



West Catholic High School  
2024-25 Curriculum Guide

*We stand together in learning, forever in faith.*

[grwestcatholic.org](http://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*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Part One

*\*Course offerings are subject to change*

#### Academic Departmental Course Offerings

Computer Science	3-5
Engineering and Innovation	6
English	7-9
Fine Arts	10-11
Instrumental and Vocal Music	12-13
Life Skills	14
Mathematics	15-19
Math Dept. Recommended Course of Study Chart	15
Media Arts and Design	20-21
Physical Education	22-23
Religion	24-25
Science	26-30
Social Studies	31-34
World Language	35-37
Department of Academic Support	38
General Support Services	39
Policies of Additional Educational Opportunities	39

### Part Two

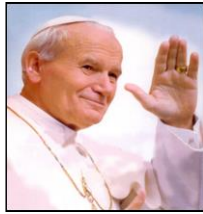
#### General Information

Root Beliefs and Core Values	40
Academics	41
Graduation Requirements	41
Certificate of Completion	41
Grading Process	41-42
Academic Credit	43
Academic Recognition	44-45
Curriculum Information/Enrollment	45
Homework Policy	46
Examination Policies	47
Academic Probation	48
Academic Integrity	49
Online Resources and Policies	50
The “Mak”	50
Curriculum Planning Guide	51
Credit Comparison Chart	52
Guide for the College Bound Student Athlete	53
NCAA Eligibility Guidelines	54
WCHS NCAA Approved Core Courses	55
Kent Career Technical Center	56
Career Internship	56
Honors Enrollment Criteria	57
AP Enrollment Criteria	57
Honors/AP/Dual Enrollment Course Offerings	58
Testing Program at West Catholic	59
Academic Recognition	60-62
<i>(National Honor Society, Honors Convocation, Academic Awards)</i>	

# 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.

## 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  
Python Programming

*C# Programming I/II*  
AP Computer Science Principles  
AP Computer Science

**Business Technology**      **C142**  
½ credit elective  
Prerequisite: None  
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

**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**      **C109**  
½ credit elective  
Prerequisite: None  
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

**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.

**Python Programming**      **C146**  
½ credit elective  
Prerequisite: None  
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12  
(offered even-numbered years)

**Course Description:** Python Programming is an introductory-level course for students brand new to programming and computer science. In this course, you will learn problem solving strategies, software design, and the foundation of computer science. Not only will this course prepare you for continuing your studies in computer science (for example, by taking AP Computer Science A and AP Computer Science Principles), but it will also teach you to think like a scientist and solve real-world problems, skills that are important to every 21<sup>st</sup>-century citizen. There are no prerequisites for this course, although you should have basic familiarity with how to operate a computer and use applications. It is also recommended that you have familiarity with basic algebra principles before starting this course.

**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: Python Programming, 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:**

#### **Pre-Engineering**

#### **Robotics I**

#### **Robotics II**

**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

**English Fundamentals**                      **E204**  
**1 credit**  
**Permission of School Counselor,**  
**English Department Head required**

**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 A**                              **E206A**  
**½ Credit**

**Course Description:** Will delve into different genres and styles of literature, focusing on analyzing themes, character development, and narrative techniques. Emphasis will be placed on composing various forms of essays, from analytical to persuasive, to develop strong writing skills. The course will focus on how grammatical choices and vocabulary can enhance writing quality. This course is the first in a series that is meant to prepare students for success in advanced placement courses and potential college credits. Strong reading skills will be essential for success.

**Honors English I B**                              **E206B**  
**½ Credit**

**Course Description:** Students will continue to explore a variety of literary works, focusing on drawing sophisticated connections between different texts and contexts. Building on the essay-writing skills developed in the first semester, students will engage in more complex writing assignments, including research-based and comparative essays.

**English I A**    **E205A**  
**½ Credit**

**Course Description:** Designed to engage students in the rich and diverse world of language and literature. Throughout this course, students will explore various facets of English, including grammar and vocabulary building. Students will explore and develop writing skills essential for high school and beyond, while fostering critical thinking and effective communication skills.

**English I B**    **E205B**  
**½ Credit**

**Course Description:** Builds upon the foundations laid in the first semester, delving deeper into the analysis and comprehension of various texts. The semester is structured to enhance critical reading and writing skills, encouraging students to explore texts with a discerning eye and to express their insights with clarity and precision. Students will engage in close reading to understand complex ideas, themes, and literary techniques.



<b>Honors English II A</b> <b>½ Credit</b>	<b>E208A</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> Centered around exploring American literature, with a focus on understanding its cultural and historical contexts. Students will delve into various literary works, examining how they reflect and shape American culture and history. This semester serves as a deep dive into the rich tapestry of American literary heritage.
<b>Honors English II B</b> <b>½ Credit</b>	<b>E208B</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> Integrates the study of American literature with themes of Catholic faith, advanced argumentation, and refined writing techniques. This semester is designed to deepen students' critical thinking and persuasive writing skills in the context of literature and faith.
<b>English II A</b> <b>½ credit</b>	<b>E207A</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> Designed to further develop the writing and reading skills that students developed in English I. Students will explore American literature, focusing on the connections to culture, history, and our Catholic faith. Writing will focus on constructing full essays, utilizing informative writing, argument, as well as other writing genres. Students can expect to further study grammar rules, focusing on the application of the rules to their own writing.
<b>English II B</b> <b>½ credit</b>	<b>E207B</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> Designed to build essential research skills, introduce students to academic writing, and provide students opportunity to explore public speaking. Throughout this course students will develop skills to become critical thinkers when it comes to the information they encounter. The curriculum is designed to equip students with the tools for effective research, articulate public speaking, and mastery of language conventions.
<b>English III A</b> <b>½ credit</b>	<b>E209A</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> Designed to refine high school juniors' skills in critical writing and analysis. Throughout this course, students will engage in a variety of writing exercises aimed at enhancing their ability to critically evaluate texts, formulate and articulate well-reasoned arguments, and understand the historical and societal contexts of literature.
<b>English III B</b> <b>½ credit</b>	<b>E209B</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> Continues to build upon the skills developed in the first semester, with a focus on advanced composition techniques and the integration of information from multiple texts. This semester aims to refine students' abilities in grammatical choices, constructive feedback, and synthesizing information from various sources.
<b>English IV A</b> <b>½ credit</b>	<b>E210A</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> Designed as the capstone course for our English instruction. It focuses on ensuring that students are able to articulate their thoughts about texts in a clear, organized, and culturally aware manner. This course encourages students to engage with texts from multiple perspectives, fostering a deep understanding of how these viewpoints influence a text's meaning and impact.
<b>English IV B</b> <b>½ credit</b>	<b>E210B</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> Focuses on developing students' writing prowess and analytical skills. Effort is made to ensure students can independently complete the entire writing process, from brainstorming to publishing, in multiple modes of communication, with an emphasis on creating high-quality writing that leaves the student ready for college level English courses and real-world applications of their skills.

<b>AP English Lang. &amp; Comp.</b> <b>Open to grades: 11, 12</b> <b>1 credit</b> <b>E222</b> <b>Open to grade: 12</b> <b>1 credit</b>	<b>E219</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> 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. <b>Participants are required to take the AP English Language and Composition exam in May.</b>
<b>AP English Lit. &amp; Comp</b> <b>Open to grade: 12</b> <b>1 credit</b>	<b>E222</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> 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. <b>Participants are required to take the AP Literature exam in May.</b>
<b>Oral Communication</b> <b>½ credit elective</b> <b>Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12</b> <b>Prerequisite: None</b>	<b>E229</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> 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.

## 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 A**                      **A013A**  
1/2 credit elective  
**Prerequisite:** None  
**Open to grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12

**Course Description:** Basic drawing techniques are taught using various media. These techniques are applied to a variety of still life projects including white geometric forms, colored objects, reflective objects, transparent objects, and textured objects. 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 I Drawing B**                      **A013B**  
1/2 credit elective  
**Prerequisite:** None  
**Open to grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12

**Course Description:** Basic drawing techniques are taught using various media. These techniques are applied to a variety of subjects such as portrait, profile, and figure drawing, perspective, and landscape drawing. Art vocabulary and terminology are learned. Students are required to work in a sketchbook weekly.

**Art II Design A**                      **A014A**  
1/2 credit elective  
**Prerequisite:** Art I Drawing  
**Open to grades:** 10, 11, 12

**Course Description:** 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, and computer graphics. Art history, vocabulary and critique methods are integrated into this course. Students are required to work in a sketchbook weekly.

**Art II Design B**                      **A014B**  
1/2 credit elective  
**Prerequisite:** Art I Drawing  
**Open to grades:** 10, 11, 12

**Course Description:** 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, 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.

<b>Art III Studio Art</b> <b>1/2 credit elective</b> <b>Prerequisite: Art II Design</b> <b>Open to grades: 11, 12</b>	<b>A015A</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> 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. Various media may include: ebony pencil, White Prisma on black paper, charcoal and chalk, charcoal subtractive, stenciling, lacquer film, and silk screening. 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.
<b>Art III Studio Art B</b> <b>1/2 credit elective</b> <b>Prerequisite: Art II Design</b> <b>Open to grades: 11, 12</b>	<b>A015B</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> 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. Various media may include: pastel, watercolor, oil painting, and pottery. 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.
<b>Art IV Portfolio Prep A</b> <b>½ credit elective</b> <b>Prerequisite: Art III</b> <b>Open to grade: 12</b>	<b>A016A</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> 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.
<b>Art IV Portfolio Prep B</b> <b>1/2 credit elective</b> <b>Prerequisite: Art III</b> <b>Open to grade: 12</b>	<b>A016B</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> 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.
<b>AP Art 2D Design</b> <b>1 credit elective</b> <b>Prerequisite: Art III Studio Art with department approval</b> <b>Open to grades: 12</b>	<b>A019</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> 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. The second semester of this year-long class 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.
<b>Art Palette</b> <b>½ credit elective</b> <b>Prerequisite: None</b> <b>Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12</b>	<b>A011</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> 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.

## 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  
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

**Course Description:** See Concert Choir description (above). This course begins at 7:15 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.

## LIFE SKILLS DEPARTMENT

**Personal Power A      EDU01A**  
**1/2 credit elective**  
**Prerequisite: None**  
**Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12**

**Course Description:** Personal Power A is a skills for life, hands-on, elective course for students in grades 9-12 that equips students with practical life skills necessary to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This course explores key facets of everyday living, emphasizing the importance of informed decision-making, making healthy choices, and responsible citizenship. Students will become prepared for the following areas: nutrition and wellness, communication skills, relationship building, understanding diverse perspectives, family and home management, and problem-solving skills. Students will gain a deeper understanding of how their personal, family, and consumer choices align with their faith and contribute to a more just society.

\*Students who will be receiving a West Catholic Certificate of Completion are open to take Personal Power A multiple times throughout their high school career.

**Personal Power B      EDU01B**  
**1/2 credit elective**  
**Prerequisite: None**  
**Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12**

**Course Description:** Personal Power B is a skills for life, hands-on, elective course for students in grades 9-12 that equips students with practical life skills necessary to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This course explores key facets of everyday living, emphasizing the importance of informed decision-making, making healthy choices, and responsible citizenship. Students will become prepared for the challenges and opportunities of adulthood by enhancing their competence and confidence in the following areas: career exploration, job readiness, community engagement, and personal finance. Students will gain a deeper understanding of how their personal, family, and consumer choices align with their faith and contribute to a more just society.

\*Students who will be receiving a West Catholic Certificate of Completion are open to take Personal Power B multiple times throughout their high school career.

## 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: Most 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

<b><i>9th Grade</i></b>	<b><i>10th Grade</i></b>	<b><i>11th Grade</i></b>	<b><i>12th Grade</i></b>
Pre-Algebra	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II
or	or	or	or
Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Math Elective
or	or	or	or
Geometry	Algebra II	Math Elective	2 <sup>nd</sup> Math Elective

**\*\*To graduate, students must complete 4 credits of mathematics with at least one math course during their senior year.**

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 Algebra II course, formerly 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.
2. Statistics course has been modified to run in one semester, rather than a full year, allowing students to take Personal Finance and Statistics in a single year.

**\*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, PRE-CALCULUS AND ANOTHER YEAR OF MATH ELECTIVE.**



## Mathematics Department Offerings

Pre-Algebra  
Algebra I  
Honors Algebra I  
Geometry  
Honors Geometry  
Algebra II  
Honors Algebra II

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

**Pre-Algebra A** **M411A**  
 ½ credit elective  
 Pre-requisite: 8<sup>th</sup> grade math,  
 standardized test scores and teacher  
 recommendation  
 Open to grade: 9  
 Scientific calculator required, but  
 graphing calculator is recommended

**Course Description:** Students revisit concepts in number and operations, expressions and equations, ratio and proportion, basic functions.

**Pre-Algebra B** **M411B**  
 ½ credit elective  
 Pre-requisite: Pre-Algebra A or teacher  
 recommendation  
 Open to grade: 9

**Course Description:** More basic functions, continued use of expressions and equations, geometry, and data. By the end of the course, students are ready to begin high school Algebra I.

**Algebra I A** **M412A**  
 ½ credit elective  
**Prerequisite for 9th grade:** Based on standardized test scores, math grades and teacher recommendation.  
**Open to grade:** 9, 10  
 A scientific calculator is required, but a TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is recommended.

**Course Description:** Making sense of numbers and expressions; solving linear equations and inequalities, algebraically and graphically; systems of equations and inequalities.

**Algebra I B** **M412B**  
 ½ credit elective  
 Prerequisite for 9th grade: Algebra A or  
 teacher recommendation  
 Open to grade: 9, 10

**Course Description:** Making sense of exponents and quadratic functions, introduction to rational functions, and basic statistics/probability.

**Honors Algebra I A** **M413A**  
 ½ credit elective  
**Prerequisite:** Algebra I and department recommendation or standardized test score and teacher recommendation  
**Open to grade:** 9  
 A TI-83 or any TI-84 graphing calculator is required.

**Course Description:** This class will cover all material of Algebra I, emphasizing advanced applications of solving equations and inequalities, graphing, and use of technology. See Algebra I, with exponents in this semester.

**Honors Algebra I B** **M413B**  
 ½ credit elective  
**Prerequisite:** Honors Algebra I A  
**Open to grade:** 9

**Course Description:** See Algebra I, with basic trigonometric functions, polynomial functions and absolute value functions.

**Geometry A** **M415A**  
 ½ credit elective  
**Prerequisite for 9th grade:** Placement is based on Algebra I grades, standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.  
**Open to grades:** 9, 10  
**At minimum, a scientific calculator is required, but a TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is recommended.**

**Course Description:** This course will focus on topics of Euclidean Geometry through the use of vocabulary two dimensional properties, logic, technology and activities to enhance life connections. Topics include proofs, parallel and perpendicular lines, angles, polygons, relationships between geometric figures, constructions, area.

**Geometry B** **M415B**  
 ½ credit elective  
**Prerequisite for 9th grade:** Geometry A  
**Open to grades:** 9, 10

**Course Description:** An extension of Geometry A, this course will focus on Euclidean Geometry through the use of technology and activities to enhance life connections, three dimensional properties, parallel and perpendicular lines, angles, polygons, relationships between geometric figures, area and volume.

**Honors Geometry A** **M416A**  
 ½ credit elective  
**Open to grades:** 9, 10  
**Prerequisite for 9th grade:** Placement is based on Algebra I grades, standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.  
**At minimum, a scientific calculator is required, but a TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is recommended.**

**Course Description:** This course will focus on topics of Euclidean Geometry and demands in-depth understanding and extensive utilization by students. Topics include proofs, parallel and perpendicular lines, angles, polygons, relationships between geometric figures, constructions, area. Students will be introduced to selected non-Euclidean topics where appropriate and as time allows.

**Honors Geometry B** **M416B**  
 ½ credit elective  
**Open to grades:** 9, 10  
**Prerequisite for 9th grade:** Honors Geometry A  
**At minimum, a scientific calculator is required, but a TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is recommended.**

**Course Description:** An extension of Honors Geometry A, this course will focus on Euclidean Geometry through the use of technology and activities to enhance life connections, three dimensional properties, parallel and perpendicular lines, angles, polygons, relationships between geometric figures, area and volume. Students will be introduced to selected non-Euclidean topics where appropriate and as time allows.

**Algebra II A** **M418A**  
 ½ credit requirement  
**Prerequisite for 10th, 11th, & 12th Grades:** Geometry or Honors Geometry and department recommendation  
**Prerequisite for 9th grade:** Placement is based on grades in Algebra I and Geometry, standardized test scores and teacher recommendation. Any TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required.  
**Open to grades:** 9, 10, 11

**Course Description:** This course will focus on topics in trigonometry, including trig functions; properties and transformations of functions, linear and functions and systems of equations.

**Algebra II B** **M418B**  
 1/2 credit requirement  
**Prerequisite:** Algebra II A  
**Any TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required.**  
**Open to grades:** 9, 10, 11

**Course Description:** An extension of Algebra II A, this course will focus on quadratic, exponential and rational functions and equations: solving and using, both algebraically and graphically. Introduction to logarithms, conic sections and basic statistics/probability.

**Honors Algebra II A** M425A  
 ½ credit elective  
**Prerequisite for 10th, 11th, & 12th Grades:**  
 Honors Geometry or Geometry with  
 department recommendation.  
**Prerequisite for 9th grade:** Placement is  
 based on grades in Algebra I and Geometry,  
 standardized test scores and teacher  
 recommendation.  
**Open to grades:** 9, 10, 11  
 Any TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is  
 required.

**Course Description:** This class will emphasize  
 advanced applications of solving equations and  
 inequalities, graphing, and use of technology with the  
 following topics: making sense of numbers and  
 expressions; solving linear equations and inequalities,  
 algebraically and graphically; systems of equations and  
 inequalities; and exponents.

**Honors Algebra II B** M425B  
 ½ credit elective  
**Prerequisite:** Honors Algebra II A  
**Open to grades:** 9, 10, 11  
 Any TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is  
 required.

**Course Description:** This class will emphasize  
 advanced applications of solving equations and  
 inequalities, graphing, and use of technology with the  
 following topics: quadratic, polynomial and absolute  
 value functions, basic statistics/probability, basic  
 trigonometry and an introduction to rational  
 functions.

**Pre-Calculus A** M323A  
 ½ credit elective  
**Prerequisite:** Algebra II or Honors  
 Algebra II  
**Open to grades:** 10, 11, 12  
 Any TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is  
 required.

**Course Description:** Use of and analyzing functions:  
 polynomial, exponential, rational, logarithmic, and  
 trigonometric; using and solving systems of equations  
 and inequalities, including use of matrices.

**Pre-Calculus B** M323B  
 ½ credit elective  
**Prerequisite:** Pre-Calculus A  
**Open to grades:** 10, 11, 12  
 A TI-83 or any TI- 84 graphing calculator is  
 required.

**Course Description:** Continued work with functions  
 and systems; conic sections; Sequences and Series;  
 Combinations and permutations with probability;  
 vectors, polar coordinates and an introduction to limits.

**Honors Pre-Calculus A** M421A  
 ½ credit elective  
**Prerequisite:** Honors Algebra II or Algebra  
 II with department recommendation.  
**Open to grades:** 10, 11, 12  
 A TI-83 or any TI- 84 graphing calculator is  
 required.

**Course Description:** Designed for high achieving  
 students, this class is a more rigorous treatment of topics  
 found in Honors Algebra II. The skills learned will  
 prepare students for success in AP Calculus.

**Honors Pre-Calculus B** M421B  
 ½ credit elective  
**Prerequisite:** Honors Pre-Calculus A  
**Open to grades:** 10, 11, 12  
 A TI-83 or any TI- 84 graphing calculator is  
 required.

**Course Description:** Continued work with functions  
 and systems; conic sections; Sequences and Series;  
 Combinations and permutations with probability;  
 vectors, polar coordinates and limits and an introduction  
 to derivatives and integrals.

**Personal Finance** M420  
 ½ credit elective  
**Open to grade:** 11, 12

**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.

<p>Calculus A  <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> credit elective  <b>Prerequisite:</b> Honors Pre-Calculus or Pre-Calculus  <b>Open to grades:</b> 11, 12  <b>A TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required.</b></p>	M423A	<p><b>Course Description:</b> This course is a thorough study of the two branches of calculus: derivatives and integrals. <b>AB exam of the AP Calculus test is optional</b>, as all topics of AP Calculus AB will be covered, but independent work will be needed to prepare for the added rigor of the AP exam.  <b>Course topics:</b> Limits, derivatives and properties of derivatives, applications of derivatives, to include optimization and related rates, graphical analysis.</p>
<p>Calculus B  <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> credit elective  <b>Prerequisite:</b> Calculus A  <b>Open to grades:</b> 11, 12  <b>A TI-83 or any TI-84 calculator is required.</b></p>	M423B	<p><b>Course Description:</b> (See Calculus A about optional AP exam.)  <b>Course topics:</b> Anti-differentiation, integration and applications of integration.</p>
<p>AP Calculus BC A  <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> credit elective  <b>Prerequisite:</b> Honors Pre-Calculus or Pre-Calculus with teacher recommendation  <b>Open to grades:</b> 11, 12  <b>A TI-83 or any TI-84 graphing calculator is required.</b></p>	M424A	<p><b>Course Description:</b> This course contains an in-depth coverage of all topics required for the AP Calculus BC exam. <b>Students are required to take the AP exam.</b>  <b>Course topics:</b> Limits, derivatives and properties of derivatives, applications of derivatives, to include optimization and related rates, graphical analysis, anti-differentiation, introduction to integration.</p>
<p>AP Calculus BC B  <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> credit elective  <b>Prerequisite:</b> AP Calculus BC A  <b>Open to grades:</b> 11, 12  <b>A TI-83 or any TI-84 calculator is required.</b></p>	M424B	<p><b>Course Description:</b> (See AP Calculus BC A for information about AP exam.)  <b>Course topics:</b> Integration and its applications, the calculus of polar functions, parametric functions, vectors, and sequences and series, including error bounds.</p>
<p>Statistics  <math>1\frac{1}{2}</math> credit elective  <b>Prerequisite:</b> Algebra II  <b>Open to grades:</b> 11, 12  <b>A TI-83 or any TI-84 calculator is required.</b></p>	M333	<p><b>Course Description:</b> This course covers descriptive and inferential statistics which include techniques for collecting, analyzing and reporting conclusions and making inferences from the data.</p>
<p>AP Statistics A  <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> credit elective  <b>Prerequisite:</b> Honors Algebra II, or Algebra II with teacher recommendation  <b>Open to grades:</b> 11, 12          (offered even-numbered years)  <b>A TI-83 or any TI-84 calculator is required.</b></p>	M334A	<p><b>Course Description:</b> This course contains an in-depth coverage of all topics required for the AP Statistics exam, including techniques for collecting, analyzing and reporting conclusions and making inferences from the data. <b>Students are required to take the AP Statistics exam.</b>  <b>Course topics:</b> Data collecting, reporting/displaying and calculating statistics; probability and sampling distributions, basic analysis of data</p>
<p>AP Statistics B  <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> credit elective  <b>Prerequisite:</b> AP Statistics A  <b>Open to grades:</b> 11, 12          (offered even-numbered years)  <b>A TI-83 or any TI-84 calculator is required.</b></p>	M334B	<p><b>Course Description:</b> (See AP Calculus BC A for information about AP exam.)  <b>Course topics:</b> Making inferences based on the data/statistics, including a variety of confidence intervals and hypothesis tests.</p>

## MEDIA ARTS AND DESIGN DEPARTMENT

### Program Goal:

To harness the power that digital mediums have to shape our physical world, communicate to a global audience, and elicit emotion and joy.

The student will:

- Create and publish original works using various types of media (text, graphics, photos, audio, video).
- Develop skills using industry standard software platforms and hardware tools to develop and publish high quality content.
- Experience the various roles and responsibilities associated with planning, capturing, editing and producing digital content.
- Understand intellectual property rights and practice appropriate usage of copyrighted material.
- Explore careers in the fields of print media, digital media, and social media.
- 

### Media Arts and Design Department Offerings:

Broadcast Media	Video Production
Digital Photography	Web Page Design
Graphic Design	Yearbook

**Broadcast Media**  
1/2 credit elective  
Class can be repeated for CR with  
Teacher Approval  
Prerequisite: Video Production or  
Teacher Approval  
Open to Grades 10, 11, 12

**C150**

**Course Description:** Broadcast Media is designed to provide students with the basic knowledge and skills related to the digital media and broadcasting industry. This course includes instruction and hands-on assignments in the following areas: audio/video systems, lighting systems, pre-production, studio operations, visual effects/graphics and copyright laws. Students will have the opportunity to apply skills for writing scripts, storyboarding and developing shows for the West Catholic Community. Positions in the Broadcast Media course can be competitive depending on demand. All students must apply to be members of the Student Broadcast team. Students with the recommended Prerequisite(s) or prior experience will be given priority. Students will be expected to do some coursework outside of school hours (capturing video/livestream/etc).

**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

Strength Training

Team Sports

Sports Officiating

Recreational Sports A/B

**Physical Education Activities**

**½ credit required**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Open to grade: 9**

**PE618**

**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. **Beginning with the Class of 2026, PE Waivers will no longer be accepted.**

\*Students who will be receiving a West Catholic Certificate of Completion are open to take Physical Education Activities multiple times throughout their high school career.

**Health Education**

**½ credit required**

**Open to grades: Grade 9, 10, 11, 12**

**Strongly recommended 9, 10**

**Prerequisite: None**

**PE615**

**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.

\*Students who will be receiving a West Catholic Certificate of Completion are open to take Health multiple times throughout their high school career.

**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 warm-up 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.

**Sports Officiating**  
**Prerequisite:** Junior or Senior  
**½ credit elective**  
**Open to grades:** 11, 12

**PE624 Course Description:** This course is designed to teach students how to be a high school sports official. It will cover MHSAA officiating procedures, mechanics and rules for each of the following sports: football, basketball, volleyball, and soccer. There will also be the opportunity to study one additional sport of choice for each student. Students will be required to observe and evaluate varsity officials during three varsity sports contests. This will be done outside of normal class time. Upon completion of this course, students will receive free official registration with the MHSAA, and 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students are then allowed to officiate sub-varsity contests alongside their mentor official.

**Recreational Sports**  
**Prerequisite:** Teacher or Counselor Approval  
**½ credit elective**  
**Open to grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12

**PE625 Course Description:** Recreational Sports is a Unified Physical Education course that provides a unique opportunity for students with and without disabilities to come together through ongoing athletic and physical education activities. Students will gain knowledge and skills necessary to maintain a health-enhancing lifestyle. Additionally, the class supports the development of leadership skills for all students and the empowerment of objectives are structured around the national physical education standards and focus on activity-specific skill development, increased physical fitness, application or sport specific rules and the ability to work as a team and make better health and lifestyle choices. Students enrolled in this course will also participate in our Unified athletic competitions.

\*Students who will be receiving a West Catholic Certificate of Completion are open to take Recreational Sports multiple times throughout their high school career.



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

#### **Introduction to Catholic Theology A R710A**

½ credit

**Departmental Approval Required**

**Open to Grades: 9, 10, 11 and 12**

**Course Description:** The course begins with an overview of revelation and the Nicene Creed. Salvation history is outlined through a study of the Old Testament.

#### **Introduction to Catholic Theology B R710B**

½ credit

**Departmental Approval Required**

**Open to Grades: 9, 10, 11 and 12**

**Course Description:** The course begins with an overview of the New Testament and also includes background knowledge in sacraments, ecclesiology, morality, and social teaching.

#### **Introduction to Scripture**

½ credit required

**Grade 9**

**R701**

**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**

½ credit required

**Grade 9**

**R702**

**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.

<b>The Paschal Mystery</b> <b>½ credit required</b> <b>Grade 10</b>	<b>R703</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> 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.
<b>The Church</b> <b>½ credit required</b> <b>Grade 10</b>	<b>R704</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> 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.
<b>Sacraments</b> <b>½ credit required</b> <b>Grade 11</b>	<b>R722</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> 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.
<b>Morality</b> <b>½ credit required</b> <b>Grade 11</b>	<b>R723</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> 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.
<b>Church History</b> <b>½ credit required</b> <b>Grade 12</b>	<b>R718</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> 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.
<b>Catholic Social Teaching</b> <b>½ credit required</b> <b>Grade 12</b>	<b>R724</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> 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.

## 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 INTEGRATED SCIENCE (BUT MEET CRITERIA TO TAKE HONORS BIOLOGY IN 9<sup>TH</sup> 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 57.***

## LIFE SCIENCES

<b>Biology A</b> ½ credit elective <b>Prerequisite:</b> None	<b>S813A</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> 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.
<b>Biology B</b> ½ credit elective <b>Prerequisite:</b> None	<b>S813B</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> Emphasis will be an exploration of animal anatomy including the dissection of a diverse group of specimens. Testing on dissection skills as well as the anatomy of a variety of differing systems.
<b>Honors Biology</b> 1 credit elective <b>Prerequisite:</b> Completed Algebra I “B” or better; Geometry previously or concurrently; Departmental approval required <b>Open to grades:</b> 9, 10 <i>Students not taking Integrated Science (but meet criteria to take Honors Biology in 9<sup>th</sup> grade) must take a Biology, Chemistry and Physics course.</i>	<b>S814</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> In Pre-AP Biology, students engage in real-world data analysis and problem solving that sparks critical thinking about our living world. As students engage in grade-level content, they utilize the kind of scientific reasoning skills needed to analyze the natural world—and to succeed in future science and social science courses in high school and college.  <a href="https://pre-ap.collegeboard.org/courses/course-descriptions/biology">https://pre-ap.collegeboard.org/courses/course-descriptions/biology</a>
<b>AP Biology</b> 1 credit elective <b>Prerequisite:</b> B average Honors Chemistry <b>Minimum B average in Honors Biology;</b> <b>minimum 3.5 Weighted GPA</b> <b>Departmental approval required</b> <b>Open to grades 11, 12</b>	<b>S830</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> 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.  <a href="https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/ap-biology-course-and-exam-description.pdf">https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/ap-biology-course-and-exam-description.pdf</a>
<b>Anatomy/Physiology A</b> ½ credit elective <b>Prerequisite:</b> Biology; Chemistry (previously or concurrently), minimum 2.75 GPA. Department approval required <b>Open to grades:</b> 11, 12	<b>S434A</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> 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.
<b>Anatomy/Physiology B</b> ½ credit elective <b>Prerequisite:</b> Anatomy/Physiology A <b>Open to grades:</b> 11, 12	<b>S434B</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> Emphasis will be an exploration of <i>an anatomical dissection of a cat and a fetal pig</i> as an integral part of this course. These dissections are done due to their similarity to human anatomy,

## PHYSICAL SCIENCES

<b>Integrated Science A</b> <b>½ credit elective</b> <b>Open to grade: 9</b>	<b>S811A</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> This course will define and improve upon students' base scientific skills of: data analysis, scientific literacy, lab practices, identifying appropriate SI units and metric conversions. Students will polish these skills by studying essential concepts found in Environmental Science and Earth and Space Science
<b>Integrated Science B</b> <b>½ credit elective</b> <b>Open to grade: 9</b>	<b>S811B</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> Emphasis will be an exploration of introductory 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.
<b>Honors Integrated Science</b> <b>1 credit elective</b> <b>Open to grade: 9</b>	<b>S812</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> This course covers the same content as Integrated Science, with the difference being emphasis, pace, performance expectations and level of student responsibility. In Honors Integrated Science there will be a greater emphasis on computational problem solving in areas of physics
<b>Chemistry A</b> <b>½ credit elective</b> <b>Prerequisite: Biology and "C+" or better in Algebra</b> <b>Departmental approval required</b> <b>Open to grades: 10, 11, 12</b>	<b>S829A</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> 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, and phases of matter.
<b>Chemistry B</b> <b>½ credit elective</b> <b>Prerequisite: Chemistry A</b> <b>Departmental approval required</b> <b>Open to grades: 10, 11, 12</b>	<b>S829B</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> Emphasis will be an exploration of the mole concept, periodic trends, atomic radii, as well as ionic and covalent bonding.
<b>Honors Chemistry</b> <b>1 credit elective</b> <b>Prerequisite: Honors Biology and Geometry, "B" or better in Algebra</b> <b>Departmental approval required</b> <b>Open to grades: 10, 11, 12</b>	<b>S819</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> This course covers the same content as Chemistry, with the difference being emphasis, pace and student expectations. In Chemistry there will be a greater emphasis on computational problem solving in areas of stoichiometry, atomic trends, and molar masses as well as a greater emphasis on inquiry-based lab activities.

**AP Chemistry**  
**1 credit elective**  
**Departmental approval required**  
**Open to grades: 11, 12**

**S824**

**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.**

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/ap-chemistry-course-and-exam-description.pdf>

**Physics A**  
**½ credit elective**  
**Prerequisite: Algebra II/Trigonometry**  
**Department approval required**  
**Open to grades: 11, 12**

**S820A**

**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.

**Physics B**  
**½ credit elective**  
**Prerequisite: Physics A**  
**Open to grades: 11, 12**

**S820B**

**Course Description:** Emphasis will be an exploration of electricity and magnetism and electrical circuits, simple harmonic motion, sound, and light. As time permits, modern physical theories will be explored.

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

**S822**

**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.**

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/ap-physics-1-course-and-exam-description.pdf>

**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.**

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/ap-environmental-science-course-and-exam-description.pdf>

**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:**

**World History/AP World History**

**World Geography**

**Global Issues**

**US History/AP US History**

**Government/AP Government & Politics**

**Economics/AP Microeconomics/**

**AP Macroeconomics**

**Psychology/AP Psychology**

**Sociology**

**AP European History**

- 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 A**

**SS913A**

**½ credit**

**Required for grade 10 or grade 11**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Course Description:** This is a one semester course in basic American History, systematically surveying the events that led to the development of the United States. To this end, we will cover the events of the first people in the Americas and continue through the Civil War and Reconstruction Era. The political, economic, and social aspects of American life will be considered.

**US History B**

**SS913B**

**½ credit**

**Required for grade 10 or grade 11**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Course Description:** This is a one semester course in basic American History, systematically surveying the events that led to the development of the United States. To this end, we will cover the events of Post-Reconstruction America and continue through the modern 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** SS911A  
½ credit/1 credit elective  
Fulfills Social Studies graduation requirement  
Prerequisite: None  
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

**Course Description:** This one semester course is a general survey of historical events beginning with the origin of man and continuing through to the Renaissance. Topics include: Prehistoric Man, Ancient and Classical Civilizations of the East and West, the Middle Ages and the Reformation Period. 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.

**World History B** SS911B  
½ credit/1 credit elective  
Fulfills Social Studies graduation requirement  
Prerequisite: None  
Open to grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

**Course Description:** This one semester course is a general survey of historical events beginning Post Renaissance and continuing through to modern civilizations. Topics include: 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** SS923A  
½ credit/1 credit elective  
Fulfills Social Studies graduation requirement  
Prerequisite: None  
Open to grades: 9, 10

**Course Description:** This is a one semester course in basics of World Geography, focusing on North America, Latin America, and Europe. 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 Independence. Strong emphasis will be placed on the characteristics of physical and cultural geography. Units studied will include the political, historical, cultural, and agricultural makeup of each region.

**World Geography B** SS923B  
½ credit/1 credit elective  
Fulfills Social Studies graduation requirement  
Prerequisite: None  
Open to grades: 9, 10

**Course Description:** This is a one semester course in basics of World Geography, focusing on Africa, Asia, and the Pacific region. 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 Independence. Strong emphasis will be placed on the characteristics of physical and cultural geography. Units studied will include the political, historical, cultural, and agricultural makeup 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.

Psychology ½ credit elective <i>Does not fulfill Social Studies graduation requirement</i> Prerequisite: None Open to grades: 11, 12	SS914	<b>Course Description:</b> 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.
AP Psychology 1 credit elective <i>Does not fulfill Social Studies graduation requirement</i> Department Recommendation Required Open to grades: 11, 12	SS925	<b>Course Description:</b> 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. <b>Students are required to take the AP Psychology exam in May.</b>
Sociology ½ credit elective <i>Does not fulfill Social Studies graduation requirement</i> Prerequisite: None Open to grades: 11, 12	SS915	<b>Course Description:</b> 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.
AP European History 1 credit elective Fulfills Social Studies graduation requirement Department Recommendation Required Open to Grades 11, 12	SS926	<b>Course Description:</b> 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. <b>Students are required to take the AP European History exam in May.</b>

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. Other students interested can contact their School Counselor or Mrs. Coste de Falk at [gloriacostedefalk@grwestcatholic.org](mailto:gloriacostedefalk@grwestcatholic.org)

#### **Spanish I A FL319A**

½ credit elective

**Prerequisite:** None

**Open to grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12

***Note:** Students who fail 1<sup>st</sup> semester Spanish I will be placed into another class for 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. A student will learn the high frequency words of the present tense through picture talks, movie talks and readings. Students will be able to explain their likes and dislikes, describe a flag, write the date, tell the time, describe the weather and other basic sentences in Spanish.

#### **Spanish I B FL319B**

½ credit elective

**Prerequisite:** None

**Open to grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12

***Note:** Students who fail 1<sup>st</sup> semester Spanish I will be placed into another class for 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:** Students will learn how to describe their family using adjectives (intrinsic and extrinsic), expand on their high frequency vocabulary of the top 16 verbs in Spanish in the present tense. Students will also learn possessive adjectives, prepositions, locations, and other useful Spanish vocabulary.

#### **Spanish II A FL320A**

½ 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. Students will learn and review present tense structures: stem changers, dolderse, near future, and progressive. Students will also learn vocabulary in the following topics : body parts, health, comparisons, clothing and demonstrative adjectives.

**Spanish II B**      **FL320B**  
 ½ credit elective  
**Prerequisite:** Spanish I or  
 equivalent with a C or  
 higher  
**Open to grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12

**Course Description:** Students will learn preterite, imperfect and informal commands. Students will also learn vocabulary in the following topics: travel, country descriptions/research (of Spanish speaking countries) and object pronouns. Students will grow their knowledge by reading fables.

**Spanish III A**      **FL321A**  
 ½ 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. Students will intensely review and achieve proficiency in the preterite and imperfect tenses with travel vocabulary. Students will also learn formal commands, environmental vocabulary and cooking vocabulary.

**Spanish III B**      **FL321B**  
 ½ credit elective  
**Prerequisite:** Spanish II  
 with an A/B average and  
 teacher recommendation.  
**Open to grades:** 10, 11, 12

**Course Description:** Students will learn the following tenses: future, conditional, subjunctive with dependent clauses, present perfect, past perfect, future perfect and conditional perfect. Many different themes will be learned to prepare for the 6 themes presented on the AP Spanish Language and Culture test.

**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**      **FL323**  
**Language**  
 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.**

---

<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>
Spanish I	→	Spanish II	→	Spanish III	→	AP Spanish
Spanish II*	→	Advanced Spanish	→	AP Spanish	→	College Spanish

---

*\*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.*

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

## **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.

#### **Freshman Skills A     G010A**

*Credit only – no grade assigned*

**Prerequisite:** None

**Open to grade:** 9

**Course Description:** Previously known as Academic Support Center (ASC). Freshman Skills provides a unique opportunity for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students to receive individualized assistance and instruction in their areas of established need. Freshman Skills addresses a student's needs by offering a small, structured classroom where students received direct instruction and support on homework, class work, essay writing, note taking, organization, time management, study skills and test taking strategies. Freshman Skills ensures future academic success as students progress through their high school career at West Catholic. Appropriate student candidates to enroll in Freshman Skills are those with diagnosed learning needs, those undergoing intervention services and those with a documented history of academic struggle.

#### **Freshman Skills B     G010B**

*Credit only – no grade assigned*

**Prerequisite:** None

**Open to grade:** 9

**Course Description:** See Freshman Skills A

#### **Mastery Skills A     G010A**

*Credit only – no grade assigned*

**Prerequisite:** None

**Open to grades:** 10, 11, 12

**Course Description:** Previously known as Academic Support Center (ASC). Mastery Skills provides a unique opportunity for students to receive individualized assistance and instruction in their areas of established need. Master Skills addresses students' needs by offering a small, structured classroom where students receive direct instruction and support on homework, class work, essay writing, note taking, organization, time management, study skills and test taking strategies. Mastery Skills ensures future academic success as students progress through their high school career at West Catholic and prepare for post-secondary placements. Appropriate student candidates to enroll in Mastery Skills are those with diagnosed learning needs, those undergoing intervention services, and those with a documented history of academic struggle.

#### **Mastery Skills B     G010B**

*Credit only – no grade assigned*

**Prerequisite:** None

**Open to grades:** 10, 11, 12

**Course Description:** See Mastery Skills A

#### **Sidekick Program     001A/B**

*Credit only – no grade assigned*

**Prerequisite:** Application and Director approval

**Open to grades:** 11, 12

**Course Description:** 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**

<b>Study Hall</b>	<b>000A/B</b>	<b>Course Description:</b> A non-credit hour during the school day for students to study and prepare homework.
<b>Prerequisite:</b>	<b>None</b>	
<b>Open to grades:</b>	<b>9, 10, 11, 12</b>	
<b>Focus Time</b>		<b>Description:</b> Responsive scheduling for a teacher directed period to be utilized for academics, school counseling, administrative business or specific organizations.
<b>Pomodoro</b>		<b>Description:</b> 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](mailto: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	
Science	3 credits	substitute ½ credit of Phys. Ed	
Social Studies	3 credits	Computer Science, Engineering	
		& Innovation, Media Arts & Design,	
		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](mailto: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** – For Dual Enrollment options go to:  
<https://www.grwestcatholic.org/curriculum-guide/>

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. To receive replacement credit on a student's transcript, the specific course must be retaken. If the course is being taken using a program outside of West Catholic, permission must be granted from the Administration. Generally, permission is granted if the original grade is a C+ or lower.
  - b. Students and parents are encouraged to schedule a meeting with their school counselor to discuss the grade replacement process and understand how replacement credits will be reflected on a student's transcript.
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. \*\*Please note: Counselors reserve the right to adjust class hours to balance classes.
  - 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 or hour 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 may have two to three hours of homework (written and/or reading work) each night and are expected to take textbooks home for this purpose. Students falling behind in their homework may be assigned to Pomodoro for an unspecified amount of time until their work is caught up.

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. 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 at Pomodoro. However, if a student has been assigned to Pomodoro more than one time and fails to improve, that student may be placed on Academic Probation at the determination of Administration.

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: leaving a virtual assessment in the middle of the allotted time, 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/her 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](http://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 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](http://grwestcatholic.org)

#### **Infinite Campus**

The Infinite Campus Portal is a Student Management System that provides parents and students access to view grades, attendance, behavior, food service and much more for both students and parents.

#### **Canvas**

Canvas is a Learning Management System (LMS) that allows teachers to provide instructional support, class calendars, assignments and resources for students in a safe online environment. For traditional face to face classes, Canvas is an integral part of sharing blended classroom instruction.

#### **Google Apps for Education**

All West Catholic students are setup with a school-managed Google account. This account gives users a free platform for document creation, document storage, collaboration 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.

#### **JAMF Parent App**

JAMF Parent is an app that will give you an optional layer of control over your son/daughter's school issued iPad from your own device. In addition to the safeguards that are already in place for all student devices, this app allows you to restrict content and apps, setup rules on devices and create timeframes for access. This functionality is available to parents only outside of school hours.

#### **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](http://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
<b>ART</b>	Art I Art Palette	Art II Art Palette	Art III Art Palette	Art IV AP Art Art Palette
<b>COMPUTER SCIENCE</b>	AP Computer Sci Principles Business Technology Computer Essentials <i>C# Programming I/II</i> Python Programming	AP Computer Sci Principles AP Computer Science Business Technology <i>C# Programming I/II</i> Computer Essentials Python Programming	AP Computer Sci Principles AP Computer Science Business Technology <i>C# Programming I/II</i> Computer Essentials Python Programming	AP Computer Sci Principles AP Computer Science Business Technology <i>C# Programming I/II</i> Computer Essentials Python Programming
<b>ENGINEERING AND INNOVATION</b>	Robotics I Robotics II	Robotics I Robotics II	Robotics I Robotics II Pre-Engineering	Robotics I Robotics II Pre-Engineering
<b>ENGLISH</b>	Honors English I English I Oral Communication	Honors English II English II Oral Communication	AP Eng. Lang. & Comp. English III Oral Communication	AP Eng. Lang. & Comp. AP Eng. Lit. & Comp. English IV Oral Communication
<b>LIFE SKILLS</b>	Personal Power A/B	Personal Power A/B	Personal Power A/B	Personal Power A/B
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	Pre-Algebra Algebra I H-Algebra I Geometry H-Geometry Algebra II H-Algebra II	Geometry H-Geometry Algebra II H-Algebra II Pre-Calculus H-Pre-Calculus	Algebra II H-Algebra II Pre-Calculus Calculus H-Pre-Calculus AP Calculus Statistics AP Statistics	Analysis Pre-Calculus Calculus H-Pre-Calculus AP Calculus Statistics AP Statistics Personal Finance
<b>MEDIA ARTS AND DESIGN</b>	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
<b>INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL MUSIC</b>	Concert Band Marching Band Jazz Band Music Appreciation Concert Choir Theatre I/II	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
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b>	Physical Activities Health Recreational Sports Strength Training Team Sports	Health Recreational Sports Strength Training Team Sports	Recreational Sports Sports Officiating Strength Training Team Sports	Recreational Sports Sports Officiating Strength Training Team Sports
<b>RELIGION</b>	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
<b>SCIENCE</b>	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
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>	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 AP Microeconomics Psychology AP Psychology Sociology Global Issues AP European History	World History AP World History Government AP Government/Politics Economics AP Macroeconomics AP Microeconomics Psychology AP Psychology Sociology Global Issues AP European History
<b>WORLD LANGUAGE</b>	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
<b>ENGLISH</b>	4 credits	4 credits	4 credits
<b>RELIGION</b>	4 credits	-----	-----
<b>MATH</b>	4 credits	4 credits including Alg. II	3 credits - does not include Pre-Algebra Or any remedial level math course
<b>SCIENCE</b>	3 credits	4 credits	2 credits - must Include 1 cr. lab science 1-Phys. Science
<b>SOCIAL SCIENCE</b>	3 credits	3 credits	2 credits
<b>PHYS. ED.</b>	1/2 credit	-----	-----
<b>HEALTH</b>	1/2 credit		
<b>ELECTIVES</b>	2 credits	5-7 credits	4 credits in above areas, or for. lang. computers
<b>WORLD LANGUAGE</b>	2 credits	2-4 credits	
<b>COMPUTER SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND INNOVATION, MEDIA ARTS AND DESIGN AND VISUAL/ PERFORMING ARTS</b>			NOTE: 1 year of additional courses in math, English or natural or Phys. science
	1 credit		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24 credits</b>	<b>22-26 credits</b>	<b>**16 core credits</b>

## **A GUIDE FOR THE COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENT ATHLETE**

Student-athletes should thoroughly research and identify colleges that not only offer their desired sport but also align with their academic goals. It's essential to recognize that college athletics fall under various organizations such as the NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA, each with its own set of eligibility criteria for student-athletes. Understanding and meeting these requirements is crucial, as athletes must be both academically and athletically eligible to participate in college sports.

There are many ways to prepare for collegiate athletics, but here are some basic guidelines to become and remain eligible to play at your chosen college.

- Begin preparing for the college recruitment process as early as freshman or sophomore year of high school.
- Maintain good grades throughout high school. Many athletic organizations have academic requirements students must meet to be eligible to play.
- Familiarize yourself with the NCAA or NAIA eligibility requirements. Maintain eligibility by meeting academic standards and avoiding violations of recruiting rules. Verify requirements of other organizations to ensure compliance.
- Seek guidance from high school coaches, counselors, and recruiting services. They can offer valuable advice and assistance throughout the recruitment process.

For detailed guidance on college options and eligibility, student-athletes are encouraged to schedule meetings with their school counselor.

## **NCAA ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES**

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**

<b>English</b>	<b>Science</b>	<b>Social Science</b>
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
<b>Mathematics</b>	Physics	World Geography
Algebra I	AP Physics	World History
Algebra II	AP Environmental Science	AP World History
Honors Algebra II		Global Issues
Analysis		AP European History
Calculus		<b>Additional Core Courses</b>
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](http://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 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
<b>ART:</b>			AP Art	AP Art
<b>ENGLISH:</b>	Honors English I	Honors English II	AP English Lang & Comp	AP English Lit & Comp
<b>MATH:</b>	Honors Geometry	Honors Geometry Honors Algebra II	Honors Algebra II Honors Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus AP Statistics
<b>SCIENCE:</b>	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
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES:</b>	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
<b>TECH :</b>	AP Computer Science Principles	AP Computer Science AP Computer Science Principles	AP Computer Science AP Computer Science Principles	AP Computer Science AP Computer Science Principles
<b>WORLD LANGUAGE:</b>			AP Spanish  Dual Enrollment	AP Spanish  Dual Enrollment

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM

<b>GRADE 9-12:</b>	Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles Advanced Placement World History
<b>GRADE 10-12:</b>	Advanced Placement Computer Science
<b>GRADE 10 OR 11:</b>	Advanced Placement U.S. History
<b>GRADE 11:</b>	Advanced Placement English Language & Composition
<b>GRADE 11 OR 12:</b>	Advanced Placement Art Advanced Placement Calculus Advanced Placement Statistics
<b>GRADE 11 OR 12:</b>	Advanced Placement Chemistry Advanced Placement Biology Advanced Placement Environmental Science
<b>GRADE 11 OR 12:</b>	Advanced Placement Government Advanced Placement Microeconomics Advanced Placement Macroeconomics Advanced Placement Psychology Advanced Placement European History Advanced Placement Spanish
<b>GRADE 12:</b>	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 encouraged 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](http://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)