



West Catholic High School
2023-24 Curriculum Guide

We stand together in learning, forever in faith.

grwestcatholic.org

Mission/Vision

Mission:

To form Disciples of Christ through a dynamic, excellence-driven Catholic education

Vision:

Inspired by St. John Paul II, West Catholic High School is dedicated to the transformation of students who will live their earthly and eternal lives as humble servants of God.

Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

Rights and Responsibilities

Every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected—the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

Solidarity

We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they live. Learning to practice the virtues of solidarity means learning that "loving our neighbor" has global dimensions in an interdependent world.

Care of God's Creation

We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

“Do not be afraid. Open, I say **open wide the doors** for **Christ**.”

Saint John Paul, II
October 22, 1978

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**Course offerings are subject to change*

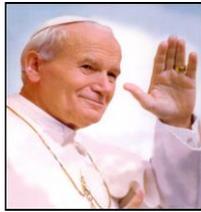
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PART ONE
Academic Departmental
Course Offerings

Intercession to Saint John Paul II



O Holy Trinity,
we thank you for having given to the Church
Saint John Paul II,
and for having made him shine with your fatherly tenderness,
the glory of the Cross of Christ and the splendor of the Spirit of love.

He, trusting completely in your infinite mercy
and in the maternal intercession of Mary, has shown himself
in the likeness of Jesus the Good Shepherd
and has pointed out to us holiness
as the path to reach eternal communion with You.

Grant us, through his intercession,
according to your will, the grace that we implore.

Amen.

AQUINAS DUAL ENROLLMENT

West Catholic has entered into an agreement with Aquinas College providing an Aquinas College course on the West Catholic campus, fulfilling both high school and college credits upon successful completion of the course. Students seeking dual-enrollment will complete an Aquinas College Application for Admission and will be required, as a condition of admission, to agree that student records held by each institution may be shared between and available to each institution (*see Dual Enrollment on page 42*). Aquinas requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 for dual enrollment.

Funds from the Michigan Department of Education can only be used if a student passes the course. Any student who fails a Dual-Enrollment course will be responsible for the cost of the class.

Please note: Infinite Campus and Canvas are not used with Aquinas courses.

FALL COURSES OFFERED:

**BS201 Principles of Management
(4credit hours)**

Course Description: The focus is on the study of the origin and development of management theory, processes of management, decision-making, leadership, communication, social responsibility, and international management. Emphasis is on the application of management principles to managing organizations.

SPRING COURSES OFFERED:

**CN101 Introduction to Communication
(4 credit hours)**

Course Description: Theory and methods of intrapersonal, interpersonal, small group, organizational, public, intercultural and mass communication.

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Program Goal:

To foster a deep understanding of computer hardware, software systems, and business-related applications to build life-long technological skills, efficiencies, and expertise.

The student will:

- Optimize their efficiency through the use of advanced search techniques, operating system navigation and shortcuts, software application training, and web-based tools.
- Digitally produce text-based, graphical, and computational creations to serve a particular function (documents, spreadsheets, presentations, computer programs).
- Develop computer programs through an iterative process of writing, testing and modifying code.
- Understand digital security and practice digital safety measures.
- Explore careers in the fields of business technology and programming.

Computer Science Department Offerings:

Business Technology

Computer Essentials

Visual Basic Programming I/II

C# Programming I/II

AP Computer Science Principles

AP Computer Science

Business Technology
½ credit elective
Prerequisite: None
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

C142

Course Description: This course teaches the effective use of a variety of computer applications. The Microsoft Office Suite, the Windows environment, and various online and Web 2.0 tools will be learned in this course. Students will create professional documents and multimedia projects for both personal and business related tasks. Spreadsheets, databases, and presentation programs will be used throughout this course.

Computer Essentials
½ credit elective
Prerequisite: None
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

C109

Course Description: This course teaches basic computer knowledge and skills for everyday life. Typing skills will be practiced and reinforced throughout the course. Computer hardware and computer networking will be learned along with basic trouble-shooting methods. Additionally, Internet security, Internet search strategies, and digital citizenship will be taught and practiced. Web-based tools will be used throughout the course both to deliver instruction and to create student work.

Visual Basic Programming I **C130**
½ credit elective
Prerequisite: None
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
(offered even-numbered years)

Course Description: This course introduces computer programming in the Visual Basic.NET language. It begins with the study of logic as applied to computer programming and basic computer design. Programs are created which teach various computer commands, programming structures, mathematical operations, and foundations to programming. Highly recommended for students interested in pursuing engineering, mathematics, computer programming or other technical careers.

Visual Basic Programming II C131
½ credit elective
Prerequisite: Visual Programming I
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
(offered even-numbered years)

Course Description: This course is an extension of Visual Basic.NET Programming I. Students will expand on concepts learned in Visual Basic I and learn advanced programming concepts. Application of knowledge will be tested through hands-on activities, comparisons will be made with other languages, and practical programming applications will be examined.

C# Programming I C115
½ credit elective
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
(offered odd-numbered years)

Course Description: This course introduces computer programming in C# Programming language. It begins with the study of logic as applied to computer programming and basic program design. Programs are created which teach various computer commands, programming structures, mathematical operations, and foundations to programming. Highly recommended for students interested in pursuing engineering, mathematics, computer science, or other technical careers.

C# Programming II C116
½ credit elective
Prerequisite: C# Programming I
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
(offered odd-numbered years)

Course Description: This course is an extension of C# Programming I. Students will expand on concepts learned in C# Programming I and learn advanced programming concepts. Application of knowledge will be tested through hands-on activities, comparisons will be made with other languages, and practical programming applications will be examined.

AP Computer Science Principles C121
1 credit elective
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course Description: AP Computer Science Principles offers a multidisciplinary approach to teaching the underlying principles of computation. The course will introduce students to the creative aspects of programming, abstractions, algorithms, large data sets, the Internet, cybersecurity concerns and computing impacts. AP Computer Science Principles also gives students the opportunity to use current technologies to create computational artifacts for both self-expression and problem solving. Together, these aspects of the course make up a rigorous and rich curriculum that aims to broaden participation in computer science.

AP Computer Science C120
1 credit elective
Prerequisite: Students must take one of the following courses prior to AP Computer Science: Visual Basic Programming I, C# Programming I or AP Computer Science Principles
Open to grades: 10, 11, 12

Course Description: This course emphasizes object-oriented programming methodology with a concentration on problem solving and algorithm development, and is meant to be the equivalent of a first-semester college-level course in computer science. Students will design and implement solutions to problems by writing, running and debugging computer programs; use and implement commonly used algorithms and data structures to solve problems; and code fluently in an object-oriented paradigm using the programming language Java.

ENGINEERING AND INNOVATION DEPARTMENT

Program Goal:

To elevate the world around us by developing critical thinkers that can solve complex problems through the application of knowledge and processes.

The student will:

- Engage in strategies for solving real world problems (engineering design process, design thinking).
- Gain real world experience with mechanical, electrical, programming, and control systems.
- Research, design, prototype, build, and program robotic creations.
- Learn the importance of communication, deadlines, group dynamics, and feedback through the management of team projects.
- Recognize the importance of ethical decision-making in the fields of technology and engineering.
- Explore careers in the fields of engineering and emerging technologies.

Engineering and Innovation Department Offerings:

Design Thinking

Robotics I

Pre-Engineering

Robotics II

Design Thinking

½ credit elective

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

C143

Course Description: This is a hands-on course in which students employ the design process to solve problems. Students will explore various technologies through problem-based projects. Professional communication, collaboration, prototyping, design ethics, emerging technologies, and programmable/ robotic devices will be major areas of focus for the course. Students will have the opportunity to work with new technologies, tools and machines in this course.

Pre-Engineering

1 credit elective

Co-requisite: Physics

Departmental approval required

Open to grades: 11, 12

S920

Course Description: This course will provide students with an overall view of the three main threads of engineering: Civil, Mechanical, and Electrical. This includes an introduction to the engineering design process and resource design tools by means of projects, lectures, and homework. Team projects require application of creativity, engineering analysis, and computational tools. Reading, lectures, and discussions also examine the areas of technology in society, engineering ethics, and library research methods. The computer and various software tools are introduced and used for this course.

Robotics I
½ credit elective
Prerequisite: None
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

C144

Course Description: Robotics I allows students to design, program and test innovative technological designs related to robotic systems. Topics involve mechanics, pneumatics, control technologies, computer fundamentals and programmable control technologies. Students will design, build and optimize robots to perform a variety of pre-designated tasks. Students will also investigate aspects of the various industries related to robotics design and innovation.

Robotics II
½ credit elective
Course may be repeated for CR only
Prerequisite: Robotics I or Teacher Approval
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

C145

Course Description: In Robotics II students will further apply the safety, design, building and programming skills learned in Robotics I. Additional emphasis will be placed on the design process, team objectives, team specialization, communication, strategy, and optimization. Students will work in partnership with the West Catholic FIRST Robotics team (Enigma #2075) on various design and competition challenges. Experience with mechanical, electronic, pneumatic, and control systems will all be applied through the design and development of a robot that will meet unique design challenges. Individuals or small teams may choose to participate in organized robotic competitions or develop their own events during the course. Students will also explore collegiate programs of student and careers in related industries.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Program Goal:

Through a faith-based education with an emphasis on the principles of Catholic doctrine, students will develop respect for others, effective communication skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listening), critical thinking skills, and intellectual curiosity that will prepare them for success in college and in life.

Note: The difference in the courses at each grade level will include emphasis, pace, and student expectation, as stated in the course descriptions. Standardized test scores, grades, and teacher recommendations will be taken into consideration for placement in Honors and AP courses.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OFFERINGS:

CORE:

English Fundamentals
Honors English I or English I
Honors English II or English II
AP Language and Composition or English III
AP Language and Composition, AP Literature and Composition or English IV

ELECTIVE:

Oral Communication
Journalism

English Fundamentals 1 credit Permission of School Counselor, English Department Head required	E204	Course Description: This course, primarily for English Language Learners, is designed to improve basic English skills necessary for success at the high school level. It focuses on grammar with special attention to syntax, vocabulary development, reading, and writing for academic purposes.
Honors English I 1 credit	E206 1	Course Description: This course is the first in a vertical team approach geared toward advanced placement credit and college English. Through the study of world literature across various genres, students will learn to analyze literature in depth and to discover the thematic connections between texts as well as the specific elements of each genre that contribute to understanding them. Students will develop their writing skills by composing various essay forms as well as by refining grammar skills and writing conventions.
English I 1 credit	E205	Course Description: This course will develop the essential language arts skills: literature study, composition, critical thinking, communication, grammar, usage, and vocabulary. Specific elements of literary genres and essay fundamentals will be emphasized.
Honors English II 1 credit	E208	Course Description: This is a second-year course in a vertical team approach geared toward advanced placement credit and college English. Through the study of American literature across various genres, students will hone their writing skills by composing various essay forms as well as by polishing grammar skills and writing conventions.

English II 1 credit	E207	Course Description: This course will further develop essential language arts skills: literary analysis, composition, critical thinking, communication, grammar, and vocabulary. Students will analyze American literature, making connections to culture and to history.
English III 1 credit	E209	Course Description: This course encourages a personal appreciation of literature and develops the student's powers of expression, both in oral and written communication. It also introduces students to a range of world literature and nonfiction, which broadens the student's perspective. Students will write in several modes of discourse, with an emphasis on analysis, argument, synthesis, and rhetoric.
English IV 1 credit	E210	Course Description: Senior English incorporates the essential strands of an English curriculum: literature, reading, grammar, and writing. As the last year of pre-collegiate preparation, this course is a final opportunity for students to improve reading comprehension, use of writing conventions, and written expression. Development of a global perspective will be facilitated through a study of world literature.
AP English Lang. & Comp. Open to grades: 11, 12 1 credit	E219	Course Description: This course emphasizes rhetoric and style in writing. Students study well-known works of creative world literature while analyzing nonfiction readings that reveal the linguistic power and expository effectiveness of various writers and of prose pieces. Students write extensively in this course to project their own voices, practice advanced writing techniques, and express logical and insightful thoughts based on experience, research, discussions, debates, and readings. Participants are required to take the AP English Language and Composition exam in May.
AP English Lit. & Comp Open to grade: 12 1 credit	E222	Course Description: This course is geared toward advanced placement credit and college English through the careful reading of world literature. The works will be of recognized literary merit that are likely to be taught in an introductory college literature course. Analysis of rhetorical techniques in literature will be emphasized in the writing assignments. Participants are required to take the AP Literature exam in May.
Oral Communication ½ credit elective Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12 Prerequisite: None	E229	Course Description: This one-semester class will include coursework in nonverbal, interpersonal, group, and one-to-group communication. Students will learn to become more confident and effective communicators in a variety of speaking situations. Listening skills and leadership techniques will also be stressed.
Journalism 1 credit elective (credit may be repeated) Prerequisite: A "B" average in English Application submission/Instructor recommendation required Open to grades: 10, 11, 12	E224	Course Description: This course involves both classroom and staff room work in the organization and production of up to ten issues of the school newspaper. Work includes layout, design, and news writing styles. Students will be required to sell advertising. This course can be taken for credit during the sophomore, junior, and senior years.

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Program Goal:

All students will experience the understanding, the appreciation and the creation of the Fine Arts in a Catholic/Christian setting for lifelong learning.

Students will develop the following skills:

- Expressing oneself creatively in various media in the visual and performing arts
- Communicating with others through the language of the arts
- Respecting the rights of others' artistic expression
- Critically evaluating the artistic works of self and others
- Comprehending the arts in a historical and cultural context
- Cultivating creative solutions to problems and opportunities
- Learning to be a discerning artist while manifesting an open mind to the arts in everyday life

Fine Arts Department Offerings:

Art I Drawing

Art II Design

Art III Studio Art

Art IV Portfolio Prep

AP Art 2D Design

Art Palette

Art I Drawing
1 credit elective
Prerequisite: None
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

A013

Course Description: In this year-long class, basic drawing techniques are taught using various media. These techniques are applied to a variety of subjects such as still life, portrait, profile, and figure drawing, perspective, and landscape drawing. Art vocabulary and terminology are taught and the relationship of drawing to art history is incorporated. Students are required to work in a sketchbook weekly.

Art II Design
1 credit elective
Prerequisite: Art I Drawing
Open to grades: 10, 11, 12

A014

Course Description: In this year-long class, basic elements of design - line, shape, form, value, color, and texture - are applied to solving problems in various areas, including graphic design, three-dimensional design, and fine art. Various media may include: tempera, wood, pastels, block printing, acrylic and watercolor painting and computer graphics. Art history, vocabulary and critique methods are integrated into this course. Students are required to work in a sketchbook weekly.

<p>Art III Studio Art A015 1 credit elective Prerequisite: Art II Design Open to grades: 11, 12</p>	<p>Course Description: This course is designed to further the individual art skills of students. Students who take this class will gain skills that help them proceed to Advanced Placement (AP) art in the future. Students will gain experience and learn a higher level of techniques and rigor in 2D and 3D mediums. These media and techniques will build upon the basic Principles and Elements of art on a more conceptual level. Art vocabulary, art history and art criticism will help reinforce more complex and conceptual concepts. This course is a suggested prerequisite for Advanced Placement (AP) Art.</p>
<p>Art IV Portfolio Prep A016 1 credit elective Prerequisite: Art III Open to grades: 12</p>	<p>Course Description: This year-long class relates art to the individual's own needs and experiences. The student has the opportunity to work independently and concentrate study in various areas of art, depending on student's interest and teacher approval. Students work independently but are expected to participate in group critiques. Each student will have a retrospective exhibit of his or her artwork at year-end. Significant artists throughout history are emphasized. Students are required to work in a sketchbook weekly and will prepare their own portfolio.</p>
<p>AP Art 2D Design A019 1 credit elective Prerequisite: Art III Studio Art with department approval Open to grades: 12</p>	<p>Course Description: The AP art course is designed for students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of art and wish to develop mastery in the concept, composition, and execution of their ideas. AP Art students will submit portfolios for evaluation at the end of the school year. In building the portfolio, students experience a variety of concepts, techniques and approaches designed to help them demonstrate their abilities as well as their versatility with techniques, problem solving and ideation. Students also develop a body of work for the concentration section of the portfolio that investigates an idea of personal interest to them.</p>
<p>Art Palette A011 ½ credit elective Prerequisite: None Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12</p>	<p>Course Description: This semester-long hands-on art history course is designed to give students a positive experience in various aspects of the visual arts. The students' cultural discovery will be developed by exposure to many different art media, various periods, genres and significant artists.</p>

INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Marching Band MU025
½ credit elective
Prerequisite: Audition or Director permission required
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course Description: This course is available to all musicians who have actively studied an instrument and have attained a music proficiency level meeting the director's standards set for incoming freshmen. This class consists of preparing for and executing several marching performances and the Christmas concert. **Two Full Credits of Marching Band/Concert Band can be substituted for ½ credit of Physical Education. Beginning with the Class of 2026, PE Waivers will no longer be accepted.**

Requirements for ALL Bands: Men are required to have white dress shirts and black ties. Women are required to wear the pre-selected band dress. All are required to have black shoes and black socks.

All members are required to attend Band Camp prior to the start of school and weekly evening rehearsals in the fall. Dates and times TBA.

Concert Band MU026
½ credit elective
Second Semester
Prerequisite: Previous semester **Marching Band** and Director permission
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course Description: This class consists of learning to play concert music at a high intrinsic level. This will be achieved through careful indoor rehearsals and performances. Individuals will also have the opportunity to participate in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association's District Solo and Ensemble Festival. Basic music theory and some music history will also be instructed. **Marching Band first semester is required.** Concert performances are required.

Jazz Band MU027
Credit only-no grade assigned; credit may be repeated
Prerequisite: Current member of **Marching Band, Concert Band or Choir**
Audition or Director Permission
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course Description: Jazz Band students will further refine musical abilities through jazz on their primary or secondary instruments. Selections will be performed at concerts and at various events throughout the year. Jazz Band meets afterschool 2 days per week (TBA). Auditions take place just after the beginning of the school year.

Music Appreciation MU018
½ credit elective
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course Description: From Bach to Pop, music is appreciated, researched, and analyzed. How is music used? Why is it important? How does it impact us? How does it reflect our culture, history, and faith? Students will learn to listen to music critically and recognize both the positive and negative influences it can have. They will also learn of the various instruments used to make music, primarily in the western tradition.

Concert Choir MU028
1 credit elective; credit may be repeated
Prerequisite: Teacher Approval
Signature Required
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course Description: Basic vocal and choral techniques will be employed on a daily basis. Students will explore music theory and sight-reading as a way of understanding the musical language. A wide variety of choral literature will be studied and performed. A desire to learn and perform music to the best of their ability should motivate students to enroll in this class. Selections will be performed at concerts, liturgies and other outside events throughout the year. These performances are required.

Concert Choir-0 Hour MU028Z
Credit only-no grade assigned; credit may be repeated
Prerequisite: Teacher Approval

Course Description: See Concert Choir description (above). This course begins at 7:10 a.m. and is held Tuesday - Friday.

Requirements for ALL Choirs: Men and Women are required to wear the pre-selected choir uniforms (black shirt, tuxedo pants, and dresses). All are required to have black dress shoes and black socks.

Theatre I MU023
½ credit elective
First Semester
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course Description: Students will learn the basics of the theatre including theatre vocabulary, movement, vocal interpretation, improvisation, theatre history, and acting. This course is an introductory course to the world of theatre and requires a number of projects and performances designed to expose students to the various elements of theatre for a well-rounded understanding of the art form. Final showcase performances may be scheduled for the evening and are required.

Theatre II MU024
½ credit elective
Second Semester
Prerequisite: Theatre I or Director Approval
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course Description: Building on things covered in Theatre I, in this course students will learn the basics of different aspects of theatre including understanding the cultural influence of theatre, the development of creative expression in ensemble/small group/solo performances, directing, designing, and critiquing theatre. This course seeks to deepen students' understanding of theatre production as a whole and requires a number of projects and performances designed to expose students to the various elements of theatre for a well-rounded understanding of the art form. This is primarily a performance-based class. A prerequisite of Theatre I OR director permission is required. Final showcase performances may be scheduled for the evening and are required.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Program Goal:

The study of mathematics provides:

- A foundation of logic, reasoning and calculation skills and an experience in current technology which will enable the student to succeed in his/her chosen career, whether or not it is a mathematical field.
- Challenges and methods of operating which serve to increase one's problem solving capabilities and critical thinking skills.

NOTE: *Some classes require that the student have access to a graphing calculator.*

A TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is recommended.

Pathways to Completing Graduation Requirements in Mathematics

Exceptions to these will be dealt with on an individual basis

<i>9th Grade</i>	<i>10th Grade</i>	<i>11th Grade</i>	<i>12th Grade</i>
Pre-Algebra	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II/Trig
or	or	or	or
Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II/Trig	Pre-Calculus/Statistics
or	or	or	or
Geometry	Algebra II/Trig	Pre-Calculus	Calculus/Statistics

The West Catholic Mathematics department continues to evaluate the curriculum offered to students. Upon careful consideration of added requirements and the diocesan curriculum, the following updates have been made:

1. The 2023-2024 school year will be the last year in which Analysis class will be offered. The course curriculum has been simplified to the required standards and will be a one semester course. Students enrolled in the first semester Analysis class will take a personal finance course for the second semester. This option helps students meet the requirements for graduation.
2. The Algebra II course, known as Algebra II/Trig, will teach all the required curriculum standards for Algebra II over the course of two semesters and all students will take the course because it is a requirement.

With the updates, counselors will be able to match up courses for remediation if necessary. This update will also provide new opportunities for West Catholic to bring in additional math experiences such as the Personal Finance course.

*Honors Placement is based on previous teacher's recommendation, grades and test scores. Staying in Honors requires maintaining an 85% average and teacher recommendation. Moving up to Honors requires a 93% or higher in regular and teacher recommendation.

*****STUDENTS STARTING IN GEOMETRY/HONORS GEOMETRY MUST TAKE ALGEBRA II/TRIG, PRE-CALCULUS AND EITHER CALCULUS/AP CALCULUS OR STATISTICS/AP STATISTICS.***

Mathematics Department Offerings

Pre-Algebra
Algebra I
Honors Algebra I
Geometry
Honors Geometry
Algebra II/Trigonometry
Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry

Pre-Calculus
Honors Pre-Calculus
Analysis
Personal Finance
Calculus
AP Calculus BC
Statistics
AP Statistics

Pre-Algebra M411
1 credit elective
Pre-requisite: Pre-Algebra, standardized test scores and teacher recommendation
Open to grade: 9

Course Description: This full-year course is designed for students who have completed a middle school mathematics sequence but are not yet Algebra-ready. This course reviews key algebra readiness skills from the middle grades and introduces basic Algebra I work with appropriate support. Students revisit concepts in number and operations, expressions and equations, ratio and proportion, basic functions, geometry, and data. By the end of the course, students are ready to begin high school Algebra I. **A scientific calculator is required, but a graphing calculator is recommended.**

Algebra I M412
1 credit elective
Prerequisite for 9th grade: Based on standardized test scores, math grades and teacher recommendation.
Open to grade: 9

Course Description: This course will include the manipulation of variables, expressions and radicals. It will cover solving equations and inequalities, algebraically and graphically. In addition to these topics, an introduction to basic statistics and probability will be included. **A TI-83 or any TI-84 graphing calculator is recommended. A scientific calculator is required.**

Honors Algebra I M413
1 credit elective
Prerequisite: Algebra I and department recommendation or standardized test score and teacher recommendation
Open to grade: 9

Course Description: This class will cover all material of Algebra I, emphasizing advanced applications of solving equations and inequalities, graphing, and use of technology. Additionally, students will be introduced to the basic trigonometric functions, polynomial functions and absolute value functions. **A TI-83 or any TI-84 graphing calculator is required.**

Geometry M415
1 credit elective
Prerequisite for 9th grade: Placement is based on Algebra I grades, standardized test scores, high school math placement test score and teacher recommendation.
Open to grades: 9, 10

Course Description: This course will focus on topics of Euclidean Geometry through the use of vocabulary of two and three dimensional properties, logic, technology and activities to enhance life connections. Topics include proofs, parallel and perpendicular lines, angles, polygons, circles, relationships between geometric figures, constructions, area, and volume. **A TI-83 or any TI-84 graphing calculator is recommended. A scientific calculator is required.**

<p>Honors Geometry 1 credit elective Open to grades: 9, 10</p>	<p>M416</p>	<p>Course Description: This course will focus on topics of Euclidean Geometry through the use of vocabulary of two and three dimensional properties, logic, technology and activities to enhance life connections. Honors Geometry demands more in-depth understanding and extensive utilization by the students. They will be exposed to selected non-Euclidean topics where appropriate and as time allows. Topics include proofs, parallel and perpendicular lines, angles, polygons, circles, relationships between geometric figures, constructions, area, and volume. A TI-83 or any TI-84 graphing calculator is recommended. A scientific calculator is required.</p>
<p>Algebra II/Trig 1 credit elective Prerequisite for 10th, 11th, & 12th Grades: Geometry or Honors Geometry and department recommendation Open to grades: 9, 10, 11</p>	<p>M418</p>	<p>Course Description: This course will cover all the material of Algebra II. It will include graphing, modeling and applications of advance functions. Conic sections and trigonometric topics will be covered. Skills learned will prepare a student for success in higher level math courses. Any TI-84 graphing calculator is required.</p>
<p>Honors Algebra II/Trig 1 credit elective Open to grades: 10, 11</p>	<p>M419</p>	<p>Course Description: This course will cover all the material of Algebra II/Trigonometry. A greater emphasis will be placed on graphing, modeling and application of advanced functions as well as conic sections, trigonometric topics, probability and statistics. The pace of the class and student expectations will increase to prepare the student to continue with honors math classes. Any TI-84 graphing calculator is required.</p>
<p>Pre-Calculus 1 credit elective Prerequisite: Algebra II/Trig or Honors Algebra II/Trig and department recommendation. Open to grades: 10, 11, 12</p>	<p>M323</p>	<p>Course Description: This course will reinforce topics of Algebra II/Trig while extending and enhancing them beyond their development in Algebra II/Trig. Limits, vectors and polar coordinates are also included. The skills learned will prepare students to be successful in Calculus. Any TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required.</p>
<p>Honors Pre-Calculus 1 credit elective Open to grades: 10, 11, 12</p>	<p>M421</p>	<p>Course Description: Designed for high achieving students, this class is a more rigorous treatment of topics found in Honors Algebra II/Trig. Limits, polar coordinates and an introduction to derivatives and integrals will be included. The skills learned will prepare students for success in AP Calculus. A TI-83 or any TI-84 graphing calculator is required.</p>

<p>Analysis ½ credit elective Prerequisite: Algebra II or Algebra II/Trig and department recommendation. Open to grade: 12</p>	M422	<p>Course Description: This course is a continuation of Algebra II. It will reinforce the topics of Algebra II by focusing on graphing, modeling and applications of advanced functions. The trigonometric, rational and logarithmic functions will be included. The conic sections of circles and parabolas will be introduced. Any TI-84 graphing calculator is required. (This class to be discontinued at the end of 2023-2024.)</p>
<p>Personal Finance ½ credit elective Open to grade: 12</p>	M420	<p>COURSE Description: Personal finance will teach students to be decision makers by knowing how to establish a budget, how to set and achieve financial goals and understanding different types of loans and investments. The class will include tithing as part of the budget process. Open to seniors in Analysis for 2023-2024.</p>
<p>Calculus 1 credit elective Prerequisite: Honors Pre-Calculus or Pre-Calculus with teacher recommendation Open to grades: 11, 12</p>	M423	<p>Course Description: This course is a thorough study of the two branches of calculus: derivatives and integrals. AB exam of the AP Calculus test is optional. All topics of AP Calculus AB will be covered. Independent work will be needed to prepare for the added rigor of the exam. A TI-83 or any TI-84 graphing calculator is required.</p>
<p>AP Calculus BC 1 credit elective Open to grades: 11, 12</p>	M424	<p>Course Description: This course contains an in-depth coverage of all topics required for the AP exam (Advanced Placement Calculus “BC” Exam). Fundamentals of calculus including series, parametric and polar topics, are thoroughly covered through a geometrical, analytical and mathematical approach. Students are required to take the AP exam. A TI-83 or any TI-84 graphing calculator is required.</p>
<p>Statistics 1 credit elective Prerequisite: Algebra II/Trig, Pre-Calculus, Honors Pre-Calculus, Calculus or AP Calculus and department recommendation Open to grades: 10, 11, 12 (offered odd-numbered years)</p>	M333	<p>Course Description: This course covers descriptive and inferential statistics which include techniques for collecting, analyzing and reporting conclusions and making inferences from the data. Any TI-84 graphing calculator is required. This course will only be available with sufficient student registration.</p>
<p><i>AP Statistics</i> 1 credit elective Prerequisite: Honors Algebra II/Trig, Pre-Calculus, Honors Pre-Calculus, Calculus or AP Calculus with department recommendation Open to grades: 11, 12 (offered even-numbered years)</p>	M334	<p>Course Description: <i>This course thoroughly covers descriptive and inferential statistics required for the AP exam, including techniques for collecting, analyzing and reporting conclusions and making inferences from the data. Access to computer software is necessary. Students are required to take the AP Statistics exam. A TI-83 or any TI-84 calculator is required. This course will only be available with sufficient student registration.</i></p>

Digital Photography
½ credit elective
Prerequisite: None
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

A017

Course Description: Students will explore the fundamental applications and techniques of acquiring, manipulating, and outputting digital photographic images. Students will learn to use manual camera settings and the effects of the ISO, aperture, and shutter speed. Students will learn how to plan and produce photographic compositions that demonstrate an understanding of light and shadow, composition, unity, balance, color and visual impact. Students will learn proper vocabulary and terminology. The relationship of photography to contemporary life is incorporated. Cameras will be provided for students to share in pairs. Students may also use their own cameras provided they have manual setting: ISO, shutter speed, and aperture.

Graphic Design
½ credit elective
Prerequisite: None
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

C119

Course Description: Graphic Design is the process of using the computer and specific types of software to combine typography and graphics to produce documents such as posters, book jackets, newsletters, brochures, menus, CD covers, etc. Students will be using graphic design software to create visual communications for professional printing. Students will learn the elements and principles of design, learn to use different typefaces, embed illustrations and graphics. Students will be exposed to the following programs: Adobe Illustrator, Adobe FireWorks, Paint, Sketch Up and Microsoft Power Point. Students will be provided a laptop in class.

Video Production
½ credit elective
Prerequisite: None
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

C117

Course Description: This course is for students who have an interest in working with digital media. The course incorporates filming techniques, video editing, and movie production.

Web Page Design
½ credit elective
Prerequisite: None
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

C113

Course Description: This course teaches how to create and develop a webpage. Webpage construction techniques, page layouts, common languages and technology will be used to develop web pages. A variety of webpage development software will be learned. Dreamweaver, and Fireworks will be used to design web pages, animations and graphics.

Yearbook
1 credit elective
Prerequisite: A "B" average in English and Teacher approval
Open to grades: 10, 11, 12

C132

Course Description: The annual publication of the WCHS Yearbook offers students the opportunity for involvement in every facet of yearbook production, including writing, photography, editing, layout-design, finance and advertising. Academic success on the yearbook staff requires a strong work ethic, diligence and responsibility in completing deadlines, attention to detail, and, above all, organization. Students will be required to sell advertising as well.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Program Goal:

Through a faith-based wellness program, students will develop and demonstrate the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviors required for healthy, active living.

Physical Education Department Offerings:

Physical Education Activities Health Education Fitness and Wellness Health and Physical Activities	Strength Training Sports Performance and Strength Training Team Sports
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|---|---------------------|---|
| <p>Physical Education Activities
 ½ credit required
 Prerequisite: None
 Open to grade: 9</p> | <p>PE618</p> | <p>Course Description: This course is designed to develop or enhance the knowledge of personal fitness, individual and team sports through participation, with emphasis on fair play, basic skills and team work. The knowledge and skills gained in this program will serve to develop valuable use of leisure time for lifelong learning, activity, and enjoyment. Students may waive one semester of the required physical education requirement by successfully completing two athletic programs during the same year or by completing 90 hours of athletic instruction/practice/competition of a pre-approved non-school program related to physical education /athletics/recreation under the supervision of a teacher/director/personal trainer in an 18-week period of time. Two Full Credits of Marching Band or Concert Band can be substituted for ½ credit of Physical Education. <u>Beginning with the Class of 2026, PE Waivers will no longer be accepted.</u></p> |
| <p>Health Education
 ½ credit required
 Open to grades: Grade 9, 10, 11, 12
 Strongly recommended 9, 10
 Prerequisite: None</p> | <p>PE615</p> | <p>Course Description: The study of health or our general physical, mental and social well-being is about making wise choices throughout life. In order to make healthy decisions, students will learn about nutrition, disease prevention, social and emotional health, first aid and substance abuse. This semester-long course offers students rich opportunities for analyzing their behaviors and learning ways to create a happier and healthier lifestyle.</p> |
| <p>Fitness & Wellness
 ½ credit elective
 Prerequisite: None
 Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12</p> | <p>PE616</p> | <p>Course Description: This course is an introduction to fitness and health principles with an emphasis on physical activity, nutrition, weight management and health-related fitness concepts. Students will have the opportunity to assess their current levels of physical fitness, nutrition and activity patterns in order to develop a personalized health and fitness program. Students will be required to participate in physical fitness activities as well as the study of pertinent principles governing fitness.</p> |

Strength Training
Prerequisite: None
½ credit elective
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

PE609 Course Description: This one-semester course provides instruction in proper strength training, but will also include work capacity (conditioning). This will include proper lifting technique, lifting pace, spotting, weight room behavior and etiquette, dynamic war speed and agility. Instruction will be both to the group and to the individual to provide the greatest benefit to all those participating. This course is strongly recommended for those interested in improving their overall strength and athleticism.

Team Sports
Prerequisite: None
½ credit elective
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

PE611 Course Description: This course will focus on the team aspect of sports. Students will have the opportunity to play a variety of team sports while also working on aspects of being a good teammate and showing good sportsmanship during competition.

Health and Physical Activities **PE623**
1 credit required
Open to grades: 9, 10
Strongly recommended in grade 9 or 10
Prerequisite: None. Recommended for students needing both Health and PE requirements

Course Description: This is a two-semester course that combines Health and Physical Activities classes together. See those course descriptions above for details.

RELIGION DEPARTMENT

Program Goal:

Each student will

- Have a deeper knowledge of the Catholic faith and its relevance throughout life.
- Develop a greater love of God, the dignity of all people and the value of all creation.
- Serve others in response to Christ's call for justice and be a person of conscience motivated by the Holy Spirit.

Religion Department Offerings:

9 th :	Introduction to Scripture/Christology	9 th -12 th Introduction to Catholic Theology
10 th :	The Paschal Mystery/The Church	
11 th :	Sacraments/Morality	
12 th :	Church History/Catholic Social Teaching	

Introduction to Catholic Theology **R710**
1 credit
Departmental Approval Required
Open to Grades: 9, 10, 11 and 12

Course Description: Through this introductory course for students unfamiliar with Christian or Catholic theology, the student will be provided with a wide lens snapshot of many Catholic Christian teachings. Each unit presenting a Catholic Christian view will be widened in order to encompass a comparative look focusing in on other world religions.

Introduction to Scripture **R701**
½ credit required
Grade 9

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to give students a general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. Through their study of the Bible, they will come to encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ. In the course they will learn about the Bible, authored by God through Inspiration, and its value to people throughout the world. They will learn how to read the Bible and will become familiar with the major sections of the Bible and the books included in each section. The students will pay particular attention to the Gospels, where they may go to know and love Jesus Christ more personally.

Christology **R702**
½ credit required
Grade 9

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. In this course students will understand that Jesus Christ is the ultimate Revelation to us from God. In learning about who He is, the students will also learn who He calls them to be.

The Paschal Mystery **R703**
½ credit required
Grade 10

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to help students understand all that God has done for us through His Son, Jesus Christ. Through this course of study, students will learn that for all eternity, God has planned for us to share eternal happiness with Him, which is accomplished through the redemption Christ won for us. Students will learn that they share in this redemption only in and through Jesus Christ. They will also be introduced to what it means to be a disciple of Christ and what life as a disciple entails.

<p>The Church ½ credit required Grade 10</p>	<p>R704</p>	<p>Course Description: The purpose of this course is to help students understand that in and through the Church they encounter the living Jesus Christ. They will be introduced to the fact that the Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by him through the Holy Spirit. The students will come to know that the Church is the living Body of Christ today. The Body has both divine and human elements.</p>
<p>Sacraments ½ credit required Grade 11</p>	<p>R722</p>	<p>Course Description: The purpose of this course is to help students understand that they can encounter Christ today in a full and real way in and through the sacraments, and especially through the Eucharist. Students will examine each of the sacraments in detail so as to learn how they may encounter Christ throughout life.</p>
<p>Morality ½ credit required Grade 11</p>	<p>R723</p>	<p>Course Description: The purpose of this course is to help students understand that it is only through Christ that they can fully live out God's plan for their lives. Students are to learn the moral concepts and precepts that govern the lives of Christ's disciples.</p>
<p>Church History ½ credit required Grade 12</p>	<p>R718</p>	<p>Course Description: The purpose of this course is to supply the students with a general knowledge of the Church's history from apostolic times to the present. Students will be introduced to the fact that the Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by him throughout history through the Holy Spirit. Students will come to know that the Church is the living Body of Christ today and, as such, has both divine and human elements. In this course, students will learn about the Church's 2000 years of history and about how the Church is led and governed by the successors of the Apostles.</p>
<p>Catholic Social Teaching ½ credit required Grade 12</p>	<p>R724</p>	<p>Course Description: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the Church's social teaching. In this course, students are to learn how Christ's concern for others, especially the poor and needy, is present today in the Church's social teaching and mission.</p>

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Program Goal:

The student will

- Possess a comprehensive knowledge base in science.
- Apply science to everyday life.
- Apply the scientific method to solve problems.
- Analyze scientific information using technology when appropriate.
- Demonstrate scientific curiosity and confidence in the ability to understand and communicate regarding scientific issues.
- Apply moral and ethical principles when explaining the impact of science and technology on society.

Science Department Offerings:

Life Sciences

Biology
Honors Biology
AP Biology
Anatomy/Physiology

Physical Sciences

AP Environmental Science
Integrated Science
Honors Integrated Science
Chemistry
Honors Chemistry
AP Chemistry
Physics
AP Physics
Astronomy

- ***STUDENTS NOT TAKING INTERGRATED SCIENCE (BUT MEET CRITERIA TO TAKE HONORS BIOLOGY IN 9TH GRADE) MUST TAKE A BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY AND A PHYSICS COURSE.***
- *Students must take the AP exam if enrolled in the AP course - see AP Enrollment Criteria on page 55.*

LIFE SCIENCES

Biology
1 credit elective
Prerequisite: None

S813

Course Description: This is a survey course in which the learner becomes scientifically literate in basic biological topics, developing skills of problem solving, communication, goal setting and attainment, while applying that knowledge and skills to understand real-world events and life systems. Students will be able to experience science using equipment such as microscopes, computers and other current technologies.

Honors Biology S814
1 credit elective
Prerequisite: Completed Algebra I
"B" or better; Geometry previously or
concurrently; Departmental approval
required
Open to grades: 9, 10
*Students not taking Integrated Science (but
meet criteria to take Honors Biology in 9th
grade) must take a Biology, Chemistry and
Physics course.*

AP Biology S830
1 credit elective
Prerequisite: B average Honors Chemistry
Minimum B average in Honors Biology;
minimum 3.5 Weighted GPA
Departmental approval required
Open to grades 11, 12

Anatomy/Physiology S434
1 credit elective
Prerequisite: Biology; Chemistry
(previously or concurrently), minimum 2.75
GPA. Department approval required
Open to grades: 11, 12

Course Description: This course covers the
same content as Biology, with the difference being
emphasis, pace and student expectations. This
course is designed to cover the Pre AP Biology
curriculum.

Course Description: Topics covered will be the
biochemistry of molecules and cells, including
cellular energetics, coupled reactions and the cell
cycle. Also investigated will be heredity and
molecular genetics. Students will be required to
complete a number of AP Biology laboratory
investigations. Students taking this course are
required to take the AP exam in May.

Course Description: This course presents the
anatomy and functions of the human body. It is
presented through a unit method covering the
skeletal, muscular, nervous, respiratory,
circulatory, digestive, integumentary, endocrine,
excretory and reproductive systems. Knowledge
presented in this course will be helpful for
students considering a career in medicine, nursing
and health related fields. *An anatomical dissection of
a cat* is an integral part of this course.

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Integrated Science 1 credit elective Open to grade: 9	S811	Course Description: This course will define and improve upon students' base scientific skills of: data analysis, scientific literacy, lab practices, indentifying appropriate SI units and metric conversions. Students will polish these skills by studying essential concepts found in Biology, Environmental Science, Chemistry and Physics. Through lessons from each field, students will have the opportunity to fine tune their abilities that will set a foundation for the rest of their science experience at West Catholic.
Honors Integrated Science 1 credit elective Open to grade: 9	S812	Course Description: This course covers the same content as Integrated Science, with the difference being emphasis, pace, performance expectations and level of student responsibility.
Chemistry 1 credit elective Prerequisite: Biology and "C+" or better in Algebra Departmental approval required Open to grades: 10, 11, 12	S829	Course Description: This Chemistry course will allow students to develop a basic knowledge and understanding of the concepts of chemistry. The course will provide the students with laboratory activities designed to enhance chemical concepts. Topics covered are chemical formulas and equations, modern atomic structure, phases of matter, mole concept and stoichiometry, and acid base theory.

<p>Honors Chemistry 1 credit elective Prerequisite: Honors Biology and Geometry, "B" or better in Algebra Departmental approval required Open to grades: 10, 11, 12</p>	<p>S819</p>	<p>Course Description: This course covers the same content as Chemistry, with the difference being emphasis, pace and student expectations.</p>
<p>AP Chemistry 1 credit elective Departmental approval required Open to grades: 11, 12</p>	<p>S824</p>	<p>Course Description: AP Chemistry will provide students with the opportunity to pursue and receive credit for college-level coursework. Enthusiasm for science is a must. Topics such as structure of matter, kinetic theory of gases, chemical equilibria, chemical kinetics and basic concepts of thermodynamics will be presented in considerable depth to prepare students for the multiple-choice section of the AP Chemistry Test. The course also consists of four parts: writing and predicting chemical equations, mathematical essays, non-mathematical essays and equilibrium problems. Students will solve problems during laboratory investigations and through chapter reviews, computer-generated problems and AP Chemistry test reviews. Students will learn to apply given information to new situations as expected in the free response section of the AP Chemistry Test. Students taking this course are required to take the AP exam in May.</p>
<p>Physics 1 credit elective Prerequisite: Algebra II/Trigonometry Department approval required Open to grades: 11, 12</p>	<p>S820</p>	<p>Course Description: Students will develop an understanding of physics in the world around them by using mechanics and electricity and magnetism. Students will use Algebra II and Trigonometry concepts to solve problems and analyze data gathered in laboratory situations. Situations will be analyzed using Newton's laws and the conservation of energy. A component of the course will also focus on electricity and magnetism and electrical circuits. As time permits, modern physical theories will be explored.</p>

AP Physics S822
1 credit elective
Prerequisite: Algebra II/Trig with a B or better and Departmental Approval
Open to grade: 11, 12

Course Description: AP Physics will provide students with the opportunity to pursue and receive credit for college level coursework. Enthusiasm for science is a must. Topics such as kinematics, dynamics, uniform circular motion, energy, momentum, rotational motion and simple harmonic motion will be presented in considerable depth to prepare students for the multiple choice section of the AP Physics Test. Students will solve problems during laboratory investigations and through chapter reviews, computer-generated problems and AP Physics test reviews. Students will learn to apply given information to new situations as expected in the free response section of the AP Physics Test. **Students taking this course are required to take the AP Physics Exam in May.**

AP Environmental Science S832
1 credit elective
Prerequisite: Biology and Chemistry
Departmental approval required
Open to Grades: 11, 12

Course Description: Equivalent of a one-semester introductory college course in environmental science, this class provides students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. AP environmental science will provide students with the opportunity to pursue and receive credit for college level coursework. AP environmental science is unique because it is multidisciplinary, drawing its content from geology, biology, earth science, chemistry, meteorology, geography, and social issues. Attendance at fieldwork experiences is mandatory. **Students are required to take the AP Environmental Science exam in May.**

Astronomy S827
½ credit elective
Prerequisite: None
Open to Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course Description: This course will examine the major components of the Astronomy: the solar system along with stellar formation, the death of stars and the remnants of that process, and observations of objects that we can see in the night sky with and without the aid of a telescope. Night time observation will be a requirement of this course.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Program Goal:

Students will exercise the rights and responsibilities of participatory citizenship by

- Possessing a comprehensive knowledge base in social studies encompassing historical, geographic, civic, economic, psychological and sociological perspectives.
- Demonstrating the skills needed to acquire, organize and use information and to be an ethical decision-maker in an ever-changing world.
- Utilizing their faith to acknowledge and respect the values of others and society through democratic and religious perspectives.
- Accepting the responsibility to see, care and act on issues in the community, nation and the world.

Social Studies Department Offerings:

<p>World History/AP World History World Geography Global Issues US History/AP US History Government/AP Government & Politics</p>	<p>Economics/AP Microeconomics/ AP Macroeconomics Psychology/AP Psychology Sociology AP European History</p>
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- AP course prerequisites: Review of MAPS/NWEA scores will accompany departmental approval for admissions to these courses. Students taking AP courses are required to take the AP Exam.
- Students must take either US History or AP US History, Economics or AP Microeconomics or AP Macroeconomics, Government or AP Government.
- Students must take one credit in any combination of World History, AP World History, Geography or Global Studies.
- Please note: Psychology, AP Psychology, and Sociology are electives and do not fulfill the Social Studies requirement for graduation.
- Exceptions: Students who take the combination of AP US History, AP Government and AP Micro/Macroeconomics will have met the World History requirement as World History topics are embedded in the course curriculum.

US History SS913
1 credit
Required for grade 10 or grade 11
Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This is a year-long course in basic American History, surveying systematically the events that led to the development of the United States. To this end, we will begin with a review of events from Christopher Columbus to the Civil War. Emphasis will then shift to the post-Reconstructive Era. The political, economic and social aspects of American life will be considered.

AP US History SS920
1 credit elective
Prerequisite: None
Department approval required
Open to grades: 10, 11

Course Description: This is an accelerated and enriched program for highly motivated students who would like to pursue the study of American History in depth. It will be the equivalent of a full-year college history course. The students will receive a thorough treatment of the facts as well as their significance: context, causes and results. Emphasis will be placed on reading primary historical material analytically and critically, the weighing of historical evidence and interpretations, and the arriving at conclusions on the basis of fact rather than prejudice. Students will develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format. **Students are required to take the AP exam.**

Government SS916
½ credit
Required in 11th or 12th grade
Prerequisite: US History

Course Description: This course is a study of the foundation of the American governmental system. It is intended to provide the student with a basic understanding of the organization and functions of government and the rights and responsibilities of participatory citizens. The legislative, executive and judicial branches of federal, state, and local government are studied. Students will also engage in comparative economic and social systems as part of the course.

AP Government & Politics SS541
1 credit
Fulfills 11th or 12th grade requirement
Prerequisite: US History or
AP US History
Departmental approval required. May
take after strong scores in regular
Government.

Course Description: This is an accelerated and enriched program to help motivated students study American government in depth. This course studies the general concepts of government and American politics with an emphasis on critical thinking and analytical writing. **Students are required to take the AP exam.**

Economics SS918
½ credit
Required in 11th or 12th grade
Prerequisite: US History or
AP US History

Course Description: This course surveys the basic concepts found in microeconomics, macroeconomics, money and banking, and international economics. We will explore how these concepts affect our everyday life.

AP Macroeconomics SS543
½ credit
Fulfills 11th or 12th grade requirement
Prerequisite: US History or
AP US History, Strong Math Skills
required
Departmental approval required. May
take after strong scores in regular
Economics.

Course Description: This course offers an accelerated, college-level study of macroeconomic principles. Using laws of supply and demand, students will explore classical, neo-classical and Keynesian theory as it relates to fiscal and monetary policy and its effects in the international marketplace. Basic economic concepts, measurements of performance, growth and productivity, national income and price determination, the financial sector, inflation, unemployment, stabilization policies, and international trade and balance of payments are covered in depth.
Students are required to take the AP exam.

AP Microeconomics SS917
1/2 credit elective
Fulfills 11th or 12th grade requirement
Prerequisite: US History or AP US
History and strong math skills
Department Approval Required
May take after strong scores in regular
Economics
Open to grades: 11, 12

Course Description: This course provides a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision makers, both consumers and producers, within the larger economic system. It places primary emphasis on the nature and functions of product markets, and includes the study of factor markets and of the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. Basic concepts such as scarcity, supply, demand and resources allocation, various market and industry structures; shortages, controls, social costs and benefits, international trade and comparative systems will be covered. **Students are required to take the AP exam.**

Micro and Macro AP may be taken individually, but it is strongly suggested that if you have not completed regular economics, you take both.

World History A/B SS911
½ credit/1 credit elective
Fulfills Social Studies graduation
requirement
Prerequisite: None
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course Description: This course is a general survey of historical events beginning with the origin of man and continuing through the events of modern civilization. Topics include: Prehistoric Man, Ancient & Classical Civilizations of the East and West, Middle Ages, Renaissance/Reformation, Scientific Revolution, Age of Exploration and the Emergence of World Powers. Religion, art, culture and patterns of thought will be discussed. This class is highly recommended as a foundation for studies in other disciplines as well as the social studies curriculum.

AP World History SS922
1 credit elective
Fulfills Social Studies graduation
requirement
Prerequisite: None
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course Description: Course goals for World History and AP World History will be the same; however, the difference in the courses will be one of emphasis on pace, student expectations and Modern History in the Honors course. (See course description above.)
Students are required to take the AP exam.

World Geography A/B SS923
½ credit/1 credit elective
Fulfills Social Studies graduation
requirement
Prerequisite: None
Open to grades: 9, 10

Course Description: Foundation for the class is grounded in the five themes of Geography (location, place, region, interaction with the environment and movement), Cultural Diffusion, and Global Interdependence. Strong emphasis will be placed on the characteristics of physical and cultural geography. Units studied will include the political, economic, historical, cultural, climatic, and agricultural make-up of each region.

Global Issues SS910
½ credit
Fulfills Social Studies graduation
requirement
Prerequisite: none
Open to grades 11, 12

Course Description: This semester-long class is an introduction to current, world-wide issues such as terrorism, poverty, genocide, dictators and immigration. Global Issues is designed to introduce the student to numerous current issues confronting the globe's policy-makers and populations. Specifically, the course provides information that fosters community responsibility and global understanding.

<p>Psychology ½ credit elective <i>Does not fulfill Social Studies graduation requirement</i> Prerequisite: None Open to grades: 11, 12</p>	<p>SS914</p>	<p>Course Description: This course is designed to survey the basic principles underlying the science of human behavior, with emphasis on heredity and environment and the various factors that affect the emotional, social and mental development of a person. It examines the different types of modern psychology such as Psychoanalysis, Behaviorism, and Humanism, and then considers their enduring influence upon modern American culture. Additionally, it considers how psychologists seek to explain and treat disorders of modern American life such as depression, substance abuse, stress and eating disorders. This course is recommended for students who desire to pursue a career in working with people.</p>
<p>AP Psychology 1 credit elective <i>Does not fulfill Social Studies graduation requirement</i> Department Recommendation Required Open to grades: 11, 12</p>	<p>SS925</p>	<p>Course Description: This is an accelerated and enriched program for self-directed and intrinsically motivated students who would like to examine the major core concepts and theories of psychology. It will be the equivalent of a college Psychology course. Course content emphasizes preparation for the AP Psychology exam in May. Students should learn the basic skills of psychological research, apply psychological concepts to their own lives, develop critical thinking skills and build their reading, writing and discussion skills. Students are required to take the AP Psychology exam in May.</p>
<p>Sociology ½ credit elective <i>Does not fulfill Social Studies graduation requirement</i> Prerequisite: None Open to grades: 11, 12</p>	<p>SS915</p>	<p>Course Description: This course is a comprehensive examination of the basic concepts of the scientific study of sociology. An emphasis will be placed on understanding the sociological perspective and its application to social and personal issues of everyday life. The five basic sociological units (individuals, groups, organizations, cultures and societies) and their interrelationships will be studied. Key topics will include age groups, ethnic and racial groups, social class, cultures, norms, roles and social structures.</p>
<p>AP European History 1 credit elective Fulfills Social Studies graduation requirement Department Recommendation Required Open to Grades 11, 12</p>	<p>SS926</p>	<p>Course Description: This course focuses on developing students' understanding of European history from approximately 1450 to the present. Students will investigate the content of European history for significant events, individuals, developments and processes in four historical periods, developing and using the same thinking skills and methods employed by historians when they study the past. The course also provides five themes (interaction of Europe and the world; poverty and prosperity; objective knowledge and subjective visions; states and other institutions of power; and individual and society) that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places. Students are required to take the AP European History exam in May.</p>

WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

Program Goal:

Students will learn to

- Communicate in the target language.
- Recognize, appreciate and respect the cultures, customs and traditions of the people and regions of the target language and how they relate to the student's own language and culture.
- Understand the structure of the target language and how grammatical structure varies from language to language.
- Explore and understand the value and benefits of studying other languages and cultures.

World Language Department Offerings:

Spanish I/II, Spanish III, Study Abroad: Spain, AP Spanish Language, Latin I/II
Online Only: Chinese I/II, French I/II, German I/II

Graduation Requirement:

Students will be required to complete two credits of a World Language per the requirements set by Michigan Non-Public School Accrediting Association (MNSAA) and those of the Catholic Secondary School Board. Students will be allowed to substitute an approved Career Technical Education (CTE) course for the 2nd year of a World Language. Please note: some CTE programs will require one year to complete while others require two years. Interested students need to have a CTE Substitution Form filled out with their School Counselor.

Freshmen wishing to enroll in Spanish II:

The Spanish I entrance exam is given in June to incoming freshman during their 8th grade year. Other students interested can contact their School Counselor or Mrs. Coste de Falk at gloriacostedefalk@grwestcatholic.org

Spanish I **FL319**
1 credit elective
Prerequisite: None
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
Note: Students who fail 1st semester Spanish I will be placed into another class for 2nd semester. Students will be placed into the class again the following year and will be able to replace their failing grade if a higher grade is earned.

Course Description: This course is an introduction to Spanish. Basic speaking, listening, reading and writing skills are developed through the study of vocabulary, grammar and Hispanic cultures.

Spanish II **FL320**
1 credit elective
Prerequisite: Spanish I or equivalent with a C or higher
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12
(May place into class with passing grade on the entrance exam)

Course Description: During the second year of Spanish, the material which was covered in Spanish I is reinforced and more stress is placed on the mechanics of grammar. The student will be better able to comprehend spoken Spanish as well as read, write and speak the language. Cultural facets of the Spanish-speaking world are also presented.

Spanish III FL321
 1 credit elective
Prerequisite: Spanish II with an A/B average and teacher recommendation.
Open to grades: 10, 11, 12

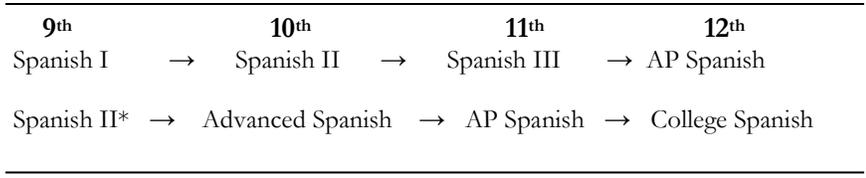
Course Description: Advanced Spanish is oriented toward students who have an interest in pursuing the study of Spanish to its highest level at this high school; thus, preparing them to enroll in AP Spanish Language the following year. Students qualified for this class must perform above and beyond expectations, receiving top scores on tests, class work, homework, and oral participation. A positive attitude and the ability to work hard are required. Advanced Spanish is a comprehensive review of Spanish III concepts combined with grammar and vocabulary presented in a Spanish IV class. It is fast-paced and demands not only independent study, but also an optimal ability to speak, listen, read, and write in the target language.

Study Abroad: Spain FL400
 ½ credit elective (not eligible for the two credits of World Language graduation requirement)
Prerequisite: Enrolled or taken Spanish III

Course Description: Students who are enrolled or have taken FL322 are eligible to apply for a two week study abroad program with homestay in Spain. See Mrs. Coste de Falk for more details. Proposed class would entail project completion, a presentation in Spanish and promotional work.

AP Spanish Language FL323
 1 credit elective
Prerequisite: Advanced Spanish with teacher recommendation
Open to grades: 11, 12

Course Description: AP Spanish Language is a course that focuses on taking the AP test in the spring. In this course the student will expand his/her knowledge of the target language through grammar review, classroom discussion and active participation. An in-depth study of the literature, culture, history and current issues relevant to the countries being studied will be an integral part of this course. Students are expected to converse and receive instruction in Spanish. **Students are required to take the AP Spanish exam in May.**



**May place into class with passing grade on the entrance exam*

Latin I **FL331**
1 credit elective
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course Description: Latin I is an introduction to the world of Ancient Rome. Students will learn about everyday Roman culture, history, and mythology. Through a study of basic grammar and vocabulary, students will read and write simple Latin sentences and stories. The use of Latin today will be stressed through a study of English derivatives and common Latin mottos and abbreviations.

Latin II/III **FL335**
1 credit elective
Prerequisite: Latin I
Open to grades: 10, 11, 12

Course Description: Latin II/III continues the study of Ancient Rome. Students will learn about the contributions of the Roman Army in the spread of Roman institutions, culture, and language. Through reading and multimedia experiences, students will study the heroes of Classical Mythology and Roman History. Students will expand their ability to use Latin grammar through a variety of reading, writing and oral exercises.

ONLINE COURSES ONLY:

Chinese, French, and German are available online through Middlebury Interactive Languages. Students will have access to a computer during the day and will have an instructor through this online module. Students considering Middlebury must be: *motivated, self-monitoring, independent learners*. It is highly recommended that students complete one year of high school at West Catholic prior to taking online language courses. While West Catholic will assign a staff mentor for Middlebury courses to monitor progress, the day-to-day responsibility is with the student and parent. Infinite Campus and Canvas are not used with Middlebury courses. Students taking Middlebury courses are required to sign the Online Course Expectation Contract provided by the School Counseling Office. **The deadline to drop an online course is two weeks after school starts.**

Middlebury High School courses:

- Are grounded in the development and integration of the four key language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing
- Focus on language structures
- Vocabulary themes, grammar concepts, sentence structure and culture are presented through explicit instruction, guided learning, and adaptive pacing
- *High School Courses are also known as Competency Courses.*

<p>Chinese I FL329 1 credit elective Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12</p>	<p>Chinese II FL330 1 credit elective Prerequisite: Chinese I or equivalent Open to grades: 10, 11, 12</p>
<p>French I FL315 1 credit elective Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12</p>	<p>French II FL316 1 credit elective Prerequisite: French I or equivalent Open to grades: 10, 11, 12</p>
<p>German I FL313 1 credit elective Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12</p>	<p>German II FL314 1 credit elective Prerequisite: German I or equivalent Open to grades: 10, 11, 12</p>

WEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT

The Department of Academic Support guides families through the process of requesting and renewing Accommodation Agreements. An Accommodation Agreement is a document which identifies a student's strengths and weaknesses to address their unique learning needs. These needs are derived from current data in the form of a diagnosed educational disability, mental health condition, and/or medical diagnosis. West Catholic students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) are monitored by a team of Special Education professionals from Grand Rapids Public Schools.

Academic Support Center (ASC) **G009A/B**
Credit only – no grade assigned
Prerequisite: None
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course Description: Academic Support Center (ASC) provides a unique opportunity for students to receive individualized assistance and instruction in their areas of established need. ASC is also a place for students to receive their specific accommodations and work on reaching their goals and objectives. ASC addresses student's needs by offering a small, structured classroom. Students enrolled in ASC receive direct assistance on homework, class work assignments, essay writing, note taking, organization, time management, study skills and test taking strategies. Appropriate student candidates to enroll in ASC are those with diagnosed learning needs, those undergoing intervention services, and those with a documented history of academic struggles.

Sidekick Program **001A/B**
Credit only – no grade assigned
Prerequisite: Application and Director approval
Open to grades: 11, 12

West Catholic juniors and seniors who enjoy helping others learn, have a heart for classmates who learn differently, or have an interest in working in education after high school are encouraged to apply to be a sidekick. As a sidekick, students serve as a peer tutor to a student who receives support services through curriculum modifications or is seeking a West Catholic Certificate of Completion. Sidekicks act as academic role models, working to create positive study skills. Sidekicks must display the skills of responsibility, collaboration, leadership, and empathy. Interested students must fill out an application and have an interview with the Director of Academic Support. This is a credit/no credit elective that will require students to complete a reflective assignment each quarter.

GENERAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Study Hall **000A/B**
Prerequisite: None
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course Description: A non-credit hour during the school day for students to study and prepare homework.

Focus Time

Description: Responsive scheduling for a teacher directed period to be utilized for academics, school counseling, administrative business or specific organizations.

Office Hours

Description: Faculty provided time for student driven decisions to seek support in specific academic coursework.

POLICIES FOR ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Introduction

While many educational opportunities are offered at West Catholic High School, we understand that some students require an even greater diversity in learning experiences in order to be successful and develop their gifts. Due to this need, the Support Services staff at West Catholic works with qualifying students and their families to open up even more educational opportunities. We offer classroom accommodations and curriculum modifications to welcome a wide spectrum of learning abilities. These services provide many benefits to our students, but they also may have implications regarding college requirements and expectations. All students must work with Support Services staff and their School Counselor to consider their post-secondary goals and carefully select an appropriate path to graduation. Students and families are asked to meet with Support Services and their School Counselor to receive more detailed information and to determine if utilizing a given opportunity is an appropriate option.

Curriculum Modifications

Any student who needs curriculum modifications as deemed appropriate by current diagnostic data because of a disability is granted this level of support to access our curriculum. Modifications are provided to students who have moderate to severe disabilities. Students who receive modifications may be seeking a diploma or certificate of completion depending on their needs. West Catholic general education teachers and support services teachers partner alongside students and families to provide appropriate modifications to maximize student learning and provide access to our rigorous curriculum. Students who receive curriculum modifications and are seeking a diploma, must meet all graduation requirements as outlined by the state of Michigan. All course modifications are noted on a student's transcript.

West Catholic High School strives to provide an inclusive Catholic high school education to those with moderate cognitive disabilities and significant learning disabilities. West Catholic Support Services offers a Certificate of Completion to these exceptional learners who require a modified and/or personalized curriculum in order to have the opportunity to engage in the West Catholic High School experience. West Catholic general education teachers and support services teachers partner alongside students and families to provide appropriate modifications to maximize student learning. Candidates to receive the West Catholic High School Certificate of Completion upon graduation must have a current Individualized Education Plan which will continue to be monitored by Support Services staff and Grand Rapids Public Schools, a current diagnostic evaluation, and must have the ability to follow behavior expectations, maintain self-care independently, initiate written and verbal expression, and participate in classroom activities without the use of an aide. If you would like further information and / or feel as if a Certificate of Completion may be appropriate for your child, please contact Emily Hoffman at emilyhoffman@grwestcatholic.org

PART TWO

General Information

WEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Root Beliefs and Core Values

Root Beliefs

- 1. Become Eucharistic Disciples of Christ**
We are called to be Disciples of Christ, renewed constant at the Eucharist, who live with Christ, who sit at His feet and learn how to love from the God Who is Love.
- 2. Educate the whole person, one student at a time**
West Catholic educates the mind, body and soul. More than an excellent academic institution, we invite each student, with his or her unique gifts and challenges, to live well, seek excellence, make careful distinctions and judgments, and care for others.
- 3. Act rightly, serve generously**
Through living example, high expectations, and practice in self-discipline, we challenge students to develop their consciences to live moral lives of virtuous action and service.
- 4. “Open wide the doors to Christ”- John Paul II**
West Catholic enthusiastically invites new members into our shared life. We strive to show, through our actions, words and compassion, that each person is a worthwhile and meaningful part of our community. Nurtured by Catholic tradition and the life of St. John Paul II, we follow his example of being a Disciple of Christ.

Core Values

- 1. Joy**
Joy expresses the call of Pope Francis to evangelization: that the mark of the disciple is one who is joyful. And, it expresses how we want everyone to experience our community, our classrooms, and everything we do.
- 2. Learning**
Intentional education based on faith and reason brings about transformative learning that deepens our students’ understanding of God and His magnificent creation.
- 3. Living**
At West Catholic, high school is not an interruption of real life, nor a waiting room for future life, but a rich experience of being fully, joyfully alive.
- 4. Commitment**
Commitment expresses our tenacity, our strength, that West Catholic is an institution of excellence. We expect excellence from our staff and students because we know that they, made in the image of God, are capable of achieving it.
- 5. Caritas**
Caritas is the Latin word for love/charity. Imbued with selflessly loving and caring for others, *Caritas* best describes all of our relationships in which we strive to emulate the *Caritas* of God for His people.

ACADEMICS

(III. ACADEMIC POLICIES from WCHS Student Handbook)

A. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In compliance with the requirements set by the Michigan Non-Public School Accrediting Association (MNSAA) and the Office of Catholic Schools Board, West Catholic High School requires the following credits for graduation. A credit is a primary method used to determine and document that students have met their academic requirements. One credit is one full year of successful work in a course or subject.

Minimum of 24 Credits

Religion	4 credits	World Language	2 credits
English	4 credits	Health/Phys Ed*	1 credit
Mathematics	4 credits	*2 credits of Band may substitute ½ credit of Phys. Ed	
Science	3 credits	Computer Science, Engineering & Innovation, Media Arts & Design,	
Social Studies	3 credits	Visual Performing Arts	1 credit
		Electives	2 credits

* Students may waive one semester of the required Physical Education requirement by successfully completing two athletic programs during the same school year, participating in band for two years, or by successfully completing 90 hours of athletic instruction/practice/competition of a pre-approved non-school program related to physical education/athletics/recreation under the supervision of a teacher/coach/personal trainer in an 18-week period of time. The School Counseling Department will counsel registrants regarding this policy. **Beginning with the Class of 2026, PE Waivers will no longer be accepted.**

WEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

West Catholic High School strives to provide an inclusive Catholic high school education to those with moderate cognitive disabilities and significant learning disabilities. West Catholic Support Services offers a Certificate of Completion to these exceptional learners who require a modified and/or personalized curriculum in order to have the opportunity to engage in the West Catholic High School experience. West Catholic general education teachers and support services teachers partner alongside students and families to provide appropriate modifications to maximize student learning. Candidates to receive the West Catholic High School Certificate of Completion upon graduation must have a current Individualized Education Plan which will continue to be monitored by Support Services staff and Grand Rapids Public Schools, a current diagnostic evaluation, and must have the ability to follow behavior expectations, maintain self-care independently, initiate written and verbal expression, and participate in classroom activities without the use of an aide. If you would like further information and / or feel as if a Certificate of Completion may be appropriate for your child, please contact Emily Hoffman at emilyhoffman@grwestcatholic.org

B. GRADING PROCESS

Grading Scale

Grade	Minimum Percent	GPA	Grade	Minimum Percent	GPA
A+	96.5 – 100	4.0	C+	76.5 – 79.4	2.4
A	92.5 – 96.4	4.0	C	72.5 – 76.4	2.0
A-	89.5 – 92.4	3.7	C-	69.5 – 72.4	1.7
B+	86.5 – 89.4	3.4	D+	66.5 – 69.4	1.4
B	82.5 – 86.4	3.0	D	62.5 – 66.4	1.0
B-	79.5 – 82.4	2.7	D-	59.5 – 62.4	0.7
			E	0.0 – 59.4	0.0

1. Grade Explanation:

A grade of "A" indicates mastery of the subject, as well as maturity of action and response.

A grade of "B" indicates fulfillment of all requirements, as well as a quality of work which is considerably above average.

A grade of "C" indicates achievement of average quality.

A grade of "D" indicates the lowest passing mark; the quality of work shows little achievement beyond the minimum requirement.

A grade of "E" indicates failure to complete the minimum essentials required. To obtain credit in a required course, and thus meet graduation requirements, the student must repeat the course.

Work Habits: The student demonstrates integrity, comes prepared to work, completes assignments, makes good use of time, works independently and participates in class discussions.

Citizenship: The student respects property, rules of school, is thoughtful of others, shows self control, and cooperates with teacher and group.

Work & Citizenship Habits evaluate effort and behavior rather than academic performance.

2. **Report cards** are compiled four times a year and are posted on Infinite Campus. Parents requesting that a printed report card be mailed home should contact the Registrar. Teachers will post progress report grades on Infinite Campus during the middle of each nine-week period.
 - a. Quarter grades are not posted to the permanent record. They are intended to inform students and parents about student progress. Quarter grades represent 40 percent of the semester grade.
 - b. First and second semester grades consist of two quarter grades and the grade from a comprehensive final exam which counts for 20 percent. Only the final semester grade is recorded on the student's permanent transcript and used to calculate the cumulative grade point average.
3. **Incompletes** - A student who receives an incomplete in a class is responsible for working with the teacher to determine what is missing. Generally, an incomplete grade must be made up within ONE week of the end of the marking period. Extensions may be given with the approval of the teacher and the Administration. When students are missing grades due to excused absences, the teacher will set a reasonable date by which all make-up work must be completed. If a student does not make up the work by the assigned date, the teacher is to record a zero for all work not completed.
4. **Progress Reports** - Grades are updated weekly through each marking period/academic quarter and may be viewed at any time on Infinite Campus. Teachers will post progress report grades on Infinite Campus during the middle of the nine-week period. Parents needing a written progress report should contact the Registrar.

C. ACADEMIC CREDIT

1. A **transcript** is the record of grades and is sent to colleges and institutions when applying for admission. An official transcript is one delivered, by request of the student and/or parent, to a college or institution with the school seal. An unofficial transcript is one delivered by request to the student and/or parent. Transcripts that include class rank may be requested through the School Counseling Office. An unofficial transcript is available to view in Infinite Campus.
2. The **Michigan Seal of Biliteracy** is awarded to graduating seniors who are proficient at an "intermediate-high" level in two or more languages. Students qualify for the Michigan Seal of Biliteracy by having a qualifying grade in their English courses as well as one of the following three pathways in the second language:
 - a. a.) Intermediate-high score on the Advanced Placement (AP) world language exam: score of 4 or 5.
 - b. b.) For international students, official transcripts of qualifying grades in native language courses in sixth grade or higher.
 - c. c.) For non-native English speakers, a state approved proficiency test can be taken.
3. **Advanced Placement Courses** - As stated in the Curriculum Guide, students must take the AP exam for that course. This is a requirement of enrollment in the AP course. Families who may require financial assistance regarding the cost of the AP exam should contact the School Counseling Office.
4. **Dual Enrollment** – West Catholic offers two forms of dual enrollment: On-site and off-site at local colleges and universities.

West Catholic has entered into an agreement with Aquinas College providing Aquinas College courses on the West Catholic campus, fulfilling both high school and college credits upon successful completion of the courses. Students seeking dual enrollment will complete an Aquinas College Application for Admission and will be required, as a condition of admission, to agree that student records held by each institution may be shared between and available to each institution. A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 is required for Dual Enrollment. Deadlines for withdrawal from the Aquinas College classes will be the same as those posted on the official College calendar for Fall and Spring Semesters. Dual-enrolled students are held to the student conduct policies of Aquinas College in addition to West Catholic High School student conduct policies. Courses will be taught in accordance with college practices and policies, and according to the department syllabus and student learning outcomes for that course. Courses will meet according to an established schedule consistent with course credit hours. This schedule will be provided to all students on the first day of class. Traditional Aquinas College students may utilize the West Catholic campus offerings if there is additional space. West Catholic will screen potential non-West Catholic students before welcoming them on campus.

Any Student who wishes to take a college level non-Advanced Placement course for which the school does not offer an equivalent course is required to seek the approval of both their School Counselor and the school Administration. Courses will only be approved if they are not offered in our curriculum or an exception is made due to a scheduling conflict. Fees incurred for outside coursework are the responsibility of the student. Under current legislation the Michigan Department of Treasury may pay all or a portion of the tuition for a post-secondary course. West Catholic tuition will not be discounted.

Dual enrollment courses will be listed on the transcript. Grades are included in the GPA and are awarded bonus points.

*****Please note: Funds from the Michigan Department of Education can only be used if a student passes the course. Any student who fails a Dual-Enrollment course will be responsible for the cost of the class.***

4. **Independent Study:** When a student is enrolled on a regular basis at West Catholic HS:
 - a. Ordinarily to be considered for an independent study, a student must have at least a 3.3 grade point average in the department under whose management the independent study would take place.
 - b. Approval from the participating teacher, department head, school counselor, and Administration is required before starting independent study.
 - c. Usually a maximum of one course (.5 credit) per semester is allowed as an independent study for a student.
 - d. To qualify for an independent study during the regular school year, a student must be enrolled in at least five course (2.5) credits in the regular program. Summertime independent studies are also permitted.
 - e. An independent study must be supervised by a WCHS teacher.
 - f. Depending on the type of independent study, families may incur an additional cost.

5. **Credit Recovery:** Students who fail a course are responsible to meet with their counselor and enroll in approved courses for required credit recovery. Summer school information is available in the School Counseling Office. There are additional tuition costs for credit recovery and full payment is required at the time of registration. The credit recovery program only allows the student to remediate failed course content and earn a passing credit. Seniors who do not receive a diploma upon graduation due to failed required courses have one year from the date of graduation to recover the needed credit(s). All credits earned outside of West Catholic High School must be pre-approved by both the department head and administration to count toward graduation requirements.
 - a. A course that is repeated at West Catholic, because of a failure and receives a passing grade when retaken, will appear on the permanent record. The passing grade will replace the original failing grade in determining the GPA. If a course is repeated outside West Catholic, the course and credit will be listed on the transcript. The credit will count toward the total required for graduation, but the grade in the repeated course will not replace the original failure; and the grade will not be computed in the cumulative grade point average.
 - b. Course(s) failed in Religion must be repeated through a credit recovery program at WCHS during the summer break. It is the student's responsibility to register/pay for course recovery through the Religion Department in June.

6. **Replacement Credit**
 - a. In order to receive replacement credit, the course must be retaken. In order to receive replacement by retaking a course, permission must be granted by the Administration prior to the beginning of the semester. Generally, such permission will be given if the original grade was C+ or lower or if an educational need is apparent.
 - b. When a replacement credit is given, the recorded grade will be the replacement grade.
 - c. Exception: Transfer students' academic status will be determined upon enrollment at WCHS.
 - d. A student who takes outside courses without approval or takes particular classes outside WCHS simply for enrichment may have final grades recorded on the permanent transcript but will not be given WCHS credit, nor will the grade be included in the cumulative GPA.

7. **Credit/No Credit Grading** – International students with limited English proficiency may be given credit/no credit grades for their first semester at West Catholic High School. Alternative cases of granting credit/no credit are at the discretion of the school Administration.

D. ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

1. **Honor Roll:** Students will be on the Honor Roll if they have earned a grade of B- or higher in each course. Honor Roll is based on quarter grades only.
2. **GPA:** A student's "base or un-weighted" grade point average will be determined using a 4 point scale (example: A=4.0; B=3.0). In addition, Honors and AP courses receive a .036 add-on per credit hour in computing GPA.
3. **Awards Distribution:** Students may be recognized for academic achievement through membership in the National Honor Society and/or the annual Awards Convocation(s).
4. **Criteria for Valedictorian/Salutatorian:** Students will have attained the top two cumulative GPAs of the senior class at the conclusion of eight semesters. The majority of credits must be earned at WCHS and the student must be at full-time enrollment each semester of high school.

E. CURRICULUM INFORMATION/ENROLLMENT

1. Each student must carry a **minimum of six (6)** credit bearing courses per semester. All students must remain in the school building through the 7th period of the day, unless approved by the administration. A student must complete his/her required courses at West Catholic High School. A "required course" is one designated as such in the West Catholic Curriculum Guide and must be successfully completed to receive a West Catholic diploma.
2. Four years of daily attendance in a **Religion class** offered at West Catholic High School is required of all students who attend West Catholic High School.
3. Schedule changes are made only through a formal procedure denoting parental, counselor and administrative permission. Class changes can cause serious disruptions to the order of the school. Teacher hiring and assignment decisions are made on the basis of course selections in the spring. Changes will only be made for very serious reasons. If a schedule is not complete, required subjects are not included, or if a class was assigned that wasn't selected by the student, a request should be made to correct the situation. Class Change Request Forms are available in the School Counseling Office.
 - Students will have a three week period to access Class Change Request Forms in each semester for semester-long courses only. After three weeks no drops will be made with the exception of drops initiated by administration for medical or other serious circumstances.
 - For year-long classes, Class Change Request Forms are available for the first three weeks of the school year. Students must remain in currently assigned classes until they receive written add/drop notification.
 - Schedule changes will be limited to course change request.
 - Schedule changes will not be made due to teacher preference.
 - Core courses will not be overloaded due to elective or Study Hall preferences.
4. **Withdrawal from School:** Students who withdraw from school do so through the office of the Administration and School Counseling Department. Before a transcript of records can be released, the student must not have outstanding obligations in classes (iPad with charging brick/cord, textbooks and materials must be returned), and any other place where school materials have been used (such as athletic uniforms). All tuition fees and negative lunch account balances must be paid in full. An exit form signed by the student, parent and administrative representative must be completed.

F. HOMEWORK POLICY

Students are expected to have two to three hours of homework (written and/or reading work) each night and are expected to take textbooks home for this purpose.

1. **Late Work:** this policy applies to daily homework assignments. No teacher is required to accept late work. However, if a student is present in class and does not have his or her homework completed, at the discretion of the individual teacher, the following will apply:
 - a. Teachers may assign “Half Credit” (defined by the individual teacher) when homework is completed on the first class day after the assignment was due.
 - b. No credit is given if homework is received after more than one class day.
 - c. Teachers are neither encouraged nor required to assign “extra credit” work to students who may have failed previous assignments.

2. **Late Submission Policy:** This policy applies to essays, papers, projects, etc. which have been assigned a due date of seven class days or longer. The term “due date” is defined as the class period or hour in which a teacher collects the assigned work.
 - a. Students have a one-day “window of opportunity” to submit work in the method in which their teacher assigns it, i.e.; Canvas post, Turnitin upload, google doc share, or printed copy. A student may still submit the work within 24 hours following the established due date. However, the assignment will be assessed a reduction of two letter grades. Once the grace period has expired, the essay, paper or project will not be accepted.
 - b. Short-term (one or two days) absence, as a rule, is not a valid excuse. The work should be submitted the day before the deadline if the student has an appointment, field trip, early vacation departure, or any planned absence on the due date. In cases involving a short-term illness, the work can be delivered on the due date to the school office by a family member or classmate between 7 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. If such delivery is not feasible, the work can be mailed (post marked on or before the due date), faxed or e-mailed (on the exact due date). Special provisions may be made for those who have suffered a prolonged and verifiable illness or injury.
 - c. Technology issues such as internet, computer, printer malfunctions, etc. is not a valid excuse.
 - d. Parental notes/excuses documenting situations outlined in b & c above will not be accepted.

G. EXAMINATION POLICIES

1. **Exams** will be given at the end of each semester and must be taken to complete the course. Students who have missed exams due to a non pre-arranged absence must arrange a make-up exam with their instructor(s) on the exam make-up day. If the student is absent on that day, they must make up the exam on the following school day.
2. **Exam Accommodations:** Students requesting alternative test arrangements must receive approval from course instructor and/or Administration. Extended time and other accommodations will be granted according to the regular academic accommodations procedures.
3. **Senior Exam Exemption**
 - a. The exemption is granted at the professional discretion of each individual teacher.
 - b. The exemption is used for the second semester only of a year-long course, and for either semester of a one-semester course.
 - c. The student must have scored a **minimum** letter grade of “B” in the two quarters preceding the exam.
 - d. Teachers do not round off grades or points.
 - e. If a student wants to earn a higher grade for the semester, he/she must take the final exam.
 - f. Students taking AP courses are required to complete the official AP Exam(s) and may be exempt from taking a final examination.
4. **Cancellation of Exams:** In the event exams have to be cancelled on a regularly scheduled exam day, they will be made up the next weekday. Usually a day is scheduled for correcting exams, etc., this then becomes an exam day. The schedule pushes back one day. Example - if exams were scheduled for Wednesday, but are cancelled due to weather, these exams would be given on Thursday. Exceptions will be made for national holidays.

H. ACADEMIC PROBATION

Academic Probation is the course of action taken for students who are performing below expectations due to effort, assignment completion, excessive absence or other personal choice that affects the student's academic progress negatively.

Every effort will be made to assist students who are struggling academically, and/or are failing or near failing in their studies. This may include mandating attendance during a FOCUS Period.

1. A student may be placed on Academic Probation at any time, though usually such placement will occur at the completion of a marking period or semester.
2. A student may be placed on Academic Probation for excessive absences should it be determined that the absences have negatively affected academic performance.
3. A student placed on Academic Probation will be required to sign a Probationary Contract.
4. An Administrator placing a student on Academic Probation will consider, but is not limited to, the following criteria as it applies to individual situations when writing the Probationary Contract:
 - a. A meeting will be held with the student, parents and Administrator to discuss the Probationary Contract. Other high school staff may also be involved in the initial meeting.
 - b. The student will be required to submit all assigned work to each teacher in each assigned class.
 - c. All assigned material is complete and submitted on time. If absent when work is assigned or due, the probationary student must meet the WCHS Handbook requirements for receiving full credit for assigned work.
 - d. The student may be required to work with a tutor in a specified subject area(s).
 - e. The student will participate in pre-arranged tutoring sessions with teacher as necessary.
 - f. The student may not have unexcused absences and may be denied pre-arranged absences during the probationary period.
 - g. The student will be evaluated at intervals as determined by the Administrator.
 - h. The student will remain on Academic Probation for a duration determined by the Administrator.

Violations during the academic probationary period may result in dismissal. Upon dismissal, the student, after successfully completing a semester and earning credits at a non Grand Rapids Catholic Secondary School, may be considered for re-enrollment.

I. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

A student's academic dishonesty undermines our mission as a Catholic school. Academic misconduct, including any forms of cheating or plagiarism, will not be tolerated. All academic work submitted by students to their instructors is expected to be the student's own work. Violations of this type may affect National Honor Society membership/involvement.

1. **Acts of cheating and plagiarism** include, but are not limited to the following actions: copying assignments and submitting as "original"; writing formulas, codes, key words on your person or an object for use on a test; using programmed material in watches or calculators when prohibited; giving or receiving answers; taking someone else's assignment and submitting it as your own; submitting material (written or designed by someone else) without citing the source; submitting work created by family, friends, or tutors; or taking credit for group work without doing your fair share. If a case arises when a student is unsure about a question of plagiarism involving his work, the student is obligated to discuss the matter with the instructor before submission.
2. A student who allows another student access to his/her work is also guilty of academic fraud and will be penalized as well. Unless an instructor has explicitly explained that students may collaborate on a homework assignment, essay or project, all the work that is turned in must be the student's own work. Any student who is found guilty is violating the Academic Integrity Policy.

For a first violation of the Academic Integrity policy, the student receives a score of zero points (0%, letter grade E) and is assigned to a Service-Work detention. The teacher will call the parent to inform the parent of the incident. A second violation will also result in that student being placed on Probation. While on Probation, any subsequent violations may result in that student being dismissed from school.

J. ONLINE RESOURCES AND POLICIES

All West Catholic students will be issued a school-owned iPad to use as their personal device in and out of the classroom. West Catholic will provide an appropriate internet filter, a mobile device management platform, and the necessary iPad apps. Students and parents must sign and follow the Diocesan Acceptable Use policy as well as follow classroom rules and procedures set by the individual instructor.

1. Computer Use/Acceptable Use Guidelines

All West Catholic students and a parent/guardian are required to sign the *Diocese of Grand Rapids Electronic Information Access and Acceptable Use of School Systems* policy. To view this policy, please visit the Technology section of the West Catholic website at www.grwestcatholic.org

2. Additional 1:1 (iPad) Resources

It is the goal of West Catholic High School to enhance and transform learning with the assistance of iPads within the classroom. We believe that educating our students with technology will better prepare them for higher education, employment, and their personal life. School expectations for device usage (found in 1:1 Handbook) as well as Parent Resources are available in the Technology section of the school website.

3. Resources

The following electronic resources are available to enhance education at West Catholic. They are accessible under the student and parent tabs on the website at grwestcatholic.org

Infinite Campus

The Infinite Campus Portal is a Student Management System that provides parents and students access to view grades, attendance, and behavior reports. Food service payments and special activity fees can also be paid via the Portal.

Canvas

Canvas is a Learning Management System that contains course curriculum, review materials, classroom collaboration tools, and daily assignments along with due dates.

Google Apps for Education

The Google Suite gives all students a platform for document creation, collaboration, storage and email communication.

Naviance

Online platform that allows schools to set goals and priorities for individual students, track their progress, and measure student outcomes to improve college and career readiness. Naviance also manages electronic transcripts and recommendations.

iPad Tutorials

Sometimes we all need a little reminder on how to do certain tasks and sometimes we need some tips on how to troubleshoot a problem. iPad Tutorials provides some helpful How To and Troubleshooting tutorials on frequently asked questions and can be found on the website at grwestcatholic.org/students

L. The “MAK”

The MAK is open from 6 a.m. until needed. Students are welcome to study before school and after school (unless the MAK is reserved for another school function). KCTC Students and Dual Enrollment students are also welcome to use the MAK.

WEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM PLANNING GUIDE

DEPARTMENT	9TH GRADE	10TH GRADE	11TH GRADE	12TH GRADE
ART	Art I Art Palette	Art II Art Palette	Art III Art Palette	Art IV AP Art Art Palette
COMPUTER SCIENCE	AP Computer Sci Principles Business Technology Computer Essentials C# Programming I/II Visual Basic Program I/II	AP Computer Sci Principles AP Computer Science Business Technology C# Programming I/II Computer Essentials <i>Visual Basic Program I/II</i>	AP Computer Sci Principles AP Computer Science Business Technology C# Programming I/II Computer Essentials <i>Visual Basic Program I/II</i>	AP Computer Sci Principles AP Computer Science Business Technology C# Programming Computer Essentials <i>Visual Basic Program I/II</i>
ENGINEERING AND INNOVATION	Design Thinking Robotics I Robotics II	Design Thinking Robotics I Robotics II	Design Thinking Robotics I Robotics II Pre-Engineering	Design Thinking Robotics I Robotics II Pre-Engineering
ENGLISH	Honors English I English I Oral Communication	Honors English II English II Journalism Oral Communication	AP Eng. Lang. & Comp. English III Journalism Oral Communication	AP Eng. Lang. & Comp. AP Eng. Lit. & Comp. English IV Journalism Oral Communication
MATHEMATICS	Pre-Algebra Algebra I H-Algebra I Geometry H-Geometry Algebra II/Trig. H-Algebra II/Trig.	Geometry H-Geometry Algebra II/Trig. H-Algebra II/Trig. Pre-Calculus H-Pre-Calculus	Algebra II/Trig. H-Algebra II/Trig. Pre-Calculus Calculus H-Pre-Calculus AP Calculus Statistics <i>AP Statistics</i>	Analysis Pre-Calculus Calculus H-Pre-Calculus AP Calculus Statistics <i>AP Statistics</i> Personal Finance
MEDIA ARTS AND DESIGN	Digital Photography Graphic Design Video Production Web Page Design	Broadcast Media Digital Photography Graphic Design Video Production Web Page Design Yearbook	Broadcast Media Digital Photography Graphic Design Video Production Web Page Design Yearbook	Broadcast Media Digital Photography Graphic Design Video Production Web Page Design Yearbook
INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL MUSIC	Concert Band Marching Band Jazz Band Music Appreciation Concert Choir Theatre I	Concert Band Marching Band Jazz Band Music Appreciation Concert Choir Theatre I/II	Concert Band Marching Band Jazz Band Music Appreciation Concert Choir Theater I/II	Concert Band Marching Band Jazz Band Music Appreciation Concert Choir Theater I/II
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Physical Activities Health Fitness and Wellness Health and Physical Activities Strength Training Team Sports	Health Fitness and Wellness Strength Training Team Sports	Fitness and Wellness Strength Training Team Sports	Fitness and Wellness Strength Training Team Sports
RELIGION	Introduction to Scripture Christology Intro to Catholicism	The Paschal Mystery The Church Intro to Catholicism	Sacraments Morality Intro to Catholicism	Social Justice Church History Catholic Social Teaching
SCIENCE	Integrated Science H- Integrated Science H-Biology Astronomy	Biology H-Biology Chemistry H-Chemistry Astronomy	Anatomy Chemistry H-Chemistry AP Chemistry AP Biology Physics AP Physics AP Environmental Science Astronomy	Anatomy Chemistry H-Chemistry AP Chemistry AP Biology Physics AP Physics AP Environmental Science Astronomy
SOCIAL STUDIES	World Geography World History AP World History	World Geography World History AP World History US History AP US History	World History AP World History US History AP US History Government AP Government/Politics Economics AP Macroeconomics Psychology AP Psychology Sociology Global Issues AP European History	World History AP World History Government AP Government/Politics Economics AP Macroeconomics Psychology AP Psychology Sociology Global Issues AP European History
WORLD LANGUAGE	Chinese I French I German I Latin I Spanish I Spanish II	Chinese II French II German II Latin II/III Spanish II Spanish III	Spanish III AP Spanish Study Abroad: Spain	AP Spanish College Spanish Study Abroad: Spain

WEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COMPARISON CHART

1 credit = 2 semesters = 1 year
 .50 credit = 1 semester = 1/2 year

SUBJECT	WEST CATHOLIC	RECOMMENDED COLLEGE	NCAA CORE REQUIREMENTS
ENGLISH	4 credits	4 credits	4 credits
RELIGION	4 credits	-----	-----
MATH	4 credits	4 credits including Alg. II	3 credits - does not include Pre-Algebra Or any remedial level math course
SCIENCE	3 credits	4 credits	2 credits - must Include 1 cr. lab science 1-Phys. Science
SOCIAL SCIENCE	3 credits	3 credits	2 credits
PHYS. ED.	1/2 credit	-----	-----
HEALTH	1/2 credit		
ELECTIVES	2 credits	5-7 credits	4 credits in above areas, or for. lang. computers
WORLD LANGUAGE	2 credits	2-4 credits	
			NOTE: 1 year of additional courses in math, English or natural or Phys. science
COMPUTER SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND INNOVATION, MEDIA ARTS AND DESIGN AND VISUAL/ PERFORMING ARTS	1 credit		
TOTAL	24 credits	22-26 credits	**16 core credits

A GUIDE FOR THE COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENT ATHLETE

To study and compete at a Division I school, you must earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits, earn a minimum 2.3 core-course GPA and submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

For specific information contact the NCAA Eligibility Center or your school counselor.

To study and compete at a Division II school, you must earn 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits, earn a minimum 2.2 core-course GPA and submit your final transcript with proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

For specific information contact the NCAA Eligibility Center or your school counselor.

IMPORTANT POINTS:

- **These requirements will not apply to NCAA Division III institutions, where eligibility for financial aid, practice and competition will continue to be governed by institutional, conference and other NCAA regulations.**
- **This legislation establishes a minimum standard for athletic eligibility.** It is not a guide to a student's admission to the institution. Under NCAA legislation, a student's admission is governed by the regularly published entrance requirements of each college.
- In January 2023, NCAA Divisions I and II adopted legislation to remove standardized test scores from initial-eligibility requirements. Check with the NCAA school you plan to attend regarding whether standardized test scores are necessary for admission or scholarship requirements.

These requirements are NCAA Division specific. For additional athletic associations, please consult with your School Counselor or Athletic Director.

WEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
NCAA APPROVED CORE COURSES

English	Science	Social Science
English I	Anatomy	Economics
Honors English I	Astronomy	AP Macroeconomics
English II	Biology	AP Microeconomics
Honors English II	Honors Biology	Government
English III	AP Biology	AP Government
AP English Language & Comp.	Chemistry	Psychology
English IV	Honors Chemistry	AP Psychology
AP English Literature and Comp.	AP Chemistry	Sociology
Oral Communications I	Integrated Science	U.S. History
	Honors Integrated Science	AP U.S. History
Mathematics	Physics	World Geography
Algebra I	AP Physics	World History
Algebra II/Trig	AP Environmental Science	AP World History
Honors Algebra II/Trig		Global Issues
Analysis		AP European History
Calculus		Additional Core Courses
AP Calculus		Spanish I
Geometry		Spanish II
Honors Geometry		Advanced Spanish/Spanish III
Pre-Calculus		AP Spanish
Honors Pre-Calculus		Latin I
Statistics		Latin II/III
AP Statistics		

ALTERNATIVE OFFERINGS

KENT CAREER/TECHNICAL CENTER (KCTC)

The Kent Career/Technical Center (KCTC) is an educational service of the Kent Intermediate School District. The center provides students with quality training in over 30 career and technical programs which include core technical training, academic integration and alignment with post-secondary education. Upon completion of their training, students are assisted by counselors and work-based learning coordinators in finding employment and in exploring further educational opportunities.

Juniors and seniors may enroll in a program offered at Kent Career/Technical Center. WC Students may attend **the first session** (6:55 a.m.-9:30 a.m.) and return to school in time for their 3rd hour class. Most KCTC courses of study are designed as two-year programs.

Prospective students are strongly encouraged to visit KCTC during their 1st semester and attend a session in their program of interest before making an enrollment decision in March. Arrangements for these visits are made through the School Counseling Office at West Catholic.

For more information visit www.thetechcenter.org

CAREER INTERNSHIP

West Catholic seniors are allowed to complete a career internship that will be assigned .500 credits per semester. The internship has to be approved by the Administration and Counseling Office. Students are responsible for securing a position that will allow them to arrive to West Catholic in time for their second hour or to leave after sixth hour to go to their internship. Throughout the semester, students will be required to complete weekly time logs. Students will complete a final presentation about their internship. Internship supervisors will also complete an evaluation of the student. *This is a Credit/No Credit course.*

HONORS ENROLLMENT CRITERIA

West Catholic High School offers Advanced, Honors, and AP level courses that provide an exceptional academic challenge for those students who desire it and whose classroom performance and/or ability indicates that such placement would be appropriate. When making the determination of placement into an Advanced or Honors level course, the following factors are given consideration:

- Student's desire to enroll in the course
- Student's previous academic performance (in general and in specific/related content areas)
- Student's ability as determined by a recent standardized instrument
- Student's academic achievement as measured by a recent standardized instrument
- Current and/or previous teacher's evaluation (including 7th/8th grade teacher evaluation)
- Parental input and support
- Number of spaces available per session of a course
- Current placement procedures by department

AP ENROLLMENT CRITERIA

The Advanced Placement Program (College Board) is a cooperative, educational endeavor between secondary schools and colleges and universities. It allows high school students to undertake college-level academic learning in AP courses and gives them the opportunity to show that they have mastered the advanced material by taking AP exams. Students have the opportunity to receive credit for high school and/or from thousands of colleges and universities that participate in the Advanced Placement Program. West Catholic High School offers 19 Advanced Placement Courses.

Advanced Placement courses make substantial academic demands on students. Most classes are year-long. Students are required to do considerable outside reading and other assignments to demonstrate the analytical skills and writing abilities expected of first-year students in a strong college program. This experience helps students develop the intellectual skills and self-discipline they will need in college.

In May, those students who are enrolled in an AP course must take the Advanced Placement Examination. The multiple choice portions of the exams are scored by computer, and the free response sections are scored by college and school consultants at the AP Reading in June.

Because there is significant evidence that participation in AP courses strongly correlate with student achievement, college readiness and college completion, all West Catholic students are highly encouraged to take at least one AP course prior to graduation.

Requirements for Taking Advanced Placement Courses

Students should refer to the West Catholic High School CURRICULUM GUIDE Department Course Listings for the requirements needed to be placed in Advanced Placement Courses. Please consult your School Counselor to determine which course(s) best fit your educational program.

AP Tests

All students who are enrolled in Advanced Placement classes are required to take the AP test in those subject areas. There is a fee for each test and each student is responsible for payment of the fee before taking the AP tests. Financial Assistance is available for those who qualify. The tests take place during the month of May. Test results are made available to students online in mid-July.

HONORS/AP AND DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSE OFFERINGS

Below are the Honors and AP Courses offered at all grade levels. *Students will be allowed to enter advanced or honors courses with the consideration of school transcripts and/or standardized test scores and teacher feedback. Course offerings are subject to change*

	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
ART:			AP Art	AP Art
ENGLISH:	Honors English I	Honors English II	AP English Lang & Comp	AP English Lit & Comp
MATH:	Honors Geometry	Honors Geometry Honors Alg. II/Trig	Honors Alg. II/Trig Honors Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus AP Statistics
RELIGION:			Hon. Religion/Science	Hon. Religion/Science
SCIENCE:	Hon. Integrated Sci. Honors Biology	Honors Biology Honors Chemistry	Honors Chemistry AP Chemistry AP Biology AP Environ. Science	AP Physics AP Chemistry AP Biology AP Environ. Science
SOCIAL STUDIES:	AP World History	AP US History AP World History	AP US History AP Govt. & Politics AP World History AP European History AP Psychology AP Microeconomics AP Macroeconomics	AP Govt. & Politics AP World History AP Psychology AP European History AP Microeconomics AP Macroeconomics
TECH :	AP Computer Science Principles	AP Computer Science Principles	AP Computer Science Principles	AP Computer Science Principles
WORLD LANGUAGE:			AP Spanish Dual Enrollment	AP Spanish Dual Enrollment

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM

GRADE 9-12:	Advanced Placement AP Computer Science Principles Advanced Placement World History
GRADE 10-12:	Advanced Placement Computer Science
GRADE 10 OR 11:	Advanced Placement U.S. History
GRADE 11:	Advanced Placement English Language & Composition
GRADE 11 OR 12:	Advanced Placement Art Advanced Placement Calculus Advanced Placement Statistics
GRADE 11 OR 12:	Advanced Placement Chemistry Advanced Placement Biology Advanced Placement Environmental Science
GRADE 11 OR 12:	Advanced Placement Government Advanced Placement Microeconomics Advanced Placement Macroeconomics Advanced Placement Psychology Advanced Placement European History Advanced Placement Spanish
GRADE 12:	Advanced Placement English Literature Advanced Placement Physics

TESTING PROGRAM AT WEST CATHOLIC

West Catholic has a testing day for freshmen, sophomores and juniors. Freshmen will take the **PSAT 8/9**; and sophomores and juniors will take the **PSAT/NMSQT**. In the junior year the **PSAT/NMSQT** is used as a qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship Competition. Both are practice SAT tests that measure academic achievement and college readiness in Writing & Language, Reading and Math. Test results are shared with teachers, parents and students; and may be used to assist with course placement.

Juniors are expected to take the **SAT** (Scholastic Aptitude Test) in the Spring of their junior year. They will register for the test online at www.collegeboard.org. The SAT is given seven times at various locations throughout the year. This test is always given on a Saturday and at a cost to the student. College admissions personnel may use the scores along with the student's transcript to determine acceptance into college. These are just two criteria that may be used in the admissions process. Students may also opt to take the **ACT** (American College Test) which measures a student's English, Math, Reading and Science skills. Students may take the ACT and SAT more than once. Additional testing could result in higher test scores, more college acceptances and higher scholarship earnings.

Fee waivers for the ACT and SAT are available to families on free or reduced lunch. Students with a written accommodations plan on file at the school may qualify for testing accommodations for the ACT and/or SAT. Counselors should be contacted to assist with applying for accommodations.

The design and continuity of the testing program are such that all results will be utilized in educational planning and post-secondary placement. All students are required to participate in the program.

ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Requirements for Entrance Consideration for the National Honor Society

INVITATIONS WILL BE DELIVERED ON THE FIRST WEEK OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR.

1. To be considered, a candidate must be a junior or senior and have achieved a minimum 3.80 cumulative G.P.A. by the end of the previous school year.
2. To be approved, a candidate must show that he/she has the following qualities: Leadership, Service, Scholarship and Character.
3. To assess the candidate, the following method of evaluation will be used:

LEADERSHIP: The candidate must complete an application that includes details about service and leadership and includes writing a paragraph about their leadership or service.

SERVICE: The candidate must be seen as a PERSON OF SERVICE. Involvement in both school and community must be evident. ONGOING service must be seen in either school or the community.

SCHOLARSHIP AND CHARACTER: In September, forms will be given to ALL academic staff members for their confidential comments. The names of all the candidates will be listed and the staff will accept, reject, or suggest probation for an additional year while considering the following attributes:

1. Demonstrates good study habits
2. Shows respect for the subject matter
3. Demonstrates his/her love of learning and knowledge
4. Shows respect for the teacher
5. Shows respect for other students and the campus
6. Adds a positive quality to the learning process in the classroom

COMPLETION OF AN APPLICATION DOES NOT GUARANTEE ACCEPTANCE: If a junior candidate is not accepted into the society, he/she will have another chance, senior year, to apply as long as the required G.P.A. or higher is maintained and the other requirements are met.

4. After each semester, members of the National Honor Society will be re-evaluated on the above four qualities, including time spent tutoring (minimum 10 hours per semester). If the member fails to meet the above standards, he/she will be placed on probation for one semester. If sufficient improvement has not been shown, the student will be dismissed from the Society for the remainder of his/her high school career.

HONORS CONVOCATION

Honors Convocation is held during the month of May to honor student achievements for the school year. Following is a brief description of the major awards given at Honors Convocation.

Paragon Award

The most prestigious accolade that a student can earn at West Catholic. One male and one female judged most worthy of respect and admiration by classmates for their involvement at West Catholic.

Ed Wagner Award

Recipient has demonstrated a great sense of initiative, a determined and dedicated attitude, while working cooperatively with both teachers and students in accomplishing goals.

Harvard Book Award

Sponsored by Harvard University. This award is given to a junior selected on the basis of rank in class, coursework and subject load.

Francis Geary Alumni Scholarship

The CC/WC Alumni Association awards this to at least two juniors who must apply for it. They are chosen on need and accomplishment.

Tom Regan Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to a freshman student who has been dedicated to their education and has exhibited a willingness to help others in all aspects of their lives.

Everybody Love Everybody Scholarship

Awarded to a female and male graduating senior who has made others' lives better because of their daily caring and compassion in word and deed.

Father Dennis Morrow Leadership Award

Awarded to a student who plans on pursuing a career in Public Safety.

Dan Savage Award

Awarded to a senior student who plans on studying criminal justice.

Mary Kay VanDriel Health Careers Scholarship

Awarded to a female West Catholic senior who will be going on to college to study and eventually work in the healthcare field.

Grand Rapids Lions Club

One male and one female scholar/athlete having contributed to their community at West Catholic and community at-large.

Daughters of the American Revolution Award

Given to a senior who exemplifies good citizenship and democratic principles.

Congressional Medal of Merit

Presented to one student who has achieved academically over four years. Consideration is given to school citizenship, academic excellence, peer respect, community service and involvement in extra-curricular activities. This person works to make the school a better place.

Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Program (HOBY)

One sophomore in a school leadership position nominated to attend this three-day seminar.

National Merit Scholarship

Commended student(s) show exceptional academic promise. Semi-Finalist student(s) score among the top 1/2% of our state's seniors. Finalist students show high academic achievement and high SAT scores. Less than 1/2% of the seniors in our state achieve this level.

National Honor Society

Juniors and seniors who have achieved a minimum 3.8 cumulative GPA, have verifiable service achievements and have demonstrated leadership and character in the school setting.

Academic Awards

Gold Scholar Award

Awarded to juniors and seniors with a cumulative grade point average of 4.0 and above

Silver Scholar Award

Awarded to juniors and seniors with a cumulative grade point average of 3.8 and above

Bronze Scholar Award

Awarded to juniors and seniors with a cumulative grade point average of 3.6 and above

Departmental Awards

Each academic department will establish criteria for qualifying for individual awards within that department.

Falcon Award

Selected by the head coaches. Based on athletic, academic and citizenship contributions to West Catholic. Not necessarily the best athlete.

Len Skrycki Greatness Award

Student-athlete exemplifying sincerity, determination and kindness.

Bob Misner Spirit Award

Represents school spirit, humility, enthusiasm and Falcon Pride.

Dan Jaskiewicz Award

Presented to one male and one female athlete who exemplifies leadership, initiative and sportsmanship

Eugene Jaglowski Falcon Award

One male and one female top ten student-athlete chosen by the Administration, Counselors, Faculty and Varsity Coaches. Award winners symbolize excellence, achievement and integrity.

MHSAA Scholar-Athlete

Presented to seniors based on achievement and leadership in athletics and activities.

Music Awards

Eric Wendlandt Music Award

Given to a senior who plans to continue performing music.

John Phillip Sousa Award

A famous marching band composer and arranger. This is a nationally recognized award given to a four-year band member.

National Choral Director's Award

A nationally recognized award for musical excellence in choral music.



We Stand Together in Learning, Forever in Faith

*School Mascot: Falcons
School Colors: Green and White*

FALCON FIGHT SONG

Written by: Eric Wendlandt and Sister Marcia

Fight! Fight! Falcons Fight! We'll go on to a victory!
On the West Side of the Valley, there's a team we love so well
They're the boys from on the hilltop,
All together hear us yell.
We're the green and the white, and we're full of fight,
We will challenge every foe,
Weather cloudy or fair, we'll always be there with our cry
Of Go West Go.
We're the green and the white, and we're full of fight,
We'll go on to VIC-TO-RY.
Fight! Fight! Falcons Fight! We'll go on to a Victory.

WEST CATHOLIC ALMA MATER

Written by: Eric Wendlandt

Here's to the school that we love so well,
Precious and dear to us all.
Sing to our Alma Mater,
Ever standing proud and tall.
Here's to West Catholic High School
And to mem'ries
Old and new
Forgotten never, remembered ever,
We.....love.....you.
(Instrumental interlude)