



# Sacred Heart Catholic School

## 2021-2022 Course Curriculum Guide

### Grades 9-12

---

**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 vocabulary, written composition (includes journaling, essays, and creative writing), structured discussion, formal presentation, and literature. Students will study various works of fiction, non-fiction, drama and poetry.

**Accelerated English I:** A year-long course for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit  
**Enrollment based on teacher recommendation and/or English 8 scores.**  
Accelerated English I provides the student with a concentration of basic communication skills through the teaching of vocabulary, written composition (includes journaling, essays, and creative writing), structured discussion, formal presentation, and literature. Students will study various works of fiction, non-fiction, drama, and poetry, and learn how to closely analyze said works.

**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 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 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.

**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. 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*

**Enrollment based on teacher recommendation and/or English III scores.**

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.

## 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.

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

Credit: 1 Unit

**Prerequisite:** *Biology I and Algebra I*

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 semester-long course for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students

Credit: ½ Unit

**Corequisite:** *Field Experiences in Science*

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. This course must be taken in the same year as Field Experiences in Science.

**Field Experiences in Science:** A semester-long course for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: ½ Unit

**Corequisite:** *Microbiology*

Microbiology laboratory work and field-based instruction which focuses on further exploration of the study of microorganisms. This course must be taken in the same year as Microbiology.

**AP Chemistry:** A year-long course for 11th grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

**Prerequisite:** *Chemistry I and Algebra II*

**Enrollment based on teacher recommendation and/or Chemistry I scores.**

AP Chemistry provides opportunities for students to learn about the fundamental concepts of chemistry including structure and states of matter, intermolecular forces, and reactions. Students will do hands-on lab investigations and use chemical calculations to solve problems. AP Chemistry is taught on the level of a college course and is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Chemistry test given every spring. Satisfactory performance on this exam may allow students to test out of general Chemistry courses depending on college requirements.

**Physics:** 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.

## **Mathematics**

**Algebra I:** A year-long course for 8<sup>th</sup> through 9<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 operations 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 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit  
**Prerequisite:** *Successful completion of Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and Algebra III.*

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*

**Enrollment based on teacher recommendation and/or Algebra III scores.**

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.

## 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 Modern World History:** A year-long course for 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit  
**Enrollment based on teacher recommendation and/or MS Studies/World Geography scores.**  
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 1200 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.

**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  
**Enrollment based on teacher recommendation and/or World History/AP World History scores.**  
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.

**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  
**Enrollment based on teacher recommendation and/or US History/AP US History scores.**  
AP U. S. Government gives 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.

**Economics:** A semester-long course for 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: ½ Unit  
Unit Economics develops an awareness of the relationship of world economic systems. The students will trace the American economic system and the 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.

## 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:** 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, stretching, weight training 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.

## 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. Activities include a Saint project in October and a Nativity project in December. 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 are required to complete 20 hours of community service each quarter and attend a grade-level retreat.

**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 the history of the Church. Activities include "Christmas Around The World" in December and "Feeding the Poor" during Lent. Students are required to complete 20 hours of community service each quarter and attend a grade-level retreat.

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

Credit: 1 Unit

"The purpose of this course is to help students understand that it is only through Christ that they can fully live out God's plans for their lives. Students are to learn the moral concepts and precepts that govern the lives of Christ's disciples." (*USCCB's Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework*) In the first semester, students will trace the history of salvation through the major covenants of the Bible and delve deeper in the sacraments, especially Confirmation, as juniors are preparing to receive the Sacrament. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, students will develop an understanding of the human person's desire for infinite happiness, the role of human freedom in finding happiness, the role of moral law, and the necessity of grace that enables us to live a moral life in union with the life of Jesus Christ, so as to find happiness. Students will learn the moral concepts and precepts that point out the authentically good choices by which Christ's disciples live their lives in holiness and experience long-term happiness in this life and in the next. Textbooks will include the *Holy Bible*, *The Sacraments: Source of Our Life in Christ*, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, *Our Moral Life in Christ*, and other ancillary material throughout the semester.

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

Credit: 1 Unit

This course utilizes two textbooks: *Exploring the Religions of the World* and *Catholic Social Teaching*. In *Exploring the Religions of the World* students develop an understanding of global religious traditions by studying Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. Using *Catholic Social Teaching*, students will focus on the rights and dignity of the human person. Students are required to complete 20 hours of community service each quarter and attend a grade-level retreat.

## College and Career-Readiness

**College and Career-Readiness:** A required, year-long course for 11th grade students

Credit: 1 Unit

The skills taught in this course are imperative to ensuring that all graduates are prepared for college, the workforce, and active citizenship. Students will engage with a multitude of topics including service projects, financial literacy, portfolio development, digital literacy, presentation and speaking activities, business writing and telephone skills. In addition, students will be expected to interact with guest speakers in a variety of post-secondary fields.

## Dual Credit Elective Courses

Upon successful completion of dual credit courses, students will receive 3 semester hours of college credit in addition to one Carnegie unit. Students are required to meet all of the college standards of the course to receive college credit with the high school credit.

**Dual Credit College Algebra:** A semester-long elective, dual credit course for 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit

*This course is offered by Pearl River Community College. Course tuition of \$120 is due the week before the class begins.*

**Requirements:** *Teacher recommendation, a minimum of a 3.0 GPA, and a minimum ACT score of 19 in Math.*

Advanced Algebra/College Algebra is taught online and facilitated by a teacher at Sacred Heart Catholic High School through Pearl River Community College. Students need to meet requirements of dual credit admission to PRCC. 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 functions; systems of equations, sequences and series; and the binomial theorem.

**Dual Credit Creative Writing:** A semester-long elective, dual credit course for 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit

*This course is offered by the University of Southern Mississippi. Course tuition of \$150.00 is due within the first week of class.*

**Requirements:** *Teacher recommendation, a minimum composite ACT score of 21, and a subscore of 20 in English on the ACT.*

Creative Writing is an introduction to multi-genre creative writing with an emphasis on fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. Students will study craft-based guides, read published works, and draft creative work in various genres. The class will place an emphasis on generative writing exercises modeled on published work; students will also take part in peer-review workshops to develop and revise their writing. The class will culminate in the submission of a final portfolio that includes revised creative work, along with a critical introduction reflecting on the writing process as it applies to fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction.

**Dual Credit Music Appreciation:** A semester-long elective, dual credit course for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit

*This course is offered by Pearl River Community College. Course tuition of \$120 is due the week before the class begins.*

**Requirements:** *Teacher recommendation, a minimum of a 3.0 GPA, and must have taken the ACT.*

An introductory music course that has been designed to develop critical listening skills needed to understand and appreciate many different styles of music, as well as to understand music in political, social and cultural periods of history. Both audio and video recordings will be used to enhance course content.

## Fine Arts Electives

**Choral Music:** 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 performance 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. Students will present two concerts during the year.

**Percussion I:** 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.

**Percussion II:** 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.

**Percussion III:** 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.

**Theatre I:** A year-long course for 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students Credit: 1 Unit  
Students learn the basic elements of theater: acting, scenic design, costuming, makeup and business practices, and apply their knowledge by performing during the school year.

**Visual Art I:** A year-long elective course for 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Credit: 1 Unit  
This foundation class will give emphasis to the elements and principles of art, art processes and materials such as drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage. Student artwork will reflect aesthetics and cultural and historical contexts in 2D and 3D forms. Willingness to be involved in the process of assemblage, classroom culture and the creative process is a more important requirement than the student's talent or previous experience. No artistic talent needed, but will be expected to contribute to classroom culture with material safety and use, cleaning and organization.

**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 class is geared towards students who wish to expand on their creative ideas and their technique. Students are encouraged to develop their own personal vision and style. Emphasis is placed on experiences with design principles, drawing techniques, and painting skills. Students are given more in depth problems to solve creatively while becoming more adept through a broad exposure to various media.

## **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 11<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.

**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.

**Spanish I:** A year-long elective course for 8<sup>th</sup> through 11<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).

## **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. This course is team-taught with students working with a math and science teacher for a three-week block. Students will work on review material that is expected of them to know for these tests and will be given multiple practice tests to help them prepare for the ACT/SAT test.

**Debate:** A year-long elective course for 9<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.

**Exploring Computer Science:** A year-long elective course for 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

Exploring Computer Science teaches the creative, collaborative, interdisciplinary, and problem solving nature of computing with instructional materials that feature an inquiry-based approach to learning and teaching. As part of this course, students will delve into real world computing problems that are culturally relevant, and address social and ethical issues while delivering foundational computer science knowledge to students. Students will engage in several in-depth projects to demonstrate the real-world applications of computing. The goal of Exploring Computer Science is to develop in students the computational practices of algorithm development, problem solving and programming within the context of problems that are relevant to the lives of today's students. Students will also be introduced to topics such as interface design, limits of computers, and societal and ethical issues.

**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.

**Foundations of Journalism I:** A year-long elective course for 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

**Journalism/Yearbook Course Submission Requirement:**

Choose one option to be considered for this course. **Journalism:** Create a mock headline story about a peer, using three interview questions. Google Docs, typed, half page. **Digital Media:** Create a mock design of a story about a peer using three photographs including a headline. Google Drawings/Docs, one page.

Students will be expected to create themes, craft welcoming headlines, gather facts through skillful interviewing and design featured articles to engage readers. Students will be exposed to a variety of disciplines such as book cover design, poster design, typography, and illustration. In this course students will learn how to use a digital camera and explore photography. 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*.

**Print Journalism:** A year-long elective course for 11<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credit: 1 Unit

**Prerequisite:** *Foundations of Journalism I*

Students will further develop writing, editing, and layout and design skills. 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*.

**Middle College:** For 11<sup>th</sup> grade students only

Middle College is only for juniors interested in PRCC's Middle College Program.