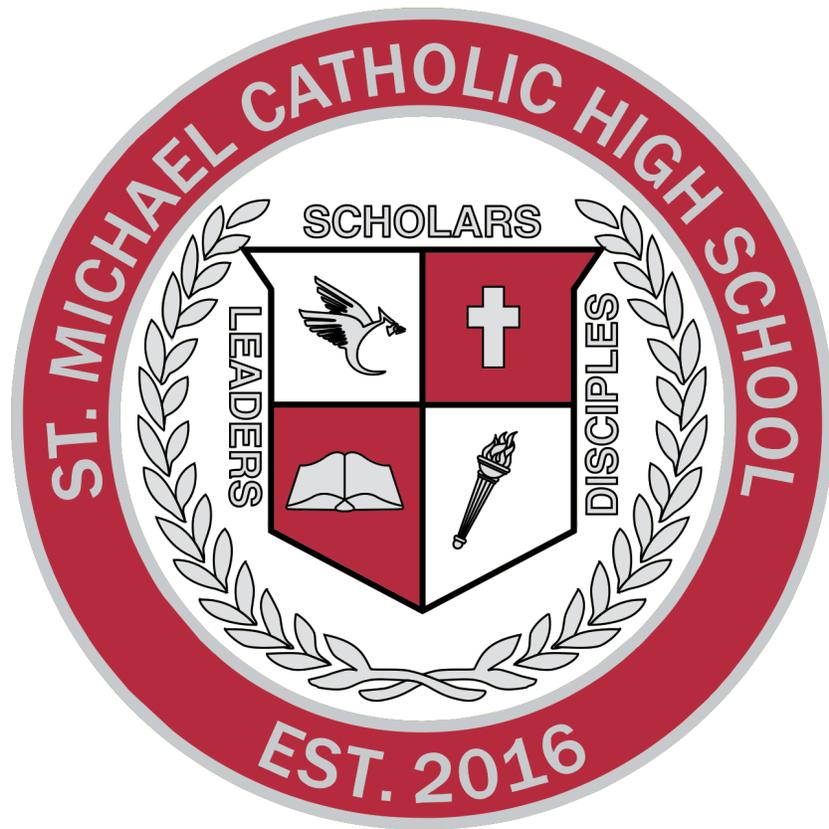


St. Michael Catholic High School  
Course Descriptions  
2019 - 2020



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Fairhope, AL 36532

St. Michael Catholic High School  
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Fairhope, AL 36532

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## **OUR MISSION**

**St. Michael Catholic High School, a college preparatory school of the Archdiocese of Mobile, aspires for its students to become scholars, leaders and disciples of Jesus Christ.**

## Graduation Requirements

The academic program at St. Michael is committed to instructing students in core disciplines of learning during each of the four years in high school. Our teaching schedule and requirements for graduation reflect this commitment. The following distribution of courses is required for graduation from St. Michael Catholic High School:

▪ English	4 credits
▪ Science	4 credits
▪ Theology	4 credits
▪ Social Studies	4 credits
▪ Mathematics	4 credits
▪ Foreign Language	2 credits *
▪ Fine Arts	2 credits
▪ Physical Education/Wellness	1 credit
▪ Elective courses	7 credits
 TOTAL:	 32 credits

\*The general requirement for foreign language at St. Michael is that all students must take a minimum of 2 years in the same foreign language. Exceptional circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Transfer students will be considered “current” in meeting these requirements if they have successfully completed the requirements of their previous school, if accredited.

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## Accreditation

St. Michael Catholic High School is fully accredited by Advanced Ed (formerly SACS). Colleges and universities accept our transcript as a document that validates the legitimate completion of a course of study at the American secondary level.

## Academic Course Levels

The academic program of St. Michael Catholic High School seeks to provide coursework which challenges students from a broad range of talents and areas of strength. As a college preparatory school, all levels are designed to prepare students for college; there is no remedial track. Coursework is offered at several levels of challenge: Collegiate Studies, Honors and Advanced Placement (A.P.)

Collegiate Studies – Coursework at this level requires a variety of study skills and learning habits. Independence in completing daily assignments, accomplishing individual projects and understanding the major concepts of content is expected. Students must display sufficient motivation to complete tasks. Competent performance at each level of the critical thinking hierarchy will be strengthened in order to ensure that students are well prepared to meet the academic demands of college.

Honors – Coursework at this level requires that students demonstrate a higher degree of self-direction and performance. They will manage more extensive projects and reading outside of class. Both a faster pace and frequent demands for higher level thinking and problem solving are expected. Students will be expected to demonstrate greater knowledge and analytical criticism in all areas of assessment. Students receive "+.5" grade bump in their cumulative weighted grade point average, such that an "A" = 4.5.

Advanced Placement – Work on the Advanced Placement level is comparable to college level work. College-level textbooks, outside reading, various types of research projects and presentations, as well as rapid pacing, establish rigorous academic demands. Regular demonstration of higher-level cognitive skills and wider command of the content must be demonstrated in all academic activities of the class. Students are instructed in both the content and skill areas particular to the College Board AP examinations for the course. Sitting for the National AP Examination in May is a requirement and will count as the second semester final exam for that course. Students receive "+1" grade bump in their cumulative weighted grade point average, such that an "A" = 5.0.

## Admission Policy

When evaluating applicants, the admissions office seeks students who have the prerequisite skills to succeed in a college preparatory program, which is determined by an assessment of the student's prior academic record, a placement test and a personal interview for those students coming to St. Michael from outside the Catholic school system.

We anticipate a diversity of academic aptitudes at St. Michael, reflective of the diversity of Baldwin County Catholic families. Because our first responsibility is to serve these families, they are given preference in admissions, but we welcome students and families of all Christian faiths, united as we are in service to the gospel of Jesus Christ, as well as those from other religious traditions.

We also invite transfers of highly capable students into 10th or 11th grade. As a general rule, we do not accept in-town transfers into St. Michael for a student's senior year. If a child struggles academically, it is important that he or she applies to St. Michael as a freshman, as the freshman year program establishes the foundation for upper level success. There are no remedial classes or tracks at St. Michael to help upperclassmen close gaps in their previous learning, and for that reason the admissions standards for students switching schools is more challenging.

In the event we receive more applications than we have available openings (as we did for the incoming freshman class of 2018), priorities for admission are as follows:

1. *8th graders enrolled at Christ the King School (Daphne), St. Patrick School (Robertsdale) or St. Benedict (Elberta). These students should apply before Christmas the year before to claim this priority status.*
2. *Applicants whose parents are contributing members of area Catholic parishes;*
3. *Applicants with older siblings who are currently enrolled at St. Michael;*
4. *All other applicants, based on the date of application, availability of classes, placement test, academic record, and the judgment of the admissions office as to whether the student will thrive in and contribute to the school.*

If you would like to learn more about St. Michael Catholic High School or tour the school, please call Jenny Kopf, our Admissions and Advancement director, at 251-459-0210 or email her at [JKopf@stmichaelchs.org](mailto:JKopf@stmichaelchs.org).

# COURSE OFFERINGS BY DEPARTMENT

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

### **COLLEGIATE STUDIES ENGLISH 9 (9th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

In Collegiate English 9, students are exposed to various literary genres: short stories, poetry, nonfiction, dramas and novels. Through reading these texts, students will develop foundational critical reading skills as well as start building their understanding of literary analysis. From this, students will engage with the text by writing well developed paragraphs. Students learn self-editing and correction by rewriting paragraphs until they meet the standards for their grade.

**Prerequisite:** None

### **HONORS ENGLISH 9 (9th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

In Honors English 9, students are exposed to various literary genres: short stories, poetry, nonfiction, dramas and novels. Through reading these texts, students will develop foundational critical reading skills as well as start building their understanding of literary analysis. From this, students will engage with the text by writing well developed paragraphs. Students learn self-editing and correction by rewriting paragraphs until they meet the standards for their grade. By second semester, they will be writing in depth essays that engage with multiple genres at once and provide unique ways of interpreting the texts. Honors English 9 will challenge students critical thinking, reading and writing skills.

**Prerequisite:** Acceptable Placement/Writing Results

### **COLLEGIATE STUDIES ENGLISH 10 (10th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

Collegiate Studies English 10 surveys a variety of works written during or about the United States from the late 1400s until the present. Reading selections represent the themes and ideas central to this literature and highlight the important and diverse authors who contributed it. Students read for basic plot and aesthetics (stylistic elements), but also explore what the texts reflect about specific literary and historical periods. Students respond to the texts in discussion and written formats. Both formal and informal writing assignments are required. Additionally, students study vocabulary and grammar and mechanics of Standard American Edited English.

**Prerequisite:** English 9

### **HONORS ENGLISH 10 (10th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

Honors English 10 focuses on critical reading and effective writing. It is structured around a survey of American Literature from colonial times to the present. Students will read a sampling of major authors and study literary periods and significant movements in historical context. In addition, students will read and analyze a range of contemporary writing. Building on the foundation laid freshman year, students will write formal and informal prose, preparing them for the more developed arguments required in the AP courses to come.

**Prerequisite:** Honors English 9 or permission of instructor

### **COLLEGIATE STUDIES ENGLISH 11 (11th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

Collegiate Studies English 11 explores the major works of British Literature from its beginnings to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and builds on the critical thinking, reading, and writing skills introduced in Collegiate English 10. Students read from a variety of periods, using the historical contexts of the texts to foster a deeper understanding of the human condition explored by the writers and to equip students to apply the timeless lessons of British Literature to the culture in which we live today. Students respond to the texts in discussion and written formats. Both formal and informal writing assignments are required. Additionally, students study vocabulary and grammar and mechanics of Standard American Edited English.

**Prerequisite:** CS English 10

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION (11th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

The overarching goals for AP Language and Composition are to develop critical literacy and facilitate informed citizenship. These goals are reached, primarily, through exploring the rhetorical strategies employed by others in non-fiction texts, both print and visual, and using those strategies effectively in writing. To this end, students read a wide range of non-fiction texts, including autobiographies, essays, speeches, political documents, advertisements, criticism, science writing, political cartoons, etc. Students learn to analyze the texts, use research to inquire into the issues treated by them, synthesize various viewpoints on the issues, and, ultimately, develop and argue for their own viewpoints. All students in the course must take the AP exam.

**Prerequisite:** Honors English 10

### **COLLEGIATE STUDIES ENGLISH 12 (12th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

English 12 is a course in advanced composition and literary studies. The framework is provided by the Norton Anthology of World Literature, which covers the ancient world to the present. To structure the course, students will begin with a semester on the foundations of Western literature and the major genres (epic, tragedy, philosophy, and lyric). In the second semester, students will move to the modern world in the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (with some selections from the 21<sup>st</sup>). Students will read literature (in translation) from Latin American, the Orient, Russia, Italy, Norway, and elsewhere.

**Prerequisite:** English 11

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (12th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

The AP English Literature and Composition course is a rigorous, college-level course focused on the analysis of literary texts and the writing of clear, compelling, and sophisticated essays in response. The aim is to have every student ready to take the AP Language and Composition exam in May (required). Students read a great many texts across a range of genres and periods and write and revise until it is second nature. All students in the course must take the AP exam.

**Prerequisite:** AP Language and Composition

**ANALYTICAL READING (11th) - ½ Credit (1 Semester)**

Analytical Reading is designed to help students become active, critical, and efficient readers with the ultimate goal of performing to one's highest potential on standardized college entrance exams. Students will have the opportunity to take and analyze multiple ACT practice tests and test excerpts. Grammar and vocabulary practice specific to the tests will be covered. Students will learn specialized and research-proven note-taking strategies to assist them in overall performance in other courses. Furthermore, students will set aside one class per week to read for pleasure, which is shown to directly relate to standardized test scores.

**Prerequisite:** None

**CREATIVE WRITING (9th - 12th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

This course will give students a chance to write in a range of genres. The majority of work will be with poetry, but the course will also cover short fiction, a one-act play, and creative nonfiction. Classes will be a mix of 'reverse engineering' poetry and prose to better understand the craft and the options available to a writer, in-class writing, and workshops devoted to peer critique.

**Prerequisite:** None

**GREAT BOOKS SEMINAR (9th - 12th) - ½ Credit (1 Semester)**

The Great Books Seminar will focus on a selection of seminal literary texts in the West, from ancient times to the 19th century. We will consider genre and the way in which authors talk to each other across the centuries in a living tradition. As a seminar, it will be a collaborative endeavor, with a mixture of brief lecture, student presentations, response essays, and vigorous discussion.

**Prerequisite:** None

**INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS (10th - 12th) - ½ credit (1 Semester)**

The purpose of this course is to delve into communication: how people communicate, why it is important to communicate effectively, and the many different ways and methods meaning is derived. This elective will focus on a few major forms of communication: reading, writing, public speaking, and signing (using American Sign Language). The semester-long goal will be to hone and deepen communication skills, and to develop lifelong habits of more effective and meaningful communication in a world in which less and less values meaningful human interaction and communication in exchange for mere efficiency.

**Prerequisite:** None

**YEARBOOK (11th/12th) - 1 credit (Full Year)**

This course will develop the photography, design, journalism and marketing skills of students in the production of the school's yearbook. Students will be expected to create, develop, contribute and produce the book in conjunction with the yearbook editors and teacher sponsor.

**Prerequisite:** Permission of Yearbook Teacher

# MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

## **COLLEGIATE STUDIES ALGEBRA I (9th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

In this course, the student will learn to solve equations and word problems with one and two variables, work with polynomials, factor polynomials, solve equations by factoring, work with inequalities, work with and solve radical functions, and work with graphs involving one and two variables. The student should be able to add, subtract, multiply, and divide signed numbers with ease.

**Prerequisite:** Pre-Algebra /8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

## **HONORS ALGEBRA I (9th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

In this course, the student will learn to solve equations and word problems with one and two variables, work with polynomials, factor polynomials, solve equations by factoring, work with inequalities, work with and solve radical functions, find the probability of events, and work with graphs involving one and two variables using transformations. The student should be able to add, subtract, multiply, and divide signed numbers with ease.

**Prerequisite:** Pre-Algebra/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math and Placement Test Scores

## **COLLEGIATE STUDIES GEOMETRY (10th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

This course will cover topics in which students will exercise their critical thinking skills and their ability to analyze and synthesize. While the use of theorems, postulates, and axioms will be covered with two column proofs, the emphasis will be on integrating algebraic skills with the real world applications of Geometry. Triangles including right triangles, circles, polygons, area, volume, and coordinate geometry will be taught.

**Prerequisite:** Algebra I

## **HONORS GEOMETRY (9th or 10th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

This course will cover topics in which students will exercise their critical thinking skills and their ability to analyze and synthesize. While the use of theorems, postulates, and axioms will be covered with two column proofs, the emphasis will be on integrating algebraic skills with the real world applications of Geometry. Triangles including right triangles, circles, polygons, area, volume, and coordinate geometry will be taught. Honors geometry puts a large emphasis on “thinking”. Students will be required to solve algebraic and geometric proofs.

**Prerequisite:** Honors Algebra I (with teacher approval)

## **COLLEGIATE STUDIES ALGEBRA II (10th or 11th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

This course involves solving linear and high degree polynomial equations and inequalities, systems of equations, solving and graphing quadratic rational, radical, logarithms, and exponential functions, and extending the real number system to include irrational and complex numbers so that students can work with roots and powers of numbers, variables and quadratic functions. Students will also be introduced to matrices and matrix operations.

**Prerequisite:** Honors Geometry or Collegiate Studies Geometry

**HONORS ALGEBRA II (10th or 11th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

This course involves solving linear and high degree polynomial equations and inequalities, systems of equations, solving and graphing quadratic rational, radical, logarithms, and exponential functions, and extending the real number system to include irrational and complex numbers so that students can work with roots and powers of numbers, variables and quadratic functions, experimental probability, and matrices.

**Prerequisite:** Honors Geometry or Collegiate Studies Geometry (with teacher approval)

**ALGEBRA III W/TRIG (11th or 12th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

This math course is designed for students who need reinforcement of algebra skills and prepared students for a college pre-calculus course. This course covers the major topics of college algebra, circular functions, plane trigonometry. Topics covered will also include vectors, graphing trigonometric functions, solving trig equations and trigonometric identities, and includes basic statistics.

**Prerequisite:** Honors Algebra II or Collegiate Studies Algebra II

**HONORS PRE-CALCULUS W/TRIG (11th or 12th) – 1 Credit (Full Year)**

This course explores circular functions and plane trigonometry and their applications. Topics covered will also include vectors, graphing trigonometric functions, solving trig equations and trigonometric identities. Other topics such sequences and series will also be covered. The second semester students will cover calculus topics such as limits and derivatives. Methods of differentiation and integration will be developed with emphasis on application. A graphing calculator is required.

**Prerequisite:** Honors Algebra II or Collegiate Studies Algebra II (with teacher approval)

**STATISTICS (11th or 12th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

This course is designed to provide a basic understanding of descriptive and inferential statistics. Topics include the measures of central tendency, standard deviation, combinations and permutations, probability, sampling, and various distributions. Emphasis is on applications of statistical concepts.

**Prerequisite:** Algebra II.

**INTRODUCTION TO PERSONAL FINANCE (11th or 12th) - ½ Credit (1 Semester)**

Business and management is a rigorous and critical study of the ways in which individuals and groups interact in a dynamic business environment. It is an academic discipline that examines how business decisions are made and how these decisions make an impact on internal and external environments. The ideals of international cooperation and responsible citizenship are at the heart of business and management. Topics include: checking, types of credit, insurance, investing, budgeting, careers and stock market.

**Prerequisite:** None

### **AP CALCULUS–BC (12th) - 1 Credit**

In this year long course, students will cover topics to prepare them for success on the AP exam. These include methods of differentiation and integration with an emphasis on application. Additional methods will be introduced for evaluating limits and integrals. Further units covered will include infinite series and applications of derivatives and integrals, which will be explored in detail. Students must take the AP Calculus BC exam at the end of the year. A graphing calculator is required.

**Prerequisite:** Pre- Calculus W/Trig

## **SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

### **COLLEGIATE STUDIES INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICS (9th or 11th) – 1 Credit (Full Year)**

This course utilizes Modeling Instruction to help students learn the processes of science and develop a strong understanding of some of the fundamental models of physics. The basic models of physics are developed through a combination of lab activities, class discussions, and written assignments. The specific models are then generalized so as to be relevant to a wide variety of physical systems and helpful in solving authentic problems. The topics covered are Experimental Design, Electricity and Electric Circuits, and Kinematics.

**Prerequisite:** None

### **HONORS INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICS (9th or 11th) – 1 Credit (Full Year)**

This course utilizes Modeling Instruction to help students learn the processes of science and develop a strong understanding of some of the fundamental models of physics. The basic models of physics are developed through a combination of lab activities, class discussions, and written assignments. The specific models are then generalized so as to be relevant to a wide variety of physical systems and helpful in solving authentic problems. The topics covered are Experimental Design, Kinematics, and Newton's Laws of Motion.

**Prerequisite:** None

### **COLLEGIATE STUDIES CHEMISTRY (10th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

This course utilizes Modeling Instruction to help students learn the processes of science and develop a strong understanding of the world around them by studying matter and the changes it undergoes. Using a historical perspective, students develop models to explain the behavior of matter at both the microscopic and macroscopic levels. Topics include (but are not limited to) the nature of matter, behavior of gases, structure of matter, chemical reactions, and stoichiometry. Students investigate these topics using a variety of instructional strategies with a strong emphasis on laboratory investigations. Students taking Collegiate Studies Chemistry are provided with instructional support to help them master the communication skills and mathematical concepts necessary for success in the class.

**Prerequisite:** CS or Honors Physics

**HONORS CHEMISTRY (10th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

This course utilizes Modeling Instruction to help students learn the processes of science and develop a strong understanding of the world around them by studying matter and the changes it undergoes. Using a historical perspective, students develop models to explain the behavior of matter at both the microscopic and macroscopic levels. Topics include (but are not limited to) the nature of matter, behavior of gases, structure of matter, chemical reactions, and stoichiometry. Students investigate these topics using a variety of instructional strategies with a strong emphasis on laboratory investigations. Students are expected to be independent learners who are highly motivated, possess strong written communication skills, and have mastered the mathematical concepts necessary for chemistry calculations.

**Prerequisite:** Honors Physics and/or Teacher Recommendation

**COLLEGIATE STUDIES BIOLOGY (11th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

This course is designed to offer high school students a clear and comprehensive coverage of general biology. Students are encouraged to “get excited about the science of life”, while participating in numerous active learning sessions. Course content is delivered through team discussions, laboratory experiments, and other activities designed to hone critical-thinking abilities. This course is presented at the high school level, but designed to prepare students for the rigors of university level work.

This class will place an emphasis on self-directed learning.

**Prerequisite:** Physics and Chemistry

**HONORS BIOLOGY (11th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

This course is designed to offer high school students a clear and comprehensive coverage of advanced level general biology. Students are encouraged to “get excited about the science of life”, while participating in numerous active learning sessions. Students in this class engage in team discussions, laboratory experiments, and critical-thinking activities to address the major topics of biology. This course is presented at the high school level, but designed to prepare students for the rigors of university level work. This class will place a strong emphasis on self-directed learning.

**Prerequisite:** Honors Physics and Honors Chemistry or Teacher Recommendation

**FORENSIC SCIENCE (11th or 12th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

Forensic Science is the application of science (chemistry, physics, and biology) to the criminal and civil laws that are enforced by police agencies in a criminal justice system. This course may include topics related to the investigation of fingerprinting, fiber analysis, arson, trace evidence analysis, drugs and toxicology, blood evidence, forensic psychology, and forensic anthropology. Students are exposed to the proper methods of evidence collection, preservation, and laboratory analysis. Guest speakers enhance the course content by providing real-world expertise in the various topics of study.

**Prerequisite:** Physics and Chemistry

**ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY (11th or 12th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

This course is designed to offer high school students a two semester course in basic human anatomy and physiology for life science. The course and text are organized by body system and cover the basic scope of human anatomy and physiology. Students are expected to come to class prepared to engage in team discussions, laboratory experiments, and hone their critical-thinking abilities. This course is presented at the high school level, but designed to prepare our students for the rigors of university level work.

**Prerequisite:** Physics and Chemistry; credit or concurrent enrollment in Biology

**HEALTH (10th, 11th, or 12th) - ½ Credit (One Semester)**

This class offers high school students a one semester course in Health. This course offers 8-10 health related threads unique to the junior and senior high school student. Basic health information is discussed in this course to allow students to obtain, interpret, and apply this information to their daily lives. In order to be health-literate, students are encouraged to become self-directed learners, while establishing a basic understanding of health promotion and disease prevention. The course goal is to allow students to discuss health issues in a safe environment. Students will be encouraged to discuss various health related issues - to distinguish between positive and negative impacts.

**Prerequisite:** None

**ESSENTIALS OF ENGINEERING (10th, 11th, or 12th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

Essentials of Engineering is a year-long project-based class intended to introduce students to the engineering design process. Project areas may include dc circuits and robotics, structural design and engineering, aerodynamics, and energy.

**Prerequisite:** Physics

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT PHYSICS C: MECHANICS (12th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

AP Physics C: Mechanics is a year-long, calculus-based physics course in Newtonian mechanics designed to be equivalent to a one-semester college course in physics for engineering and science majors. The course applies calculus methods to explain physical principles and to solve physics problems from homework sets and lab experiments as appropriate. All students enrolling in this course are required to take the AP Physics C: Mechanics examination in May.

**Prerequisite:** Credit or concurrent enrollment in AP Calculus

# **HISTORY DEPARTMENT**

## **COLLEGIATE STUDIES WORLD HISTORY (9th) - 1 credit (Full Year)**

This survey course of world history covers the Renaissance to modern world issues. Students will learn to mesh detailed knowledge of global history with skills of causation, comparison and argumentation for the thematic units. Emphasis is based upon linking current global issues with the historical reasons for these issues.

**Prerequisites:** None

## **HONORS WORLD HISTORY (9th) - 1 credit (Full Year)**

This survey course of world history covers the Renaissance to modern world issues. Students will learn to mesh detailed knowledge of global history with skills of causation, comparison and argumentation for the thematic units. Emphasis is based upon linking current global issues with the historical reasons for these issues. Extensive use of critical thinking skills and use of outside reading is to be expected.

**Prerequisites:** None

## **COLLEGIATE STUDIES GEOGRAPHY (10th) - ½ Credit (1st Semester)**

This first semester course examines the people, places, and characteristics of countries around the world. Students will learn about the topography, basic facts, and culture of all continents, countries, and geographic regions around the globe. Students will become more familiar with other places in attempts to overcome the “otherness” many feel towards unfamiliar places.

**Prerequisites:** None

## **COLLEGIATE STUDIES U.S. HISTORY I (10th) - ½ Credit (2nd Semester)**

This second semester course examines the first half of United States History, beginning with the settlement by Europeans and finishing with post-Civil War Reconstruction. Students will examine the foundations of the United States, different movements that helped to shape the history of the country, and various moments that impacted the first half of U.S. history.

**Prerequisites:** None

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (10th) - 1 credit (Full Year)**

The Advanced Placement (AP) Human Geography is a college-level course that seeks to provide students with a greater understanding of cultural patterns and settlement throughout the world while exploring the different interactions of peoples in terms of culture, physical environment, and movement. Thematic units include: patterns of interaction, population/migration, cultural processes, political division of land, agriculture, industrialization, and urbanization. Special emphasis is placed on analytical, discussion-based solutions to current global issues in addition to exam preparation (consisting of 75 multiple-choice questions and three free response questions). Students enrolled in this course at St. Michael must take the AP exam in May.

**Prerequisite:** Approval of AP teacher

**COLLEGIATE STUDIES U.S. HISTORY (11th) - 1 credit (Full Year)**

This course is an in-depth study of the United States since 1877. Key events and people of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries that helped mold the country into the nation that it is today will be covered. Semester 1: Gilded Age - Great Depression; Semester 2: World War II - Present

**Prerequisite:** None

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES HISTORY (11th) - 1 credit (Full Year)**

This course is a rigorous, college level comprehensive study of United States History. Focus is placed upon analytical and writing skills within the context of US history from 1492 to the present. Students will learn to effectively use primary and secondary sources as evidence to present conclusions in essay form. The course follows the guidelines and course content of the College Board AP standards. Students must be self-motivated and able to handle large amounts of reading (text and outside reading) on their own. Students will be required to take the AP exam in May of the course year.

**Prerequisites:** Approval of AP teacher.

**COLLEGIATE STUDIES AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (12th) - ½ credit (1st Semester)**

During the first semester of the senior year, students will examine the three branches of the US government, political institutions, the constitution, individual rights and responsibilities inherent in democratic citizenship, and current social issues.

**Prerequisite:** None

**COLLEGIATE STUDIES AMERICAN ECONOMICS (12th) - ½ credit (2nd Semester)**

During the second semester, students will study a survey of basic economic principles. This course, analytic rather than theoretical, examines current economic problems such as inflation, recession, employment, and allows students to explore economic topics of interest such as consumerism, taxation, the stock market, budgeting, credit, and other economic systems.

**Prerequisite:** None

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS (12th) - 1 credit (Full Year)**

AP U.S. Government and Politics provides a college-level, nonpartisan introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students will study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behaviors. They will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. In addition, they will complete a political science research or applied civics project. Students will be required to take the AP exam in May of the course year.

**Prerequisites:** Approval of AP teacher.

**PSYCHOLOGY (9th - 12th) - ½ credit (1 Semester) or 1 credit (Full Year)**

Psychology is the study of human behavior and mental processes. Students will study topics of psychological inquiry including: neuroscience, sensation and perception, motivation and emotion, learning, thinking and intelligence, developmental psychology, social psychology, personality, and mental disorders.

**Prerequisite:** None

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT PSYCHOLOGY (9th - 12th) - 1 credit (Full Year)**

The AP Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. Students will be required to take the AP exam in May of the course year.

**Prerequisite:** Approval of AP teacher

**STREET LAW (11th or 12th) - ½ Credit (1 Semester)**

This course is an introduction to the legal system. Students will learn the basics of constitutional, criminal and civil law and the practical application of these areas to the everyday world. Through discussion and readings students will learn the basic legal terminology as well as current legal issues in the news.

**Prerequisites:** None

## **THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

**REVELATION/TRINITY (9th) - 1 credit (Full Year)**

Revelation is offered in the first semester of freshman year to introduce students to the content, reality, and history of revelation, in particular Sacred Scripture. Students learn to encounter Christ and discover Biblical truth through an authentic and guided interpretation of the Bible. The Trinity, offered in the second semester, introduces students to the Three Persons of the Trinity through Biblical analysis, culminating in an evaluation of the relationship between Jesus and his Mother and Jesus' most central teachings.

**Prerequisite:** None

**PASCHAL MYSTERY/ECCLESIOLOGY (10th) - 1 credit (Full Year)**

Paschal Mystery is offered in the first semester of the sophomore year. The purpose of this course is to help students encounter the person of Christ, first in the context of salvation history, beginning with God's original plan for creation, our Fall from grace, and then the importance of Christ's death and resurrection for our salvation—but second, by leading students to begin to ask themselves on a personal level: Who is Jesus to me? The second semester, Ecclesiology, focuses on the Church as the Sacrament of Christ to the world: What does it mean, then, to be a Church of disciples? What is the importance of being part of a community of faith? How does the claim to be Christian impact my life?

**Prerequisite:** None

**MORALITY/CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING (11th) - 1 credit (Full Year)**

Catholic Morality is offered in the first semester of junior year and examines the philosophical and anthropological foundation of Catholic moral teaching. Morality is shown to be not a mere matter of rules, but rather a response to the nature of the human person that leads to joy and fulfillment. Catholic social teaching, offered in the second semester, introduces students to the Christian responsibility to others in imitation of Christ. The seven principles of Catholic social teaching will be unraveled and shown to be priorities of the Church today.

**Prerequisite:** None

**APOLOGETICS/SACRAMENTS (12th) - 1 credit (Full Year)**

Apologetics, offered in the first semester, is a formal defense of the Catholic faith. Students will learn to Biblically, historically, and reasonably defend the principles and doctrines of the Church, particularly in light of modern threats and misunderstandings. Sacraments, offered in the second semester of senior year, is a formal analysis of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church. These sacraments are also approached from an apologetical point of view, but are also presented as encounters with Christ Himself in this life in anticipation of the next.

**Prerequisite:** None

**CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP (11th or 12th) - ½ credit (1 Semester)**

In this elective students are guided through modern issues affecting the Church, and use the Church's teaching to evaluate art, history, current events, and more. A particular emphasis is made on living the life of a disciple in the present day. In addition, students are guided each semester through a classical work of CS Lewis and then apply the themes to the present. No prerequisites required.

**Prerequisite:** None

**INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (11th or 12th) - ½ credit (1 Semester)**

In this elective students will be introduced to philosophy and thus the role of reason in the pursuit of truth regarding the ultimate questions of the human experience. Particular attention will be paid to philosophy's greatest historical figures, the traditional branches of philosophy, and to the relationship of faith and reason.

**Prerequisite:** None

**AEGIS/STUDENT SUPPORT (9th - 12th) - ½ credit (1 Semester) or 1 credit (Full Year)**

This class is provided to students who have a documented disability as identified through a full psychoeducational report including both IQ and Achievement (testing must be current within the last three years.) Students enrolled in Aegis learn several study skills, such as best practice when studying, time management, and organizational skills. Students also receive individual tutoring and instruction as needed to master course material.

**Prerequisite:** Students must have psychoeducational testing on file in the counselor's office indicating a diagnosed disability.

# **FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT**

## **COLLEGIATE STUDIES SPANISH I (9th - 12th) - 1 credit (Full Year)**

Spanish 1 will provide the student with a general introduction to the Spanish language: sound system, pronunciation, functional vocabulary related to everyday life, cultural information and basic grammatical structures. Emphasis will be on the acquisition of the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and limited writing. There are two main objectives to the course. The first is to give the students the ability to participate in simple conversations and respond appropriately to basic conversational prompts. The second is to provide the students with instruction that teaches a basic understanding of Spanish/Hispanic culture, vocabulary, and grammatical concepts.

**Prerequisite:** none

## **COLLEGIATE STUDIES SPANISH II (9th - 12th) - 1 credit (Full Year)**

During the first semester of this follow-up course to Spanish 1, students will review the basics of pronunciation, grammar and verb structures through the use of new vocabulary themes. This will be accomplished through heavy input in the target language within the classroom as we continue to develop comprehension skills. Throughout the course, students will be required to memorize and use the vocabulary and verbs from our lists that will include a variety of topics that are not only relevant to the Spanish-speaking world but to our own country as well. Our goal is to not solely memorize words, but to use them in authentic and relevant situations from everyday life.

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Spanish I.

## **HONORS SPANISH II (9th - 12th) - 1 credit (Full Year)**

Honors Spanish II will continue the language acquisition on all fronts: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will explore a variety of vocabulary that is both relative to the Spanish-speaking culture as well as their own. Through a review of the past and future tenses, students will deepen their knowledge and understanding of grammar and syntax as it is used to form more complex written and spoken words in the target language. This will be accomplished through a variety of modules on any given topic such as reading of novels, listening to songs and writing poetry and compositions in Spanish. Well-developed study skills outside of the classroom and ability to work productively in groups are required skills for this course. Students that complete this course with success are encouraged to continue to the next level with teacher approval.

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Spanish I.

## **HONORS SPANISH 3 (9th - 12th) - 1 credit (Full Year)**

The Spanish 3 course is designed to build proficiency in all language skills - reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will gain confidence in their language skills as they increase their vocabulary, acquire more complicated grammatical structures, read/understand literature, write journal entries and essays, and interpret spoken material from a variety of sources with diverse accents. Students will also be able to discuss cultural aspects of several of the Spanish-speaking countries. This course will be taught predominantly in Spanish.

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Spanish 2

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT SPANISH 4 (9th - 12th)**

This course provides students with opportunities to develop language proficiency across the three modes of communication: Interpretive, Interpersonal, and Presentational. They will learn about culture through the use of authentic materials that are representative of the Spanish-speaking world. This is a language acquisition course designed to provide students with the necessary skills and intercultural understanding to enable them to communicate successfully in an environment where Spanish is spoken and as such, is an immersion experience requiring exclusive use of Spanish. Students are required to take the AP exam. Course activities focus on the six major themes of the AP Exam: Families and Communities, Science and Technology, Beauty and Aesthetics, Contemporary Life, World Challenges, and Personal and Public Identities. Students will be required to take the AP exam in May of the course year.

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Spanish 3 and AP teacher approval

### **CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH (11th or 12th) - ½ credit (1 Semester)**

In this semester-long course, students will build on their base knowledge of the Spanish language and grow roots deeper into the spoken and written aspects of expressing themselves in the target language in both the past, present and future. Classes will develop conversations and presentations as they explore everyday skills, popular culture and debate-worthy topics all in the target language.

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Spanish II.

### **COLLEGIATE STUDIES FRENCH I (9th - 12th) - 1 credit (Full Year)**

This course provides a framework and an introduction to the French language. Alongside a study of the Francophone world, students will be able to speak, read, write, and understand French at a basic level. Students will learn how to speak in the present tense, with an introduction to speaking in the future and past tenses. They will explore the vocabulary about everyday places, activities, and will learn how to communicate the essentials. They will be able to answer and ask simple questions.

**Prerequisite:** None

### **COLLEGIATE STUDIES FRENCH II (9th - 12th) - 1 credit (Full Year)**

This course dives deeper into the French Language, through a more in-depth look into language, syntax, and pronunciation of French. The students will learn how to communicate about everyday activities, create simple writing about themselves and the world around them, and understand more complex French texts. The students will be able to speak in past, present, and future tenses, as well as forming questions, commands, and working on spontaneous conversation. This class will explore more closely the Francophone world, and will analyze the customs and differences of French speaking countries.

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of French I.

## **PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT**

### **CONCERT (BEGINNER) BAND (9th - 12th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

Beginning Concert Band is designed for any student with little or no experience and a desire to be apart of the St. Michael band program. Students will learn the fundamentals of their chosen instrument. Music Theory will also be covered. Class activities emphasize the development of instrument technique, tone production, tuning, music reading and listening skills.

The Concert Band is a performance based class. This ensemble will be combined with the top Middle School Band members and perform at all band concerts and local competitions.

The student will be responsible for providing his/her own instrument or (if available) use a school owned instrument.

### **SYMPHONIC (ADVANCED) BAND (9th - 12th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

The Symphonic Band is an ensemble comprised of the finest high school instrumentalist at St. Michael. The Symphonic Band offers students great variety and challenge in musical performance , including experience in small ensemble music, analysis and theory. This class is designed for students with musical abilities necessary to perform level 3 and 4 band literature. Band members will also have the opportunity to perform at football/basketball home games, parades, local, state and national music festivals during the year. The student must be a member of the band to participate in all band activities. The student will be responsible for providing his/her own instrument or (if available) use a school owned instrument. Symphonic Band members are encouraged to audition for the Alabama Bandmasters Association All-State Bands. Members of the Symphonic Band make up the Jazz Band and other small ensembles. The Jazz Band rehearses every Thursday afternoon.

**Prerequisite:** Approval of the band director.

### **CONCERT CHOIR (9th - 12th) - 1 Credit (Full Year)**

The St. Michael Concert Choir is open to all students who have little or no choir experience. This course is designed to give students an opportunity to experience the joy of singing together and to provide an opportunity for individual growth and development through the choir experience. Students will learn a variety of songs, from unison to two, and three part singing with an emphasis placed on vocal and choral development. Music Theory and Sight Reading concepts will also be covered. Performances are required. The St. Michael Chamber Singers are selected from the Concert Choir by the director. This ensemble is the competitive choral ensemble and rehearses every Tuesday afternoon. Top choral students are also encouraged to audition for the Alabama Vocal Association All-State Choirs.

**Prerequisite:** None

### **STUDIO ART I (9th - 12th) - 1.0 Credit (Full Year)**

The Studio Art I course will provide students with the opportunity to learn the foundations of creating 2D art. Major topics include composition, shading, color, value, and perspective. Students will use a sketchbook to exercise creative thinking and practice their skills outside of class. Art History will be infused throughout the course to deepen student understanding of the elements of art and principles of composition. Students will also begin to learn how to effectively critique art.

**Prerequisite:** None

**STUDIO ART 2 (10th, 11th, or 12th) - 1.0 Credit (Full Year)**

The Studio Art 2 course will provide students with the opportunity to master the foundations of creating 2D art. Drawing skills and composition will still be of primary focus, but new media will be introduced such as pastels and printmaking techniques. Students will use a sketchbook to exercise creative thinking and practice their skills outside of class. Art History will be infused throughout the course to deepen student understanding of the elements of art. Students will also learn how to effectively critique art.

**Prerequisite:** Art 1 with teacher approval

**STUDIO ART 3 ( 11th or 12th) - 1.0 Credit (Full Year)**

The Studio Art 3 course will provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of specific media or subject matter in 2D art. Students will develop superior technical skills while expanding their creativity and visual vocabulary in order to communicate effectively via design and art elements. This course will be taught as an independent study, with the student choosing his or her own focus for the year. The student will produce ~5 substantial works over the course of the year and this will culminate in an end-of-year art show encompassing their high school body of work.

**Prerequisite:** Art 2 with teacher approval

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

**STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING (9th - 12th)- 1 Credit (Full Year)**

This course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive view of different areas of weightlifting, circuit training, and stretching in order to maintain fitness throughout their life. Students will have the ability to improve their strength, conditioning, speed, and agility through a variety of different activities, while also improving their self-discipline and leadership skills.

**Prerequisite:** None

**FITNESS TRAINING (9th - 12th)- ½ Credit or 1 Credit**

Fitness training will provide students with the ability to learn ways to maintain a healthy lifestyle throughout their life. Students will participate in a variety of cardiovascular exercises including stretching, pilates, running, team games, and individual games. This course does not include weightlifting.

**Prerequisite:** None

**DRIVER EDUCATION (9th or 10th) - No Credit/Included in PE**

Incorporated into the Fitness Training or Strength and Conditioning course, this optional course is a 2 phase course consisting of classroom instruction and Behind The Wheel (BTW) instruction. The classroom phase of the course consists of instruction in safe driving techniques, the effects of alcohol, drugs, and fatigue on safe driving, vehicle maintenance and insurance, as well as map reading. Students will also receive instruction in Boating Basics with the opportunity to earn a Boating License. The Behind The Wheel phase of the course is the practical application of the course. A Learner's License is required. 9th students must turn 15 by November 1st. Students that successfully complete the course will earn their "Blue Card" which qualifies that student for their drivers license.

**Prerequisite:** None