



**ST. JOHN'S  
NORTHWESTERN  
ACADEMIES**

## Academic Guide School Year 2025-2026 [Welcome Video from Faculty](#)

St. John's Northwestern is dedicated to the individual preparation of its students for success in college and in life. The combination of smaller classes, access to teachers on a one-to-one basis, experienced faculty, and rigorous courses create a learning environment that is both structured and nurturing. It is our mission to facilitate academic curiosity, intellectual growth and scholastic success for each student. The middle school is for students in grades 7 and 8. The high school program is for students in grades 9 through 12.

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## General Information

### Grading and Credits

The academic year is divided into two semesters; a semester is divided into two quarters. Only the semester grade shows on the student's official transcript of academic record. Most courses are worth one-half credit per semester. Semester grades are calculated as follows:

#### Middle School Courses:

Quarter Grade (50%) + Quarter Grade (50%) = Semester Grade

#### High School Courses:

Quarter Grade (40%) + Quarter Grade (40%) + Semester Exam Score (20%)  
= Semester Grade

Grade points are utilized in the computation of grade point average (GPA) according to the applicable grade scale shown here. Weighted GPA shows on the transcript.

### Scheduling

Students select year-long or semester classes to fill seven class periods. We work hard to give students all requested courses; however, scheduling conflicts may arise in which a student may need to select another course. Only necessary schedule changes are considered after the semester starts.

### Accreditation and Memberships

- Independent Schools Association of the Central States (accreditation)
- National Association of Independent Schools
- Association of Military Schools & Colleges of the United States
- The College Board
- Wisconsin Independent Schools Assoc.
- Midwest Boarding Schools Association
- The Association of Boarding Schools

Standard Grade Scale			HS Honors/AP/College Level Grade Scale		
Percent	Letter	Grade Points	Percent	Letter	Grade Points
93-100	A	4.0	93-100	A+	5.0
90-92	A-	3.7	90-92	A	4.7
87-89	B+	3.3	87-89	A-	4.3
83-86	B	3.0	83-86	B+	4.0
80-82	B-	2.7	80-82	B	3.7
77-79	C+	2.3	77-79	B-	3.3
73-76	C	2.0	73-76	C+	3.0
70-72	C-	1.7	70-72	C	2.7
67-69	D+	1.3	67-69	C-	2.3
63-66	D	1.0	63-66	D+	2.0
60-62	D-	0.7	60-62	D	1.7
59/Below	F	0	59/Below	F	0

## HIGH SCHOOL, Grades 9-12

### Credit and GPA Transfer Policy

The credit and GPA transfer will follow as closely as possible the credits and grades earned at a student's previous high school. We accept the weighted GPA from other schools with a limit of 1.0 weighted score for Honors and Advanced Placement classes and the normal increase for accelerated classes. If a grade scale is not provided by the previous school, grades will be calculated according to SJN's grade scale.

### International Students

International students are assessed at the beginning of the term and placed in courses accordingly. Students may need to complete a rigorous ESL learning program before entering into mainstream courses. Graduation requirements may be adjusted based upon a student's English proficiency.

**Honors Courses** increase rigor while providing a robust, in-depth learning experience. To enroll in an honors class, students must meet all prerequisites and receive instructor approval, including earning a minimum of a 90% in a previous standard-scale course. If a student's grade is not maintained at a minimum of 85% while enrolled in an honors course, the student will be under review and may be transferred out of honors and into a standard equivalent.

**Advanced Placement (AP) courses** are full-year honors courses; the goal of AP coursework is to earn a minimum score of a 3 on the annual AP Exam to potentially earn college credit for that course. Students should verify with each college of choice regarding the acceptance of AP scores and minimum requirements. Students desiring to take AP courses must meet all prerequisites and receive approval from the academic department. Students enrolling in an AP course are required to complete the AP Exam at the end of second semester. Test fees apply.

### AP courses for 2025-2026 school year\*

AP Language & Composition (1.0 cr.)  
 AP World History (1.0 cr.)  
 AP Seminar (1.0 cr.)  
 AP Human Geography (1.0 cr.)  
 AP Psychology (1.0 cr.)  
 AP Physics (1.0 cr. each)  
 AP Chemistry (1.0 cr.)  
 AP Computer Science (1.0 cr.)  
 AP Calculus AB (1.0 cr.)  
 AP Chinese (1.0 cr.)

*\*Subject to change based on enrollment*

**Dual credit college courses** are semester courses that allow students to earn both high school credit (0.5 cr./semester) and college credit (credits vary). Students who successfully complete the course will receive college credit from our partner university. Some college courses require students to qualify through a placement exam (ie. Math and English). All college courses are taught by university-certified instructors and may take place on or off the SJNA campus. **An extra fee per college credit hour will be charged to the student's account and is based on university tuition rates.** High school transcripts reflect courses as dual credit but only show high school credit. Transcripts reflecting college credit are available through the hosting university.

College Courses for 2025-2026 school year*					
Semester 1	High School Credit	College Credit	Semester 2	High School Credit	College Credit
Biology (full year)	1.0	4.0	Environmental Science (full year)	1.0	4.0
Communication 101	0.5	3.0	Composition / Writing 101	0.5	3.0
US History to 1865	0.5	3.0	US History Since 1865	0.5	3.0
Early Modern Civilizations (1500-1815)	0.5	3.0	Modern Civilizations (1815 - Present)	0.5	3.0
Art History I (Prehistoric - Middle Ages)	0.5	3.0	Art History II (Renaissance - Present)	0.5	3.0
General Economics	0.5	3.0	Essentials of Financial Accounting	0.5	3.0
Algebra	0.5	3.0	Statistics	0.5	3.0
Introduction to Business	0.5	3.0	Financial Literacy	0.5	3.0
Introduction to Education	0.5	3.0			

*\*Subject to change based on enrollment*

## High School Graduation Requirements

To graduate from St. John's Northwestern a minimum of 24 total credits are required. Of the total credits, some academic departments require a specific number of credits and courses as a minimum. Two honors diplomas are offered for students desiring to follow a higher learning track: STEM Honors and Humanities Honors. These options have additional graduation requirements per the chart below. Electives are credits or courses taken by choice beyond the minimum course and department requirements regardless of the department in which they are earned.

Graduation Requirements			
Department	COLLEGE PREP DIPLOMA 24 total credits 2.0 cumulative GPA	STEM HONORS DIPLOMA 25 total credits 3.0 cumulative GPA	HUMANITIES HONORS DIPLOMA 25 total credits 3.0 cumulative GPA
ENGLISH	4.0 credits	4.0 credits	4.0 credits, 2.0 cr. honors level
MATHEMATICS	3.0 credits Courses: Geometry; Algebra 2	4.0 credits, 2.0 cr. honors level Courses: Trig/Pre-Calc Hnrs or Calculus	3.0 credits Courses: Geometry; Algebra 2
SOCIAL STUDIES	3.0 credits Courses: U.S. History	3.0 credits Courses: U.S. History	4.0 credits, 2.0 cr. honors level Courses: U.S. History
SCIENCE	3.0 credits Courses: Biology; Chem. or Physics	4.0 credits, 2.0 cr. honors level Courses: Biology; Chem. or Physics	3.0 credits Courses: Biology; Chem. or Physics
WORLD LANGUAGES	2.0 credits, same language	2.0 credits, same language	3.0 credits, same language
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1.5 credits Courses: Health	1.5 credits Courses: Health	1.5 credits Courses: Health
TECHNOLOGY	1.0 credit	2.0 credits	1.0 credit
FINE ART	1.0 credits	1.0 credits	1.0 credits
JROTC (for cadets only)	1.0 credit	1.0 credit	1.0 credit
COLLEGE & CAREER PLN	0.5 credit	0.5 credit	0.5 credit
PERSONAL FINANCE**	0.5 credit	0.5 credit	0.5 credit

*English/World Language requirements for international students may differ based upon language proficiency and will be determined by the Academic Office*

*\*\*Requirement starting with Class 2028*

## AP Capstone Diploma™ Program

AP Capstone™ is a diploma program from College Board based on two year long AP courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. St. John's Northwestern is one of approximately 3,500 schools worldwide to offer AP® Seminar, which is part of the [AP Capstone Diploma™ program](#). The program focuses on developing essential skills for college and career success, such as critical thinking, research, collaboration, and communication. Students who score a 3 or higher in both AP Seminar and AP Research, as well as on four additional AP Exams of their choosing, earn the AP Capstone Diploma. This signifies outstanding academic achievement and attainment of college-level academic and research skills. Students who score a 3 or higher in both AP Seminar and AP Research (and not on 4 additional AP Exams) earn the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.

AP Seminar is the 10th grade honors English course, and can be taken as an elective offering for juniors and seniors. AP Research is scheduled to be offered beginning in Fall 2026. In partnership with the higher education community, College Board developed AP Capstone courses so students can practice and master skills essential for success in college and career.

# EDUCATED TO LEAD

## SJNA GRADUATE PROFILE

### Multidisciplinary Education



Our graduates will be able to apply a broad and varied knowledge base from STEM, humanities, and leadership courses to engage critically and adaptively in diverse fields. They will excel in interpersonal skills, collaborating effectively, communicating respectfully, and valuing diverse perspectives.

### 21st Century Literacy



St. John's Northwestern graduates can confidently and professionally express ideas through writing, speech, and media. They will possess strong critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, analyzing information from diverse perspectives to make informed decisions.

### College Ready



St. John's Northwestern graduates demonstrate academic excellence through SAT and ACT scores, and AP and Dual Enrollment programs. They are well-prepared for success at top-tier universities, supported by a foundation of rigorous academics and personalized college counseling.

### Civic Character



Our graduates embody integrity and social responsibility, treating all people with respect and dignity. St. John's Northwestern graduates are servant leaders with strong social and emotional skills, developed through student governance and our service learning culture - all within a safe and supportive living and learning community.

### Global & Cultural Awareness



St. John's Northwestern graduates have friends from all corners of the world and experience the rich cultural diversity of an international boarding school environment. Our graduates have a broad global perspective and cultivate an appreciation for languages, cultures, and world issues.

## Course Requirements and Offerings

**Full-year courses (unshaded in departmental tables below) earn 1.0 credits.** Students taking full-year courses are expected to remain in the course the entire year. **Semester courses (shaded in tables below) earn 0.5 credit;** these courses are offered either 1st or 2nd semester or both semesters as indicated in the following tables. **Course offerings and schedule are subject to change.** Exceptions to requirements or grade levels are approved through the Academic Office. See course descriptions for all course prerequisites.

ENGLISH		
<b>Requirements:</b> 4.0 department credits		
<b>Humanities Diploma Requirements:</b> 4.0 department credits, 2 at honors level		
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	English 9 (1.0 cr.) or English 9 Honors (1.0 cr.)	
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	English 10 (1.0 cr.) or AP Seminar (1.0 cr.)	
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>Sem. 1</b>	<b>Sem. 2</b>
	English 11 (1.0 cr.)	
	AP Language & Composition (1.0 cr.)	
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>Sem. 1</b>	<b>Sem. 2</b>
	College Communication (0.5 cr.)	College Composition (0.5 cr.)
	English 12 (1.0 cr.)	

## Course Descriptions

**ENGLISH 9** This course provides a better understanding of English grammar, sentence structure, paragraph structure and essay structure. This course also concentrates on vocabulary skills while building on higher level reading comprehension. Students are introduced to general vocabulary as well as literary terminology. Students assimilate this knowledge in a working context. English 9 focuses on writing mechanics and an introduction to literature.  
*Length: 2 sem.*

**ENGLISH 9 HONORS** This course is for the student who has previously demonstrated excellence in vocabulary development, reading comprehension and written self-expression. Students are expected to read, analyze, and write at an accelerated pace. This is a genre-driven course of poetry, short stories (fiction and nonfiction) and novels as well as drama to include a Shakespearean selection. The student's response to literary assignments drives the majority of their writing. Students study the historical background of a writer and literary piece to help place context on a variety of themes and criticism. Essay construction is taught as a writing process to provide students with a structure for idea placement. Emphasized is thesis-support essays of mechanical cleanliness and accurate grammatical structure of writing. Additionally, students regularly engage in college-bound vocabulary development and practice.  
*Length: 2 sem.*  
*Maintain 3.0 course GPA*

**ENGLISH 10** A course designed to further develop student reading, writing and oral presentation skills. Emphasis is placed upon basic and intermediate composition using rhetorical writing devices: the narrative, descriptive, persuasive, comparison and contrast and expository essays. Analysis of short stories using the elements of a short story; appreciation and analysis of drama using one Shakespearean play; introduction to the formal research paper using the MLA format--and development of that topic into a 7-10 minute oral presentation in front of the class; and appreciation and analysis of poetry (to include narrative, dramatic and lyric poetry) are additional requirements. At least two novels are also read, examined and analyzed.  
*Length: 2 sem.*

**AP SEMINAR** AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and foundational literary and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in research-based written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments.  
*(English 10 Honors Equivalent)*  
*Length: 2 sem*  
*Maintain 3.0 course GPA*

**ENGLISH 11** English 11 students will read, respond to, and reflect upon literary and informational texts as they explore facets of the American identity through an intensive study of short stories, essays, and novels. They will analyze the literature through the perspective of the historical significance, exploring the relationship between American writing and ideas of the past and ideas and philosophies of the present. Students are expected to read actively and think critically to absorb a work, responding in expository and analytical essays. Thematic selections include novels, short stories, poems, biographies, critical commentaries, films, and other media. Additional focus areas include comprehension strategies, grammar study, and impromptu writing. Students' understanding of each unit's content and skills will be measured through formative and summative assessments.  
*Length: 2 sem.*

**ENGLISH 12** In English 12, students continue to refine their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language skills. With a focus on World and Modern literature, students examine and evaluate various perspectives concerning individual, community, national, and world issues. Emphasis will be placed on the worldview, encouraging students to understand that local and national issues often have an international impact. Students will build up their background knowledge and academic discourse around multiple themes and texts. This course will also prepare seniors for their Senior Speech requirement and lessons on public speaking and oral communication interwoven throughout the year.

*Length: 2 sem.*

**AP LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION** The AP English Language and Composition course focuses on the development and revision of evidence-based analytic and argumentative writing, the rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts, and the decisions writers make as they compose and revise. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Additionally, they read and analyze rhetorical elements and their effects in nonfiction texts—including images as forms of text—from a range of disciplines and historical periods.

*Length: 2 sem.*  
*PREQ: English 9 and 10*  
*Instructor Approval*  
*Min. 3.0 cum. GPA.*

### DUAL CREDIT (High School and College Credit) *Additional fee.*

**COLLEGE COMPOSITION** This course provides study and practice in rhetoric and essay writing, emphasizing writing as a process of invention, drafting, revising and editing. Students will practice writing in following genres: personal reflective essay, compare and contrast essay, research paper, rhetorical analysis paper, persuasive call-to-action/debate speech. The main goal of the course is to encourage good writing habits for life, both inside and outside the classroom. Effective reading strategies and critical thinking skills are also key components of the course. *0.5 high school credit will be earned. Additional fees apply if taking for college credit. Students will earn 3.0 college credits.*

*Length: 1 sem.*  
*PREQ: English 9 and 10*  
*Instructor Approval*  
*Min. 3.0 cum. GPA*

**COLLEGE COMMUNICATION** This course introduces the basic concepts of human communication in relation to personal branding with special emphasis on adapting to diverse cultural audiences. The course includes practice in Informative Speaking, Critical Listening/Evaluation of Persuasive Messages, Interpersonal Communication, and Digital Communication. Creating a personal brand is meant to influence perceptions of others about one's credibility and expertise. Through communication, people create impressions about their competencies and achievements in order to have an impact on others. *0.5 high school credit will be earned. Additional fees apply if taking for college credit. Students will earn 3.0 college credits.*

*Length: 1 sem.*  
*PREQ: English 9 and 10*  
*Instructor Approval*  
*Min. 3.0 cum. GPA*

## ENGLISH AS SECOND LANGUAGE

**Requirements:** New international students are given a variety of English language proficiency assessments upon entering SJNA. Students not meeting the minimum English proficiency requirements, as determined by the academic department, are required to take one or more ESL courses until the minimum requirement is met. Students are assessed regularly and are eligible to advance to the next level every semester.

9 <sup>th</sup> / 10 <sup>th</sup> / 11 <sup>th</sup> / 12 <sup>th</sup> grade	Sem. 1	Sem. 2
	ESL HS Beginning Literacy 1	ESL HS Beginning Literacy 2
	ESL HS Intermediate Literacy 1	ESL HS Intermediate Literacy 2
	HS American Literature for ESL	HS American Literature for ESL 2
	ESL Study Lab	ESL Study Lab

## Course Descriptions

**HS BEGINNING LITERACY** This is an ESL literacy course for all new international students in high school entering SJNA and testing at the Entering (Level 1) & Emerging (Level 2) of the WIDA Consortium English Language Proficiency Standards. New international students enrolled in this course may be at the early stages of literacy and/or had little exposure to understanding the written language of English. The focus of this course is to expose ESL students to different academic texts, build reading strategies, academic English vocabulary, grammar and writing at the entering and emerging levels.

*Length: 1-2 sem.*

**HS INTERMEDIATE LITERACY** This is an ESL literacy course for all new international students in middle school entering SJNA and testing at the Developing (Level 3) & Expanding (Level 4) of the WIDA Consortium English Language Proficiency Standards. New international students enrolled in this course may have already developed foundational grammar, good writing and reading skills and had some exposure to understanding the written language of English. The focus of this course is to expose ESL students to different academic texts, strengthen reading strategies, improve academic English vocabulary, grammar and writing at the developing and expanding levels. The course is built on thematic units promoting 21st century academic skills by teaching key reading skills, grammar for writing, higher order thinking skills and a wide range of general and academic vocabulary preparing students for college classrooms.

*Length: 1-2 sem*

**ESL STUDY LAB** This study period is scheduled during the academic day and is designed for students to get individualized additional support in all academic classes. This class specifically supports ESL students at proficiency levels 1-3.

*Length: 1-2 sem.*



## MATHEMATICS

**Math Requirements:** 3.0 department credits; Courses: Algebra I (or equivalent) Geometry, Algebra 2 (or equivalents);

**STEM Diploma Requirements:** 4.0 department credits, 2.0 credits at honors level; Courses: Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus Honors OR Calculus/Stats

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Foundations of Algebra (0.5 cr. per semester)	
	Algebra 1 (1.0 cr.)	
	Geometry (1.0 cr.) or Geometry Hnrs (1.0 cr.) if Algebra 1 taken in 8th grade	
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Geometry (1.0 cr.) or Geometry Honors (1.0 cr.)	
	Algebra 2 (1.0 cr.) or Algebra 2 Honors (1.0 cr.)	
11 <sup>th</sup> / 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Sem. 1	Sem. 2
	College Algebra (0.5 cr.)*	College Statistics (0.5 cr.)*
	Algebra 2 (1.0 cr.) or Algebra 2 Honors (1.0 cr.)	
	Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus (1.0 cr.) or Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus Honors (1.0 cr.)	
	AP Calculus AB (1.0 cr.)	

## Course Descriptions

**FOUNDATIONS OF ALGEBRA** Foundations of Algebra is designed for students who are not yet ready for Algebra 1 and are recommended for additional learning support at the high school level. The Foundations of Algebra curriculum targets the key concepts of algebraic thinking, place value, computational fluency, concepts of fractions, measurement, and data. Students will earn an elective pass/fail credit for each semester of the course and significant support for success in the Algebra course.

*Length: 1 or 2 sem.*

*PREQ: Teacher recommendation*

**ALGEBRA 1** This first year algebra course includes work with numerical expressions. It also covers axioms, inequalities, absolute values, word problems, functions, graphing, linear equations, systems, exponents, radicals, and operations with polynomials, factoring, and an introduction to quadratic equations. Calculator usage will be required and directed towards analysis of functions, graphs and systems of equations.

*Length: 2 sem.*

**GEOMETRY** The major goals of geometry are to acquaint students with the structure of geometry as a mathematical system and to develop the student's ability to do abstract logical reasoning. This is a basic course in Euclidean plane geometry, with deductive reasoning and proofs. Solid geometry, area, volume, and surface area of various figures are studied. The basic principles of trigonometry are covered in this course. Computer use will be directed towards the development and strengthening of student comprehension in the above areas through the tutorial and project based software included with the text.

*Length: 2 sem.*

*PREQ: Alg. 1*

**GEOMETRY HONORS** This course is designed to be a challenging alternative to the regular Geometry course for those students who had a B+ or better average in their first year algebra course. Students interested in taking the course should have a strong interest in math. Topics covered in the class will include, but are not limited to: deductive reasoning and proofs, solid geometry, area, volume and trigonometry. Each of these topics will be explored through theory and application. Projects involving research, analysis and writing skills will be used to include a cross curricular approach.

*Length: 2 sem.*

*PREQ: Alg. , Instructor Approval*

**ALGEBRA 2** This second year algebra course builds on Algebra 1 topics with linear functions and explores new functions including polynomial, rational, radical, and exponential and logarithmic. There will be heavy emphasis on working with quadratic functions. Students will work closely with expressions that define new functions and learn how to identify key features, graph, manipulate, solve and model by applications. Calculator usage will be required.

*Length: 2 sem.*

*PREQ: Alg. 1*

**ALGEBRA 2 HONORS** This is a second year course in the Algebra sequence and is designed to be an alternative to regular Algebra II course for those students who achieved a B+ or better average in Algebra I. Students interested in this course should have a strong interest in math and have a solid background. Topics covered in this course will cover but are not limited to: a more in-depth review of Algebra I concepts, rational expressions, matrices, irrational and complex numbers, analytic geometry, solving quadratics and trigonometry concepts.

*Length: 2 sem*

*PREQ: Alg. 1, Instructor Approval*

**TRIGONOMETRY/ PRECALCULUS** Completing the algebra/geometry sequence, this course reviews algebra topics, with an in-depth study of functions (exponential, logarithmic, polynomial, circular, and transcendental). Graphing techniques, sequences, probability, introductory calculus, and analytical geometry are included. Computer usage will involve analysis of trigonometric functions, statistics and probability. Also the use of graphing utilities will be used throughout.

*Length: 2 sem.*

*PREQ: Alg. 2*

<b>TRIGONOMETRY /PRECALCULUS HONORS</b> <i>Length: 2 sem.</i> <i>PREQ: Alg. 2, Instructor Approval</i>	<p>Completing the algebra/geometry sequence, this course reviews algebra topics, with an in-depth study of functions (exponential, logarithmic, polynomial, circular, and transcendental). Graphing techniques, sequences, probability, introductory calculus, and analytical geometry are included. Computer usage will involve analysis of trigonometric functions, statistics and probability. Also the use of graphing utilities will be used throughout. Course will cover topics more in-depth than the standard course.</p>
<b>AP CALCULUS AB</b> <i>Length: 2 sem.</i> <i>PREQ: Trig/Pre Calc., Instructor Approval Placement test req</i>	<p>AP Calculus AB focuses on students' understanding of calculus concepts and provides experience with methods and applications. Through the use of big ideas of calculus (e.g., modeling change, approximation and limits, and analysis of functions), each course becomes a cohesive whole, rather than a collection of unrelated topics. This course requires students to use definitions and theorems to build arguments and justify conclusions and features a multi-representational approach to calculus, with concepts, results, and problems expressed graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. Exploring connections among these representations builds understanding of how calculus applies limits to develop important ideas, definitions, formulas, and theorems. A sustained emphasis on clear communication of methods, reasoning, justifications, and conclusions is essential. Students should regularly use technology to reinforce relationships among functions, to confirm written work, to implement experimentation, and to assist in interpreting results.</p>
<b>DUAL CREDIT (High School and College Credit)</b> <i>Additional fee.</i>	
<b>COLLEGE STATISTICS</b> <i>Length: 1 sem.</i> <i>PREQ: Alg. 2, Geom. Instructor Approval</i>	<p>This course provides a fourth year of mathematics for students not pursuing trig/pre-calculus or calculus. Students can choose whether to enroll in the class for college credit. This course provides an understanding of basic descriptive and inferential statistics for students who have a need for quantitative methods. Topics covered are presentation of data in table and graphic forms, measures of central tendency and dispersion, elementary probability theory, confidence intervals and hypothesis testing, regression and correlation theory, Chi-Square usage, analysis of variance and nonparametric methods. <i>0.5 high school credit will be earned. Additional fees apply if taking for college credit. Students will earn 3.0 college credits.</i></p>
<b>COLLEGE ALGEBRA</b> <i>Length: 1 sem;</i> <i>PREQ: Alg. 2 Instructor Approval</i>	<p>This course provides a fourth year of mathematics for students not pursuing trig/pre-calculus or calculus. Students can choose whether to enroll in the class for college credit. Course topics include: Function concepts: polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Other topics are systems of equations, matrices and determinants, sequences and series, analytic geometry and conic sections, and mathematical induction. <i>0.5 high school credit will be earned. Additional fees apply if taking for college credit. Students will earn 3.0 college credits.</i></p>



## SOCIAL STUDIES

**Requirements:** 3.0 department credits; Courses: US History or equivalent

**Humanities Diploma:** 4.0 total credits, 2.0 credits at honors level

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	World History (1.0 cr.)	
	AP World History (1.0 cr.)	
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Sem. 1	Sem. 2
	Comparative Cultures & Governments (1.0 cr.)	
	AP Human Geography (1.0 cr.)	
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Sem. 1	Sem. 2
	College US History 101 (0.5 cr.)	College US History 102 (0.5 cr.)
	US History (1.0 cr.)	
11 <sup>th</sup> / 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Sem. 1	Sem. 2
	History of Christianity (0.5 cr.)	Introduction of Early Anglicanism (0.5 cr.)
	College Early Modern Civilizations 1500-1815 (0.5 cr.)*	College Modern Civilizations 1815 - Present (0.5 cr.)*
	College US History 101 (0.5 cr.)	College US History 102 (0.5 cr.)
	US History (1.0 cr.)	
	Introduction to Pre-Law Studies (1.0 cr.)	
	20th Century History Honors (1.0 cr.)	
	AP Psychology (1.0 cr.)	

## Course Descriptions

**WORLD HISTORY** Classroom material is focused more on Western Civilization, although other influences are discussed as they relate to Western Europe. Course material is presented primarily through lecture and text readings. Two to three related commercial movies are shown throughout the year, with a printed worksheet and test follow up, as well as additional handouts from other sources. Essay and analytical skills are stressed throughout the year by quizzes and tests relying heavily on short answers and essay format.

*Length: 2 sem.*

**AP WORLD HISTORY** AP World History is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester introductory college or university world history course. In AP World History students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in six historical periods from approximately 8000 B.C.E. to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical comparisons; and utilizing reasoning about contextualization, causation, and continuity and change over time. The course provides five themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: interaction between humans and the environment; development and interaction of cultures; state building, expansion, and conflict; creation, expansion, and interaction of economic systems; and development and transformation of social structures.

*Length: 2 sem.*  
*PREQ: Instructor Approval*

**AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY** AP Human Geography introduces students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine socioeconomic organization and its environmental consequences. They also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research and applications. The curriculum reflects the goals of the National Geography Standards. The course is equivalent to an introductory college-level course in human geography.

*Length: 2 sem.*  
*PREQ: Instructor Approval*

**COMPARATIVE CULTURES & GOVERNMENTS** This course provides students with the skills and knowledge to deeply engage with contemporary global issues. Because of its interdisciplinary nature, this course covers a wide range of topics, including world religions, cultures, governments, international relations, and more. This course provides invaluable opportunities for students to build skills and capacities to explore complex, global problems and opportunities from multiple, critical perspectives. Students will become more adept at understanding global issues and solutions, and navigating diverse perspectives.

*Length: 2 sem.*

**U.S. HISTORY** A general survey course that concentrates on economic, social, political and military American history. The course begins in Colonial America and ends in the 1960's. Special focus is given to the Civil War, World War II and the Cold War. Course material is presented through lecture, textbook readings, primary sources, and handouts. Students are expected to enhance their critical thinking skills.

*Length: 2 sem.*

**20TH CENTURY HISTORY HONORS** This course examines the development of the United States during the twentieth century and focuses on events which led America to become a world superpower. Emphasis is placed on understanding world events from different perspectives. Social, political, cultural and military history are taught throughout the year. Students are expected to improve their study and critical thinking skills through reading, taking notes, and writing descriptive essays. Students explore the foundations of St. John's Northwestern and explore through research leaders that influenced our school. In addition, students study how America's foreign policy transformed during the first half of the 20th Century. Key topics include Theodore Roosevelt, World War I, Hitler's rise to power. Second semester students study World War II, the Cold War, the 1960's and Vietnam, and the War on Terror.

*Length: 2 sem.*  
*PREQ: Instructor Approval*

**INTRODUCTION TO PRE-LAW STUDIES** This course will cover a broad range of humanities within the social sciences that Pre-Law majors engage with while in college. Along with procedural changes, critical legal cases, research studies and policy initiatives, students will also engage with philosophy, political science, and criminal justice. This course emphasizes understanding of civic engagement, political institutions, and the mechanisms that drive decision-making at local, national, and global levels. Students will be able to understand, promote and debate political arguments, strengthen their written and oral communication skills, and engage in high levels of critical thinking.

*Length: 2 sem.*

**AP PSYCHOLOGY** The AP Psychology course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with major units of study, including biological bases of behavior, cognition, development, learning, social psychology, personality, and mental and physical health. Throughout the course, students apply psychological concepts and employ psychological research methods and data interpretation to evaluate claims, consider evidence, and effectively communicate ideas. The AP Psychology course is equivalent to an introductory college-level psychology course.

*Length: 2 sem.*  
*PREQ: Instructor Approval*

**HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY** This course will explore the history of the Christian Church from the Resurrection of Christ to the present. Special emphasis will be placed on the early Christian Church, the development and importance of the Catholic Creeds, and the first one thousand years of expansion outward from Jerusalem and into Asia, Africa, and Europe. The context of the split between the Western and Eastern Churches will be discussed, as well as theological developments and controversies of the medieval era. Major events and personalities of the Protestant Reformation and the Roman Counter Reformation will be studied. This course will also seek to cover the rise of various Christian denominations as well as non-denominationalism within the United States. This course will function primarily as a survey of the history of the Christian Church equipping the student with a broad base of knowledge.

*Length: 1 sem.*

**INTRODUCTION TO EARLY ANGLICANISM** This course will explore the history and development of Anglicanism beginning with the arrival of the Christian faith to the British Isles. The history of the Christian faith in England will be covered through the time of Henry VIII. Attention will be paid to the development of Anglicanism within England, as well as its spread throughout the world. The development and history of American Anglicanism will be covered from the colonial era through the present. Important theologians and movements within Anglicanism will be discussed, including important persons, both English and American, as well as the Anglo-Catholic movement. A field trip to the United Kingdom to explore and present on important locations may be a possibility for this course.

*Length: 1 sem.*

#### DUAL CREDIT (High School and College Credit) *Additional fee.*

**EARLY MODERN CIVILIZATIONS** This college world history course covers the history of the development of nation states from the time of the late Renaissance to the end of the Napoleonic Era (1511 - 1815). Special emphasis is given to the Western world, though all regions are covered. *0.5 high school credit will be earned. Additional fees apply if taking for college credit. Students will earn 3.0 college credits.*

*Length: 1 sem.*  
*PREQ: Instructor Approval*

**MODERN CIVILIZATIONS** This college world history course is a study of global development in the eras of nationalism, colonialism, totalitarianism and contemporary revolution of the 19th and 20th centuries (1815 - Present). *0.5 high school credit will be earned. Additional fees apply if taking for college credit. Students will earn 3.0 college credits.*

*Length: 1 sem.*  
*PREQ: Instructor Approval*

**HIS 101: US HISTORY TO 1865** A survey of American political, economic, social, and intellectual history from the Age of European Exploration and the period of colonization to the era of the American Civil War. This course thoroughly integrates the experiences of African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanics, and/or Asian Americans into US history in a manner that fosters understanding and appreciation of the perspectives and experiences of at least two of these groups as well as their contributions to, and interactions within, American society. *0.5 high school credit will be earned. Additional fees apply if taking for college credit. Students will earn 3.0 college credits.*

*Length: 1 sem.*  
*PREQ: Instructor Approval*

**HIS 102: US HISTORY SINCE 1865** A survey of American political, economic, social, and intellectual history from the era of the Civil War to the Present. This course thoroughly integrates the experiences of African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanics, and/or Asian Americans into US history in a manner that fosters understanding and appreciation of the perspectives and experiences of at least two of these groups as well as their contributions to, and interactions within, American society. *0.5 high school credit will be earned. Additional fees apply if taking for college credit. Students will earn 3.0 college credits.*

*Length: 1 sem.*  
*PREQ: Instructor Approval*

## SCIENCE

**Requirements:** 3.0 department credits; Courses: Biology; Chemistry or Physics (or equivalents)

**STEM Diploma Requirements:** 4.0 department credits, 2.0 credit at honors level

<b>9<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Biology (1.0 cr.) or Biology Honors (1.0 cr.)	
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Chemistry (1.0 cr.) or Chemistry Honors (1.0 cr.)	
<b>11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>Sem. 1</b>	<b>Sem. 2</b>
	Human Anatomy (0.5 cr.)	Forensic Science (0.5 cr.)
	Zoology & Botany (0.5 cr.)	Geology & Earth Systems (0.5 cr.)
	Physics (1.0 cr.)	
	AP Physics 1 (1.0 cr.)	
	AP Chemistry (1.0 cr.)	
	College Environmental Science (1.0 cr.)*	
	College Biology (1.0 cr.)*	

## Course Descriptions

**BIOLOGY**  
*Length: 2 sem.*  
The course studies three fundamental aspects of life. One is the foundational principles of life processes. Included in this is photosynthesis, cellular respiration, and protein synthesis. The second component is the cell. The aspects of the cell presented are chromosomes, cell division, cell membrane, and genetics. The third is a survey of organisms found in the 6 kingdoms. Students look at viruses/bacteria, protozoa, invertebrates, vertebrates, and plants. If time permits, ecology is addressed. Labs/activities are incorporated into each unit to enhance the concepts being taught.

**BIOLOGY HONORS**  
*Length: 2 sem.*  
*PREQ: Instructor Approval, maintain min. 3.0 course GPA*  
This full-year course may be taken by an advanced freshman with teacher approval or as a follow up to regular biology. Components covered in regular biology will also be discussed in this course, but additional core topics are introduced, such as cell biology, molecular biology, genetics, ecology, evolution and biodiversity and human physiology. The Biozone IB Science Workbook, an international-based curriculum, is used as a framework. Labs/activities are incorporated into each unit to enhance the concepts being taught.

**CHEMISTRY**  
*Length: 2 sem.*  
*PREQ: Biology*  
This full-year course investigates the composition of substances and their transformations. Specific topics include lab safety, the Periodic Table and trends, scientific measurement (using lab equipment, metric conversions, scientific notation, and significant digit rounding), atomic structure and parts of the atom, electron configuration rules, chemical bonding, chemical names and formulas, the mole and stoichiometry, chemical reactions, chemical reaction rate and equilibrium factors, types & properties of solutions, and acids/bases with pH concepts. Student collaboration in assignment problem solving is encouraged. Students are graded on a combination of evaluated quizzes, tests, a plethora of collaborative class assignments, limited/short homework sets, lab papers, and a couple written science papers.

**CHEMISTRY HONORS**  
*Length: 2 sem.*  
*PREQ: Biology, Instructor Approval*  
This course surveys basic chemical principles, studying the composition of substances and the changes that substances undergo. Topics that are covered in detail include the Periodic Table, scientific measurement, problem solving, parts of the atom and molecules, chemical names and formulas, the mole, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, properties of gasses, chemical bonding, properties of water, properties of solutions, and pH concepts. Emphasis is placed on relating these principles and concepts to everyday experiences, current uses in society, an appreciation for the orderliness of nature, the development of continued critical thinking skills, and science organization skills. Laboratory work, quizzes, tests, note taking, student organization, and analytical thinking are stressed. Course studies more topics more in-depth than standard chemistry.

**PHYSICS**  
*Length: 2 sem.*  
*PREQ: Biology, Chemistry, and Algebra 2 or concurrent*  
This course is designed to prepare the student who intends to pursue study in science intensive careers in classical areas of mechanics and topics are selected from fluids, sound, electricity, magnetism. Students will integrate algebra, geometry, and trigonometry with principles of physics to analyze and solve real-world problems. Topics are introduced through lecture/discussion sessions with problem solving worksheets, laboratory projects, and writing assignments that test the students ability to explain their conceptual understanding of the listed areas of classical physics.

**HUMAN ANATOMY**  
*Length: 1 sem.*  
Calling all future Pre-Med, Healthcare, and Sports Exercise Science majors! This course involves a study of the human body and physiognomy with an emphasis on the skeletal, muscular, nervous and cardiovascular systems. It is a foundational course for all areas of future study in health science and exercise science. The study of anatomy will provide students with an understanding of how systems integrate with one another. Students will begin to grasp the relationship of form and function, and see all of the complex and exciting ways in which the human body functions so efficiently.

<b>FORENSIC SCIENCE</b> <i>Length: 1 sem.</i>	Explore how law enforcement utilizes science to solve intriguing crime cases! Forensic Science is the application of science (chemistry, physics, and biology) to the criminal and civil laws that are enforced by police agencies in a criminal justice system. It includes the investigation of fingerprinting, fiber analysis, ballistics, arson, trace evidence analysis, poisons, blood spatters, and blood samples. Students are taught the proper collection, preservation, and laboratory analysis of various samples. Students will also study crime scene investigation (CSI) and evidence collection using mock crime scenes.
<b>ZOOLOGY &amp; BOTANY</b> <i>Length: 1 sem.</i>	This is a one semester course that will cover diversity of life, with an emphasis on zoology and botany. It will involve hands-on dissection of multiple organisms for the purpose of comparative studies of anatomical systems. Additionally, students will have access to growing many of their own plants for laboratory purposes. Although the focus will be on the plant and animal kingdoms, fungi and protists may also be covered.
<b>GEOLOGY &amp; EARTH SYSTEMS</b> <i>Length: 1 sem.</i>	This course is designed to interpret and understand the world around you. Students investigate and study the interactions between the four major Earth's spheres, including the geosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere in order to explain Earth's formation, processes, history, landscapes, how and why Earth changes over time. The course will also explore how current actions of man interact and affect Earth's spheres leading to local and global changes. Topics to be addressed include, but are not limited to, the scientific method, mapping Earth's surface, minerals, rocks, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, and geologic time. Students will participate in laboratory exercises, small group activities, web-based investigations, class discussions, projects, and research.
<b>AP PHYSICS 1</b> <i>Length: 2 sem.</i> <i>PREQ: Algebra 2 (can be concurrent) and Physics, Instructor Approval.</i>	This two-semester honors course covers the units of kinematics, forces, momentum, work and energy, circular motion, gravitation, electricity, and waves and simple harmonic motion. These are the units covered in the AP Physics 1 exam. This course emphasizes conceptual understanding through extensive lab exercises. This conceptual understanding is then translated into the knowledge of algebraic manipulation needed to solve physics problems in the units listed above.
<b>AP CHEMISTRY</b> <i>Length: 2 sem.</i> <i>Prerequisite: Science - Chemistry or Honors Chemistry. Math - Algebra 2 (can be concurrent) Instructor recommendation.</i>	This two-semester course is designed to be a rigorous extension and application of the principles learned in Honors Chemistry. Lab skills will be refined as students complete lab work related to the course. AP Chemistry includes video lectures, in-class lectures, note taking, collaborative work time, problem solving, and lab. The AP Chemistry course provides students with a college-level foundation to support future advanced coursework in chemistry. Students cultivate their understanding of chemistry through inquiry-based investigations, as they explore content such as: atomic structure, intermolecular forces and bonding, chemical reactions, kinetics, thermodynamics, and equilibrium. The AP Chemistry course is designed to be the equivalent of the general chemistry course usually taken during the first college year. <i>A calculator is required for this course (Texas Instrument is recommended).</i>
<b>DUAL CREDIT (High School and College Credit) Additional fee.</b>	
<b>COLLEGE BIOLOGY</b> <i>Length: 2 sem</i> <i>Pre-req: Biology, Chem, or Physics</i> <i>Instructor Approval.</i>	This college course is an introductory course to biology. In this course, students will be introduced to cell division and reproduction, principles of genetic inheritance, gene theory and genetic engineering, and the theory of evolution including the history of the earth, natural selection and methods of speciation. <b>1.0 high school credit will be earned. Additional fees apply if taking for college credit. Students will earn 4.0 college credits.</b>
<b>COLLEGE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE</b> <i>Length: 2 sem</i> <i>Pre-req: Biology, Chem, or Physics</i> <i>Instructor Approval.</i>	All of Earth's biota, including humans, ultimately relies on the natural environment for existence; yet human actions often compromise the availability of resources necessary for life. This course will address sustainability of human interactions with the environment. Students will study specific examples of environmental issues in enough depth to cultivate an appreciation for their complexity. By the end of this course, students should attain a good understanding and appreciation of the interconnections between human actions and the natural environment. Further, they will be empowered to lead environmental stewardship activities as an investment in the future of humanity. <b>1.0 high school credit will be earned. Additional fees apply if taking for college credit. Students will earn 4.0 college credits.</b>

## TECHNOLOGY/ENGINEERING

**Technology Requirements:** 1.0 total department credits

**STEM Diploma:** 2.0 department credits; 1 programming and 1 engineering course required and/or AP Computer Science

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Sem. 1	Sem. 2
	Intro to Computer Science (0.5 cr.)	Intro to Computer Science (0.5 cr.)
10 <sup>th</sup> / 11 <sup>th</sup> / 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Intro to Computer Science (0.5 cr.)	Intro to Computer Science (0.5 cr.)
	Aviation (0.5 cr.)	Aviation (0.5 cr.)
	Cybersecurity (0.5 cr.)	Cybersecurity (0.5 cr.)
	Competitive Robotics (1.0 cr.)	
	Engineering and 3D Design (1.0 cr.)	
	Aerospace Engineering (1.0 cr.)	
	Biomedical Engineering (1.0 cr.)	
	AP Computer Science (1.0 cr.)	
	Drone Piloting (1.0 cr.)	

## Course Descriptions

**INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE** This course introduces students to computer science concepts such as computer architecture, networks, and the Internet. Students use programming languages, algorithms and many other tools to help solve problems. They dive deeper into how a computer works, and investigate hardware and software, and how they work together.. This introductory level course will provide a solid foundation in computer science for future study in this subject area.  
*Length: 1 sem.*

**AVIATION** The aviation science program trains students toward earning their Private Pilot License. The aviation program is taught by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) licensed instructors and consists of two parts: ground school and flight training. Ground school is taught on the SJNA campus one day a week; flight training takes place at a local county Airport, one or two times per week. Grades are based on goal completion, classroom work, flight instructor evaluations, flight schedule coordination and exams. Aviation is considered a STEM Honors course.  
*Length: 1 sem.*  
*PREQ: 15 years of age or older*  
*Additional fees involved*

**CYBERSECURITY** This course is an Introduction to CyberSecurity. The course will explore security as it relates to endpoints, network, network edge, cloud computing, and mobile environments. Students will explore different types of cyber threats, from where they come, how they are constructed and how attacks are met and mitigated. It will also look at cybersecurity from a business and a personal perspective. Data and security issues will be explored, and lastly, the course will explore how regulation and legislation impact this arena.  
*Length: 1 sem.*

**DRONE PILOTING** This course explores the growing field of drones and how they are utilized, with an emphasis on recreational and commercial opportunities, rules and regulations, and drone piloting and licensing. The drones program is taught by a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) licensed instructor. Drones will be provided for in-class use and students will receive an overview of FAA rules and regulations for safe operation. Students will also learn the history of drones, various drone models and types, how to take pictures and videos, drone maintenance, sectional maps, and how to troubleshoot various flight problems and situations. Students enrolled in Drones I will have the opportunity to take the Remote Pilot Exam (Unmanned Aircraft General (UAG) Exam) at the end of the second semester - additional fee required for exam.  
*Length: 2 sem.*  
*PREQ: 15 years of age or older (Must be 16 before taking the FAA Exam during Sem 2 of the course)*  
*Additional fees involved for course and exam*

**COMPETITIVE ROBOTICS** VEX Robotics engages students in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through hands-on lessons and experiences in robotics. Students will learn to design, build, program, and troubleshoot robots using the VEX Robotics platform, collaborating in teams to solve complex problems and engage in competitions. VEX robots help students unlock the power of their imagination by designing and constructing remote-controlled robotic devices that can lift, throw, climb, gather and expand the boundaries of experimental intelligence.  
*Length: 2 sem.*  
*PREQ: Alg.1 and Geometry,*

**ENGINEERING & 3D DESIGN** This Engineering 101 course guides students through the design process, from concept to creation, to understand the fundamentals of engineering practices and practical applications. Students will learn to communicate ideas through sketches, technical drawings, and CAD modeling using industry-standard tools and software.. A major focus of the course is designing 3D models that can be manufactured using 3D printing technology. Hands-on projects introduce key engineering concepts, such as mechanical systems, robotics, and structural design, while fostering problem-solving, teamwork, and creativity.  
*Length: 2 sem.*  
*PREQ: Alg.1 and Geometry,*

**AEROSPACE ENGINEERING** Expand your student's love for aviation and aeronautical systems by exploring the world of aerospace engineering and the principles of flight. Students will explore the fundamentals of aerodynamics, propulsion systems, materials science, and structural design as they apply to aircraft and spacecraft. Through hands-on projects, students will design, test, and analyze model aircraft, rockets, and gliders. They will also learn to use industry-standard software to simulate flight dynamics and optimize designs. Key concepts in orbital mechanics, navigation, and control systems will be introduced, providing a foundation for understanding space and air travel.  
*Honors level*  
*Length: 2 sem.*  
*PREQ: Alg. 2, computer course (or concurrent), Engineering 101, or Instructor Approval*



**BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING** This course serves to provide foundational knowledge and skills in fields such as biology, anatomy & physiology, genetics, microbiology, and epidemiology as well as engage students in how this content can be applied to real-world situations, cases, and problems. Through both individual and collaborative team activities, projects, and problems, students will tackle real-world challenges faced by biomedical professionals in the field. They will work with the same tools and equipment used in hospitals and labs as they engage in relevant hands-on work. Students will develop skill in technical documentation to represent and communicate experimental findings and solutions to problems. In addition, students will explore how connections to other disciplines such as computer science and engineering shape the future of medicine and practice collaboration techniques that will help them connect with professionals across any field.

*Honors level*  
*Length: 2 sem.*  
*PREQ: Alg. 2, computer course (or concurrent), Engineering 101, or Instructor Approval*

**AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES** AP Computer Science Principles is an introductory college-level computing course that introduces students to the breadth of the field of computer science. Students learn to design and evaluate solutions and to apply computer science to solve problems through the development of algorithms and programs. They incorporate abstraction into programs and use data to discover new knowledge. Students also explain how computing innovations and computing systems—including the internet—work, explore their potential impacts, and contribute to a computing culture that is collaborative and ethical

*Length: 2 sem.*  
*PREQ: Completion of Algebra 2, prior computer coding course recommended*

## WORLD LANGUAGES

**World Language Requirements:** 2.0 credits of the same language; international students may be exempt from this requirement

**Humanities Diploma:** 3.0 total credits

9 <sup>th</sup> / 10 <sup>th</sup> / 11 <sup>th</sup> / 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Chinese 1, 2, 3, 4 honors (1.0 cr. each level)
	German 1, 2, 3, 4 honors (1.0 cr. each level)
	Spanish 1, 2, 3, 4 honors (1.0 cr. each level)
	<i>Advanced language learning (Pre-AP or AP) available upon the approval of the language teacher. Contact the Academic Office or World Language Dept. for more information.</i>

## Course Descriptions

**LEVEL 1: CHINESE, GERMAN, SPANISH** The first level of the world language curriculum is proficiency and culture oriented. It emphasizes culture and communication via listening and the spoken word as well as reading and writing. It focuses on the skills needed to communicate at a basic level in the target language. The first level provides complete coverage of elementary grammar and vocabulary by means of thematic situations embedded in cultural context.

*Length: 2 sem.*

**LEVEL 2: CHINESE, GERMAN, SPANISH** The second level reviews and reinforces the material presented in the first level. The second level of the world language curriculum is target language proficiency and culture oriented and emphasizes communication via listening and speaking, as well as reading and writing. It focuses on the skills needed to communicate at a developing level in the target language. Level 2 also expands the vocabulary, grammatical structures and further develops cultural knowledge.

*Length: 2 sem.*  
*PREQ: Level 1*

**LEVEL 3: CHINESE, GERMAN, SPANISH** The third level of the world language curriculum introduces new grammar, vocabulary, and cultural concepts as well as reviews material learned in the first two levels. The four language skills and cultural awareness are further developed with extra emphasis on Connections, and Comparisons within Communities. .

*Length: 2 sem.*  
*PREQ: Level 2*

**LEVEL 4 HONORS: CHINESE, GERMAN, SPANISH** At the Honors level, students continue to learn and apply an understanding of the customs, arts and literature, history and geography related to the target language. The target language is used to make connections and reinforce knowledge and cross cultural skills.

*Length: 2 sem.*  
*PREQ: Level 3*



## FINE ARTS

**Requirements:** 1.0 credit minimum requirement

9 <sup>th</sup> / 10 <sup>th</sup> / 11 <sup>th</sup> / 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Sem. 1	Sem. 2
	Intro to Art & Design (0.5 cr.)	Intro to Art & Design (0.5 cr.)
	Advanced Art & Design (0.5 cr.)	Advanced Art & Design (0.5 cr.)
	Band: Beginning, Advanced (0.5 cr. each semester)	
	Scottish Highland Drumming: Beginning, Advanced (0.5 cr. each semester)	
	Bagpipes: Beginning, Advanced (0.5 cr. each semester)	
11th and 12th Only	Sem. 1	Sem. 2
	Project Photography (0.5 cr.)	Yearbook (0.5 cr.)
	College Art History I: Prehistoric - Middle Ages (0.5 cr)*	College Art History II: Renaissance - Present (0.5 cr)*

## Course Descriptions

### PERFORMING ARTS

*Additional fees for uniform and instrument rental probable; placement in courses to be determined by instructors*

**BEGINNING HIGHLAND DRUMMING** *Length: 2 sem.* This class focuses on the introduction to, and the establishment of, the foundations of Scottish Highland Drumming as an artform. Students learn the basic drumming rudiments and basic fundamental percussive dynamics which complement traditional bagpipe music. With the fundamental rudiments mastered, and basics of music theory and reading understood, they are exposed to their first drum scores. As these scores are learned, students migrate these fundamentals onto the actual drums, enabling them to perform their foundational abilities.

**ADVANCED HIGHLAND DRUMMING** *Length: 2 sem; PREQ: Beg. Drumming.* This class focuses on the establishment and continuation of solid individual proficiencies and confidence of Highland Drumming. A cursory review of basic technique learned in beginning and intermediate drumming, as well as the full SJNA Pipe & Drums repertoire will be done. This will lead to a significant increase in the individual repertoire of drum scores which support tunes. Many of these could be used for special small ensemble performances at SJNA Pipes & Drums functions. In addition to repertoire expansion, the students will focus on gaining near total self confidence in Highland Drumming.

**BEGINNING BAGPIPES** *Length: 2 sem.* This class focuses on the introduction to and establishment of the foundations of bagpiping as an artform. Using the practice chanter, students learn the basic scale of the bagpipes as well as the basic fundamental rudiments that adorn traditional bagpipe music. Basic music theory, music reading, and writing are incorporated to prepare the students for learning the tunes that will build the foundation of the SJNA Pipes & Drums repertoire. Students are slowly introduced to the mechanics and operation of the Great Highland Bagpipe

**ADVANCED BAGPIPES** *Length: 2 sem. PREQ: Beg. Bagpipes.* This class focuses on the establishment of solid individual proficiencies and self reliance with the Great Highland Bagpipes. This includes a continued growth in knowledge of tunes, techniques and musicality. A cursory review of basic technique learned in Beginning and Intermediate Bagpipes, as well as the full SJNA Pipe & Drums repertoire will begin this class. The focus of this class will move into advanced embellishment techniques and an exposure to a much broader understanding of the canon of Celtic folk music. In addition to repertoire expansion, the students will focus on gaining near total self reliance on the Great Highland Bagpipe itself. This includes a thorough knowledge of the setup of the instrument and the impact of the environment on its function. It also includes a review of drone tuning, and establishing a solid knowledge of the harmonic tuning of the bagpipe chanter.

**BEGINNING BAND** *Length: 2 sem.* Through the use of lesson material and practice, students learn the fundamentals to play a band instrument. This introductory band class is for all instrumentalists of all ability levels. The course provides a great opportunity to maintain or develop skills in instrumental music.

**ADVANCED BAND** *Length: 2 sem. PREQ: Beg. Band.* This course moves students beyond instrumental fundamentals and gives each band member the opportunity to advance their musicianship to a higher level. The band instructor emphasizes artistic performance and encourages students to acquire more advanced technical and expressive skills while playing and learning more about their specific instrument(s). We dive into the more intricate aspects of music (melody, harmony, timbre, form, texture, rhythm, and meter). This class is designed for students who wish to advance themselves through music.

## VISUAL ARTS

**INTRODUCTION TO ART & DESIGN** An introductory course that addresses both 2 and 3 dimensional studio production. The 2-D portion emphasizes observational drawing through studies of still-lives, portraits and figures, while emphasizing the elements of line, value and proportions while the 3-D studio productions will emphasize the principles of balance, harmony, and variety.  
*Length: 1 sem.*

**ADVANCED ART & DESIGN** This course is ideal for the student interested in further exploration of artwork through painting and drawing, freestyle art, and printmaking. With the foundation of the elements and principles of design (introduced in Intro. to Art), the students explore a number of materials and techniques. Students interested in expanding their own creativity with guided assistance will develop a deeper appreciation for a variety of art forms. Through individual assessments and group critiques, students acquire optimal development on problem solving and critical thinking skills through creative projects including mixed media, sculpture, mosaic, fiber, printmaking, recycled, papier mache and a variety of other mediums. Students explore a variety of artists and art processes.  
*Length: 1 sem*  
*Prereq.: Intro. to Art.*

**PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHY** Learning the foundations of photography and marketing will be explored in this digital media class. Students will learn how to take better photographs from concept to post production. They will learn and practice many key concepts while putting their photos to use in creative ways. Post production work, collaborative projects, personal expression and adapting to different conditions are all explored in this class. A phone with a camera is required.  
*Length: 1 sem*  
*Prereq.: Intro. to Art.*

**YEARBOOK** Yearbook class is a second semester elective credit that produces St. John's Northwestern yearbook. Ideal members of the yearbook staff are creative and motivated people who will have a sense of pride in accomplishing this important school tradition. Yearbook staff are expected to have a high level of maturity and the ability to work independently. Staff will be responsible for the production, design, and publication of the school yearbook, which requires time spent both in and out of class. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to exercise creativity, while developing new skills in computer design, photography, copywriting, and project management.  
*Length: 1 sem*  
*Prereq.: Intro. to Art.*

### DUAL CREDIT (High School and College Credit) *Additional fee.*

**COLLEGE ART HISTORY SURVEY I** This course provides an overview of the history of Western art from the Prehistoric period through the late Middle Ages. In addition, students are introduced to the historiography and fundamental methodologies of the discipline through discussion and written assignments. *0.5 high school credit will be earned. Additional fees apply if taking for college credit. Students will earn 3.0 college credits.*  
*Length: 1 sem*  
*Instructor Approval.*

**COLLEGE ART HISTORY SURVEY II** This course provides an overview of the history of Western art from the Renaissance through Contemporary art. In addition, students are introduced to the historiography and fundamental methodologies of the discipline through discussion and written assignments. *0.5 high school credit will be earned. Additional fees apply if taking for college credit. Students will earn 3.0 college credits.*  
*Length: 1 sem*  
*Instructor Approval.*

## JUNIOR ROTC

**Leadership requirements for Corps of Cadets:** 1.0 department credits

9 <sup>th</sup> / 10 <sup>th</sup> / 11 <sup>th</sup> / 12 <sup>th</sup> grade	JROTC LEAD 1 - Emerging & Developing Leadership (1.0 cr.)
	JROTC LEAD 2 - Supervising & Managing Leadership (1.0 cr.)
	JROTC LEAD 3 - Organizational Leadership (1.0 cr.)

## Course Descriptions

### MILITARY & PATHWAY TO OFFICERSHIP PROGRAM - JROTC

The nationally accredited Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program is a US Army sponsored curriculum designed to prepare cadets for responsible leadership roles while making them aware of their rights, responsibilities, and privileges as citizens along with supporting programs. Seniors in key leadership positions in the JROTC Program may be required to take upper level leadership courses.

**EMERGING & DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP**  
*Length: 2 sem.* Cadets are introduced to content that will help the inner leader begin to emerge. Later in the year, students begin to take on developmental leadership roles. Lessons covered during this first and second-year course include foundational JROTC knowledge, codes of conduct, growth plans, team building drills, conflict resolution, and leadership competencies and styles. Moving towards 201, students will delve further into elements of leadership, decision making skills, the importance of communication, ethical concepts, and more. This course counts towards the graduation requirement for Leadership.

**SUPERVISING & MANAGING LEADERSHIP**  
*Length: 2 sem.*  
*PREQ: LEAD 1* Cadets build on what they learned in emerging and developmental leadership, embarking on supervisory and management responsibilities. Cadets will oversee planning and project implementation in the local JROTC program and surrounding community. Moving into 401, cadets will manage and lead in the battalion. Within 401, a cadet is ready to assume responsibilities and manage him or herself and others whom they work with or oversee as a Cadet Manager. This course counts towards the graduation requirement for Leadership.

**ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP**  
*Length: 2 sem.*  
*PREQ: Instructor Approval* Cadets are invited to take this course as they progress their way through ranks, responsibilities, and positions that will require extensive planning and collaboration throughout the entire JROTC department. Cadets are able to see their recommendations, ideas, and decisions enacted on campus and understand the real implementations, planning procedures, and requirements needed to lead within an organization. This course counts towards the graduation requirement for Leadership.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**Requirements:** 1.5 department credits; Courses: Health

9 <sup>th</sup> / 10 <sup>th</sup> / 11 <sup>th</sup> / 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Sem. 1	Sem. 2
	Personal Fitness (0.5 cr.)	Personal Fitness (0.5 cr.)
	Strength & Conditioning (0.5 cr.)	Strength & Conditioning (0.5 cr.)
	Health (0.5 cr.)	Health (0.5 cr.)
	Fall, Winter or Spring Team Sport (0.5 cr. per season) See course descriptions for details	

## Course Descriptions

**PERSONAL FITNESS**  
*Length: 1 sem.* Personal Fitness is focused on helping students develop healthy habits and improve overall fitness through a variety of traditional gym activities. Students will engage in cardiovascular exercises, bodyweight training, team sports, and fitness challenges designed to build endurance, strength, flexibility, and coordination.

**STRENGTH & CONDITIONING**  
*Length: 1 sem.* This course is designed to improve students' physical fitness through structured weight training and kinetic (movement-based) exercises. Students will develop muscular strength, endurance, flexibility, and overall athletic performance using proper lifting techniques, resistance training, and functional movements. Emphasis will be placed on safety, goal-setting, and personal growth, making this course ideal for athletes and non-athletes alike.

**HEALTH**  
*Length: 1 sem.* This high school course teaches the benefits of a lifelong commitment to one's health and wellness, and a respect for others', through personal responsibility and decision-making, positive self esteem, self-reflection, and access to pertinent, useful information. Topics may include fitness, nutrition, human growth and development, at-risk behaviors, mental and social health, relationships, CPR, and general first aid.

**TEAM SPORTS** Students who actively participate in a team sport (WIAA sports or Raiders) for 95% of a season may earn 0.5 credit toward the required physical education credits, up to 1.0 credit (2 seasons) total. Students must declare credit intention at the start of the season with approval from the coach and complete an application through the Academic Office.

## BUSINESS EDUCATION

**Elective Requirements:** Personal Finance (*Requirement starting with Class 2028*)

9 <sup>th</sup> / 10 <sup>th</sup> / 11 <sup>th</sup> / 12 <sup>th</sup> grade	Sem. 1	Sem. 2
	Personal Finance (0.5 cr.)	Personal Finance (0.5 cr.)
	Community Engagement & Outreach (0.5 cr)	Community Engagement & Outreach (0.5 cr)
11 <sup>th</sup> / 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Introduction to Marketing (0.5 cr.)	Sports Marketing (0.5 cr.)
	Business Ethics & Leadership I (0.5 cr.)	Business Ethics & Leadership II (0.5 cr.)
	Community Engagement & Outreach (0.5 cr.)	Community Engagement & Outreach (0.5 cr.)
	College Intro to Business (0.5 cr.)*	College Financial Literacy (0.5 cr.)*
	College General Economics (0.5 cr.)*	College Essentials of Financial Accounting (0.5 cr.)*
		Investing & Trading

## Course Descriptions

**PERSONAL FINANCE** This course informs students how individual choices directly influence occupational goals and future earnings potential. Real world topics covered include income, money management, spending and credit, as well as saving and investing. Students design personal and household budgets utilizing checking and saving accounts, gain knowledge in finance, debt and credit management, and evaluate and understand insurance and taxes. It provides a foundational understanding for making informed personal financial decisions leading to financial independence.  
*Length: 1 sem.*

**BUSINESS ETHICS & LEADERSHIP** This course examines ethical decision-making in business, focusing on leadership strategies and their impact on organizational success. Students will analyze different leadership styles and explore how they influence corporate culture and stakeholder relationships. Through case studies and discussions, students will gain insights into effective leadership practices that promote ethical behavior, accountability, and long-term business success.  
*Length: 1 sem.*

**BUSINESS ETHICS & LEADERSHIP II** Building on the foundations of leadership and ethics, this course delves deeper into business ethics, addressing ethical dilemmas, critical thinking, and conflict resolution. Students will explore real-world scenarios that challenge ethical norms and examine the role of corporate responsibility and sustainability in modern business. Through discussions and case studies, students will develop the skills to navigate complex ethical decisions and foster a culture of integrity in the workplace.  
*Length: 1 sem.*

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH** This is a service-learning course inspired by Duke University curriculum to integrate leadership development, corporate social responsibility, and hands-on community engagement. Students will explore real-world leadership strategies and civic responsibilities through case studies, discussions, and experiential learning. As part of the course, students can complete up to 40 hours of service with community partners, reflecting on the relationship between leadership and social impact. This course emphasizes community engagement and professional growth, preparing students to lead effectively in their careers and communities.  
*Length: 1 sem.*

**INTRODUCTION TO MARKETING** Examines the marketing process in the operations of firms in profit and nonprofit sectors. Environmental forces including consumer characteristics, government regulation and social aspects are explored. Emphasis is given to how firms develop marketing strategies in terms of target market selection, segmentation and marketing mix variables such as product development, promotional methods, price determination and channels of distribution. Ethical aspects of marketing are also given consideration.  
*Length: 1 sem*

**SPORTS MARKETING** This course explores the intersection of athletics and business, focusing on strategies used to market sports teams, events, and organizations. Students will learn to plan and manage sponsorships, coordinate ticket sales, and create fan engagement initiatives that drive success in the sports industry. Topics include branding, digital marketing, event management, and sports law, with an emphasis on social factors such as race and gender in sports. Through hands-on experiences, internships with major sports franchises, and exposure to real-world operations, students will gain the practical skills needed to pursue careers in sports marketing, team operations, and event planning in both amateur and professional sports.  
*Length: 1 sem*

**INVESTING & TRADING** This Honors-level course provides an in-depth study of investing and trading strategies, focusing on stock markets, bonds, commodities, and portfolio management. Students will learn to analyze market trends, evaluate risks, and apply technical and fundamental analysis to make informed investment decisions. Through hands-on trading simulations, case studies, and real-time market analysis, students will develop skills in portfolio creation, strategy development, and ethical decision-making in financial markets. The course prepares students for advanced finance studies or practical investing with a strong understanding of global markets and financial regulations.  
*Length: 1 sem.*

**DUAL CREDIT (High School and College Credit)** Additional fee.

**INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS** This is an introductory college business course that provides an overview of business and the role it plays in economic, social, and political environments. Students explore functions of modern business management and also will learn general business terminology and concepts, and study current business issues and trends. *0.5 high school credit will be earned. Additional fees apply if taking for college credit. Students will earn 3.0 college credits.*  
*Length: 1 sem*  
*Junior or Senior Status*  
*Approval Required*

**FINANCIAL LITERACY** This college economics course is designed to build personal financial skills that have a lifetime of usefulness. It covers the basic areas of personal financial planning; budgeting, cash and credit; housing and transportation; insurance; investments; identity theft and privacy protection; and planning for retirement. Students will earn 0.5 in high school elective credit and 3.0 college credits. Additional fees apply.  
*Length: 1 sem*  
*Junior or Senior Status*  
*Approval Required*

**GENERAL ECONOMICS** This college course provides an analysis of some of the major current issues in the American economy undertaken after a historical survey of the emergence of modern economic institutions. By studying economics, you will learn to think critically and systematically about individual and collective decisions over the use of resources and learn how these choices affect societies. From pollution to poverty to import tariffs, students in economics use intuition, mathematical models, and statistical analysis to evaluate everyday choices made by individuals, firms, and governments. *0.5 high school credit will be earned. Additional fees apply if taking for college credit. Students will earn 3.0 college credits.*  
*Length: 1 sem*  
*Junior or Senior Status*  
*Approval Required*

**ESSENTIALS OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING** This college course provides an introduction to the principles of financial accounting and the preparation, interpretation, and analysis of general purpose financial statements for parties external to the organization. Students who take this course are armed with the strength to analyze, interpret and communicate financial information used by management. Accounting is an exciting career that offers above-average financial opportunities. *0.5 high school credit will be earned. Additional fees apply if taking for college credit. Students will earn 3.0 college credits.*  
*Length: 1 sem*  
*Junior or Senior Status*  
*Approval Required*

**GENERAL ELECTIVES****Elective Requirements:** College/Career Planning (Juniors, 0.5 cr.)

9 <sup>th</sup> / 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Sem. 1	Sem. 2
	Study Skills (0.5 cr.)	Study Skills (0.5 cr.)
	Guided Study Hall (no credit)	Guided Study Hall (no credit)
11 <sup>th</sup> / 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	College & Career Planning (0.5 cr.)	College & Career Planning (0.5 cr.)
	Senior Study Hall (no credit, seniors only)	
	College Introduction to Education (1.0 cr.)*	
	Emergency Medical Technician (1.0 cr.) <i>Off campus; requires modified weekly schedule. Additional fees apply.</i>	

**NOTE:** Elective courses are offered based on enrollment numbers and teacher availability.**Course Descriptions**

**COLLEGE & CAREER PLANNING** This class provides students with the tools and skills necessary for applying to colleges, job openings and gaining an overall understanding of which scholastic or working environments are right for them. Geared after each student's individual post-secondary plans, students will fill out the majority of their Common Application, write their personal essay, learn how to answer school-specific essay questions, create a resume, practice mock job interviews, dedicate time to standardized test prep, and more. They also take an aptitude test and explore both schools and careers based on their individual results. Successful completion of this course is a graduation requirement.  
*Length: 1 sem.*

**SENIOR STUDY HALL** This specialized study hall is supervised by the College & Career Counselor and is designated for students who would like additional help completing college applications and writing college essays. This study hall is offered in the first semester of senior year only and the primary objective is to fill out college applications before Early Action, Early Decision, or Regular Decision deadlines. No credit or grade is given for this class.  
*Length: 1 sem.*  
*Approval needed.*

**STUDY SKILLS** This course is designed to teach students how to effectively use study techniques, time management and apply real-world applications while implementing 21st century skills. Students develop individual strategies for note-taking, listening, test-taking, and organization while understanding the best way to prioritize and manage their time inside and outside of the classroom. In utilizing these skills, students achieve academic success and personal growth.  
*Length: 1 sem.*

**GUIDED STUDY HALL** Guided study hall is an opportunity for students to meet with the TLC director on any assignments/academic material they may be struggling with. Students will work through any assignments they have during this time with adult support. Additionally, throughout the week they will conference with the TLC director regarding their grades and goals for the semester. This course is intended for students who may need additional support to complete their work, or who have academic goals that may need guidance from an adult.

*Length: 1 sem.  
Approval needed.*

**INITIAL EMT COURSE** Students enrolled in the Initial EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) course will become state certified as an EMT. Along with technical knowledge, first aid training, CPR certification, utilizing basic life support equipment, performing triage, and other essential competencies, students learn all aspects of employment as an EMT. This course is offered off-campus at the Lake Country Fire Rescue Training Center and will require a modified weekly schedule. Additional fees apply.

*Length: 2 sem.*

### DUAL CREDIT (High School and College Credit) Additional fee.

**COLLEGE INTRODUCTION TO EDUCATION** A study of the historical, philosophical, and sociological foundations of public and private education in the United States. Topics include the foundations of instructional design based on assessment data, the legal status of teachers and students, including federal and state laws and regulations, the school as an organization/culture, education reform movements, and contemporary issues in education. Students will earn 0.5 in high school elective credit and 3.0 college credits. Additional fees apply.

*Length: 1 sem  
Junior or Senior Status  
Approval Required*

## SJNA GLOBAL ACADEMY

### Online Course Offerings

*Flexible, 21st-Century Learning with Structured Support*



**ST. JOHN'S  
NORTHWESTERN  
ACADEMIES**

### The World is Our Campus - Structure Without Constraints

SJNA provides unbeatable structure and academic support within our classrooms, and we have expanded that experience for supplemental online learning. In partnership with [WVS \(Wisconsin Virtual School\)](#), our students now have access to a large library of different online courses, available in each core subject area and a wide selection of general elective courses for recovery credit, to supplement departmental credits, meet graduation requirements, and expand individual interests. This includes earning new High School and Advanced Placement (AP) classes, along with credit recovery options. [View our full Course Catalog here for all online class options.](#)

In addition to flexibility and supportive learning within a 21st-Century digital environment, student progress is monitored by St. John's Northwestern staff in each course, and academic coaches provide guidance and individualized attention. Students at SJNA Global learn together with peers from around the world in both synchronous and asynchronous settings. Online learning prepares students to compete in the 21st century economy, which increasingly takes place in remote and hybrid workplaces.

### A Personalized Path to Graduation - Specialty Online Courses

SJNA Global Academy provides course options which far exceed those at most schools. SJNA Global is not bound by enrollment minimums or classroom space in a physical building. Are you interested in taking a specialized curriculum that your district does not offer? Let's talk. If you can imagine it, we can design a course of studies that fits your interests and talents.

Students at SJNA Global have full access to the St. John's Northwestern community, including its extensive alumni network. Global students receive SJNA credit for their courses, have access to on-campus events, and graduate with their peers in Delafield, Wisconsin. SJNA Global allows you to chase your dreams and find your voice in the proud legacy of Lancer alumni stretching back to 1884.

*Dr. Rudolph Lurz, the Director of SJNA Global Academy, will monitor progress in each course and serve as a resource for all students. He will help you design a plan of studies to fit your needs and interests. He can be reached at [rlurz@sjnacademies.org](mailto:rlurz@sjnacademies.org).*



# MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Grades 7-8



ST. JOHN'S  
NORTHWESTERN  
ACADEMIES

Students in grades 7 and 8 follow a standard course sequence. Students who excel in mathematics may take high school courses for high school credit upon approval from the Academic Office; however, students must still obtain the required department credits in high school. For students to advance to high school, students must demonstrate success in the content areas of English, math, science and social studies. All middle school courses are on the standard grading scale.

DEPARTMENT	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
ENGLISH	7th Grade English and Language Arts	8th Grade English and Language Arts or Humanities English Honors
ESL	Beginning or Intermediate Literacy	Beginning or Intermediate Literacy
MATHEMATICS	Mathematics 7 or Pre-Algebra	Pre-Algebra or Algebra 1
SCIENCE	Earth & Life Science	Physical Science
SOCIAL STUDIES	Geography	American History or Humanities History Honors
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	7th Grade Physical Education	Physical Education/Health
LEADERSHIP	Aspiring Leaders 1 - Foundational Leadership	Aspiring Leaders 2 - Outward Leadership
ELECTIVE ROTATION	Exploratory Music; Art; Digital Literacy & Robotics; Foreign Language Exploratory (FLEX); FACE & Service Learning	Engineering & Robotics; Computer Science Discoveries; Art; Intro to World Languages; Music: Band, Pipes, or Drums Ensemble

### 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ENGLISH AND LANGUAGE ARTS

This 7th Grade course provides a basic understanding of grammar usage, spelling, mechanics, and writing processes. Topics include parts of speech, parts of a sentence, kinds of sentence structure, clauses, phrases, agreement, capitalization, punctuation, steps of the writing process, writing effective sentences, writing effective paragraphs, writing effective papers and common writing errors. Spelling mechanics include prefixes, suffixes, word origins, homophones, synonyms, antonyms, spelling changes from singular to plural, spelling changes from adding prefixes and suffixes, possessives, and common spelling errors.

### MS ESL BEGINNING LITERACY

This is an ESL literacy course for all new international students in middle school entering SJNA and testing at the Entering ( Level 1) & Emerging ( Level 2) of the WIDA Consortium English Language Proficiency Standards. ( WIDA MODEL Screener and Progress Monitoring Test). New international students enrolled in this course may be at the early stages of literacy and/or had little exposure to understanding the written language of English. The focus of this course is to expose ESL students to different academic texts, build reading strategies, academic English vocabulary, grammar and writing at the entering and emerging levels. The course is built on thematic units promoting 21st century academic skills by teaching key reading skills, grammar for writing, lower and higher order thinking skills.

### ESL STUDY LAB

This study period is scheduled during the academic day and is designed for students to get individualized additional academic support in all classes. Students will participate in regular conferencing with their teacher to review assignments, practice and reinforce content, or to review homework support.

### 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ENGLISH AND LANGUAGE ARTS

This 8th Grade course provides a more in depth understanding of grammar usage, spelling, mechanics, and writing processes. Topics covered include parts of speech, parts of a sentence, kinds of sentence structure, clauses, phrases, verbals, agreement, capitalization, punctuation, steps of the writing process, forms of writing, writing effective sentences, writing effective paragraphs, and common writing errors.

### HUMANITIES ENGLISH HONORS - GRADE 8

This honors course utilizes the requisite curriculum, standards, an expectations in the 8th grade English, but it explores content and skills at a greater depth. There will be a strong emphasis on developing students' ability to analyze complex readings, establish and develop strong claims, and strengthen students' writing and research skills. This course prepares students for the high school honors sequence in English. Instructor or academic office approval required to enroll.

### MS ESL INTERMEDIATE LITERACY

This is an ESL literacy course for all new international students in middle school entering SJNA and testing ( screened) at the Developing ( Level 3)& Expanding ( Level 4) of the WIDA Consortium English Language Proficiency Standards. New international students enrolled in this course may have already developed foundational grammar, good writing and reading skills and had some exposure to understanding the written language of English. The focus of this course is to expose ESL students to different academic texts, strengthen reading strategies, improve academic English vocabulary, grammar and writing at the developing and expanding levels. The course is built on thematic units promoting 21st century academic skills by teaching key reading skills, grammar for writing, lower and higher order thinking skills.

**MATHEMATICS - GRADE 7**

Course covers basic mathematical skills and gives students a brief preview of selected topics to be studied in depth at a later date. Fractions are covered thoroughly, and an overview of geometry, statistics, number theory, and proportions is presented. A brief introduction to basic algebra concepts is included.

**EARTH & LIFE SCIENCE - GRADE 7**

Beginning with earth science, students learn about the universe and the relationship between the sun, earth and moon. Second semester studies life science, the life of a cell and the six kingdom system.

**GEOGRAPHY - GRADE 7**

This course provides students with a basic understanding of Geography, both physical and political in nature. In addition, class discussions focus on cultural values, location in the world, and environmental issues and current events for each region examined.

**FACE & SERVICE LEARNING - GRADE 7**

This semester course in the middle school elective rotation is for students in grade 7. This engaging and fun course begins with a Family and Consumer Education unit exposing students to a variety of important life skills such as cooking and healthy eating, budgeting and shopping, first aid and safety, and sewing to name a few. The semester ends with a team service learning project in which students will identify a community issue, learn about the causes, brainstorm solutions, and develop a plan to help the community improve.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION - GRADE 7**

Middle school PE courses place a strong emphasis on the positive personal and group benefits of teamwork, team sports, and physical fitness. Students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of team sports that include, but are not limited to, basketball, kickball, softball, frisbee golf, and broomball. Students are asked to dress in appropriate PE wear and athletic shoes.

**EXPLORATORY ART - GRADE 7**

Course provides students the opportunity to create both multi-dimensional artwork. Productions will include: drawings, paintings, printmaking, sculpture and mixed media. The students will engage in the life skills of visual problem solving and critical thinking as they create works emphasizing the elements of art and the principles of design.

**EXPLORATORY MUSIC - GRADE 7**

Students participate in this elective rotation to learn and sample different instrument families, to receive an introduction to music history and theory, and to explore a wide range of music genres, styles, and topics. Goals are to establish an appreciation for music and to motivate students to continue learning and performing in band, bagpipes, or drumming.

**PRE-ALGEBRA**

Pre-Algebra is a prerequisite to Algebra 1. This course reviews the underlying principles of algebra and arithmetic skills. It includes a study of basic mathematical operations to include using graphs, problem solving techniques, and fundamentals of estimations.

**PHYSICAL SCIENCE - GRADE 8**

Course introduces various topics pertaining to the physical sciences. First semester concentrates on the fundamentals of Chemistry while the second semester focuses on Physics. This course establishes a stepping-stone for successfully pursuing full-year chemistry and physics courses during high school. Basic information relating to laboratory techniques, the scientific method, experimental design and procedure, physical and chemical properties of matter, and laws of motion are addressed. Technology used for data collection, analysis, and presentation as well as research is integrated throughout the course.

**AMERICAN HISTORY- GRADE 8**

A basic survey course commencing with the age of exploration and colonization and continues through the twentieth century. First semester emphasizes colonization, the War of Independence, the Constitution, Civil War, Reconstruction and 20th century United States history which includes World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, the 1960s, and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

**HUMANITIES HISTORY HONORS - GRADE 8**

This honors course utilizes the requisite curriculum, standards, and expectations in the 8th grade American History, but it explores content and skills at a greater depth. There will be a strong emphasis on developing students' ability to analyze complex readings, establish and develop strong claims, and strengthen students' writing and research skills. This course prepares students for the high school honors sequence in History. Instructor or academic office approval required to enroll.

**INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL ACTIVITY/HEALTH - GRADE 8**

Students develop the physical and mental capabilities to continue their overall development of fitness through teamwork, goal setting, good sportsmanship, problem solving and critical thinking. Curriculum is centered on trying new games and activities, with education directed toward achieving knowledge about their bodies, minds, and environment to make positive and healthy choices. On gym days, students are asked to dress in appropriate PE wear and athletic shoes.

**EXPLORATORY ART - GRADE 8**

As an introduction to art through a mixed-media hands-on experience, students will learn and apply the elements of art and principles of design through the exploration of hands-on art projects and concepts. Students study cultural backgrounds, art history and the nature of materials used to create art. All students will be exposed to a variety of mediums and subject matter. This class is a wonderful introduction to the world of visual arts that allows students to "test the waters" before continuing in the high school visual arts program.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE EXPLORATION (FLEX) - GRADE 7**

Semester-long course introduces students to language learning, builds awareness and appreciation of other cultures, develops an appreciation for the value of learning another language, and increases motivation for future language study. Students explore 4-5 different languages and cultures.

**ASPIRING LEADERS 1 - GRADE 7**

In the first academic year of Emerging Leaders, students will examine the foundational competencies that all leaders must develop: social awareness, self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, and relationship skills. Through a combination of experiential learning, opportunities for self-evaluation, projects, discussions, and written reflection, students will continue to delve deeper into competencies such as, self-confidence, empathy, perspective taking, stress management, respect for others, goal setting and organizational skills. Students will learn to recognize their own strengths and challenges in these areas, and will also explore personal interest, aptitudes, strengths, and areas of challenge and learn about careers and the world of work. The course will conclude with a culminating activity that allows students to become socially engaged in a service-learning opportunity.

**DIGITAL LITERACY & ROBOTICS - GRADE 7**

In this introductory course, students will develop essential technology skills while exploring the world of robotics. They will learn how to use technology as an educational tool and resource, gaining proficiency in keyboarding, document management, word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation software. Additionally, students will be introduced to the principles of robotics, including basic programming, problem-solving, and hands-on building and coding of robotic systems. The course will also emphasize responsible digital citizenship, ensuring students understand online safety, ethical technology use, and digital communication.

**BAGPIPES ENSEMBLE**

This class focuses on the introduction to and establishment of the foundations of bagpiping as an artform. Using the practice chanter, students learn the basic scale of the bagpipes as well as the basic fundamental rudiments that adorn traditional bagpipe music. Basic music theory, music reading, and writing are incorporated to prepare the students for learning the tunes that will build the foundation of the SJNA Pipes & Drums repertoire. Students are slowly introduced to the mechanics and operation of the Great Highland Bagpipe.

**HIGHLAND DRUMMING ENSEMBLE**

This class focuses on the introduction to, and the establishment of, the foundations of Scottish Highland Drumming as an artform. Students learn the basic drumming rudiments and basic fundamental percussive dynamics which complement traditional bagpipe music. With the fundamental rudiments mastered, and basics of music theory and reading understood, they are exposed to their first drum scores. As these scores are learned, students migrate these fundamentals onto the actual drums, enabling them to perform their foundational abilities.

**INTRODUCTION TO WORLD LANGUAGES - GRADE 8**

This year-long class expands on what students explored in FLEX 7 and builds upon their exposure to our main high school languages. This course is broken into quarters, with an introductory linguistics and culture quarter, followed by a quarter dedicated to Spanish, Chinese, and German. Students will learn how each language is used worldwide and the benefits of studying one or more of these global languages as they transition into high school the following year.

**ASPIRING LEADERS 2 - GRADE 8**

During the second academic year, students will move beyond self-exploration to a collaborative focus on how they build relationships, communication, work on a team, appreciate diversity, and engage in the world around them. Students will also build upon the previous year of social and emotional competencies as they shift toward application of their strengths, identifying problems, analyzing solutions, and reflecting on moral and ethical principles. Questions will invariably emerge such as, "What motivates me to make a difference?" and "How can I use my gifts and talents to serve others?" The course will conclude with a capstone project that allows students to work on a team to solve a fundamental problem in their community.

**COMPUTER SCIENCE DISCOVERIES 8**

Computer Science Discoveries is an elective course which introduces computer science concepts to middle school students. It is a foundational piece to the high school computer science curriculum. The course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as problem solving, programming, physical computing, user centered design, data, and artificial intelligence, while inspiring students as they build their own websites, apps, animations, games, and physical computing systems.

**ENGINEERING & ROBOTICS - GRADE 8**

Students will use the Engineering Design Process and experimentation to solve a variety of technological problems and participate in engineering design challenges to understand how criteria, constraints, and processes affect designs. With collaborative and challenging projects, students will explore the fundamentals of robotics using EdBots and LEGO Robotics kits. Students will learn to harness the power of the engineering process to tackle real-world challenges.

**BAND ENSEMBLE**

Through the use of lesson material and practice, students learn the fundamentals to play a band instrument. This introductory band class is for all instrumentalists of all ability levels. The course provides a great opportunity to maintain or develop skills in instrumental music. Students with band experience may be considered for the advanced class.