



# Sacred Heart Catholic School

## 2019-2020 Course Curriculum Guide

### Grades 9-12

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### Mississippi Diploma Endorsement Options (Beginning with the Class of 2022)

Mississippi students now have the opportunity to make their high school diploma more valuable. Starting in 2018-2019, all 9<sup>th</sup> graders will choose whether they want to work towards a traditional high school diploma (please refer to Sacred Heart graduation requirements in the Student-Parent Handbook), or take additional classes to earn an academic, distinguished academic or career and technical education endorsement.

Each diploma option will prepare students to be successful after graduation, whether that be in the workforce, a career and technical training program or college. Also, beginning with the class of 2022, students who earn an academic or distinguished academic diploma endorsement from a high school accredited by MDE will automatically qualify for admission into any of the state's public universities.

#### Students will choose one of the following options when completing a Course Selection Form:

##### Traditional Mississippi High School Diploma

- Earn 24 credits (Carnegie Units) in a selection of required classes including English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Technology or Computer Science, College and Career Readiness, Health, Art, Physical Education and electives

##### Traditional Diploma + Academic Endorsement

- Earn 26 credits
- Score at least 17 on ACT English section
- Score at least 19 on ACT Math section
- Achieve at least a 2.5 grade point average
- Successfully complete one Advanced Placement course and AP exam, one International Baccalaureate course and exam, or one dual credit course
- Earn at least a C in the advanced course

##### Traditional Diploma + Distinguished Academic Endorsement

- Earn 28 credits
- Score at least 18 on ACT English section
- Score at least 22 on ACT Math section
- Achieve at least a 3.0 grade point average
- Successfully complete one Advanced Placement course and AP exam, one International Baccalaureate course and exam, or one dual credit course
- Earn at least a B in the advanced course

Additional information can be found at [www.mdek12.org/ESE](http://www.mdek12.org/ESE).

**NOTE: To graduate with Honors from Sacred Heart Catholic High School, a student must have an overall GPA of 93 or greater and no grade lower than a B for a final grade in any course earning Carnegie units. See the Student-Parent Handbook for details.**

## **English & Literature**

**English I:** A year-long course for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit  
English I provides the student with a concentration of basic communication skills through the teaching of grammar, composition and literature. Students will study various works of drama, poetry, prose and fiction.

**Accelerated English I:** A year-long course for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit  
**Enrollment based on teacher recommendation, SAT scores and/or English 8 scores.**  
Accelerated English I provides the student with a concentration of basic communication skills through grammar, composition and literature. Students will study various works of fiction, non-fiction, drama and poetry.

**English II:** A year-long course for 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit  
**Prerequisite: English I**  
English II is a continuation of English I and reinforces grammatical skills, oral communication, vocabulary, and essay writing. Students will read, discuss, annotate, and analyze works of fiction, non-fiction, drama, and poetry.

**Accelerated English II:** A year-long course for 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit  
**Prerequisite: English I**  
**Enrollment based on teacher recommendation, SAT scores and/or English I scores.**  
Accelerated English II is a comprehensive study of fiction, drama, non-fiction, and poetry. The course requires extensive reading, critical thinking, annotating, analysis, oral communication, and formal writing. Students will study works of both American and World Literature and at least one major work by Shakespeare.

**English III:** A year-long course for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit  
**Prerequisites: English I and II**  
English III is a study of American Literature through journals, poems, short stories, plays and novels. Argumentative writing is the primary writing focus of this course; however, students will also compose informative/expository and narrative pieces with a focus on diction and syntax. Students will expand their vocabulary through reading and writing. Students will conduct research to support a position in an argumentative essay. The class follows the College and Career Readiness Standards.

**AP Language and Composition:** A year-long course for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students Credit: 1 Unit  
**Prerequisites: English I and II**  
**Enrollment based on teacher recommendation, SAT scores and/or English II scores.**  
This introductory course in rhetoric focuses on style, tone, diction, syntax, modes, appeals, and other strategies used by writers. The course requires extensive reading of both fiction and non-fiction, and calls for frequent analytical and argumentative writing. Students are encouraged to take the AP Language and Composition test given in May. Teacher recommendation is required.

**English IV:** A year-long course for 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit  
**Prerequisites: English I, II and III/AP Language and Composition**  
Students develop an appreciation and understanding of fiction, drama, nonfiction and poetry as literary forms from a chronological study of British Literature from the Anglo Saxon period to the Modern Era. Students develop their critical reading and analysis skills. The students will also expand their vocabulary skills and essay writing in preparation for the SAT and ACT tests. Composition as a process will be implemented primarily in examination of primary texts.

**AP English Literature and Composition:** A year-long course for 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

**Prerequisites:** *English I, II and III/AP Language and Composition*

AP Literature and Composition challenges students to closely read and analyze quality literature from a variety of genres (novels, short stories, plays and non-fiction and periods from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present). Selected texts are mainly American and British, but include literature in translation as well. Students will be required to write clearly and purposefully in response to the literature, demonstrating command of language and appropriate address of literary components and their function. AP Literature and Composition is taught on the level of a college course and is recommended for able, motivated Language Arts students. The course will prepare students for the Advanced Placement Literature and Composition test given every spring. Satisfactory performance on this exam may allow students to test out of freshman English classes in college. Teacher recommendation is required.

**English Composition I (English 1113):** A semester-long elective, dual credit course for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit  
**Students will receive 3 semester hours of college credit at Pearl River Community College in addition to one Carnegie Unit. Course tuition of \$100 is due within the first week of class.**

*Teacher recommendation required. A high school student is eligible for dual enrollment at Pearl River Community College if the student has:*

- *Completed a minimum of 14 core high school units (exception: any student who has earned a minimum of 30 on the ACT and has the required GPA and recommendation as described below can participate even if 14 core credits have not been earned)*
- *Earned a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale, or better, on all high school courses, as documented on an official high school transcript*
- *Obtained an unconditional written recommendation from their high school principal and/or guidance counselor*
- *Minimum of 17 English ACT sub-score required.*

English 1113 prepares the student to think critically and compose texts for academic and professional rhetorical situations. The course provides students with the opportunity to engage some of history's most influential ideas to discover their relevance for today's issues. Students read and respond to ideas essential to a civilized world, and integrate the reading with their own perspectives through writing. Students prepare two bibliographies, write a book review, and write a minimum of five expository essays. Clarity of thought, unity of content, and coherence of ideas are stressed.

## **Mathematics**

**Algebra I:** A year-long course for 8<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grade students

Credit: 1 Unit

**Prerequisite:** *Successful completion of Pre-algebra.*

This course provides a formal development of the algebraic skills and concepts necessary for students who will take a geometry course and other advanced college-preparatory courses. In particular, the instructional program in this course should provide for the use of algebraic skills in a wide range of problem solving situations. The course emphasizes structure and the properties of the real number system. It includes, but is not limited to, solution and evaluation of open sentences (equations and inequalities); solution of open sentences by graphing on a number line or in the coordinate plane; solution of systems of open sentences; basic operation with polynomials; solution of quadratic equations; understanding and using elementary functions; use of exponents; simplifying radicals; and introductory topics from statistics and probability.

**Geometry:** A year-long course for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

**Prerequisite:** *Successful completion of Pre-Algebra and Algebra I.*

Geometry emphasizes the extensive uses of deductive and inductive reasoning, as well as investigative strategies in drawing conclusions. The course's curriculum includes the use of applications, long and short-term projects and interdisciplinary assignments. Properties and relationships of geometric entities include the study of angles, lines, planes, congruent triangles, similar triangles, trigonometric ratios, polygons, circles, and spatial drawings and relationships. Coordinate and transformational geometry material is integrated throughout the year. The course develops an understanding of the need for proof, and the use of logic in developing proof.

**Algebra II:** A year-long course for 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

**Prerequisite:** *Successful completion of Pre-Algebra, Algebra I and Geometry.*

A second-year course in Algebra where topics studied include linear equations, systems of equations, matrices, determinants, quadratic equations, parabolas, powers, roots, radicals, sequences and series, and various types of functions including exponential and logarithmic.

**Algebra III:** A year-long course for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

**Prerequisite:** *Successful completion of Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II.*

Topics of study in Algebra III include sequences and series, functions, and higher order polynomials. Emphasis is given to working with trigonometric functions including but not limited to solving equations, graphing and proving identities. Topics are addressed from a numeric, graphical and analytical perspective. Students will present and evaluate mathematical arguments, proofs and explanations about their reasoning.

**Advanced Mathematics Plus:** A year-long course for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

**Prerequisite:** *Successful completion of Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and Algebra III.*

This course specifies the mathematics that students should study in order to be college and career ready. The Advanced Mathematics Plus Course includes rigorous mathematical standards that will prepare students for collegiate courses dealing with higher-level trigonometric, algebraic, and calculus concepts. This course was designed to be a fourth year math course. Throughout the duration of this course, teachers will ensure the Standards for Mathematical Practice are addressed. These topics include various objectives covering statistics, geometry, trigonometry and algebra. Some of the course is a demanding, quick paced review of Algebra III with extension of specific concepts.

**AP Calculus A.B.:** A year-long course for 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

**Prerequisite:** *Algebra III*

AP Calculus, designed to be the equivalent of a college-level course, is the study of the mathematics of change. The major focus is on differential and integral calculus. Preparation includes a high level of algebra, geometry, trigonometry, complex numbers and elementary functions. This study in calculus will include limits, derivatives, continuity, integration, applications, transcendental function, and plane analytic geometry. The teaching of this course includes an analytic, numerical and graphical approach. Students have the option of taking the AP test with the possibility of earning college credit. Teacher recommendation is required.

**Dual Credit College Algebra:** A semester-long elective, dual credit course for 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students..

Credit: 1 Unit

**Students will receive 3 semester hours of college credit at William Carey University in addition to one Carnegie Unit.**

**Prerequisite:** *Teacher recommendation and a minimum score of 20 in Math on the ACT for 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade students or a minimum score of 30 in Math on the ACT for 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. Course tuition of \$135 plus a \$40 one-time application fee is due within the first week of class.*

Advanced Algebra/College Algebra is taught by a teacher at Sacred Heart Catholic High School through the William Carey University Jump Start Program. This class will be offered on Sacred Heart's semester schedule, but students will register on William Carey University's trimester schedule. Students need to meet requirements of admission to William Carey, except for a high school diploma. Additional tuition will be charged, and students will need to purchase a College Algebra textbook chosen by their teacher. This course is the standard course in college-level algebra. Topics include basic concepts of algebra; linear, quadratic, rational radical, logarithmic, exponential, and absolute value equations; equations reducible to quadratic form; linear, polynomial, rational, and absolute value inequalities, and complex number system; graphs of linear, polynomial, exponential, logarithms, rational, and absolute value functions; conic sections; inverse functions; operations and compositions of function; systems of equations, sequences and series; and the binomial theorem. **Students are required to meet all of the college standards of this course to receive college credit along with the high school credit.**

## Social Studies

**Mississippi Studies:** A semester-long course for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: ½ Unit

Mississippi Studies offers students a better understanding of their home state's history, culture, geography, and government. Various tools are used in the course including music, guest lectures, creative projects, primary and secondary sources.

**Introduction to World Geography:** A semester-long course for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: ½ Unit

Students gain an overview of the fundamentals of geography, including climate, population, culture, resources, land use, and the regions of the world. Students will participate in class projects, listen to guest lecturers, and analyze their own geography.

**World History:** A year-long course for 10<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

A survey course that provides the student a history of the world from the 1700s to the present-day. Focus is on the development and issues of Europe, Africa, and Asia with connections drawn to the role of America in worldwide events.

**AP World History:** A year-long course for 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit  
This is an advanced course designed to help students gain a greater understanding of the global processes and interactions that have shaped human history since 8000 BC to present day. Throughout the course, AP World History themes are used to improve the analytical and critical thinking skills of students. Students should expect a demanding workload with an emphasis on reading and writing that is the equivalent of an introductory college course. Students have the option of taking the AP test with the possibility of earning college credit. Teacher recommendation is required.

**U.S. History 1877 to Present:** A year-long course for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit  
U. S. History provides students with an advanced knowledge of history of the United States from Reconstruction to the War on Terror. Learning tools for the class include lecture, class projects, historic research and analysis of primary and secondary sources.

**AP U.S. History:** A year-long course for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit  
AP U. S. History is more in-depth than U. S. History, and is an analytical class focusing on the history of the United States. Students have the option of taking the AP test with the possibility of earning college credit. Teacher recommendation is required.

**U. S. Government:** A semester-long course for 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: ½ Unit  
U. S. Government provides an understanding of the foundations of the United States Government; provides an understanding of the inalienable rights, civil rights and civil liberties of an American; outlines the duties and responsibilities of the citizens of the United States; and relates the study of the U. S. government to current issues. This course is offered in conjunction with Economics.

**AP U. S. Government:** A semester-long course for 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: ½ Unit  
AP U. S. Government will give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course includes both the general concepts used to interpret U.S. government and politics and the analysis of specific examples. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U. S. government and politics. Teacher recommendation is required.

**Economics:** A semester-long course for 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: ½ Unit  
Economics will develop an awareness of the relationship of world economic systems. The students will trace the American economic system and impact of that system in a global setting. The students will develop an understanding of microeconomics and macroeconomics from individual finances to world economic organizations. This course is offered in conjunction with U. S. Government.

**Problems of American Democracy:** A semester-long elective course for 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: ½ Unit  
In this course students will examine the historical, economic and political factors that have shaped one nation. Topics include: The Constitution, Native Americans, financial policies, public education, U. S. Civil War, Reconstruction, industrialization, civil rights, women's rights, and contemporary issues.

## **Health and Physical Education**

**Contemporary Health:** A semester-long course for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: ½ Unit  
Contemporary Health provides the knowledge and skills the students need to obtain, interpret, and apply basic health information to their daily lives to enhance their individual health.

**Physical Education - General:** A semester-long or year-long course for 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: ½-1 Unit  
Physical Education is designed as a daily instructional program that includes themes such as: team, dual and individual sports, rhythms/dance and fitness activities. Physical education may also include non-traditional activities. The program allows students opportunities to practice and apply a range of motor skills in physical activities that emphasize the social skills associated with competitions. Personal fitness assessment is an integral part of this program. **A physical is required.**

**Physical Education - Athletic:** A semester-long or year-long course for 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade student athletes Credit: ½-1 Unit  
This course is designed to provide the student *athlete* with advanced training in team and individual sports and additional fitness gains such as strength, endurance, flexibility, body composition, agility and cardio respiratory endurance. **A physical is required.**

## Science

**Biology I:** A year-long course for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

**Prerequisite:** *None*

Biology I is a laboratory-based course designed to study living organisms and their physical environments. Students should apply scientific methods of inquiry and research in the examination of the chemical basis of life, cell structure, function and reproduction, energy, natural selection, and diversity and ecology. Laboratory activities, the use of technology and the effective communication of results through various methods are integral components of this course.

**AP Biology:** A year-long course for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

AP Biology is an introductory college-level biology course. Students cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore the following topics: evolution, cellular processes—energy and communication, genetics, information transfer, ecology, and interactions. Students have the option of taking the AP test with the possibility of earning college credit. Teacher recommendation is required.

**Chemistry I:** A year-long course for 10<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

**Prerequisite:** *Biology I and Algebra I; may be co-enrolled in Algebra II.*

Chemistry provides opportunities for students to develop and communicate an understanding of structure, physical and chemical properties, and chemical change. Concepts covered in this course include properties of matter, measurement and use of the International System of Measurement applied to mathematical operations, atomic theory, bonding, periodicity, nomenclature, equations and reactions, stoichiometry of aqueous solutions, thermodynamics, kinetics, equilibrium, oxidation-reduction and electron chemistry, nuclear chemistry, and organic chemistry. Laboratory activities, research, the use of technology, and effective communication of results through various methods are integral components of this course.

**Human Anatomy and Physiology:** A year-long course for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

Human Anatomy and Physiology is a laboratory-based course that investigates the structure and function of the human body. Topics covered include the basic organization of the body, biochemical composition, and major body systems along with the impact of diseases on certain systems. Laboratory activities, research, the use of technology, and the effective communication of results through various methods are integral components of this course.

**Microbiology:** A year-long course for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students

Credit: 1 Unit

Microbiology is a lab-based course that investigates microorganisms and the various roles they play in our living world. Topics explored in the class will include: identification of common microbes, culturing and staining microorganisms, host-microbe relationships and disease processes, and uses of microbiology in industry. Lab work involving microscopic investigations and aseptic techniques will be emphasized, along with critical thinking, problem solving and research.

**Physics I:** A year-long course for 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

Physics provides opportunities for students to develop and communicate an understanding of matter and energy through lab-based activities, mathematical expressions, and concept exploration. Concepts covered in this course include kinematics, dynamics, energy, mechanical and electromagnetic waves, and electricity. Laboratory activities, research, the use of technology, and the effective communication of results through various methods are integral components of this course.

**Earth and Space Science:** A year-long course for 12<sup>th</sup> grade students

Credit: 1 Unit

Earth and space science provides opportunities for students to continue to develop and communicate a basic understanding of the Earth and its place in the universe through lab-based activities, integrated STEM activities, inquiry, mathematical expressions, and concept exploration. It will help students apply concepts in natural settings and guide them to become responsible stewards of Earth's natural resources.

## Religious Studies

**Religious Studies 9:** A year-long course for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

This course consists of two semesters of focus. The year's focus is understanding the scriptures. The purpose is to immerse students in this great gift as it has been expressed in the Sacred Scriptures. It is through their study of the Old Testament and New Testament that the students will grow in knowledge of the story of our Salvation and will simultaneously encounter Jesus Christ, the living Word of God. In the second semester the students learn to share what Jesus Christ reveals about God, to uncover the mystery of the Incarnation, and to explore how teenagers, specifically, can learn from Jesus about themselves and how they are to live the Gospel. Students must complete 20 service hours per nine weeks with an emphasis on community service.

**Religious Studies 10:** A year-long course for 10<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

This course uses two textbooks, *The Mystery of Redemption* and *The Church*. The first book emphasizes Christ's saving work in the Paschal Mystery and its effects on the Church in light of the teachings of Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. Using *The Church*, students study the nature of the Catholic Church combined with history of the Church. Activities include a Saint project in October and Christmas Around The World in December. Students must complete 20 service hours per nine weeks with an emphasis on community service.

**Religious Studies 11:** A year-long course for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

This course prepares Catholic teens to take the next step in their faith formation – confirmation. The course is composed of prayer, short informative videos and lessons from *Decision Point*. This program is designed to provide the essential intellectual and spiritual catechesis vital to sacramental preparation. Students must complete 20 service hours per nine weeks with an emphasis on community service.

**Religious Studies 12:** A year-long course for 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

This course focuses on the study of the world religions of Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese and Japanese religions, in response to Pope John Paul II's document *Nostra Aetate (in Our Time)* and morality. Students will develop an understanding of Catholicism and other global religious traditions in addition to a focus on injustices within our world. Students must complete 20 service hours per nine weeks with an emphasis on community service.

## Foreign Language Electives

**Two years of the same foreign language are required for graduation.**

**Latin I:** A year-long elective course for 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

This course is an introduction to the language with the primary focus on vocabulary acquisition and basic grammar. Translation skills are built through modified texts. Students learn simple Greek and Roman myths, geography and history through the Republic period. The National Latin Exam is required and attendance at the state Latin convention is encouraged.

**Latin II:** A year-long elective course for 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

**Prerequisite: Latin I**

This course continues with vocabulary and grammar acquisition. Translation skills are improved as more complex readings are accomplished. Additional myths, geography and history through the Empire are learned. The National Latin Exam is required and attendance at the state Latin convention is encouraged.

**Spanish I:** A year-long elective course for 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

This course is an introduction to the language with the primary focus on providing the skills needed to communicate, to engage in conversation and to understand written and spoken language.

**Spanish II:** A year-long elective course for 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

**Prerequisite: Spanish I**

This course provides students with opportunities to continue the development of their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Students should participate in simple real-life conversational situations that incorporate learning elements of the language and culture. Students should compose sentences, which narrate, describe, compare and summarize familiar topics from the target culture. Students should develop a better understanding of the similarities and differences between cultures and languages and examine the influence of the beliefs and values of the target culture(s).

## Fine Arts Electives

**Choral Music I, II, III:** Each is a year-long elective for 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit  
Curriculum developed for these competencies will foster increasing knowledge of: choral performance; the relationship of music elements, music theory, and technology to performances practices; repertoire encompassing a wide variety of forms, styles and periods, historical/cultural connections of repertoire events, times, places and other arts, and other disciplines. Through this elective students may also study percussion and participate in the Sacred Heart Drum Line.

**Percussion Ensemble:** A year-long course for 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit  
Coursework includes an introduction to drumline, Brazilian samba music, and playing drum sets in various styles around the world. There will be a final performance to showcase music learned throughout the semester. No previous experience is required.

**Advanced Percussion Ensemble:** A year-long course for 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit

***Audition Required.***

Students will expand physical drumming techniques and learn increasingly challenging music in drumline and samba band. Students will also play more drum set as they learn to play along with contemporary groups as well as improvise. The students will perform at the end of each semester to demonstrate skills acquired.

**Theater I:** A year-long course for 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students Credit: 1 Unit  
In the first semester, students learn the basic elements of theater: acting, scenic design, costuming, makeup and business practices. In the second semester, students apply their knowledge in three productions (a puppet show, a clown show, and a one act play) actually performed before audiences.

**Visual Art I:** A year-long elective course for 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit  
This course is an introductory program of study at the high school level that involves a broad range of media techniques and processes. It is a comprehensive overview of art production, critical analysis, history and culture, aesthetics, and connections among the visual arts, other content areas, and everyday life. In addition to studio and class time, the students will explore art and artists in their community through field trips as well as any show that might be scheduled in the community.

**Visual Art II:** A year-long elective course for 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit

***Prerequisite: Visual Art I***

This course continues the development of knowledge and skills, as well as the creation of study of works of art and design. Building on concepts and skills acquired in the prerequisite course – Visual Arts I, students continue to increase their knowledge of production, critical analysis, history and culture, aesthetics, and connections among the visual arts, other content areas, and everyday life.

## General Electives

**ACT/SAT Prep:** A semester-long elective course for 11<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: ½ Unit

***Prerequisite: None***

This test-taking strategies class is primarily an ACT/SAT prep class with emphasis on the math and science exams, as well as on the reading and language passages. Vocabulary building is also included. This course is team-taught with students working with a math or science teacher for a two-week block and then a history or English teacher for the next two weeks.

**Debate:** Each course is a year-long elective for 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit

Students must be a member of the Forensics Team to enroll in Debate I or Debate II. Communication skills are developed through acquiring, analyzing, and evaluating information to organize effective arguments. Students also develop poise, confidence, critical thinking, and efficient research skills. The teacher also provides assistance to students in developing and perfecting their performances for competition.

**Humanities:** A semester-long elective course for 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1/2 Unit

Students will be introduced to highlights of artistic development, from ancient civilizations forward through the centuries. Students will explore connections between culture and history, focusing on painting, sculpture, architecture, film, dance, and music, including significant artists, works, and genres.

**Journalism/Yearbook:** A year-long elective course for 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit  
Introduction to Journalism is intended as a general course to enhance the student's skills as communicators and as informed users of the communication media. Students will develop an awareness of the history and role of journalism in our society, develop writing skills and editing skills, understand the role of advertising, demonstrate knowledge of art, photography and design in publishing. The students work as a production team to publish the history of the year by producing the hardbound Sacred Heart Catholic School Yearbook, *The Shield*.

**Speech:** A year-long elective course for 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit  
This basic course in speech is designed to develop each student's ability to communicate effectively in his or her academic, business, and social life. The major emphasis is on the preparation and delivery of formal speeches, but many areas of the communication process are explored.

## **Independent Study**

At times it is necessary to allow a student enrolled at Sacred Heart Catholic High School the opportunity to take a course of study through Independent Study. This is done on an individual basis at the approval of the principal with a teacher recommendation. The Independent Study courses offered at Sacred Heart are administered through Mississippi State University. Each independent study course must be taken at Sacred Heart during the regular school time and must be administered by a member of Sacred Heart's faculty or administration. There is an additional fee for the course and textbook charged to the student, and these must be paid prior to the student's enrollment in the Independent Study course.