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## PROGRAM OF STUDIES AND COURSE CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

**FOR GRADUATION FROM AMSU:** At the end of senior year, 24 units plus physical education and guidance are required. Of these 24 units, the following units must be taken in the designated disciplines:

### TOTAL

Religious Studies	2
English	4
Social Studies	4
Mathematics	3
Science	3
Foreign Language	3
Computer	½
Music	½
Art	½
Health	½
Electives	3
Physical Education	

<u>Grade 9</u>		<u>Grade 10</u>		<u>Grade 11</u>		<u>Grade 12</u>	
Religious Studies	½						
English	1	English	1	English	1	English	1
Social Studies	1						
Mathematics	1	Mathematics	1	Mathematics	1	Elective Courses	3
Science	1	Science	1	Science	1	Physical Ed.	
Foreign Language	1	Foreign Language	1	Foreign Language	1		
Art	½	Music	½	Health	½		
Intro to Computer	½	Physical Ed.		Physical Ed.			
Physical Ed.		Guidance		Guidance			
Guidance							

# DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

## NEW YORK STATE REGENTS HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

### Regents Courses Offered at AMSU:

<u>English</u>	<u>Foreign Language</u>	<u>Mathematics</u>	<u>Science</u>	<u>Social Studies</u>
English 9	Spanish I, II, I-II, III	Algebra I/H	Biology/H	Global 9
English 10	Italian 1.5, 2.5	Geometry	Chemistry/H	Global 10
English 11		Algebra II/Trigonometry/H	Earth Science Physics	US History & Gov't.

### Requirements for the New York State Regents High School Diploma:

1. Completion of Basic Course Requirements, as on p.2.
2. Passing of: [all examinations require a score of 65 or above]
  - The Regents examination in English
  - The Regents examinations in Global Studies and in United States History and Government
  - One Regents examination in Mathematics
  - One Regents examination in Science
  - Three units in a foreign language and the FLACS examination in that language (AMSU requirement)

### Requirements for the New York State Advanced Regents High School Diploma:

1. Completion of Basic Course Requirements, as on p.2.
2. Passing of: [all examinations require a score of 65 or above]
  - The Regents examination in English
  - The Regents examinations in Global Studies and in United States History and Government
  - Three Regents examinations in Mathematics (Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra II Trig)
  - Two Regents examinations in Science
  - Three units in a foreign language and the FLACS examination in that language (AMSU requirement)

### COURSE LEVELS

Since courses vary in degree of academic difficulty, they have been classified on levels for the purpose of determining rank in class. The weighting of courses is as follows:

A.P.	Level I	1.08
Honors	Level II	1.06
Regents	Level III	1.04
Intermediate	Level IV	1.02

## **RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

*Four years of religious studies are required.*

### **RELIGIOUS STUDIES 9:**

**The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture – Semester One (0013)**

**Required, Freshmen Level III**

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

**Who is Jesus Christ? – Semester Two (0013)**

**Required, Freshmen Level III**

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

### **RELIGIOUS STUDIES 10:**

**The Mission of Jesus Christ [The Paschal Mystery] – Semester One (0023)**

**Required, Sophomores Level III**

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

**Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the Church – Semester Two (0023)**

**Required, Sophomores Level III**

The purpose of this course is to help the students understand that in and through the Church they encounter the living Jesus Christ. They will be introduced to the fact that the Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by him through the Holy Spirit. The students will come to know that the Church is the living Body of Christ today. This Body has both divine and human elements. In this course, students will learn about the sacred nature of the Church.

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES 11:**

**Sacraments as Privileged Encounters with Jesus Christ – Semester One (0033)**

**Required, Juniors**

**Level III**

The purpose of this course is to help students understand that they can encounter Christ today in a full and real way in and through the Sacraments, and especially through the Eucharist. Students will examine each of the Sacraments in detail so as to learn how they may encounter Christ throughout life.

**Life in Jesus Christ – Semester Two (0033)**

**Required, Juniors**

**Level III**

The purpose of this course is to help students understand that it is through Christ that they can fully live out God's plans for their lives. Students will learn the moral concepts and precepts that govern the lives of Christ's disciples.

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES 12:**

**Christian Lifestyles– Semester One (0043)**

**Required, Seniors**

**Level III**

This course examines relationships to those in our world, including God, family, friends, and ourselves. Themes pertaining to human development, dating, single life, human sexuality, vocations, and lifestyles are also studied. The class begins by discussing God's love for us and how, in turn, we can love ourselves and others. Personality traits and disorders are reviewed in the context of finding a compatible life partner. The process of making life-changing decisions regarding careers, lifestyles, vocations, and relationships is considered. The course will also cover the process of becoming engaged and married. The status of marriage as a social institution and as a Sacrament of the Catholic Church are discussed, as well as the preparation and requirements that are involved in the marriage process.

**Peace and Justice– Semester Two (0043)**

**Required, Seniors**

**Level III**

The aim of this course is to invite students to become more aware of the major social and political issues confronting the world today, and to recognize the responsibility that each individual has to help overcome injustice. The course will use a multi-media approach to examine such issues as global poverty and hunger, homelessness, the threat of nuclear war, racism, and liberation in the developing world. The course will include viewing and analysis of audio-visuials, as well as reading and discussion of articles, Scripture reflection, and discussion of students' community service.

# **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

*Students are assigned to courses in freshman year based on test scores and a diagnostic composition. Placement in Honors English is determined by performance, test scores and teacher recommendation. All students will take the English Regents Examination in January of their junior year and the Common Core in June of their junior year.. Departmental Literary Analysis/Research Papers are required for all levels of English; passing the senior research paper is a requirement for graduation.*

## **ENGLISH 9 (1013) Level III**

English 9 is designed as a genre study. In this course, students will be introduced to and will experiment with the genres and sub-genres of literature and writing and will strengthen their understanding of grammar, vocabulary, and literary elements. Additionally, this course focuses on the enhancement of the students' communication skills, with respect to reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

## **ENGLISH 9H (1012) Level II**

Assignment to English 9H assumes that the students have strong vocabulary, grammar, and writing skills. The basic skills of literature and language are reviewed, and the emphasis is on the development of critical thinking skills and the enhancement of writing style.

Pre-Requisites:

- Placement in English 9H is based on the following: TACHS Examination scores, school grades, and performance on the reading and writing components of the AMSU Placement Examination.

## **ENGLISH 10 (1023) Level III**

In English 10 students will be exposed to great works of literature written in the British tradition; they will also explore the historical, social, political, and literary climates with which they are associated. As with its prerequisite English 9, this course attends specifically to the enhancement of students' competencies in all areas of English Language Arts.

## **ENGLISH 10H (1022) Level II**

This course covers the same subject matter as English 10 but in greater depth. The aim is to solidify the literary insights and skills already acquired. The emphasis is on ordered thinking and disciplined writing.

Pre-Requisite:

- From Honors level to Honors level: Final course average of 85% or above
- From Regents level to Honors level: Final course average of 90% or above

## **ENGLISH 11 (1033)**

### **Level III**

Designed as a chronological survey course within a historical context, English 11 highlights the major literary movements and the works of the major authors of American literature. There is a continuation of the development of critical thinking skills in relation to literary analysis and composition techniques. Vocabulary development, correct usage, and reading and listening skills are reviewed in preparation for the Regents Comprehensive Examination in English, which is taken in January. The passing of this examination is a requirement for graduation.

## **ENGLISH 11H (1032)**

### **Level II**

This course covers the same subject matter as English 11, but in greater depth. The aim is to deepen the literary insights and sharpen those skills already acquired, while achieving sophistication in writing and literary analysis. The Regents Comprehensive Examination in English is taken in January. The passing of this examination is a requirement for graduation.

Pre-Requisite:

- From Honors level to Honors level: Final course average of 85% or above
- From Regents level to Honors level: Final course average of 90% or above

## **ENGLISH 12 (1043)**

### **Level III**

As with its pre-requisites, this course will focus on aspects of literature, writing, vocabulary, and grammar. The focal point of literary analysis will be to explore: (1) the universality of themes represented in literature, and (2) the nature of the human condition. This course will emphasize writing as a reflective process, and will provide students with opportunities to engage in authentic writing experiences. The development of vocabulary and grammar skills will be emphasized in an effort to promote a more sophisticated level of writing.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH (1041)**

### **Level I**

This is a college level course whose goals are to enhance critical thinking, literary analysis, and writing skills. The literary works studied will be analyzed from various historical, moral, and philosophical perspectives. In May of senior year, students will take both the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition examination and the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition examination, for which there is a fee (currently \$91 each, subject to change). Qualified students may apply for a fee reduction. On the basis of her score, a student may earn college credit and/or accelerated placement, in accordance with the policy of each college.

\*This course may qualify for the St. John’s University College Advantage Program and the Mercy College High School Achievement Program.

Pre-Requisites:

- (1) A final course average of 90 or above in current English class
- (2) A grade of 85% or above on the English Regents Examination
- (3) Exemplary writing skills, as evidenced on the AP English placement examination

### **WRITING TEACHER CADET (1053)**

**Elective, Seniors**

**Level III**

This course is designed for students with strong writing, grammar, and vocabulary skills, and would be available as a second senior English only. Responsibilities of the writing cadet include:

- assisting teachers with English Regents preparation within 11<sup>th</sup> grade English classes
- assisting individual students with understanding the essentials of writing, for example, thesis statement formation and essay structure and writing
- assisting individual students in the development of their drafting, editing, and revising skills through peer-conferencing
- planning and executing writing lessons in conjunction with the teacher
- recording observations and ideas about the teaching and learning process through journal writing and periodic self-assessments

Pre-Requisites:

- A 90 average in current English class
- A grade of 85% or higher on the English Regents Examination
- Mastery of basic writing skills, as evidenced on Writing Cadet Placement examination

## **SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

*Four years of Social Studies are required of each student. New York State requires two years of Global Studies (Grades 9 and 10), a year of American History, and a year of Participation in Government/Economics. Comprehensive Regents Examinations will be given after Global Studies 10 and after U.S. History/Government.*

### **GLOBAL STUDIES 9 (2013)** **Required, Freshmen Level III**

Latin America, Asia, Africa – Global Studies. This is the first course in the four-year curriculum of Social Studies required by New York State. Students are introduced to these cultures, with an emphasis on historical, political, social and economic factors within the culture area and between the groups. Appreciation of the values of the students' own cultures is stressed as a basis for the appreciation of the cultures of others. Students are helped to develop both the skills necessary for Social Studies and the reading and writing skills needed for the entire educational program. Students are prepared for the Global Studies Regents, which will be taken at the end of the second year.

### **GLOBAL STUDIES 10 (2023) Level III**

European Culture Studies is a continuation of the two-year Global Studies course begun in ninth year. This course is organized around major areas of the world, with historical development considered within each area. Grade 10 will concentrate on both Western and Eastern Europe and will stress historical, social, political and economic connections between and among the areas studied within the two year program. This course is designed to complete the students' preparation for the Global Studies Regents examination given at the end of 10<sup>th</sup> grade and encompassing two years' work.

### **AP EUROPEAN HISTORY (2021) Level I**

This course will explore the political, social, economic, cultural, and intellectual developments of European history from the high middle ages to the present. It is comparable to a general college survey course offered in a four-year college program. Students in this course will take the Advanced Placement European History examination in May, for which there is a fee (currently \$91, subject to change). Qualified students may apply for a fee reduction. Students will also be required to take the Global History and Geography Regents examination in June. Students must demonstrate a high level of maturity to be accepted into this course.

#### **PRE-REQUISITE:**

- 85% in Global Studies 9
- Departmental approval
- Successful completion of the summer reading assignment

## **UNITED STATES HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT (2033)**

### **Level III**

The eleventh year American History course will concern itself with an overview of United States history in general. One of the major themes is that of recognizing and studying basic constitutional issues and the application of constitutional principles to both historical and contemporary life. Further emphasis will be placed on the United States as an industrial nation and as a nation involved in international affairs. The organization of the course will be chronological. The United States History and Government Regents is required at the conclusion of the course.

\*This course may qualify for the St. John's University College Advantage Program and the Mercy College High School Achievement Program.

## **AP UNITED STATES HISTORY (2031) Level I**

This course is an historical, political, economic and social survey of American culture from colonial times to the present. It is comparable to a general college survey course offered in a four-year college program. Students in this course will take the AP US History examination in May, for which there is a fee (currently \$91, subject to change). Qualified students may apply for a fee reduction. The U.S. History and Government Regents examination will be taken in June. Students must demonstrate a high level of maturity to be accepted into this course.

\*This course may qualify for the St. John's University College Advantage Program and the Mercy College High School Achievement Program.

### **PRE-REQUISITE:**

- 85% on the NYS Global History Regents examination
- Departmental approval
- Successful completion of the summer reading assignment

## **PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT/ECONOMICS (2043)**

### **Required, Seniors Level III**

Grade 12 Social Studies curriculum is divided into two sub-courses: (1) Participation in Government and (2) Economics.

### ***(First semester)***

Students studying **Participation in Government** take a course designed to emphasize the need to act as a responsible citizen. The American political process will be explored at length. Students will be led through the process of voter registration and choosing political party affiliations. Defining, analyzing, monitoring, and discussing both American domestic and foreign policies are the fundamental participatory activities in this course. Some of the timely topics to be covered include: National and local elections, international terrorism, global economy, reforms in the health care system, and environmental issues.

*(Second semester)*

The **Economics** course will include basic economic concepts and understandings which all persons need to function effectively and intelligently as citizens and participants in the economy of the USA and the world. The course is designed for all students, emphasizes Keynesian economic theory, and rational decision-making, and encourages students to become wiser consumers as well as better citizens.

### **ANTHROPOLOGY / SOCIOLOGY (2053)**

**Elective, Juniors and Seniors**

**Level III**

**Anthropology** - Students today are seeking an understanding of peoples and their culture. They are asking not only who we are, but also what we are, and why we behave the way we do. The study of anthropology can supply the insights and information needed to answer such questions. The course includes physical anthropology (the origin and development of humans) and cultural anthropology (the learned and shared behavior of humans, which helps them to accommodate themselves to society).

**Sociology** - This is an introduction to the study of human social interaction, focusing on individual social acts, social relationships and social organizations. Both social structures (the family, state or church) and social processes (conflict, change and communication) are included. Methods of research, role-playing and simulation games are some of the techniques utilized. Students do independent research projects on current social phenomena, for example, urban problems, class structure, the movement for equal rights, and problems of modernization.

\*This course may qualify for the St. John's College Advantage Program and the Mercy College High School Achievement Program.

PRE-REQUISITE: Passing grade on June U.S. History Regents

## **MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT**

Three years of mathematics are required. For the required courses, students are assigned based on their prior achievement. Please note: in order for a student to graduate and achieve a Regents diploma, they are required by NYS to pass the Common Core Algebra Regents with a 65.

### **ALGEBRA I HONORS (3012)**

#### **Level II**

This course follows the NYS Common Core syllabus for the first year of academic high school mathematics: Algebra. The course is integrated with units of geometry, probability, statistics and introductory trigonometry, with emphasis on real world applications. It moves at an accelerated pace and is offered to freshmen in the honors math program. The Algebra I Common Core Regents Examination is required in June. Students must pass the course and the Regents exam with a grade  $\geq 65$ .

### **ALGEBRA I (3013)**

#### **Level III**

This course follows the NYS Common Core syllabus for the first year of academic high school mathematics, Algebra. The course is integrated with units of geometry, probability, statistics and introductory trigonometry, with emphasis on real world applications. The Algebra I Common Core Regents Examination is required in June. Students must pass the course and the Regents exam with a grade  $\geq 65$ .

### **ALGEBRA I S (30132)**

#### **Level III**

This double-period course follows the NYS Common Core syllabus for the first year of academic high school mathematics, Algebra. The class begins at 7:45 am on a daily basis. The course is integrated with units of geometry, probability, statistics and introductory trigonometry, with emphasis on real world applications. The Algebra I Common Core Regents Examination is required in June. Students must pass the course and the Regents exam with a grade  $\geq 65$ .

**GEOMETRY (3023)**  
**Level III**

This course follows the NYS Common Core syllabus for the second year of academic high school mathematics: Geometry. The course includes all the topics in Geometry, with an emphasis on real world applications. The Geometry Common Core Regents examination is required in June.

PRE-REQUISITE:

- Passing average in Algebra I course
- Passing grade on the Integrated Algebra Regents or the Algebra I Common Core Regents Examination. (If a student fails the Integrated Algebra Regents or the Algebra I Common Core Regents in June, she must retake the course and Regents in summer school and pass the Regents in August.)

**CONCEPTS OF GEOMETRY (3024) LEVEL IV**

This course is offered to sophomores and is designed to follow the NYS Common Core Syllabus at a modified pace. Instead of the Geometry Common Core Regents in June, a school final exam will be administered. Although the course carries one unit of credit, it does not qualify a student for a Regents sequence in mathematics and eligibility for the Advanced Regents Diploma.

PRE-REQUISITE:

- Passing average in Algebra I course
- Passing grade on the Integrated Algebra Regents or the Algebra I Common Core Regents Examination. (If a student fails the Integrated Algebra Regents or the Algebra I Common Core Regents in June, she must retake the course and Regents in summer school and pass the Regents in August.)

**ALGEBRA II / TRIGONOMETRY HONORS (30322) Level II**

This course follows the NYS syllabus for the third year of academic high school mathematics: Algebra II/Trigonometry. It includes topics in Trigonometry, Algebra, Geometry, probability, transformations and statistics, with emphasis on real-world applications. The Algebra II/Trigonometry Regents and the Algebra 2 Common Core Regents examinations are required in June.

PRE-REQUISITE:

- A minimum grade of 85% in both the Algebra and Geometry course
- A minimum grade of 85% on both the Algebra and Geometry Regents
- Departmental approval

## **ALGEBRA II / TRIGONOMETRY (3033)**

### **Level III**

This course follows the NYS syllabus for the third year of academic high school mathematics: Algebra II/Trigonometry. It includes topics in Trigonometry, Algebra, Geometry, probability, transformations, and statistics, with emphasis on real-world applications. The Algebra II/ Trigonometry Regents and the Algebra 2 Common Core Regents examination are required in June.

#### **PRE-REQUISITE:**

- Passing grade on the Integrated Algebra Regents Examination
- Passing grade on the Geometry Regents Examination (If a student fails the Geometry Regents in June, she must retake the course and Regents in summer school and pass the regents in August, otherwise she will be placed in Intermediate Algebra.
- An average grade of 85% or higher in Intermediate Algebra
- Departmental approval

## **INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA (3034)**

### **Level IV**

This course is offered to juniors and provides an advanced study of Algebra while reviewing the concepts learned in Algebra I. The primary emphasis is on understanding and applying advanced algebraic concepts. Other topics will include probability and statistics. Although the course carries one unit of credit, it does not qualify a student for the Algebra II/ Trigonometry Regents in June or a Regents sequence in mathematics.

#### **PRE-REQUISITE:**

- Passing average in Algebra and Geometry

## **PRE-CALCULUS (3032)**

### **Level II**

This course is offered to juniors and seniors and provides advanced study in Algebra, Trigonometry, and analytic Geometry in preparation for AP Calculus for juniors and college Calculus for seniors. Emphasis will be on functions, graphing and proofs. Topics such as limits and derivatives will be introduced. Students' understanding of the conceptual relationship between graphical and algebraic representations will be enhanced by the use of the graphing calculator.

#### PRE-REQUISITE:

- Passing average in Algebra II/Trigonometry
- Passing grade on the Algebra II/Trigonometry Regents Examination
- Departmental approval

## **AP CALCULUS (3053)**

### **Level I**

This course follows the College Board syllabus for Calculus AB. It includes both differential and integral Calculus. Students are required to take the AP exam in May for which there is a testing fee (currently \$91, subject to change). Qualified students may apply for a fee reduction. In addition to the AP exam, a project is assigned to each student. Students are expected to write a technical report detailing the results of their project. Students are encouraged to utilize other resources such as mathematical software programs to help complete their task. This project will count as a final grade.

#### PRE-REQUISITE:

- An average grade of 85% in both the Algebra II/Trigonometry course and on the Algebra II/Trigonometry Regents Examination
- Departmental approval

## **APPLIED MATHEMATICS (30342)**

### **LEVEL III**

This Senior elective course is designed to foster enthusiasm and a greater understanding of mathematics. The first quarter is devoted to SAT preparation. Afterwards, the course topics will include probability, problem solving/critical thinking, set theory, logic and other real world business applications. A group project will be assigned during the fourth quarter.

## **MATHEMATICS TEACHER CADET (30343)**

### **Level III**

This course provides an opportunity for the student to actively observe teaching as a profession while assisting a mathematics teacher in the classroom. Through correcting of homework/quizzes, working one-on-one with some students, providing review classes and preparing quizzes, the teacher cadet is gaining valuable experience about the education process while reinforcing her own mathematics skills. This course is designed to help the student realize that: "The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery." Requirements include maintaining a daily log, completing 20 hours or more of tutoring, and teaching a minimum of 2 classes.

#### **PRE-REQUISITE:**

- Passing grade of 85% in Algebra II/Trigonometry course and Regents
- Departmental approval

## **SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

### **REGENTS BIOLOGY (4013)**

#### **Freshmen Level III**

This course follows the NYS Regents syllabus and is concerned with all aspects of modern biology, exposing the students to new scientific discoveries and responsibilities, and to technological advances. Students are required to develop specific laboratory skills. Using these skills, together with computer-assisted laboratory investigations, they develop a better understanding of biological concepts. Passing the Living Environment Regents examination, taken in June, is a course requirement.

### **HONORS BIOLOGY (4022)**

#### **Freshmen Level II**

This course follows the NYS syllabus and is designed to provide a general understanding of the fundamental principles of biology, to expose the students to new scientific discoveries and responsibilities, and to develop an awareness of modern laboratory techniques and equipment through investigative computer-assisted laboratory exercises. Scientific writing is emphasized. Passing the Living Environment Regents examination, taken in June, is a course requirement.

**REGENTS CHEMISTRY (4023)**

**Sophomores Level III**

This course follows the NYS Regents syllabus. Modern theories of atomic structure, bonding, ionization, acids, and bases are some of the topics studied in depth. Passing the Chemistry Regents examination, taken in June, is a course requirement.

PRE-REQUISITE: Passing grade in Regents Biology and on the Living Environment Regents examination

**HONORS CHEMISTRY (4022)**

**Sophomores Level II**

This course follows the NYS Regents syllabus. Modern theories of atomic structure, bonding, ionization, acids, and bases are some of the topics studied in depth. This is a highly intensive course and students must demonstrate an exceptional degree of maturity and competency to qualify for this course. Passing the Chemistry Regents examination, taken in June, is a course requirement.

PRE-REQUISITE:

- A minimum grade of 85% on the Living Environment Regents Examination
- A minimum grade of 75% on Integrated Algebra/CC Regents Examination

**REGENTS EARTH SCIENCE (4033)**

**Juniors Level III**

This course follows the NYS syllabus and is designed to provide a general understanding of the fundamental principles, concepts and processes of Earth Science, exposing students to new scientific discoveries and developing an awareness of laboratory techniques through investigative computer-assisted laboratory exercises. Topics studied include measurements, earth's motion and motion of celestial objects, earth processes, seasons, weather and erosions, among others. Passing the Earth Science Regents examination, taken in June, is a course requirement.

PRE-REQUISITE:

- Passing grade in Biology,
- Passing grade on Living Environment Regents examination
- Passing grade in Algebra and Geometry

**PHYSICS (4032)    Juniors    Level II**

This course follows the NYS Regents syllabus and explores topics beyond the syllabus. The course is grouped around four main areas of inquiry: (1) mechanics and dynamics, (2) wave motion and light, (3) electrostatics, electrical properties of matter and magnetism, and (4) nuclear physics. Passing the Physics Regents examination, taken in June, is a course requirement. This is a highly intensive course and students must demonstrate a very high level of maturity and competency to qualify for this course.

PRE-REQUISITE:

- Passing grade in Algebra and Geometry
- A Minimum of 70 % on Chemistry Regents Examination

**ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY (40431)**

**Seniors    Level III**

This course is designed to provide students interested in nursing or other health related fields with a comprehensive study of human anatomy and physiology. All major systems of the human body are studied with special attention given to the skeletal, muscular, nervous, cardiovascular, urinary, reproductive, digestive and endocrine systems and the five senses. The course includes a weekly double period lab. PowerPoint presentation on diseases of these systems and computer-assisted labs are used to enhance objectives.

*\*This course may qualify for the St. John's University College Advantage Program and the Mercy College High School Achievement Program.*

PRE-REQUISITE:

- Passing grade in Biology course
- Passing grade on Living Environment Regents Examination and passing grade in Chemistry course

**AP BIOLOGY (4041)Seniors    Level I**

This introductory college Biology course emphasizes three major areas: the molecular and cellular; the organismal; the ecological, evolutionary and etiological. The method of presentation is a combination of teacher-student presentation and class discussion. With the use of a modern, fully computerized laboratory, emphasis is placed on using technology to assist students with their work, studies and projects. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement exam in May for which there is a testing fee (currently \$91, subject to change). Qualified students may apply for a fee reduction.

*\*This course may qualify for the St. John's University College Advantage Program and the Mercy College High School Achievement Program.*

PRE-REQUISITES:

- A minimum grade of 80% on Living Environment Regents Examination
- A minimum grade of 70% on Chemistry Regents Examination

**FORENSIC SCIENCE (40432)**

**Seniors**

**Level III**

Forensic Science is important in helping the police and other investigative authorities solve crimes. Forensics is a tool that is used every day around the world to find solutions to criminal and other nefarious activities by all people. This course will explore the following aspects of forensic study: collecting, processing, and analyzing crime scene evidence, documenting and reporting analysis results, holding mock trials, postulating theories, and examining mock crime scenes.

PRE-REQUISITE:

Passing grade in Regents Chemistry course

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT**

*Three years of one foreign language and passing the FLACS Examination in that language fulfill the Foreign Language requirement. It is possible to begin the study of a second language in Junior or Senior years. Due to our global interests and concerns, travel abroad, careers in business and Foreign Service, social service careers in our cities and understanding of varied ethnic groups, the study of other languages is a definite asset.*

**SPANISH I-II (5012)**

**Level II**

This course covers two years of the three-year sequence for Foreign Languages. It emphasizes the audio-lingual method and intensive grammar study and forms the foundation for the Spanish III course. It is open to freshmen of Spanish speaking background who have familiarity with Spanish but have never studied it in a formal setting. It is also open as an elective to juniors and seniors who already have their sequence in another language.

PRE-REQUISITE: Demonstration of competency in oral conversation with Department Chairperson.

**SPANISH I (5013)**  
**Level III**

This course is presented in the audio-lingual method. Through dialogues, vocabulary and basic grammar, the student acquires a foundation in Spanish.

**SPANISH II (5023)**  
**Level III**

This course is a sequel to Spanish I. It emphasizes the spoken language through specialized study of grammar. This year the student learns the more detailed aspects of Spanish grammar, applied in conversation, composition, and reading. Spanish culture is studied through reading.

**SPANISH III (5033)**  
**Level III**

This course continues the work of the first two years with special emphasis on listening and reading comprehension skills. Composition work and conversation are also stressed through the study of Spanish culture.

**ITALIAN 1.5 (5112)**  
**Level II**

This course covers 1 ½ years of the three-year sequence for Foreign Languages. It provides both an introduction to the language and a solid foundation for further study in college or for travel. It is open to freshmen and to upperclassmen.

**ITALIAN 2.5 (5133)**  
**Level III**

Italian 2.5 is a continuation of Italian 1.5. The more complex forms of grammar are studied along with intensive listening and reading comprehension skills. The study of Italian culture is continued through reading selections. Passing of the FLACS Examination, taken in June, is a course requirement and is necessary to obtain a NYS Regents or Advanced Regents diploma.

## **AP SPANISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION (5051)**

### **Level I**

This course includes a study of some works of Spanish and Latin American authors with a special emphasis on authors required for the Advanced Placement exam. It aims to provide a solid base for more specialized study of Spanish at the college level. Methods include lectures and taking notes in Spanish, research and reporting by students and listening to tapes for the special purpose of preparing for the AP exam. Students will take both the AP Spanish Language and AP Spanish Literature examinations in May. There is a College Board testing fee for each examination, currently \$91, subject to change. Qualified students may apply for a fee reduction.

#### **PRE-REQUISITE:**

- 85% or above on English Regents Examination
- 85% in current Foreign Language Course

## **ITALIAN TEACHER CADET (5034)**

### **Level III**

#### **Juniors and Seniors**

This course is designed to allow the student to actively participate in instruction and observe teaching as a profession while assisting the Italian teacher in the classroom. Duties consist of correcting homework and quizzes, providing review classes, working on-on-one with students, and tutoring. The teacher cadet may also prepare quizzes and lessons to teach.

#### **PRE-REQUISITE:**

- 90% on the Italian FLACS Exam
- 85% in Italian Course
- Departmental Approval

# **ARTS DEPARTMENT**

## **VISUAL ARTS**

### **BASIC ART (7013)**

#### **Required, Freshmen Level III**

Basic art is designed to give 9<sup>th</sup> graders a fundamental understanding of the disciplined practices of working within the domain of the visual artist. Students are introduced to key concepts or elements of art that the artist uses to communicate visually. The course will center on visual thinking and the students will learn key building blocks or ways of seeing that facilitate learning and visual problem solving that express visual concepts. Basic Art is simply the fundamentals of visual thinking. This is a mandatory course for all freshmen and there are no prerequisite requirements. The course will meet during an assigned period within the school day.

### **ART ACADEMY 1 (70521)**

#### **Elective, Freshmen and Sophomores Level II**

Art Academy 1 is an advanced level, one credit course. It is open to 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders who have a passion for visual art and are interested in the disciplined study of academic art. The course will emphasize the disciplined seeing and visual thinking necessary to the understanding of complex forms and how to translate viewed three dimensional objects onto a two dimensional surface through the use of still life objects. Students will also receive advanced training in drawing mediums and techniques. Drawing skill and the understanding of form is an essential foundation to all other visual art mediums. Students will also have drawing assignment homework designed to improve their drawing and visual thinking skills. The class will meet daily before school from 7:40 to 8:20 AM. In addition to the morning classes, students will be required to attend art films on Wednesdays after school. To enter the course the students must submit a portfolio to indicate interest in visual art.

### **ART ACADEMY 2 (70522)**

#### **Elective, Sophomores and Juniors**

#### **Level II**

Art Academy 2 is an advanced level, one credit course that is a continuation of the Art Academy 1 course. The course is open to 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders that have successfully completed Art Academy 1 and have satisfactorily completed their assigned summer drawing assignments and requirements. The course will expand on the student's drawing skills with the introduction of drawing the human head and form. In addition to drawing the more complex form of the figure, students will be introduced to color, color theory and color mediums. The class will meet daily before school from 7:40 to 8:20 AM. In addition to the morning classes students will be required to attend art films on Wednesdays after school and juniors will be required to participate in museum classes on selected Fridays.

**ART ACADEMY 3 (70523)**  
**Elective, Juniors and Seniors**  
**Level II**

Art Academy 3 is an Advanced level, one credit course that is a continuation of the Art Academy 2 course. The course is open to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders that have successfully completed Art Academy 2 and have satisfactorily completed their assigned summer drawing assignments and requirements. The course expands on the skills learned in Art Academy 1 and 2, creating more complex compositional structures with the application of advanced techniques and mediums. The emphasis will be on maintaining their understanding of form and composition while applying color mediums and techniques. Students will also begin to explore more complex techniques of print mediums. The emphasis will be on making complete works of art. The class will meet daily before school from 7:40 to 8:20 AM. In addition to the morning classes students will be required to attend art films on Wednesdays after school. Seniors and juniors will be required to participate in museum classes on selected Fridays.

**ART ACADEMY 4 (70524)**  
**Elective, Seniors**  
**Level II**

Art Academy 4 is an Advanced level, one credit course that builds upon the academic learning of Academy 1-3. The course is open to 12<sup>th</sup> graders that have successfully completed Art Academy 3 and have satisfactorily completed their assigned summer drawing assignments and requirements. The students must use the skill acquired in Art Academies 1-3 to develop a religious work of art that will demonstrate the student's skill and competency in visual art. The work of art will be added to the school's permanent collection. The class will meet daily before school from 7:40 to 8:20 AM. In addition to the morning classes students will be required to attend art films on Wednesdays after school. Seniors will be required to participate in museum classes on selected Fridays.

**STUDIO ART I (70531)**  
**Elective, Juniors and Seniors**  
**Level III**

The Studio Art I course is offered to juniors and seniors who are serious in further studying one or more of the many areas of art. Students are expected to have successfully completed the Basic Art course. Studio activities include challenging projects in drawing, painting and figure studies.

PRE-REQUISITE: Portfolio review: Students without a portfolio will have to do an entrance drawing to demonstrate basic skills necessary to pass the advanced course work.

**STUDIO ART II (70532)**  
**Elective, Juniors and Seniors**  
**Level III**

Studio Art II is an advanced art class that requires independent and cooperative thinking to solve open ended complex visual questions/problems. Students will explore an expanded variety of materials and techniques as a means of reaching an individual interpretative solution to the assigned project. The course is project based and emphasizes creative thinking within the disciplined domain of visual art. Students must have attained a grade of 85 percent on the basic art final as well as a record of completing all basic art assignments to be able to participate in this advanced course. Students must also indicate an interest in art by submitting a portfolio of visual work. The course will meet during an assigned period within the school day.

PRE-REQUISITE: Satisfactory completion of Studio Art I or an Art Academy Course.

**DRAWING ACADEMY 1, 2, 3 & 4**

The Drawing Academy is a ½ credit hour course designed to teach the concepts and skills necessary for academic figurative drawing. The course will emphasize the disciplined seeing and visual thinking necessary to the understanding of complex forms and how to translate viewed 3 dimensional objects onto a two dimensional surface. Students will also receive advanced training in drawing mediums and techniques. Drawing skill and the understanding of form is an essential foundation to all other visual art mediums. To enter the course students must have a portfolio to indicate interest in the visual arts. Classes will meet twice weekly after school from 2:55 – 3:13, in addition to attending films on Wednesdays throughout the school year. Outside drawing by the students on the assigned projects is mandatory. The course is open to all grade levels.

## **MUSIC AND THEATRE**

### **MUSIC (7023)**

**Required, Sophomores**

**Level III**

Music is an expression of human emotions, thoughts, and the ideals of cultures throughout world history. This course has one ultimate goal: to enhance student's appreciation of music as a medium of human expression. This goal is achieved by giving students musical experiences through singing as a group and by studying a wide variety of styles and genres of music. Students will learn basic music theory skills, instrumentation, and composition and will also come away with a foundational knowledge of classical music, jazz, Latin music, and opera/musical theatre. Students will perform in AMSU's Christmas and spring concerts and will attend outside performances to further enhance their awareness of the musical world around them.

### **PIANO LAB (70541)**

**Elective, Juniors and Seniors**

**Level IV**

This course provides a solid foundation in the fundamentals of playing piano. The repertoire taught will include a range of styles and genres such as folk songs, classical works and popular music. There is no requirement of past experience with playing the piano. Students who do have past experience playing the piano will be assessed and given appropriate material to match their skill level. Once basic skills have been learned, all students will have the opportunity to study music of their choosing individually or as a group. This class will perform in the Christmas concert and the spring concert, will also prepare an individual solo piece to be performed at an end of the year performance and will attend outside performances as well.

### **ACTING/THEATRE 101 (70544)**

**Elective, Juniors and Seniors**

**Level IV**

This class is for anyone who wants to learn about acting and theater. Students will actively participate in a series of scenes and musical numbers to begin to learn how to act, how to audition for a show, how to memorize lines, and how to develop a character. Topics covered will be: Acting Techniques, Improvisation, Auditions, Singing for musical theater, stage diction and movement. Participation in AMSU's yearly Spring Musical is required for all students in this class.

## **MEDIA ARTS**

### **INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS (6013)**

**Required, Freshmen**

**Level III**

This one-year course is designed to introduce the touch method of keyboarding to develop proficiency and accuracy in keying symbols, alphabetic and numeric keys. Using Microsoft Word the students will learn word processing skills that will enable them to create and edit documents such as reports and personal correspondence. Students use PowerPoint as a learning tool to transform data into meaningful information and then communicate it in a simple graphic presentation.

### **MEDIA ARTS AND APPLICATIONS (70533)**

**Elective, Juniors and Seniors**

**Level III**

In this largely project-based course, students will engage with a variety of print, audio, and visual media. Over the course of the year, students will produce the school yearbook, a monthly newspaper, and weekly audio and visual projects in conjunction with the MSG varsity website and channel. Utilizing proofreading and editing skills learned in English class, students will also gain proficiency with Jostens Yearbook Avenue website and software, Pagemaker, and Final Cut Express. Creativity, organization, and time management are essential to this class, and students will be evaluated on projects according to timeliness, teamwork, and technological competence.

#### **PRE-REQUISITES:**

- 85% in Intro to Computers
- 80% in English 11
- 80 in Basic Art

## **GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT**

### **GUIDANCE 9 (8013)**

#### **Required, Freshmen**

This group guidance course will focus primarily on preparation for upcoming standardized tests including the PSAT, SAT and ACT through the New England Prep SAT course. In addition to the test prep, guidance workshops will be held to help facilitate a better transition into high school. As a combination, the course and workshops will help each student come to a better understanding and acceptance of herself, her relations with others, and her home and school environment. This course should aid her in the adjustment to high school and also with managing new problems and demands that can come with the transition to high school. Freshmen will become informed about diploma requirements and proper course selection, and will be involved in group discussions including the following topics: self-esteem, conflict resolution, study skills, goal setting, family relationships, friendships, values, and sex and women's health issues.

### **GUIDANCE 10 (8023)**

#### **Required, Sophomores**

This group guidance course will focus primarily on preparation for upcoming standardized tests including the PSAT, SAT and ACT through the New England Prep SAT course. In addition to the test prep, guidance workshops will be held to discuss important topics pertaining to sophomore year. Students will explore their career options and develop an understanding of their skills, interests and values in relation to this topic. They will become familiar with the proper training and education necessary for their future careers. All sophomores will learn how to sharpen their interview skills, in addition to learning how to prepare a formal resume. Sophomores will become informed about diploma requirements and proper course selection. Through group discussion, additional topics such as family relationships, friendships, bullying, and sex and women's health issues will be covered.

**GUIDANCE 11 (8033)**  
**Required, Juniors**

This group guidance course will focus primarily on preparation for upcoming standardized tests including the PSAT, SAT and ACT through the New England Prep SAT course. In addition to the test prep, guidance workshops will be held to discuss importance topics pertaining to junior year. This course and workshop will focus on the college application process and related topics, giving students a realistic overview of each college's basis for selection. Diploma requirements will again be reviewed, with an emphasis on making the appropriate course selections for senior year in preparation for graduation. Explanation and registration will be completed for the first administration of the SAT during the spring of Junior year. In group discussions, students will also explore their own feelings about dealing with stress, coping with emotions, and becoming responsible. Other important topics affecting adolescents today will be discussed, including internet safety, peer relationships, family relationships, values, effective decision making, goal setting, sex and women's health issues and career planning.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION I (9013)**

#### **Required, Freshmen**

This course is designed to introduce the student to basic concepts in physical education. A number of ice-breakers and cooperative games are played in the first few sessions. An introduction to individual and team sports is offered. Basic aerobic concepts are presented, whereby students must develop an acceptable aerobics routine to be demonstrated in class.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION II (9023)**

#### **Required, Sophomores**

This course develops the philosophy behind team activities and further advances exercise theory and individual and dual sports. Team competition in soccer, volleyball, basketball and floor hockey, including methods of scoring, is required.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION III (9033)**

#### **Required, Juniors**

This course contains advanced levels of team competition in flag football, volleyball, basketball and floor hockey. Opportunities are afforded each girl to coach and/or officiate in any or all of these sports. Advanced levels of individual and dual sports are taught and an advanced level in aerobic dance is offered. Tournament play of team sports and rollerblading practice is introduced.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION IV (9043)**

#### **Required, Seniors**

In preparation for our Ring Day tradition, this course begins with a unit on rollerblading. The students are instructed in basic safety rules necessary to rollerblade. Students are given the opportunity to rollerblade during class time under the supervision of their teacher. Based on their individual interests, students are required to research and effectively present a multicultural game or sport that has not been covered in their previous years of Physical Education.

### **HEALTH (9133)**

#### **Required, Juniors**

#### **Level I**

Concerned with all aspects of Health Education, the students in this course of study are presented with such topics as abuse of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, emotional development and mental health, nutrition and physical fitness. Through individual and class projects, students are expected to exhibit an understanding of materials presented.