

# **SOPHOMORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

## **2010 -2011**

### **REQUIRED COURSES**

#### **RELIGIOUS STUDIES II - 624**

Encountering Jesus in the New Testament – This course is an introduction to the books of the New Testament, with special emphasis on the gospels; the historical Jesus; the Church’s dogmatic teaching about Jesus as presented in the Catechism of the Catholic Church; the meaning of discipleship, and how Jesus can be met in today’s world.

Morality – In the second semester students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the foundations of morality given by Jesus Christ. Students will be able to identify and explain key concepts of Catholic morality, demonstrate awareness of elements involved in good moral decision making, and be able to explain implications of values and principles of the Ten Commandments applied today.

#### **SKILLS ENGLISH II - 021 (Prerequisite: Must be enrolled in VCHS Resource Program)**

A course that teaches basic skills in English grammar and usage and in reading and incorporating non-traditional, multi-sensory methods including the use of some computer activities and audio-visuals activities.

#### **ENGLISH II - 024**

A course that reviews and extends the grammar/usage and literature skills of the preceding English course. Writing skills include outlining, essay writing, research, and writing about fiction and poetry. Reading includes short stories, poetry, selected novels, and drama including a Greek drama and a Shakespearean play.

#### **ENGLISH II LEVEL I - 027**

An honors course that seeks to master grammar / usage skills of the previous years. The main emphasis of the course is on literature and writing. Literature includes a comprehensive study of the development of drama in classical literature through the age of Shakespeare. Selected novels, short stories, and poetry are also read. Writing about the literature and using research techniques is stressed along with paragraph and essay writing.

#### **ALGEBRA I - 114**

A course which covers the basic functions of real numbers (whole numbers, integers, fractions), equations, polynomials, factoring, and graphing. Emphasis is on solving equations, solving basic word problems, and factoring.

#### **GEOMETRY - 124**

A basic geometry course which stresses the use of inductive reasoning through constructions and measurements. (Algebra is applied to enhance the concepts.) Topics covered are geometric terms, areas, ratios, and proportions.

#### **ALGEBRA II LEVEL I - 127 (Prerequisite: Grade of “B” or higher on Geometry Level 1 or recommendation of the instructor)**

Study of equations and inequalities, graphs and functions, polynomials and factoring, rational expressions, irrational and complex numbers, quadratic equations and functions, systems of two and three equations, analytic geometry, exponential and logarithmic functions. Emphasis on solving word problems as applications of the above.

#### **ALGEBRA II - 134**

A study of sets, the field of real numbers, linear equations and inequalities in one variable, functions and graphs, quadratic equations and factoring, exponents, radicals, complex number system, and systems of linear equations and inequalities, as well as applications of these. It is recommended that students have completed geometry prior to taking this course.

#### **BIOLOGY I - 324**

A study of plant and animal life through classroom lectures, demonstrations, and laboratory experience. Emphasis on appreciation of natural habitats, life forms that thrive within the habitats, and their relationship to the environment. Also stresses understanding structure and function of organisms.

**CHEMISTRY I LEVEL I - 327 (Prerequisite / Co-requisite: Algebra II)**

A rigorous first-year classroom and laboratory course with an in-depth study of both the concepts and mathematics related to matter and energy, atomic structure, the periodic table, periodic properties, bonding formula writing, chemical reactions, the mole, stoichiometry, gases and solutions.

**CHEMISTRY I - 334**

An introductory course into the concepts and mathematics related to matter and energy, atomic structure, the periodic table, periodic properties, bonding formula writing, chemical reactions, the mole, stoichiometry, gases and solutions. Enrollment in or completion of Algebra II recommended.

**HEALTH I - 420 (Boys) / 421 (Girls)**

Designed to enable students to gain the knowledge and skills essential for health literacy. Health topics include substance abuse, CPR/first aid, nutrition, fitness, and disease. This course will be scheduled separately from the physical education requirement.

**One-half unit of credit, one semester.**

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION II - (Girls – 401 full yr./402 half yr.) (Boys – 408 full yr./409 half yr.)**

Designed to promote physical fitness and encourage active participation. Emphasis on team and individual sports including soccer, wiffleball, golf, and other sports learned in earlier courses, as well as on lifetime sports such as horseshoes, golf, and bowling. Health topics include first aid, communicable diseases, mental health, CPR, drug abuse, nutrition, and conditioning. Students will complete both skill and written tests. **Full year or one semester credit.**

**ELECTIVE COURSES****COMPUTER APPLICATIONS I, II - 164 (full year)**

A full-year course in the study of computers. Includes computer history, terminology, keyboarding, Microsoft integrated software, the Internet, and current computer trends. **(1/2 unit of credit each)**

**COMPUTER APPLICATIONS I - 165 (half year)**

Basic keyboarding skills, Word, Excel, and Powerpoint 2007 **(one half unit of credit, one semester)**

**SPEECH I/TEEN LEADERSHIP - 074**

A basic course that includes informative, persuasive, entertaining, and impromptu speaking. Second semester includes group discussions, acting, and radio and television broadcasting. Also students will learn skills necessary to being good leaders, and the student will have the opportunity to become proficient at using the skills learned. The student will also be challenged to develop the principles that will be the foundation of their lives...You will learn by doing. This is not a lecture program, but a doing program. The student will face new challenges and situations that will build their self-confidence. The student will learn how to speak, present their ideas, and work with difficult people. The student will learn how to think differently and be far more creative than they ever thought.

**(Grades: 10 –12)**

**WORLD GEOGRAPHY - 224**

Designed to present a broad view of a body of information and a process through which people attempt to understand the spatial arrangements and interaction of land, water, climate, people, and culture over the earth. Relates physical geography to cultural, social, political, and economic activities.

**WORLD HISTORY - 225**

A survey course in the history of the world beginning with prehistoric peoples and the origin of civilization through the challenges of the modern civilized world. **Recommended for Level I students over World Geography.**

**PSYCHOLOGY I - 294**

Designed to create an atmosphere of acceptance and discovery so that students may discern and evaluate unique and varied types of personalities, behaviors, learning styles, family constellations, and societal pressures that contribute to the formation of the individual.

**One-half unit of credit, one semester.**

**PSYCHOLOGY II - 295**

This is a theory course studying the science of psychology. Topics covered will include: Freud's Theory of Personality, personality theories since Freud, the brain and behavior, child development, adolescent development, psychotherapy, psychological testing, and case histories.

**One-half unit credit, one semester.**

**VARSITY ATHLETICS - 474 (Full Year) / 472 (Fall) / 473 (Spring)**

Scheduled at eighth period, this course allows members of certain team sports to begin their daily workouts before the usual dismissal time. Placement is subject to the approval of the athletic director and assistant principal. Students are required to remain on campus for the entire semester in which they schedule VA.

**One-half unit of credit, one semester.**

**FRENCH I – 514 (Prerequisite: B or higher in 9<sup>th</sup> grade English; C or higher in 9<sup>th</sup> grade Math)**

A basic survey course in French stressing three major areas: listening and comprehension, reading and writing, and enrichment through the study of geography and culture.

**FRENCH II - 524 (Prerequisite: French I)**

An advanced study of new French vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar with emphasis on verbs and tenses. Also a concentrated study of French culture and oral dialogues via textbooks, workbooks, films, and videos.

**SPANISH I – 515 (Prerequisite: B or higher in 9<sup>th</sup> grade English; C or higher in 9<sup>th</sup> grade Math)**

An introductory course stressing reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Major emphasis on vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. Introduction to cultures of Mexico, Central America, and South America.

**SPANISH II - 525 (Prerequisite: Spanish I)**

Practice in and mastery of four basic language skills learned in Spanish I. Includes additional vocabulary and more advanced grammatical structures. Introduction to Spanish culture.

**LATIN I - 516 (Prerequisite: B or higher in 9<sup>th</sup> grade English; C or higher in 9<sup>th</sup> grade Math)**

An introduction to classical studies through the mother tongue of the Romance language. The course emphasizes vocabulary and essential grammar in connection with drills in pronunciation so that students may begin reading and speaking basic Latin. **(Enrollment Limited)**

**LATIN II - 526 (Prerequisite: Latin I)**

A continuation of grammar and vocabulary with the goal of reading Latin authors through the mastery of the fundamentals of prose, concentrating on Caesar's Commentaries, and an introduction to poetry, with selections of Ovid.

**MUSIC APPRECIATION - 700**

Course designed to expose students to music of various cultures, eras, styles, and genres. The course covers music that runs the gamut from modern American rock to the known origins of written music. Students will be required to attend various concerts in and out of school in addition to listening to recordings. No prior music knowledge or experience is necessary, and students are not expected to perform any music.

**One-half unit of credit, one semester.**

### **WIND SYMPHONY - 710**

A select group of wind musicians, admitted by audition. The ensemble meets daily and also participates in marching band. Required performances include football games, marching contests and festivals, Mardi Gras parades, Christmas and spring concerts, and large ensemble festivals. Students who are selected to this class are expected to be in good academic standing, and are also expected to audition for the LMEA District VII Honor Band. Students are also expected to attend after school rehearsals, summer rehearsals and band camp. *There is a required band fee.*

### **CONCERT BAND TRUMPETS AND LOW BRASS - 751**

Instruction for brass constituting band in fundamentals through advanced playing techniques, music theory, and music appreciation/history. Students will perform in the marching band and concert band. Required performances include football games, marching contests and festivals, Mardi Gras parades, Christmas and spring concerts, and large ensemble festivals. Students who are selected to his class are expected to be in good academic standing and are also encouraged to audition for the LMEA District VII Honor Band. Students are also required to attend after school rehearsals, summer rehearsals, and band camp. *There is a required band fee.*

### **CONCERT BAND CLARINETS, FLUTES, SAXES, FRENCH HORNS - 752**

Instruction for woodwinds constituting band in fundamentals through advanced playing techniques, music theory, and music appreciation/history. Students will perform in the marching band and concert band. Required performances include football games, marching contests and festivals, Mardi Gras parades, Christmas and spring concerts, and large ensemble festivals. Students who are selected to this class are expected to be in good academic standing and are also encouraged to audition for the LMEA District VII Honor Band. Students are also required to attend after school rehearsals, summer rehearsals, and band camp. *There is a required band fee.*

### **BATTERY PERCUSSION - 753**

Instruction for battery percussion (primary) and melodic percussion (secondary) constituting band in fundamentals through advanced playing techniques, music theory, and music appreciation/history. Students will perform in the marching band and concert band. Students will be selected for wind symphony through auditions. Required performances include football games, marching contests and festivals, Mardi Gras parades, Christmas and spring concerts, and large ensemble festivals. Students who are selected to this class are expected to be in good academic standing and are also encouraged to audition for LMEA District VII Honor Band. Students are also required to attend after school rehearsals, summer rehearsals, and band camp. *There is a required band fee.*

### **MELODIC PERCUSSION - 774**

Instruction for both melodic percussion (primary) and battery percussion (secondary) constituting band in fundamentals through advanced playing techniques, music theory, and music appreciation/history. Students will perform in the marching band and concert band. Students will be selected for wind symphony through auditions. Required performance include football games, marching contests and festivals, Mardi Gras parades, Christmas and spring concerts, and large ensemble festivals. Students who are selected to this class are expected to be in good academic standing and are also encouraged to audition for the LMEA District VII Honor Band. Students are also required to attend after school rehearsals, summer rehearsals, and band camp. *There is a required band fee.*

### **DANCE - 765**

Students in this class form the dance team (Vantastics) which is part of the band department. Required performances include but are not limited to football games, parades, dance competitions, and marching festivals. Students are selected to the Vantastics by audition. *There is a required band fee.*  
**One-half unit of non-graded credit.**

### **MIXED CHOIR – 761 (Prerequisite: Beginning Choir or permission of the instructor)**

A performance group for students who have completed Beginning Choir unless the director grants special permission. Students will concentrate on sight-reading skills and singing alone and with others. This class is considered a co-curricular activity involving out of school rehearsals, performances *as well as activity fees*. Students will be required to purchase/rent uniforms and participate in fund-raising activities. Students will review basic singing and choral techniques and move to more advanced sight-reading material and choral repertoire.

**(Grades: 9 – 12)**

**ART I - 811**

A basic introduction to art open to all students. Introduction to drawing, painting, graphics, and sculpture through the use of various media--pencil, scratchboard, charcoal, ink, tempera, linoleum block, and papier-mâché. Presents basic design and color theories, as well as slides and lectures concentrating on early cultures of art history. *A \$90.00 lab fee is required.*

**ART II - 821 (Prerequisite: Art I)**

Reinforces Art I skills and introduces new media. Includes painting, drawing, graphics, and various sculpture techniques. Presents slides and lectures on classical cultures and important periods as well as individual artists. *A \$90.00 lab fee is required.* Students must also provide their own paper and film for photography.

**ART HISTORY - 812**

Open to all students. A basic overview of Art History from prehistoric man to modern man. Course includes slides and lectures that focus on artists of these periods.

**One-half unit of credit, one semester.**

**CHEERLEADER - 829**

Students in this class are from the Varsity Cheerleader Squad. Required participation includes but is not limited to athletic events, competitions, and other Vanderbilt sponsored activities. Students are selected to the squad by tryouts. Practice after school is required.

**One-half unit of non-graded credit, one semester.**

**GENERAL BUSINESS I – 847 Fall (one-half unit credit, one semester)**

**GENERAL BUSINESS II – 848 Spring (one-half unit credit, one semester)**

A course with the primary goal of explaining in simple terms the role that economics plays in understanding and improving the quality of the choice-making process. Examines how economics affects one's own individual decisions as well as those of the parish, state, nation, and world. Also to help students develop an understanding of the free enterprise business system and the economic setting in which it functions. Students develop an appreciation of good economic citizenship through study of the business and economic environment. Topics include careers, money management, banking, credit, investment, insurance, and the government's role in the economy. *A \$45.00 workbook fee required.*

**(Grades: 10 – 12)**

**DRIVER EDUCATION - 955**

Designed to prepare the beginning driver for the responsibilities of the driving task. Thirty hours of classroom work and six hours of actual driving required. Emphasis on the legal, moral, and social approach to driving, and on handling emergencies. One-half unit credit classes before and after school only. Cannot be scheduled as a class. *There is a fee for driver education*

**10TH GRADE SKILLS MANAGEMENT/ORGANIZATION (RESOURCE) - 921**

**(Prerequisite: Must be enrolled in VCHS Resource Program)**

Study skills and organizational skills are emphasized. Reinforcing all academic subjects is a major part of this class. Some basic remediation is done through multi-sensory approaches to the learning of prefixes, suffixes, and root words. Development of the whole student is encouraged through activities, which enhance academic activities and social skills, as well as self-esteem.

**Non-credit course (All Resource room classes are non-credit courses)**