



Live Mercy. Seek Justice.

Course of Studies Guide

2022 - 2023

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Introduction

As an independent, Catholic, college preparatory school sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, Merion Mercy Academy offers a holistic education which encourages academic and personal excellence. Our curriculum stresses mercy, spirituality, global awareness, and social responsibility. Within a nurturing community, Merion Mercy Academy educates leaders: young women who live mercy and seek justice. Our curriculum is built upon the foundation of the Mercy Core Values: educational excellence, spiritual growth and development, compassion and service, concern for women and women's issues, collaboration with others, and global vision and responsibility. The curricular offerings described in this course catalog demonstrate our commitment to our mission and to Mercy Core Values.

The Course Selection Process

This Course of Studies guide describes Merion Mercy's course offerings for the 2022-2023 school year. Please refer to the course descriptions in this guide to build your academic program. Courses are listed by department. Refer to the descriptions as needed. This Course of Studies Guide also includes a Criteria for AP[®] and Honors - level courses. This criteria describes skills necessary to ensure proper placement in advanced level courses. If you have questions about a course or the criteria, ask your teacher, the department chair, your counselor, or the Assistant Head of School for Academics.

In selecting your course of studies, please keep in mind the relationship between course load and your interest in extracurricular activities and athletics. Be sure that you are committing yourself to a program that you can successfully manage. Course selections involve serious thought and commitment.

All courses offered in the course catalog are dependent upon sufficient enrollment and faculty availability. Some electives may not be offered in a given year depending on staffing, enrollment, and scheduling.

The process for course selection is as follows:

1. You will be oriented to the registration process during your course selection meetings. In selecting courses, you should consult your current teachers and/or the department chairperson, your advisor and/or your college counselor, the learning specialist, and/or the Assistant Head of School for Academics. Your teacher will have recommended appropriate placement in courses. Check that your program meets the minimum departmental and graduation requirements.
2. Discuss your course selection options with your parents or caregivers
3. Refer to your selections on your course request form and complete the course request form no later than **3/9/2022**. A **late fee of \$40** will be assessed to students whose completed forms, with all necessary signatures, are not in by 3/9/2022.
4. After your course request form is submitted, course change requests are made with permission from the Assistant Head of School for Academics. The earlier a change is requested, the more easily it may be accomplished. A course change form may be obtained from the Assistant Head of School for Academics. Submission of this form requires a parent signature and a \$40 fee. If changes need to be made due to scheduling conflicts, a student will be notified to discuss available options.

Graduation Requirements

Merion Mercy Academy is a college preparatory school. In grades 9 through 12, graduation requirements are established in accordance with Pennsylvania state requirements and Merion Mercy Academy philosophy. While students are required to complete at least 24 credits (at least 6 credits each academic year), additional credits may be earned according to student needs and future plans.

Certain courses are required at each grade level; those courses will be automatically scheduled. You may also choose electives. The normal class load is **six** credits. You are required to graduate with a minimum of 24 credits earned. You achieve 0.5 credit for successful completion of semester-long courses and 1.0 credit for successful completion of yearlong courses. In order to register for more than six credits, you must receive approval from the Assistant Head of School for Academics and currently have a GPA of at least 3.3. Permission may be granted upon consideration of the student's ability and scheduling possibilities. Serious consideration should be given to the time commitment that is attached to each additional course.

The chart below outlines the graduation requirements for rising ninth-, tenth- and eleventh-grade students (Class of 2023).

Subject	Graduation requirements for the Class of 2023 24 credits minimum; 6 credits per year
Theology	4 credits
English	4 credits - Including: Literature and Writing, American Literature, British Literature and 2 semesters of courses selected from those numbered 140 to 150.
Social Studies	3 credits - Including: Cultures in World History, Modern U.S. History or AP [®] U.S. History and U.S. Government, Honors U.S. Government or AP [®] U.S. Government
Math	3 credits - Including: Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II
Science	3 credits - Including: Biology and Chemistry
Language	2 credits
Effective Writing	0.5 credit
Physical Education/Health	1 credit
Electives	3.5 credits

The chart below outlines the graduation requirements for the Class of 2024, 2025 and 2026.

Subject	Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2024, 2025, and 2026 24 credits minimum; 6 credits per year
Theology	4 credits
English	4 credits - Including: Foundations in Literature and Writing, American Literature, Effective Writing, British Literature and either 2 semesters of courses selected from those numbered 140 to 150 or AP English Literature or AP English Language.
Social Studies	3 credits - Including: Cultures in World History, Modern U.S. History or AP [®] U.S. History and U.S. Government, Honors U.S. Government or AP [®] U.S. Government
Math	4 credits - Including: Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II
Science	3 credits - Including: Biology and Chemistry
Language	2 credits
Effective Writing	0.5 credit
Fine Arts or Performing Arts	0.5 credit
Physical Education/Health	1 credit
Electives	2 credits

HONORS AND AP[®] COURSES

Merion Mercy Academy offers both Honors and Advanced Placement[®] (AP[®]) courses. Honors courses (formerly known as A Level courses) offer a greater academic challenge, move at an accelerated pace and cover material in greater depth. Departments have established prerequisites along with a criteria of skills (beginning on page 37) to help students determine appropriate placement in Honors level courses. Students enrolled in an AP[®] course are required to take the AP[®] exam at the end of the course and may receive college credit. The AP[®] exam fee (\$95 per exam) will be added to the tuition bill.

ONLINE COURSES

Students may take courses offered through the online provider Montgomery Virtual Learning that are included in this course catalog. These courses incur an additional fee of \$950. Students who choose to enroll in an online course must have internet access at home as well as access to their email account. Access at school will be provided, but due to the nature of the courses, access at home must also be available. Students need the following skills to be successful in an online course: ability to organize, study, and learn in an independent environment; ability to work with others; effective written communication skills; technical capacity; critical thinking; desire to learn in a new medium; demonstration of patience; effective time management skills; and commitment to learning. Students must have at least a 3.0 GPA if they desire to take an online course. Students who are considering enrolling in an online course must receive permission from the Assistant Head of School for Academics in addition to any required departmental approval.

Art Department

ELECTIVE COURSES

Honors Art Major 1

Offered to Grades 10, 11, and 11

Course Number 721

Year

This course is an introduction to the fundamentals of two and three-dimensional design. The elements of art are studied through exploration of various media: pencil, charcoal, acrylic and watercolor paint, pen and ink, relief printing, and sculptural and collage materials. Foundation drawing skills are applied to portrait and figure studies in addition to still life and landscape. Lessons in graphic art explore creative design in relation to the guiding principles of art. A \$250 fee for art supplies will be added to the tuition bill.

Honors Art Major 2

Offered to Grades 11 and 12

Course Number 731

Year

This course presents a more intensive investigation of art principles as expressed in perceptual and conceptual compositions. Media explored include pencil, charcoal, acrylic paint, pen and ink, watercolor, pastels, and sculptural and collage materials. Digital design is introduced to aid in answering more challenging design problems. Fine Art and Graphic Art are studied as dual approaches to the study of art, which broaden student understanding of the possibilities for careers in the visual arts. Watercolor, acrylic paint, and pastel techniques are applied to painting exercises in still life, landscape, portrait, figure studies, and conceptual pieces. Semester projects of independent choice allow for individual discovery and expression. A \$250 fee for art supplies will be added to the tuition bill.

Honors Art Major 3

Offered to Grade 12

Course Number 741

Year

Students continue to strengthen skills in the Fine and Graphic Arts. As more challenging design and color problems are presented in a variety of traditional media and digital media applications, students finely tune their understanding, appreciation, and execution of multiple approaches to painting as viewed in Imitational, Formalistic, and Expressionistic Art. Landscape, still life, figure, and portrait studies continue in various media. Contemporary art is studied as motivation for the student's search for a personal form of expression. Students who are interested in applying to college art programs are aided in compiling a visual art portfolio. A \$250 fee for art supplies will be added to the tuition bill.

Principles of Design 1

Offered to Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

Course Number 752

Semester

This course is designed for students who are passionate about creating art but are not currently enrolled in the Art Major program. This course concentrates on the design and compositional elements that exist in design and art of modern times. Drawing, painting, digital art, and sculptural exercises are drawn from traditional methods and employ working from imagination and observation. Media employed include pencil, oil pastels, acrylics, photography, sculpture, and collage materials. Students are introduced to the computer as an aid to developing art ideas and creating art. Students develop thinking skills necessary to envision possibilities for creative solutions to problems, which can then be applied in many fields of study. The \$125 semester fee for art supplies will be added to the tuition bill.

Drawing

Offered to Grade 10, 11, 12

Course Number 755

Semester

Knowing how to draw deepens one's understanding of the visual world and enhances one's ability to interact meaningfully within it. Coursework will bring a new dimension to self-expression and elevate skills that are important for other art forms, including painting, printmaking, sculpture, photography, and design. This course requires close observation, which will allow students to make connections to math, science, history, and language arts. Through an effective teaching system of demonstration and guided practice, students will build a complete set of drawing skills. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the core principles of drawing: line, proportion, composition, value, light and shadow, texture, and color. Taking inspiration from master drawings from history as well as from contemporary artists, students will apply their knowledge in projects including objects, still life, interiors, figure drawing, and self-portraits. Drawing media to be explored include graphite, charcoal, colored pencils, conté, ink, and mixed media. The \$125 semester fee for art supplies will be added to the tuition bill.

Foundations in Digital Design 1**Offered to Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 in alternate years (offered 2022–2023 and 2024–2025)** Semester**Course Number 758**

This course introduces how design concepts and principles are applied to visual communication in the digital world. Through hands-on use of select software applications, students will develop strategies for creating effective and engaging design projects with real-life applications for print, web and social media platforms. Students examine the work of contemporary artists to understand the importance of how digital design is applied in the current socio-economic climate.

Students are taught to strive for originality, ensuring their designs do not infringe on someone else's copyright. Project topics are chosen by students, helping each student to put independent thinking and problem-solving skills into action, allowing them to take ownership of their learning, and to bring attention to a message they want to tell viewers.

English Department

The English Department offers a broad range of courses. Honors level classes are open to qualified students, subject to faculty approval. Freshmen are placed based upon criteria described below. Thereafter, students and faculty will confer to make decisions about appropriate placement. All students are required to take Foundations in Literature and Writing, American Literature, British Literature, and Effective Writing. In addition, seniors must also take either two semesters of courses selected from those numbered from 141 to 150 or take Advanced Placement® English Literature & Composition.

Foundations in Literature and Writing

Course Number 112

Offered to Grade 9

Year

This course focuses on both the study of literary genres and the writing process. Through exploration of poetry, the novel, short fiction, and drama, students develop critical reading and analytical thinking skills. Assigned texts provide students with models of good writing as they work to master effective sentence and paragraph structure and gain confidence in their writing. This course will review key grammar and punctuation rules and will focus on revision as an essential component of effective writing. Students will use an online learning platform for skill development and practice in grammar, comprehension, and writing. They will also examine models of writing and use articles to develop their research, note-taking, and summarizing skills. The Vocabulary Workshop Online program, in addition to words from the assigned texts, will develop students' vocabularies.

Honors Foundations in Literature and Writing

Course Number 115

Offered to Grade 9

Year

This course focuses on both the study of literary genres and the writing process. Through exploration of poetry, the novel, short fiction, and drama, students develop critical reading and analytical thinking skills. Major works could include *Jane Eyre*, *The Book Thief*, *The Glass Menagerie*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. Assigned texts provide students with models of good writing as they work to master effective sentence and paragraph structure. This course includes a review of key grammar and punctuation rules and will focus on revision as an essential component of effective writing. Students will use an online learning platform for skill development and practice in grammar, comprehension, and writing. They will also examine models of writing and use articles to develop their research, note-taking, and summarizing skills. In an honors-level course, students should expect to read more challenging texts at a faster pace than in Foundations in Literature and Writing. In addition, as discussion is a key component of the course, students must share analyses and opinions on a daily basis.

Effective Writing

Course Number 162

Required in Grade 10*

Semester

This course, which is required for all students, emphasizes the reinforcement of the skills necessary for clear, creative, effective written expression. The course focuses on the review/reinforcement of specific usage and grammar units and the process and practice of good writing. Students learn to write for varied purposes and progress from single-paragraph assignments to persuasive letters to a research-based paper. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to develop their individual voices as writers.

American Literature

Offered to Grade 10

Course Number 122

Year

This course presents the development of ideas in American literature. Selections include such authors as Hawthorne, Poe, Emerson, Thoreau, Dickinson, Whitman, Fitzgerald, Steinbeck, Miller, and Salinger. With reference to the historical background, the course enables the student to analyze significant literary works as seen within the framework of American ideology. Critical reading and writing are incorporated into the course along with vocabulary development through the *Vocabulary Workshop* Interactive Edition and supplemental materials.

Honors American Literature

Offered to Grade 10

Course Number 125

Year

This course offers a chronological overview of American literature spanning from the early 1600s to present day. Students will read a combination of short stories, novels, poetry, drama, and non-fiction selections to explore a variety of literary movements including Romanticism, Transcendentalism, Realism, Naturalism, Modernism, and Postmodernism. Students will become familiar with authors such as Bryant, Thoreau, Wharton, Fitzgerald, and Salinger. Through frequent reading and writing assignments, students will be encouraged to strive for deeper analysis and improved logic, clarity, and maturity in both written and oral expression. Critical reading and writing are incorporated into the course along with vocabulary development through both the *Vocabulary Workshop* Interactive Edition and supplemental materials.

British Literature

Offered to Grade 11

Course Number 132

Year

This survey course covers material from the Anglo-Saxon period to the late twentieth century. The primary objectives of this course are for students to develop their critical thinking and writing skills while developing an appreciation for British literature. Students examine how authors use language, analyze literary themes, and become familiar with the historical contexts of various literary movements. Novels/plays will cover the English Renaissance, Romantic Period, and Victorian Period. Critical reading and writing are incorporated into the course along with vocabulary development through the *Vocabulary Workshop* Interactive Edition and supplemental materials.

Honors British Literature

Offered to Grade 11

Course Number 135

Year

This course examines significant works of British literature within a historical context. The course begins with an extensive analysis of the novels and plays assigned over the summer. Works from the Anglo-Saxon period, the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and the Seventeenth Century comprise the first semester. Second semester continues the study of literature up to the twentieth century. Skills in critical thinking and analytical writing are stressed. Critical reading and writing are incorporated into the course along with vocabulary development through the *Vocabulary Workshop* Interactive Edition and supplemental materials.

The following courses (141-149) will be offered on a rotating basis and only those with sufficient enrollment will run. Seniors, regardless of electives taken in previous years, must take at least one literature-based semester course (Speech class does not count). Seniors who have not previously taken additional electives must take two semester courses and may take additional courses if they so choose. Only the Speech class is open to sophomores and juniors.

Honors Contemporary Literature*

Offered to Grade 12

Course Number 141

Semester

Contemporary Literature*

Offered to Grade 12

Course Number 142

Semester

This course acquaints students with some of the most esteemed living authors and significant works from the mid-twentieth century to the present. Students will read the works of authors who represent different cultures and have received major literary awards such as the Nobel Prize, Pulitzer Prize, Booker Prize, or National Book Award. In addition to reading and analyzing poetry, short stories, and novels, students will read and respond to non-fiction articles and essays related to topics presented in the literature. Throughout the course, students will consider the universal elements of literature, the ways in which culture influences literature, and the qualities that make a book a contemporary “classic” or a work worthy of awards. Students in the Honors level should expect to read more challenging selections, which will require spending more time on coursework.

Students who have not been in an honors level course may receive permission from their teacher to take an honors level elective during senior year if they have earned a B+ or better in junior year and have demonstrated a consistent work ethic, proficiency in analytical writing, and enthusiasm for literature.

Honors Gothic Literature*

Offered to Grade 12

Course Number 149

Semester

Starting with folklore told around the campfire to best selling authors of today like Stephen King, the students in Gothic Literature Honors study the development of the genre through time. The students will also familiarize themselves with the ever-changing definitions of villains and monsters and how these changes relate to the time period and the cultural identity of each writer. While acknowledging the progression and specific background of each literary piece, the students will also help to synthesize the common themes and fears which define Gothic literature as the genre to explore the very nature of our humanity. Students will be required to relate back to various historical, cultural, and philosophical ideas which will be discussed through the various challenging texts, which may include the works of Octavia E. Butler, Ann Radcliffe, and Emily Brontë, among others. Students who have not been in an honors level course may receive permission from their teacher to take an honors level elective during senior year if they have earned a B+ or better in junior year and have demonstrated a consistent work ethic, proficiency in analytical writing, and enthusiasm for literature.

Gothic Literature*

Offered to Grade 12

Course Number 144

Semester

Through the centuries, authors have been making readers afraid of the dark and of things that go bump in the night, creating such frightening monsters as Frankenstein, Dracula, and even Pennywise. This course seeks to investigate the origins of such monsters, delve into the world of the strange and phenomenal, and examine the role of Gothic literature in popular culture and the literary world. Texts will include a novel and a variety of short stories, both classic and contemporary.

Speech & Contemporary Issues

Offered to Grades 10, 11, and 12

Course Number 147

Semester

This challenging course is for students interested both in improving their public speaking and in exploring issues of the day. Students will study historic speeches, learn the basics of effective rhetoric, learn effective presentation techniques, write and deliver expository and persuasive speeches, and participate in structured debate. This course is not recommended for students who are still acquiring proficiency in spoken English.

World Mythology*

Offered to Grade 12

Course Number 148

One Semester

This course provides a survey of major myths from various cultural/geographic areas. During the course, students learn to compare and contrast myths, identify common elements, and interpret the meaning of the myths in the cultural and historical context in which they were written. The course also examines themes or patterns, including the heroic journey, patterns of transformation, and mythic motifs.

Advanced Placement® English Literature & Composition

Offered to Grade 12

Course Number 150

Year

AP® English Literature and Composition is a college-level course that offers an intensive study of American, British, and world literature. Students will read a combination of poetry, drama, creative nonfiction, literary theory, and narrative fiction in order to understand the ways in which authors use literary techniques and language to create meaning. The rotating curriculum includes Greek and modern drama, novels by authors such as Tolstoy, Conrad, Chopin, García Márquez, Spark, Woolf, and Morrison, and poetry from different cultures. Some of the novels are assigned as summer reading. Students should expect to write frequent in-class, timed essays, discussion board explications, critical essays, and a research paper. Contributions to class discussion and oral presentations are expected. Students are required to take the AP® exam in the spring. Students may be required to meet outside of class to complete a practice exam. The \$95 AP® exam fee will be added to the tuition bill.

Health and Physical Education

Ninth-grade students are required to take one semester of Physical Education/Health. Yoga may substitute for Physical Education. Physical Education or Yoga meet one day a week; as does Health class, and Freshman Workshop. This weekly rotation of Physical Education or Yoga, Health, and Freshman Workshop provides the opportunity for a student to have one study period per week during the semester they are taking Physical Education/Health or Yoga/Health.

Physical Education/Health

Offered to Grade 9

Course Numbers 921

Semester

This course provides students the opportunity to engage in physical fitness, to learn basic skills of sports and games, to gain confidence in their athletic abilities, and to build community with classmates. The importance of teamwork, sportsmanship, and leadership is stressed through each activity. In addition, students will gain a strong foundation for lifelong physical health and wellness.

Yoga/Health

Offered to Grade 9

Course Number 925

Semester

This course is designed to introduce students, safely and accessibly, to the basic postures, breathing techniques, and relaxation methods of yoga. Students will begin to experience the benefits of stretching, moving, and breathing freely as they relieve built-up stress and learn to relax. Students will gain confidence in their abilities and will build community with their classmates. In addition, students will gain a strong foundation for lifelong physical health and wellness.

Healthy Living

Required in grade 10

Course Number 929

Semester

This course provides students with the knowledge and understanding necessary to continue to make informed, healthful decisions. Discussions will highlight important issues and incorporate current research so that students understand the implications of building and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Topics include nutrition, healthy eating patterns, fitness, mental health, stress management, and substance abuse prevention. Upon completion of this course, students will have created a plan for life-long fitness and wellness. Healthy Living will meet three days a week. This offers each tenth-grade student one study period a week in the semester in which they have Healthy Living.

Language Department

Students are required to take two years of language, though they are strongly advised to take at least three years. Students beginning any language course, even those taken in addition to another language, are required to take at least two years of that language. Every student taking a language will need the signature of her current language teacher approving her selection. This is required for every level of language study.

Classical Language

The Classical Language program offers students an authentic encounter with the Roman world as students interact with the Latin language through listening, reading, writing, and speaking. While increasing one's understanding of the Latin language through various literary genres, students often gain a deep appreciation for the inherent rewards of acquiring a second language on many platforms. Latin thrives in the classroom at Merion Mercy as classes incorporate the three modes of communication: interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational. The Latin curriculum allows students to discover the vast interdisciplinary nature of the classics through literature, history, culture, philosophy, mythology, anthropology, art, and architecture. The study of Latin enables students to develop sharper critical thinking skills, a discipline for persistent study, and a true appreciation of the importance of the liberal arts. All Latin students participate in the National Latin Exam in March.

Honors Latin 1

Course Number 511

Year

In this course, students are introduced to the fundamental forms and grammatical structures of the Latin language to build reading and listening comprehension. Through daily practice of phrases, vocabulary, and grammar, students develop new skills for reading and translating simple sentences. As reading proficiency progresses, longer Latin paragraphs and stories are utilized to increase vocabulary, reading comprehension skills, and teach about Roman history, mythology and culture. Students will be able to discover many similarities between Latin and the English language, especially English vocabulary. Time will also be spent exploring Roman life, history, and mythology.

Honors Latin 2

Course Number 521

Year

In this course, students continue to develop their reading proficiency in Latin and increase their ability to derive meaning from text even if there are some unfamiliar forms. Students reinforce their knowledge of previously studied Latin vocabulary and forms by reading Latin novellas, and they continue to broaden their intermediate level reading proficiency. New vocabulary and grammatical forms are introduced and practiced through drills as well as adapted passages based in mythology and history, both ancient and medieval. Students are continually challenged to increase their comprehension and application of study through reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Readings outside of the textbook and novellas may include fables, fairy tales, and mythology such as *The Twelve Labors of Hercules* and *The Argonautae*. These excerpts not only improve students' comprehension and translation skills, but also provide a useful orientation to authentic Latin history, culture, and mythology.

Honors Latin 3

Course Number 531

Year

Students continue to develop more advanced translation skills in this course as they strengthen reading and listening skills and are introduced to more complex grammar through various texts. Students' thorough retention of vocabulary and grammar from the first two years of study helps to make this course particularly fruitful and enjoyable; however, previous grammar is also reviewed and practiced at length throughout the year. Students may read excerpts from Latin prose and poetic authors including Ovid, Catullus, Cicero, and Caesar. Students will also read a selection of thematic Latin novellas on Roman history and architecture. Students are encouraged to produce textually accurate, but natural translations, as they strive to communicate ideas, not merely words. Throughout the year, students continue to closely study the roots of words while expanding their Latin and English vocabularies.

AP[®] Latin

Course Number 540

Honors Latin 4

Course Number 541

Year

This course marks the transition of a student's study of Latin at the high school level to its study at the collegiate level. While reading and translating portions of two acclaimed literary works, students broaden their reading proficiency and deepen their appreciation of the interdisciplinary nature of classical studies. Students will study Latin epic poetry by reading selections from Vergil's *Aeneid*, noting unique grammatical constructions and innovative literary devices therein as well as contextualizing the framework of the literature through the study of Augustan Rome. Students will also study Latin prose by reading Caesar's *De Bello Gallico* and applying similar principles of reading comprehension, analysis, and contextualization within the late Republican period. AP[®] Latin and Honors Latin 4 will likely be scheduled as a combined class. Students in the AP[®] level are required to take the AP[®] exam in the spring. The \$95 AP[®] exam fee will be added to the tuition bill.

Modern Languages

The Modern Language program seeks to instill in students a sincere appreciation and understanding of other peoples and cultures while incorporating three essential modes of communication: interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational. Language instruction begins first with the essential interpretive mode of reading and listening to the target language, which lays the foundation for the next stage of language acquisition, namely writing and speaking. Development of these skills allows for production of language in both presentational writing and interpersonal communication through speaking. All Honors-level French and Spanish students participate in the National French and Spanish exams in March

French Offerings

French 1

Course Number 515

Year

The goal of this course is to introduce and initiate the multiple language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing French. Audio-lingual exercises are designed to guide and improve pronunciation. Communication activities, CD and video programs, and visual materials are implemented to further help students understand and respond in French. Students are taught basic grammatical points such as the present tense of regular verbs, definite and indefinite articles, agreement of adjectives and nouns, formation of interrogative and of negative sentences. In turn, students will begin speaking and writing simple

sentences in the target language. Classroom activities and research projects enhance the appreciation of various aspects of French and Francophone cultures. At the completion of French 1 students are able to speak with accuracy, write simple sentences, and read level-appropriate texts in the target language.

French 2

Course Number 525

Year

The goal of this course is to further develop the listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills acquired in the first year of study. During the first semester, students learn more advanced grammatical structures and continue building on vocabulary in order to facilitate and enhance written and oral production in the target language. In addition, students are exposed to authentic resources in order to complete different tasks that reflect the three modes of communication: interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational. Furthermore, students will demonstrate command of grammatical structures and vocabulary, as well as knowledge of French culture, through projects given in each semester. During the second semester, students start reading level-appropriate short novels to continue developing reading comprehension skills while learning more about the cultures and traditions of French-speaking countries.

French 3

Course Number 534

Year

The aim of this course is to increase students' proficiency in the French language through the study of advanced grammatical structures, extensive vocabulary, and the use of natural language in context. Students address a variety of topics concerning the realities of Francophone culture. Critical reading ability is developed through the use of authentic short stories and literary or journalistic excerpts, while a variety of audio-visual materials improve students' ability to comprehend and interpret spoken French. The students' ability to speak and write in the target language is enriched through various projects. At this advanced level, the majority of class discussions are conducted in French.

French 4

Course Number 545

Year

The goal of this course is to further develop students' fluency in verbal communication and in reading competence. Vocabulary is further expanded and enriched. Written communication is emphasized for greater grammatical accuracy as well as for depth of content. Selected readings from classical and contemporary French and Francophone literature are used to develop techniques of analysis and in-depth comprehension as well as an appreciation of literary content.

Spanish Offerings

Honors Spanish 1

Course Number 517

Year

The goal of this course is to prepare students to be competent in Spanish as delineated in the National Standards of Foreign Language Learning: communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities. The subject matter is presented in the target language. Communicative activities, video programs, audio-lingual exercises, and other authentic materials are used to guide students toward an appropriate level of proficiency. Students are directed in writing and level-specific readings in Spanish. At the completion of the course, students are able to communicate about subjects within the range of their experience.

Spanish 1

Course Number 518

Year

The goal of this course is to introduce students into a Spanish speaking community where they will begin or continue developing four skills: listening, reading, writing, and speaking, all in the target language. While the content of this course is essentially the same as that of level A, the grammatical structures and vocabulary are presented at a slower pace. During the first semester, students focus on target language acquisition through a variety of activities and mini tasks in order to lead them towards the oral and written production of simple sentences. During the second semester, students develop their comprehension skills by reading short novels written in Spanish. At the completion of Spanish 1, students are able to speak with accuracy and write simple sentences within the range of student experiences, as well as read level-appropriate texts in the target language.

Honors Spanish 2

Course Number 527

Year

The goal of this course is to build on the listening and speaking skills acquired at the first level. The guided conversation experienced at the first level is expanded to creative expression with opportunities to state opinions and express feelings and reactions in Spanish within the range of student experiences. Students are given directed readings about their contemporaries in Spain and Latin America, traditional customs, and historical and cultural points of interest. In the second semester, students read short novels to reinforce directed reading skills. Contemporary Spanish-speaking culture is presented through a program of audio-visual materials in the target language, including many authentic resources

Spanish 2

Course Number 528

Year

The goal of this course is to further develop the skills acquired in Spanish 1: to speak with accuracy, to understand spoken Spanish, to write clearly, and to understand Spanish texts within the range of student experience. An appreciation of the Spanish-speaking world is developed through readings and activities that reflect the everyday lifestyles of the cultures. These texts present views of many Spanish-speaking countries. In the second semester, greater emphasis is placed on consistent and more frequent use of the Spanish language in class in order to prepare students for the transition to Spanish 3

Honors Spanish 3

Course Number 537

Year

This course aims to bring students closer to proficiency in the Spanish language by studying advanced grammatical forms and structures, vocabulary, and idiomatic usage. Emphasis is placed on the development of reading ability through the use of authentic resources along with expository writing in response to those texts. At this advanced level, frequent pair and class discussions in the target language about contemporary issues affecting Spain and Latin America, as well as cultural comparisons with the United States, allow for a more student-centered learning environment. Successful completion of this course provides a smooth transition to Honors Spanish 4 or AP[®] Spanish in the following year.

Spanish 3

Course Number 538

Year

The goal of this course is to enhance speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. Grammatical structures

continue to be stressed systematically in exercises and in free-response conversational situations. Reading skills are expanded through an exploration of various types of literature. A variety of audio-visual materials and authentic resources supplement the program. At this level, students are expected to speak in Spanish for all basic communication, while more advanced speaking skills necessary for real-life situations are developed through pair activities, skits, projects, and class discussions within the range of student experiences. Upon successful completion of this course, students are prepared for the next Spanish course in the fourth level

AP[®] Spanish

Course Number 546

Year

The Advanced Placement[®] Spanish course will solidify students' command of advanced grammar and syntax. Authentic sources such as news broadcasts, radio interviews, and periodicals are used frequently in order to stimulate primarily student-centered class discussions, raise an awareness of current events in the Spanish-speaking world, and strengthen linguistic proficiency. Written communication is emphasized for accuracy and depth of content. Students will read various genres of literature as well as study history and civilization from various Spanish-speaking countries and cultures.

This course emphasizes the superior development of the three modes of communication: interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational. Oral proficiency with a native-like fluency, in addition to expository writing for accuracy and depth of content, is stressed throughout the course. College credit and advanced standing in university courses can be earned upon the successful completion of the course and the AP[®] exam given in May. In addition to the regular course material, extra practice assignments are given, and students will sit for a full practice exam during the midterm examination period. Students are required to take the AP[®] exam in the spring. The \$95 AP[®] exam fee will be added to the tuition bill. AP[®] Spanish and Honors Spanish 4 may be scheduled as a combined class.

Honors Spanish 4

Course Number 547

Year

This course solidifies students' command of advanced grammar and syntax. Authentic sources such as news broadcasts, radio interviews, and periodicals are used frequently to stimulate primarily student-centered class discussions, raise an awareness of current events in the Spanish-speaking world, and strengthen linguistic proficiency within the range of student experiences. Written communication is emphasized for accuracy and depth of content. Students are also exposed to various genres of literature and the study of history and civilization from various Spanish-speaking countries. AP[®] Spanish and Honors Spanish 4 may be scheduled as a combined class

Spanish 4

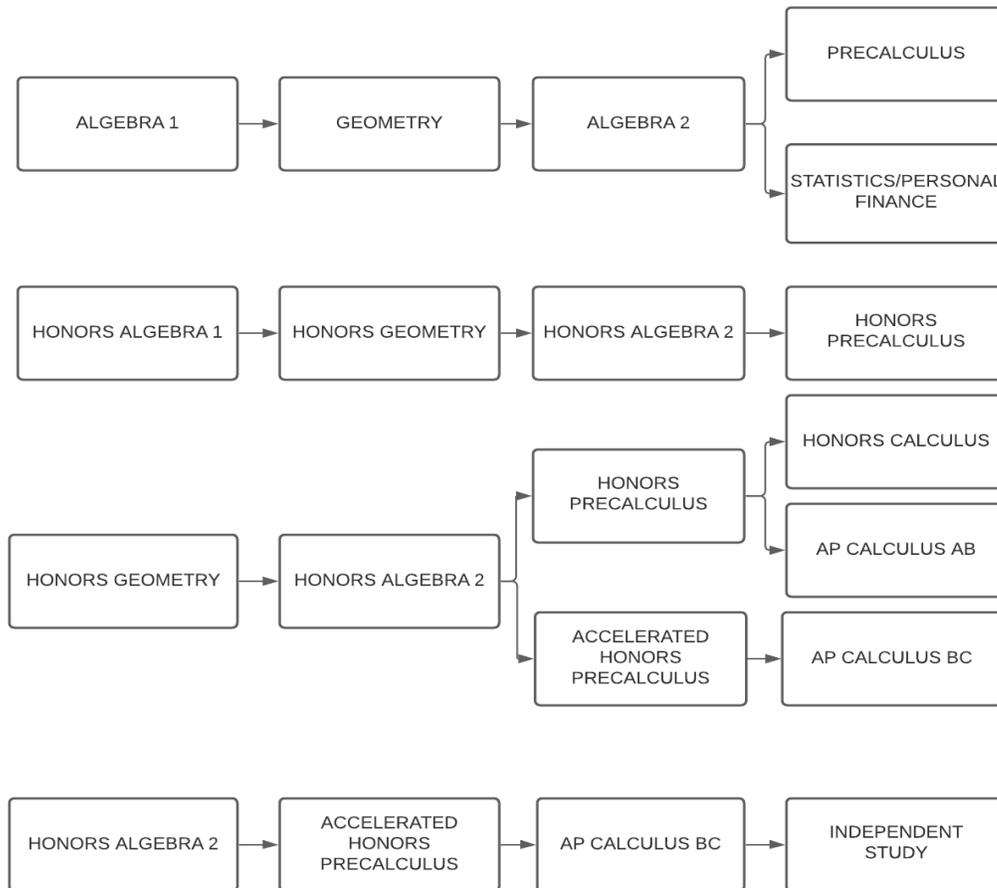
Course Number 548

Year

This course is designed to enhance the skills already acquired in previous Spanish levels. Emphasis is placed on the further development of oral skills and proficiency in Spanish. Readings of representative Spanish-speaking authors and discussion of their works increase comprehension skills and improve proficiency with the spoken language within the range of student experiences. Students increase their awareness and understanding of the Spanish-speaking world through art, history, and civilization. Exposure to these authentic resources encourages them to engage in discussion and express opinions in the target language. A variety of audio-visual materials about current topics supplement the program.

Mathematics Department

Students currently in grade 11 are required to take three years of mathematics. Incoming ninth graders (the class of 2026) and students currently in grades 9 , 10, and 11 will be required to take four years of mathematics. The main progression of required math courses is Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2; with different possible progressions of elective and more advanced courses are diagrammed below. Please see the section on honors and AP® criteria for details regarding the placement process. **A TI-84+ graphing calculator is required for all math courses.**



Honors Algebra 1

Offered to Grade 9

Course Number 211

Year

Students with a deep interest in math who have not had a full year of algebra will be considered for this course. This course covers topics, including linear and quadratic functions, inequalities, and linear systems of equations and inequalities, with a deeper exploration of connections between topics and more sophisticated applications using analytical and graphing techniques. Additional topics studied in the honors course include exponential functions, radical functions, and rational equations. Graphing calculators are used to investigate and verify findings.

Algebra 1

Offered to Grade 9

Course Number 212

Year

This course presents the concepts of algebra in the context of solving real-world problems. An emphasis is placed on the study of linear equations and inequalities, absolute value equations and inequalities, and quadratic functions and their graphs. Graphing calculators are used to investigate and verify findings.

Honors Geometry

Offered to Grades 9 and 10

Course Number 221

Year

This accelerated course presents the concepts of Euclidean geometry and the relationship between geometry and algebra with an emphasis on theoretical foundations and proofs. Topics include polygons, parallel and perpendicular lines, congruence and similarity of triangles, quadrilaterals, right triangle trigonometry, transformations, circles, perimeter and area of two-dimensional figures, and the volume of solid figures. Coordinate geometry and conic sections will also be included in this course. Technology is used to further enhance the study of geometric concepts.

Geometry

Offered to Grade 10

Course Number 222

Year

In this course, students study the relationship between geometry and algebra. Topics include polygons, parallel and perpendicular lines, congruence and similarity of triangles, quadrilaterals, right triangles, an introduction to trigonometry, transformations, circles, perimeter and area of two-dimensional figures, and the volume of solid figures. Coordinate geometry will be integrated throughout the course. Conic sections will be introduced. Algebraic skills will be needed to solve problems involving real-world applications. Technology is used to further enhance the study of geometric concepts.

Honors Algebra 2

Offered to Grades 10 and 11

Course Number 231

Year

This accelerated course follows a course in geometry and covers topics on linear functions, absolute value functions, quadratic equations and inequalities, matrices, exponential and logarithmic functions, polynomial functions, and rational functions. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving with applications taken from science and business. Standardized test preparation is integrated throughout the course. Graphing calculators are used to investigate graphs of functions.

Algebra 2
Offered to Grade 11

Course Number 232
Year

This course follows the study of geometry. In this course, students work on improving their algebraic skills. Linear equations and inequalities are reviewed as well as basic operations with polynomials and rational functions. Quadratic functions are an important new topic. Students learn to graph functions manually and with a graphing calculator. Word problems emphasize applications from science and business. Standardized test preparation is integrated throughout the course. Graphing calculators are used to investigate graphs of functions.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Statistics
Offered to Grades 11 and 12

Course Number 247
Semester

This course presents the basic ideas of statistics. Students learn about analyzing data, planning a study, producing models using probability and simulation, and interpreting graphical displays of data. This course presents topics of probability including basic probability, permutations, combinations, probability of compound events, and odds. Topics in statistics related to distributions of data and comparisons of sets are covered.

Honors Precalculus
Offered to Grades 11 and 12

Course Number 229
Year

Topics in this honors course include the study of the following functions and their graphs: polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and radical. Topics such as trigonometry, regression, sequences and series are emphasized. Juniors taking this course are prepared to take Honors Calculus or AP[®] Calculus AB in senior year. Seniors will be preparing for a calculus course in college.

Accelerated Honors Precalculus
Offered to Grades 10 and 11

Course Number 230
Year

This accelerated course is divided into two parts. The first part covers advanced algebraic skills, circular trigonometry, sequences and series, parametric and polar equations, vectors, probability, and analytic geometry. In the second part, the following topics from calculus are introduced: limits, continuity, and derivatives. Students taking this course are preparing for AP[®] Calculus BC. A summer assignment is required.

AP[®] Calculus AB
Offered to Grades 11 and 12

Course Number 240
Year

This college-level course covers the topics of the Advanced Placement[®] Calculus AB curriculum. These include limits, continuity, and derivatives and integrals of elementary functions. Applications of derivatives and integrals are covered. Students should expect rigorous daily assignments. Students are required to take the AP[®] exam in the spring. The \$95 AP[®] exam fee will be added to the tuition bill. A summer assignment is required.

Honors Calculus
Offered to Grade 12

Course Number 241
Year

This accelerated course covers the topics of elementary functions, limits, continuity, derivatives, and integrals. Applications of derivatives and integrals are incorporated into this course. Algebraic skills are further developed and strengthened throughout the year.

Personal Finance
Offered to Grades 11 and 12

Course Number 260
Semester

This course covers topics in basic financial literacy. Topics included are financial responsibility and decision-making, budgeting, payroll taxes, credit cards, identity theft, checking accounts, and savings accounts. Students will complete financial literacy projects and learn about real-life issues regarding money management and retirement savings. A guest speaker will present information on personal financial knowledge that is relevant to teenagers. A calculator is required for this course.

Precalculus
Offered to Grades 11 and 12

Course Number 244
Year

This course will begin with sequences and series. A review of right triangles will be studied in preparation for standardized tests. Topics included in this course are interval notation, parent functions and their transformations, composition of functions, exponential functions, and logarithms. There will be a trigonometry unit in the second semester which covers trigonometric ratios, special right triangles, radian measure, the unit circle, sine and cosine graphs, the law of sines, and the law of cosines. A graphing calculator is used extensively in this course.

AP[®] Statistics
Offered to Grades 11 and 12 in alternate years (offered 2022-2023 and 2024-2025)

Course Number 245
Year

This college-level course is divided into four areas of study: 1) exploring data and observing patterns and departures from patterns; 2) planning a study – deciding what and how to measure; 3) producing models using probability and simulation; 4) learning how to make statistical inferences. Students make extensive use of the statistical features of the TI-84+ graphing calculator (required). Students are required to take the AP[®] exam in the spring. The \$95 AP[®] exam fee will be added to the tuition bill. A summer assignment is required.

AP[®] Calculus BC

Offered to Grades 11 and 12

Course Number 250

Year

AP[®] Calculus BC is a full-year, college-level course in the calculus of functions of a single variable. It includes all topics covered in AP[®] Calculus AB plus the following topics: analysis and derivatives of parametric, polar, and vector functions; Euler's method of solving differential equations; integration by parts and partial fractions; improper integrals; logistic differential equations; and Taylor and Maclaurin series. Students should expect rigorous daily assignments. Students are required to take the AP[®] exam in the spring. The \$95 AP[®] exam fee will be added to the tuition bill. Students must maintain a grade of B+ in the course. A summer assignment is required.

This course will be offered through the online provider Montgomery Virtual Learning. Students enrolled in this course will also have regular check-ins with a math teacher at Merion in order to support and guide their learning. Students who choose to enroll in this online course must have internet access at home as well as access to their email account. Access at school will be provided, but due to the nature of the courses, access at home must also be available. Students need the following skills to be successful in an online course: ability to organize, study, and learn in an independent environment; ability to work with others; effective written communication skills; technical capacity; critical thinking; desire to learn in a new medium; demonstration of patience; effective time management skills; and commitment to learning. Students enrolled in this course will also have regular check-ins with a math teacher at Merion in order to support and guide their learning. The additional fee incurred for students who choose to take an online course is waived for this course.

Independent Study

Offered to Grade 12

Course Number 262

Year

Any student interested in pursuing an independent study in mathematics should approach the department chair to discuss their goals. The chair will support the student in creating a proposal to be reviewed by the Assistant Head of School for Academics. The proposal must include the reason for the project, specific learning objectives, actual work to be completed, and resources to be used. The student would submit the proposal to the Assistant Head of School for Academics for consideration at the time course selection forms are due. All students who engage in independent studies will maintain a record of their work and submit documentation at the end of each interim and semester to the department chair.

Performing Arts Department

Students who complete the two-and-a-half-year academic program -- Renaissance Revels, Honors Music, and AP[®] Music Theory -- and who also participate in two ensembles each year earn the distinction of Music Major.

Music Scholars (those awarded scholarships for their music abilities) must take Renaissance Revels their freshman year, Honors Music in their Sophomore year, and AP[®] Music Theory in their Junior year.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Renaissance Revels

Offered to Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

Course Number 821

Semester

Through acting, dancing, singing, and the playing of handbells and “lute” uleles, this one-semester course celebrates a love and understanding of the performing arts. The semester will end with a fully costumed and staged Renaissance theater performance, the singing and playing of Madrigals, Organum and Gregorian Chant, as well as Sword and Morris dancing. Students will also work on music literacy to prepare for the Performing Arts Major, music track.

Honors Music

Offered to Grades 10, 11, and 12

Course Number 831

Year

By means of guided listening, score analysis, and model composition, students learn about the development of musical forms and styles of the Baroque and Classical eras. Because the course is based in model composition, students develop a thorough understanding of music history and theory as well as how to use music software for composition. Sight-singing, ear-training, and vocal technique round out the curriculum. This course covers the first half of the theory program and book as well as the first half of the Norton Enjoyment of Music History textbook.

AP[®] Music Theory

Offered to Grades 11, and 12

Course Number 850

Year

This course assumes the aural skills learned in Honors Music and continues to develop students' understanding of basic and advanced theory, ear training, and harmonic score analysis. The second-year music major is also given an opportunity to explore the historical, social, and artistic influences that have contributed to the development of western music from the Classical through the Modern era. Students continue composing and notating music with software. The course culminates with the Music AP[®] test. Students taking the AP[®] level are required to take the AP[®] exam in May. The \$95 AP[®] exam fee will be added to the tuition bill.

Chorale

Offered to Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

Course Number 802

0.5 credit per year /Year

This course is open to all students who have been members of the general glee club for at least one semester and have been accepted into Merion Mercy Singers by audition. The grade for this course is **not** included in the calculation of a student's GPA. Students enrolled in this course are required to commit to two and a half hours of rehearsal per week and performances in concerts and other required choral activities.

Orchestra

Offered to Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

Course Number 804

0.5 credit per year /Year

This course is open to all students. The grade for this course is **not** included in the calculation of a student's GPA. It is highly recommended that a student is taking private lessons. Students enrolled in this course are required to commit to two and a half hours of rehearsal per week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15-4:15. In addition, students are expected to perform in concerts and other required masterclasses and activities.

Science Department

The progression of required science courses is Biology, Chemistry and one additional science credit (chosen from courses numbered 330 or 340 to 364). **The same TI-84+ graphing calculator that is required for all math courses is required for all science courses.**

REQUIRED COURSES

Honors Biology

Offered to Grades 9 and 10

Course Number 321

Year

In the Honors Biology course, emphasis is placed on depth of understanding and application of concepts so that students will be prepared for higher level courses like AP[®] Biology. Honors Biology investigates biological organization starting at a molecular level and culminating with living organisms and ecosystems. The course includes laboratory experiments and requires a lab notebook and formal lab reports. Entry into the Toshiba ExploraVision competition is the first semester's primary group project, while the second semester project brings together units on evolution and ecology to encourage critical thinking about climate change and adaptation. Summer work is required.

Biology

Offered to Grades 9 and 10

Course Number 322

Year

This course is designed to orchestrate a strong foundation in fundamental biological concepts approached from real-world perspectives and applications. The themes of this course include investigation and inquiry, complementarity of structure and function, evolutionary changes of organisms, genetic continuity, regulation and homeostasis, and the biological basis of behavior. With the goal of inspiring curiosity and future innovation, all levels of life are discovered through the lens of labs, projects, case studies, discussion, debate, and current news.

Honors Chemistry

Offered to Grades 10 and 11

Course Number 331

Year

This quantitative honors course covers the study of the physical and chemical properties of matter and the changes that matter undergoes. This course is designed for students with an interest in a science, engineering, or math major. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving and using problem sets to expand the understanding of the principles of chemistry. This course stresses the importance of independent study, inquiry-based learning, and critical thinking. Course topics include measurement, atomic structure, electron arrangement in atoms, the periodic table, chemical equations, stoichiometry, properties of gases, liquids, and solids, chemical reactions, and solutions. Computer simulations and traditional laboratory techniques are used to obtain, organize and analyze data. Conclusions are developed using both quantitative and qualitative information. This course has quantitative components that require confident math skills, including working familiarity with graphing skills, analytical reasoning, and analyzing and interpreting data. Honors Chemistry prepares the student for upper-level science courses including AP[®] Chemistry.

Chemistry

Offered to Grades 10 and 11

Course Number 332

Year

This college preparatory course covers the physical and chemical properties of matter and the changes that matter undergoes. The course teaches not only scientific facts but also proficiency in scientific process skills. Inquiry-based learning and critical thinking are incorporated throughout the course. The course teaches good methods of problem-solving and proper laboratory techniques. Topics include measurement; atomic structure; electron arrangement in atoms; the periodic table; chemical bonding; chemical equations; stoichiometry; properties of gases, liquids, solids, and solutions. Laboratory techniques, including how to record data in a laboratory notebook, will be taught throughout the course. In addition to chapter tests, midterm, and final exams, an independent project will be assigned each semester.

ELECTIVE COURSES**AP[®] Chemistry****Offered to Grades 11 and 12 in alternate years (offered 2022-2023 and 2024-2025)****Course Number 330**

Year

AP[®] Chemistry is the equivalent of two semesters of a college general chemistry course. Following the curriculum framework defined by the College Board, this course prepares students to take the Advanced Placement[®] examination in May. The aim of this inquiry-based course is to develop analytical and problem-solving skills in chemistry through a logical approach to concepts, quantitative problems and laboratory work. Students will need to check with their colleges to determine whether the college will allow them credit for first-year Chemistry. The conditions vary by college and depend on the score achieved in the AP[®] exam.

The major topics covered are atomic structure, stoichiometry, solutions, gasses, thermochemistry, chemical bonding, chemical kinetics and equilibria, acids and bases, and electrochemistry. Laboratory experiments are a major component of the AP[®] Chemistry course. Students will be immersed in various bench techniques as well as how to handle and analyze the data they collect. Students are required to take the AP[®] exam in the spring. The \$95 AP[®] exam fee will be added to the tuition bill. An AP[®] lab fee of \$25 is also assessed. A graphing calculator is required. Time commitment: 6 hours weekly. Summer work is required and students will be assessed upon their return to school during the first week of the following Fall semester.

AP[®] Biology**Offered to Grades 11 and 12 in alternate years (offered 2023-2024 and 2025-2026)****Course Number 340**

Year

This course is designed to be the equivalent of a rigorous, college-level introductory course in biology. Following the revised guidelines of the College Board, the course is organized around four big ideas and six science practices. The course emphasizes high-level conceptual understanding and inquiry-based laboratory experiences. Laboratory experiences account for 25% of the course and include detailed and organized laboratory reports. Each semester will also include both research and creative projects that require highly-motivated learning outside of the classroom.

The course is unified through the following big ideas: 1.) The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life, 2.) Biological systems utilize energy and molecular building blocks to grow, reproduce, and

maintain homeostasis, 3.) Living systems retrieve, transmit, and respond to information essential to life processes, 4.) Biological systems interact, and these interactions possess complex properties. The six practices emphasized include biological concept explanation; creating and analyzing visual representations; determining and utilizing scientific questions and methods; representing and describing data; analyzing data using statistical tests; and developing and justifying a scientific argument. Students are required to take the AP[®] exam in the spring. The \$95 AP[®] exam fee will be added to the tuition bill. An AP[®] lab fee of \$25 is also assessed. Summer work is required.

Honors Physics

Offered to Grades 11 and 12

Course Number 341

Year

This quantitative course is designed for students with an interest in a science, engineering, or math major. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving and using problems to expand understanding of the principles of physics. Course topics include mechanics, vibrations and waves, and electricity and magnetism. Coursework includes laboratory reports, chapter tests, and a midterm exam. Students will participate in the SeaPerch competition in the middle of the year. During the SeaPerch phase, topics in physics will be introduced briefly and students will be responsible for learning them by applying them to their SeaPerch design. This course has quantitative components that require students to have strong math skills, including working familiarity with scientific notation, significant figures, rearrangement of literal equations, vector arithmetic, trigonometric functions, and properties of right triangles. Students will be required to complete a summer assignment that reviews these topics.

Physics

Offered to Grades 11 and 12

Course Number 342

Year

This is a college preparatory course with an emphasis on both conceptual understanding and problem-solving. Topics covered include mechanics, dynamics, circular motion, vibrations and waves, electricity and magnetism, sound, and optics. Coursework includes laboratory reports, chapter tests, and both midterm and final exams. In addition, students will complete an independent project each semester. The spring semester project will be a group laboratory experiment that students will then present to their class.

Anatomy and Physiology

Offered to Grades 11, and 12

Course Number 363

Year

This is an introductory course to the major systems of the body and their integrated functions, as well as an examination of pathological conditions affecting those systems. Equal attention is given to both the structures of the organs comprising each system and the function of those structures. Students will become proficient in using anatomical terms appropriately. Histology of normal and diseased tissues will also be covered. Emphasis is placed on the student's future ability to make decisions that will require biological fact and reasoning. Students will learn such skills as: analyzing systems of homeostasis; case studies analysis, medical diagnosis and discussion; performing small mammal dissections and clinical practicums. Students will participate in the Annenberg High School Symposium Project.

AP® Environmental Science**Course Number 350****Offered to Grades 11 and 12 in alternate years (2022 – 2023 and 2024 – 2025)**

Year

This course is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory environmental science course and uses the guidelines defined by the Educational Testing Service in preparation for the Advanced Placement® exam.

This course provides the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world. Students identify and analyze environmental problems both man-made and natural, evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them. Topics include population, systems, biodiversity, ecological restoration, agriculture, geology, land management, pollution, toxicology, energy, water use, climate and change, and urban environments. On a need basis, additional time for lab work or exam review may be scheduled. Students are required to take the AP® exam in the spring. The \$95 AP® exam fee will be added to the tuition bill. An AP® lab fee of \$25 is also assessed. A graphing calculator is required. Time commitment: 6 hours weekly. Summer work is required.

Environmental Science**Course Number 352****Offered to Grades 11 and 12 in alternate years (2022 – 2023 and 2024 – 2025)**

Year

This course highlights the interdependence of life on earth by studying the physical, biological, and geological aspects of our environment. Topics covered include ecology, biomes, biodiversity, populations, and water, land, air, agriculture, mineral, and energy resources. In addition, emphasis is placed on the importance of human impact on the environment and highlights ways to reduce negative consequences to the environment. The course also incorporates lab work and fieldwork in order to develop observational and data collection skills with special emphasis on improving research and critical thinking. This course complements Earth Science which focuses on understanding inanimate forces that shape our earth.

Forensic Science**Course Number 364****Offered to Grades 11 and 12 in alternate years (offered 2023-2024 and 2025-2026)**

Semester

This course will provide students with a survey of various forensic science topics. Students will learn the fundamentals of what forensic science entails as well as the ethical concerns regarding the scientific reporting in the criminal justice system. Through various laboratory procedures, lectures, and guest lectures, students will learn the basics of crime scene investigation, forensic biology, and forensic chemistry. At the conclusion of the course, the students will learn moot court procedures and what it means to be an expert witness. Enrollment in this course follows successful completion of Biology and Chemistry.

Robotics**Course Number 365**

Offered to Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

Semester

MMA Robotics is a STEAM driven, lab-based course that uses VEX Design System to introduce the basic concepts of engineering, construction, and programming of autonomous machines. In this class students will integrate Python coding language to identify problems, explore design principles within engineering challenges, and evaluate their own unique solutions. Upon completion of this course, students will demonstrate their ability to engage in the engineering design process and develop real robotic prototypes to be presented during VEX Challenge Days. This course is open to students with or without prior programming experience.

Social Studies Department

Students are required to complete three years of Social Studies courses. This includes the following: Cultures in World History in Grade 9; Modern U.S. History or AP[®] U.S. History in Grade 11; and U.S. Government, Honors U.S. Government, or AP[®] U.S. Government in Grade 12. Students will select from the various one-semester elective courses below to complete the final semester requirement. Students may exceed the minimal requirements if they seek a deeper exploration of Social Studies.

REQUIRED COURSES

Cultures in World History

Required in Grade 9

Course Number 412

Year

This course opens with a definition of “What is culture?” and gives the student an overview of the various predominant cultures which have survived throughout history. Beginning with a look at the Golden Age of Greece and Rome, the course proceeds to examine the development of Christianity and the influence of the Germanic people on the formation of Europe; a survey of Europe, which includes studies in Feudalism, the Renaissance and Reformation, and the Enlightenment; and the growth of Islam in the Middle East and Dynastic China. A look at present-day concerns also plays an integral part in the understanding of these cultures.

Modern United States History

Offered to Grade 11

Course Number 432

Year

This course begins with the major events of the early 1900s: industrialization, immigration, and urbanization, with an analysis of their effects on national politics and foreign policy. The political, social, economic, and diplomatic aspects of World War I, World War II, the Cold War, Korean War, Vietnam War, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are examined. Discussion and analysis of current events and how they correlate to history are used to increase students’ global awareness. The course is designed to develop students’ analytical skills and the factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the issues of society. Students are challenged to explore the past for its relevance to the present.

AP[®] United States History

Offered to Grade 11

Course Number 439

Year

This Advanced Placement[®] course is intended for qualified students who wish to complete a college introductory course in secondary school. The course provides extensive chronological coverage and readings on a broad variety of topics in such fields as economic history, cultural and intellectual history, social history, and political-constitutional history. In preparation for the AP[®] test, topics begin with the settlement of the New World in 1492 and continue on to the present-day problems for the most recent U.S. immigrants. Students learn to assess historical materials and various interpretations presented in historical scholarship, develop skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment, and present these conclusions in well-expressed essays. Coursework requires six hours of study a week. Students are required to take the AP[®] exam in the spring. The \$95 AP[®] exam fee will be added to the tuition bill.

AP® U. S. Government and Politics

Offered to Grade 12

Course Number 440

Year

This Advanced Placement® course is designed to give students a critical perspective on politics and government. Topics for this course include an examination of the historical background against which the Constitution was drafted, the Articles of Confederation, the powers and responsibilities of the three branches of government, the effects of the two-party system, the presidential election process, and the progression of legislation through Congress. Major research projects are assigned, including a reenactment of the Constitutional Convention of 1787. By looking at current domestic and foreign policy issues and political trends, students realize the need for an informed electorate and responsible citizenship in a democratic society. A solid foundation in American history is very helpful but not required. Students must have strong writing skills. Class participation is emphasized and integrated throughout the course. Completion of this course also fulfills the three-year requirement of Social Studies. Coursework requires 6 hours of study a week. Students are required to take the AP® exam in the spring. The \$95 AP® exam fee will be added to the tuition bill.

Honors United States Government

Offered to Grade 12

Course Number 441

Semester

This course offers a more accelerated study of American Government. The course begins with a study of the principles, formation, and types of governments that have been developed throughout history. It next examines the historical background against which our country was founded, and the Constitution drafted. Specific attention is given to the problems plaguing the country under the Articles of Confederation and the great challenge of the Founding Fathers to create a new government. Students study, in depth, the powers and responsibilities of the three branches of government. The effects of the two-party system, the presidential and congressional election process, and the progression of legislation through Congress are examined. By looking at current domestic and foreign policy issues and political trends, students realize the need for an informed electorate and responsible citizenship in a democratic society. Oral expression is also an integral component of this course.

United States Government

Offered to Grade 12

Course Number 442

Semester

This course begins with a study of the principles, formation, and types of governments that have been developed throughout history. It next examines the historic background against which our country was founded, and the Constitution drafted. Specific attention is given to the problems plaguing the country under the Articles of Confederation and the great challenge of the Founding Fathers to create a new government. Students study, in depth, the powers and responsibilities of the three branches of government. The effects of the two-party system, the presidential election process, and the progression of legislation through Congress are examined. By looking at current domestic and foreign policy issues and political trends, students realize the need for an informed electorate and responsible citizenship in a democratic society.

ELECTIVE COURSES

AP[®] Human Geography

Offered to Grades 10, 11, and 12

Course Number 445

Year

This course is equivalent to an introductory college-level course in human geography. The course 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. Coursework requires 6 hours of study a week. Students are required to take the AP[®] exam in the spring. The \$95 AP[®] exam fee will be added to the tuition bill.

Economics in Our Modern Society

Offered to Grades 10, 11, and 12 in alternate years (offered 2023–2024 and 2025–2026)

Course Number 452

Semester

This elective course provides a general overview of the main principles and applications of Economics as a social science. How do events such as the election of a new president or even the Super Bowl affect the trading on Wall Street? What is money? These and other similar questions are discussed in this elective course. Major topics include a comparison of capital and command economic systems; a detailed study of supply and demand economic theories; the responsibilities attached to credit; advertising; methods of saving and investing; and investigations of the stock market and the tax system. Students participate in activities that simulate the real world economic choices both consumers and businesses make every day.

Psychology

Offered to Grades 10, 11, and 12

Course Number 454

Semester

This elective course provides a general overview of the main principles and applications of psychology as a social science. Students develop an in-depth understanding of individual behavior and mental processes. The following topics will be covered during the semester: history and schools of psychological thought, the interaction of heredity and the environment, sleep and dreams, intelligence, stages of development, personality theories, and psychological disorders. Students research and present a student seminar on a current topic in psychology. Class participation is stressed and integrated throughout the semester.

Introduction to Law

Offered to Grades 10, 11, and 12 in alternate years (offered 2022 – 2023 and 2024 – 2025)

Course Number 462

Semester

This course serves as a pragmatic introduction into the field of law. Students survey the foundational fields of law to understand and distinguish their essential substantive and procedural principles. Throughout the course, the instructor emphasizes application over memorization of the law as a means of giving students a sense of the “law school experience.” Further mindful of the values of Merion Mercy, students explore the philosophical and social underpinnings of the American legal system throughout the semester. Units for this course include an introduction to the Court System, Criminal Law, Tort Law, Contractual Law, and Family Law. Sophomores who wish to take the course must receive approval from the Social Studies department chair.

AP[®] Psychology

Offered to Grades 11 and 12

Course Number 467

Year

The AP[®] Psychology course introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. While considering the psychologists and studies that have shaped the field, students explore and apply psychological theories, key concepts, and phenomena associated with such topics as the biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, learning and cognition, motivation, developmental psychology, testing and individual differences, treatments of psychological disorders, and social psychology. Throughout the course, students employ psychological research methods, including ethical considerations, as they use the scientific method, evaluate claims and evidence, and effectively communicate ideas. Students are required to take the AP[®] exam in the spring. The \$95 AP[®] exam fee will be added to the tuition bill.

AP[®] Economics

Offered to Grade 11 and 12

Course Number 470

Year

This course is offered through the online provider, Montgomery Virtual Program and will prepare the student for both the AP[®] Micro and Macroeconomics exams. Economics is a social science which addresses how society allocates (distributes) limited resources (e.g. - goods and services). It is a “science” because it is governed by quantifiable laws designed to predict likely outcomes. It is a “social” science, as opposed to a natural science, because its laws are based upon social, as opposed to natural occurrences. This AP[®] course has a required summer assignment. Students are expected to complete their summer assignment before the course begins and submit their work by the end of week one. The summer assignment is intended to review crucial content associated with prerequisite knowledge for the course, where applicable, as well as to allow students to better understand the rigor associated with the content. Students are required to take the AP[®] exam in the spring. The cost of this course is \$950. The \$95 AP[®] exam fee will be added to the tuition bill.

AP[®] European History

Offered to Grade 11 and 12

Course Number 485

Year

This course is offered through the online provider, Montgomery Virtual Program AP[®] European History is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester introductory college European history course. Students investigate, discuss, and analyze significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in four historical periods from approximately 1450 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analysis of historical evidence, contextualization, comparison, causation, change and continuity over time, and argument development. The course is designed around six themes that students explore throughout the year in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: interaction between Europe and the world, poverty and prosperity, objective knowledge and subjective visions, states and other institutions of power, individual and society, and national and European identity. The cost of this course is \$950. Students are required to take the AP[®] exam in the spring. The \$95 AP[®] exam fee will be added to the tuition bill.

Technology and Communication Arts

Introduction to Coding

Offered to Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

Course Number 690

Semester

The Introduction to Computer Science curriculum teaches the foundations of computer science and basic programming, with an emphasis on helping students develop computational and algorithmic thinking and problem-solving skills. Topics include Web design HTML & CSS, app development, 3D printing, and Python programming applied to robotics and the internet of things.

AP[®] Computer Science Principles

Offered to Grades 10, 11, and 12 in alternate years (offered 2022-2023 and 2024-2025)

Course Number 693

Year

AP[®] Computer Science Principles introduces students to the central ideas of computer science, instilling the concepts and practices of computational thinking and inviting students to understand how computing changes the world. The rigorous course promotes deep learning of concepts related to creative development, data, algorithms and programming, computer systems and networks, and the impact of computing. Students gain computational thinking skills and practice computational solution design, algorithm and program development, abstraction in program development, and code analysis. The course promotes the investigation of computing innovations and cultivates responsible computing practices.

Students are required to complete a performance task which is submitted to the College Board as well as take the AP[®] exam in the spring. Cost of the exam is \$95; the fee will be added to the student's tuition bill.

Computer Science for Social Good

Offered to Grades 10, 11, and 12 in alternate years (2023-2024 and 2025-2026)

Course Number 696

Year

In this course students investigate the intersection of computer science and social impact, exploring the use of technological innovation for change. The beneficial and harmful impact of innovations such as social media, crowdsourcing, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and mobile applications will be investigated. Students will utilize design strategies to identify problems and work towards developing solutions. One of the most intense and potentially rewarding creative undertakings students can tackle is coding – developing their own solutions to challenges! Students will utilize resources available to learn how to code and build applications with a focus on creating apps that build helpful innovative solutions.

The world has grown increasingly data-driven and open access data can allow a fuller understanding of global problems and universal issues. Students will investigate how data can help fight global problems, empower citizens and transform the way we understand and engage with the world.

Theology Department

Merion Mercy's Theology Department aims to provide a program rich in the Catholic Christian tradition, attentive to the diverse cultural identities of students, and imbued with the Mercy charism of Catherine McAuley. The four-year program focuses on faith development, knowledge of Scripture and Catholic Church teaching and practice, ethical reasoning and moral development in the Catholic social tradition and integrating faith in the real world through a living spirituality. Women exercising leadership in the Church is stressed throughout, and the importance of service, social responsibility, community, and prayer are woven into each course.

Religious Experience

Required in Grade 9

Course Number 012

First Semester

Recognizing the great diversity of humanity's religious beliefs, this course introduces students to why religion exists and to the world's major religious traditions while fostering an understanding of, and a response to, each student's individual call and communal call to Mercy in the spirit of Catherine McAuley. Topics of study and reflection include dimensions of the religious experience, identity and development, and an overview of world religions with a special emphasis on Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism. This course invites students to engage in service opportunities and reflect upon their own sense of faith in dialogue with the various traditions of their classmates and representatives of the Philadelphia Interfaith Alliance.

The Hebrew Scriptures

Required in Grade 9

Course Number 014

Second Semester

The Hebrew Scriptures contain the roots not only of Judaism but also of Christianity. In this course, students continue their study of the various types of literature contained within Scripture. The focus is on the four main types: law, history, wisdom, and prophets. The course approaches Scripture on both an academic and a spiritual level, stressing its value as great history, great literature, and as a guide for the soul. Continuing students' introduction to what it means to live mercy and seek justice, the notion of call and its application to today is emphasized through the study of Abraham and the prophetic call. This course thus demonstrates the power of Scripture as the living word of God in and for our lives today.

The Christian Scriptures

Required in Grade 10

Course Number 022

First Semester

This course is designed to introduce students to the four types of books of the Christian Scriptures: Gospels, Acts, Epistles, and Revelation. Special emphasis is placed on contextualizing the culture and time of Jesus of Nazareth in light of the countercultural message found within the Gospels and how it applies to our contemporary culture. Students will analyze and compare the synoptic Gospels with one another, as well as with the Gospel of John, in order to understand both the importance of these books independently and the necessity of studying all four to gain a full picture of the Gospel message. Each book is studied for its historical and literary value, but the primary focus is on the presentation of the books as the inspired Word of God to be lived, not just read and studied.

Church and Sacrament

Required in Grade 10

Course Number 024

Second Semester

This course presents the sacraments in such a way that students' knowledge of and experience with the sacraments is broadened and integrated into their daily lives. The sacraments are presented as "God's Body Language" – God's communicating love and mercy to us and calling us to communicate love and mercy to others. The sacraments are studied within a survey of the history of the Church from the Resurrection to Vatican II, and students are introduced to multiple people who, through our history, serve as examples of faith-filled believers, compassionate servers, serious *prayers*, and true Christian leaders. This historical study invites an understanding of the particular contributions of women as exemplars of the Church's witness through the ages. The course also puts emphasis on the human experience celebrated in each sacrament and on the importance of understanding the power of symbol and ritual both in our everyday life and in our sacramental life.

Christian Ethics and Morality

Required in Grade 11

Course Number 032

First Semester

This is a foundation course in morality that is presented in the light of Catholic Christian faith and human reason. The semester begins with the questions "What is the good life?" and "What does it mean to be human?" via an introduction to philosophy, with a particular focus on the relationship between moral philosophy and moral theology. The course then provides a background in conscience formation and the process of Christian moral decision-making. Specific ethical issues are presented from the standpoint of Scripture and Church documents. Through individual research and group discussion, students are encouraged to become both knowledgeable about and responsive to these issues.

Social Justice Leadership

Required in Grade 11

Course Number 034

Second Semester

This course continues the study of Christian ethics by challenging students to apply a peace and justice perspective to contemporary social issues. After an introduction to the origins and themes of Catholic Social Teaching (CST), students employ the lens of CST to examine major social justice issues (e.g. poverty and the distribution of resources, gender and racial discrimination, war and violence, and ecological degradation). The Christian call to respond to these issues is presented in the light of Scripture and Church teachings. In concert with the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy, students are involved in researching and taking praxical action on the issues and are encouraged to develop attitudes which will help to bring mercy and justice to those confronted by these realities.

Christian Spirituality

Required in Grade 12

Course Number 042

First Semester

Spirituality is where faith and life meet. Identifying the challenges of being "spiritual and religious" in contemporary culture, this course invites students to consider elements of a Christian spirituality. Engaging in various contemplative practices, students identify and evaluate the implications of an evolving understanding of God, the nature of prayer, and the relationship of faith and doubt. In light of the new cosmic story emerging from evolutionary science, students examine the relationship between science and religion in forming a living faith in the real world. Calling on the spirit of Catherine McAuley, students build on their work from the previous year to bring to life the Mercy Critical Concerns as they develop,

implement, and reflect upon school-wide strategies for advocacy and building solidarity. In living out the Gospel call of justice and peacemaking at the heart of Christian spirituality, this course seeks to form women of Mercy as true agents of change in their community and the world.

Spirituality in Praxis

Required in Grade 12

Course Number 044

Second Semester

This course continues learning from the previous semester with an invitation to students to identify and reflect on their own personal spirituality and the common elements their spiritualities share as women of Mercy. Therefore, taking a look at the relationships in their lives and how they connect in those relationships provides an opportunity to deepen a living faith in the real world. Students explore the Christian spirituality of the basic life choices: single, married, religious, and ordained. The course continues to examine spirituality in a variety of vocational/professional areas of interest including healthcare and mental health ethics; economic- ecological sustainable development; and grief, loss, and pastoral care. The course culminates with a personal mission statement that invites students to articulate their own sense of call as they transition into a new phase of their lives.

Criteria for AP[®] and Honors Level Course Placement

Art Department AP[®] and Honors Criteria

The Art Honors program consists of sequential advanced art courses (Art Major 1, 2, 3), with each level building on the knowledge and skill base from prior work/courses. Students are expected to maintain a high level of initiative and intrinsic motivation to complete work at a faster pace. Art majors are expected to display a high degree of personal involvement and responsibility for developing ideas and fulfilling this vision from planning through finished work. Honor courses will require students to develop techniques, refine their skills, and their level of craftsmanship.

Honors Art 1 - Offered to Grades 10, 11, and 12

Students must interview with the department chair. At that interview, the student will submit a portfolio of recent work and a written statement explaining her reasons for requesting an Honors art course and why she thinks it will be a successful experience for her.

Honors Art 2 and Honors Art 3 - Offered to Grades 11 and 12

While enrolled in the Art Honors program, maintaining at least an A- in the major course, as well as a or better overall GPA is required. Students enrolled in Art Honors courses are expected to actively participate in the National Art Honor Society.

Due to the sequential nature of these advanced art courses, each Art Honors level must demonstrate a mastery of the previous level's skills which includes a thorough understanding of the critical analysis process, or equivalent knowledge determined by the department chair.

English Department AP[®] and Honors Criteria

Honors Foundations in Literature and Writing - Offered to Grade 9

Placement in this course is determined by members of the English Department in consultation with the Assistant Head of School for Academics. Factors considered in this process include students' scores on the MMA entrance and placement tests, previous standardized test scores, seventh and eighth-grade language arts grades, and writing samples.

Honors American Literature - Offered to Grade 10

Placement in this course will require students currently in Honors Foundations in Literature and Writing to have at least a B+ average as of the end of semester 1. Semester 2 Interim grades might also be considered. Students qualifying for this course must demonstrate logic, clarity, and maturity in both written and oral expression. Furthermore, qualifying students must exhibit a deep interest in content, a responsible work ethic, and an eagerness to participate in all aspects of the course.

In some instances, a student may be permitted to move into the Honors level provided she has an A or A+ average in Foundations in Literature and Writing and a record of meeting assignment requirements and deadlines and participating in class discussion. The student must also possess superior critical and analytical reading and writing skills. Final placement will be determined by the English Department. Interested students may be required to complete a timed critical reading and writing assessment.

Honors British Literature - Offered to Grade 11

Placement in this course will require students currently in Honors American Literature to have at least a B+ average in that course, an A- or higher in Effective Writing, and the approval of both their Honors American Literature teacher and Honors British Literature teacher. Eligible students must have demonstrated the ability, work ethic, and interest required to successfully handle rigorous course expectations. Students must be able to successfully complete timed writing assignments, complete and submit thorough independent work according to deadlines, and contribute to class analysis and discussion on a regular basis.

In some instances, a student who desires to move into the Honors level might be granted approval if she has maintained an A or A+ average in previous literature courses, has demonstrated superior critical and analytical reading and writing skills, and has established a record of meeting assignment requirements and deadlines and contributing to class discussions.

Final placement will be determined by the English Department. Interested students may be required to complete a timed critical reading and writing assessment.

Honors Contemporary Literature - Offered to Grade 12

Placement in this course requires teacher permission. Students must have earned a B+ or better in their junior year English course and also have demonstrated a consistent work ethic, proficiency in analytical writing, and enthusiasm for literature.

Honors Gothic Literature - Offered to Grade 12

Placement in this course requires teacher permission. Students must have earned a B+ or better in their junior year English course and also have demonstrated a consistent work ethic, proficiency in analytical writing, and enthusiasm for literature.

AP[®] English Literature - Offered to Grade 12

To be eligible for AP[®] English, the student must have completed both Honors American Literature and Honors British Literature, must have earned a B+ or higher in each English and writing course and at least an A- in Honors British Literature, and must have the approval of the department.

Additionally, a qualifying student must demonstrate a passion for literature and a **proven record of successfully completing assignments according to specifications and deadlines** (especially in the Honors British Literature course). A candidate must also exhibit superior analytical ability, writing skills, and time management, as well as a propensity for class discussion and debate, and an eagerness to complete college-level work. Lastly, the student must be comfortable with discussing literature that explores mature and challenging themes. Due to the intense workload of this course, each student should carefully consider her other academic and co-curricular commitments before choosing to take this course. Final placement will be determined by the English Department, and an applying student may be required to complete a timed critical reading and writing assessment.

Language Department AP[®] and Honors Criteria

Students new to the school will be assessed and placement will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Students must obtain department approval for any language course they want to take. To continue in an Honors track, students are expected to maintain a B average and meet the other criteria specified for each level. To advance into an Honors class from the college-preparatory track, a student must maintain a high A average, submit a writing sample for evaluation, meet the oral proficiency standards specified for each level of the language (see below), and obtain approval from the department. Students may not move from a college-preparatory level course into an AP[®] course.

- **ACTFL Oral Proficiency standards for Honors-level of Modern language study:**
 - o To move on to Level 2 Honors: Novice Mid
 - o To move on to Level 3 Honors: Novice High
 - o To move on to Level 4 Honors: Intermediate Low-Intermediate Mid
 - To move on to Level 4 AP[®] Intermediate Mid

- **Other criteria for continued study of advanced-level modern language are:**
 - o Level 3 & Level 3 Honors:
 - Demonstrated interest in the language of study and consistent participation in Level 2

 - o Level 4 & Level 4 Honors:
 - Demonstrated interest in the language of study and its related cultures and communities and consistent participation in Level 3

 - o Spanish 4A AP[®]
 - Successful completion of the level 3 Honors class with a grade of A
 - Demonstrated interest in the Spanish Language and its related communities and cultures
 - Frequent and substantive participation in class activities, discussions, etc. at the Honors 3 level
 - Strong reading comprehension and writing skills
 - An understanding of the workload entailed and commitment to working on outside assignments
 - Consideration of the number of AP[®] courses to which the student is committing

 - o Latin 4 AP[®]
 - Successful completion of the Honors 3 level with a grade of B+ or higher
 - Demonstrated interest in the Latin language and its relevant history and culture
 - Frequent and substantive participation in class discussions, translation aloud etc. at the Honors 3 level
 - Strong translation and analysis skills

- Strong reading comprehension and writing skills
- An understanding of the workload entailed and commitment to working on outside assignments
- Consideration of the number of AP[®] courses to which the student is committing
- Because the Honors 4 and AP[®] courses are a combined class, AP[®] students must commit themselves to an additional 3 to 4 hours of work per week beyond the normal requirements of the class.

Mathematics Department AP[®] and Honors Criteria

MMA's math department believes that students are empowered to learn mathematics through exploration, inquiry, and collaboration. Over the course of the math curriculum, all students experience the following core elements: development of analytical techniques and problem-solving skills; raising mathematical questions in collaborative settings; analysis of graphs and visual representations of data; applying math to problems of everyday life; use of technology to enhance learning; creative and exploratory projects; and challenges suited to their strengths.

The math department also offers honors and AP[®] courses for students who have mastered or exceeded the demands of college preparatory mathematics at their current grade level and are passionate about pursuing advanced math. Honors and AP[®] courses provide a more rigorous, in-depth curriculum and cover material at a significantly faster pace, with less time spent on review of prior content and little to no review before tests. Concepts are taught at a more sophisticated level, assessments are substantially more challenging, and more homework is assigned that requires students to go beyond what has been instructed in class. Typically, students who are placed in honors courses completed a year of high school math before 9th grade, and by their sophomore year they are generally expected to have developed independent study skills for math and to have used them successfully in previous math classes. Students who wish to move up to the honors level require a recommendation from their current teacher and are considered based on guidelines associated with each course.

Honors Algebra 1 - Offered to Grade 9

Students are placed in Honors Algebra 1 as a result of standardized testing, academic achievement, and departmental approval. These students have excelled in middle school math, though often have not completed a full course of Algebra 1.

Honors Geometry - Offered to Grades 9 and 10

- See Honors criteria above
- B or above in Honors Algebra 1
- A+ in Algebra 1 (complete additional coursework and demonstrate mastery)
- Approval of current math teacher

Honors Algebra 2 - Offered to Grades 10 and 11

- See Honors criteria above
- B or above in Honors Geometry
- A+ in Geometry (complete additional coursework and demonstrate mastery)
- Approval of current math teacher

Honors Precalculus - Offered to Grades 11 and 12

- See Honors criteria above
- B+ or above in Honors Algebra 2
- Approval of current math teacher

Accelerated Honors Precalculus - Offered to Grades 10 and 11

- See AP[®] criteria above
- A or above in Honors Algebra 2
- Approval of current math teacher
- Approval of Math Department chairperson

Honors Calculus - Offered to Grade 12

- See Honors criteria above
- B+ or above in Honors Precalculus
- Approval of current math teacher

AP[®] Calculus AB - Offered to Grades 11 and 12

- See AP[®] criteria above
- B+ or above in Accelerated Honors Precalculus
- A- or above in Honors Precalculus
- Approval of current math teacher
- Approval of Math Department chairperson

AP[®] Calculus BC - Offered to Grades 11 and 12

- See AP[®] criteria above
- A or above in Accelerated Honors Precalculus
- Approval from current math teacher
- Approval from Math Department chairperson

AP[®] Statistics - Offered to Grades 11 and 12

- See AP[®] criteria above
- Completion of, or concurrent with, Honors Precalculus or Accelerated Honors Precalculus
- A- or above in Honors Precalculus
- A or above in Honors Algebra 2 and/or Honors Geometry
- Approval of current math teacher

- Approval of Math Department chairperson

■ **Performing Arts Department AP[®] and Honors Criteria**

Honors Music - Offered to Grades 10, 11, and 12

Knowledge of music fundamentals through formal study of an instrument. Keyboard background is strongly recommended. Students must have taken Renaissance Revels. Transfer students can be placed into this class by taking a placement test.

AP[®] Music Theory - Offered to Grades 11, and 12

This course requires students to possess a thorough understanding of simple and compound meters, key signatures, scales, modes, species counterpoint, voice leading, functional harmony, and solfege singing in major and minor modes. Students should have taken Honors Music (formerly known as Music 2A), Fundamentals of Music Theory or have equivalent knowledge.

■ **Science Department AP[®] and Honors Course Criteria**

Students who wish to take an Honors or AP[®] course in science must obtain the approval of the Science Department. Students will be evaluated on the criteria outlined below for each specific course as a means of determining the student's capacity to succeed in the course.

In an Honors or AP[®] science class, the focus will be on the depth of knowledge and the ability to apply the knowledge to various and changing situations.

Science honors and advanced placement classes will require students to utilize habits of independent analysis, creativity, collaboration, self-advocacy, and intellectual skills. Students are expected to use inquiry and collaboration in lab work and projects. Students must possess superior critical and analytical reading, writing, and graphing skills.

Characteristics of a successful Honors or AP[®] Science student include asking inquiry questions; developing and using models; planning and carrying out investigations; graphing, analyzing and interpreting data; using math and computational thinking; constructing explanations and designing solutions; engaging in argument from evidence; the ability to obtain, evaluate and communicate information; and the ability to write a formal lab report.

Honors Biology - Offered to Grade 9

Students are placed in Honors Biology as a result of standardized testing, academic achievement, and departmental approval. These students should possess superior critical and analytical reading and writing skills.

Honors Chemistry - Offered to Grades 10 and 11

- See Honors criteria above
- Superior skills in graphing, analytical reasoning, and analyzing and interpreting data
- A grade of B+ in Algebra 1 or a B in Honors Algebra 1, as well as a grade of A in Biology or a B+ in Honors Biology
- Department approval

Honors Physics - Offered to Grades 11 and 12

- See Honors criteria above
- Strong math skills, including a working familiarity with scientific notation, significant figures, rearrangement of literal equations, trigonometric functions and properties of right triangles.
- A grade of B+ in Algebra 2A and a B in Chemistry A, or a grade of B+ in Chemistry and a grade of B+ in Precalculus are required.
- Department approval

AP[®] Biology - Offered to Grades 11 and 12

- See AP[®] criteria above
- B+ in Honors Biology and Honors Chemistry, or an A in both Chemistry and Biology
- Department approval by interview

AP[®] Chemistry - Offered to Grades 11, and 12

- See AP[®] criteria above
- B+ in Honors Chemistry (and Honors Biology, if taken), or an A in both Biology and Chemistry.
- Students can take AP[®] Chemistry after completing Chemistry whether or not they have completed Biology
- Department approval by interview

AP[®] Environmental Science - Offered to Grades 11 and 12

- See AP[®] criteria above
- B+ in both Honors Biology and Honors Chemistry, or an A in both Biology and Chemistry, or an A in Earth Science
- Department approval by interview

Social Studies Department AP[®] and Honors Criteria

Social Studies Honors Courses

Students who wish to take an Honors course in Social Studies must obtain the approval of the Social Studies Department chairperson. Eligible students must have demonstrated the ability, work ethic, and interest required to successfully handle rigorous course expectations. Students must be able to successfully complete timed writing assignments, complete and submit thorough independent work according to deadlines, and contribute to class analysis and discussion on a regular basis. Students will be evaluated on the criteria outlined below for each of the specific courses as a means of determining their capacity to succeed in the course. While no single criterion is determinative, students should meet or exceed most of the following measures. Those criteria include: a cumulative GPA of 3.7 or above, consideration of PSAT/NMSQT[®] reading and writing scores, and the specific course criteria outlined below.

United States Government Honors - Offered to Grade 12

- See Honors criteria above
- A grade of A or above in Modern U. S. History, or a B+ or above in AP[®] U. S. History for consideration

Social Studies AP[®] Courses

A student who wishes to take an AP[®] class in the Social Studies Department must demonstrate a passion for specific content of the course and a willingness to allocate a substantial portion of her time to the pursuit of this passion. Therefore, she must carefully consider her other academic and co-curricular commitments before choosing to take the course. The student must have a proven record of successfully completing assignments according to specifications and deadlines. She must also possess superior critical and analytical abilities in both reading and writing, effective time management strategies, a propensity for class discussion and debate, and an eagerness to complete college-level work.

Students must obtain the approval of the Social Studies Department chairperson. Students will be evaluated on the criteria outlined below for each of the specific courses as a means of determining their capacity to succeed in the course. While no single criterion is determinative, students should meet or exceed most of the following measures, including: a cumulative GPA of 3.85 or above, one teacher recommendation from a current Social Studies or English teacher which endorses the student's timely completion and thorough preparation of all assignments as well as solid organization and consistency in current class, and those criteria outlined below. PSAT/NMSQT[®] reading and writing scores are also considered.

AP[®] Human Geography - Offered to Grades 10, 11, and 12

- See AP[®] criteria above
- A grade of A- in her current CP Social Studies core course, or B+ in her current AP[®] Social Studies core course

AP[®] United States History - Offered to Grade 11

- See AP[®] criteria above
- A grade of A- or above in ninth-grade World Cultures
- A grade of B+ or above in tenth-grade Honors American Literature, or a grade of A in CP American Literature
- Submission of a graded writing sample from the student's current humanities course

AP[®] U. S. Government and Politics - Offered to Grade 12

- See AP[®] criteria above
- A grade of B+ or above in 11th grade AP[®] US History, or a grade of A in Modern US History

AP[®] Psychology - Offered to Grades 11 and 12

- See AP[®] criteria above
- A grade of A- in her current Social Studies core course, or B+ in her current AP[®] Social Studies core course
- A grade of B+ in Biology Honors, a grade of A- in Biology, or a grade of A in Psychology

AP[®] Economics - Offered to Grades 11 and 12

- See AP[®] criteria above
- A grade of A- in her current Social Studies core course, or B+ in her current AP[®] Social Studies core course
- A grade of B+ in her current Math Honors course, a grade of A- in her current Math course, or a grade of A in Economics

Technology and Communication Arts Department AP[®] Course Criteria

AP[®] Computer Science Principles - Offered to Grades 10, 11, and 12

Students must possess the ability to be creative, work collaboratively as well as independently, and meet deadlines. Students must have had a B+ or better in Algebra 1 and have at least a 3.3 cumulative GPA. Approval of the department chairperson is required.

Subject Specific Course Sequencing

In order to provide students the opportunity to customize their schedules according to their interests, Merion Mercy Academy offers a wide range of electives in various departments. The following four-year progressions illustrate the various subject-specific concentration pathways available. Keep in mind, these concentrations serve as examples. It is recommended that you discuss your four-year plan with your classroom teacher and college counselor.

General Studies

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Theology	Theology	Theology	Theology	Theology
English	English	English	English	English
Social Studies	Social Studies		Social Studies	Social Studies
Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
Science	Science	Science	Science	
Language	Language	Language	Language	
PE/Health	PE/Health	Healthy Living		Elective 1
Elective	Fine Art or Performing Art Elective	Effective Writing		Elective 2
Elective		Elective 1	Elective 1	Elective 3

Arts Concentration

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Theology	Theology	Theology	Theology	Theology
English	English	English	English	English
Social Studies	Social Studies		Social Studies	Social Studies
Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
Science	Science	Science	Science	
Language	Language	Language	Language	
PE/Health	PE/Health	Healthy Living		
Elective		Effective Writing		Fine Art Elective
Elective	Fine Art Elective	Art Major 1	Art Major 2	Art Major 3

Humanities Concentration

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Theology	Theology	Theology	Theology	Theology
English	Foundations in Literature and Writing	American Literature	British Literature	Contemporary Literature World Mythology
Social Studies	Cultures in World History	AP® Human Geography	AP® U.S. History or Honors Modern U.S. History or Modern	AP® U.S. Government or Honors U.S. Government or
Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
Science	Science	Science	Science	
Language	Language	Language	Language	Language
PE/Health	PE/Health	Healthy Living		
Elective	Renaissance Revels	Effective Writing	Art Elective	Social Studies Elective
Elective			Art Elective	Art Elective

Math/STEM Concentration

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Theology	Theology	Theology	Theology	Theology
English	English	English	English	English
Social Studies	Social Studies		Social Studies	Social Studies
Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
Science	Biology or Honors Biology	Chemistry or Honors Chemistry	Physics or Honors Physics	Science Elective 1
Language	Language	Language	Language	
PE/Health	PE/Health	Healthy Living		
Elective		Effective Writing	Math Elective	Math Elective
Elective	Robotics	Introduction to Coding		Science Elective 2

Double Language Concentration

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Theology	Theology	Theology	Theology	Theology
English	English	English	English	English
Social Studies	Social Studies		Social Studies	Social Studies
Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
Science		Science	Science	Science
Language	Honors Latin 1	Honors Latin 2	Honors Latin 3	Honors Latin 4 or AP® Latin
PE/Health	PE/Health	Healthy Living		
Elective	Language Elective Level 1	Language Elective Level 2	Language Elective Level 3	Language Elective Level 4
Elective	Fine Arts	Effective Writing		

Double Science Concentration

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Theology	Theology	Theology	Theology	Theology
English	English	English	English	English
Social Studies	Social Studies		Social Studies	Social Studies
Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
Science	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Science Elective 1
Language	Language	Language	Language	Language
PE/Health	PE/Health	Healthy Living		
Elective	Fine Arts	Effective Writing	Science Elective	Science Elective 2
Elective		Science Elective		

Performing Arts Concentration

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Theology	Theology	Theology	Theology	Theology
English	English	English	English	Speech and Contemporary Issues
Social Studies	Social Studies		Social Studies	Social Studies
Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
Science	Science	Science	Science	
Language	Language	Language	Language	
PE/Health	PE/Health	Healthy Living		Performing Arts Elective 1
Elective	Performing Arts Elective	Effective Writing	Performing Arts Elective	Performing Arts Elective 2
Elective		Performing Arts Elective		

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