



**MCDONELL AREA
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

Est. 1882

Chippewa Falls, WI

**McDonnell Central Catholic
High School**

**Course Offerings &
Graduation Requirements**

2022-2023

McDonell Central Catholic High School

OUR MISSION

McDonell Area Catholic Schools are committed to the formation of community, academic excellence and the spiritual and physical well-being of each student in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

OUR VISION

We are the school of choice for an excellent Catholic faith-based education within the Chippewa Falls area. We welcome all families to be a part of our school community no matter their faith or financial means. In partnership with our parents, we form the whole child in support of our values and mission.

Our vision of the whole child consists of a lifelong learner, who upon graduation, is academically prepared for post-secondary education and career, grounded in relationship with Jesus Christ, balanced physically and emotionally, and actively engages as a servant leader in family, parish and civic communities.

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.

Table of Contents

Graduation Requirements	4
Grades 9 - 12	5
Grading System & Trimester Schedule	6
Course Registration Process	7
Additional Learning Opportunities (ALO)	7
Post-Secondary Education	8
Course Description by Department	11
Arts: Performing and Fine Arts	11
Business, Technology, and Career	18
English Language Arts	20
Foreign language	26
History and Social Sciences	29
Mathematics	34
Physical Education and Health	38
Science	40
Theology	46
Student Success Strategies	51
Course Selection Options 2022-2023	53

Graduation Requirements

Graduation: Students must successfully complete the following course of study.

<u>Starting with the freshman class in 2022-23</u> <u>Class of 2026 & '25 = 31 credits</u>		<u>Requirements for Graduation Class 2023</u>	
English Language Arts	4.0 Credits	English Language Arts	4.0 Credits
Foreign Language (start with '26)	2.0 Credits	Foreign Language	0 Credits
History/Social Sciences	4.0 Credits	History/Social Sciences	3.5 Credits
Math	3.0 Credits	Math	3.0 Credits
Arts: Performing and Fine Arts	2.0 Credits	Arts: Performing and Fine Arts	2.0 Credits
Business, Technology, Career	1.0 Credits	Business, Technology, Career	0.5 Credits
Physical Education	1.5 Credits	Physical Education	1.5 Credits
Health	0.5 Credits	Health	0.5 Credits
Science	4.0 Credits	Science	3.0 Credits
Theology	4.0 Credits	Theology	4.0 Credits
Electives	5.0 Credits	Electives	6.5 Credits
CREDITS REQUIRED TO GRADUATE	31 Credits	CREDITS REQUIRED TO GRADUATE	28.5 Credits

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.

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.

Note: *Courses worth ½ credit are one trimester long, and courses worth 1 credit are two trimesters long.*

Grades 9 - 12

GRADE 9

Required

- Theology: Intro to Catholicism
 - Theology: Encounter Christ
 - English 9
 - Western Civ/World Hist.
 - History/SS: Intro to Logic
 - Mathematics (Alg 1 or Geometry)
 - 9-Earth & Space Science
 - Health
 - Spanish I
 - Intro to Art
-

GRADE 10

Required

- Theology: The Paschal Mystery
 - Theology: The Sacraments
 - English 10
 - History (U.S. History or AP U.S. History)
 - Mathematics (Geometry or Alg II)
 - Biology
 - Physical Education
 - Spanish II
 - Art-Performance: Rhetoric & Communication
-

GRADE 11

Required

- Theology: Ecclesiology
 - Theology: Moral Life in Christ
 - English 11 (or AP Eng Lit and Comp)
 - Suggested History/SS elective
 - Mathematics (Alg II if not taken)
 - Chemistry
 - Physical Education
 - Personal Finance
 - Digital Citizenship
-

GRADE 12 *(please refer to your graduation year requirements)*

Required

- Theology: Vocations in Christ
- English (if haven't fulfilled 4 credit requirement)
- Science (if haven't fulfilled 4 credit requirement)
- United States Government *(ALL graduating seniors must pass the Wisconsin State Civics exam)*
- History/SS: Economics
- PE (if haven't fulfilled 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.

Course Offerings:

McDonnell 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 Block Schedule

McDonnell Central Catholic High School runs on a Trimester Block Schedule. In this schedule, most students take six classes per term.

Example of a Freshman Schedule:

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
7:50 - 8:52	Western Civilization	Western Civilization	Intro to Logic
8:55-9:55	English 9	English 9	Science 9
9:58-10:58	Theology - Catholicism	Science 9	Theology - Encounter Christ
11:01-12:38	Spanish I/Lunch	Spanish I/Lunch	Algebra I/Lunch
12:41-1:41	Intro to Art	Algebra I	Health
1:44-2:44	Band/Choir/Elective	Band/Choir/Elective	Band/Choir/Elective
2:47-3:30	Resource	Resource	Resource

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:

- Review and be familiar with the requirements for graduation from McDonell Central Catholic High School.
- Before selecting a course, read the course description and that all prerequisites (if any) are met.
- Secure teacher written consent if the course indicates teacher approval needed.
- Be aware of post-secondary entrance requirements. The school counselor can help 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.
- The school's master schedule is built on student requests and requirements. Students will be expected to take courses they signed up for (including alternates). 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. The completed approval form is signed by the principal before course change is made official.

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 junior or senior at McDonell Central Catholic High School
- The student must be in good standing and on track for graduation and the course requested may not be similar to a course that is offered at McDonell Central Catholic High School
- 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.

Technical College Courses

CVTC (Chippewa Valley Technical College) has developed a program to provide courses to high school students in private schools. 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. Students/parents pay for these courses. Fees: \$131 - \$174 per credit

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 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: \$50 per Viterbo credit

Wisconsin Youth Apprenticeship Program

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.

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). Most Wisconsin schools require [ACT](#).
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. Private colleges and universities and out of state schools may have different requirements.

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

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 some UW System schools have additional college prep 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 include:

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

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

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

10 - Rhetoric and Communication

Electives - Performing Arts

Concert Band

Concert Choir

Discovering God Through

Music

Harmonics

History of Jazz/Blues

History of Musical Theater

Jazz Ensemble

Jazz Improvisation

Music Composition

Music Theory

Musical Theater

Performing Arts Foundation

World Music

Electives - Fine Arts

Arts and Crafts

AutoCAD

Ceramics

Digital Photography

Drawing and Painting

Metals

Modern Art History

Photography

Yearbook

Introduction to Art

Grade(s): 9
Credit: .5
Required

Prerequisites: None
Fees: None

This Introduction to Art course is a prerequisite for the Drawing and Painting, Ceramics, Metals, and Arts & Crafts courses. Students will review the elements of design introduced in the middle school curriculum with an emphasis on how the elements are used to create the principles of design. Students will create pencil, colored pencil, and marker drawings, watercolor paintings, paper collages, tooled-metal projects, etchings, and linoleum prints. In this course and all that follow students will explore the importance of art in their life and the lives of other people and cultures.

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
Credit: .5
Not a required class

Prerequisites: None
Fees: None

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.

Harmonics

Grade(s): 9-12
Credit: 1
Not a required class

Prerequisites: Choir
Fees: None

Harmonics is an extracurricular performing ensemble that will meet in the morning before school. In this class students will learn proper reading and singing techniques to prepare popular music for performance. After learning music, they will learn choreography to go with the music.

History of Jazz/Blues

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

Prerequisites: English 10
Fees: None

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
Credit: .5
Not a required class

Prerequisites: None
Fees: None

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 class period.

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): 9-12 Prerequisites: Band 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 and through computer software that shows their knowledge of classical, world, and popular techniques.

Music Theory

Grade(s): 11, 12 Prerequisites: 8 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.

Musical Theatre

Grade(s): 11, 12 Prerequisites: None
Credit: .5 Fees: None
Not a required class

This class seeks to explore multiple aspects of Musical Theatre through a number of “mini-units” throughout the trimester. Each unit will last approximately two weeks, and includes the topics of Acting, Directing, Choreography, Theatre History, Lighting/Sound Design, Costumes/Makeup, and Playwrights/Composers. For the final exam, students will be able to choose their favorite unit from the semester that they wish to be tested on. Because theatre is such a broad discipline, we want to allow each and every student to find their home within the unit that fits them best.

Performing Arts Foundation

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

This class gives a wonderful overview of style and genre in the history of the performing arts. Exploring the history of performance from the medieval era to the contemporary 21st century, students make connections between music, dance, drama and events in history. Students gain a perspective on how the arts evolve and change as civilizations proceed in time and what stays the same - beauty.

World Music

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

World music introduces concepts, ideas, techniques, communities, instruments, and styles of music from different cultures around the world. The regions explored will include Africa, Oceania, Middle East, East Asia, Latin America, Europe, and North America (Native American music). They will explore how music is written and shared in these cultures and the connections to current American music.

FINE ARTS

Arts and Crafts

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12 Prerequisites: Intro to Art
Credit: .5 Fees: None
Not a required class

This Arts and Crafts course will introduce students to processes and materials which can lead to fulfilling life-long activities and hobbies. Projects include stained glass mosaics, glass etching, metal tooling, batik, wood sculptures, paper arts, and more.

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

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Intro to Art

Fees: None

This Ceramics course will introduce students to the basic hand-building techniques needed to create clay pieces that embrace form as well as function. After mastering these techniques -- pinch pot, coiling, and slab construction -- students will throw pottery on the potter's wheel. Some of those pieces will be combined with the hand-built techniques to create unique ceramic works of art.

Digital Photography

Grade(s): 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Intro to Art

Fees: None

Digital Photography course will give a comprehensive overview of digital cameras, and steps to taking photos. Students will also learn how to select the proper lens for every photo. Students will learn how to compose a subject or scene, lighting properties, and levels of exposure. We will cover the basics of Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Lightroom. Students will also learn the history of photography and different styles. The Digital Photography course will take a field trip to a professional photo studio and learn how a photo lab is run.

Drawing and Painting

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Intro to Art

Fees: None

This Drawing and Painting course will expand on pencil drawing techniques acquired in Introduction to Art with the introduction of various drawing materials such as charcoal, ink, and pastels. The painting portion of this course will introduce the students to acrylic and oil painting on canvas, with an emphasis on each student discovering his or her unique style. There will be a continued emphasis on the elements and principle of design previously covered in Introduction to Art.

Metals

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Intro to Art

Fees: None

This Metals course will introduce students to fabrication, a basic metal-smith technique, with which they will create rings, broaches, bracelets, and pendants. After mastering those techniques, students will explore metal casting to create jewelry and small figurative pieces

Modern Art History

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Intro to Art

Fees: None

This course is an overview of art movements from the 1860's to the present. Each unit focuses on physical art and music that corresponds with the time period. Artists examined include: Edouard Manet, Pablo Picasso, Georgia O'Keeffe, Ansel Adams, Andy Warhol, Berthe Morisot, Frida Kahlo, and Yayoi Kusama. Music examined includes Jazz, Blues, Electronic and Indie. Students will explore the history, culture, artist, and their works of art and engage in discussions that employ analytical thinking as well as the emotions and inspiration that the art may bring to the student. Students will use their knowledge and work as teams to create and curate classroom art museums.

Photography

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Intro to Art

Fees: Access to 35mm film camera

This Photography course introduces students to traditional black and white photography techniques and requires each student to have access to a 35mm camera (these are often available second-hand at thrift shops or a grandparent's home!). They will learn how to compose photos, develop film, and make enlargements from the negatives they have created. Students will also explore digital photography in this course.

Yearbook

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: None

Fees: None

This course introduces students to the various aspects of the yearbook and journalistic techniques/laws. Students will gain knowledge in writing, layout, editing, and production. Also included will be aspects of photography and Photoshop/online editing with the yearbook site. Each student will be expected to actively participate in the production of the yearbook. This requires students to be present at after-school events to take photos, conduct interviews, gather team statistics, etc. Yearbook may be taken more than one trimester with instructor approval.

Business, Technology, and Career

Required Courses - 1 Credit Required

Digital Citizenship
Personal Finance

Electives

Accounting I
Entrepreneurship
Skills for Success After High School

Digital Citizenship

Grade(s): 11
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
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.

Accounting I

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

Prerequisites: None
Fees: None

Accounting I provides an understanding of the basic elements of double-entry accounting systems. Accounting is the basis for any college major in business or related areas. Students will learn the accounting equation, the accounting cycle, journal entries, posting to a ledger, and end- of-period fiscal reports for a sole proprietorship.

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.

Skills for Success After High School

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: None

Fees: None

Skills for Success After High School is an elective course for seniors who wish to receive a plethora of practical skills that will prepare them for life on their own. This course is structured in a very hands-on manner, focusing on two main areas of adult life: Job Interviews and Renting a Home. Within these two units, students will learn how to properly construct a resume and cover letter, participate in a mock job interview, navigate a simulation to show the intricacies of finances, and compare the cost of eating out regularly to that of cooking for themselves. Throughout the course, students are given the opportunity to share their existing knowledge about the above topics with their classmates, as they work collaboratively with their teacher to prepare them for a post-high school life.

English Language Arts

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 Credits Required

English 9 - Multi Genre Literature and Composition
English 10 - Great American Novel, Short Stories, and Composition
English 11 - American Literature and Shakespeare (or AP Literature and composition - teacher approval)
Additional credit to meet graduation requirement

Electives

AP/Honors English Language and Composition
AP English Literature and Composition
Advanced Novels - Great Classics
Advanced Victorian Lit
Advanced Writing
British Literature
Creative Writing I
Creative Writing II
Journalism
Oral Communication
Read, Write, Relax (general elective)
Real World Literature

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 - Great American Novel, Short Stories, and Composition

Grade(s): 10

Prerequisites: English 9

Credit: 1

Fees: None

Required

In this course students will explore literature throughout American history. The literature will focus on three major novels along with fiction and nonfiction: essays, plays, and short stories. Novels covered are Huckleberry Finn, To Kill a Mockingbird, and Of Mice and Men. Some of the works that students will explore include the writings of Langston Hughes, Tomas Wolfe, Robert Cormier and O. Henry.

Students will build knowledge of the times in which Mark Twain lived. They explore the Mississippi and river transportation. They also study the varied illustrations of the novel characters and discuss the artwork depicting their portrayal. Using the lens of the Catholic Social Teachings, students write essays that include the value of education, courage, bravery, and justice.

Students will progress in their studies by applying the proper terms used to analyze literature. Likewise, improvement in the areas of vocabulary, proper use of the English language, and composition are developed throughout the course. Extensive discussion is done to investigate different approaches to answering questions based on Bloom's taxonomy. Projects that involve the use of art, music, writing, and technology will be used to enhance the learning experience or be a form of evaluation.

A research paper dealing with a period during American history will be written ensuring the proper use of taking notes, outlining, and citing the information. Students will learn to make the correct work cited pages and follow the format required to write a 5-7 page paper. Formal and informal presentations will be given upon completion of projects.

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 (most often technology-based) 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 readings of *Romeo and Juliet* and *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

This course includes the in-depth study of novels that are considered classics in the literature world. Historical background will be introduced for the students to fully understand the impact the novel has on the world. Additionally, information on the author will be presented so students can see the connection to the author's life and how it influenced his/her writing. Group discussions and follow-up projects will provide an opportunity for the students to share their reactions to the literature. Some examples of the novels are as follows: *Scarlet Letter*, *The Great Gatsby*, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *1984*, *The Old Man and the Sea*, *Brave New World*, *Red Badge of Courage*. Writing essays using details and evidence from the work to support the prompt given will be a form of evaluation. Formal and informal speaking skills will be an essential part of the class when sharing thoughts and reactions to the novel and when presenting class projects.

Advanced Placement (AP)/Honors English Language and Composition

Grade(s): 11, 12 Prerequisites: English 9, English 10; Teacher approval
Credit: 1 Fees: Must pay fee if taking for college credit through
Not a required class Viterbo; AP exam

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 or may be taken for [dual credit through Viterbo](#).

Advanced Placement (AP) English Literature and Composition

Grade(s): 11, 12 Prerequisites: English 9, English 10; This class may be
Credit: 1.5 taken in place of English 11 with teacher approval
Not a required class Fees: AP exam

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 Collegeboard, will be assigned regularly in preparation for the AP test. All students are encouraged to take the test as extensive preparation is given in class for the exam.

Advanced Writing

Grade(s): 11, 12

Prerequisites: English 9, 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

Advanced Victorian Literature and Culture

Grade(s): 10-12

Prerequisites: English 9

Credit: 1

English 10 (or concurrent enrollment)

Not a required class

Fees: None

An examination of Victorian poetry and novels. The course will cover British literature and culture during Queen Victoria's long reign, from 1837-1901. The course also explores formal developments in the period as they relate to said literature, such as urbanization, class struggle, scientific upheaval, religious expression, imperial expansion, and bureaucratization. Students will also learn customs, habits, and etiquette of the period. Writers covered will include the Brontes, Hardy, Eliot, and others. Written essays and projects will be central to the focus of the course.

British Literature

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

Prerequisites: English 9, English 10

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Not a required class

This course is designed for the students to read and have an appreciation for the great British writers. Through group discussions the students will share their thoughts and insights about the period in which the works were written. Analysis of the writing styles and literary devices used in the writing will be a critical part of the course. Works such as Beowulf, Frankenstein, Pride and Prejudice, The Hobbit, short stories by Charles Dickens, and poetry by great poets as

Robert Browning, Dylan Thomas, and Samuel Coleridge will be read. Students will have an opportunity to further investigate the art, music, and other cultural undertakings about the period they are studying. Writing essays incorporating the details and evidence to support the prompt given will be a form of evaluation. Speaking skills will be done both formally and informally, so students will share their observations and group projects done in class.

Creative Writing I

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

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 or approval from the teacher

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.

Journalism

Grade(s): 9-12

Prerequisites: None

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Not a required class

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.

Oral Communication

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

Prerequisites: None
Fees: None

This course emphasizes the importance and beauty of public speaking in a variety of genres throughout the term. Students will strive to better their speaking skills to not only give successful speeches within the class, but to help sharpen their rhetorical skills for use in their adult lives. Students will be able to use their unique individual voices to speak truth on a variety of topics as they navigate their way through the course.

The content of this class will focus on a variety of types of public speaking, including: persuasive, demonstrative, and informative. Students will also get the opportunity to give their own oral interpretations of poetry, prose, and dramatic pieces. By the end of the class, students will have a firm grasp on what it takes to be a successful public speaker, and will be better prepared for the public speaking experiences they will encounter in college and beyond..

Read, Write, Relax

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

Prerequisites: None
Fees: None

Read, Write, Relax strives to do exactly what it states: to let students encounter beautiful and worthwhile texts in a low-stress environment. This class’ primary goal is to emphasize the joy that can and should accompany the consumption of texts within a variety of genres. Students will be given a calm, serene environment in which they can discover subjects and authors that personally interest them, as well as a basis of including reading for pleasure in their daily lives.

Students will encounter a variety of quality texts, several of which are geared towards young adults and reluctant readers. A number of renowned, diverse, successful authors will be celebrated in this course, including: Jason Reynolds, Elizabeth Acevedo, and Neal Schusterman; as well as authors from the previous few decades such as Douglas Adams, Marie Lu, and Gary Paulson. Multi-model projects, journals, and other short writing assignments will act as assessments for the class. By the end of the course, students will gain an appreciation for leisurely reading, and may even have a new favorite author (or two). ***This course does not fulfill the English 4 credit requirement but serves as a general elective.***

Real World Literature - Advanced Nonfiction Novels

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

Prerequisites: English 9
Fees: None

This course is to introduce the students to read about some true stories that will leave them with eye-opening experiences. Students will be moved by the story of some soldiers' lives in Vietnam after they return to the United States, to a boy soldier’s life in Sierra Leone after rebels overtake his village in Africa. Then they will “travel” with a young man to Alaska on a quest to “find himself,” to Kansas to experience the murder of a whole family. Students will work in

groups to discuss the impact the events in the book have on them and society and how Catholic Social Teachings come into play. Projects based on each novel will be shared in class. Essays will be a form of evaluation in which the students will use text to provide evidence to support their position on the prompt given. Most of the author's have shared their thoughts on writing these books, so the students will have an opportunity to appreciate and comment on the impact writing a nonfiction book had on their lives.

Foreign language

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

9 - Spanish I (*Requirement starts in the 2022-23 school year*)

10 - Spanish II (*Requirement starts in the 2023-24 school year*)

Electives

Spanish III

Spanish IV

Latin I

Spanish I - Introduction to Spanish

Grade(s): 9 (*required 2022-23*) 10-12

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 (*required 2024-25*) 11, 12

Prerequisites: Spanish I

Credit: 1

Fees: None

Required

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. More irregular verbs in the present and past tenses will be introduced, as well as other verb forms, plus the difference between *conocer* and *saber*.

Spanish III - Conversational Spanish Immersion

Grade(s): 11, 12

Prerequisites: Spanish I, Spanish II

Credit: 1

Fees: None

Not a required class

This course familiarizes students with "The Dirty War" of Argentina through reading the novel, *La Guerra Sucia* by Nathaniel Kirby, and discussing art work in regard to that time period, and a project involving that time and place. A different possibility is studying the Latin American Refugee Crisis through the novel, *Esperanza*, by Carol Gaab. An excellent array of artists joined to create a gallery of paintings depicting the current refugee crisis in Latin America. Included would be a research paper on the Refugee Crisis. Building on previous foundational principles, reflexive verbs, future and conditional tenses, as well as the subjunctive mood and formal commands will also be introduced.

Jim Woolrich (Senor Wooly) has a captivating video introducing the present perfect tense called *Encerrada en la Escuela* (Locked in the School!) and the reflexive verbs in the video, *No voy a levantarme*, (I'm Not Going to Get Up)

Spanish IV - Spanish Literature and Grammar

Grade(s): 12

Prerequisites: Spanish I, Spanish II, Spanish III

Credit: 1

Fees: None

Not a required class

This course examines and discusses stories, songs, art and videos. *El Hombre del Bar* by Jordi Surís and Rosa María Rialp, is a fictional thriller that is part of the Spain unit. The historical fiction novel, *Casa Dividida* by Chris Mercer will be a different unit that delves into the Cuban world. Also included are art pieces related to Spain and historical Cuba, along with poems and songs related to Spain and Cuba. These units will include a project or presentation. The present and past subjunctive mood, and present and past perfect tenses, the present and past progressive tenses will be focused on as well as all other tenses.

Latin I

Grade(s): 11, 12

Prerequisites: None

Credit: 1

Fees: None

Not a required class

Latin I is the introduction to the language and culture of the ancient Romans. While learning Latin, students also study the influence of Latin upon their own language. Although the ancient Roman Empire is long gone, Latin, its official language, deeply affected the history and culture of Western Civilization. With the help of the Catholic Church, which adopted Latin as its own sacred language, Latin was preserved and taught throughout the Western World well into the twentieth century as the language of the learned. Even today, whether we know it or not, our lives are surrounded by the vestiges of the Latin language. Take for example these common abbreviations: A.M. and P.M., A.D. and etc. Or these technical terms: rigor mortis, ad hoc, de facto, or modus operandi. Because of Latin's role as the precursor of English as a "universal language," a rudimentary knowledge of Latin is beneficial to the students of almost any modern subject, including science, law, medicine, language studies, not to mention its indispensable role in the life of Christianity itself and the liturgy of the Catholic Church.

This course will be two trimesters long with the aim of introducing students to the riches of the Latin language. Students will learn the basics of the language while getting a grasp on the historical influence Latin has had on our own English language. The course will take a look at the historical context of the Roman Empire in which the language developed and the home it found in the Catholic Church in the wake of the Empire's collapse. Students will be challenged to read and write in Latin, with the goal of being able to read simple historical texts by the course's end.

History and Social Sciences

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/World History
9 - Intro to Logic - Social Science
10 - United States History (or AP US History)
US Government
Economics

Electives

AP United States History
Current Issues
European History
Geography
Psychology
Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity
Principles of Leadership
Servant Leadership - Service Learning
Sociology

Introduction to Logic

Grade(s): 9

Credit: .5

Required Class

Prerequisites: None

Fees: None

This course introduces students to informal logic which includes information on logical fallacies and an emphasis on inductive reasoning, and strong versus weak and fallacious arguments. Informal logic concentrates on evaluating the content of an argument and focuses mostly with “ordinary language arguments” in the interchange of ideas between people. God created man with the ability to reason. Through reasoning, our minds are able to discern truth.

Western Civilization/World History

Grade(s): 9

Prerequisites: None

Credit: 1

Fees: None

Required Class

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.

United States History

Grade(s): 10

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.

Advanced Placement (AP) United States History (APUSH)

Grade(s): 10, 11, and 12

Prerequisites: Western Civilization/World History, with teacher approval

Credit: 1.5

Fees: AP Exam

Not a required class

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. All students in this class are expected to take the A.P. Exam.

Permission of the instructor is required to take this class

United States Government

Grade(s): 11, 12

Prerequisites: United States History

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Required Class

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

Prerequisites: 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.

Current Issues

Grade(s): 9, 10, 11, and 12
Credit: .5 Credit
Not a required class

Prerequisites: None
Fees: None

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.

European History

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

Prerequisites: Successful completion of US History
Fees: None

The European history course is a thematic review of the major political, economic, military, social, and cultural events that have shaped the European experience and the modern world. The time span of the course is from the late Middle Ages and Renaissance to the present.

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.

Geography

Grade(s): 9, 10, 11, and 12

Prerequisites: None

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Not a required class

This course studies the physical features of the earth and its atmosphere as well as human activity. The various regions of the world will be studied, stressing the themes of physical, political, cultural, and economic geography in each region. This course is designed to be project based with the students creating a “Big Map” of the world with various key geographic features and points of interest. Students will also be tasked with creating a nation-state using every aspect of geography we have discussed in class. Geography is strongly recommended for all students, but especially college-bound students.

Principles of Leadership

Grade(s): 10, 11, and 12

Prerequisites: None

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Not a required class

Students in Principles of Leadership will study leadership theory and skills expressed in communication and management styles of prominent figures. Students will work to hone their own skills at leading in their daily lives, understanding communication, service, and giving and receiving effective feedback. Finally, students will study what being a transformative/servant leader is. Students will need this course as a prerequisite for Servant Leadership - Service Learning course.

Psychology

Grade(s): 10, 11, and 12

Prerequisites: None

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Not a required class

In 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.

Servant Leadership - Service Learning

Grade(s): 12

Prerequisites: Principles of Leadership *(no prereq for class of '23)*

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Not a required class

This class is for senior students to go out into the community to serve others. All students are admitted by successfully completing the Principles of Leadership course and teacher recommendation. Students will be placed at a service site for the duration of the quarter and will report each day for the entirety of the block. 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 several written assignments as well as discussions with other students in the class.

Sociology

Grade(s): 10-12

Prerequisites: Principles of Leadership

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Not a required class

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

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

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

Electives

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

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 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
Fees: None

Credit: 1

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): 11 (*Teacher permission if taken in grades 10 or 12*) Prerequisites: Algebra I, Geometry
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.

Advanced Placement (AP) Probability and Statistics

Grade(s): 11, 12 Prerequisites: Algebra II

Credit: 1 Fees: TI-84 Calculator

Not a required class

Advanced Placement 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. Prerequisite: Algebra II. TI-84 Calculator is required.

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 have the option of taking the Advanced Placement Test in May.

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.

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.

Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus

Grade(s): 11, 12 Prerequisites: Trigonometry, PreCalculus

Credit: 1.5 Fees: TI-84 Calculator

Not a required class

Advanced Placement 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 have the option of taking the Advanced Placement Test in May.

Consumer Math

Grade(s): 11, 12

Prerequisites: Algebra I

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Not a required class

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.

Introduction to Computer Programming

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: Algebra 1, Geometry

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Not a required class

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): 12

Prerequisites: Algebra 1, Geometry, and Introduction to Engineering

Credit: 1

Teacher consent is required

Not a required class

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.

Physical Education and Health

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; PE 1.5)

9 - Health and Wellness

Electives

Physical Education
Recreational Games
Sports Performance

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.

Physical Education

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

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.

Recreational Games

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

This class is designed to expose students to a wide variety of activities that they can be involved in throughout their lives. Students will receive fundamental basics in selected activities as well as learn how to seek out activities based on their needs and desires. Students will be expected to demonstrate their learning through participation in daily physical activity, as well as through traditional projects and assessments.

Sports Performance

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.

Science

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 - Earth & Space Science A & B
10 - Biology A & B
11 - Chemistry A & B

Electives

Advanced Astronomy	Electricity and Magnetism
AP Biology	Environmental Hazards
AP Chemistry	Environmental Law
AP Environmental Sci	Human Anatomy and Physiology
AP Physics	Human Body Systems (PLTW)
Biochemistry	Introduction to Engineering (PLTW)
Ecology	Principles of Biomedical Science (PLTW)

9-Earth and Space Science A

Grade(s): 9
Credit: .5
Required

Prerequisites: None
Fees: None

Earth’s place in the Universe. This course is an introduction to the study of the methods and tools of the scientist, including the Scientific Method, conversions using dimensional analysis, variables, scientific notation, accuracy & precision. Earth & Space topics include light spectra, star life cycles, the sun, fusion, empirical evidence for the origin of the universe, Big Bang and other Theories, Kepler’s Laws, solar system, Humans in space & exploration, Earth/Sun cycles, rock record, fossil record, biogeology, and geologic history.

9-Earth and Space Science B

Grade(s): 9
Credit: .5
Required

Prerequisites: Earth & Space Science A
Fees: None

Earth’s Systems. This course is an introduction to the study of the methods and tools of the scientist, including the Scientific Method, conversions using dimensional analysis, variables, scientific notation, accuracy & precision. Topics

in Earth's Systems include wind, water, ice, feedback, radioactive decay, Earth's interior and thermal convection, system cycles, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, mass wasting, Solar radiation & climate cycles, anthropogenic climate influences, and weather.

Biology A

Grade(s): 10

Prerequisites: Earth & Space Science AB

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Required

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.

Biology B

Grade(s): 10

Prerequisites: Biology A

Credit: .5

Fees: None

Required

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 are reproduction and basic genetics, complex genetics and biotechnology, biological evolution, and ecology. 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

Grade(s): 11

Prerequisites: Earth and Space Science AB, Biology AB

Credit: .5

Corequisite: Algebra I

Required

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.

Chemistry B

Grade(s): 11

Prerequisites: Chemistry A

Credit: .5

Corequisite: Algebra I

Required

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 second part of chemistry covers ionic & covalent bonding & nomenclature, molecular geometry, basic organic chemistry, introduction to mols and basic stoichiometry, gas laws, acids and bases, and the basics of nuclear chemistry.

Advanced Astronomy

Grade(s): 11, 12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Earth & Space Science AB, Biology AB

Corequisite: Algebra I

Fees: AP Exam fees

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), and exoplanetary topics.

Advanced Placement (AP) Biology

Grade(s): 11, 12

Credit: 1.5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Biology AB

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.

Advanced Placement (AP) Chemistry

Grade(s): 11,12

Credit: 1.5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Chemistry AB

Corequisites: Algebra II

Fees: AP Exam fees

The AP 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 enrolled in this course are expected to take the AP Exam in May. Successful completion of the AP exam will count as college credit.

Advanced Placement (AP) Environmental Science

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Credit: 1.5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Earth & Space Science AB, Biology AB

Corequisites: Algebra I

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.

Advanced Placement (AP) Physics

Grade(s): 11,12

Credit: 1

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Earth & Space Science AB, Biology AB

Corequisites: Algebra II and Trigonometry

Fees: AP Exam fees

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 enrolled in this course are expected to take the AP Exam in May. Successful completion of the AP exam will count as college credit.

Biochemistry

Grade(s): 11, 12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Chemistry AB

Corequisites: Algebra II

Fees: None

As a natural science, biochemistry is the study of the chemical processes that drive biological systems. This course explores the basic principles of biochemistry and develops the student's appreciation and understanding of biological networks. This course will include an introduction to organic chemistry.

Ecology

Grade(s): 10-12

Credit: .5

Not a required class

Prerequisites: Biology AB

Fees: None

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.

Electricity and Magnetism

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: Earth & Space Science AB

Credit: 1

Fees: None

Not a required class

The course will present why electricity is important for general technological literacy. In addition, many engineering careers require a fundamental knowledge of electricity in order to invent, design, and build technologies that we depend upon every day. A thorough examination of the forces at work behind electricity puts students at an advantage for many engineering disciplines and other science related fields.

The main concepts presented in this class include the science behind electricity and how magnetism plays a great role in this process. Students first review the structure of atoms and learn that electrons are the particles behind electrical current and the motivation for electron movement. They compare conductors and insulators based on their capabilities for electron flow. Through hands-on application, they learn the differences between static and dynamic forms of electricity as well as basic functions of other everyday electrical devices and components.

Environmental Hazards

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisites: Earth & Space Science 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.

Human Anatomy and Physiology

Grade(s): 11-12

Prerequisites: B+ or better in Biology AB

Credit: 1

Fees: None

Not a required class

This course is designed for students with a strong interest in Human Anatomy or intend to enter a career field related to medicine. This rigorous course emphasizes how the structure of the components of the human body are well-suited to match its function. Content will be learned through a combination of lab, lecture, and dissection. The largest dissection of the course will be a feline dissection where we explore the muscular system. In addition, students will be exposed to medical terminology through various case studies.

Skills that will be learned are to search through databases for peer-reviewed journal articles to be used in lab reports. This skill directly relates to the student's future: it will be necessary for any undergraduate scientist. In addition, this course will prepare the student for college level Anatomy and Physiology: a requirement for any medical professional.

Human Body Systems (PLTW)

Grade(s): 10-12

Prerequisites: Principles of Biomedical Science (PLTW)

Credit: 1

Fees: None

Not a required class

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

Prerequisites: None

Credit: 1

Fees: None

Not a required class

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): 10-12

Prerequisites: Biology AB (or concurrent enrollment)

Credit: 1

Fees: None

Not a required class

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.

Theology

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

9A - Catholic Theology 101

9B - Encountering Christ

10A - The Paschal Mystery

12 - Vocation in Christ

**(Theology Of the Body is taught in core theology classes)*

Electives

Catholic Social Teachings

Christ’s Church and World Religions

Church History

10B - The Sacraments
11A- Ecclesiology
11B - Moral Life in Christ

Philosophy 101
Sacred Scripture

Theology 9A - Catholic Theology 101

Grade(s): 9
Credit: .5
Required

Prerequisites: None
Fees: None

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.

Theology 9B - Encountering Christ

Grade(s): 9
Credit: .5
Required

Prerequisites: Theology 9A
Fees: None

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.

Theology 10A - The Paschal Mystery

Grade(s): 10
Credit: .5
Required

Prerequisites: Theology 9AB
Fees: None

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.

Theology 10B - The Sacraments

Grade(s): 10
Credit: .5
Required

Prerequisites: Theology 9AB, Theology 10A
Fees: None

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.

Theology 11A - Ecclesiology

Grade(s): 11

Credit: .5

Required

Prerequisites: Theology 9AB, Theology 10AB

Fees: None

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.

Theology 11B - Moral Life in Christ

Grade(s): 11

Credit: .5

Required

Prerequisites: Theology 11A

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.

Theology 12 - Vocation in Christ

Grade(s): 12

Credit: .5

Required

Prerequisites: Theology 9AB, 10AB, 11AB

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.

Catholic Social Teachings

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

Prerequisites: None
Fees: None

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the Church's social teaching. In this course, students are to learn how Christ's concern for others is present today in the Church's social teaching and mission. Special emphasis will be given to the Church's social teaching on the Life and Dignity of the Human Person, as this teaching is foundational for the other social teachings.

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.

Church History

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

Prerequisites: Theology 9AB
Fees: None

Students will explore the history of the Catholic Church beginning with her origins in the beginning of time and institution during the earthly life of Christ, to the period of rapid growth in the apostolic era and the centuries that followed, through the rise and fall of nations, kingdoms, and Empires over the course of two millennia, to the present day. They will come to understand that the Church is Christ's living Body present and active in the world, proclaiming the Good News of salvation anew to every time and culture, and working to sanctify the human race.

Philosophy 101

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

Prerequisites: Theology 9AB
Fees: None

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.

Sacred Scripture

Grade(s): 10, 11, 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.

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, given extra support, using identified methods of instruction and being included in core classes, a student can achieve great things. McDonell Central Catholic High School uses practices that help ensure student success. We practice an inclusion model where all students with and without learning differences learn together. All students are supported to be successful in their academics.

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 I, II, III, IV

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 I, II, III, IV

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 I, II, III, IV

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.

Course Selection Options 2022-2023

*Please refer to [Graduation Requirements](#) found on page 4 to verify what is needed to graduate.

Course Name	Course Number	Grades Offered	Credit	Terms	Successful Completion (Use as your worksheet)
ARTS: PERFORMING AND FINE ARTS - 2 Credits Required					
Introduction to Art	820	9	.5	1	
Rhetoric and Communication	813	10	.5	1	
Concert Band	810 - ABC	9-12	1	3	
Concert Choir	830 - ABC	9-12	1	3	
Discovering God Through Music	805	9-12	.5	1	
Harmonics	831 - ABC	9-12	1	3	
History of Jazz/Blues	803	10-12	.5	1	
History of Musical Theater	801	9-12	.5	1	
Jazz Ensemble	811 - ABC	9-12	1	3	
Jazz Improvisation	804	10-12	.5	1	
Music Composition	807	9-12	.5	1	
Music Theory	800	11, 12	.5	1	
Musical Theater	802	11, 12	.5	1	
Performing Arts Foundation	815	9-12	.5	1	
World Music	808	9-12	.5	1	
Arts and Crafts	824	10-12	.5	1	
AutoCAD	826	10-12	.5	1	
Ceramics	822	10-12	.5	1	
Digital Photography	809	9-12	.5	1	
Drawing and Painting	821	10-12	.5	1	
Metals	823	10-12	.5	1	
Modern Art History	812	10-12	.5	1	
Photography	825	10-12	.5	1	

Yearbook	814	10-12	.5	1	
----------	-----	-------	----	---	--

Business, Technology, and Career - 1 Credit Required

Digital Citizenship	011	11	.5	1	
Personal Finance	007	11	.5	1	
Accounting I	001	10-12	.5	1	
Entrepreneurship	005	10-12	.5	1	
Skills for Success after High School	008	10-12	.5	1	

English Language Arts - 4 Credits Required

English 9	101 - AB	9	1	2	
English 10	102 - AB	10	1	2	
English 11	103 - AB	11	1	2	
AP/Honors English Language & Composition	120 - AB	11, 12	1	2	
AP English Literature & Composition	105 - ABC	11, 12	1.5	3	
Advanced Novels - Great Classics	111	11, 12	.5	1	
Advanced Victorian Lit and Culture	115 - AB	10-12	1	2	
Advanced Writing	104	11, 12	.5	1	
British Literature	112	11, 12	.5	1	
Creative Writing I	109	10-12	.5	1	
Creative Writing II	110	10-12	.5	1	
Journalism	113	9-12	.5	1	
Oral Communication	108	11, 12	.5	1	
Read, Write, Relax <i>*(Does not fulfill English 4-credit requirement)</i>	118	10-12	.5	1	
Real World Literature	116	10-12	.5	1	

Foreign Language - (2 Credits Required Starting with the class of 2026)

Spanish I	900 - AB	9	1	2	
Spanish II	901 - AB	10	1	2	
Spanish III	902 - AB	11	1	2	
Spanish IV	903 - AB	12	1	2	
Spanish V	904 - AB	12	1	2	
Latin I	907 - AB	11, 12	1	2	

History and Social Sciences - 4 Credits Required

Introduction to Logic	705	9	.5	1	
Western Civilization/World History	700 - AB	9	1	2	
United States History	704 - AB	10	1	2	
United States Government*	703	11, 12	.5	1	
Economics	707	11, 12	.5	1	
AP U.S. History	706 - ABC	10-12	1.5	3	
Current Issues	709	9-12	.5	1	
European History	711	11, 12	.5	1	
Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity	712	11, 12	.5	1	
Geography	701	9-12	.5	1	
Principles of Leadership	708	10-12	.5	1	
Psychology	702	10-12	.5	1	
Servant Leadership - Service Learning	713	12	.5	1	
Sociology	710	10-12	.5	1	

**Civics Test/State Mandated/Graduation Requirement: Pre-req. American Gov. No credit given. 100 questions/60 correct to pass.*

Mathematics - 3 Credits Required

Algebra I	301 - AB	9	1	2	
Or Algebra I - Full	300 - AB	9	1.5	3	
Geometry	302 - AB	10 (9 teacher appr.)	1	2	
Algebra II	303 - AB	11 (10 teacher appr.)	1	2	
Trigonometry	304	11, 12 (10 teacher appr.)	.5	1	
PreCalculus	305 - AB	11, 12	1	2	
AP Calculus	306 - ABC	11, 12 (teacher appr.)	1.5	3	
AP Probability & Stats	307 - AB	11, 12 (teacher appr.)	1	2	
Consumer Math	308	11, 12	.5	1	
Intro to Computer Programming	313	10-12	.5	1	
Principles of Engineering (PLTW)	314 - AB	12 (teacher appr.)	1	2	

Physical Education and Health - 2 Credits Required

Health and Wellness	400	9	.5	1	
Physical Education	405	9-12	.5	1	
Recreational Games	403	9-12	.5	1	
Sports Performance	406	9-12	.5	1	

Science - 4 Credits Required

9-Earth and Space Science	500 - AB	9	1	2	
Biology	501 - AB	10	1	2	
Chemistry	502 - AB	11	1	2	
Advanced Astronomy	506	11, 12	.5	1	
AP Biology	505 - ABC	11, 12	1.5	3	
AP Chemistry	525 - ABC	11, 12	1.5	3	
AP Environmental Science	524 -ABC	10-12	1.5	3	
AP Physics	504 - AB	11, 12	1	2	
Biochemistry	503	11, 12	.5	1	

Ecology	511	10-12	.5	1	
Electricity and Magnetism	510 - AB	10-12	1	2	
Environmental Hazards	512	10-12	.5	1	
Environmental Law	508	10-12	.5	1	
Human Anatomy & Physiology	507 - AB	11, 12	1	2	
Human Body Systems (PLTW)	521 - AB	10-12	1	2	
Introduction to Engineering Design (PLTW)	522 - AB	9-12	1	2	
Principles of Biomedical Science (PLTW)	520 - AB	10-12	1	2	

Theology - 4 Credits Required

Theology 9	600 - AB	9	1	2	
Theology 10	601 - AB	10	1	2	
Theology 11	602 - AB	11	1	2	
Vocations in Christ	603	12	.5	1	
Catholic Social Teachings	617	10-12	.5	1	
Christ's Church and World Religions	619	10-12	.5	1	
Church History	613	10-12	.5	1	
Philosophy 101	606	10-12	.5	1	
Sacred Scripture	618	10-12	.5	1	

Student Success Strategies

Reading Strategies I, II, III, IV	(I) 003 ABC (II) 004 ABC	9-12	1.5	3	
-----------------------------------	-----------------------------	------	-----	---	--

	(III) 006 ABC (IV) 010 ABC				
Writing and Rhetoric Strategies I, II, III, IV	(I) 119 ABC (II) 121 ABC (III) 117 ABC (IV) 108 ABC	9-12	1.5	3	
Math Strategies I, II, III, IV	(I) 309 ABC (II) 310 ABC (III) 311 ABC (IV) 312 ABC	9-12	1.5	3	