

MOUNT MERCY ACADEMY



COURSE SELECTION CATALOG **2013-2014**

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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 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 ½ 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. A student must have a promotion mark of at least 65%, and at least a 55% on the final examination, 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.)

A student must attain at least 7 credits to become a sophomore; 13 ½ credits to become a junior and 20 credits to be a senior. **A student lacking units of credit may be asked to leave Mount Mercy.**

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 must be approved by parent signature before it is finalized. For each elective, a student will choose an alternative course in the event that her first choice does not run. Students are expected to register for at least 7.5 credits per year. Students will take six (6) courses per day. **No schedule changes may be made after June 30th.** To assist students in achieving 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(s). After the recommendation of the school is made and if a student and her parent(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.

ACADEMIC ACCELERATION

Students who wish to accelerate in a subject area in order to advance to the next level must indicate their desire to do so by the prescribed date. Students must score an 85% or better on the final exam for that course and then successfully complete a project for that course. Students will be granted course credit and allowed to register for the next level course. Procedure: A student who wishes to challenge a course must indicate by April 1 of the preceding school year

of their intent to challenge that course; The student will be administered the final exam in that course during the last week of June; The student will be notified of their result on the exam within one week of taking the exam; The student who receives a score of 85% or better on the exam will then be given a comprehensive project to be completed no later than August 1st. If a student successfully completes the project with a grade of 85% or better, the student will be registered for the next level course. **Students may not challenge Living Environment, Earth Science, Regents Chemistry or Regents Physics because of lab requirements for New York State.**

POLICY ON 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, a Counselor, and an Administrator will be convened to review the application and interview the potential transfer student and parent(s) or 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 take a test on the summer reading and complete related essay 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.

ARTICULATION AGREEMENT WITH TROCAIRE COLLEGE

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

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

A final average of 85% or better, or a minimum score of three (3) on the AP exam, must be earned.

Eligible students have the option of paying a fee to have up to 12 college credits transcribed by Trocaire College.

Seniors who will be attending Trocaire College after graduation from MMA do *not* need to pay the course fee! These students still need to arrange to have the course(s) transcribed by the college (free of charge).

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. Upon successful completion of the course, the *student* must contact the Trocaire College Registrar's Office to have the course transcribed. Please see your Counselor for more information.

ARTICULATION AGREEMENT WITH BRYANT & STRATTON COLLEGE

Students who plan on attending Bryant & Stratton College may earn up to nine college credits while still attending high school by simply taking classes that MMA already offers! This agreement is only applicable to students that enroll into Bryant & Stratton after high school. Students may take any of the following courses at MMA and must earn an 80% or better:

- Economics

- Life Skills
- Introduction to Business
- Keyboarding Communications
- Desktop Applications & Design

An Admissions Counselor at Bryant & Stratton will then review the student’s high school transcript and grant credit as applicable. For more information, contact your School Counselor.

ARTICULATION AGREEMENT WITH ECC

The following courses may be eligible for college credit through Erie Community College:

- College Chemistry (not AP Chemistry as recognized by the College Board)

Students must obtain an average of 85 or better in the course. Please see your School Counselor for more information.

ARTICULATION AGREEMENT WITH NIAGARA UNIVERSITY

The following courses may be eligible for college credit through Niagara University:

- AP Biology – BIO 102

ARTICULATION AGREEMENT WITH HILBERT COLLEGE

The following courses may be eligible for college credit through Hilbert College:

- Spanish V
- French V

Please see your School Counselor for more information.

2012-2013

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

REQUIRED CREDITS

English	4 units
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

Total Credits 29 units

It is Mount Mercy’s expectation that all students will complete 40 modules of the Leadership Academy before graduation. See page 34 for additional details

REQUIRED REGENTS

EXAMS

Regents Diploma:

- English
- Global History
- US History
- Integrated Algebra
- Living Environment

Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation:

- English
- Global History
- US History
- Integrated Algebra

- Geometry
- Integrated Algebra 2/Trigonometry
- One Life Science (Living Environment)
- One Physical Science (Earth Sci./Chemistry)
- LOTE

** To earn a diploma “with honors” students must earn an average score of 90% or better on all required Regents exams (i.e. 5 exams required for the Regents with honors diploma or 8/9 required exams for Advanced Designation with honors diploma).

ART

501–STUDIO IN ART (ART I)

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

This full year course fulfills the New York State graduation requirement for art and music. 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)

502–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. 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)

504–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. 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)

512–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 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)

515–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)

506–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 presentation to colleges. 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. Student's 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)

516–STUDIO IN ADVANCED DIGITAL MEDIA

(Grades 11, 12)

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

Studio in Advanced Digital 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 artworks, and create short videos and slide shows. Students will examine the history of photography, graphic art and design, and typography.

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

(1 unit)

526–ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDIO IN ART

(Grade 12)

Prerequisites: Studio in Art and one other art course, 90% art average, recommendation of art department and guidance counselor, application by student and attendance by student at meeting for course candidates

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, 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 3 and your School Counselor for more information.

Evaluation: Advanced Placement examination (portfolio) in May is required of all students enrolled in this course; career artist interview, local art gallery research, twelve major projects

(1 unit)

513–STUDIO IN 3D DESIGN/CERAMICS

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

Prerequisites: Studio in Art

This ½ year course includes various methods of hand-building and an introduction to the pottery wheel. We will explore the history of ceramics and 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)

514–STUDIO IN 3D DESIGN/SCULPTURE

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

Prerequisites: Studio in Art

This ½ year course includes a variety of sculpture techniques and media including plaster, fibers, wood, stone and found objects. 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)



CAREER & COMPUTER DEVELOPMENT

601–INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS

(Grade 10)

This course is required of all business majors. Students develop transferable skills which can be used in work and home situations. Course content emphasizes business transactions, functions, and business operations. Students participate in career exploration activities.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Bryant and Stratton College. Please see page 3 and your School Counselor for more information.

Evaluation: Local examination

(1/2 unit)

603–CAREER SEMINAR

(Grade 9)

Students will take an extensive look into their personal qualities to discover where their aptitudes, abilities, and career goals lie. They will learn how to effectively use the decision making process in dealing with their career selections. The course will be held one class period per cycle for one semester for a total of 20 classes. This is the first step in a three phase preparation for career choice. Students will create a portfolio which will follow them through the rest of the program.

Evaluation: Portfolio, project, presentations, and a reflective paper

(1/4 unit)

604–CAREER SEMINAR 2

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

Students will be involved in a hands-on work experience that will help them make sound educational and career choices. Students will be required to complete 10 hours outside of school in a mentoring setting. Students will continue to create a portfolio which will follow them through the rest of the program.

Evaluation: Portfolio

(1/4 unit)

611–KEYBOARDING/OFFICE COMPUTATIONS

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

*** As of the 2010-2011 school year, Keyboarding/Communications will be required for all sophomores at MMA*

This is a one semester course designed for basic keyboarding developmental skills using IBM compatible computers. Emphasis will be on operating techniques basic to “touch” keyboarding operation with control. Instruction will be given in enumerations, personal-business and business letters, tables and one page reports using Microsoft Office.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Bryant and Stratton College. Please see page 3 and your School Counselor for more information.

Evaluation: Local exam

(1/2 unit)

618–DESKTOP APPLICATIONS AND DESIGN

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

Prerequisites: Keyboarding/Communications

Students who take Office Desktop Publishing will be introduced to the advanced features of the Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint). Students will also gain a basic understanding of web design.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Bryant and Stratton College. Please see page 3 and your School Counselor for more information.

Evaluation: Projects

(1/2 unit)

613–PERSONAL FINANCE

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

Students will develop skills in money management: budgeting, income taxes, checking and savings accounts, and other banking services. They will be introduced to different investment strategies to guarantee financial security. Students will learn how to manage credit purchasing, buying insurance, and the skills necessary to make sound financial decisions. Job exploration and the interview process is an integral part of the course.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Bryant and Stratton College. Please see page 3 and your School Counselor for more information.

Evaluation: Local exam

(1/2 unit)

630–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: the court system, law enforcement, contracts, buying and selling goods, employer-employee relations, bailment, buying services, renting, owning and transferring real property and current legal issues.

Evaluation: Local exam

(1 unit)

633-QUANTITATIVE BUSINESS MATH

(Grade 12)

Prerequisites: Successfully passed Math A exam

This course is designed to prepare students for both college level business programs and to understand the complex financial world they will encounter during their lives. This course can be used to fulfill one of the four units of mathematics required for a Regents diploma.

Evaluation: Local exam

(1 unit)

636–MARKETING AND ADVERTISING

(Grades 11, 12)

This course will introduce students to the fundamental principles involved in the fields of marketing and advertising. Major aspects of the course will cover consumer research, product development, advertising to influence consumers, pricing and distribution of products. The course is “hands on” with the completion of several projects. Integral to this course will be the use of computers, Microsoft Office and desktop publishing programs.

Evaluation: Local exam

(1/2 unit)

030-FOUNDATIONS IN STUDY SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGY (FIST)

(Grade 9)

This course provides Freshmen with a foundation in fundamental skills and computer literacy. Topics include, but are not limited to, assessing current study skills, habits, learning styles, organization, preparation, time management, listening, and note taking. Freshmen will integrate these skills with the academic courses they are taking. Relevant computer skills including Microsoft Office, Google Docs, “Netiquette”, and social networking issues will be covered. Freshmen will maintain portfolios containing practice skills to which they can refer throughout high school.

Evaluation: Portfolio

(1/4 unit)



ENGLISH

001–ENGLISH I

(Grade 9)

In this Regents 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 required for the Regents examination. 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 exam modeled on Regents exam

(1 unit)

007 –ENGLISH I HONORS

(Grade 9)

Prerequisite: An average of 94 in English in 6th, 7th and 8th 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 with 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, play, short story and poem challenges students in 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 exam modeled on Regents exam

(1 unit)

002–ENGLISH II

(Grade 10)

Prerequisite: English I

Students will master listening skills, nonfiction reading comprehension, and the writing of compositions in the styles required for the New York State Regents examination. 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 NYS Regents examination.

Evaluation: Local examination modeled on the NYS Regents exam

(1 unit)

008–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 Guidance Counselor, and the completion of an application essay

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 the Comprehensive English Regents. This includes listening skills, literary analysis and analytical essay writing. Students who take AP Language and Composition as juniors must take the English Regents exam in June of their sophomore year. The study of literature includes world literary works and 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 purpose and audiences. A research paper with in paper citations and works cited page will be completed as well.

Evaluation: Local final exam or Regents exam for AP students

(1 unit)

003–ENGLISH III

(Grade 11)

Prerequisite: English II

In preparation for the New York State Regents examination, listening skills and analytical, expository and persuasive essays are studied. 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 and essay sections, including appropriate vocabulary. An historical survey of American literature includes the study of at least two American novels, drama, several short stories and poems.

Evaluation: Regents exam and final assessment

(1 unit)

015–ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

(Grade 11)

Prerequisites: English II, 94% or above English average, passing the English Regents exam in June of Sophomore year, the recommendation of English department and Guidance Counselor, application by student, attendance by student at meeting 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 3 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)

004–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.

Evaluation: Local exam

(1 unit)

016–ADVANCED PLACEMENT LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

(Grade 12)

Prerequisites: English III; with a minimum 94% average; recommendation of English Department and Guidance Counselor, application by student, attendance by student at 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 a college level research paper 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 3 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)

PLEASE NOTE: THE FOLLOWING COURSES DO NOT REPLACE ANY OTHER ENGLISH COURSES. STUDENTS TAKING THESE COURSES ARE EXPECTED TO FULFILL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REGULAR ENGLISH PROGRAM.

017—MODERN CREATIVE EXPRESSION

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

Prerequisites: None

This course is an exploration in self-expression through writing in all the methods of expression utilized today. Various forms of writing will be discussed, with students then venturing into their own creative writing processes. Some of the areas of writing that will be explored include poetry, short stories, personal and fictional narratives, character sketches, journalistic writing, blogging, youtube, and dialogue. 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, turning in a final portfolio of their best works.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 3 and your School Counselor for more information.

Evaluation: Writing portfolio and final project/exam

(1/2 unit)

018– THEMED LITERATURE

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

Prerequisites: None

Potential themes: Young Adult Literature, Harry Potter/Twilight Mystical Literature, Legends and Tall Tales

This course will be styled after a genre-specific college English literature class. Throughout the semester the class will focus on a certain area of literature utilizing seminar style class discussions. This course will include reading and writing assignments.

Evaluation: Final Project or paper

(1/2 unit)

019- FILM LITERACY

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

Prerequisites: None

This course will be a comprehensive study of film from various viewpoints that requires students go beyond being just a movie fan. The class will focus on elements of film such as mise en scene and cinematography, as well as spotlighting genre and director. Students will study the history of film and visual media from silent films to the current youtube phenomenon. Part of the requirements for this course will be participation in a student designed production.

Evaluation: Final student project

(1/2 unit)

023– INVESTIGATING POP CULTURE

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

Prerequisites: None

This course is a critical study of the ideas, prospective, images, and other phenomena that permeate our 21st century society and earn the title of “pop culture.” Through various studies and projects, students will explore the determining factors behind fads and trends, as well as unraveling the influence of social media.

Evaluation: Final project or paper

(1/2 unit)

(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 (FRENCH I, LATIN I OR SPANISH I). MOUNT MERCY DOES NOT ACCEPT THE NEW YORK STATE PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION AS A CRITERIA FOR PLACEMENT IN THE SECOND LEVEL OF A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH.

401–FRENCH I

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

Students will be introduced to French grammar and vocabulary, as well as verbs in the present tense. Oral listening skills are emphasized and students will learn to read and write simple French texts. Students will also learn many cultural aspects of Francophone countries.

Evaluation: Local exam

(1 unit)

402–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.

Students will continue to learn new vocabulary and cultural information and will branch out to past tenses and more difficult grammar. Speaking, listening, and reading are more heavily emphasized and essay writing becomes more frequent.

Evaluation: Local exam

(1 unit)

403–FRENCH III

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

Prerequisites: French I & II

This course completes the three year sequence, culminating in the New York State Regents examination. Students learn more vocabulary and are exposed to authentic French texts. Writing and speaking are especially extensive and students read more difficult texts. Students will learn the future and conditional tenses, as well as the subjunctive mode. Listening comprehension is practiced on a daily basis.

Evaluation: Final exam

(1 unit)

404–FRENCH IV-ADVANCED CONVERSATIONAL FRENCH & COMPOSITION

(Grades 11, 12)

Prerequisites: Completion of Regents sequence and teacher recommendation.

This is an advanced course for students who would like to further their study of grammar, culture, vocabulary, and literature. Students learn about historical periods in France and current events central to Francophone culture. Etymology and evolution of the French language is studied, as well as French slang and dialects. Students learn compound tenses and the literary past tense. Students write about their experiences and opinions and also study French fables and poetry.

Evaluation: Local exam or final project

(1 unit)

405–FRENCH V-ADVANCED CONVERSATIONAL FRENCH & COMPOSITION-HILBERT COLLEGE ADVANCED HIGH SCHOOL FRENCH 104*

(Grade 12)

Prerequisites: Juniors who have completed the application as well as French III and received 85% or better on the Final exam and teacher and counselor recommendation OR completion of French IV and teacher recommendation.

This is an advanced grammar and communication skills course that culminates with the Hilbert College exam in May. Students review all major tenses previously learned and learn advanced subjunctive mode, compound tenses, literary past, and more difficult grammar. Students discuss issues in each class and write essays on various topics. Students also learn various cultural and historical perspectives of Francophone countries and write and study French poetry and literature. This class is conducted entirely in French.

Note: This class is **not** recommended for Sophomores completing French III.

This course may be eligible for college credit through Hilbert College. Please see page 3 and your School Counselor for more information.

Evaluation: Hilbert College Performance-Based exam

(1 unit)

411–LATIN I

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

In Latin I, students begin the fundamentals of Latin grammar and learn about Roman culture. The Latin language and the English language are compared. Students learn about Rome and read stories about ancient mythology and gods. Latin vocabulary is studied for the purpose of building English vocabulary.

Evaluation: Local exam

(1 unit)

412–LATIN II

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

Prerequisite: Latin I or a passing grade on the Mount Mercy Latin I placement exam for entering ninth grade students.

Latin II strengthens the grammar concepts learned in Latin I and introduces more complex sentence structures. There are readings about heroes and adventures and Roman family life. There is further study of English Latin derivatives.

Evaluation: Local exam

(1 unit)

413–LATIN III

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

Prerequisites: Latin II

Latin III emphasizes the building of reading comprehension skills through various selections of Latin literature. Special emphasis is placed on Roman history. The life and times of famous Romans, as well as Roman politics and government are studied. The fundamentals of Latin grammar and syntax are reviewed. The study of English words derived from Latin roots continues throughout the year.

Evaluation: Final exam

414–LATIN IV

(Grade 11, 12)

Prerequisites: Latin III

Latin IV introduces students to original, unmodified Latin Literature from Ovid, Virgil, Catullus and Horace. Students will translate, scan, and analyze these texts. The course covers the history of the time period of the Golden Age of Latin Literature. Additionally, students will be able to focus more on the art and culture of Rome.

Evaluation: Local exam

(1 unit)

418–LATIN: ROOT WORDS

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

Prerequisites: none

This course is created for students to gain a familiarity with Latin root words without learning the language. Curriculum is designed especially for students interested in pre-law or pre-medical careers or those wanting to improve their verbal SAT scores.

Evaluation: local exam or final project

(1/2 unit)

421–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 exam

(1 unit)

422–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 exam

(1 unit)

423–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 use of grammar are studied. Composition in the Spanish language is stressed and listening skills are emphasized. Study of Hispanic culture is woven into the lessons throughout the course.

Evaluation: Final exam

(1 unit)

424–SPANISH IV: SPANISH LITERATURE AND CONVERSATION I

(Grades 11, 12)

Prerequisites: Successful completion of the Spanish III Regents examination and teacher recommendation.

Works of Spanish literature, especially short stories, are studied. Reading and writing skills are emphasized. Students will demonstrate advanced knowledge of the language through projects and written analyses of the literature. There is a continuing emphasis on advanced Spanish grammar. Conversations and discussions are conducted in Spanish and presentations in Spanish are a continuing part of the use of the language.

Evaluation: Final Project

(1 unit)

425–SPANISH V-ADVANCED SPANISH COMPOSITION AND LITERATURE-HILBERT COLLEGE ADVANCED HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH 104*

(Grade 12)

Prerequisites: Juniors who have completed the application as well as Spanish III and received 85% or better on the Final exam 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 structure will be introduced for mastery. Students will add to their vocabulary through study of the literature and vocabulary learned to enhance their communication abilities. The culture of Spain and Spanish America will be an integral part of studies.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Hilbert College. Please see page 3 and your School Counselor for more information.

Evaluation: Hilbert College Performance-Based exam

(1 unit)

435–INTRODUCTORY MANDARIN CHINESE

(Grade 11, 12)

Prerequisites: None

This will be an introductory course designed for students who have had no prior exposure to the Chinese language. The emphasis in this class is to develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Students will also become familiar with simple Chinese characters, the sound system of Chinese, including accent and tone, and traditional Chinese culture.

Evaluation: Local exam

(1 unit)



MATHEMATICS

PLEASE NOTE: ALL MOUNT MERCY ACADEMY STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE FOUR YEARS OF AN APPROPRIATE MATHEMATICS COURSE WHILE IN ATTENDANCE AT THE ACADEMY.

208 – REGENTS INTEGRATED ALGEBRA

(Grade 9)

Prerequisites: None

The focus of this yearlong 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 situation 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. Students will take the Integrated Algebra Regents examination at the end of the course. 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 lab based on entrance exam scores/8th grade math scores or at the request of the teacher.

Evaluation: Local Assessment and Regents Exam in June

(1 unit)

260 – REGENTS GEOMETRY

(Grade 9, 10)

Prerequisites: Integrated Algebra

This is the second of three courses required to receive a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation. The core of this year long course is Geometry. Main topics include geometric relationships, transformational and coordinate geometry, constructions, similar triangles, formal and informal proofs, and probability. A TI-84 Graphing Calculator (or better) is required. Math lab is available for this course for additional review. Students are subject to being placed in lab at the request of the teacher.

Evaluation: Local Assessment and Regents Exam in June

(1 unit)

256- CORE ALGEBRA II/TRIGNOMETRY (Formerly A2T Part 1)

(Grade 10, 11)

Prerequisites: Integrated Algebra, Geometry, and recommendation of Math Department

This is the third of three courses required to receive a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation. Students in this course will take a concentrated version of Algebra II/ Trig with focus on passing the June A2T Regents exam. This course will cover all major topics required for the A2T Regents exam as well as test taking strategies. Math lab is available for this course for additional review. Students are subject to being placed in lab at the request of the teacher. Students who pass this course and the Regents exam will be placed in Business Math, Pre-Calculus or Statistics senior year. A TI-84 Plus (or better) Graphing Calculator is required for this course.

Evaluation: Local Assessment and Regents Exam in June

(1 unit)

257- A2T RECAP / COLLEGE MATH (Formerly A2T Part 2)

(Grade 12)

Prerequisites: Core Algebra II/ Trig or Algebra II/Trig

If students do not pass the NYS Regents exam for Algebra II/Trigonometry then this course will be a review of the material taught in the previous course, plus increased Regents practice. Students will take the A2T Regents exam in January (if offered) and June to increase their chances to pass. Students are subject to being placed in lab at the request of the teacher. Students who pass the Regents exam will receive a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation. The second semester will cover popular topics necessary for the student to begin her college math courses. A TI-84 Plus (or better) Graphing Calculator is required for this course.

Evaluation: Local Assessment and Regents Exam in January/June

(1 unit)

265–ALGEBRA II/TRIGONOMETRY

(Grades 10, 11)

Prerequisites: Regents Geometry

This is the third of three courses required to receive a Regents Diploma with Advance Designation. 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-83 Plus (or better) Graphing Calculator is required for this course. **It is MMA policy that if a student does not pass the A2T Regents exam, but passes the course, she will repeat the course the following school year for no credit. Upon successful completion of the A2T Regents exam in January, the student will then be placed into an elective for the remainder of the year. Should the student be unsuccessful on the A2T Regents exam in January, she will remain in the class for the duration of the school year and will be expected to retake the A2T Regents exam in June.** Math lab is available for this course for additional review. Students are subject to being placed in lab at the request of the teacher.

Evaluation: Local assessment and Regents exam in June

(1 unit)

235 – PRE CALCULUS

(Grades 11, 12)

Prerequisites: Algebra II/Trigonometry 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, conic sections, 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 a graphing calculator. The TI-83 Plus (or better) Graphing Calculator is required for this course.

Evaluation: Local exam

(1 unit)

220–STATISTICS

(Grade 12)

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra II/Trigonometry 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, the normal and binomial distributions, estimation, hypothesis testing, correlation, regression and contingency tables. Students will use the TI-83 Plus 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 3 and your School Counselor for more information.

Evaluation: Local exam

(1 unit)

233–ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS AB

(Grade 12)

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Pre Calculus, 90% or above math average, recommendation of Mathematics Department and Guidance Counselor, application by student, attendance by student at meeting 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-83 Plus (or better) Graphing Calculator is required for this course.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 3 and your School Counselor for more information.

Evaluation: Advanced Placement examination required of all students enrolled in this course (1 unit)

221–ADVANCED PLACEMENT STATISTICS

(Grade 12)

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra2/Trigonometry or Pre Calculus, recommendation of Math Department and Guidance Counselor, application by student, attendance by student at meeting 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-83 Plus (or better) Graphing Calculator is required for this course.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 3 and your School Counselor for more information.

Evaluation: Advanced Placement examination required of all students enrolled in this course (1 unit)

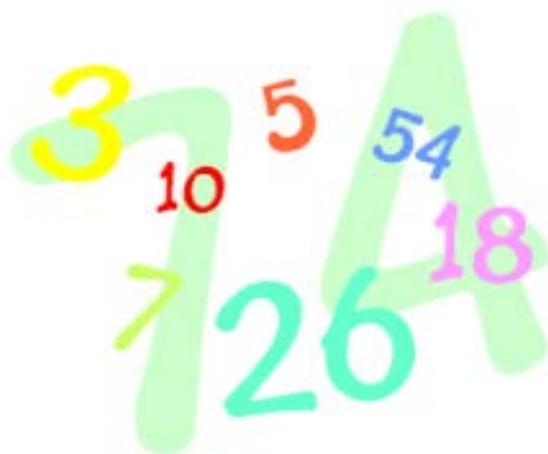
264–FORENSIC MATH

(Grade 11, 12)

Prerequisites: enrollment in (or completion of) Algebra2/Trigonometry

This Math elective will cover a variety of mathematical concepts that are used in forensic investigations. Students will strengthen their observational skills while investigating cases, they will also collect and document evidence, examine fingerprints, footprints, tread patterns, blood spatter, bullet trajectories, and more! Students will also learn how to use probability to support their findings during legal trials. The math topics involved include (but are not limited to) measurement, proportions, probability, quadratics, and trigonometry.

Evaluation: final project (1/2 unit)



MUSIC

540–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.

Evaluation: Written tests, performance examination, and participation in Christmas and spring concerts (1 unit)

550–CHORUS II

552–CHORUS III

554–CHORUS IV

(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 CHORUS MAY AUDITION FOR PARTICIPATION IN ALL-COUNTY CHORUS.

560–HANDBELL CHOIR

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

This one semester course is an introduction to the art of handbell ringing. It is a performance course involving reading rhythm patterns as well as perfecting handbell techniques. Although previous instrumental instruction is helpful, it is not essential.

Evaluation: Participation in Christmas and spring concerts and liturgical celebrations (1/2 unit)

557–ADVANCED HANDBELL CHOIR I (“MAGIC BELLES”)

558— ADVANCED HANDBELL CHOIR II (“MAGIC BELLES”)

559— ADVANCED HANDBELL CHOIR III (“MAGIC BELLES”)

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

Prerequisites: Audition during January of previous school year; acceptance is based on rhythm pattern reading ability.

Advanced Handbell Choir offers refinement of the art of handbell ringing. The group also competes annually in a national music festival and performs extensively in the local area. The course involves reading more complex rhythm patterns and ringing more difficult pieces.

Evaluation: Performance ability and participation in concerts and competition (1 unit)

570–MUSIC THEORY I

(Grade 10, 11, 12)

In this one semester course, students will study major and minor scale construction, intervals, triads, 7th chords, the circle of fifths, harmonic progression, and melodic/harmonic dictation.

Evaluation: Quizzes, tests, final project (1/2 unit)

565 – INTRODUCTION TO PIANO/KEYBOARD

(Grade 10, 11, 12)

This one semester course is designed for student 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 books. Some simple sight reading will also be integrated into each lesson.

Evaluation: Basic playing exam, short written test (1/2 unit)

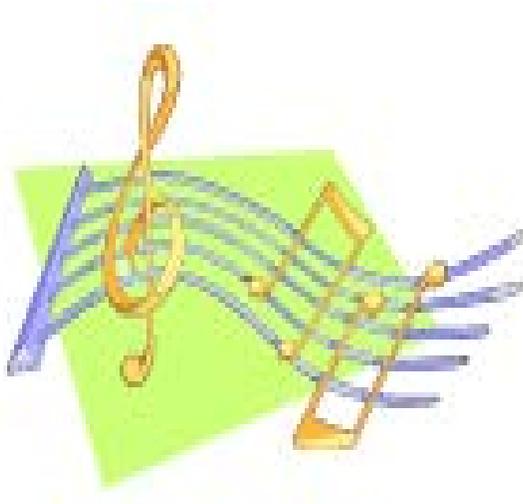
**Additional Music Option:
“PURE MAGIC” SHOW CHOIR**

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

Prerequisites: Audition during May of previous school year

This is a select, choreographed singing group which competes annually in a national music festival and performs extensively in the local area. Students learn to coordinate dance techniques with vocal techniques and master 12 to 16 pieces in pop, swing, show and Christmas idioms. Rehearsals are held Sundays during the school year, and Monday through Thursday evenings during the last two weeks of August. All students must also register for chorus.

(non-credit bearing)



PHYSICAL EDUCATION / HEALTH

806–PHYSICAL EDUCATION

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

The physical education curriculum focuses on fitness and wellness for young woman. 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, swimming, volleyball, tennis, track and field, golf, and cross-country are presently part of the athletic department. Opportunities are available for downhill skiing as a club activity.

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

(1/2 unit)

350–HEALTH

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

Health is a pro-active educational strategy to help improve the wellness of students. This course makes every effort to address all NYS health standards for commencement level. 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, problem solving activities, actively engage with guest speakers and research community resources that are available to assist students in developing their personal wellness plan.

Evaluation: Local exam

(1/2 unit)

360–SENIOR HEALTH ELECTIVE

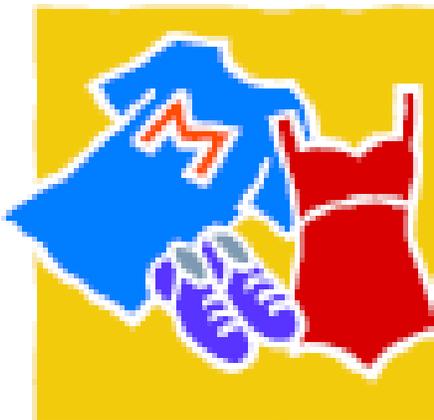
(Grade 12)

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Health

This course is directed toward the college bound student who will rapidly be facing independence and responsibility. The choices they will be making in the next year can determine their success in school and in life. Mercy has always prepared students for the academic rigors of college. This course will address the health, social and dating choices of college life. The course will be student directed and will incorporate role play, guest speakers and field trips to give students an up close and personal look at what the next year will bring. The better prepared a student is for this major life transition, the more resilient they will be when met by adversity.

Evaluation: Local exam

(1/2 unit)



SCIENCE

PLEASE NOTE: THE THREE CREDITS IN LABORATORY SCIENCE REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION MUST INCLUDE 2 REGENTS COURSES WITH A LAB (LIVING ENVIRONMENT AND PHYSICAL SETTING: EARTH SCIENCE, CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS) AND A THIRD SCIENCE WITH A LAB (PRACTICAL CHEMISTRY, CONCEPTUAL PHYSICS, AND AP BIOLOGY). A FOURTH CREDIT IN SCIENCE IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED.

300–LIVING ENVIRONMENT

(Grade 9, 10)

Prerequisites: Eligibility is based on grade 8 averages in science and scores earned on the admissions exam.

This course is designed to develop understanding and appreciation of the fundamental principles of biology, the study of living things. Concentration will be on these themes: energy, matter and organization, maintaining a dynamic equilibrium, interaction and interdependence, reproduction, growth and development, genetic and molecular biology and evolution. The course requires one block of laboratory and research experience per cycle.

Evaluation: Regents exam

(1 unit)

303–LIVING ENVIRONMENT HONORS

(Grade 9, 10)

Prerequisites: strong science grades in middle school, teacher recommendation

This course satisfies graduation requirement in science. All topics from the NYS Regents Core Curriculum for Living Environment will be covered as in Regents, but with more depth and an emphasis on current and relevant findings in the field. Students will acquire an understanding of the study of life maintained in animals and plants, reproduction and development, transmission of traits from generation to generation, modern genetics, evolution and diversity, ecology, and human physiology. 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 class meets 3 times a cycle, with an additional lab meeting time once a cycle.

Evaluation: Regents exam, projects, tests, and quizzes

(1 unit)

312–PHYSICAL SETTING: EARTH SCIENCE

(Grade 10)

Earth Science is a New York State Regents 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. One block of laboratory activities per cycle is required. A long-term investigative project is required as part of the local assessment.

Evaluation: Regents exam and local assessment

(1 unit)

321–PHYSICAL SETTING: CHEMISTRY

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

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

Sophomore Prerequisites: 90% overall average in Living Environment, 85% overall average in Math, and teacher recommendation

This course is designed to follow the new Regents Chemistry curriculum. Emphasis will be on the applications of chemistry in the world. Topics will include: Energy and Matter, Atomic Structure, Bonding, Periodic Table, Math in Chemistry, Kinetics, Acids and Bases, and Redox and Organic Chemistry. One block per cycle of laboratory activities is required.

Evaluation: Regents exam and local assessment

(1 unit)

320–PRACTICAL CHEMISTRY

(Grades 11, 12)

Prerequisites: Living Environment, Earth Science, freshman-level mathematics

This course is intended to have a more “inquiry” and “problem-solving” based approach. The course will employ less lecture and more demonstrations, class discussions, small group sharing and activity-based teaching practices. It will rely less on Regents style testing and more on portfolio (report/project) type assessment. Topics will include matter, atomic structure, the periodic table, acids and bases, nuclear chemistry and organic chemistry, and touch on industrial uses of chemicals as well as water and air pollution.

Evaluation: Local exam and/or project

(1 unit)

324–PHYSICS

(Grade 11, 12)

Prerequisites: Passing grade in Algebra and Geometry

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, atomic and nuclear physics are discussed. One block of laboratory work per cycle is required. This course will familiarize students with concepts required for entering engineering, physical therapy and health science college majors.

Evaluation: Regents exam or local assessment

(1 unit)

314–CONCEPTUAL PHYSICS

(Grade 12)

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

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 separate lab class.

Evaluation: Local exam

(1 unit)

346 –ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY

(Grades 11, 12)

Prerequisites: Living Environment and Regents Chemistry with grades of 85% or better on the Living Environment Regents exam and 80% or better on the Chemistry Regents exam, 90% or above science average, recommendation of the Science Department, application by student, attendance of student at a meeting for course candidates. Physics is strongly encouraged for AP Bio applicants. Physics can be taken concurrently or in a separate year of study.

This one year course is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory biology course usually taken by biology majors during their first year. It includes the study of biological chemistry, cells, genetics and evolution, organisms and populations. A substantial laboratory component is an integral part of the course.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Niagara University. 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)

338–COLLEGE CHEMISTRY

(Grades 11, 12)

**** Please note that this course will run every other year. College Chemistry will run in 2014-2015.**

Prerequisites: Living Environment and Regents Chemistry; minimum of 80% on the Chemistry Regents exam, 90% or above science average, recommendation of the Science Department, Math Department, and Guidance Counselor, application by student, attendance of student at a meeting for course candidates. Physics is strongly encouraged for College Chemistry applicants. Physics can be taken concurrently or in a separate year of study.

This one year course is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory chemistry course for engineering and science majors. It includes the study of atomic structure and bonding, stoichiometry, reaction equilibrium and kinetics, gas laws, thermochemistry, and electrochemistry. Students will apply mathematical knowledge and understanding of algebra, logarithms, and exponential equations. This course will meet every other day with a fourth block scheduled

for laboratory. This course may be eligible for college credit through Erie Community College. Please see page 5 and your School Counselor for more information. (1 unit)

Evaluation: American Chemical Society (ACS) General Chemistry exam in late May is required of all student enrolled in this class

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. THEY DO NOT FULFILL LAB REQUIREMENTS IN SCIENCE FOR GRADUATION.

361 – HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

(Grade 11, 12)

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Living Environment and Physical Setting: Chemistry with a grade of 80% or better on the Living Environment Regents exam and a 75% or better on the Chemistry Regents exam, 80% or above Science Average, recommendation of the Science Department, application by student, attendance of student at a meeting for course candidates. Physics is strongly encouraged for Anatomy & Physiology students. Physics can be taken concurrently or in a separate year of study.

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 how the human body and different body systems work. The systems covered in this course include: an introduction to the body, integument, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, reproductive, circulatory, respiratory, digestive and excretory systems. All physiological concepts are tied to some level of body structure and organization. Laboratory activities and dissections are a required part of the course.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Niagara University's NUSTEP Program. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

Evaluation: Local assessment

(1 unit)

328 – HUMAN BIOLOGY

(Grade 11 and 12)

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Regents Living Environment, two physical sciences (chemistry, earth science and/or physics)

This course is geared toward students who might be considering pursuing a career in any of the health-related fields. This course content will provide a general overview of how the human body and different body systems work. The systems covered in this course include: an introduction to the body, skeletal, muscular, nervous, special senses, digestive, reproductive, endocrine, circulatory, respiratory and excretory systems. All physiological concepts are tied to some level of body structure and organization. Laboratory activities and dissections are a required part of the course.

Evaluation: Local assessment

(1/2 unit)

333–PRINCIPLES OF SPORTS MEDICINE

(Grade 12)

Prerequisites: none

The following topics will be presented and discussed in an introductory method: anatomy and physiology as related to athletics; applied kinesiology; facilitated stretching; conditioning and training; principles of exercise physiology; sports nutrition, first aid and sports related injuries, the use of therapeutic modalities with taping and wrapping; role of an athletic trainer and legal issues involving athletics; and sports psychology.

Evaluation: Local assessment

(1/2 unit)

330–INTRODUCTION TO FORENSIC SCIENCE

(Grade 12)

Prerequisites: Grade of 82 or better in two Regents Science courses, one English course and one History course.

Forensic science is the application of science to the law. Students will process crime scenes, analyze laboratory data, interact with guest speakers, explore the Internet, and learn concepts via readings. Student progress will be monitored through unit tests, laboratory techniques and reports, and class discussions. There will be a written final exam as well as a lab practical.

Evaluation: Local assessment

(1/2 unit)

329–MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

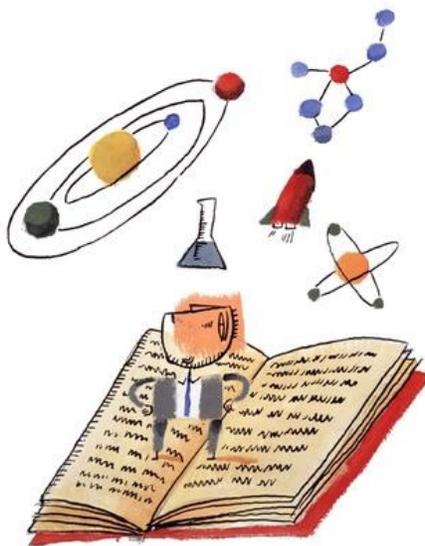
(Grade 12)

Prerequisites: Grade of 82 or better in three Regents Science courses, one English course and one History course.

Medical language teaches you how doctors and medical professionals express themselves in the healthcare field. This course will teach you prefixes, root words and suffixes and how they are put together to make medical words. For instance, hypokalemia and hypothermia will use the same suffix, “hypo.” If you know that “hypo” means deficient or under, then you know that both those words are talking about being under or deficient in something. Medical terminology will also teach you how to pronounce medical terms correctly. Learning medical terminology can be very useful for anyone who wishes to pursue a career in the medical field.

Evaluation: Local assessment

(1/2 unit)



SOCIAL STUDIES

100–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 exam

(1 unit)

125–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 Global I Regents 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 a variety of Advanced Placement courses in the upper grades. 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 final exam will be administered in June.

(1 unit)

102–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: Regents exam

(1 unit)

109—ADVANCED PLACEMENT 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 Guidance Counselor, application by student, attendance by student at 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 about 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 in addition to the Global History and Geography Regents examination.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 3 and your School Counselor for more information.

Evaluation: Advanced Placement exam in May is required of all students enrolled in this course; Regents exam in June (1 unit)

103–U.S. HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

(Grade 11)

This course includes a chronological study of United States history with an emphasis on the United States as a developing and as a fully developed nation. The course covers post-Civil War to present day America. Constitutional and legal issues are explored in depth, as well as problems of a dynamic and industrial society in an increasingly complex and technologically oriented world.

Evaluation: Regents exam

(1 unit)

111–ADVANCED PLACEMENT 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 Guidance Counselor, application by student, attendance by student at meeting for course candidates

This one year course is a chronological study of U.S. history from colonial time 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 on 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 3 and your School Counselor for more information.

Evaluation: Advanced Placement exam in May is required of all students enrolled in this course; Regents exam in June (1 unit)

104–PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT

(Grade 12)

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

This one semester course is designed to promote active citizenship by encouraging students to understand and participate in the democratic process. The content of this course emphasizes the interaction between citizens and government at all levels: federal, state, and local. Completion of three hours of political service and a written paper are requirements for graduation. Completion of 3 hours of political service and a written service paper are a requirement for graduation.

Evaluation: Local exam or alternative assessment

(1/2 unit)

105–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 which all persons need to function effectively and intelligently as citizens and participants in the economy of the United States and the world. Content presents a rational decision making process which 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 3 and your School Counselor for more information.

Evaluation: Local exam or alternative assessment

(1/2 unit)

121–INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

(Grades 11, 12)

This one semester course will introduce the basic concepts of sociology. Emphasis is placed on the nature of human relationships, human development throughout life span, and the nature of groups and social institutions.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 3 and your School Counselor for more information.

Evaluation: Local exam or alternative assessment

(1/2 unit)

120–INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY

(Grades 11, 12)

This one semester course is an introduction to basic concepts, theories, and methods of the discipline of psychology. The major topics to be studied include history of psychology and contemporary perspectives, personality theories, human development throughout the life span, the biological basis of behavior, theories of learning, memory, intelligence, psychological disorders, and methods of treatment.

Evaluation: Local exam or alternative assessment

(1/2 unit)

116–ADVANCED PLACEMENT PSYCHOLOGY

(Grade 12)

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

A survey of the scientific study of human behavior that includes as major topics: the brain, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, learning and memory, development, emotion, personality, abnormal 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 3 and your School Counselor for more information.

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

(1 unit)

117–ADVANCED PLACEMENT EUROPEAN HISTORY

(Grade 12)

Prerequisites: Global I and Global II, US History and Government, recommendation of Social Studies Department and Guidance Counselor, student application, and attendance at meeting for course candidates

Note: This is not a substitute for Participation in Government or Economics

AP European History is designed to develop a greater understanding of western civilization and its impact on the history of mankind. The time frame for study in this course will be primarily the last 1000 years of European history. Students will expand their knowledge of the geography of our independent world. In addition, students will be introduced to numerous primary and secondary sources and develop their analytical skills through writing and class discussion.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 3 and your School Counselor for more information.

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

(1 unit)

113–AMERICAN WOMEN’S STUDIES

(Grade 12)

Prerequisites: successful completion of 11th grade US History

This course will examine the American woman’s place and experience in American history from the colonial period to the present. It will be a chronological survey and yet focus on specific personalities and events. The profound effects of cultural, political and economic events and situations in American history will be considered. The course will examine how perceptions of gender roles have evolved and will study in depth factors such as race, class, religion, ethnicity and age. Finally, a look at how the women’s movement in America has changed in focus over the years and what its future may be.

Evaluation: Local exam or paper

(1/2 unit)

114–HUMANITIES

(Grade 10, 11, 12)

Prerequisites: None

This course explores the political, economic and social fabric of the 20th century America. The affects of major historical events will be studied in context of their ramifications on the social and moral values of modern America. By examining the architecture, literature, music, visual arts, and other forms of media and human expression, the student will be able to gain an understanding of the vast changes and enduring traditions of America as it emerges into the 21st century.

Evaluation: Local exam or paper

(1/2 unit)

124–JAZZ AND THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

(Grade 11 and 12)

Prerequisites: Global History and Geography I & II

This is a one semester course that will discuss the origins of jazz, its relationship to blues, as well as the major types of Jazz and the relevant time periods. This course will also focus on the historical significance of Jazz to the United States, its connection to Black History, and its relationship to the Harlem Renaissance and the Civil Rights Movement. Emphasis will also be placed on Jazz in popular culture.

Evaluation: Local exam or paper

(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.

740–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 get to know the Catholic Heritage. Students from many backgrounds and degrees of knowledge of Catholicism can “get on the same page” with regard to the basics of the faith and developing a common vocabulary for understanding their later Theology courses. Through the study of Faith and the Paschal Mystery, Prayer, The Liturgical Year and the Mass, students will connect their faith on a personal and affective level.

Evaluation: Exam and/or alternate assessment

(1 unit)

741–THEOLOGY II

(Grade 10)

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 discovering 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: Alternate assessment

(1 unit)

742–THEOLOGY III

(Grade 11)

Juniors will explore two separate topics in Theology III: Critical Thinking & Catholic Social Teaching:

Critical Thinking is a brief introductory course (approximately a month and a half) in the principles of good reasoning. The course will involve class work that will help develop your skills in evaluating and making arguments as well as writing argumentative essays. We will cover common missteps (or fallacies) that people often make in everyday reasoning and learn how we can avoid such illogical thinking. The overall purpose of this introductory course is to narrow the gap in your own life between thinking and critical thinking so that the more thinking you do, the more logical and critical you become.

Catholic Social Teaching has been called the "Best Kept Secret of the Catholic Church." Building upon the foundation of Sacred Scripture Juniors will discover how being a follower of Christ calls us to be witnesses to the world. Beginning with respect and dignity of the human person, students will be able to identify key terms and concepts and apply them to specific topics including issues of life, prejudice, racism, poverty, peace, work, and the environment. The goal of this course is to empower students to take their place in the world as young women of "Mercy" with principles for reflection, criteria for judgment, and guidance for action.

Evaluation: Alternate Assessment

(1 unit)

743–THEOLOGY IV

(Grade 12)

Seniors will explore two separate topics in Theology IV: World Religions and Problems of Suffering

World Religions: In today's global world, understanding of faith, religion and spirituality are necessary aspects of understanding the world around us. The basic dimensions of the World's Religions (other than Judaism and Christianity*): Primal Religion, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam will be studied in depth to help students explore the questions various religions seek to answer. The main objective is to show how ALL religions have their basis in peace, justice and love.

*Judaism and Christianity are covered in Theology I and II

Problems of Suffering: The world is a confusing place. Young people have many experiences with which they may not be equipped to handle. The purpose of this course is to explore the losses which occur in our lives and how we respond to them individually as well as communally. This will be explored through self disclosure; a personal inventory of one's experiences with loss from going to school, leaving home, illness to the ultimate loss, the death of a loved one. We will explore the physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual responses to loss and how religion and spirituality can give us a way to cope, heal and transform through suffering.

Evaluation: Alternate 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

045–CAREER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

(Grades 11, 12)

Prerequisites: a junior or senior in good academic standing, availability of internship site, application and interview

Mount Mercy's Career Internship Program allows a student to experience an occupation first hand. A student will have the opportunity to interact with a professional in a field of the student's choice. Over a period of time she will view the skills, both academic and interpersonal, that are needed to succeed at the job site.

Evaluation: 30 hours of non-paid work at an approved site, a log of participation and of activities observed at the work site, a search of colleges and major courses of study for the career observed, a post-interview on the internship experience (1/2 unit)

044–HEALTH CARE/ SCIENCE CAREER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

(Grades 11, 12)

Prerequisites: a junior or senior in good academic standing, availability of internship site, an interview and application and acceptance to the Academy of Science and Health Care

The Academy of Science and Health Care at Mount Mercy Academy, in conjunction with the Catholic Health System and Alumni in health/science related fields, allows a student to experience a health/science related careers first hand. She will be given the opportunity to work alongside a professional and experience the career firsthand. The student will be given the opportunity to develop skills needed to help them succeed in the workplace and enhance those interpersonal relationships needed to be successful.

Evaluation: 30 hours of non-paid work at an approved site, a log of participation and of activities observed at the work site, a search of colleges and major courses of study for the career observed, a post-interview on the internship experience (1/2 unit)

ACADEMIES

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

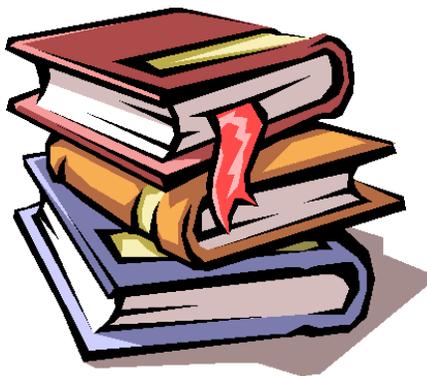
(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

Every student has leadership potential and qualities that Mt. Mercy Academy would like to help the students recognize and enhance. The Leadership Academy at Mt. Mercy Academy is a collaboration between faculty and students to help students record and succeed at becoming successful young women and to document all of their efforts during their four years at Mt. Mercy Academy. The Hallmarks of a Mercy Education include Christian Values, Academic Excellence, Service, and Leadership. Students will be given the opportunity to complete a portfolio of her leadership achievements in the classroom as well as her achievements in extracurricular activities. The student will be given the opportunity to develop skills needed to help them succeed in the workplace and enhance those interpersonal relationships needed to be successful leaders in the community. The Leadership portfolio can help a Mt. Mercy Academy graduate stand out in college interviews, scholarship considerations and job interviews.

THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND HEALTH CARE

(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 21st 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.



MERCY LEARNING ONLINE

The Network for Mercy Education sponsors Mercy Learning Online. Mercy educators throughout the Mercy secondary educational system teach the courses. The courses listed below are being offered for the summer of 2013.

Mandatory Orientation: TBA

Credit Courses

Dates: TBA (5 weeks)

Tuition: TBA

Credits: ½ credit per course

- American Government
- Art History
- Economics
- Health
- Introduction to Psychology
- Fitness
- Sociology
- Speech
- Anatomy

Credit Recovery Courses

Dates: Semester 1 – TBA (5 weeks)
Semester 2 – TBA (5 weeks)

Tuition: TBD

Credits: ½ credit per course

- Algebra I
- Biology
- English 9
- English 10
- English 11 – 12
- Geometry
- Theology 9 – 10
- Theology 11 – 12
- World History
- Spanish I
- United States History

Enrichment

- **Developing Pre-Algebra Skills** – Recommended for students entering first year secondary school (9th grade). This is a non-credit enrichment course offering that is 4 weeks long. Dates are TBD. The cost for this course is TBD.

Please go to www.emercyed.org for full details on the Mercy Learning Online program. Course descriptions, information about books, and the Code of Conduct can also be found on the website. Please contact Mrs. Walsh in the Counseling Center at 825-8796 X 201 for registration information.

