

# Mount Mercy Academy



## Course Selection Catalog 2024-2025

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# General Academic Information

## Academic Program

The academic program at Mount Mercy Academy aims to meet the needs, interests, and aptitudes of every student. The college preparatory curriculum includes honors, advanced placement and college-level courses. It stresses mastery of analytical and critical thinking, problem-solving, and the ability to communicate ideas effectively.

## Academic Requirements

The number of units of credit required to earn a diploma from Mount Mercy Academy is 29. This includes (and exceeds) the 22 credits required by the New York State Education Department. Four of those credits will be earned by completing the Academy's Theology requirement. Please see page 5 for a list of credits required. A unit of credit is earned by studying a subject for one full school year. A semester course earns  $\frac{1}{2}$  unit of credit. An elective is a subject chosen beyond the basic core courses of English, Social Studies, Math, Science, and LOTE.

## Grading and Promotion Practices

Report cards are issued quarterly and immediately directed to parents. Students are promoted on an average of four (4) quarters, and the final assessment marks. **It is mandatory for all students to be in attendance for all final exams.** A student must have a promotion mark of at least 65% to receive school credit for a course. In order to continue in a required subject, a student must meet the prerequisites of the department. ***It is expected that if a student has failed any course, she will retake the course in summer school. If the course is not offered or should she fail the course in summer school, she will need to repeat the course in the next academic year. This especially holds true for sequence subjects (Math, Science, etc.).*** Student cumulative GPAs are weighted and are calculated on a 100-point scale. AP and College-level courses are weighted more heavily as they are more challenging courses.

## Course Selection Policies

Each spring, students, with the assistance of their school counselor, will complete their course selection for the following year. This course selection sheet is then to be taken home to be given to the parent. For each elective, a student will choose an alternative course in the event that her first choice does not run or will not fit around her core courses. Students are expected to register for at least 7.5 credits per year. ***No schedule changes may be made after June 1<sup>st</sup>.*** To assist students in achieving at their fullest potential, emphasis in course selection will be focused on completing four or five years in the core areas of English, Social Studies, Math, Science, and LOTE.

## Course Offerings

Any particular course or selection of a course will be offered provided that a sufficient number of applications are received and accepted. The school reserves the right to withdraw a course or any section of a course and reserves the right to modify the course description or general requirements.

## Placement

Placement is the sole responsibility and determination of the school. A student's initial placement is based on a careful study of her academic performance (based on report cards and/or transcripts) and her academic potential (based on the placement examination and/or standardized achievement test scores). A student's initial placement and course selections are to be approved by the parent/guardian(s). After the recommendation of the school is made and if a student and her parent/guardian(s) elect not to follow the recommendation, the parent and student must sign a waiver indicating they have chosen not to follow the school's recommendation. In selecting courses for the following academic year, the student is responsible for obtaining approval and meeting all prerequisites as stated in the Course Selection Catalog.

## Policy for Transfer Students

Students who wish to transfer to Mt. Mercy Academy may do so by applying through the Admissions Office. Student transcripts must be supplied by the school the student is currently attending. Only students in good academic, attendance, and disciplinary standing will be considered for transfer. A committee composed of the Admissions Director, the School Counselors, and Administrators will be convened to review the application and interview the potential transfer student and parents/guardians. Transfer students will be accepted conditionally for a semester. If the transfer student maintains good academic standing and disciplinary standing, permanent acceptance will be granted.

A transfer student's grades from her previous high school(s) in addition to her Mt. Mercy grades will be used to calculate averages that will result in an overall GPA for transcript and college application purposes. Only students who attend Mt. Mercy for all four years of high school are eligible to be named valedictorian or salutatorian.

## Required Reading Lists

In June, parents and students will receive a list of mandatory summer readings for each grade level along with an explanation of the expectations set by the English department. All students will be required to either take a test on the summer reading or complete related assignments during September and the marks will be averaged into the students' first quarter English grade. Students must successfully complete the summer reading work before advancing to the next level.

## AP/College Credit Course Overview

It is mandatory that students taking AP courses must take the exam as it is considered the final assessment of the course. If students do not take their final assessment, the course requirements have not been completed, therefore, will lead to failure of the course.

## Articulation Agreement with Trocaire College

These Mt. Mercy Academy courses may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College:

- Statistics
- Introduction to Sociology
- Modern Creative Expression
- The following AP courses: Studio in Art, English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, Statistics, Biology, Chemistry, World History, US History, and Psychology.

A final average of 85% or better must be earned. Eligible students have the option of paying a fee to have **up to 12 college credits** transcribed by Trocaire College. Upon successful completion of the course, the *student* must contact the Trocaire College Registrar's Office to have the course transcribed. Students who attend college elsewhere can request to have their Trocaire College transcript sent to that institution. It is then left to the discretion of *that* college as to whether or not they accept the transfer credits, as well as how they might apply to the student's degree. Please see your Counselor for more information.

## Articulation Agreement with Hilbert College

Spanish V is eligible for college credit through Hilbert College. Please see your School Counselor for more information.

## Articulation Agreement with SUNY ECC

The following courses may be eligible for college credit through SUNY ECC:

- Calculus
- College Math

Please see your School Counselor for more information.



## Articulation Agreement with SUNY Buffalo State College

The following courses may be eligible for college credit through SUNY Buffalo State:

- College Level Biology
- Introduction to Business
- Forensic Science
- Studio in Advanced Photography & Media

Please see your School Counselor for more information.

## Articulation Agreement with Villa Maria College

College Drawing I is eligible for college credit through Villa Maria College. Please see your School Counselor for more information.

**2024-2025**

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

<u>Required Credits</u>	<u>McAuley Scholars</u>	<u>AP Scholar</u>
English 4 units	Starting in their sophomore year, students who achieve an overall GPA of at least a 95% and enroll in at least 2 AP/honors/college level, full-year courses will be recognized as a McAuley Scholar	This achievement is given to students who have received exemplary scores on several AP exams, as recognized by the College Board.
Social Studies 4 units		
Math 4 units		
Science 3 units		
LOTE 3 units		
Theology 4 units		
Art/Music 1 unit		
Health .5 unit		
Phys. Ed 2 units		
Electives 3.5 units		
<u>Total Credits:</u> 29 units	<p><u>National Honor Society</u></p> <p>Students who apply and are admitted into National Honor Society will have this indicated on their diploma.</p>	<p>This may also be designated with “honors” or “distinction” based on a students average score on AP exams.</p> <p>Speak to your School Counselor with more details or any questions related to graduation requirements.</p>

## Diploma Types:

- **Mount Mercy Academy Diploma**- contingent upon the successful completion of required courses (29 credits in the appropriate core academic areas)
- **Mount Mercy Academy Diploma with Advanced Distinction**- contingent upon successful completion of the required Mount Mercy required courses, in addition, successful completion of 2 college-level courses
- **Mount Mercy Academy Diploma with Advanced Distinction with Honors**-contingent upon successful completion of the required Mount Mercy required courses, in addition, successful completion of 3 college-level courses.

# Art

## **STUDIO IN ART (ART I)**

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

This full-year course fulfills the New York State graduation requirement in the Arts. This course is required for a three-unit or a five-unit sequence in Art. Students will be introduced to the history, philosophy, and techniques of the visual arts through various studio art practices such as drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, and sculpture.

***Evaluation: Eight major projects and final assessment project***

***(1 unit)***

## **STUDIO IN DRAWING AND PAINTING (ART II)**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

***Prerequisite: Studio in Art***

This full-year course is required for a five-unit sequence in Art. Students develop skills in drawing and painting techniques with media including pastel, charcoal, graphite, watercolor, and acrylic. A study of the history of drawing and painting will be incorporated into studio activities. This class is a prerequisite for Studio in Portfolio Preparation (Art III) and AP Studio in Art.

***Evaluation: Eight major projects, sketchbook, and final assessment***

***(1 unit)***

## **STUDIO IN ADVANCED DRAWING AND PAINTING**

(Grades 11, 12)

***Prerequisite: Studio in Art and Drawing and Painting***

This full-year course involves advanced drawing and painting techniques. Students will have the opportunity to experiment with a variety of traditional and newer art materials, including water-based oils, encaustic, oil and chalk pastel, mixed media, and others. A study of the history of drawing and painting with an emphasis on women artists will be incorporated into studio projects.

***Evaluation: Eight major projects, sketchbook, and final assessment***

***(1 unit)***

## **STUDIO IN PORTFOLIO PREPARATION (ART III)**

(Grade 12)

***Prerequisites: Studio in Art and one other Art course***

Either this course or AP Studio in Art is required as the last course in the three-unit or five-unit sequence in Art. This full-year course focuses on the development of each student's portfolio for admission to a college art program. Students will explore a variety of media and art techniques and participate in group critiques and self-evaluations. They will investigate career opportunities in the Arts and various colleges and universities. Drawing from life is emphasized in this class as are advanced levels of craftsmanship and presentation. Students' needs and personal choices for their portfolio work are considered on an individual basis. All students will create an electronic portfolio of their original artworks.

***Evaluation: Portfolio of work, sketchbook, and final assessment***

***(1 unit)***

## **STUDIO ARTS & COMMUNITY**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

***Art or non-Art majors (no Art prerequisite required)***

Students will engage in a variety of art media and techniques to create large and small artworks that will serve the Western New York community and other regions. Students may work individually or as a group. Examples of possible future projects include The Preemie Project: crocheted hats & blankets for preemies at area hospitals, crocheted, sewn, and knit items for refugees at local shelters and ceramic dog and cat dishes for the local SPCA. This course encourages creative thinking, good design practices, collaboration, community engagement and entrepreneurship.

***Evaluation: Art projects, participation***

***(1/2 unit)***

## STUDIO IN ART HISTORY

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

***Art or non-Art majors (no Art prerequisite required)***

This half-year course takes the student from cave painting to Renaissance painting through related art projects with a tangential exploration into various artists who are working today. Field trips to local art galleries and museums enrich the student's art experience.

***Evaluation: Art projects, sketchbook/journal, and final assessment***

***(1/2 unit)***

## STUDIO IN 3D DESIGN/CERAMICS

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

***Prerequisites: Studio in Art***

This ½ year's course includes various methods of hand-building and an introduction to the pottery wheel. We will explore the history of ceramics and the contemporary uses of clay. This course is required for AP Studio in Art students who choose the 3D Design Portfolio

***Evaluation: 4 major projects, art journal, sketchbook***

***(1/2 unit)***

## STUDIO IN 3D DESIGN/SCULPTURE

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

***Evaluation: 4 major projects, art journal, sketchbook***

***(1/2 unit)***

## STUDIO IN DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

***Prerequisites: none; maximum class size is 10 students***

This half-year course is an introduction to the basics of digital photography as an art form and as a technological tool. Students will learn how to operate a digital camera, scanner, computer software, and printer in hands-on photography projects. Students will use Adobe Photoshop in order to work with layers of digital images. The history of photography and major modern artists will be studied.

***Evaluation: Major projects, homework, class blog, and final portfolio***

***(1/2 unit)***

## STUDIO IN JEWELRY MAKING

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

***Prerequisites: none***

In this ½ year's jewelry-making course, students will engage in a variety of art media and techniques such as copper wire wrapping, clay beads, carved soapstone, millefiore, poured resin, etc. to create artful jewelry. Examples of possible projects include crystal pendant necklaces, wrapped paper beads bracelets, knotted seed bead necklaces, upcycled vintage watches, Boho necklaces, wire earring hooks, clay sgraffito necklaces, silver coin rings, etc. An optional component of this course is sales of these pieces, possibly through the MMA Magic Market. This course promotes improved eye/hand coordination, creative thinking, good design practices, community engagement, and entrepreneurship

***Evaluation: Major projects, homework, class blog, and final portfolio***

***(1/2 unit)***

## STUDIO IN DESIGN/FIBER ARTS

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

***Prerequisite: Studio Art I***

Studio in Design – Fiber Arts includes experimentation with various methods of working with fibers including loom weaving, rug hooking, batik, sewing with and without a pattern, quilting, basic crochet and/or knitting techniques, and embroidery. Projects involve both two-dimensional and three-dimensional formats. Students explore the history of Fiber Arts and their place in contemporary art. This course is helpful for those students who wish to take either the Portfolio Preparation course or the AP Studio in Art course.

***Evaluation: Major projects and final portfolio***

***(1 unit)***

## STUDIO IN ADVANCED PHOTOGRAPHY & MEDIA

(Grades 11, 12)

**Prerequisite:** *Studio in Digital Photography; maximum class size is 10 students*

Studio in Advanced Photography & Media is a course that will reinforce and further develop the basics taught in Studio in Digital Photography. Students will expand upon the skills necessary to properly operate a digital camera, scanner, computer software, and printer for digital photography. Students will utilize Adobe Photoshop, Adobe In Design, and Windows Movie Maker to edit photos, create digital artwork, and create short videos and slide shows. Students will examine the history of photography, graphic art and design, and typography.

**Evaluation:** *Major projects, blog entries, homework, and final portfolio*

**(1 unit)**

## COLLEGE DRAWING I

(Grades 11, 12)

**Prerequisites:** *Studio in Art, one visual arts class, 90% art average, recommendation of art department and School Counselor, application by the student, and successful completion of the required summer work*

Drawing I introduces basic drawing techniques to students who may have limited experience in handling various dry materials. This course will emphasize a traditional approach to drawing. Students will learn how to use a variety of media in assignments that foster technical proficiency. The use of color schemes and compositional strategies will also be explored in this class. Discussions addressing the work of contemporary artists will be incorporated into studio activities, as will art criticism and the implementation of art elements and principles of design.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Villa Maria College. Please see page 5 and your School Counselor for more information.

**Evaluation:** *Final Assessment: Artist Statement, Artist research sheet, 1 large drawing.*

**(1 unit)**

## AP ART & DESIGN

(Grade 12)

**Prerequisites:** *Studio in Art, one visual arts class, 90% art average, recommendation of art department and School Counselor, application by the student, and successful completion of the required summer work*

Either this course or Portfolio Preparation is required as the last course in the three-unit or five-unit sequence in Art. In this full-year course students may earn college art credit while working on a Drawing (and Painting), 2D design or 3D design portfolio. Students use a variety of media of their choice to develop a series of works based on one theme as well as other projects that show mastery of concept, process, and material. They gain experience in formal, technical, and expressive methods of working in art and share experiences and ideas in group critiques.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

**Evaluation:** *Summer work, eight major projects, sketchbook, an online portfolio is required, to be completed and uploaded to the AP website in the first week of May, plus 5 physical artworks that are documented and given to the Counselor, who will send them to be scored by AP judges on "exam day" in May.*

**(1 unit)**



**Business Electives**



## TECHNOLOGY SEMINAR

(Grade 9)

In this freshman-level course, students will learn how to most effectively use digital technologies to enhance their educational experiences in high school and beyond. In addition to becoming proficient in the Google suite (Gmail, Docs, Drive, etc.), students will explore Chrome extensions that will help them to read and understand digital texts, communicate in various settings, organize their ideas, plan projects, track due dates, and improve their overall productivity. The course will also equip students to responsibly use apps for self-improvement, study skills, and content learning. As students learn how to use these technologies, they will address the potential drawbacks of technology use and discover how to integrate technology in a healthy and rewarding manner.

*Evaluation: Final Project*

*(1/4 unit)*

## SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

(Grade 9, 10, 11, 12)

*Prerequisites: None*

This course provides students with the information and skills needed to succeed in their studies, high school career, and post-high school. This includes setting academic goals, managing time and financial resources to meet those goals, and developing an awareness of personal learning styles. Students will also build thinking, listening, reading, study skills, note-taking, test-taking, and information literacy skills. Additionally, the course includes discussions on stress management, career development, household skills, social skills, and general life concepts. Throughout, students will apply critical thinking skills to solve problems and evaluate situations.

*Evaluation: None*

*(1/4 unit)*

## INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

The primary goal for the Introduction to Business class is to understand and implement the various components that are involved with opening up and running a small business. The students will be asked to, as a class, create their own business plan.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through SUNY Buffalo State. Please see page 5 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Local project*

*(1 unit)*

## BUSINESS AND PERSONAL LAW

(Grades 11, 12)

This course emphasizes the relationship of business law to an individual's personal life as well as occupational life. Topics covered include business ethics, the court system, law enforcement, criminal and civil courts, the torts system, contracts, buying and selling goods, employer-employee relations, entrepreneurship, intellectual property, cyber security, and current legal issues

*Evaluation: Local project*

*(1/2 unit)*

# English

## **ENGLISH I**

(Grade 9)

In this course, students will learn to write well-constructed expository, persuasive, and descriptive compositions. Students will practice listening skills, reading comprehension, and the writing of compositions in the styles of English. Study of the novel, play, short story, and poem challenge students in elements of figurative language and fiction. Research skills, public speaking skills, and grammar are also stressed. Students make use of the process approach to writing and work in cooperative groups to edit and revise their work.

***Evaluation: Local Assessment***

***(1 unit)***

## **ENGLISH I HONORS**

(Grade 9)

***Prerequisite: An average of 94 in English in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade as well as qualifying scores on the High School Entrance Exam***

Honors English I is an introductory course to the study of literature that meets the requirements of English I at an accelerated pace. Self-responsibility is stressed in class discussions and assignments. Independent thinking is encouraged with writing and the analysis of literature. Students will learn to write well-constructed, stylized expository, persuasive, and descriptive compositions. Study of the novel, plays, short stories, and poems challenges students with elements of figurative language and fiction. The study and expression of literary analysis will also figure into the curriculum of study. Research skills, letter writing, public speaking skills, and grammar are also stressed. This course is preparation for future Honors level courses.

***Evaluation: Local Assessment***

***(1 unit)***

## **ENGLISH II**

(Grade 10)

***Prerequisite: English I***

Students will master listening skills, nonfiction reading comprehension, and the writing of compositions in the styles of English. Well-supported analyses of issues, ideas, and arguments will be practiced in written and oral presentations. Research skills are reinforced and required for a paper with in-text citations and works cited. The novel, short story, drama, and poetry are studied in depth. In this writing-intensive course, students will build on writing process skills by examining more sophisticated persuasive, comparative, and critical essay techniques and structures in preparation for the final assessment.

***Evaluation: Local Assessment***

***(1 unit)***

## **ENGLISH II HONORS**

(Grade 10)

***Prerequisite: Eligible students include McAuley Scholars (required course) and sophomores with a high average in English I or English I Honors, recommendation of English I teacher and School Counselor, and the completion of an application.***

Honors English II is an accelerated course that meets the graduation requirement for sophomore English. A primary goal of this class is to prepare students for AP English Language and Composition. The study of literature includes world literary works, drama, short stories, and poetry, as well as extended reading. Students deepen their understanding of various literary genres through intensive study. In addition, oral presentations and a variety of writing types are discussed and utilized for various purposes and audiences. A research paper with in-paper citations and works cited page will be completed as well.

***Evaluation: Local Assessment***

***(1 unit)***

## ENGLISH III

(Grade 11)

***Prerequisite: English II***

Students will refine and develop their writing skills utilizing expository, persuasive, narrative, and descriptive writing. The skills

necessary to produce a research paper containing references and a works cited list are reinforced. In addition, students will prepare for the SAT verbal section, including appropriate vocabulary. A historical survey of American literature includes the study of at least two American novels, dramas, several short stories, and poems.

***Evaluation: Local Assessment***

***(1 unit)***

## AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

(Grade 11)

***Prerequisites: English II, 94% or above English average, the recommendation of the English department and School Counselor, application by the student, attendance by a student at meetings for course candidates***

This college-level course emphasizes the analysis and close reading of nonfiction works. Students develop composition skills by writing essays in various rhetorical modes. Research skills are an important element of this course and a full-length research paper is required of all students.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

***Evaluation: Advanced Placement exam in May is required of all students enrolled in this course; final assessment***

***(1 unit)***

## ENGLISH IV

(Grade 12)

***Prerequisites: English III***

English IV is a course designed to offer students the opportunity to reinforce, practice, strengthen, and develop the skills necessary to be prepared for college-level work. Students will reinforce skills in grammar and punctuation to improve their skills in writing a coherent and informed essay. Through reading, debate, and writing, students will develop writing strategies for different types of assignments, as well as hone oral presentation skills. Through careful exploration of a variety of literary and visual media, students will develop methods for identifying and critically evaluating subject matter. Students will practice the skills required to complete college assignments productively and reinforce research skills. Research skills are an important element of this course and a full-length research paper is required of all students.

***Evaluation: Local Assessment***

***(1 unit)***

## AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

(Grade 12)

***Prerequisites: English III; with a minimum 94% average; recommendation of English Department and School Counselor, application by the student, attendance by the student at a meeting for course candidates***

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition is an in-depth study of literature at an analytical and theoretical level consistent with that of any introductory college course. In this course, students will explore literature spanning different genres and time periods while engaging in diverse methods of analysis. Students will study works of the literary canon primarily from British and American literature. In addition to preparing for the specific demands of the AP exam, students will spend much time developing their writing skills toward producing college-level research papers and critical analyses. Class participation and discussion are key elements of this course.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information. Research skills are an important element of this course and a full-length research paper is required of all students.

***Evaluation: Advanced Placement exam in May is required of all students***

***(1 unit)***

## English Electives

**PLEASE NOTE:** The following courses DO NOT replace any required English courses. Students taking these courses are expected to fulfill the requirements for the regular English program.

### **MODERN CREATIVE EXPRESSION**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

**Prerequisites:** None

This course is an exploration of self-expression through writing in the methods of expression utilized today. Various forms of writing will be discussed and analyzed, with students then venturing into their own creative writing processes. Some of the areas of composition that may be explored include poetry, short stories, personal and fictional narratives, character sketches, journalistic writing, blogs, and multimedia products. Students will have time to conference with both the teacher and other students about their writing. Students will compile a portfolio of their written works and contribute to the creation of a class anthology.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

**Evaluation:** *Writing portfolio and class anthology*

**(1/2 unit)**

### **JOURNALISM AND PUBLIC SPEAKING**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

**Prerequisites:** None

In this course, students learn the basics of journalistic writing in various forms. Students will learn from models of published writing to compose their own articles. Additionally, students will practice skills related to reporting including writing objectively, interviewing, and representing the words of others faithfully. Students also learn about bias and ethics in news writing. The second half of the course focuses on broadcast journalism and public speaking. There will be several opportunities for students to practice and develop their public speaking skills.

**Evaluation:** *Final student project and presentation*

**(1/2 unit)**

### **DRAMA**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

**Prerequisites:** None

Students will be introduced to the basic concepts of theatre arts. It is designed to accommodate students who have no experience or may have previously been involved in theatre. Students will use various creative drama techniques to build confidence and trust and stimulate imagination, movement, and role-play. Through theatre games, activities, and acting exercises students will learn to lose inhibitions and will gain trust in themselves as well as others in their groups. Students will learn and use drama and theatre vocabulary in class discussions and the activities will specifically address the promotion and reinforcement of students' literacy skills, including reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will exhibit and reinforce their skills through individual and group presentations, performances, movement and voice, character building, and script and journal writing.

**Evaluation:** *Final student self-reflection paper*

**(1/2 unit)**



# Languages Other Than English (LOTE)

**PLEASE NOTE:** All Mount Mercy Academy students are required to take **THREE** years of a language other than English. We encourage students to study a fourth or fifth year of a language other than English for proficiency. Academic eligibility for the second level of any language other than English is based on successfully passing the first-level examination of the target language (Spanish 1).

## **FRENCH I**

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

French I is the first course in a three-year sequence in which students learn to communicate in French on a daily basis. They will practice speaking, reading, writing, and listening in French with each unit. Each unit includes relevant vocabulary, grammatical structures, and cultural material presented in real-life situations. Students begin to experience a sense of satisfaction as they learn to use the language.

*Evaluation: Local Assessment*

*(1 unit)*

## **FRENCH II**

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

*Prerequisites: French I or a passing grade on the Mount Mercy French I placement exam for entering ninth grade students.*

The second course of the three-year sequence increases student skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in French. Emphasis is on learning vocabulary, grammar, and on conversation in order to communicate in real-life situations. Study, awareness, and appreciation of French and Francophone culture are broadened.

*Evaluation: Local Assessment*

*(1 unit)*

## **SPANISH I**

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

Spanish I is the first course in a three-year sequence in which students learn to communicate on a daily basis in Spanish. Communication in speaking, listening, reading, and writing in Spanish is accomplished through careful organization and pacing of material. Students experience a true sense of satisfaction and success as they learn to use the language. Simple, straightforward vocabulary, grammar explanations, and cultural material are all presented in real-life situations.

*Evaluation: Local Assessment*

*(1 unit)*

## **SPANISH II**

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

*Prerequisites: Spanish I or a passing grade on the Mount Mercy Spanish I placement exam for entering ninth grade students.*

The second course of the three-year sequence increases student skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish. Emphasis is on learning vocabulary, grammar, and on conversation in order to communicate in real-life situations. Study, awareness, and appreciation of Hispanic culture are broadened.

*Evaluation: Local Assessment*

*(1 unit)*

## SPANISH III

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

**Prerequisites:** *Spanish II*

This course completes the three-year sequence. Students perfect their speaking skills through extensive oral practice. Vocabulary and the use of grammar are studied. Composition in the Spanish language is stressed and listening skills are emphasized. The study of Hispanic culture is woven into the lessons throughout the course.

**Evaluation:** *Final Project or Local exam*

**(1 unit)**

## SPANISH IV: SPANISH LITERATURE AND CONVERSATION I

(Grades 11, 12)

**Prerequisites:** *Successful completion of the Spanish III Comprehensive Examination and teacher recommendation.*

This course is designed to further learning and understanding of the Spanish language and of the different Hispanic groups. Reading and writing skills are emphasized. The course mainly focuses on studying Hispanic culture and history as well as more advanced grammar concepts.

**Evaluation:** *Final Project*

**(1 unit)**

## SPANISH V-ADVANCED SPANISH COMPOSITION AND LITERATURE-HILBERT COLLEGE ADVANCED HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH 201\*

(Grade 12)

**Prerequisites:** *Juniors who have completed the application as well as Spanish III and received 90% or better on the Final exam with an overall average of at least 90% and teacher and counselor recommendation OR completion of Spanish IV and teacher recommendation.*

This is an advanced Spanish course for high school students who have completed 4 high school units of study. As such, the course will emphasize advanced communication and listening skills. Reading at an advanced level will introduce some literature and stress comprehension. Writing skills will be practiced through composition in connection to the literature and personal cultural reflection. Grammar will be an integral part of the course. Previously learned structures will be reviewed and reinforced while advanced grammatical structures will be introduced for mastery. Students will add to their vocabulary through the study of the literature and vocabulary learned to enhance their communication abilities.

\*Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Hilbert College. Please see page 5 and your School Counselor for more information.

**Evaluation:** *Hilbert College Performance-Based exam*

**(1 unit)**

## LOTE Electives

### INTRODUCTION TO FRENCH CONVERSATION & CULTURE

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

**Prerequisites:** *none*

French Conversation and Culture courses provide students with an introduction to the French language and the culture(s) of French-speaking people, placing greater emphasis on speaking and listening skills while deemphasizing writing and reading the language.

**Evaluation:** *final project*

**(1/2 unit)**



# Mathematics

**PLEASE NOTE:** All Mount Mercy Students are required to take FOUR years of Mathematics courses while in attendance at the academy. Individual exclusions may vary depending on a student's unique situation.

## PRE-ALGEBRA

(Grade 9)

**Prerequisites:** *Recommendation of the Acceptance Committee and teacher based on entrance exam scores/8th-grade math scores.*

This course is for students who require extra time to master the key ideas and prepare to take the Common Core Algebra assessment in June of their sophomore year. The course will focus on basic math skills, review material from 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8th-grade common core, and introduce/pre-teach major concepts for Algebra I. The course will build skills necessary for being successful in future math and science courses.

**Evaluation:** *Local Assessment*

**(1 unit)**

## ALGEBRA I

(Grade 9, 10)

**Prerequisites:** *Successful completion of 8th-grade math or Pre-Algebra.*

The focus of this year-long common core course is algebra. Topics will focus on reasoning with equations and expressions. Students will use a broad spectrum of problem-solving strategies, including solving equations and inequalities, graphing linear and quadratic functions and inequalities, and modeling real-world situations and data with functions. Other topics studied include operations with algebraic expressions and fractions, systems of equations and inequalities, ratios and proportions, factoring, radicals, quadratics, and statistics. A TI-84 Graphing Calculator (or better) is required for this course. Math lab is available for this course for additional review. Students are subject to being placed in a lab based on entrance exam scores/8th-grade math scores or at the request of the teacher.

**Evaluation:** *Local Assessment*

**(1 unit)**

## GEOMETRY & GEOMETRY HONORS

(Grade 9, 10, 11)

**Prerequisites:** *Algebra I; Placement in Honors is dependent on teacher recommendation.*

The core of this year-long course is Geometry. The main topics include geometric relationships of triangles, quadrilaterals, and circles, transformational and coordinate geometry, constructions, similarity, formal and informal proofs, and trigonometry. A TI-84 PLUS CE Graphing Calculator is required. Math lab is available for this course for additional review. Students are subject to being placed in a lab at the request of the teacher.

**Evaluation:** *Local Assessment*

**(1 unit)**

## CORE ALGEBRA II

(Grade 10, 11, 12)

**Prerequisites:** *Algebra I, Geometry, and recommendation of Math Department*

Students in this course will take a concentrated version of Algebra II. This course will cover all major topics required for the Algebra 2 course as well as test-taking strategies. Math lab is available for this course for additional review. Students are subject to being placed in a lab at the request of the teacher. Students who pass this course will be placed in College Math Prep, Advanced Studies ECC College Math, or Statistics senior year. A TI-84 (or better) Graphing Calculator is required for this course.

**Evaluation:** *Local Assessment*

**(1 unit)**

## ALGEBRA II

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

**Prerequisites:** *Geometry*

Topics will include a review and extension of algebraic techniques, imaginary numbers, families of functions, direct and indirect variation, systems of equations, data analysis, sequences, probability, and trigonometry. A TI-84 (or better) Graphing Calculator is required for this course. Math lab is available for this course for additional review. Students are subject to being placed in a lab at the request of the teacher. Students who pass this course will be placed in Advanced Studies ECC College Math, AP Statistics, or Statistics senior year. A TI-84 (or better) Graphing Calculator is required for this course.

**Evaluation:** *Local assessment*

**(1 unit)**

## PRE-CALCULUS

(Grades 11, 12)

**Prerequisites:** *Algebra II and teacher recommendation*

This course is designed for students who will be taking calculus either at Mount Mercy or at the college level. Pre-calculus mathematics, including families of functions, matrices, vectors, trigonometric equations, limits of functions, derivatives, and polar equations, will be covered. Important algebra skills will be reviewed and extended. The course content will be investigated using both algebraic techniques and graphical. Some concepts and computations will be completed mentally, without the use of a calculator, to help prepare the student for Calculus. The TI-84 PLUS CE (or better) Graphing Calculator is required for this course.

**Evaluation:** *Local Assessment*

**(1 unit)**

## STATISTICS

(Grade 12)

**Prerequisites:** *Successful completion of Algebra II or Pre-Calculus and teacher recommendation*

This course covers both methods of descriptive and inferential statistics. Topics will include measures of central tendency, dispersion and position, normal and binomial distributions, estimation, hypothesis testing, correlation, regression, and contingency tables. Students will use the TI-84 (or better) Graphing Calculator and Microsoft Excel software packages. This course is designed for students considering careers in business, education, or the social sciences. Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

**Evaluation:** *Local Assessment*

**(1 unit)**

## AP STATISTICS

(Grade 12)

**Prerequisites:** *Successful completion of Algebra II or Pre Calculus, recommendation of Math Department and School Counselor, application by the student, attendance by the student at meetings for course candidates*

The purpose of AP Statistics is to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students will be exposed to four broad conceptual themes: exploring data, planning a study, anticipating patterns, and statistical inferences. A TI-84 (or better) Graphing Calculator is required for this course.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

**Evaluation:** *Advanced Placement examination required of all students enrolled in this course*

**(1 unit)**



## **AP CALCULUS AB/ADVANCED STUDIES CALCULUS (SUNY ERIE)**

(Grade 12)

***Prerequisites: Successful completion of Pre Calculus or Algebra II, 90% or above math average, recommendation of Mathematics Department and School Counselor, application by the student, attendance by the student at meetings for course candidates***

In this course, students will learn much of the material covered in one semester of college-level calculus. Topics include limits, differentiation, integration, and differential equations. A TI-84 (or better) Graphing Calculator is required for this course. Note: Students taking this course must choose between two different routes: (1) Pay the AP fee and receive credit through College Board after exam completion, or (2) Pay the ECC fee to receive credit through SUNY ECC based on getting a C or better in the course.

***Evaluation: College Exam (AP Option)***

***(1 unit)***

## **ADVANCED STUDIES COLLEGE MATH (SUNY ERIE)**

(Grade 12)

***Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra and Geometry, recommendation of Mathematics Department and School Counselor***

This is the first course in a two-semester sequence of college algebra and trigonometry. The sequence is preparatory for an introductory or survey level of Calculus. Basic algebra skills are reviewed and extended. Functions, in general, and their inverses are studied along with the properties, graphs, and transformations of linear, quadratic absolute value, radical rational, logarithmic, and exponential functions. Equations of the above functions, as well as linear systems of equations and linear and absolute value inequalities, are solved. Related application problems are incorporated throughout. This course provides 4 college credits and is articulated through Erie Community College. Students can request a transcript after completion that is transferable to most other colleges.

***Evaluation: College exam***

***(1 unit)***

# Music

## WOMEN'S CHORUS I

(Grade 9)

Designed for the student interested in music, this full-year course focuses on basic vocal production including posture, breath control, vowel formation, and tone. Students also study the elements of music, music history, rhythm patterns, sight singing, and basic theory. This course satisfies the New York State Fine Arts Requirement for graduation.

*Evaluation: Written tests, performance examination, and participation in Christmas and spring concerts*

**(1 unit)**

## WOMEN'S CHOIR

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

In Chorus II, III, and IV the principles of singing are further refined. Three-part harmony, blend, balance, proper diction, and dynamics are emphasized. Students also learn to differentiate tonalities, perform rhythm patterns, and practice sight singing. Participation in a national music festival is an option.

*Evaluation: Performance examination and participation in Christmas and spring concerts.*

**(1 unit)**

**N.B. STUDENTS IN THE CHORUS MAY AUDITION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE ALL-COUNTY CHORUS.**

## INTRODUCTION TO PIANO/KEYBOARD

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

This one semester course is designed for students with no prior piano or keyboard experience. The basics of pianistic technique and rhythmic counting will be utilized when learning to play basic music using standard piano methods. Some simple sight reading will also be integrated into each lesson.

*Evaluation: Basic playing exam, recording of song choice*

**(1/4 unit)**

## INTRODUCTION TO GUITAR

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

This one semester course is designed for students with no prior guitar experience. The basics of pianistic technique and rhythmic counting will be utilized when learning to play basic music using standard guitar methods. Some simple sight reading will also be integrated into each lesson.

*Evaluation: Basic playing exam, recording of song choice*

**(1/4 unit)**

## MUSIC PRODUCTION

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

This course is designed to take a student through the process of creating and completing a song. Students will have the option to explore their creativity including adding musical elements, percussion, and mixing the final product.

*Evaluation: Completion of fully produced song to be released in EP format.*

**(1/4 unit)**

## MUSIC THEORY & COMPOSITION

(Grade 10, 11, 12)

In this one-semester course, students will learn to read both the treble and bass clef. This includes the basic structure of melody, harmony, rhythm, chord structure, and the major and minor keys. Students will utilize these skills by creating their own short compositions. This course is intended to develop one's knowledge of the scale and develop the musician's familiarity with following a score.

*Evaluation: final project*

**(1/2 unit)**

## MUSIC & CULTURE

(Grade 10, 11, 12)

In this course, students will study the modern music industry and deepen their understanding of the various music styles of the 21st century. This includes music from various genres, countries, and cultures. Students will listen, analyze, and decode the skeleton of the songwriter's piece, study the colors and camera movements of their music videos, and take note of the color schemes and underlying themes in their fashion choices, and social media presence. This is a discussion-based course dependent on participation and creative understanding. This course is intended to develop a student's ability to intelligently discuss and present work. Field trips to concerts, recording studios, and meeting with artists will all be essential components of this course.

***Evaluation: final assessment***

***(1/2 unit)***

## ARTIST DEVELOPMENT

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

***Prerequisites: Audition during the previous school year; at least 1 year of Women's Choir***

In this course, students will develop an advanced understanding of performance style and entertainment in the modern music industry. They will utilize their knowledge of previous courses in order to identify the styles and techniques of Professional Artists. These skills will be measured by an ability to intelligently discuss live performances in written and discussion-based assessments. They will utilize an understanding of an Artistic Niche, and develop their own Artist throughout the duration of the course. Field trips to live performances will be an essential component of this class.

***Evaluation: final assessment***

***(1/2 unit)***



# Physical Education & Health

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

The physical education curriculum focuses on fitness and wellness for young women. Basic skills in individual and team sports take place in order to encourage lifetime participation in leisure activities. Interscholastic competition is also available at Mount Mercy. Basketball, soccer, softball, lacrosse, volleyball, tennis, track and field, golf, and cross-country are presently part of the athletic department.

*Evaluation: Preparation, participation, homework, and written tests on selected topics*

*(1/2 unit)*

## HEALTH

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

Health is a proactive educational strategy to help improve the wellness of students. This course is required for New York State high school graduation. The course is designed to develop attitudes, knowledge, and critical thinking skills which will serve the students now and in the future. Students will also be required to participate in class discussions, prevention projects, role plays, and problem-solving activities, actively engage with guest speakers, and research community resources that are available to assist students in developing their personal wellness plans.

*Evaluation: Local Assessment*

*(1/2 unit)*

## SURVEY OF DANCE I & II

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

This course will give students a well-rounded experience in dance study. It will include the history of dance, fundamental technique & terminology, as well as exercises to facilitate the student's balance, coordination, and agility. Genres of dance that will be studied are jazz, musical theater, modern, contemporary & vernacular dance. Participation is mandatory. This course may be taken in place of a physical education class.

*Evaluation: Preparation, participation, & participation in both school concerts*

*(1/2 unit)*

## SURVEY OF DANCE III

(Grades 11, 12)

Students in dance 3 will continue an in depth study of the techniques learned dance 1/2. Students will gain a deeper understanding of dance history and culture, exercises to promote flexibility, strength & conditioning and will be expected to participate in choreography studies. Participation is mandatory. This class may be taken in place of a physical education class.

*Evaluation: Preparation, participation, & participation in both school concerts*

*(1/2 unit)*





# Science

## **LIFE SCIENCE - BIOLOGY**

(Grade 9)

This course satisfies the graduation requirement in science. Students in high school develop understanding of key concepts that help them make sense of life science. The ideas are building upon students' science understanding of disciplinary core ideas, science and engineering practices, and crosscutting concepts from earlier grades. There are five life science topics in high school: 1) Structure and Function, 2) Inheritance and Variation of Traits, 3) Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems, 4) Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems, and 5) Natural Selection and Evolution. The performance expectations for high school life science blend core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing usable knowledge that can be applied across the science disciplines. While the performance expectations in high school life science couple particular practices with specific disciplinary core ideas, instructional decisions should include use of many practices underlying the performance expectations. The performance expectations are based on the grade-band endpoints described in *A Framework for K-12 Science Education* (NRC, 2012). The course requires one block of laboratory per cycle.

***Evaluation: local assessment***

***(1 unit)***

## **HONORS LIFE SCIENCE - BIOLOGY (conceptual based Biology)**

(Grade 9)

***Prerequisites: Strong science grades in middle school, teacher recommendation***

This course satisfies a graduation requirement in science. All topics from the NYS Science Core Curriculum for Life Science - Biology will be covered but with more depth and an emphasis on current and relevant findings in the field. This course is designed to develop an understanding and appreciation of the fundamental principles of biology, the study of living things. There are five life science topics in high school: 1) Structure and Function, 2) Inheritance and Variation of Traits, 3) Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems, 4) Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems, and 5) Natural Selection and Evolution. Students will be required to communicate their knowledge using both qualitative and quantitative means. This course provides an excellent foundation for students with an interest and ability in science who plan to pursue advanced science courses. This course requires one block of laboratory activities per cycle.

***Evaluation: local assessment***

***(1 unit)***

## **PHYSICAL SETTING: EARTH SCIENCE**

(Grade 10)

This course satisfies a graduation requirement in science. Earth Science is a New York State laboratory course aimed at the examination of the earth and its natural processes. Climate, weather, atmospheric phenomena, and energy exchange are topics studied with a focus on the geological history of New York State, its landscape, and environmental change. This course requires one block of laboratory activities.

***Evaluation: Local assessment***

***(1 unit)***

## **PHYSICAL SCIENCE**

(Grades 11, 12)

The Physical Science course is a study of matter and energy. The approach of this class emphasizes everyday applications and physical laws. As students progress through the course, they soon realize that most of the technological advances they have taken for granted are merely applications of basic physical science principles. There are several unifying themes present in this course. Physical Science Basics; The Nature of Matter; Introduction to Matter; Kinds of Substances; Interactions of Matter; Forces, Motion and Energy; Waves, Sound, and Light; Electricity and Magnetism; Alternative Energy Sources. During the second semester, this course will focus on

environmental sustainability and stewardship. The global ecosystem, the Anthropocene, sustainable engineering, and a sustainable future will be studied.

**Evaluation: Local assessment**

**(1 unit)**

## **PHYSICAL SETTING: CHEMISTRY**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

**Prerequisites: Successful completion of Physical Setting Earth Science with an overall average of 80%**

**Sophomore Prerequisites: 90% overall average in Life Science - Biology, 85% overall average in Math, and teacher recommendation**

This course satisfies a graduation requirement in science. This course is designed to follow the Regents Chemistry curriculum. Emphasis will be on the applications of chemistry in the world. Topics will include energy and matter, atomic structure, bonding, the periodic table, math in chemistry, stoichiometry, kinetics and equilibrium, acids and bases, reduction oxidation, and organic and nuclear chemistry. This course requires one block of laboratory activities per cycle.

**Evaluation: local assessment**

**(1 unit)**

## **CONCEPTUAL PHYSICS**

(Grade 12)

**Prerequisites: Passing grade in Algebra and Geometry, completion of three lab science courses and teacher recommendation required**

This course satisfies graduation requirement in science. This course is designed for non-science majors to give them a better understanding of the physical aspects of the world. It covers the topics of mechanics, wave phenomena, heat, electricity, light, sound and atomic physics. The course includes laboratory hours integrated into the curriculum. This course does not require a separate laboratory component.

**Evaluation: Local assessment**

**(1 unit)**

## **PHYSICAL SETTING: PHYSICS**

(Grade 11, 12)

**Prerequisites: Passing grades in Algebra and Geometry.**

This course satisfies a graduation requirement in science. This course is a continuation of the core courses in the science program with a focus on understanding how the physical world works. Topics of mechanics, wave phenomena, electricity, and atomic and nuclear physics are discussed. This course will familiarize students with concepts required for entering engineering, physical therapy, and health science college majors. This course requires one block of laboratory activities per cycle.

**Evaluation: local assessment**

**(1 unit)**

## **COLLEGE-LEVEL BIOLOGY - Principles of Biology**

(Grades 11, 12)

**Prerequisites: Life Science - Biology and Chemistry final grade a minimum of 90% or better, recommendation of the Science Department; application by the student.**

College Biology is an introductory college-level biology course usually taken by biology majors during their first three semesters. This course's curriculum is aligned with Buffalo State College's curriculum for Biology 100 Principles of Biology. 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. Through project-based learning, students will have the opportunity to apply the following scientific skills to real-life situations: making observations, hypothesis development, measurement, data collection, experimentation, evaluation of evidence, and quantitative analysis. A substantial inquiry-based laboratory component is an integral part of the course. Please note that this course may be offered every other year, alternating with AP Chemistry, depending on student interest.

**Evaluation: Course Final Assessment - Written and Performance Based**

**(1 unit)**

## AP CHEMISTRY

(Grades 11, 12)

**Prerequisites:** *Completion of Chemistry, 90% or above science average, recommendation of the Science Department, Math Department, and School Counselor; application by the student; student attendance at a meeting for AP course candidates.*

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 and periodicity, intermolecular forces and bonding, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, kinetics and equilibrium, acids and bases, and thermodynamics. The course curriculum is compatible with many Chemistry courses in colleges and universities. Students will apply mathematical knowledge and understanding of algebra, logarithms, and exponential equations. Students will be expected to complete a summer assignment. Please note that this course may be offered every other year, alternating with AP Biology, depending on student interest.

**Evaluation:** *Advanced Placement exam and local assessment in May are required*

**(1 unit)**

## Science Electives

**PLEASE NOTE:** The following courses are designed as electives for those students who have a personal desire to further explore the world of science. The electives are offered to students who will be simultaneously completing a three-unit sequence in science.

## FORENSIC SCIENCE

(Grade 11, 12)

**Prerequisites:** *Successful completion of Life Science - Biology and Earth Science (or Chemistry)*

Forensic Science is the application of science (chemistry, physics, biology, and psychology) to the criminal and civil laws that are enforced by police agencies in a criminal justice system. It includes the investigation of fingerprinting, fiber analysis, ballistics, arson, trace evidence analysis, poisons, drugs, DNA analysis, blood spatters, and blood samples. Students are taught the proper collection, preservation, and laboratory analysis of various samples.

**Evaluation:** *Final Project*

**(1 unit)**

## THE HUMAN BODY

(Grade 11, 12)

**Prerequisites:** *Successful completion of Life Science - Biology with a grade of 80% or above Science Average*

This course is geared toward students who are considering pursuing a career in any of the science or health-related fields. The course content will provide an integrated view of the structure and function of the human body as well as how different body systems work together. All physiological concepts are tied to some level of body structure and organization. Laboratory activities, including dissections, are embedded within the course.

**Evaluation:** *Local assessment*

**(1/2 unit)**

## ANIMAL BEHAVIOR

(Grade 11, 12)

**Prerequisites:** *Successful completion of Life Science - Biology and Earth Science (or Chemistry)*

This course will explore the fascinating world of animal behavior. The field of animal behavior is very integrative and multidisciplinary; thus, the course will cover a diversity of behaviors and examine both their underlying mechanism and the evolutionary forces.

The class will explore the types of questions animal behaviorists ask, the methods they use to study animal behavior; the types of data they collect, and the ways they interpret their data to gain a better understanding of why and how animals behave the way they do. The course will heavily use examples from vertebrate animals and invertebrate animals alike and occasionally talk about human behavior.

**Evaluation:** *Local assessment*

**(1/2 unit)**



# Social Studies

## GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY I

(Grade 9)

The curriculum of Global History and Geography I will focus on the major ideas, eras, themes, developments, and turning points in world history. The course is a chronological study of world history up to 1750. Emphasis is placed on the impact of geography on the development of world civilizations. Students will examine the broad sweep of history and geography from a variety of perspectives.

*Evaluation: Local Assessment*

*(1 unit)*

## GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY I HONORS

(Grade 9)

*Prerequisites: Strong Social Studies grades in middle school, teacher recommendation, Counselor approval*

Honors Global History and Geography I follows the curriculum of the Regular Global I course which focuses on geography, as well as the major eras, ideas, themes, developments, and turning points in world history. The course is a chronological study of history up to 1750. However, Honors Global I is more rigorous and detailed in its approach. Special emphasis will be placed on primary source readings, extensive writing assignments, and outside-class readings. Assessments, due at specific times during the summer and regular school year, will be required. Honors Global I is intended to prepare students for the Advanced Placement World History course. Acceptance into Honors Global I is determined by the Social Studies department and the School Counselors.

*Evaluation: a separate, honors-level Global History and Geography I the final assessment will be administered in June.*

*(1 unit)*

## GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY II

(Grade 10)

This course continues the chronological study of world history and geography from 1750 to the present. Students will examine the development and interaction of social, political, economic, cultural, and religious systems in different regions of the world.

*Evaluation: Local Assessment*

*(1 unit)*

## AP WORLD HISTORY

(Grade 10)

*Prerequisites: Eligible students include McAuley Scholars (required course) and sophomores with a 90% or better Social Studies average, recommendation of Social Studies Department and School Counselor, application by the student, attendance by the student at the meeting for course candidates*

Advanced Placement World History covers the time frame from the beginning of civilization to the present day. The purpose of the course is to allow students to develop a greater understanding of human societies and how they grow and interact. The course covers the broad spectrum of history with emphasis placed on the understanding of cultural, institutional, technological, and geographic experiences. Students will be introduced to college-level work and must take the Advanced Placement exam in May.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Advanced Placement exam in May is required of all students enrolled in this course*

*(1 unit)*



## U.S. HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

(Grade 11)

This course begins with the colonial and constitutional foundations of the United States and explores the government structure and functions written in the Constitution. The development of the nation and the political, social, and economic factors that led to the challenges our nation faced in the Civil War are addressed. Industrialization, urbanization, and the accompanying problems are examined, along with America's emergence as a world power, the two world wars of the 20th century, and the Cold War. Students explore the expansion of the federal government, the threat of terrorism, and the place of the United States in an increasingly globalized and interconnected world.

**Evaluation: Local Assessment**

**(1 unit)**

## AP UNITED STATES HISTORY

(Grade 11)

**Prerequisites: Global History and Geography I and II, 90% or above Social Studies average, recommendation of Global History and Geography I and II teachers and School Counselor, application by the student, attendance by the student at the meeting for course candidates**

This one-year course is a chronological study of U.S. history from colonial times to the present. Emphasis is placed on primary sources and interpretation of differing viewpoints of historians. The purpose of the course is to provide students with an opportunity to study history at a college level. The course involves extensive reading and writing assignments.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

**Evaluation: Advanced Placement exam in May is required of all students enrolled in this course**

**(1 unit)**

## PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT

(Grade 12)

**Prerequisites: Global History and Geography I and II, US. History and Government**

This one-semester course provides students with opportunities to become engaged in the political process by acquiring knowledge and practicing the skills necessary for active citizenship. The topics covered include the foundations of American democracy, civil rights, and liberties, the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, civic participation, and public policy issues. Special emphasis is placed on the role of political parties and voting as we focus on the essential question of "Which political party best represents me?" Students will investigate the expansion of voting rights as well as the sociological and psychological factors which influence voting behavior. Students will participate as informed citizens in the political processes of the United States as they model the core civic values inherent in our founding documents and analyze issues at the international, national, state, and local levels of government.

**Evaluation: Local assessment**

**(1/2 unit)**

## AP GOVERNMENT

(Grade 12)

**Prerequisites: Global History and Geography I, II, and US History, 90% or above Social Studies average, recommendation of US History teacher and School Counselor, application by the student, attendance by the student at a meeting for course candidates.**

AP U.S. Government and Politics is an introductory college-level course in U.S. government and politics. Students cultivate their understanding of U.S. government and politics through analysis of data and text-based sources as they explore topics like constitutionalism, liberty and order, civic participation in a representative democracy, competing policy-making interests, and methods of political analysis.

**Evaluation: Advanced Placement exam in May is required of all students enrolled in this course and Final Project.**

**(1 unit)**

## ECONOMICS

(Grade 12)

***Prerequisites: Global History and Geography I and II, U.S. History and Government***

This one-semester course emphasizes economics and economic decision-making. The course includes basic economic concepts and understandings that all persons need to function effectively and intelligently as citizens and participants in the economy of the United States and the world. The content presents a rational decision-making process that can be applied to all economic decisions. Microeconomic and macroeconomic topics will be discussed. Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Bryant and Stratton College. Please see page 5 and your School Counselor for more information.

***Evaluation: Local assessment***

***(1/2 unit)***

## Social Studies Electives

**PLEASE NOTE: The following courses DO NOT replace any required Social Studies courses. Students taking these courses are expected to fulfill the requirements for the regular Social Studies program.**

## AP PSYCHOLOGY

(Grade 11, 12)

***Prerequisites: Global Studies I and II, US. History and Government, 90% overall average, recommendation of Social Studies Department and School Counselor, student application, attendance by the student at a meeting for course candidates***

A survey of the scientific study of human behavior includes major topics: the brain, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, learning and memory, development, emotion, personality, clinical psychology, and social psychology. This course is especially recommended for students who wish to pursue careers in the social sciences or medical fields.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

***Evaluation: Advanced Placement exam in May is required of all students enrolled in this class***

***(1 unit)***

## INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

(Grades 11, 12)

This one-semester course is a general survey of the basic concepts, theories, and methods of the discipline of psychology. The course curriculum includes the study of the historical development of psychology, current theoretical perspectives, the biological basis of behavior, sensation, perception, personality theories, human development throughout the lifespan, theories of learning, memory, intelligence, motivation, emotions, psychological disorders and wellness, and methods of treatment.

***Evaluation: Local assessment***

***(1/2 unit)***

## INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

(Grades 11, 12)

This one-semester course will introduce the basic concepts of sociology with an emphasis placed on the nature of human relationships, culture, social structure, social development throughout the lifespan, social interaction, social institutions, deviance, social stratification, social inequality, and social change. The curriculum will highlight the unique perspective that Sociology provides by focusing on the ways in which social contexts influence individuals and groups. This emphasis will encourage students to see the world through the eyes of others, to increase their understanding of group dynamics, and to effectively participate in a diverse and multicultural society

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

**Evaluation: Local assessment**

**(1/2 unit)**

## THE HOLOCAUST

(Grade 11 and 12)

**Prerequisites: Global History and Geography I & II**

This one-semester course is an interdisciplinary study of the historical, social, religious, political, and economic forces that led to the Holocaust. Students will investigate the major themes and topics associated with the Holocaust using both print and digital resources, including primary source materials, visual history testimonies, informational text, and literary selections. This in-depth study will include units on the history of anti-Semitism, the rise of Nazism, early stages of persecution, the ghettos, the “Final Solution”, resistance and rescue, survivors, and liberators. There will be an emphasis throughout the semester on the use of digital resources, especially those provided by the USC Shoah Foundation and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

**Evaluation: Alternative Assessment or Research Project**

**(1/2 unit)**

## WOMEN’S RIGHTS/CIVIL RIGHTS

(Grade 11 and 12)

**Prerequisites: Global History and Geography I & II**

The first half of the course will focus on the history of American Women and their struggle to achieve equality, from the founding of America to the current political, social, and economic status of women in 21st Century America. We will investigate the historical development of the women’s movement with the goal of understanding feminism and feminist perspectives.

The second half of the course will focus on the history of the American Civil Rights Movement, emphasizing the ways in which Americans challenged their government to live up to the principles of equality and justice. We will investigate the history of the denial of equality to African Americans from the founding of America to the Modern Civil Rights Movement. This part of the course will conclude with an analysis of race relations in the late 20th-early 21st century.

Throughout the course, special emphasis will be placed on the words of African Americans and American Women through historical documents such as letters, diaries, speeches, essays, poetry, literature, and music.

**Evaluation: Alternative Assessment or Research Project**

**(1/2 unit)**



# Theology

The Theology curriculum at Mount Mercy Academy is designed to provide education not only on the doctrines of the Catholic faith but also to develop the practice of faith through lived experience.

Inspired by the work of Catherine McAuley and animated by the call of the gospel, we acknowledge our Christian responsibility to promote peace and live justice. Throughout the curriculum, attention is given to issues related to women and their effectiveness as witnesses of the gospel and instruments of mercy. The charism of mercy, Christian sexuality from a Catholic perspective, ongoing experience in prayer, liturgy, and the celebration of the sacraments are integrated throughout the Theology curriculum.

Participation in service experiences is definitive of who we are as a Mercy community. The successful completion of service hours at every grade level is necessary for graduating from MMA, putting into practice the spiritual and corporal works of Mercy.

## THEOLOGY I

(Grade 9)

The course is intended to help the students to gain a better understanding of the Catholic Christian tradition in greater depth. It offers the opportunity for students to understand the Catholic Heritage. Through the study of Faith and the Paschal Mystery, Prayer, The Liturgical Year, and the Mass, students will understand their faith on a personal and affective level.

*Evaluation: Local Assessment*

*(1 unit)*

## THEOLOGY II

(Grade 10)

The sophomore year focuses on Sacred Scriptures. Students will explore the **Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament)** with particular attention to the first five books of the Bible, examination of the Creation Accounts, the Exodus, and the history of the Jewish nation, as well as discover our Jewish roots.

Students will then move on to explore **Christian Scriptures (New Testament)** with a focus on getting to know Jesus better through the study of the Gospels, studying the Paschal Mystery, and Jesus revealing God in humanity. Particular attention will be given to Jesus' relationship with the oppressed and marginalized people and his message of love and compassion for all. They will learn to apply this knowledge to life experiences and the practice of our faith in building the Kingdom of God here on earth. Special attention will be given to the voices of Women in Scripture.

*Evaluation: Alternative assessment*

*(1 unit)*

## THEOLOGY III

(Grade 11)

This course will focus on Christian Spiritual Formation, Relationships, Morality, Social Justice, Dignity and Respect, How we Become Advocates for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, History of the Church, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Worship and How to Apply the Bible to Everyday Life. We will take wide brush strokes as we start in Genesis and work our way to today. Our trinitarian God is a God of love, even though it looks different throughout history. There will be times when we will focus on certain eras and people and how they were motivated by God to bring compassion and mercy to their generation. As we learn, we will be energized and inspired to receive fresh revelation from God and become modern day Christ bearer reformers in problem solving, innovations, strategies and inventions. Our project based learning will equip and target areas of passion and concerns as we implement these in real life.

*Evaluation: Alternative Assessment*

*(1 unit)*



## THEOLOGY IV

(Grade 12)

This course will focus on Christian Spiritual Formation, Names of God, Gratitude and Hope, Social Justice, World Religions, The Gospel of Jesus Christ, Death, Dying, Loss and Trauma. We will take a deeper dive into our faith from the New Testament through today. Our trinitarian God is a Good God, but it looks different throughout history. There will be times when we will focus on different ways people interact and respond to God. We will also learn what the different types of love look like from the perspective of the Bible. For Instance: how God loves us, how we love God, how we love ourselves, and how we love others according to our faith in Christ. As we learn how to love, we will be energized and inspired to receive fresh revelation on what it means to be a child of God. Our project based learning will equip and target areas of passion and concerns as we implement these in real life.

*Evaluation: Alternative assessment*

*(1 unit)*

**A Service Component is required for all grade levels in order to pass Theology for the year. A total of 100 required hours must be completed in order to graduate from Mount Mercy Academy. A portfolio of the service along with the theological reflections written by the student will be held in reserve by her theology teacher each year.**

**Students also receive instruction on Mother Catherine McAuley, the Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, and the life's work of Sr. Frances Ward. They will also use the book Praying with Catherine McAuley throughout the four years of Theology.**





# Additional Electives

The School Counselors at Mount Mercy Academy teach non-credit-bearing Seminar courses to students that focus on the areas of academic, personal/social, and career development. These courses help prepare students to be college and career ready once they graduate. The seminars will be taken during one semester in each year of high school, pending any scheduling conflicts.

## **LEADERSHIP SEMINAR 1**

(Grade 9)

This course provides freshman students with assistance in their transition to high school. The course will take an extensive look into each student's personal qualities to discover where their abilities lie. They will embrace the concept of mindfulness by focusing on one's awareness of themselves and their surroundings. Students will learn how to deal with everyday high school situations and be provided with tools to help others as well. The course utilizes the framework of Sean Covey's book titled *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*.

## **LEADERSHIP SEMINAR 2**

(Grade 10)

This course is intended for sophomore students and is a continuation of Leadership Seminar 1 from 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will continue to learn about themselves and focus on developing their strengths and personal qualities based on Sean Covey's book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*. Students will also be completing activities on career exploration to further develop their career interests.

## **JUNIOR SEMINAR**

(Grade 11)

In this course, students will explore their interests using inventories and research careers associated with their results. In addition, students will complete a "College Comparison" project in which they will research three different colleges and discover various important characteristics of the schools that are used when it is time to begin their college search in their senior year. Students will also receive an introduction to the college application process, including information regarding college applications, college essays, scholarships, financial aid, and SAT/ACT information.

## **SENIOR SEMINAR**

(Grade 12)

This course provides seniors with the time in the school day to primarily work on all aspects of their college applications. Students will also learn valuable information that will help them be successful in college and beyond, including but not limited to, budgeting, managing stress, interviewing skills, and learning from failure.

# Academies

## **THE SCIENCE AND HEALTH CARE ACADEMY**

(Grades 11, 12)

The Academy of Science and Health Care at Mount Mercy Academy integrates academics and technology and includes a variety, of course, selections with materials relevant to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The program emphasizes the importance of project, service, and work-based learning experiences. The Academy of Science and Health Care provides opportunities for students to learn skills necessary for a career path in health sciences and research. Students will be given every opportunity available to learn and develop through Mount Mercy's curriculum and partnership with the Catholic Health System and the community.



## **WOMEN IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES ACADEMY**

(Grades 11, 12)

Mount Mercy Academy seeks to provide a rigorous program for students whose interests lie in the social sciences. The Social Sciences Academy will create a cohort of students on similar career paths so that they can create meaningful contacts that will be an asset to them even after they have graduated from Mount Mercy. There will also be the opportunity to earn an honors qualification to acknowledge those students that strive for excellence in Advanced Placement classes.

The Social Sciences Academy will give students the opportunity to specialize in various fields. Based on their field experiences, students will be able to earn one of several distinctions at graduation. These specialized diplomas will enable the Social Sciences Academy to help students narrow their interests and create lifelong friendships with other students who are seeking similar certificates at graduation. These distinctions will help shape the field experiences available to the girls. Within the Social Sciences Academy, students will be able to earn the following distinctions:

- Women in Law
- Women in History
- Women in Government
- Women in Social Work
- Women in Psychology

The Social Sciences Academy will have four components:

- Part I: Field Experiences
- Part II: Challenging Academic Courses
- Part III: Independent Experiential Learning
- Part IV: Higher Education Plans

## **THE BUSINESS AND FINANCE ACADEMY**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

The Mount Mercy Business and Finance Academy gives Mount Mercy students the tools to make smart financial decisions and learn how to navigate the business world. In the 2021-22 academic year, the students in the Business Academy showed their dedication and creativity with the official opening of a women-owned and student-run cafe called the Magic Market and in the 2022-23 academic year, the student opened their doors to the Wizard Wear store. Students in the Academy work at the on-campus market and Wizard Wear store every morning during homeroom and during select sporting events. The goal of the Business and Finance Academy is to empower students to pursue entrepreneurship. Students are required to complete 20 hours of service in either the Magic Market or Wizard Wear store. In addition, students must complete Introduction to Business to fulfill the Business Academy requirements.



## **THE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

(Grades 8, 9, 10, 11, 12)

The Mount Mercy Leadership Academy has achieved an impressive level of prestige based on the rigorous curriculum. Students from local 8th grade middle schools compete for acceptance into the academy based upon the recommendation of their middle school principal. Once accepted, students participate in experiential learning and service opportunities that will enable them to realize the many gifts that they have been given and understand their role in using these gifts in order to make the world a better place.

Recently, Mount Mercy expanded the Leadership Academy from an 8th grade program to a five-year academy in order to complement the four other existing "Academies within the Academy." Students who participate in the Leadership Academy complete service work, both in and out of school, that incorporates the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy.

## **THE VISUAL ARTS ACADEMY**

(Grades 11, 12)

MMA Arts Academy provides students with a solid foundation in the arts through a sequence of academic courses, career exploration opportunities, and inspiring interactions with fellow students, faculty, and professional artists. The four-year curriculum begins in the freshman year when newly inducted students focus their studies on the Visual Arts. Students in the Arts Academy will develop and explore their own artistic styles. Students will participate in Academy art shows and career-driven field trips. Students will attend professional and student art exhibits, and interact with guest speakers who are distinguished visual artists. Students will develop visual and digital portfolios of their artwork. Our comprehensive program is ideal for students on a career path in the visual arts.

# Mercy Learning Online

## Mercy Online Learning - Summer Classes

**Timeline:** The Summer 2024 course schedule is as follows

**½ Credit courses:** | June 10-July 12, 2024

**Late start Health class** | June 17-July 19, 2024

**Credit recovery courses:**

- Semester 1 | June 10-June 28, 2024
- Semester 2 | July 1-July 19, 2024

**Non-credit skills courses** | June 17-July 12, 2024

### Cost:

- **\$315.00** for each student enrolled in a 1/2 credit course | June 10, 2024 - July 12, 2024, or June 17, 2024 - July 19, 2024
- **\$205.00** for each student enrolled in a credit recovery course for Semester 1 | June 10, 2024 - June 28, 2024
- **\$205.00** for each student enrolled in a credit recovery course for Semester 2 | July 1, 2024 - July 19, 2024
- **\$205.00** for each student enrolled in the non-credit skills courses | June 17, 2024 - July 12, 2024

**Registration:** Please see Mrs. Burvid in the Main Office for a registration form. Please return to Mrs. Burvid with the online fee. Please make a check payable to Mount Mercy Academy. You will be registered for classes through the counseling center using the Mercy online system.

### COURSES OFFERED

#### Credit Courses

N-SS01 - American Government  
N-S02 - Anatomy  
N-A01 - Art History  
N-S03 - Astronomy & Cosmology  
N-E05 - Creative Writing  
N-BT01 - Digital Marketing  
N-SS02 - Economics  
N-P01 - Fitness  
N-SS10 - Global Affairs  
N-SP01 - Health  
N-SS03 - Intro. to Psychology  
N-A03 - Speech  
N-SS09 - Street Law  
History

#### Credit Recovery Courses Semester 1

N-M01-A - Algebra 1  
N-M04-A - Alg/Trig  
N-S01-A - Biology  
N-S04-A - Chemistry  
N-E02-A - English 9  
N-E03-A - English 10  
N-E04-A - English 11-12  
N-M03-A - Geometry  
N-L01-A - Spanish 1  
N-T01-A - Theology 9-10  
N-T03-A - Theology 11-12  
N-SS07-A - United States History  
N-SS06-A - World History

#### Credit Recovery Courses Semester 2

N-M01-B - Algebra 1  
N-M04-B - Alg/Trig  
N-S01-B - Biology  
N-S04-B - Chemistry  
N-E02-B - English 9  
N-E03-B - English 10  
N-E04-B - English 11-12  
N-M03-B - Geometry  
N-L01-B - Spanish 1  
N-T01-B - Theology 9-10  
N-T03-B - Theology 11-12  
N-SS07-B - United States History  
N-SS06-B - World

### Non-Credit Skills Courses

N-E10 - Fundamental Writing Skills  
N-M05 - Strengthening Pre-Algebra and Algebra Skills