the instructor is required to take this class*

### **Australia and the Pacific Islands History and Cultures**

Grade(s): 12

Prerequisites: Teacher Approval

Credit: 0.5

Fees: None

Not a required class

This course provides a comprehensive examination of the culture and history of Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Island nations. While largely ignored in wider discussions of global studies, students will learn about significant historical events, socioeconomic challenges, and the vibrant culture within this region. Students will be challenged to analyze and examine the past and present of Oceania within the context of a Catholic liberal arts lens. Students will be introduced to historical and contemporary examples of primary and secondary sources to develop critical thinking skills, form arguments, and draw conclusions.

### **Current Issues**

Grade(s): 9, 10

Prerequisites: None

Credit: .5 Credit

Fees: None

Not a required class

Current Issues is a class that strives to inform students on where to find the news, and how to read it and discuss it. In a time where we often see more troubling news than comforting, this course will help students critically analyze every news source they encounter, and help them to become well informed and critically aware citizens.

This course is split into three main components; analyzing news, combating bias, and independent research. Students will work with the website Checkology as a large group, whose main goals align with those of the course. The class also spends time studying the four main pillars of Catholic Social Teaching and their relationship to current events. By the end of this class, students will be tasked with presenting research on a topic of their choice that connects to a current event and uses the skills gained from the beginning of the course.

### **Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity**

Grade(s): 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Not a required class

This course investigates examples of genocide in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, including the Holocaust and Rwanda. Students will investigate the concepts of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes and explore them through the historical analysis and the Catholic Social Teachings. Students will also examine the forces that can lead people to commit acts of evil and to act as complicit bystanders, while evaluating the world's community's attempts to prevent genocide.

### **Psychology/ Sociology**

Grade(s): 10, 11, and 12

Prerequisites: None

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Not a required class

At the beginning of this course students develop an understanding of how psychological knowledge is generated, developed, and applied. They will have a greater understanding of themselves and the diversity of human behavior. The holistic approach, which sees biological, cognitive and socio-cultural analysis being taught in an integrated way ensures students develop an understanding of what all humans share and the immense diversity of influence on human behavior and mental processes. The ethical concerns raised by the methodology and application of psychological research are also considerations.

Students will then transition into sociology - This course studies human society and social phenomena. It is guided by sociology's basic principle that people's lives are affected not only by individual characteristics but also by their place in the social world. The course emphasizes the connections among human relationships, social institutions, and social organizations, which allow students to evaluate themselves, and the world around them, more analytically and critically. A great focus of this course will emphasize truth (Love God) and social activism (Love of Neighbor) and how these come to play in studying society and social phenomena.

# Mathematics

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## Statement of Philosophy

*"Mathematics is the language in which God has written the universe." – Galileo Galilei*

Mathematics is the universal language that transcends the written word, and allows individuals to communicate globally. The structure, logic, and reasoning that mathematics teaches is the foundation of a student's education in the arts and sciences, and provides the student with exceptional problem solving abilities to apply in the real world. The beauty of mathematics is seen through God's order He has established on Earth and in the universe.

### Required Courses - 3 Credits Required

Algebra I (or Algebra I Full - *Full year*)  
Geometry  
Algebra II (teacher approval if taken at grade 10 or 12)

### Electives

AP Calculus  
Consumer Math  
Honors Probability and Statistics  
Introduction to Computer Programming  
Principles of Engineering (PLTW)  
Precalculus  
Trigonometry

### Algebra I

Grade(s): 9  
Credit: 1  
Required

Prerequisites: None  
Fees: None

Algebra I provides a formal development of the algebraic skills and concepts necessary for students to succeed in advanced courses. Topics include real numbers, linear equations, graphing, inequalities, polynomials, rational expressions, functions, radical exponents, systems of linear equations, quadratic equations, and real life problem solving. Math songs and singing are incorporated in this class.

### Algebra I Full - Full Year

Grade(s): 9  
Credit: 1.5  
Replaces Algebra I

Prerequisites: Teacher Recommendation Only  
Fees: None

Algebra 1 - *Full Year* (3 trimesters) is a course designed to make the transition from pre algebra to algebra. This course will strengthen the skills in basic arithmetical principles. It reviews the four basic operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers, fractions and decimals. It also introduces and develops algebraic skills, which include, simplifying expressions, evaluating algebraic expressions, solving equations and inequalities involving integers and rational numbers, linear equations, graphing, polynomials, rational expressions, functions, radical exponents, systems of linear equations, quadratic equations, and real life problem solving. Teacher recommendation is required for enrollment in this course.



## **Geometry**

Grade(s): 10 (9th grade if Alg I completed in 8th grade and with teacher approval) Prerequisites: Algebra I or Algebra Full  
Credit: 1 Fees: None  
Required

This course introduces the formation of logical reasoning in both mathematical and non-mathematical situations, and develops the power of spatial visualization. Topics include logical reasoning and proofs, relationships within triangles, quadrilaterals, and polygons, right triangles with an introduction of trigonometric ratios, transformations, probability, area, and volume. Students will learn about Geometry in art and nature, including origami and the works of M. C. Escher, listen to a Geometry novel, Flatland, by Edwin A. Abbott, and sing Geometry songs. Students are required to bring a scientific calculator to class every day, and also have both a compass and protractor.

## **Algebra II**

Grade(s): 10 or 11 Prerequisites: Algebra I, Geometry  
(Freshman geometry students will take this as sophomores) Fees: None  
Credit: 1  
Required

Algebra 2 gives students an understanding of the structure of both real and complex numbers, application of techniques of algebraic skills, and concepts of deductive reasoning. This course focuses on real life problem solving graphically, geometrically, or symbolically. Topics include linear, quadratic, polynomial, radical, exponential, logarithmic, and rational functions. Additional topics may include sequences and series, Conic sections, Probability and statistics, and matrices.

## **AP Honors Calculus**

Grade(s): 11, 12 Prerequisites: Trigonometry, PreCalculus  
Credit: 1.5 Fees: TI-84 Calculator / Exam Fees for AP Exam  
Not a required class

Honors Calculus covers the material of Calculus AB and BC. Topics include: limits, derivatives, related rates, integration, differential equations, sequences & series, and polar coordinates. Students will also take a brief look into the history of calculus and those who contributed to its development. Prerequisites include Trigonometry and PreCalculus. TI-84 Graphing calculator is required.

Students will learn how to work with functions graphically, numerically, analytically and verbally. They will gain an understanding of derivatives in terms of rate of change and local linear approximations, and an understanding of integrals as the limit of Riemann sums and net accumulation of a rate of change. Students will be presented with real-world problems and should be able to model the situation with functions, differential equations, or integrals. ***Students will have to register through Viterbo for college credits and pay the amount due in the Fall of 2025. \*\*This class can help students prepare for the AP Statistics exam, but the course curriculum is based on an approved syllabus and course expectations through Viterbo University.***

### Consumer Math

Grade(s): 11, 12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Algebra I

Fees: None

Consumer Math emphasizes practical application of mathematics in everyday life. Topics include purchasing a car and home, renting and furnishing an apartment, health, life, and car insurance, savings and checking accounts, loans, taxes, budgeting, party planning, and understanding math in the media. Students will produce and present a poster board presentation of their newly acquired skills.

### Honors Probability and Statistics

Grade(s): 11, 12

Credit: 1

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Algebra II

Fees: TI-84 Calculator / Viterbo Credit Cost  
/ AP Exam Cost (optional)

Honors Probability and Statistics is designed to introduce the methods used in the field of applied statistics. Topics include: techniques for collecting and analyzing data, probability, drawing conclusions, hypothesis testing, and making predictions. Students will learn how to find measures of central tendency and use them to compare, analyze, and describe patterns and relationships in data. They will use technology such as a graphing calculator and online graphing tools to organize data and create visual representations of the data, such as stem-and-leaf displays, box plots, and histograms. Students will be given real-world scenarios and should be able to use statistical reasoning from data distributions, fundamentals of probability and hypothesis tests to draw conclusions and justify claims. ***Students will have to register through Viterbo for college credits and pay the amount due in the Fall of 2025. \*\*This class can help students prepare for the AP Statistics exam, but the course curriculum is based on an approved syllabus and course expectations through Viterbo University.***

### Introduction to Computer Programming

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Algebra 1, Geometry

Fees: None

Introduction to Computer Programming introduces the logic and the syntax of computer programming. With a focus on helping students develop problem solving and computational thinking skills, students come away with a knowledge of a professional programming language, JavaScript, and the conceptual understanding needed to learn new languages. Students are required to bring their charged Chromebook to class every day.

### Principles of Engineering (PLTW)

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Credit: 1

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Algebra 1, Geometry, and Introduction to Engineering Design

Teacher consent is required

Fees: None

Principles of Engineering is a hands-on math and science course designed to give students an overview of engineering concepts. Topics include building simple and complex machines, circuit boards and breadboarding, hydrogen

and solar fuel cells, bridge building, computer programming, robotics, probability and statistics, projectile motion, and self-propelled vehicles. Students must have a scientific calculator. Students are required to bring a scientific calculator to class every day.

### **Precalculus**

Grade(s): 11, 12

Prerequisites: Trigonometry

Credit: 1

Fees: TI-84 Calculator

Not a required class

Pre-calculus consists of work in advanced mathematics and a preparation for calculus. Topics include: linear equations and analytic geometry, properties of functions, graphs of functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, polar coordinates, complex numbers, polar graphs, conic sections, polynomials and zeros, sketching polynomial functions and quotients of polynomials, matrices, sequences & series, probability, mathematical induction, and an introduction to statistics. Graphing calculator technology will be emphasized to enhance and support the mathematics in all units of study. Students must be able to use a variety of techniques to solve problems: graphical, numerical, algebraic/analytic, and verbal. Students are to develop an appreciation of all these methods of representation, understand how they are connected in a given problem, and learn how to choose the most appropriate method(s) to solve a problem.

### **Trigonometry**

Grade(s): 10 (*Teacher Approval*), 11th, 12th

Prerequisites: Geometry, Algebra II

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Not a required class

Trigonometry is a standard right triangle approach providing a smooth and integrated development of the six trig functions defined by an angle with a point on the terminal side, as well as, right triangle, and circular function definitions. This course includes the graphing of trigonometric functions and defining and applying trigonometric identities. This course may be taken concurrently with Algebra 2, but it is recommended that the first half of Algebra II is completed beforehand.

# Physical Education and Health

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## Statement of Philosophy

*Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.*

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

McDonell Health and Physical Education's mission is to provide its students with the opportunity to develop in mind, body, spirit, and community. Through a comprehensive and unified approach in instruction, students will be exposed to the key components in developing a healthy lifestyle.

### **Required Courses** - 2 Credits Required

(Health .5; Mix of PE Electives 1.5)

9 - Health and Wellness

9-12 Mix of PE courses

### **Electives**

General Physical Education

Lifetime Sports / Recreational Games

Team Sports

Intro to Weight Training

Weight Lifting

### **Health 9 - Health and Wellness**

Grade(s): 9

Credit: .5

Required

Prerequisites: None

Fees: None

The content of this course will be drawn from the broad areas of physical, social, and mental health. Emphasis is placed on the wellness approach based on our Christian Values. The course covers some of the following health issues: personal health and wellness, mental and emotional health, fitness and nutrition, body systems, family life and sexuality, communicable and non-communicable diseases, and substance use and abuse. Goal setting, decision making, and relationships are woven throughout.

This class teaches students how to be physically, emotionally, spiritually, and socially healthy. Students will be expected to demonstrate their learning through participation and presentations, as well as through traditional projects and assessments. Classroom Health provides students with the information needed to make responsible choices for current and future real-life situations.

### **General Physical Education**

Grade(s): 9-12

Credit: .5

Required

Prerequisites: None

Fees: None

This class will provide each student with an introduction to a variety of activities emphasizing physical fitness, team and individual (lifetime) sports, and recreation. Fundamentals, health practices, safety concerns, game rules, basic

strategies, and skill development will be emphasized in each activity. Students will be expected to demonstrate their learning through participation in daily physical activity, as well as through traditional projects and assessments. Students will be graded on their participation, time management, and wearing appropriate gym clothing for class attendance. Other aspects of their overall class grade will be dependent on various written assignments, and multiple skills demonstrations. Overall participation is a very important aspect of this course.

### **Lifetime Sports / Recreational Games**

Grade(s): 9-12	Prerequisites: None
Credit: .5	Fees: None
Not a required class	

In this class students will have the opportunity to participate in games/ activities that they will be able to enjoy now and in the future. There will be more of a focus on racquet sports, lawn games, going on walks, and other activities to be decided by the class/ time of year. Students will earn a daily grade for time management, their class participation, and wearing their appropriate gym clothes. In addition, there will be various projects and quizzes throughout the course to test competency. Overall participation is a very important aspect of this course.

### **Team Sports**

Grade(s): 9-12	Prerequisites: None
Credit: .5	Fees: None
Not a required class	

This class is designed for students that want to further excel in their athletic endeavors, increase their knowledge of strength and conditioning, and learn how to evolve their specific training needs post-graduation. Students will be expected to demonstrate their learning through participation in daily physical activity, as well as through traditional projects and assessments. Students will also be involved in multiple team specific athletic activities that will challenge them to work with other students, build resilience, and develop a skill set that lends itself to the world of competitive sports and athletic activities.

### **Introduction to Weight Training**

Grade(s): 10 - 12	Prerequisites: None
Credit: . 5	Fees: None

In this class students will be introduced to the fundamentals of weight lifting. The course will begin with an understanding of how to read a workout plan, and students learning the correct form for performing lifts, while practicing safe weight training habits. (MackFit is being processed as an alternative for a student to earn this credit. This would come with instructor and counselor approval with enough credit hours)

### **Weight Lifting:**

Grade(s): 11 -12	Prerequisites: Introduction to Weight Training
Credit: .5	Fees: None

Students are required to take Introduction to Weight Lifting to be accepted into this class. In this class students will begin with a review of their previous weight lifting course and safety. Students will be weight lifting throughout the

trimester. This is a more advanced weight training class and students will be guided through weight training plans, and developing a more rigorous routine. Students may have a more individualized plan based on their performance and working with their instructor. Students will also learn how to instruct beginners in proper form, safety and performance.

# Science

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## Statement of Philosophy

*“The important thing is to never stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing.” -Albert Einstein*

The sciences enrich lives by teaching observation, logic, and reasoning about the natural world. The scientific method teaches process, structure, and the review of ideas in a global forum, and allows students to form their own views and perspectives under the umbrella of Christianity and Catholicism. Pope Francis’ second encyclical, *Laudato Si*, 2015, subtitled “on care for our common home,” is a guiding document for the sciences at McDonell along with the empirical research of dozens of great scientific minds of the last 400 years. McDonell HS seeks to empower a more discernible young adult to utilize their scientific literacy and apply scientific principles and content to all aspects of life.

**Required Courses** - 4 Credits Required  
(9,10,11 Science plus two electives or AP)

9 - Physical Science A & B  
10 - Biology A & B  
11 - Chemistry A & B

### **Electives**

AP Biology	General Physics
AP/Honors Chemistry	Honors Physics
Astronomy	Human Body Systems (PLTW)
Ecology	Intro to Engineering Design (PLTW)
Environmental Hazards	Principles of Biomedical Science (PLTW)
Environmental Law	Weather and Climate

### **Physical Science 9 A&B**

Grade(s): 9  
Credit: 1.0  
Required

Prerequisites: None  
Fees: None

Physical Science 9 is a required science credit for all freshmen that covers the topics of basic physics and basic chemistry. This course provides an introduction to high school science with an exploration of scientific tools and processes, including the scientific method. It offers a survey of physics by studying forces and motion, work and power, simple thermodynamics, and simple machines. Students will also investigate a survey of chemistry including states of matter, atomic theory, nomenclature, bonding, chemical equations and reactions. Through a blend of theoretical knowledge and practical applications, students will practice obtaining and evaluating data with an emphasis in critical thinking and scientific inquiry.

### **Biology A & B**

Grade(s): 10  
Credit: 1.0  
Required

Prerequisites: Physical Science 9 AB  
Fees: None

This course examines biological systems from the cell to an ecosystem. Each unit focuses on structure, function, and energy flow at all levels of biological organization. Units of study in Biology I are the scientific method, organic

chemistry, cells, cellular energy, and the molecular basis of genetics. Students will learn through scientific inquiry, manipulating models, reading primary sources, as well as select chapters from other published works. Students will practice scientific skills, use and apply these skills to investigate, study, and explain life and living processes. In addition, they will be able to explain the relevance of biology in science AND social constructs.

### **Chemistry A & B**

Grade(s): 11

Credit: 1.0

Required

Prerequisites: Physical Science 9 AB, Biology AB

Corequisite: Algebra I

Fees: None

This course involves the study of the methods and tools of the scientist, including the Scientific Method, laboratory techniques, data analysis, and demonstration. This first part of chemistry covers properties and behavior of matter, atomic theory, atomic structure, the Periodic Table, wave equations, an introduction to quantum mechanics, and electron configuration.

### **Advanced Placement (AP) Biology**

Grade(s): 11, 12

Credit: 1.5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Biology A and B

Chemistry AB (or concurrent enrollment)

Fees: AP Exam fees

This course continues and expands upon what students have learned in General Biology. The course framework is based upon the four “Big Ideas” in Biology.

1. The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life.
2. Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, reproduce, and maintain homeostasis.
3. Living systems store, retrieve, transmit, and respond to information essential to life processes.
4. Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex - emergent properties.

This course focuses on learning the content through scientific inquiry. There are eleven required multi-day labs that support the key ideas and learning objectives of the course. In addition, there are numerous smaller lab activities to support the Big Ideas. Skills learned in this course prepares students for college. They must be self-driven and willing to put in time outside of class in order to succeed. *Students enrolled in this course are expected to take the AP Exam in May. Successful completion of the AP exam will count as college credit if a high score is achieved and accepted by the secondary education institution.*

### **AP Honors Chemistry**

Grade(s): 11,12

Credit: 1.5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Chemistry A and B

Corequisites: Algebra II

Fees: Viterbo Credits / AP Exam (Optional)

The Honors Chemistry course provides students with a college level foundation to support future advanced coursework in chemistry. Students cultivate their understanding of chemistry through inquiry based investigations as they explore topics such as: atomic structure, intermolecular forces and bonding, chemical reactions, kinetics, thermodynamics, and equilibrium. This course involves significant laboratory work. ***Students will have to register through Viterbo for college credits and pay the amount due in the Fall of 2025. \*\*This class can help students prepare***



for the AP Statistics exam, but the course curriculum is based on an approved syllabus and course expectations through Viterbo University.

### **Advanced Placement (AP) Environmental Science**

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12	Prerequisites: Physical Science 9 AB
Credit: 1.5	Corequisites: Algebra I, Biology AB
Not a required class	Fees: AP Exam fees

The goal of the AP Environmental Science course is to provide students with scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and / or preventing them. The big ideas in AP Environmental Science is that science is a process, energy conversions underlie all ecological processes, the earth itself is one interconnected system, humans alter natural systems, environmental problems have a cultural and social context, and human survival depends on developing practices that will achieve sustainable systems. Students enrolled in this course are expected to take the AP Exam in May. Successful completion of the AP exam will count as college credit.

### **Astronomy**

Grade(s): 11, 12	Prerequisites: Physical Science 9 AB, Biology AB
Credit: .5	Corequisite: Algebra I
Not a required class	Fees: None

This course covers an in-depth investigation of the history of astronomy, the study of the universe, and the methods by which we study Earth's place among its neighbors. The course covers the formation, arrangement, change, and demise of stars, galaxies, and the Universe, as well as celestial navigation, earth-sun-moon relationships, the nature of planetary systems (particularly our own Solar System), space exploration and exoplanetary topics.

### **Ecology**

Grade(s): 10-12	Prerequisites: Biology AB
Credit: .5	Fees: None
Not a required class	

This course examines biological systems and their interconnections from the organismal level to the ecosystem level. We will explore population, community, and ecosystem dynamics. This course is for anyone with a passing interest in nature or anyone interested in a career with the DNR or other environmental research organization. In addition to field data collection, we will explore ecology through one of the most famous authors and conservationists in the field: Aldo Leopold and his book "A Sand County Almanac." Lastly, we will investigate ecology through the lens of Catholic Social Teachings via a unit on Laudato si, a book written by Pope Francis. This will be the basis for the final project in the course where students are called to action in defense of ecosystems.

### **Environmental Hazards**

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12	Prerequisites: Physical Science 9 AB, Biology AB
Credit: .5	Corequisites: Algebra I

Not a required class

Fees: None

An in-depth study of both anthropogenic (human-caused) and naturally-occurring, destructive phenomena such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, hurricanes, tornados, coastal flooding, waste, pollution, and population density. Students will look at causes, prevention, mitigation, and remediation of these problems.

### **Environmental Law**

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: Earth & Space Science AB, Biology AB

Credit: .5

Corequisites: Algebra I

Not a required class

Fees: None

In this course, we will look at the major statutes and policies used, at both the federal and state levels, to protect humans and the environment against exposure to harmful substances, including the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Superfund, and the Resource Conservation & Recovery Act. We also will discuss the National Environmental Policy Act, which covers and extends beyond pollution control. The class will look not only at the substance of these laws and policies, but also at enforcement challenges and constitutional restrictions on environmental regulation. As part of the class, students will engage in a series of situational case studies designed to provide a better sense of the real-world issues to teach students the skills and tactics needed to solve those issues.

### **General Physics**

Grade(s): 11, 12

Credit: 1.0

Corequisite: Algebra II

Not a required class

Fees: None

General physics provides a comprehensive introduction to the fundamental principles of physics through an algebra-based approach. Students will explore the laws governing motion, forces, energy, and waves, gaining a solid foundation in the principles that govern the physical world around them. Through a combination of theoretical concepts and practical applications, students will develop critical thinking skills and problem-solving abilities essential for understanding and analyzing real-world phenomena. A strong understanding of algebraic concepts, including equations, graphing, and solving linear equations, is essential for success in this course.

### **Honors Physics**

Grade(s): 11,12 ( Offered again 26/27)

Prerequisites: Physical Science 9 AB, Biology AB

Credit: 1

Corequisites: Algebra II and Trigonometry

Not a required class

Fees: Viterbo Credits / AP Exam Optional

This course involves the study of the methods and tools of the scientist, including the Scientific Method, laboratory techniques, data analysis, and demonstration. Physics topics include the study of mechanics, heat, light, electricity, and magnetism, and modern physics. ***Students will have to register through Viterbo for college credits and pay the amount due in the Fall of 2026. Information will be shared with students who are registered in the Fall.***

***\*\*This class can help students prepare for the AP Statistics exam, but the course curriculum is based on an approved syllabus and course expectations through Viterbo University.***

### **Human Body Systems (PLTW)**

Grade(s): 10-12

Credit: 1

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Principles of Biomedical Science (PLTW)

Fees: None

This course examines human body systems and genetics through the online learning platform provided by Project Lead the Way (PLTW). The students will take a tour of the various systems of the human body to see how they interact to perform complex functions and ultimately, sustain life. Students will be introduced to medical terminology throughout the course. They will also maintain a career journal to keep track of fields they find interesting.

This course is through PLTW. As such, the final products will be solving new problems within biomedical science and sharing their findings in a variety of ways: video skits, presentations, creating models, and formal reports. The skills learned in this course are directly transferable to any career path the student might consider. Teamwork, collaboration, peer review, and problem solving are the focus. The final exam will be the standardized End of Course assessment through PLTW. An outstanding score on this could be used for college credit at the Milwaukee School of Engineering.

### **Introduction to Engineering Design - IED (PLTW)**

Grade(s): 9-12

Credit: 1

Not a required class

Prerequisites: None

Fees: None

This course uses a curriculum designed by Project Lead the Way. Students dig deep into the engineering design process, applying math, science, and engineering standards to hands-on projects. They work both individually and in teams to design solutions to a variety of problems using 3D modeling software, and use an engineering notebook to document their work

### **Principles of Biomedical Science (PLTW)**

Grade(s): 10, 11

Credit: 1

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Biology AB (or concurrent enrollment)

Fees: None

This course examines human body systems and genetics through the lens of biomedical science. The students take on the roles of forensic scientists, clinical care specialists, emergency medicine technicians, as well as medical engineers. Throughout the coursework, students will be posed with moral and ethical scenarios in which we discuss the role of science in society. In addition, the students will keep a career journal to keep track of fields of interest.

This course is through Project Lead the Way. As such, the final products will be solving new problems within biomedical science and sharing their findings in a variety of ways: video skits, presentations, and formal reports. The skills learned in this course are directly transferable to any career path the student might consider. Teamwork, collaboration, peer review, and problem solving are the focus. The final exam will be the standardized End of Course assessment through PLTW. An outstanding score on this could be used for college credit at the Milwaukee School of Engineering.

**Weather & Climate**

Grade(s): 9-11

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Corequisites: Physical Science 9

Fees: None

Weather and climate is an elective science credit open to all students grades 9-12 that covers the discipline of meteorology in depth. Students must be enrolled in Physical Science 9 concurrently or have completed the course. This course provides an in-depth exploration of weather phenomena and climate patterns, aiming to equip students with a comprehensive understanding of atmospheric processes. Through a blend of theoretical knowledge and practical applications, students will examine the factors influencing weather and climate, analyze weather data, and explore the impact of climate change. Emphasis will be placed on fostering critical thinking skills and scientific inquiry.

# Theology

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## Statement of Philosophy

*“The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ”  
(Catechesi Tradendae, no. 5).*

*I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. (Jn 15:11)*

The Theology curriculum is what sets the learning of a student at McDonell Area Catholic Schools apart and helps students to more fully understand truths in all other areas of study. The centrality of Christ forms the content of each class but is also meant to be a vehicle for growth in one's relationship with the Lord so that each may come to know him and live according to the truth he has given to us. In this way, disciples not only participate more deeply in the life of the Church but are also better able to reach eternal life with God in Heaven.

In the core classes, students will encounter the person of Jesus Christ through the study of the following: Sacred Scripture, God's Revelation, the Paschal Mystery, the Church, morality and the reality of sin, Vocations and God's call for each of us, and the Sacraments. Students also have the opportunity for various electives to add depth and breadth to their course of study in the Theology department.

**Required Courses** - 4 Credits Required  
(All 9-11 Theology, Vocations, and one elective)

Scripture(9)  
Christology (9)  
Ecclesiology (10)  
Sacraments (10)  
Apologetics I (11)  
Morality (11)  
Vocations

## **Electives**

Christ's Church and World Religions  
Intro to Catholic Theology  
Intro to Philosophy  
New Testament  
Old Testament  
Service Learning

## **Scripture**

Grade(s): 9	Prerequisites: None
Credit: .5	Fees: None
Required	

Freshman students will gain knowledge and appreciation of Sacred Scripture from the Old Testament to the New Covenant in Christ, as well as the early Church. Includes a special focus on the Gospels where students will meet Jesus Christ and develop a deeper Faith in Him.

## **Christology**

Grade(s): 9	Prerequisites: Scripture TH101
Credit: .5	Fees: None

Required

This freshmen course will focus on the nature of Jesus. Students will study the Incarnation, the union of Christ's two natures, Jesus as the exemplar of humanity, as well as the unique role of Mary, the mother of God. This course prepares students to overcome the challenges of Faith, and leads them to a more profound understanding of what it means to believe. Students will be exposed to beautiful art emphasizing theological themes, they will participate in Socratic questioning and discussion and will complete various written and oral assessments.

### **Ecclesiology**

Grade(s): 10

Prerequisites: Scripture, Christology

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Required

This course begins with an introduction to Ecclesiology; the study of the Church. Students will learn of the origin, foundation, and manifestation of the Catholic Church, established by Jesus Christ during His earthly life to continue His saving mission until the end of time. Through their exploration of the Church, students will consider various images of the Church, the four marks of the Church, and the role of the Church in the life of the believer. Students will be exposed to primary sources in theology including papal encyclicals, the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas and the Catechism of the Catholic Church as well as great works of Catholic art.

### **Sacraments**

Grade(s): 10

Prerequisites: Scripture, Christology, Ecclesiology

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Required

In this course students will discover how Christ is present to us in and through the Sacraments of the Church, especially in the Eucharist, which is Christ's Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. They will systematically explore each of the seven Sacraments to better understand the essential elements and effects of each as well as how each is celebrated and lived in our daily lives.

### **Apologetics**

Grade(s): 11

Prerequisites: Scripture, Christology, Ecclesiology,

Credit: .5

Sacraments

Required

Fees: None

This course explores the scientific evidence for God as well as philosophical proofs of His existence, the historicity of Jesus's miracles and Resurrection, the reasons to be Catholic, why an all-loving God would allow suffering, and medical evidence for our transphysical soul. Each chapter includes a study of primary sources from Church history, focus and reflection questions, complete instructions for interactive activities, art, and other visual reflections, Scripture readings, and biographies of Catholic scientists and saints.

## **Morality**

Grade(s): 11

Credit: .5

Required

Prerequisites: : Scripture, Christology, Ecclesiology,

Sacraments. Apologetics I

Fees: None

This course will address Catholic Morality and living the moral life. Students will be introduced to the moral teaching of the Catholic Church with the goal of inviting them to live a moral life in Christ. Students will learn about every person's deep desire for God that is written in our hearts and God's plan to bring us true happiness by living as He created us to live. They will also explore the meaning of law, the Ten Commandments and Jesus' great commandments, Jesus' moral teaching and example, the reality of sin, the relationship between human freedom and conscience, and the various help God gives to us by His grace and through the Church.

Throughout the course students will be challenged to address and apply what they are learning to their lives and the world around them by looking at theological concepts in light of modern challenges and human life. Students will be exposed to primary sources in theology including papal encyclicals, the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas and the Catechism of the Catholic Church as well as great works of Catholic art.

## **Vocations**

Grade(s): 12

Credit: .5

Required

Prerequisites: Scripture, Christology, Ecclesiology,

Sacraments. Apologetics I, Morality

Fees: None

God calls every person to a vocation in life. All are called to live a life of holiness in imitation of Christ, and each of us is called to a permanent state in life by which we are to live out our call to holiness in service to others: marriage, ordained priesthood, or consecrated religious life. This course will help students discover each of these vocations and begin to discern God's calling in their own lives.

## **Christ's Church and World Religions**

Grade(s): 11, 12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: None

Fees: None

This course examines various major world religions through a lens of comparison to the Catholic Faith with the goal of strengthening students' own Catholic faith. Students will come to understand what the Church teaches regarding salvation and how the Church relates to non-Catholic Christian faiths and other non-Christian faith traditions. They will come to recognize not only important ways Catholicism and other world religions differ, but also the presence of reflections of truth, goodness, and beauty present in different religious traditions and how those reflections can serve as seeds for the Gospel message.

### **Introduction to Catholic Theology**

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Required

**This class is intended for students with little to no Catholic religious education or affiliation.**

This course begins with an introduction to the Catholic faith based around the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Students will be exposed to Catholic vocabulary and basic teachings of the Sacraments, morality, creed and scripture. This background will set a foundation for continued learning in more advanced theology classes. Students will be exposed to beautiful art emphasizing theological themes, they will participate in socratic questioning and discussion and will complete various written and oral assessments. In this course, students will enter into the Paschal Mystery of Christ - His Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension - and learn about how it is the fulfillment of God's promise of redemption made to us after the Fall. They will also learn how the Church calls us to participate in the Paschal Mystery in our own lives.

### **Introduction to Philosophy**

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: Scripture, Christology

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Not a required class

This course will introduce students to philosophical thought and thinkers from throughout the ages. Students will study primary sources in philosophy including Socratic logic, Plato's dialogues, Aristotle's Ethics, Augustine's Confessions, the works of Thomas Aquinas, as well as some of the Moderns. It will examine modern streams of thought and their origins in philosophy. Questions examined will include, can we prove the existence of God? What is goodness? What are friendship and happiness and how can we attain them? What does it mean to be human and how do we live according to our rational natures? What are the True, the Good and the Beautiful? Through their study of philosophy students will grow in skills necessary to thinking critically and arguing persuasively as well as the ideas and vocabulary to express themselves accurately.

Sub content knowledge addressed in this course may include units on the philosophy of education, politics, friendship, epistemology, and ethics. Students will discuss primary sources through socratic questioning, short written assignments, and a cumulative presentation on a topic of interest to them.

### **New Testament Scripture**

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Not a required class

This course presents an overview of Sacred Scripture with a focus on providing a clear framework for understanding the narrative of Salvation History, and the development of basic principles of biblical interpretation. While an in depth study of every book of the Bible is beyond the scope of a semester course, key books, events, and figures are examined in detail with an emphasis on Jesus Christ and His Paschal Mystery as the culmination of God's plan of salvation and the interpretive key for understanding both the Old and New Testaments.



### **Old Testament Scripture**

Grade(s): 10-12

Prerequisites: None

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Not a required class

This course presents an overview of Sacred Scripture with a focus on providing a clear framework for understanding the narrative of Salvation History, and the development of basic principles of biblical interpretation. While an in depth study of every book of the Bible is beyond the scope of a semester course, key books, events, and figures are examined in detail with an emphasis on Jesus Christ and His Paschal Mystery as the culmination of God's plan of salvation and the interpretive key for understanding both the Old and New Testaments.

### **Service Learning**

Grade(s): 12

Prerequisites: None

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Not a required class

This class/experience is for senior students to go out into the middle school, high school, Holy Ghost or St. Charles to serve others. Students will be placed at a service site for the duration of the trimester. Along with hands-on service, students will also spend time reflecting on their relationship with Christ and how it relates to the work they are doing. Students will complete a culminating document, and teachers / staff who oversee the student(s) will also fill out an assessment that will affect the students overall grade in the course.

# Student Success Strategies

## Statement of Philosophy

*“The pleasures arising from thinking and learning will make us think and learn all the more.” ~ Aristotle*

MACS believes that all students are capable of doing amazing things. We believe that having high expectations using identified methods of instruction and being included in core classes, all students can achieve great things. We practice an inclusion model where all students with and without learning differences learn together. McDonell Central Catholic High School uses practices that help ensure student success. Student Success Strategies are courses to support students by helping to shrink learning gaps and be more successful in core classes.

Students taking Student Success Strategies I and II postpone the foreign language requirement, with departmental permission. Students in Success Strategies III and IV may waive the two-year foreign language requirement with school approval. Students with approval and have room in their schedule, may take up to three trimesters per year. Course credit can be used toward graduation elective credits.

### Reading Strategies

Classes count towards overall / elective credits

Grade(s): 9-12	Prerequisites: Permission of Instructor
Credit: 1.5	Fees: None
Not a required class	

Students who need intensive language arts - reading support based on their grades, standardized test scores, and/or placement test results will be enrolled in the Reading Strategies course. The purpose of this course is to provide instruction that enable students to accelerate the development of reading and writing skills and to strengthen those skills to help students successfully read and write grade level text independently.

Instruction emphasizes reading, reading comprehension, writing fluency, and vocabulary study. Students will engage in interactive text-based discussions and writing development. *This course does not take the place of English core courses and does not meet requirements for entrance into the University System.*

### Writing and Rhetoric Strategies

Classes count towards overall / elective credits

Grade(s): 9-12	Prerequisites: Permission of Instructor
Credit: 1.5	Fees: None
Not a required class	

This course employs fluent reading, careful listening, models for imitation and progressive steps for successful writing and speaking. Students will have access to excellent writing to emulate. This class also incorporates beautiful works of art and poetry to inspire student’s writing. Students participate in narration, summary, amplification, and

rewriting exercises to help build their writing and speaking skills. *This course does not take the place of English core courses and does not meet requirements for entrance into the University System.*

### **Math Strategies**

Classes count towards overall / elective credits

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisites: Permission of Instructor

Credit: 1.5

Fees: None

Not a required class

This course helps students in need of math support based on their grades, standardized test scores and/or placement test results. The goal of this class is to help the student reach the required benchmarks of the high school math curriculum and to help support them in their current math course. *This course does not take the place of math core courses and does not meet requirements for entrance into the University System.*

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# Course Selection Options and Course ID Numbers for 2025-26

\*Please refer to Graduation Requirements found on page 4 to verify what is needed to graduate.

<u>COURSE ID</u>	<u>ABBREVIATION</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>
174	ADVNOVELS	Advanced Novels	0.5	English
175	ADVWRIT	Advanced Writing	0.5	English
181	ALG FULL A	Algebra Full	0.5	Mathematics
182	ALG FULL B	Algebra Full	0.5	Mathematics
183	ALG FULL C	Algebra Full	0.5	Mathematics
177	ALG IA	Algebra I	0.5	Mathematics
178	ALG IB	Algebra I	0.5	Mathematics
179	ALG IIA	Algebra II	0.5	Mathematics
180	ALG IIB	Algebra II	0.5	Mathematics
185	AP BIOA	AP Biology	0.5	Science
186	AP BIOB	AP Biology	0.5	Science
187	AP BIOC	AP Biology	0.5	Science
631	AP ENVIRO	AP Environmental Science	0.5	Science
632	APENVIROB	AP Environmental Science	0.5	Science
633	APENVIROC	AP Environmental Science	0.5	Science
191	AP ENGLANGA	AP English Language & Comp.	0.5	English
192	AP ENGLANGB	AP English Language & Comp.	0.5	English
193	AP ENGLANGC	AP English Language & Comp.	0.5	English
194	AP ENGLITA	AP English Literature	0.5	English
195	AP ENGLITB	AP English Literature	0.5	English
196	AP ENGLITC	AP English Literature	0.5	English
636	APUNITEDA	AP United States History	0.5	History
637	APUNITEDB	AP United States History	0.5	History

638	APUNITEDC	AP United States History	0.5	History
205	APOL (11)	Apologetics I (11)	0.5	Theology
206	ART	Introduction to Art (Art Foundations)	0.5	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
209	ASTRO	Astronomy	0.5	Science
562	AUSHIST	Australian and Pacific Islands History and Culture	0.5	History
212	AUTOCAD	Auto CAD Fundamentals	0.5	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
224	BIOA	Biology	0.5	Science
225	BIOB	Biology	0.5	Science
232	CERAMICS	Ceramics I	0.5	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
641	CERAM II	Ceramics II	0.5	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
233	CHEMA	Chemistry	0.5	Science
234	CHEMB	Chemistry	0.5	Science
564	CHRERA A	The Christian Era A	0.5	Social Studies
565	CHRERA B	The Christian Era B	0.5	History
236	CHRISTOLOGY (9)	Christology (9)	0.5	Theology
237	CHRISTSCHURCH	Christ's Church and World Rel	0.5	Theology
239	COMPPRO	Intro Computer Programming	0.5	Mathematics
241	CONCERTA	Concert Band	0.5	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
242	CONCERTB	Concert Band	0.5	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
243	CONCERTC	Concert Band	0.5	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
244	CONCERTCHA	Concert Choir	0.5	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
245	CONCERTCHB	Concert Choir	0.5	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
246	CONCERTCHC	Concert Choir	0.5	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
247	CONMATH	Consumer Math	0.5	Mathematics
251	CRWRIT I	Creative Writing I	0.5	English

252	CRWRIT II	Creative Writing II	0.5	English
253	CURRENTIS	Current Issues	0.5	History
266	DIGCIT	Digital Citizenship	0.5	Business,Technology, and Career
639	DISC	Discovering God Through Music	0.5	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
267	DRAWPAINT	Drawing and Painting I	0.5	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
642	DRAWPAINT	Drawing and Painting II	0.5	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
270	ECCLES (10)	Ecclesiology (10)	0.5	Theology
271	ECO	Ecology	0.5	Science
272	ECON	Economics	0.5	History
277	ENG 09A	English 9	0.5	English
278	ENG 09B	English 9	0.5	English
279	ENG 10A	English 10	0.5	English
280	ENG 10B	English 10	0.5	English
281	ENG 11A	English 11	0.5	English
282	ENG 11B	English 11	0.5	English
286	ENTREP	Entrepreneurship	0.5	Business,Technology, and Career
566	ENV LAW	Environmental Law	0.5	Science
287	ENVIRHAZ	Environmental Hazards	0.5	Science
295	GENOCRIMES	Genocide/Crimes Against Humanity	0.5	History
569	GENPHYSA	General Physics A	0.5	Science
570	GENPHYSB	General Physics B	0.5	Science
299	GEOMA	Geometry	0.5	Mathematics
300	GEOMB	Geometry	0.5	Mathematics
568	GRAM	Grammar	0.5	English
188	H CALC ABA	Honors Calculus AB	0.5	Mathematics

189	H CALC ABB	Honors Calculus AB	0.5	Mathematics
190	H CALC ABC	Honors Calculus AB	0.5	Mathematics
307	H CHEMA	Honors Chemistry	0.5	Science
308	H CHEMB	Honors Chemistry	0.5	Science
309	H CHEMC	Honors Chemistry	0.5	Science
311	H PHYSICSA	Honors Physics	0.5	Science
312	H PHYSICSB	Honors Physics	0.5	Science
314	H PROBSTATSA	Honors Prob & Statistics	0.5	Mathematics
315	H PROBSTATSB	Honors Prob & Statistics	0.5	Mathematics
317	HEALTH	Health	0.5	Health
634	INTROENGA	Intro to Engineering Design	0.5	Science
635	INTRO ENGB	Intro to Engineering Design	0.5	Science
330	JAZZENSA	Jazz Ensemble	0.25	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
331	JAZZENSB	Jazz Ensemble	0.25	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
332	JAZZENSC	Jazz Ensemble	0.25	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
333	JAZZHIST	History of Jazz and Blues	0.5	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
334	JAZZIMPROV	Jazz Improvisation	0.5	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
335	JOURN	Journalism	0.5	English
340	LIFESPORTS	Lifetime Sports/Rec Games	0.5	Physical Education
341	LOGIC	Introduction to Logic	0.5	Social Studies
351	MATHSTRAT I	Math Strategies I	0.5	Student Success
364	METALSI	Metals (And Mosaics) I	0.5	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
643	Metals II	Metals (And Mosaics) II	0.5	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
366	MORALITY (11)	Morality (11)	0.5	Theology
370	MUSICAPP	General Music Appreciation	0.5	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
377	MUSTHHIST	History of Musical Theater	0.5	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts

230	INTROCATH	Introduction to Catholic Theology	0.5	Theology
371	MUSICCOMP	Music Composition	0.5	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
373	MUSICTHEORY	Music Theory	0.5	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
378	NEWTESTSCRIPT	New Testament Scripture	0.5	Theology
380	OLDEST SCRIPT	Old Testament Scripture	0.5	Theology
383	PE	Physical Education	0.5	Physical Education
386	PERFIN	Personal Finance	0.5	Business,Technology, and Career
388	PHILINTRO	Introduction to Philosophy	0.5	Theology
389	PHOTO	Photography I	0.5	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
644	PHOTO	Photography II	0.5	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
390	PLTWBIOA	PLTW-Principles of Biomedical Science	0.5	Science
391	PLTWBIOB	PLTW-Principles of Biomedical Science	0.5	Science
392	PLTWENGA	PLTW-Principles of Engineering	0.5	Science
393	PLTWENGB	PLTW-Principles of Engineering	0.5	Science
396	PLTWHUMANA	PLTW-Human Body Systems	0.5	Science
397	PLTWHUMANB	PLTW-Human Body Systems	0.5	Science
398	PLTWHUMANC	PLTW-Human Body Systems	0.5	Science
399	PRECALA	Pre-Calculus	0.5	Mathematics
400	PRECALB	Pre-Calculus	0.5	Mathematics
567	PSYSOC	Psychology & Sociology	0.5	History
405	READSTRAT I	Reading Strategies I	0.5	Student Success
412	REALLIT	Real World Lit-Adv Non Fiction	0.5	English
414	RESOURCE	<b>All School Resource</b>	<b>0</b>	
415	RHETCOMM	Rhetoric & Communication	0.5	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts
416	SACRAMENTS (10)	Sacraments	0.5	Theology



268	SCI 9 A	Physical Science 9 A	0.5	Science
269	SCI 9 B	Physical Science 9 B	0.5	Science
420	SCRIPTURE (9)	Scripture (9)	0.5	Theology
421	SERVLEARN	Service Learning	0.5	Theology
433	SPAN IA	Spanish I	0.5	World Language
434	SPAN IB	Spanish I	0.5	World Language
435	SPAN IIA	Spanish II	0.5	World Language
436	SPAN IIB	Spanish II	0.5	World Language
561	TEAMSP	Team Sports	0.5	Physical Education
459	TRIG	Trigonometry	0.5	Mathematics
460	USGOV	United States Government	0.5	History
461	USHISTA	United States History A	0.5	History
462	USHISTB	United State History B	0.5	History
463	VOC (12)	Vocations (12)	0.5	Theology
563	WEATHCLI	Weather and Climate	0.5	Science
467	WESTCIVA	Western Civilization A	0.5	History
468	WESTCIVB	Western Civilization B	0.5	History
470	WGHTRAIN	Intro to Weight Training	0.5	Physical Education
469	WGHTLIFT	Weight Lifting	0.5	Physical Education
477	WRRH I	Writing/Rhetoric Strategies I	0.5	Student Success

## **Our Vision**

MACS will be a beacon of faith, hope, and love by inspiring each student to embrace his or her identity as a beloved son or daughter of God, while discovering and developing their unique gifts.

We will immerse students and families in an authentic Catholic culture which fosters love of truth, beauty, and goodness. We will challenge all students to pursue academic excellence, critical thinking, and intellectual inquiry.

We will prepare McDonell graduates to be a transforming force within society, sharing the Gospel and working for the common good as productive, virtuous citizens.

## **Our Mission**

Centered on Jesus Christ and His Church, we partner with families to nurture young people's spiritual, intellectual, physical, and moral formation through a PreK-12 Catholic liberal arts education and vibrant student life of discipleship, athletics, and the arts.

## **Our Core Values**

Faith, honor, academic excellence, healthy living, community, and servant leadership



*McDonell Central Catholic High School is accredited by Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools*