

Aquinas Catholic Schools
Middle School/High School



Course Descriptions

2026-2027

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AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS GENERAL INFORMATION

Aquinas Catholic Middle/High School is a Catholic located in David City, Nebraska under the Catholic Diocese of Lincoln. Aquinas Catholic Schools serves the fourteen parishes in the surrounding areas of Butler, Polk, and Seward Counties.

Our story began in 1961 with the founding of Thomas Aquinas High School, named after St. Thomas Aquinas, a Dominican priest and Doctor of the Church, known for his intellect and dedication to education. The first graduating class, in 1962, was 44 students! By 1966, the graduating class was 104 students thanks to the support of the 12 surrounding parishes in Butler County. Aquinas continued to grow with the addition of Aquinas Middle School in 1991.

Since those beginning days, we have continued to grow, adding facilities and programs for the benefit of our Aquinas Catholic community. The one vision that has not changed is the commitment to handing on of the Catholic Faith to our students, seeking the face of Jesus Christ.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Aquinas Catholic Schools community is to provide a Christ-centered learning environment where we develop individuals to be Disciples of Christ in all areas of their lives.

VISION STATEMENT

Aquinas Catholic Schools strives to provide a safe and secure environment as it welcomes a broad spectrum of students. The school recognizes each student as an individual while continuing an uncompromising commitment to excellence in academics, fidelity to the teachings of the Catholic Faith and distinction in Catholic education. This faith-based foundation empowers students to live lives of faith, learning, and service.

MOTTO & GOVERNING VALUES

"Fides et Ratio"

"Faith and reason"

GOVERNING VALUES:

The Aquinas school community will...

...foster a God-centered, Catholic culture to promote a Christ-like outlook on life. .

...provide a learning environment to promote academic achievement for all students by developing their unique abilities and interests to prepare them for future vocations and challenges.

...provide opportunities for individuals to grow spiritually, physically, socially and emotionally.

...nurture a life-long commitment to Christian values that promote growth in church, family, and civic relationships.

...promote respect for one's self worth and mutual respect for others at all stages of life.

It has been the purpose of AQUINAS MIDDLE SCHOOL-HIGH SCHOOL to provide the environment and stimulus essential for the development of the truly Christian man and woman. This basic purpose has never changed, and as a result, the operative policies are always generated toward a further development of this purpose.

REGISTERING AND SCHEDULING CLASSES

The administration and school counselor is ultimately in charge of registering all students in courses for the following year. Once students have registered and received their course schedule, they may not change any courses without written permission of the parents or guardian, teachers involved, and principal. This must be done within the first three days of the start of the class.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Aquinas High School requires that each student graduating from the school earn a minimum of 300 credits. The following is a breakdown of the credits required. In general, five credits are given at the end of each semester (rev. 2025-26)

Religion	40 Credits	Science	30 Credits
English	40 Credits	Personal Finance	5 Credits
Mathematics	30 Credits	Physical Education/Health	10 Credits
Social Studies	30 Credits	Foreign Language OR	20 Credits
Electives	90 Credits	Vocational Studies	
		Speech	5 Credits
		TOTAL: 300 Credits	

CURRICULUM

Aquinas offers both a college preparatory and a general secondary educational program. Classes are offered in ten academic departments: Agricultural Education, Business, English, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Mathematics, Physical Education, Religion, Science, and Social Studies

COURSES OFFERED TO AQUINAS STUDENTS

Please read the course descriptions regarding specific information on each course.

SCIENCE

Physical Science
Biology
Chemistry
Environmental Science
Anatomy & Physiology
Physics
Bio-Chemistry
Forensics

BUSINESS

Accounting I
Accounting II
Accounting III*
Accounting IV*
Personal Finance
Economics
Broadcasting
Business Law
Entrepreneurship*

MATHEMATICS

Pre-Algebra
Algebra I
Algebra II
Basic Math
College Algebra*
Geometry
Pre-Calculus
Calculus*
NE Math Readiness Program*

FINE ARTS

High School Band
High School Chorus

ART

Art I
Art II
Art III
Art IV

RELIGION

Religion 6
Religion 7
Religion 8
Religion 9
Religion 10
Religion 11
Religion 12

HISTORY

American History
World History
Government

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education I
Advanced Physical Education

ENGLISH

English 9
English 10
English 11
English 12
Honors English 12*
Creative Writing
Reading Lab I
Reading Lab II
Reading Lab III
Reading Lab IV

AG ED

Introduction to Agriculture
Plant Science 1 and 2
Animal Science 1 and 2
Agricultural Business 1 and 2
Structural Technology and Systems Fund. 1 and 2
Agricultural – Work Based Learning 1 and 2

*Dual Credit Eligible Course

ADDITIONAL COURSES OFFERED TO AQUINAS STUDENTS

ONLINE COLLEGE COURSES:

These courses are offered through Central Community College through the Early College Entry program. This is an opportunity for high school students age 16 years or older to take college courses from CCC and work towards a 2-year or 4-year college degree during their junior and senior year of high school. The school counselor will work with the students to select courses, check transferability, complete the enrollment process, and incorporate the course into their high school schedule. These courses are NOT included in Aquinas Catholic Schools total academic credits or academic cumulative GPA.

COURSEWARE COURSES:

Courseware is a digital curriculum available to our 6th-12th graders offering first time credit, credit recovery, and expanded elective course access. Courseware courses meet Department of Education requirements with mastery-based curricula that align with Nebraska State Educational Standards. Both elective and credit recovery courses are included in Aquinas Catholic Schools total academic credits, but only the credit recovery courses will be included in academic cumulative GPA. The school counselor will work with eligible students to select courses and incorporate them into their high school schedule.

- **Elective Courses**
- **Credit Recovery**

OUTSIDE COURSES (Partnership with David City High School)

Course not included in Aquinas Catholic Schools total academic credits or cumulative GPA

TEACHER AID:

Non-graded course, so not included in total academic credits or cumulative GPA

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Non-graded course, so not included in total academic credits or cumulative GPA

Required Courses by Grade

FRESHMAN

Required Courses	Credits
English 9	10
Religion 9	10
Math: Choose 1	10
• Algebra 1	
• Geometry	
PE/Health 9	10
Science: Physical Science	10
American History	10
TOTAL REQUIRED CREDITS	60

SOPHOMORE

Required Courses	Credits
English 10	10
Religion 10	10
Math: Choose 1	10
• Geometry	
• Algebra II	
Science: Biology	10
Personal Finance	5
Speech	5
TOTAL REQUIRED CREDITS	50

JUNIOR

Required Courses:	Credits
English 11	10
Religion 11	10
World History	10
Math: Choose 1	10
• Algebra II	
• Geometry	
• Pre-Calculus	
• College Algebra	
Science: Choose 1	10
• Anatomy & Physiology	
• Chemistry	
• Environmental Science	
• Physics	
TOTAL REQUIRED CREDITS	50

SENIOR

Required Courses	Credits
English:	10
• English 12	
• Honors English	
Religion 12	10
Government	10
TOTAL REQUIRED CREDITS	30

AQUINAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL – COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

NOTE:

*Course may NOT be offered every school year. Course offering depends on the number of student requests.

**Course is eligible for Dual Credit.

AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

Introduction to Agriculture

Grades 9-12

Course Credit: 10

Elective

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: The introductory course for the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Career Cluster provides a knowledge base in the major components of the industry. Learners will be exposed to a broad range of agriculture, food, and natural resources careers, cluster foundation knowledge and skills, and introduction to leadership development and the National FFA Organization (FFA). Classroom and laboratory activities are supplemented through supervised agricultural experiences, career exploration activities, and FFA leadership programs, contests & activities. Students enrolled in this class are members of the Aquinas FFA chapter and must maintain an active SAE project.

Correlated FFA Opportunities:

- Degree: Greenhand Degree
- LDEs: Creed, Jr. Public, Natural Resources, Cooperative, CCM, Parliamentary Procedure
- CDEs: Livestock Judging, Range Judging, Land Judging, Agriscience, & the opportunity to choose from other areas of interest

{Plant Science Pathway}

Plant Science I

Grades: 10-12

Course Credit: 5 (fall semester)

Elective

Prerequisite: Introduction to Agriculture

Course Description: This course examines the scientific concepts related to plant systems. Students will examine plant classification, anatomy, physiology, and asexual and sexual propagation. In addition, students will develop an understanding of plant nutrition and growth and production methods with the potential to focus on the following areas of plant science:

- Crop management production & agronomy will allow students to develop an understanding of nutrition and fertilization methods, resource management, pest management, technology use, marketing, and sustainable systems.
- Floriculture topics will provide students with the necessary knowledge to apply design principles in the floral industry. Topics include history of the floral industry, processing techniques and tools, trends, and flower and foliage identification important in the design of quality floral arrangements.
- Agriculture biotechnology focuses on students examining the relationship between biotechnology and modern agriculture, food, and natural resource systems. Students identify purposes and methods of genetic modification of plants and animals and the impact of biotechnology on a global scale.

Classroom and laboratory activities are supplemented through supervised agricultural experiences, career exploration activities, and FFA leadership programs, contests & activities. Students enrolled in this class are members of the Aquinas FFA chapter and must maintain an active SAE project.

Correlated FFA Opportunities:

- Degree: Chapter Degree
- LDEs: Jr. Public, Sr. Public, Cooperative, Natural Resources
- CDEs: Range Judging, Land Judging, Agronomy, Biotechnology, Environmental & Natural Resources, Floriculture

Plant Science II

Grades: 10-12

Course Credit: 5 (Spring Semester)

Elective

Prerequisite: Introduction to Agriculture, Plant Science I

Course Description: This course examines the knowledge and skills needed to identify, produce, and manage horticultural plants. Topics include plant identification and production, nursery management, and development of schedules and estimates. Students will examine the knowledge and skills needed to identify, produce, and manage horticultural plants, understand and apply landscape design concepts, and manage turfgrass and landscape plants. Topics include plant identification, identifying and applying design principles, creating designs using scales and other hand-drawing tools and/or design software, and processes and products used in designing, constructing, and managing landscapes. Classroom and laboratory activities are supplemented through supervised agricultural experiences, career exploration activities, and FFA leadership programs, contests & activities. Students enrolled in this class are members of the Aquinas FFA chapter and must maintain an active SAE project.

Correlated FFA Opportunities:

- Degree: Chapter Degree
- CDEs: Envirothon, Nursery & Landscape

{Animal Science Pathway}

Animal Science I

Grades: 10-12

Course Credit: 5 (fall semester)

Elective

Prerequisite: Introduction to Agriculture, Plant Science I & II, or instructor permission

Course Description: This course focuses on the basic scientific principles and processes that are involved in animal physiology, breeding, nutrition, and care in preparation for an animal systems career. Topics include introduction to animal science, animal reproduction, animal nutrition, animal science issues, animal evaluation, and career opportunities. Classroom and laboratory activities are supplemented through supervised agricultural experiences, career exploration activities, and FFA leadership programs, contests & activities. Students enrolled in this class are members of the Aquinas FFA chapter and must maintain an active SAE project.

Correlated FFA Opportunities:

- Degree: N/A (continue record keeping for State Degree)
- LDEs: Sr. Public, Cooperative, Natural Resources
- CDEs: Livestock Judging, Biotechnology, Livestock Management

Animal Science II

Grades: 10-12

Course Credit: 5 (Spring semester)

Elective

Prerequisite: Introduction to Agriculture, Plant Science I & II, Animal Sci I, or instructor permission

Course Description: This course includes advanced scientific principles and communication skills that build on the knowledge and skills learned in Animal Science. Topics include animal welfare and handling, nutrition, production and reproduction, facility management, biosecurity, housing, and small and large animal health care. Additionally, the course introduces students to the basics of veterinary care including topics of general animal care and welfare, animal health, laws and ethics relating to animal care, and workplace safety involving large, small, and exotic animals. Classroom and laboratory activities are supplemented through supervised agricultural experiences, career exploration activities, and FFA leadership programs, contests & activities. Students enrolled in this class are members of the Aquinas FFA chapter and must maintain an active SAE project.

Correlated FFA Opportunities:

- Degree: N/A (continue record keeping for State Degree)
- CDEs: Livestock Judging, Meats, Poultry Judging, Vet Science

{Agribusiness Pathway}

Agricultural Business I

Grades: 11-12

Course Credit: 5 (Fall semester)

Elective

Prerequisite: Introduction to Agriculture, Plant Science I & II, Animal Science I & II, or with instructor's permission

Course Description: This course covers skills necessary for entry into employment or furthering education in an agricultural business. This course focuses on identifying current issues affecting the agricultural industry and communicating about those issues effectively. Students will learn various types of communications methods such as speech writing, photography, presentations, marketing, and debate. By the end of the course, students will demonstrate competency of agricultural communications and methods of effective presentation within the agricultural sector. Students will compete in an individual District Leadership Development Event as their semester final. Classroom and laboratory activities are supplemented through supervised agricultural experiences, career exploration activities, and FFA leadership programs, contests & activities. Students enrolled in this class are members of the Aquinas FFA chapter and must maintain an active SAE project.

Correlated FFA Opportunities:

- Degree: State Degree
- LDEs: Employment Skills, Sr. Public, Natural Resources, Cooperative, Parliamentary Procedure,
- CDEs: Ag Communications, Marketing Plan

Agricultural Business II

Grades: 11-12

Course Credit: 5 (Spring semester)

Elective

Prerequisite: Introduction to Agriculture, Plant Science I & II, Animal Science I & II, Agricultural Business I, or with instructor's permission

Course Description: This course covers the skills necessary to market agricultural products, including the development of effective communication skills, sales strategies and marketing principles to agricultural products and services. Students will also study business financial planning, obtaining capital and credit, repaying loans, analyzing financial information, decision-making, developing business plans, and applying sales and marketing principles. Classroom and laboratory activities are supplemented through supervised agricultural experiences, career exploration activities, and FFA leadership programs, contests & activities. Students enrolled in this class are members of the Aquinas FFA chapter and must maintain an active SAE project.

Correlated FFA Opportunities:

- Degree: State Degree
- CDEs: Ag Issues, Ag Sales, Farm & Business Management

{Additional Electives}

Agriculture Work-Based Learning

Grade: 12

Elective

Credits: 5 (fall and/or spring semester)

Grade Offered: 12

Pre-requisites: Required Instructor Approval; Introduction to Agriculture, Plant Science I & II, Animal Science I & II, Currently Enrolled in another agricultural education class

Course Description: Work Based Learning is an educational program that provides students with on-the-job work experience where they can apply their academic and technical skills as well as develop employability skills learned in the classroom. Students will engage in employability skills to include for example career awareness, career exploration, career planning and other instructional related activities that will help students develop positive work attitudes and employability skills. This course will provide students with fundamental skills for success in agricultural careers and team environments. In addition, students will develop skills in ethical leadership, communications, and teamwork. Classroom and laboratory activities are supplemented through supervised agricultural experiences, career exploration activities, and FFA leadership programs, contests & activities. Students enrolled in this class are members of the Aquinas FFA chapter and must maintain an active SAE project.

Structural Technology and System Fundamentals I & II

Grade 11-12

Elective

Credits: 10 (Need to take both fall and spring semester)

Pre-requisite: Intro to Ag

Course Description: This course is designed to provide students with introductory level experiences in selected major areas of agricultural mechanics technology which may include woodworking, agricultural structures, electrical wiring, introductory arc welding, oxy/fuel cutting and welding processes, and power equipment operation and maintenance. Learning activities include information, skill development, and problem solving. Through hands on applications and comprehensive technical content students will develop foundational knowledge and skills for welding processes and help students understand and prepare for the opportunities in current welding and agricultural associated careers.

***Agricultural Leadership I & II**

Grade 10-12

Elective

Credits: 5 (fall and/or spring semester)

Pre-requisites: Currently Serving as an FFA Officer

Course Description: This course will assist students in developing their knowledge, attitudes, skills, and aspirations regarding leadership development in an agricultural setting. The course will cover personal leadership development, effective leader characteristics, leadership styles, ethics, and leadership challenges. FFA Officers will collaborate for event planning, meeting preparation, and chapter development. Classroom and laboratory activities are supplemented through supervised agricultural experiences, career exploration activities, and FFA leadership programs, contests & activities. Students enrolled in this class are members of the Aquinas FFA chapter and must maintain an active SAE project.

BUSINESS

Personal Finance

Grade 10

Course Credits: 5 (Semester)

Required

Course Description: This course provides students with a comprehensive understanding of personal finance topics. It emphasizes essential life skills related to business, including: career exploration (with activities such as resume preparation and mock interviews), payroll and income taxes, banking services, consumer and worker rights and responsibilities, basic investing, responsible credit use, insurance (auto, life, health, and property), money management, and budgeting.

Economics

Grade 10

Course Credits: 5 (Semester)

Required

Prerequisite: Personal Finance

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to the fundamental principles and practices of economics. The curriculum is divided into four key areas: economic concepts, microeconomics, macroeconomics, and international trade. The economic concepts section will cover topics such as scarcity and choice, utility, the paradox of value, the factors of production, and opportunity costs. Microeconomics focuses on the interactions between individual consumers and producers, exploring how incentives influence economic behavior. Macroeconomics examines the behavior of regional, national, and global economies, with a focus on key topics such as Gross Domestic Product, inflation, unemployment, and the balance of trade.

****Entrepreneurship**

Grades: 11-12

Course Credits: 5 (Semester)

Elective

Prerequisite: Accounting 1 (may be taken concurrently)

Course Description: Entrepreneurship equips students with the essential skills needed to organize, develop, create, and manage their own business. The course covers key topics in economics, human resources, marketing, and business fundamentals. Additional areas of focus include assessing personal skills, understanding the components of the free enterprise system and its role in the global economy, developing human relations and interpersonal skills, exploring business ethics, and recognizing the importance of quality and service in business. Students will create a business plan for a venture of their choice using the "Business Model Canvas." Instructional strategies may involve the use of technology, real-world or simulated occupational experiences, and marketing-related projects.

Note: Junior and Senior students may be eligible to earn college credit through the University of Iowa, contingent upon passing the Iowa final exam for this course.

Accounting I

Grades: 9-12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Prerequisite: Personal Finance (may be taken concurrently)

Course Description: Accounting I introduces the principles and procedures of accounting for proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations, with a focus on double-entry accounting. Emphasis is placed on accounting concepts as they apply to both manual and automated financial systems. Students will analyze and record business transactions, prepare and interpret financial reports, and use these reports for decision-making purposes. Additionally, students will learn how to manage a business checkbook, reconcile it, and calculate and record payroll. This course is ideal for students considering an accounting major in college or those planning to enter the business world. Simulations will be incorporated throughout the course to practice the accounting techniques learned.

****Accounting II**

Grades: 11-12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Prerequisite: Accounting I

Course Description: This course is designed for college-bound students planning to major in business, as well as for those interested in securing a bookkeeper position with minimal college education. Accounting II builds on the concepts introduced in Accounting I. Students will study and apply advanced accounting principles for corporations, including: change funds and petty cash, receivables and uncollectible accounts, notes and interest, inventory valuation and control, fixed assets and depreciation, long-term liabilities and accruals, stockholders' equity accounts, and computerized accounting. Simulations will be incorporated throughout the course to help students practice the concepts learned.

Note: This course may be offered as "Dual Credit" through Concordia University.

Accounting III

Grade: 12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Prerequisite: Accounting II

Course Description: This course is designed for the college-bound student who plans to major in business. Accounting III builds on concepts learned in Accounting I & II. Students study and apply advanced accounting principles for partnerships and corporations. Topics include: analyzing and interpreting financial statements, not-for-profit accounting, and cost accounting. Simulations will be used during the course to practice the principles learned in this course.

Broadcasting

Grades: 10-12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Prerequisite: Journalism (may be concurrent)

Course Description: Broadcasting is a hands-on course where students learn the fundamentals of planning, filming, editing, and broadcasting. Using basic production software, students will acquire the skills necessary to produce high-quality videos, including voiceovers, video and audio adjustments, and title creation. In addition to utilizing PCs, students will have the opportunity to work with iPads for broadcasting and video creation. Through the use of specialized editing programs (primarily Adobe Premiere Pro) and streaming tools, students will have the chance to showcase their creativity and share their voices with the school community.

Note: Certain student video products are eligible to be selected and entered in the NSAA State Journalism competition at the end of the school year.

Business Law**Grades: 11-12**Course Credits: 5ElectivePrerequisite: Personal Finance

Course Description: Business Law introduces students to the fundamentals of Contract Law, providing a foundational understanding of how contracts function in legal and business contexts. The course explores key topics such as offers and acceptances, genuine agreements, mutual consideration, and the law of capacity. Students will also learn about the legality of contracts, the Statute of Frauds (written contracts), and contractual duties. The course will cover how courts enforce contracts and the essential components that make a contract valid. Through this course, students will develop a clear understanding of the rights, responsibilities, and legal obligations that come with entering into business agreements.

AP Macroeconomics*Grades 11-12**Credits: 10ElectivePre-requisites: Economics

Course Description: AP Macroeconomics is an introductory, college-level course that focuses on the principles of macroeconomics. Students will deepen their understanding of economic systems as a whole by applying principles and models to analyze economic situations. They will learn to predict and explain outcomes using graphs, charts, and data while exploring key concepts such as economic measurements, markets, macroeconomic models, and macroeconomic policies.

Note: Students enrolled in this course are eligible (but not required) to take the AP exam at the end of the school year. Depending on their score, students may earn college credit at the postsecondary institution they attend.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

Computer Application 1

Grade: 9-12

Course Credits: 5 (semester)

Elective

Course Description: Students will learn fundamental skills needed to use computers. Students will have experience on Windows compatible computers. Software used will be Microsoft Office. The following programs will be used; Word, Excel (as a spreadsheet and a data base), PowerPoint, and Publisher. Students will also learn how to link information between these programs.

****iMec 2.0**

Grades: 11-12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Course Description: Mechatronics is a name given loosely to a series of four semester courses offered for college credit through Central Community College. It prepares students for careers managing the many processes and electronics used in factory and industrial settings. The first class, iMEC 2.0: Concepts of Electronics I, is an introductory college level electrical class that takes students through many of the things that govern direct current electrical circuits, some attributes and analyzation techniques, and Digital multi-meter use and troubleshooting. This class is followed sequentially by: Instrumentation, PLC (Program Logic Control), and Sensors.

LANGUAGE ARTS

English 9

Grade: 9

Course Credits: 10

Required

Prerequisite: English 8

Course Description: Course will cover a variety of units including poetry, writing, speech, grammar and conventions, novels, research paper and journaling. Students will be expected to read two outside books per quarter and complete responses for each book in addition to daily class work, journaling, group work, presentations, research paper, exercises and activities.

English 10

Grade: 10

Course Credits: 10

Required

Prerequisite: English 9

Course Description: English 10 students will study various types of world literature such as poetry, novels, plays short stories etc. These students also continue to practice grammar skills, study vocabulary and word usage, various forms of writing-such as an APA research paper, five paragraph essays, and oral presentations.

English 11

Grade: 11

Course Credits: 10

Required

Prerequisite: English 10

Course Description: Course will cover a variety of units including poetry, writing, speech, grammar and conventions, novels, research paper and journaling. Students will be in heavy study of American literature, poetry and work from early history to present works. Students are required to read two outside books per quarter and complete responses for each book in addition to daily class work, journaling, group work, presentations, research paper, exercises and activities.

English 12

Grade: 12

Course Credits: 10

Required

Prerequisite: English 9 - 11

Course Description: English 12 is designed to study British literature and prepare students for writing at the college level. Students study and practice various forms of grammar, word usage and vocabulary, various British/non-American authors, oral speaking, and writing styles-such as APA research paper, biography/autobiography writing in conjunction with family interviews, journaling, and five paragraph essays.

****Honors English**

Grade: 12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Prerequisite: English I- English III and senior English teacher recommendation

Course Description: Students will study stories in World, American and British literature beyond the studies of English I-IV. Students will also learn and practice grammar skills, vocabulary, word usage, oral speaking, and various forms of writing and analysis beyond those required in English I-IV, such as a Chicago Style research paper. This course may be taken for college credit through Wayne State College: 3 hrs. for Composition Skills and/or 3 hrs. for Topics in Literature.

Speech

Grade: 10

Course Credits: 5

Required

Course Description: An introductory course in oral communication. Emphasized are intra and inter- personal communication through activities in group discussion, audience analysis, speech organization and delivery.

Basic English

Grades: 9-12

Course Credits: 10

Required

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Course Description: Students will study stories in literature with adjustments made for their reading level. Students will also learn and practice basic grammar skills, vocabulary, word usage, oral speaking, and various forms of writing for post graduate needs.

Creative Writing

Grades: 9-12

Course Credits: 5

Elective

Course Description: This elective aims to develop an enjoyment of and capacity for writing in multiple genres, including poetry and short story, and to encourage students to pursue their particular interest in diverse

writing styles that may include creative nonfiction/memoir, drama, flash fiction, songwriting, etc. Students will also examine mentor-texts and workshop their writing with their peers and instructor. Students will learn how artistic storytelling compels the imagination to explore what is good, true, and beautiful. This class seeks to build writing skills and trust in the creative process in order to draw each person closer to the Creator and into a deeper understanding of themselves. ☒

Reading I

Grades: 9-12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Course Description: The purpose of Reading I is to not only provide students with opportunities to read but also work on reading comprehension in relation to vocabulary and writing to express understanding.

Reading II

Grades: 10-12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Prerequisite: Reading I

Course Description: Reading II emphasizes not only taking time to read and showing understanding but researching various topics and providing written understanding and proof of research on each topic to acquire set points.

Reading III

Grades: 11-12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Prerequisite: Reading II

Course Description: Reading III emphasizes not only taking time to read and showing understanding but researching various topics and providing written understanding and proof of research on each topic to acquire points.

Reading IV

Grade: 12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Prerequisite: Reading II and III

Course Description: Reading IV emphasizes taking time to read AP level books or books at an upper reading level and showing understanding. It also involves researching various topics and providing written understanding and proof of research on each topic to acquire set points.

JOURNALISM

Journalism I

Grade: 9-12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Prerequisite: English 9 and recommendation by English teacher

Course Description: Students will learn basic revision and editing skills, basic principles of design and placement, writing and photography (both digital and 35mm) skills. The skills learned will be utilized in the newspaper and yearbook fields and students will participate as active members of both the *Aquin* (yearbook) and the *Crown Prints* (newspaper) staff. Students will be expected to maintain attention to current events in terms of newspaper, television, radio and internet news sources in order to observe and imitate standard news writing technique.

Journalism II

Grade: 10-12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Prerequisite: English 9, 10, Journalism I

Course Description: Students will maintain and improve upon all skills and duties mastered in Journalism I and will actively and productively participate in leadership roles as members of the *Aquin* and the *Crown Prints* staff. Journalism 2 students will develop editing skills and layout design as the primary editors of the *Crown Prints*.

Journalism III

Grade: 11- 12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Prerequisite: English 9, 10, 11, Journalism I, Journalism II

Course Description: Students will maintain and improve upon all skills and duties mastered in Journalism I and will actively and productively participate in leadership roles as members of the *Aquin* and the *Crown Prints* staff. Journalism 3 students will develop the theme and layout design as the primary editors of the *Aquin*.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education 1 and Health

Grade: 9

Course Credit: 10

Required

Course Description: Physical Education at the 9th grade level is split evenly between introductions to physical training, (which includes, strength training, proper physical warm up) and game playing which includes introductions to lifetime activities and physical competition games. The main goal is to educate the individual about his/her physical fitness and its relationship to a healthy effective human: and to obtain skills and knowledge in physical activities. Health sections present and discuss the effect of lifestyle and related decisions on an individual's health.

Advanced Physical Education

Grades: 10 -

12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Prerequisite: Physical Education 1

Course Description: Physical Education on this level is an extension to the physical training of the 9th grade level PE. (This includes, strength training, proper physical warm up) with some game days where games are playing which will help to develop cardio-vascular health, agility, speed, hand eye coordination, and coordination.

HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES

American History

Grade: 9

Course Credits: 10

Required

Course Description: American History at Aquinas High School covers from the Civil War through the modern time's era of 2000. Cause and effect with the interrelated events of American History is presented along with contrast and comparison of American History past with present. The value of knowing history and its connections to the present is also presented throughout the course.

World Studies

Grade: 11

Course Credits: 10

Required

Course Description: This thematic course has an objective for the student to understand the diverse cultures of the world. Students will explore the regions of the world through geographic, economic, political, and religious factors. Connections from past events and movements to present conditions in the world will be a priority.

American Government

Grade: 12

Course Credits: 10

Required

Course Description: This course will cover the range of our governmental system from early foundations to today's political science. Emphasis will not only be made on a knowledge base of the workings and activities of American Government, but also active participation and citizenship will be strongly encouraged and modeled.

***Psychology/Sociology**

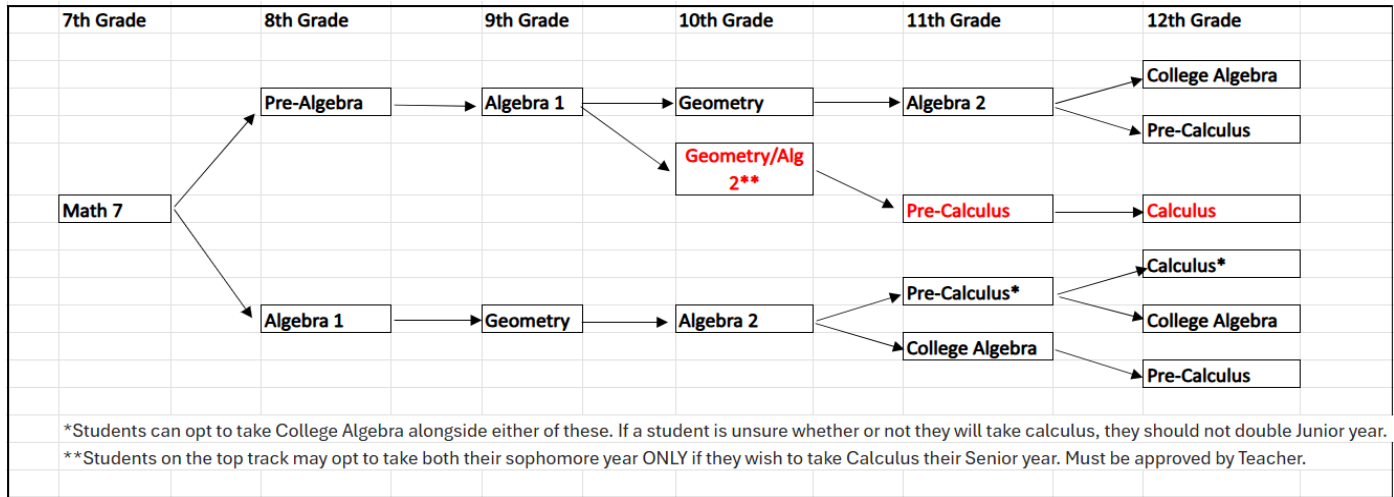
Grades: 10-12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Course Description: This class will cover each social science for one semester. College preparatory in nature, this course will explore the basics of social science research and the foundations of Psychology and Sociology.

MATH



Pre-Algebra Math

Grades: 8

Required

Prerequisite: Math 7

Course Description: This is an introduction to Algebra I. We review all the arithmetic skills necessary for Algebra I. Arithmetic (math skills) is integrated with variables, expressions, equations and properties. We also use formulas and diagrams for problem solving. This class helps to motivate students to learn the basics of Algebra. They will benefit from on-going review throughout the year to enhance their understanding.

Algebra I

Grades: 8-9

Course Credits: 10

Required

Course Description: Students in Algebra I gain a solid foundation of basic algebraic skills and concepts. The students will use a variety of techniques and problem-solving strategies to use in mathematics and in real-life situations. They will also improve their thinking skills (critical) and abstract thinking. They will benefit from on-going review throughout the year to enhance their understanding.

Algebra II

Grades 10-12

Course Credits: 10

Required

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Course Description: In this course students will discover connections in the set of all numbers, real and imaginary. They will expand their knowledge base of linear functions. They will then be introduced to the study of quadratic, polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions. The final topics will include probability, sequences, and series.

Geometry

Grades: 9-12

Course Credits: 10

Required

Prerequisite: Algebra (recommended)

Course Description: The Geometry Curriculum is meant to help students develop problem solving strategies, techniques, and skills; learn to communicate mathematics verbally and in writing; improve critical thinking skills; reinforce previously learned mathematical and algebraic fundamentals.

Pre-Calculus

Grades: 11-12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Algebra II

Course Description: In this course students will further their study of linear, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions. They will spend about half of the course studying trigonometry. Students will also be introduced to matrices and conic sections.

****Calculus**

Grade:12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus

Course Description: This course is the study of limits, differentiation, and integration. Throughout the course we solve problems analytically, graphically, and numerically. Students will focus a great deal on the meaning of notation used.

Basic Math

Grades: 9-12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Course Description: The Basic Math Curriculum is meant to help develop and reinforce fundamental math skills needed for higher level math courses and in everyday life.

****College Math**

Grades: 11-12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Algebra II

Course Description: This course reinforces the concepts of Algebra and prepares a student for introductory college math courses. This course envelops basic math skills, as well as multi-step mathematical problems. It also highlights the study of geometry.

Nebraska Math Readiness Program

Grades: 11-12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Course Description: This course is for Juniors or Seniors who are struggling with math. This course is a self-paced review/reteaching of concepts from Pre-Algebra and Algebra 1, all done online through Pearson's My Math Lab. Students take pretests to determine which concepts they may have forgotten or never fully understood and then work through lessons and homework to fill these gaps in their math education.

MUSIC

High School Chorus

Grades: 9-12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Course Description: High School Chorus is open to students in grades 9 – 12 who are interested in vocal music. A variety of choral music in 3 to 4 parts is performed at several concerts throughout the year. Developing personal talents and working together as a group is the emphasis of the group. The goal of the class is to help the student discover many varieties of choral music and to become confident of their own abilities to contribute musically to their communities and parishes.

Show Choir

Grades: 9-12

Course Credits: Included in High School Chorus Class

Elective

Prerequisite: Audition

Course Description: Show choir is a choral performance group of mixed voices and is open by audition. Choreography, stage presence and vocal performance skills are emphasized. Show Choir performs for concerts and community events an average of 6 – 8 times during the school year.

High School Band

Grades: 9-12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Prerequisite: Students must be able to play an instrument that is used in the band or jazzband.

Course Description: The band program performs at a variety of games, functions, marching band competitions, contests, and concerts throughout the year. The year begins with “band camp” in late summer just before school starts. The program strives to achieve a balanced sound of instruments and high level of musical achievement through a wide selection of music. The goal of the class is to help students truly enjoy music performances and possibly become involved in music in their community and churches after graduation.

Jazz Band

Grades: 9-12

Credits: Included in High School Band Class

Elective

Prerequisite: Must be a member of concert band and play a jazz instrument. Exceptions maybe made for those who only play guitar, bass guitar, or piano.

Course Description: The Jazz band is a course that meets on Wednesday morning at 7:00 am starting after marching band season is over. Jazz band is open to all band students who play a jazz instrument and have a desire to learn jazz music. The band consists of saxophones, trombones, baritones, trumpets, a trap set, piano, electric guitar and bass. The band competes in district music contests and plays for the Musical Dinner Theater and the May concert. There is an opportunity to learn to play jazz solos with this band.

ART DEPARTMENT

Art 1

Grades: 9-12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Course Description: Art 1 is a yearlong class, which builds the foundation for all the other art classes offered. It is a prerequisite for any subsequent art classes. The year is spent learning about the basic elements and principles of design in art. A use of variety of art mediums (various tools and methods that artists use to create their works of art) will be used throughout the year, including graphite, ink, colored pencil, acrylic paint, printmaking, oil, and chalk pastels, as well as clay relief sculpture. Projects are based on learning the elements of art. Each unit of study throughout the year includes the study of two to three artists who have made an impact in the art world. They will also learn techniques, terminology, and skills.

Art 2

Grades: 10-12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Prerequisite: Art 1

Course Description: Art 2 is a yearlong class, which will expand what was learned in Art 1 and introduce new areas of art. Examples include mixed media projects, reduction printmaking, clay slab construction, papercut art. Throughout each unit studied during the year, we will concentrate on artists and cultures that have been an influence on that area, techniques, and terminology.

Art 3

Grades: 11-12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Prerequisite: Art 1 and 2

Course Description: This class will feature areas different from Art 1 and 2. New mediums and techniques will be introduced including stained glass mosaic and pottery wheel. The year will expand our study of art mediums, techniques, and the elements of art, which will include creating value with design and words using ink pen. Careers in Art will be studied and will include a research paper and an art project that centers on the chosen career. The year will also include more independence through choice-based projects. Students will study famous artists and cultures that directly influenced the area being studied in addition to techniques and terminology.

Art 4

Grade: 12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Prerequisite: Art 1, 2, and 3

Course Description: Art 4 is designed for students who have taken Art 1-3. These students will work independently on larger sized projects throughout the year. They will work with the art teacher on direct study projects while expanding knowledge or trying new art mediums. Projects will be planned at the beginning of the year. A portfolio will be compiled for those students planning to continue their education in art. Students will research artists and cultures that directly influenced the area being studied in addition to techniques and terminology.

THEOLOGY

Religion 9

Grade: 9

Course Credits: 10

Required

Course Description: The Freshmen learn more about themselves by learning more about God. During the first semester we learn more about God and his ways by a journey through the Old Testament Scriptures. Then in the second semester we explore the life of Christ by a careful study of the New Testament Scriptures. Also, we study the very beginning of the Church and the first Christians as we explore the Act of the Apostles and the Epistles.

Religion 10

Grade: 10

Course Credits: 10

Required

Course Description: Students will study Church History and the Sacraments during their Sophomore year. For the first three quarters, the students will look at the significant persons and events of the Catholic Church's 2000-year history. For the quarter, the students will learn about the Sacramental and devotional life of the Church, studying liturgy, the seven sacraments and Christian prayer.

Religion 11 Catholic Moral Life (Semester 1)

Grade: 11 Course Credits:

5

Required

Course Description: This course teaches students what it means to live a good Catholic moral life, based on God's plan for the whole human race and for each person. Students learn how true self-knowledge leads to the knowledge of God's goodness at work in their lives, and how love is the basic response to this knowledge.

Topics discussed include human action, conscience, law, the virtues, sin, erroneous moral principles, and specific moral issues dealing with human life and sexuality.

Religion 11 Catholic Questions and Answers (Semester 2)

Grade: 11

Course Credits: 5

Required

Course Description: This course provides students with a review of the principles of Catholic dogma as well as practice in *apologetics*, which means the defense of the Catholic faith.

Students in this course will study the fundamental dogmas of Catholic faith, including the Trinity, the Incarnation and hypostatic union, and the Paschal Mystery. They will also study key questions which challenge Catholic beliefs—including the existence of God, Marian doctrines, the meaning of salvation, and the problem of evil—and learn how to defend these beliefs using natural reason and divine revelation.

Religion 12

Grade: 12

Course Credits: 10

Required

Course Description: Religion IV's topics are Vocations and Social Justice. For one semester, the students will investigate the Christian call to faith, hope, love and holiness and how this call is lived through the various Christian states of life: Single Life, Marriage, Holy Orders and Religious Life. For one semester, the students will investigate the Scriptural and traditional foundations of Christian Social Justice and discuss how it is practiced today in an increasingly secular society. The students will also investigate Catholic apologetics, medical moral issues, and the Catholic teaching on current events.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Spanish I

Grade: 9

Course Credits: 10

Required

Course Description: This course introduces the language and cultures of Spain and Latin America. Students will develop basic listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills necessary to communicate about self and daily life, as well as basic survival needs. Students will learn the basics of grammar, using subjects, verbs, and adjectives. Students will also explore cultural aspects of the Spanish-speaking world. Additionally, students will learn one basic prayer to use for the Catholic faith. Students will make use of reading materials, videos, and custom applications throughout the course. Successful completion of this course is required for graduation.

Spanish II

Grade: 10

Course Credits: 10

Required

Prerequisite: Spanish I

Course Description: This course is a continuation of Spanish I. Students will begin using other tenses, including compound tenses, and they will begin to work with the finer points of grammar. They will continue to develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills necessary to communicate about self, family, and daily life, as well as on abstract concepts such as feelings and emotions. Students will concentrate on very conjugation or regular, irregular and stem changing verbs in the present tense. Additionally, students will learn a second basic prayer to use for the Catholic faith and begin to offer intentions in Spanish. Students will also continue to explore cultural aspects of the Spanish-speaking world. Students will make use of reading materials, videos, and custom applications throughout the course. Successful completion of this course is required for graduation.

Spanish III

Grade: 11

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Pre-requisite: Spanish I and Spanish II

Course Description: Spanish III is a follow-up to Spanish II. Students will build upon vocabulary, review grammar, and learn further subtleties of Spanish syntax and idiomatic expressions. Students will use present tense, future tense, past tense verb conjugation. They will develop communicative skills or techniques necessary for summarizing, paraphrasing, interpreting, and narrating. They will practice writing, reading, speaking, and listening skills. Students will develop greater comfort and fluency. Additionally, students will learn a third basic prayer to use for the Catholic faith and begin to offer intentions and begin to defend their intentions in Spanish. Students will also continue to explore cultural aspects of the Spanish-speaking world. Students will make use of reading materials, videos, and custom applications throughout the course.

Spanish IV

Grade: 12

Elective

Prerequisite: Spanish I, II, III

Course Description: Students continue to sharpen listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. They learn to express themselves using an ever-increasing vocabulary, present- and past-tense verbs, articles, and adjectives. Grammar is introduced and practiced with a variety of learning styles in mind. Students will use a variety of commands in the language. Additionally, students will learn a second basic prayer to use for the Catholic faith and begin to offer intentions and defend their intentions in Spanish. Students will also continue to explore cultural aspects of the Spanish-speaking world. Students will make use of reading materials, videos, and custom applications throughout the course.

SCIENCE

Physical Science

Grade: 9

Course Credits: 10

Required

Course Description: Physical science is an introductory class in the areas of chemistry and physics. During the first semester, students will learn topics associated with the field of chemistry including properties of matter, atomic theory, chemical bonding and chemical change. Students will also learn proper laboratory techniques and hygiene. The second semester focuses on various topics of motion and energy. Through hands on projects, students learn about velocity, acceleration, force, power, and mechanical advantage. Students are also introduced to electricity and optics.

Biology

Grade: 10

Course Credits: 10

Required

Prerequisite: Physical Science

Course Description: Biology is a laboratory science course that covers the study of living organisms. Students will deepen their understanding of cell processes and genetics while applying the foundational properties of cells in further study of organisms. Students will learn scientific writing skills and examine current biological issues.

Chemistry

Grades: 11-12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Prerequisite: Physical science

Course Description: Chemistry explores the connections between matter and energy on the atomic and sub-atomic level. Through demonstrations and hands-on activities, students will gain an understanding of concepts related to atomic theory, chemical compounds and chemical reactions. Students will also be introduced to the field of organic chemistry. Skills of classifying and problem solving are integrated into each unit with students learning to categorize types of elements, properties, and types of reactions as well as calculating moles of compounds, energy of reactions, and frequency of light. Students will also learn to read and create charts, diagrams, and graphs.

Anatomy & Physiology

Grades: 11-12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Prerequisite: Biology

Course Description: Human Anatomy and Physiology explores the inner workings of the human body and focuses on anatomical and medical terminology. This course provides a foundation for students wanting to expand their vocabulary and learn about the body and its levels of organization, as well as the cooperation required between those levels. The first semester will look at common anatomy-related terms, the skeletal

and the muscular system. At the beginning of the second semester, students will participate in a dissection unit where they observe structures closely analogous to the human body in a preserved fetal pig. Students will dissect, observe, and have hands on experience seeing what various body systems look like in an actual specimen. The rest of the second semester will be looking at internal body systems: cardiovascular, respiratory, nervous, digestive, and reproductive.

Physics

Grades: 11-12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus

Course Description: Students study matter and energy as well as their interactions through calculations, graphs, and labs. The content studied includes Newton's laws of motion, velocity, acceleration, projectiles, momentum, forces, momentum, fluid principles, thermodynamics, electricity, and magnetism.

Forensics

Grades: 10-12

Course Credits: 5

Elective

Course Description: Forensic Science courses incorporate Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science disciplines and the process of science to the study of crimes. Topics of exploration may include: processing a crime scene, collecting and preserving evidence, physical evidence, organic and inorganic analysis of evidence, trace evidence, toxicology, arson and explosion investigations, serology, DNA, fingerprints, firearms, and document analysis.

Environmental Science

Grades: 11-12

Course Credits : 10

Elective

Course Description: Environmental science is a study of how humans interact with their environment. The emphasis of this course will be to address issues that are relevant in the Midwest, particularly in the field of agriculture in Nebraska. Students will be given multiple opportunities to put their knowledge into practice through various lab assignments. The topics covered in class will include the four "spheres" of the earth, the geosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere as well as the topic of human energy and food production, as it is closely tied to the global environment. The first semester will cover the geosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere culminating in an examination of global climate change. The second semester will examine the biosphere, energy production and food production. This class will be largely concerned with understanding broad concepts and, due to their presence in contemporary media and culture, being able to debate these topics based on scientific data.

Biochemistry

Grade: 12

Course Credits: 10

Elective

Prerequisite: Chemistry

Course Description: This course is designed for college-bound students who plan on majoring in health sciences or other science fields. Through in-depth discussion over course reading, research, and laboratory projects, students will gain an understanding of the structure, function, and chemical processes

of organic molecules, carbohydrates, lipids, nucleic acid, proteins (amino acids), enzymes, vitamins, and food additives.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

ENGLISH

English 6

Grade: 6 Required

Course Description: Students in English 6 will correctly use the various parts of speech and punctuation in their writing to form the different types of sentences. They will effectively write 3-paragraph essays which include a strong thesis, body, and conclusion, as well as appropriate transitions linked to the purpose of the writing. They will correctly use vocabulary integrated from other subject areas and will use the writing process of brainstorming, outlining, drafting, revising, proofreading, and publishing. Students in English 6 will also use appropriate reference materials for the given task.

English 7

Grade: 7

Required

Course Description: Students in English 7 will correctly use the various types of speech and punctuation in their writing to form complete sentences and paragraphs. They will also apply the knowledge of the English language while correctly using a variety of vocabulary words integrated from other subject areas. English 7 students will assess and revise their own writing and write reports, essays, and narratives with a clear focus, logically related ideas, and strong supporting detail. Students will also use the appropriate reference material for the given task.

Vocabulary 7 (Part of English 7)

Grade: 7

Required

Course Description: In Vocabulary 7 students broaden their vocabulary and practice using words in the correct context. Prefixes, suffixes, roots words, and analogies are discussed and used in writing.

English 8

Grade: 8

Required

Course Description: The students review the four types of sentences and basic parts of speech as well as identifying and properly using prepositions, various verb tenses, infinitives, and gerunds. Students write both informative and persuasive essays as well as informational research-based papers making use of proper sources. The students focus on the writing process and practice their descriptive writing emphasizing voice, fluency, organization, word choice, conventions, ideas and content.

Reading 6

Grade: 6

Required

Course Description: Reading 6 provides beginning middle school students with the opportunities for reading and identifying characteristics of various selections of literature. Throughout the course, students will identify elements of plot line, summarize main ideas, identify supporting details, use information from a selection to draw conclusions and make inferences, use context clues to determine meanings of words, compare and contrast narratives and stories, and interpret literary concepts in various works of literature and media. Students will also use appropriate enunciation, volume, tone, fluency, and rate in public speaking.

Reading 7**Grade: 7**Required

Course Description: In Reading 7 students will focus on identifying and practicing the basic literacy skills of: inference, internal and external conflict, setting, climax, resolution, and characterization. Various forms of poetry are discussed and written. Figurative language (idioms, simile, metaphor, onomatopoeia, etc....) are identified in stories. The students will focus on comprehension to understand and work with texts.

Reading 8**Grade: 8**Required

Course Description: In Reading 8, the students continue to work with reading comprehension skills as well as identifying parts of a story. Students also work to improve their personal reading skills to break apart and analyze different types of text.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education 6

Grade: 6

Required

Course Description: Physical Education at the 6th grade level. Students are introduced to and engage in various exercises to help improve their strength and conditioning. Students also participate in activities/games that further contribute to improving strength and conditioning. The students will also be introduced to the development of fundamental skills, and the understanding of rules and strategies for several activities. Some of the activities include softball/baseball, volleyball, basketball, and archery.

Physical Education 7/8

Grades: 7-8 Required

Course Description: Students will be introduced to a variety of physical activities, both lifetime and competitive. Skills for each activity will be taught and opportunities to participate in competitive activities will be made available but not required.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies 6

Grade: 6

Required

Course Description: Sixth graders will be studying U.S. Geography for a semester. They will learn about their home state, the states that surround them as well as how the environment around them affects their everyday lives.

World History 7

Grade: 7

Required

Course Description: Seventh Graders will use their time learning about the history of the world from the ancient Sumerians to the Industrial Revolution, and how these past events relate to the world today. Map skills and locations are also instructed.

American History 8

Grade: 8

Required

Course Description: Eighth graders study American History from the arrival of the Native Americans up to causes of the Civil War. Concentrations included colonial development, the American Revolution, the Constitution, and the movement west. Throughout the year the 8th graders will also be asked to hand in Current Event papers with a short synopsis of stories for each week. It is important that the 8th graders become aware of the events happening around them today, as well as those events that shaped our country and our past.

MATH

Math 6

Grade: 6

Required

Course Description: Math 6 provides beginning middle school students with basic math concepts which are the foundation for higher level math skills. Students learn whole number concepts; solve problems involving decimals and fractions; use units of measurement to calculate time and temperature; calculate mean, median, mode, and range for data sets; work with percentages, ratios, and exponents; use basic geometry to calculate perimeter, area, and volume; interpret and analyze charts and graphs; and are given an introduction into solving addition and subtraction problems with positive and negative integers.

Math 7

Grade: 7

Required

Prerequisite: Math 6

Course Description: 7th Grade Math includes knowledge of the arithmetic needed for basic math skills that are used in the upper-level math classes. Students will practice the basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of integers, decimals, and fractions. This knowledge is then applied to ratios, percentages, area, volume, statistics, probability, and problem-solving everyday consumer math. Basic algebra topics are introduced and practiced getting the students prepared for pre-algebra and/or algebra.

Pre-Algebra Math

Grade: 8 Required

Prerequisite: Math 7

Course Description: This is an introduction to Algebra I. We review all the arithmetic skills necessary for Algebra I. Arithmetic (math skills) is integrated with variables, expressions, equations, and properties. We also use formulas and diagrams for problem solving. This class helps to motivate students to learn the basics of Algebra. They will benefit from on-going review throughout the year to enhance their understanding.

Algebra I

Grade 8

Required

Prerequisite: Math 7

Course Description: Students in Algebra I gain a solid foundation of basic algebraic skills and concepts. The students will use a variety of techniques and problem-solving strategies to use in mathematics and in real-life situations. They will also improve their thinking skills (critical) and abstract thinking. They will benefit from on-going review throughout the year to enhance their understanding.

ART

Middle School Art

Grades: 6-8

Required

Course Description: Art is required for all middle school students. Currently, 6th grade art is a semester long course, while 7th and 8th grade art are a quarter long course. All levels of middle school art are meant to provide students with the opportunity to explore studio arts, to gain knowledge of various mediums and techniques, well known artists, and art styles. This exploration of studio arts will assist students in discerning a continuation of art in high school.

MUSIC

6th Grade Band

Grade: 6

Elective

Pre-requisites: Students must be able to play an instrument that is used in the band.

Individual lessons are available for someone who would like to begin playing an instrument.

Course Description: The middle school band practices and performs pep band music and concert band music throughout the year. The band also participates in a middle school music contest in the spring. There is an opportunity to play an instrumental solo and be a member of a small ensemble. This band is made up of only 6th graders. The goal of this class is to learn how to play the instrument more proficiently and to learn to read music.

7th/8th Grade Band

Grades: 7-8

Elective

Pre-requisites: Students must be able to play an instrument that is used in the band.

Individual lessons are available for someone who would like to begin playing an instrument.

Course Description: The middle school band practices and performs pep band music and concert band music throughout the year. The band also participates in a middle school music contest in the spring. There is an opportunity to play an instrumental solo and be a member of a small ensemble. This band is made up of only 7th & 8th graders and the average size 40 to 60 students. The goal of this class is to learn how to play the instrument more proficiently and to learn to read music.

6th Grade Chorus

Grade 6

Elective

Course Description: This class is for all middle school students. A variety of choral music is used to teach the concepts of music performance. It is the goal of this class to help students find their singing voice and to learn basic music reading skills.

7th and 8th Grade Chorus

Grades 7-8

Elective

Course Description: This class is for all middle school students. A variety of choral music is used to teach the concepts of music performance. It is the goal of this class to help students find their singing voice and to learn basic music reading skills.

Jr. High Music Appreciation

Grades 7-8

Elective

Course Description:

THEOLOGY

Religion 6

Grade: 6

Required

Course Description: Religion 6 provides the students with a comprehensive overview of the Ten Commandments and the parts and structure of The Mass. In this study students will understand the basic understanding of all cultures moral code to do good and avoid evil. The students will be given a basic understanding of each commandment along with corresponding virtues and vices. The second half of the textbook begins the basic understanding of the Mass a feast, banquet, memorial, and sacrifice. The students will learn the Liturgy of the Word and of the Eucharist, all parts of the Mass and responses.

Religion 7

Grade: 7 Required

Course Description: Religion 7 provides students with a comprehensive overview of Divine Revelation, the Incarnation, the life of Grace and the Sacraments. The students will study Divine Revelation, Creation, Jesus' roles as priest, prophet, and king, the Doctrine of Grace, and the Sacraments. Attention is also given to learning grade appropriate diocesan required prayers, various saints and the liturgical seasons experienced throughout the year.

Religion 8

Grade: 8

Required

Course Description: Religion 8 provides the students with a comprehensive overview of the history and mission of the Catholic Church founded by our Lord Jesus Christ. Major events and personalities in Church History, including American Church History, are covered. During the year, emphasis is given to the sacramental life and to Christian service.

SCIENCE

Science 6

Grade: 6

Required

Course Description: Students will learn basics in earth science such as the interior of the earth, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, rock, minerals, soil formation, weathering, erosion, and geologic time. Life science topics include information on the five kingdoms of living things: Monera, bacteria, protists, fungi, and animals.

Science 7

Grade: 7

Required

Prerequisite: Science 6

Course Description: Students will learn basics in motion, forces, waves, and energy in their physical science unit. Life science topics include ecosystems and biomes, natural resources, and populations and communities.

Science 8

Grade: 8

Required

Prerequisite: Science 7

Course Description: Students will learn about cell structure and function, as well as introductory genetics in their life science unit. Earth science units include topics such as the atmosphere, weather factors and patterns, and astronomy. Students will be introduced to chemistry in their physical science unit.

EXPLORATORY COURES/OTHER

Agriculture Exploration

Grade 8

Elective

Course Description: This exploratory course will give students the opportunity to discover the many areas of agriculture. An opportunity is given to get involved in the FFA chapter as well as understanding how agriculture is important in our world through exploration in careers, agribusiness systems, plant and animal systems, food processing, and natural resources systems. Classroom and laboratory activities are supplemented through supervised agricultural experiences, career exploration activities, and FFA leadership programs, contests & activities.

Correlated FFA Opportunities: Discovery Degree; LDEs: Discovery Speaking, Ag Literacy Speaking, Creed Speaking, Quiz Bowl, CCM; CDEs: Livestock Judging

Careers

Grade: 8

Required

Course Description: Careers introduces students to a variety of career areas with the emphasis on the importance of education and planning. Students explore post-high school avenues and understand the importance of creating goals and making positive decisions to prepare them for the future.

7th Computers

Grade 7

Required

Course Description: It is the goal of this class to become as proficient on the keyboard as possible on an individual basis. Keyboarding is a life skill and one that will be used an entire lifetime. Emphasis on MS Word and Publisher.

7th Health

Grade 7

Required:

Course Description:

Intro to Family and Consumer Science (FCS)

Grade 8

Elective

Course Description:

Intro to Business

Grade 8

Elective

Course Description:

Spanish 8

Grade 7

Elective

Course Description:

Study Skills 6

Elective

Course Description:

Grade 6

Study Skills 7/8

Elective

Course Description:

Grade 8

7th Computers

Grade 7

Required

Course Description: It is the goal of this class to become as proficient on the keyboard as possible on an individual basis. Keyboarding is a life skill and one that will be used an entire lifetime. Emphasis on MS Word and Publisher.