

NOTRE DAME Jr-Sr HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC CATALOG

INTRODUCTION

Notre Dame Jr-Sr High School is a Catholic High School of the Diocese of Scranton with a college preparatory curriculum. The courses, therefore, are selected and arranged to equip the students with the knowledge and skills necessary to continue his or her education. The curriculum at Notre Dame Jr-Sr High School is a demanding one. The student is expected to pursue a course of study that will continually reinforce analytic problem solving skills and comprehension development. Every course is taught at a college preparatory level challenging the student to work with increasing independence. Honors courses are taught at an accelerated pace to challenge the academically competent student who is able to pursue in-depth study and who is willing to spend extra time outside the class working independently. For those students ready and able to do college level work, advanced placement courses are provided. In order to fully benefit from AP courses, the student is required to take the responsibility for extensive reading and writing assignments. Elective Courses are offered only if student registration and staffing permit.

Notre Dame JR-SR High School Mission

Notre Dame High School, part of the school system of the Diocese of Scranton, is committed to the education and Catholic formation of students and their families. We provide a Catholic education that is spiritually sound and academically excellent. We strive to prepare our students to be morally responsible, true to their faith, and life-long learners dedicated to serving the Church and society.

At Notre Dame, we believe:

- Each person is a child of God who has inherent values and dignity.
- Each person has unique gifts to foster, develop, and express.
- Effective education develops the whole person - spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically.
- The role of the faculty and staff is to live, model, and teach Gospel values.
- Catholic values permeate all aspects of the educational program.

- Education is the shared responsibility of the administration, faculty and staff, and the students and their families.
- Interaction with individuals of diverse backgrounds and character teaches an appreciation for and a respect and acceptance of others.
- Service to others is an integral component of living the Gospel message.
- Each person shares in the responsibility of being stewards of all of God's creation.
- Each person achieves success in a nurturing and challenging environment.
- Extracurricular activities complement the curriculum in developing a well-rounded person who is prepared for the next stage of his/her life.
- The educational process is life-long.
- Personal and academic integrity are vital to each person's development.

These belief statements emphasize the essentials of a Catholic education: belief in the dignity of the individual, the importance of the family and school in faith development, and the need in the modern world for understanding and service of others.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Notre Dame Graduation Requirements

The inclusion of four years of Theology is the sole addition to Pennsylvania State Department of Education mandates.

- In grades 9 through 12, every student must obtain at least 21 units of credits in the following disciplines:

English	4
Social Studies	4
Mathematics	3
Science	3
Foreign Language	2
Health and Physical Education	1
Approved Electives	4
- *All Notre Dame High School students are required to take Theology (4).*

SENIOR GRADUATION PROJECT

Purpose

The Notre Dame Jr-Sr High School Graduation Project is intended to be a comprehensive learning activity of the highest quality both in scope and depth. The completed project should demonstrate the achievement of Notre Dame's standard for outstanding student performance and preparedness for college. Through self-directed learning, students will have the opportunity to witness their Catholic faith while exhibiting problem-solving, decision-making, and independent research skills in the investigation of a specialized area of interest.

Requirements

The Notre Dame Jr-Sr High School Graduation Project will require student work encompassing the following components:

1. 50 hours to be completed by the end of the 1st quarter of Senior year.
2. Research Paper
3. Oral Presentation

Sec. 4.24 Pennsylvania Department of Education High School Graduation Requirements

- A. Each school (including charter schools) shall specify requirements for graduation in the strategic plan under 4.13 (relating to strategic planning). Requirements [for graduation] shall include course completion and grades, completion of culminating project and the results of local assessments aligned with the academic standards. The purpose of the culminating projects is to assure that students are able to apply, analyze, synthesize and evaluate information and communicate significant knowledge and understanding.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Diocesan Regulations – Senior Service Hours

1. 40 hours of service required as a condition for participation in graduation activities.
2. At least 20 hours must be completed before the end of the first semester, with the remaining hours performed before the end of the school year.
3. Seniors will commit themselves to a single location or sponsoring organization for the duration of their service experience, rather than selecting different ways to volunteer their time.
4. Service hours must be documented with the time and date of activity and a supervisor's signature.
5. Some or all of the service hours may be completed in the summer before senior year.
6. A reflection paper exercise is included in the religion curriculum to assist students in appreciating the connection between what they do and the faith and mission of the Church.
7. Failure to complete service hours will result in an incomplete grade for religion.

Diocesan Regulations – Underclass Service Hours

All students in all grades are required to perform service hours as part of their Theology curriculum. Hours will vary according to grade level.

DROP-ADD POLICY

Students wishing to make course changes will be allowed to do so during the first three weeks of classes if:

1. a class which was selected was omitted from the schedule
2. the change results in a reasonable program of studies
3. the changes will not overload a particular class
4. the change(s) is/are approved by the administration, teacher, counselor and parents.

NO CHANGE WILL BE PERMITTED FOR ANY OTHER REASON DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR unless approved by the principal, teacher, counselor, and parent. In this case, a fee will also be charged.

FAILURE POLICY

The policy of Notre Dame requires that any subject failed during the regular school year **MUST** be made up in one of the following ways:

1. By satisfactorily completing an approved summer school program established by any school district in Pennsylvania, New York, or New Jersey that offers course(s) the student failed.
2. By successfully completing 30 hours of one-on-one tutoring with a certified teacher in the appropriate subject area.
3. By satisfactorily completing a self-study program created by Notre Dame. Also, the student must successfully complete an exam to be given by the school in mid-August.
4. By successfully completing either the "Colonial Virtual Program" or the "Keystone Recovery Program".

A senior who failed any course will not receive a diploma until courses are satisfactorily completed.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SELECTING COURSES

Selecting courses is one of the most important decisions a student will make in his/her life at this time, therefore regard selections with utmost importance.

1. Discuss course selections with parents/guardians, teachers and counselors.
2. Read course descriptions carefully and choose courses that will be required for future plans.
3. Choose courses needed to fulfill graduation requirements.

COURSE OFFERINGS

THEOLOGY

The Theology Department of Notre Dame Jr-Sr High School recognizes its unique role in the educational ministry of the Church. The Theology Department seeks to offer leadership, vision, and inspiration within a school whose mission is firmly rooted in the Gospel. We seek to transmit a spirit of faith and to teach Theology as an academic discipline with specific measurable objectives. We seek to lead our students to live lives of spiritual growth, intellectual inquiry and Christian service.

Theology 7 Grade 7

The course is designed to help students arrive at a Catholic interpretation of life experience as they explore the fundamentals of the Catholic faith.

Theology 8 Grade 8

The course focuses on our Catholic identity and covers the history of the Catholic Church from its early years of persecution, through the period of reform, to the Church's growth and development in the United States.

Theology 9 Grade 9 Credit/Weight 1.0/2 College Prep

After giving an overview of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, this course discusses the Old Testament. Students will study the stories, people and events of the Israelite people from the beginning to the birth of Jesus, with an emphasis on God's covenant with the people.

Theology 10 Grade 10**Credit/Weight 1.0/2 College Prep**

This course discusses the New Testament. Students will study the life and teachings of Jesus with an emphasis on Christology.

Theology 11 Grade 11**Credit/Weight 1.0/3 College Prep**

A course focuses on Catholic Moral Teaching on subjects such as human freedom, conscience, virtue, sin and forgiveness followed by an in-depth study of the Ten Commandments.

Theology 12 Grade 12**Credit/Weight 1.0/4 College Prep**

Church History- The course begins with the institution of the church and its development throughout the centuries. The study of the church's growth is facilitated through the lives of individuals whose faith, service and devotion serve as models for us.

Ecclesiology- This short course is based primarily on the Catechism of the Catholic Church and Vatican II's Dogmatic Constitution on the church (Lumen Gentium) and discusses the identity of the church. Other topics include the marks of the Church, the make up of the Church and introduces the four states in vocational life.

Vocation- The course continues the discussion of the four states in life and focuses on the manner in which each individual finds happiness and eternal salvation in living out his/her vocation.

ENGLISH

The English Department presents students with a vast selection of genres of literature including poetry, novels, short stories, essays, and drama. Students learn to appreciate the great literature of our country and the world. Students learn to express themselves clearly and concisely in class discussions and their writing. Students develop critical thinking skills and a discerning approach to the written word. Students write research papers using the MLA style of documentation. Students in each grade have a summer reading list and write essays and take tests in September. English students participate in the county wide spelling bee in March.

English 7 Grade 7

Correct usage and writing skills are developed with the reinforcement of all parts of speech, the rules of punctuation, basic composition, and narrative writing.

Literature 7 Grade 7

This course offers the student a background in and basis for all literary genres. The application and development of literary terms through discussion and written expression are emphasized.

English 8 Grade 8

Correct usage and writing skills are reinforced.

Literature 8 Grade 8

This course offers further application of basic literary terms. The course explores all genres. Novels are also covered in class.

English 9 Grade 9 Credit/Weight 1.0/2 College Prep

English 9 is a survey course which gives students opportunities for total language growth through use of in-depth and accelerated materials designed to emphasize higher levels of analytical thinking, enhance creativity, develop critical thinking skills, and encourage consistent work habits. Students study novels, poetry, short stories and drama. Students learn the development of the essay including an effective introduction, body and conclusion. Students study grammar in connection with the reading and writing. A research unit stressing the role of careful research and note taking culminates in the preparation of a formal research paper following the MLA format.

English 10 Grade 10 Credit/Weight 1.0/2 College Prep

English 10, offers the students a wide variety of genres and builds on the students' knowledge of literature and literary terminology. Through active reading, discussion, writing, and group work the students focus on examples of classic literature including short stories, poetry, drama, and the novel. Instruction also emphasizes critical reading and thinking, improved vocabulary and writing, and opportunities for oral presentations. Additionally, students practice effective writing through essay writing, composing poetry, and writing a research paper. Documentation is MLA style.

English 11 Grade 11 Credit/Weight 1.0/ 3 College Prep
American Literature

English 11, American Literature, is a survey course offering a wide variety of American literature. The course continues to build on the students' knowledge of literature and literary terminology while focusing on American Literature. Through active reading, discussion, writing, and group work, the student studies examples of classic American literature including short stories, poetry, drama, and the novel. Instruction also emphasizes critical reading and thinking, improved vocabulary and writing, and opportunities for oral presentations. Additionally, students practice effective writing through essay writing, composing poetry, and writing a research paper. Documentation is MLA style.

Honors English Grade 11 Credit/Weight 1.0/4 Honors
American Literature

(Prerequisite: student request, teacher approval, and administrative approval)

Honors English is a course offered to academically qualified and highly motivated students. The emphasis of this course is the study of American Literature. Reading, writing and speaking skills are necessary to cogently analyze, interpret and explain these American works. The students are required to write a research paper. Documentation is MLA style.

English 12 Grade 12 Credit/Weight 1.0/4 College Prep
British Literature

British Literature is a survey course of the literature of England. The focus is on selections from Beowulf to modern authors. Students analyze and interpret the literature in written form and class discussions. Students study and discuss novels, poems, short stories, and plays. Instruction emphasizes critical reading and thinking, vocabulary and writing, and opportunities for oral presentations. Students complete the requirement for the Senior Graduation Project with a Research Paper on their individual topics. Documentation is MLA style.

AP English Grade 12 Credit/Weight 1.0/6 Advanced Placement
(Prerequisite: student request, teacher approval, and administrative approval)

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition is a course offered to academically qualified and highly motivated seniors. Students analyze, interpret, and write about classic literature. Students develop skills in literary criticism, expository writing, and analytical reasoning. In addition to the British Literature text, students study several novels, plays, poetry, and short stories from the canon of World Literature. Students complete the requirements for the Senior Graduation Project with a Research Paper on their individual topics. The expectation is that all students will take the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Exam in May. The College Board Audit Committee approved the syllabus for the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition course.

Speech Grade 11/12 Credit/Weight 0.5/3 College Prep

Students in Grades 11 and 12 may take Speech. The course introduces the major elements of speech making and communication. Students acquire competence in two-person, small group, and public situations. The course explores the strategies necessary for improving listening skills, initiating and maintaining interpersonal relationships, strategies for group participation, and

preparation and delivery of effective public presentations. Students gain the skills to become an informed and critical consumer of messages. Students examine speech techniques used in popular culture, advertising, politics, and mass media. Students study nonverbal communication and cultural and psychological approaches to speaking. Students present various types of speeches including: business and organizational, ceremonial, persuasive, informational, and speeches of tribute and acceptance.

Journalism Grade 11/12

Credit/Weight 0.5/3 College Prep

Journalism is designed to provide students with a basic knowledge of the process of gathering, writing and publishing news, editorials, features and sports. It provides hands on experience in editing, writing headlines and designing a page. The course encourages students to be responsible and think creatively.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The role of the Social Studies Department is to make available to the students a body of knowledge that will broaden their educational horizons and strengthen those values that are part of our school community. Through an examination of other times and places, it is hoped that our students will develop respect for the role that geography, technology and diversity play in the study of history; and that our students will grow in their own faith as they trace the path of mankind's search for meaning in life.

World Cultures Grade 7

This course is designed to provide the students extensive exposure to the cultures of various ancient civilizations bridging the social sciences of economics, politics, philosophy, and the humanities.

American History I Grade 8

With the chronological flow, a thematic approach to events will be employed in this course. The course will include a detailed study of American colonization and Revolutionary eras, to the writing and establishing the Constitution, and inclusive through the era of the Civil War and Reconstruction Period.

American History II Grade 9

Credit/Weight 1.0/2

College Prep

With the chronological flow, a thematic approach to events will be employed in this course. The course will include a detailed study from post Reconstruction United States industrialization to 20th century conflicts through modern times.

Civics/American Government Grade 10

Credit/Weight 1.0/2

College Prep

This year-long course will provide students with an understanding of the American political system and its functions. Students will better understand our Constitutional concepts and theories. Current and historical events will be studied to better understand our political ideology and traditions. Students will better understand our political ideology and traditions. Students will develop an understanding of their responsibilities as citizens to be better able to participate in our political system.

World Cultures II Grade 11

Credit/Weight 1.0/3

College Prep

This course is designed to provide the students extensive exposure to the cultures of various ancient civilizations bridging the social sciences of economics, politics, philosophy, and the humanities. The student will develop a firm knowledge base and enhanced skills of logic, enabling the recognition of trends between and among previous and contemporary civilizations. This course would allow the student to determine patterns of modern civilizations which impact contemporary global relations.

Psychology Grade 11-12 Credit/Weight 0.5/3 College Prep

This elective class will serve as an introduction to the social science of psychology. Through reading, lecture, class discussion and individual/group assignments the students will become familiar with the goal of psychology. Class work will include the study of the psychological approach to learning, brain, and body relationship to behavior, consciousness, development, emotions, personality, mental disorders/stress and motivation.

Modern US History Grade 12 Credit/Weight 0.5/4 College Prep

This one semester course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the history of Modern American History (World War II to modern times). Students will be exposed to the material through a variety of teaching-learning methods and activities that include the utilization of technology and the investigation of primary historical documents, images, and artifacts. Students will build critical thinking skills, research and information gathering skills, presentation and debate skills, and an understanding of the pluralistic nature of society.

Sociology Grade 12 Credit/Weight 0.5/4 College Prep

This one semester course will have students exploring why and how a person behaves in group situations. Through the analysis of society, it is hoped that the students will be better able to understand themselves and those around them.

Intro to Law Studies Grade 12 Credit/Weight 0.5/3 College Prep

This elective course is designed to provide students through reading, lecture, class discussions, role-playing, case studies, mock trials and on-line activities, an introduction to law. The curriculum includes criminal and juvenile law, civil law, consumer and housing law, and family law.

LANGUAGES

The Foreign Language Department recognizes the need for all students to be able to communicate with the emerging global community. The course of study provides the opportunity to meet all aspects of language learning: vocabulary development, grammatical structure, reading and listening comprehension, civilization and culture, literature, composition and (for the modern foreign languages) the ability to converse in the language.

Introduction to Foreign Language 7 & 8 Grade 7-8

These courses provide an introduction to French and Spanish languages that enable the students to make an informed decision as to what language they will commit themselves to study. In addition to basic conversational skills, both Spanish and French cultural influences around the world are discussed.

Latin I Grade 9 Credit/Weight 1.0/2 College Prep

Latin I includes students in Grade 9 who have demonstrated a competency in English Literature and Grammar and have scored in a high range on standardized tests. Students study Latin syntax, grammar, and structure with the goal of translating Latin passages into smooth English. Students study the culture surrounding the Latin language: Roman history, mythology, geography, architecture, painting, laws, political accomplishments, Roman numerals, and religion. Students study English words derived from Latin root words along with Latin prefixes and suffixes. Students learn common Latin sayings and mottoes used regularly in English. All students take the National Latin Exam in March.

Latin II Grade 10 Credit/Weight 1.0/2 College Prep

Students who successfully complete Latin 1 learn more complex grammar and translate increasingly difficult passages from Latin authors. Students translate selections from Caesar's Gallic Wars, Ovid, and Cicero with emphasis on a smooth, idiomatic translation. Students study the culture surrounding the language including Roman history, mythology, geography, architecture, painting, laws, political campaigns, and religion. Students study English words derived from Latin root words along with Latin prefixes and suffixes and learn common Latin sayings and mottoes used regularly in English. Students learn 30 figures of speech and rhetoric and identify them in the Latin passages. All students take the National Latin Exam in March.

Latin III Grade 11 Credit/Weight 1.0/4 Honors

Students study the Books of the Aeneid that are not included in the syllabus. Students study the background of Vergil as well as the history of the Trojan War including all the gods and goddesses, heroes, and villains involved. Students recognize and name several figures of speech and rhetoric and are able to scan the dactylic hexameter verse. All students take the Poetry component of the National Latin Exam in March.

French I Grade 9 Credit/Weight 1.0/2 College Prep

French I provides students with the basic elements of learning the language: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The students engage in written and oral exercises concentrating on new vocabulary and grammatical structures. Additionally, French history and culture are briefly introduced.

French 2 Grade 10 Credit/Weight 1.0/2 College Prep

French 2 is an extension of the successful completion of the prerequisite course, French I. Prior knowledge is reviewed and built upon in order to further develop skills. Learning proceeds at a more rapid pace and the material presented is of greater depth and scope. New verb tenses, as well as more complex grammatical structures, are introduced. Furthermore, French history and culture are expanded upon.

French 3 Grade 11 Credit/Weight 1.0/4 Honors

French 3 further builds upon the grammatical skills developed in the previous years, with a greater emphasis on listening, writing, and speaking skills. Proficiency in speaking is further developed and a greater emphasis is placed on cultural activities. Acceptance into the course is subject to the discretion of the teacher and administrators.

French 4 Grade 12 Credit/Weight 1.0/5 Honors

This course is designed for students who have exhibited the ability to master advanced grammatical concepts and vocabulary. There is greater emphasis on listening, writing and speaking skills. French 4 also provides students with the opportunity to work independently to discover a more detailed history of France and to read a contemporary piece of literature such as *The Phantom of the Opera*. Acceptance into the course is subject to the discretion of the teacher and administrators.

Spanish I Grade 9 Credit/Weight 1.0/2 College Prep

Spanish 1 is designed to introduce students to the language and culture of Spanish speaking countries. The basic elements of learning the language- speaking, listening, reading and writing are stressed. The students engage in written and oral exercises concentrating on new vocabulary and grammatical structure. Additionally, Hispanic history and culture are briefly introduced.

Spanish 2 Grade 10 Credit/Weight 1.0/2 College Prep

Spanish 2 is an extension of its prerequisite course, Spanish 1. Prior knowledge is reviewed and built upon to further develop skills. Learning proceeds at a more rapid pace and the material presented is of greater depth and scope. New verb tenses as well as more grammatical structures are introduced. Furthermore, Hispanic history and culture are expanded upon.

Spanish 3 Grade 11 Credit/Weight 1.0/4 Honors

This course is designed for students who have successfully completed Spanish 2. It gives students practice in advanced grammatical concepts while reinforcing structures learned during the first two years. It emphasizes the written communication as well as the spoken word. Composition and paragraph writing are stressed. Students improve their reading comprehension as well as their knowledge of Hispanic culture and history by reading narratives on various cultural topics from Spanish speaking countries. Acceptance into the course is subject to the discretion of the teacher and administrators.

Spanish 4 Grade 12 Credit/Weight 1.0/5 Honors

This course is designed for students who have exhibited the ability to master advanced grammatical concepts and vocabulary. There is great emphasis on listening, writing and speaking skills. Students increase their reading proficiency and gain knowledge of Spanish speaking countries through the reading of articles, narratives and short stories on various cultural topics. Acceptance into the course is subject to the discretion of the teacher and administrators.

MATHEMATICS

The goal of the Mathematics Department is to develop the mathematical talent of each student. The curriculum fosters academic excellence and fosters a love of learning, critical thinking, and analytical reasoning.

Mathematics 7 Grade 7

This course provides a firm foundation in the areas of whole numbers, integers, fractions, decimals, and number theory. Basic geometric and algebraic concepts are presented.

Accelerated Math 7 Grade 7 (Prerequisite: Accelerated Math 6)

This course is designed to broaden the study of algebraic concepts while maintaining basic mathematical skills. The course includes variables, equations, inequalities, formulas, integers, data analysis, graphing, properties of exponents and polynomials.

Pre-Algebra 8 Grade 8

This course is designed to broaden the study of algebraic concepts while maintaining basic mathematical skills. The course includes variables, equations, inequalities, formulas, integers, data analysis, graphing, properties of exponents and polynomials.

Algebra 8(Accelerated) Grade 8 (Prerequisite: Accelerated Math 7)

This course is designed to teach the standard topics of Algebra 1 through an incremental development. This approach assumes students learn by doing and do not master a concept on the day it is introduced; long term practice is emphasized as the key ingredient to success. The course covers the language, structure, and operations of Algebra. Topics covered include real numbers, sets, absolute value, variables, equations and inequalities, exponents, polynomials, rational expressions, factoring, irrational numbers, quadratic equations, and systems of equations.

Algebra 9 Grade 9 Credit/Weight 1.0/2 College Prep

This course is designed to teach the standard topics of Algebra 1 through an incremental development. This approach assumes students learn by doing and do not master a concept on the day it is introduced; long term practice is emphasized as the key ingredient to success. The course covers the language, structure, and operations of Algebra. Topics covered include real numbers, sets, absolute value, variables, equations and inequalities, exponents, polynomials, rational expressions, factoring, irrational numbers, quadratic equations, and systems of equations.

Honors Geometry Grade 9 Credit/Weight 1.0/2 Honors

This course presents the topics of college preparatory Geometry using a rigorous approach. Students must demonstrate knowledge and understanding of definitions, postulates, and theorems. Analytical thinking skills are emphasized through deductive proof. Geometry is integrated with arithmetic and algebra whenever possible and exercises that include the use of algebra are included. Topics covered include parallel and perpendicular lines, congruent and similar polygons, circles, area, surface area, and volume. This course is offered to 9th graders who have successfully completed Algebra 1.

Geometry Grade 10 Credit/Weight 1.0/2 College Prep

This course presents the topics of college preparatory Geometry using a less rigorous approach. Inductive reasoning and discovery learning are used. Students have an opportunity to use and review algebra concepts. They are encouraged to make connections from concrete examples to abstract concepts. Topics covered include angles, polygons and polyhedrons, transformations, congruent triangles, parallel and perpendicular lines, quadrilaterals, perimeter and area, similarity, circles, surface area, and volume. Completion of Algebra 9 is a pre-requisite.

Honors Algebra 2 Grade 10 Credit/Weight 1.0/3 Honors

This rigorous course is designed to give students the thorough Algebra background necessary for advanced mathematics courses. It takes topics familiar from Algebra 1 and extends them. Students review properties, structures, and operations previously learned. They expand their knowledge of first and second degree equations and inequalities, the complex number system, linear, quadratic, radical, rational, and exponential functions and acquire a background in conic sections. Completion of Geometry 9 is a pre-requisite

Algebra II Grade 11 Credit/Weight 1.0/3 College Prep

This college preparatory course is designed to give students the thorough Algebra background necessary for advanced mathematics courses. It takes topics familiar from Algebra 1 and extends them. Students review properties, structures, and operations previously learned. They expand their knowledge of first and second degree equations and inequalities, the complex number system, linear, quadratic, radical, rational, and exponential functions and acquire a background in conic sections. Completion of Geometry 10 is a pre-requisite.

Honors Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus Grade 11 Credit/Weight 1.0/4 Honors

This accelerated course begins with a review of functions then proceeds to cover such topics as polynomials, logarithms, trigonometry, sequences and series, probability, and statistics. It offers the student an opportunity to enhance his/her background in the fundamentals of advanced algebra and trigonometry, to improve accuracy in computations and to become proficient with the use of graphing calculators. This course is offered to Juniors who have completed Algebra II with a C+ or better. Prospective students are cautioned that the work load is heavy.

Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus Grade 12 Credit/Weight 1.0/4 College Prep

This course begins with a review of functions then proceeds to cover such topics as polynomials, logarithms, trigonometry, sequences and series, probability, and statistics. It offers the student an opportunity to enhance his/her background in the fundamentals of advanced algebra and trigonometry, to improve accuracy in computations and to become proficient with the use of graphing calculators. This course is offered to Seniors who have completed Algebra II with a C+ or better. Prospective students are cautioned that the work load is heavy.

Honors Calculus Grade 12 Credit/Weight 1.0/5 Honors

This course is composed of college level material and is designed to give college bound students a background in Calculus. It is taught at a slower pace and with more explicit explanations than one would expect in college and begins with a review of Algebra as it applies to Calculus. Topics covered include limits, continuity, differentiation, applications of the derivative, integration, and applications of integration. Graphing calculators are used extensively. Completion of Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus with at least a B is a pre-requisite. Prospective students should expect lengthy assignments on a daily basis.

SCIENCE

The Science Department supports the school's philosophy of educating the whole person. In order to help the school attain this goal the Science department presents a comprehensive curriculum in the physical and biological disciplines. Science concepts and the development of the scientific method and its applications are stressed in the teaching of the college preparatory, honors and advanced placement courses. Laboratory investigations instill concepts presented and the use of current technology in the classroom develops a positive attitude for science in the student's life.

Science 7 Grade 7

Life Science

This course is designed to help students become more aware of life and its many components. Students are given the opportunity to discover life as it evolves from a single cell to a more complex organism.

Science 8 Grade 8

Earth Science

This course is designed so students will realize the particular composition of the universe and the continuous changes taking place in the world.

Physical Science Grade 9 Credit/Weight 1.0/2 College Prep

Physical Science is an introduction to the study of matter, the changes matter undergoes and the study of the many forms of energy. The students are encouraged to develop a scientific approach through careful observation and record keeping.

Biology Grade 10 Credit/Weight 1.0/2 College Prep

Biology is a dynamic science which studies the relationship between the biotic and abiotic factors of the biosphere. The study of biology includes a traditional approach using lecture supplemented with current films, on-the-spot internet access, power point presentations and laboratory investigation which is enhanced by computer-based programs for observation and data collection. The topics covered include: The Nature of Life, Ecology, Cells, Genetics, Evolution, Microorganisms and Fungi, Plants, Invertebrates and Vertebrates. This course provides a foundation for AP Biology.

Chemistry Grade 11 Credit/Weight 1.0/3 College Prep

Students are introduced to the major concepts of chemistry from the structure of matter through the chemical behavior of substances. Problem solving and analytical skills are stressed. The development of laboratory skills is emphasized.

Honors Chemistry Grade 11 Credit/Weight 1.0/4 Honors
(Prerequisite: student request, teacher approval and administrative approval)

This course is offered to academically qualified and highly motivated students. Students are presented the major concepts of chemistry including the structure and development of matter, chemical reactions, and oxidation and reduction. It emphasizes the integration of mathematical applications of theories and principles in the area of chemistry. This course drills students in applying the information using critical thinking skills and uses strong math skills through dimensional analysis. It also emphasizes independent laboratory skills involving measurement, scientific method and graphing analysis (using technology).

AP Biology Grade 12 Credit/Weight 1.0/6 Advanced Placement
(Prerequisite: student request, teacher approval and administrative approval)

Advanced Placement Biology is a rigorous course which provides more detailed information than presented in required biology and prepares students with the many skills that they will need in college. It requires the performance of several challenging laboratory exercises using proper protocol. The course is built around topics, concepts, and themes. Topics include: Science as a progress, Evolution, Energy transfer, Continuity and change, Relationship of structure to function, regulation, interdependence in nature and Science, technology, and society. Students will have a lengthy summer assignment. The College Board Audit Committee approved the syllabus for the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition course.

Environmental Science Grade 12 Credit/Weight 1.0/3 College Prep

Environmental Science develops an awareness of the environment by presenting Earth as the only known viable habitat for people and other organisms. Laboratory activities reinforce the concepts. Outdoor activities place the learning experience in the context of the environment. The study includes: Ecological Interactions, Biomes, and People in the Global Ecosystem, Energy Resources, and Resources in the Biosphere, and Managing Human Impact. Specific information relating to Pennsylvania Environment, in particular the populations, communities and ecosystem of the immediate Pocono Region are also studied.

Physics Grade 12 Credit/Weight 1.0/5 Honors

Students study a variety of topics that include: laws of motion, changes within physical systems and conservation of energy and momentum, force, thermodynamics, characteristics and behavior of waves, and quantum physics. This course provides students with a conceptual and analytical framework. Problem solving and critical thinking skills are stressed.

BUSINESS

The Business Department's goal is to teach fundamental business and legal concepts and procedures and develop knowledge and skills that students can use toward higher education, professional employment, and ethical, lawful, and successful living and community involvement.

Accounting 1 Grade 11-12 Credit/Weight 1.0/3 College Prep

This course teaches students generally accepted accounting principles for business and personal use. Students develop the ability to analyze and record transactions at work or at home and to interpret the results of business operations financially and managerially.

Accounting 2 Grade 12 Credit/Weight 1.0/4 College Prep

This is a second year course that expands on the generally accepted principles introduced in the prerequisite Accounting 1 course. Students develop broader knowledge and abilities with business issues, operations, investments and technology.

Business Law Grade 11-12 Credit/Weight 0.5/3 College Prep

This course teaches students the foundations, definitions and elements of business and personal laws and regulations and how they have progressed. Students develop knowledge of current legal, ethical and social issues, court systems and procedures, and legal careers.

COMPUTER

The ability to use computers efficiently with other components of information systems is a “must” for everyone in our increasingly technological society. The Computer Department strives to instruct students to be proficient and ethically accountable users of technology.

Library Science Grade 7

The library skills course equips students with the skills required to locate and access information from a variety of sources in both print and electronic format for academic and personal use.

Web Resources Grade 8

The course emphasizes reliable and safe practices for student research on the World Wide Web.

Desktop Publishing Grade 9 Credit/Weight: 0.25/2 College Prep

Desktop Publishing is a course intended to introduce students to desktop publishing concepts and applications using Google Workspace Applications including Google Docs, Google Slides, and Google Draw, and Google Sheets. The student will use the software in to create a variety of printed and electronic publications. Students will learn to import files and graphics, and use menus/commands to produce newsletters, brochures, logos and fliers.

Computer Applications 1 Grade 10-11 Credit/Weight: 0.5/2 College Prep

Computer Applications I is designed to provide an overview of computer applications including a brief introduction to computer concepts. It is an independent, project based course. The student will be introduced to the fundamentals of Microsoft Office Word 2019, Microsoft Office Excel 2019, and Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2019. They will become familiar with the proper procedures to create documents, worksheets, and presentations and apply their knowledge and skills in a capstone project.

Computer Applications 2 Grade 11-12 Credit/Weight: 0.5/2 College Prep

Computer Applications II is designed to extend the student’s basic knowledge of computer applications. It is an independent, project based course. The student will be taught skills enhancements to the fundamentals of Microsoft Office Word 2019, Microsoft Office Excel 2019, and Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2019 and will be introduced to the fundamentals of Microsoft Access 2019. They will become adept with the proper procedures to create documents, worksheets, and presentations and will become familiar with databases.

Art 2-D Continuing Studio Art Grade 11-12 Credit/Weight 0.5/3 College Prep

This is a continuing studio art program for those students who have an interest in art but may not have had an opportunity to take previous course offerings.

Art 3-D Studio Art (Sculpture) Grade 11-12 Credit/Weight 0.5/3 College Prep

This is an intermediate level studio course for students who have had a foundation in studio work. Projects will continue to be presented in order to develop skills. Students will use a variety of 3-D materials and techniques.

Advanced Studio Art Grade 11-12 Credit/Weight 0.5/3 College Prep

This is an advanced studio class for students who have worked their way through the studio program. Students will specialize in their medium of choice and develop personal projects and goals. Emphasis is on personal expression and mastery of technique.

Portfolio Grade 11-12 Credit/Weight 0.5/4 College Prep

This is an advanced class for students seriously interested in pursuing art at the college level. Acceptance to the course is subject to the discretion of the teacher and administrators.

Fine Arts 9/ Music Grade 9 Credit/Weight 0.5/2 College Prep

The course traces the development of music from the Classical era, Romantic era, and includes Jazz and Rock styles.

Chorus Grade 9 Credit/Weight 0.25/2 College Prep

Chorus classes are designed to develop the aural and vocal ability of each student through the beginning ear training, breath support, and vocalizing techniques. Students enrolled in this course become members of the Notre Dame High School Chorus in which they are able to achieve the intended objectives through the performance of concerts.

Chorus Grade 10-12 Credit/Weight 0.5/2 College Prep

Chorus classes are designed to develop the aural and vocal ability of each student through the beginning ear training, breath support, and vocalizing techniques. Students enrolled in this course become members of the Notre Dame High School Chorus in which they are able to achieve the intended objectives through the performance of concerts.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education at Notre Dame contributes to the physical, social and emotional well being of its students. The program develops progressive activity instruction that fosters strength, coordination, movement, skill-related fitness and movement concepts of individual, team and life-time activity.

Physical Education 7&8 Grade 7-8

Physical Education provides opportunities for games, team sports, individual and lifetime sports, and aerobics.

Drug and Alcohol 7 Grade 7

Skills for adolescence helps young people learn how to deal with the challenges of our complex society by offering positive growth experiences and teaching specific coping skills. The program places an emphasis on preventing drug and alcohol abuse and related problems.

Health 8 Grade 8

This course helps students learn how they can gain, through training and the environment, the most out of their genetic endowment.

Physical Education Grades 9-12 Credit/Weight .25/2 each year

Physical Education provides opportunities for games, team sports, individual and lifetime sports, and aerobics. Each student in his/her curriculum is able to achieve some degree of success according to his/her ability. Participation and involvement are encouraged at all levels fostering an appreciation and enjoyment of physical activity and sport to become part of his/her lifetime physical activity.

Health Grade 11 Credit/Weight .25/2

Complete health is accomplished by having a balance of physical, mental, social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. This course is designed to offer students the opportunity to acquire knowledge, incorporate life skills and develop positive attitudes about life. Development of a healthy body and a healthy mind will assist students in living active, productive and successful lives.