

JUNIOR COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2010-2011

REQUIRED COURSES

RELIGIOUS STUDIES III - 634

Church History – In this course students will answer the following questions, “What is Catholicism?” and “What is the Catholic Church?” Students will be invited to study both the meaning of the Church and its history in order that they might come to a deeper appreciation of what it means to live as a member of the body of Christ. They will be encouraged to deepen and strengthen their relationship and commitment to God through Christ in the context of the spirit-filled community.

Christian Justice – The second semester will immerse students in God’s vision of justice and help students find God in their pursuit of justice. It will foster students’ sense of compassion for those who suffer from injustice and enable students to critically examine society according to the criteria of justice and will inspire students to act for justice.

ENGLISH III - 034

A course composed of four areas of study: a survey of American literature, grammar / usage review, speech activities, and writing. Students will have a project on an American author and will learn the use of MLA guidelines for research.

ENGLISH III LEVEL I - 037

An honors course composed of four areas of study: a survey of American literature, grammar / usage review, speech activities, and composition. Students will do a detailed project using MLA guidelines to research an American author and his works. Students will learn how to analyze poetry.

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 - 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. Recommended that students have completed geometry prior to taking this course.

ADVANCED MATH – PRECALCULUS- 144 (Formerly Advanced Math I) Prerequisite: Algebra II

Advanced Math I is designed to meet the needs of students who wish to extend their knowledge of mathematics or who intend to enroll in calculus or college algebra. The course focuses on the graphical and analytical behavior of functions with emphasis on the trigonometric, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Increased importance is placed on understanding graphs data analysis, and problem solving.

ADVANCED MATH – PRECALCULUS LVI - 137 (Formerly Advanced Math I LVI) Prerequisite: Algebra II LVI or teacher recommendation and approval of administration

Advanced Math I LVI is designed to meet the needs of students who wish to extend their knowledge of mathematics or who intend to enroll in calculus or college algebra. The course focuses on the graphical and analytical behavior of functions with emphasis on the polynomial, rational, trigonometric, exponential, and logarithmic functions. An introduction to conics, sequences, and series is also included. Increased importance is placed on understanding graphs data analysis, and problem solving.

MATH ESSENTIALS – 138

Math Essentials is designed for the junior level student seeking to complete the Louisiana Core 4 curriculum. The course consists of a review of topics from Algebra I as well as the study of ratios and proportions, probability, basic statistics, topics in geometry, linear functions, quadratic functions, and additional applications in mathematics. The purpose of the course is to better prepare the student with learning difficulties for Algebra II. **This course will count toward Louisiana Core 4 Curriculum but is not approved for achieving TOPS requirements.** Methods of presentation are geared to students with learning differences. Enrollment is limited to guidance and/or administrative approval.

CHEMISTRY I LEVEL I - 327

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. Enrollment in or completion of Algebra II required.

BASIC CHEMISTRY - 332 (Prerequisite: Recommendation of administrator or resource director)

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. Methods of presentation are geared to students with learning differences. Enrollment in Algebra II is helpful.

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.

CHEMISTRY II - 348 (Prerequisite: Chemistry Level 1 or recommendation of the Chemistry I instructor)

An in-depth continuation of the study of general chemistry concepts, including solutions, reaction rates, equilibrium, acids and bases, redox, and introductory organic chemistry. Course includes increased lab activity. **(Honors)**

BIOLOGY II (reg.) – 339

Biology II (reg.) is a college preparatory course in human anatomy and physiology. The course focuses on the structure and function of human systems. It investigates the interrelationships among the systems and maintenance of homeostasis. The course correlates laboratory sessions with lecture content. Prerequisite: Biology I and Chemistry I or Basic Chemistry

BIOLOGY II LVI - 337 (Prerequisite: Biology I Level I or grade of “B” or higher in Biology I)

A college preparatory course in human anatomy and physiology. In-depth study of the structural and functional relationship of the human organism at the cellular, tissue, organ, and system levels. Uses demonstrations, individual research, models, audiovisuals, and a detailed dissection of specimens with correlation to human anatomy to reinforce classroom lectures. **(Honors)**

AMERICAN HISTORY - 234

A study of the American nation's history from its origin to the present day. Emphasizes the economic, cultural, political, and social development of the country. Also places emphasis on current events.

AMERICAN HISTORY LEVEL I - 237

Designed for the advanced student, to challenge and develop analytical thinking skills. An intensive study of the history of America from the settling of the country to modern times. Includes critical readings, special projects, reports, and requires keeping abreast of current events and issues and analysis of their relationships to the country's past, present, and future.

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, impromptu speaking, 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)

SPEECH II – 075

In this course, principles of effective oral communication are applied to several public speaking assignments which emphasize management of speech anxiety, development of support and organization of ideas, audience analysis, and clear communication of thought and feeling. Attention is given to basic types of speeches, speech fundamentals, effective listening, feedback skills, nonverbal communication, research and debate, and interpretive reading and performance. Prerequisite: Speech I

PUBLICATIONS I : YEARBOOK - 076

Publications class which teaches journalistic writing, layout design, and other techniques necessary for the publication of the yearbook.

VIDEO JOURNALISM - 085 (Prerequisite: Speech I)

This course looks at the history of radio and television, the basic workings of television and the camera, the language of motion pictures, as well as the production and post-production process. The class will write and produce video news programs. Each student will have hands-on experience with each phase of production.

One-half unit of credit, one semester.

(Grades 11-12)

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 instead of World Geography.**

PSYCHOLOGY I - 294

This course will introduce basic psychological theories and terms and will cover topics including: an introduction to major figures in psychological history, areas of study in psychology, consciousness, sleep, dreams, hypnosis, the physical effects of drugs on the body, mental illnesses, the influence of groups on our behavior, aggression, ESP and why people believe in the supernatural, thought processes, and memory systems.

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 of credit, one semester.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION III - (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, badminton, and other sports learned in earlier courses, as well as on lifetime sports such as horseshoes, golf, and kickball. Health topics include first aid, communicable diseases, mental health, CPR, drug abuse, nutrition, and conditioning. Skill tests and written tests.

VARSITY ATHLETICS - 484 (Full Year) / 482 (Fall) / 483 (Spring)

Scheduled at eighth period, this course allows members of some 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

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.

FRENCH III - 534 (Prerequisite: French II) An in-depth study of sentence structure and vocabulary. Emphasis on conversation and reading skills. Enrichment blends the reading of selected, abridged classics with exposure to history and culture.

SPANISH I - 515

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.

SPANISH III - 535 (Prerequisite: Spanish II)

Emphasis on different tenses of Spanish verbs and the finer points of grammar. Cultural enrichment through Spanish and Latin American literature. This course is mainly taught in Spanish

LATIN I - 516

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.

LATIN III - 536 (Prerequisite: Latin II)

The Golden Age of Latin Literature is studied. While special attention is given to Cicero and Vergil, students also translate selections of Pliny, Catullus, and Horace and continue their study of history, mythology and culture of the Roman world.

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 III - 831 (Prerequisite: Art II)

Emphasizes problem solving in art and encourages a more professional use of media, with emphasis on creativity and craftsmanship. Presents slides and lectures concentrating on great modern movements and styles in art as well as individual artists. Basics include drawing, painting, graphics, and photography. *A \$90.00 lab fee is required.* Students are required to provide their own paper and film for photography.

ART HISTORY - 812

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

PHOTOGRAPHY - 813

An introduction into photography including camera usage, knowledge of composition, developing black and white film into negatives and photos. *This class requires a \$50.00 fee for supplies and materials.* **One-half unit of credit, one semester.**

(Grades: 11 – 12)

GRAPHIC DESIGN - 842 TBA (Prerequisite: Art I or Photography)

An introductory course focusing upon the study of design layout and conceptual elements concerning graphic design projects such as posters, advertisements, logos, and brochures. A lab fee is required.

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.

ACCOUNTING - 827

A basic course on the steps followed by business today in keeping complete and accurate financial records. Follows all steps in the accounting cycle from original source documents through various financial books of record, to ledger, and finally to the actual preparation of financial statement (for businesses of various sizes, from sole proprietorships to corporations). *This class requires a \$40.00 fee for supplemental materials.*

(Grades 11 – 12) One-half unit of credit, one semester.

GENERAL BUSINESS – 847 Fall ½ credit
848 Spring ½ credit

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)

BUSINESS LAW - 835 (Prerequisite: General Business)

A course which instructs students in becoming aware of their legal obligations and rights in order to avoid legal difficulties. It will cover the areas of computer law, financial crimes, legal careers, environmental law, international law, and ethics in the workplace.

One-half unit, one semester

(Grade: 11-12)

11TH GRADE SKILLS MANAGEMENT/ORGANIZATION (RESOURCE) – 931

(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 that enhance academic activities and social skills, as well as self-esteem.

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