



SENIOR COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2012-2013

REQUIRED COURSES

RELIGION IV - 644

Christian Morality – This is a Decalogue based course that is aimed at explaining the Church’s moral teaching in a variety of situations and circumstances. It will establish the Church’s teaching authority and studies man’s compulsion not only towards sin but also towards a life of virtue.

Apologetics – The Apologetics section of this course is specifically designed to give each student the ability to research questions that deal with certain facets of the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

ENGLISH IV - 044

English IV is composed of a survey of British literature, a review of grammar / usage skills, some speech activities, and composition. Emphasis is on mastering the essay and writing about literature selections. Students will do a research project using MLA guidelines on a British author and his works.

ENGLISH IV LVI - 047

This is an honors course that emphasizes mastery of composition, grammar / usage, and speech skills and includes a survey of British literature. Students are required to write in several different forms about the selections read and to do a research project using MLA guidelines on a British author and his works.

ALGEBRA II - 134

This course is a study of sets, the field of real numbers, linear equations and inequalities in one variable, functions and graphs, quadratic equations, factoring, exponents, radicals, complex number system, and systems of equations and inequalities. Importance is placed on understanding graphs data analysis, and problem solving. It is recommended that students have completed Geometry prior to enrollment.

BASIC ALGEBRA II – 131 (Prerequisite: Math Essentials)

This course builds on Algebra I and Math Essentials to give each student a solid foundation in algebra for college. Topics include open sentences in one and two variables, the study of sets, the field of real numbers, linear equations and inequalities in one variable, functions and graphs, quadratic equations, factoring, exponents, radicals, complex number system, and systems of equations and inequalities. Importance is placed on understanding graphs data analysis, and problem solving. It is recommended that students have completed Geometry and Math Essentials prior to enrollment. Enrollment in this course is limited by resource coordinator and/or administrative referral only.

ADVANCED MATH I - 144 (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.

PRECALCULUS LVI - 137 (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.

ADVANCED MATH II – 145 – FUNCTIONS AND STATISTICS (Prerequisite: Advanced Math I)

Advanced Math II is designed to meet the needs of students who wish to extend their knowledge of mathematics and preparing the student for college algebra. Topics included advanced algebra, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Conic sections, sequences, and series are also covered.

CALCULUS – 147 (Pre-Calculus LVI or approval from Department Chair)

Calculus is an honors course with emphasis on the development of the concepts of calculus, and providing experience with its methods and applications. The course develops a multirepresentational approach to calculus, with concepts, results, and problems being expressed graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. Topics focus on functions, limits, derivatives, and integrals.

CALCULUS AP– 146 (Prerequisite Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus LVI and approval from Department Chair)

The purpose of the Advanced Placement course is to provide the opportunity to take college-level courses while still in high school. The curriculum and assignments typical of an AP course can help students develop the content mastery and critical thinking skills expected of college students. It promotes the opportunity to build advanced study skills and problem solving strategies that leads to success in college. This course is for students motivated to do course work which academically pushes them intellectually. Also, Advanced Placement courses may help students stand out in the college admissions process. The course develops a multirepresentational approach to calculus, with concepts, results, and problems being expressed graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. Topics focus on functions, limits, derivatives, and integrals. **There is an additional fee for this course.**

CIVICS - 244

Civics is the study of the American government's foundations, institutions, and operation, and of students' relationship to government. Emphasizes the need for patriotism, civic-mindedness, loyalty to nation, community, and respect for the law. Stresses appreciation for the rights of Americans and recognition of the obligations these rights demand.

CIVICS LVI - 247 (Prerequisite: American History - Level 1 or American History teacher's recommendation)

In addition to the course description for Civics, this class is designed to be more in-depth in the role that government plays in our everyday lives on the national, state, and local levels. The course will include special projects, and involve the use of critical reading, writing, and thinking skills to apply the knowledge of the workings of the government.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AP – 249

This course is designed to continue your education about what it means to be an American citizen. This course explores the political theory and everyday practice that direct the operation of our government and shape our public policies. The express purpose of the course is to prepare the student to complete the AP Exam for U.S. Government and Politics. The course requires a substantial amount of reading and preparation for every class meeting. **There is an additional fee for this course.**

BASIC CHEMISTRY - 332 (Prerequisite: Recommendation of the administrator or resources coordinator)

This is 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 this course is limited by teacher or resource coordinator referral only. Co-enrollment in Algebra II is recommended.

CHEMISTRY I - 334

This is 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. Co-enrollment in or completion of Algebra II is recommended.

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

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

CHEMISTRY III - 350 (Prerequisite: Chemistry II)

This is an introductory course in the study of organic chemistry. *(Dependent on enrollment and scheduling)*

BIOLOGY II LVI - 337

Biology II is an honors level, college preparatory course in human anatomy and physiology. It involves an in-depth study of the structural and functional relationship of the human organism at the cellular, tissue, organ, and system levels. Demonstrations, individual research, models, audiovisuals, and a detailed dissection of specimens with correlation to human anatomy to reinforce classroom lectures are employed. **(Honors)**

BIOLOGY II – 339

Biology II is a college preparatory course in human anatomy and physiology. It involves an in-depth study of the structural and functional relationship of the human organism at the cellular, tissue, organ, and system levels. Demonstrations, models, audiovisuals, and a detailed dissection of specimens with correlation to human anatomy to reinforce classroom lectures are employed. **Enrollment is determined by previous academic performance and may be subject to administrative approval.**

PHYSICS - 344 (Prerequisites: Chemistry, Algebra II, and Geometry)

This is a basic physics survey course that includes the study of classical mechanics, optics, acoustics, special relativity, quantum behavior, electricity and magnetism, radioactivity, and wave theory. The course integrates laboratory work with problem solving to promote reasoning skills and to develop the ability to express concepts in both mathematical and non-mathematical language. Concurrent enrollment in trigonometry or advanced math is beneficial.

PHYSICS LEVEL I - 347 (Prerequisite: Chemistry and Advanced Math I)

This course offers an accelerated presentation, increased depth of key topics, advanced mathematical treatment of problems, and method of testing. Emphasis is placed on developing reasoning skills over memory. Concurrent enrollment in advanced math or calculus is beneficial.

ELECTIVE COURSES**SPEECH I/TEEN LEADERSHIP - 074**

Speech I/Teen Leadership is a basic course that includes informative, persuasive, entertaining, and impromptu speaking. The 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)

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

This is a publications class which teaches journalistic writing, layout design, and other techniques necessary for the publication of the yearbook.

PUBLICATIONS II: YEARBOOK - 086 (Prerequisite: Publications I – Yearbook)

This is a 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 and public relations videos. 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

This course is designed to present a broad overview of information and processes through which people attempt to understand the spatial arrangements and interaction of land, water, climate, people, and culture over the earth. World Geography relates physical geography to cultural, social, political, and economic activities.

WORLD HISTORY - 225

This is a survey course in the history of Western Civilizations beginning with prehistoric peoples and the origin of civilization through the challenges of the modern world.

PSYCHOLOGY I - 294

This course introduces 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 credit, one semester.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION IV - (Girls – 445 full yr./447 half yr.) (Boys – 444 full yr./446 half yr.)

This course is designed to promote physical fitness and encourage active participation. Emphasis on team and individual sports including soccer, whiffleball, 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. Assessment is measured through the use of skills tests and written tests. **Senior enrollment in PE is limited to those who have not met credit requirements toward graduation unless granted permission by the administration.**

VARSITY ATHLETICS - 494 (Full Year) / 492 (Fall) / 493 (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

This is 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)

This is an advanced study of new French vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar with emphasis on verbs and tenses. The course also includes a concentrated study of French culture and oral dialogues via textbooks, workbooks, films, and videos.

FRENCH III - 534 (Prerequisite: French II)

This is an in-depth study of sentence structure and vocabulary. An emphasis is placed on conversation and reading skills. Enrichment blends the reading of selected, abridged classics with further exposure to French history and culture.

FRENCH IV (AP) - 544 (Prerequisite: French III)

This is a continuation of French III with emphasis on conversation and reading skills. The course is designed to prepare students to take the French IV AP exam. Students may opt out of taking the AP exam but may receive credit for French IV only. (*fee*)

SPANISH I - 515

This is an introductory course stressing reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Major emphasis is placed on vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. An introduction to the cultures of Mexico, Central America, and South America is included.

SPANISH II - 525 (Prerequisite: Spanish I)

This course entails practice and mastery of four basic language skills learned in Spanish I. Included are additional vocabulary, the study of more advanced grammatical structures, and an introduction to Spanish culture.

SPANISH III - 535 (Prerequisite: Spanish II)

Spanish III places an emphasis on the different tenses of Spanish verbs and the finer points of grammar. Cultural enrichment is continued through the study of Spanish and Latin American literature. This course is mainly taught in Spanish

SPANISH IV - 545 (Prerequisite: Spanish III)

This is a mastery course in Spanish studying advanced grammar with emphasis on reading, writing and comprehension skills. This class is taught mainly in Spanish. (*Dependent on enrollment and scheduling*)

LATIN I - 516

This is 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)

This is 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.

LATIN IV - 546 (Prerequisite: Latin III)

This course is a continuation of Latin III with the study of history, mythology, and culture of the Roman world. Translation will also be an important element of the course. (*Dependent on enrollment and scheduling*)

MUSIC APPRECIATION - 700

This is a survey 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.

BEGINNING BAND – 799

Beginning band is an introductory course for the student who has no prior experience in instrumental music. Instruction focuses on basic music theory, ear training, technique development on the selected instrument, as well as instruction in team development. 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. Interested students must schedule an appointment with the band director before selecting this course. ***There is a required band fee.***

WIND SYMPHONY - 710

Wind Symphony is 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: Audition or permission of the instructor)

Mixed Choir is a performance group. This class is considered a co-curricular activity involving out of school rehearsals and performances. 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. Nominal activity fees may be required throughout the year.

(Grades: 8– 12)

THEATRE I – 070

The purpose of Theatre I is to give the student an increased appreciation of and experience in theatre as an art form. The student will act in monologues, scenes, and/or one act plays. The students will be exposed to warm ups, both physical and vocal. Character study and script analysis will be learned. They will learn and practice improvization as a key to acting. Also, students will read and evaluate plays and performances, both live and recorded. They will learn terminology and theatre history. They will be exposed to production, publicity, and how to prepare for a future in the theatre industry. Through the study of theatre, students will grow in their ability to comprehend the world and to communicate with others. Open to grades 9-12. **(Contingent upon enrollment and scheduling.)**

ART I - 811

Art I is a basic introduction to art requiring no prerequisites. The course covers 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)

Art II reinforces Art I skills and introduces new media. The course includes painting, drawing, graphics, and various sculpture techniques. Slides and lectures are presented on classical cultures and important periods in art history 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)

Art III emphasizes problem solving in art and encourages a more professional use of media, with emphasis on creativity and craftsmanship. Slides and lectures are presented that concentrate on 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 IV - 841 (Prerequisite: Art III)

Designed for the serious advanced student, Art IV encourages a more personal style and individual direction. Outside independent student work is required. **A \$90.00 lab fee is required.** The student must provide photographic film and paper.

ART HISTORY - 812

Open to all students. Art History is a basic overview of Art History from prehistoric man to modern time. The course includes slides and lectures that focus on artists of these periods.

One-half unit of credit, one semester.

PHOTOGRAPHY - 813

This is an introduction into photography including camera usage, knowledge of composition, developing black and white film into negatives and photos, and the use of digital media. ***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)

This is an introductory course focusing upon the study of design layout and conceptual elements concerning graphic design projects through the production of posters, advertisements, logos, portfolios and brochures. A lab fee is required.

One-half unit of credit, one semester.

CHEERLEADING - 828 (full year)/829 (half year)

Students in this class comprise 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 in the spring semester of the previous year. Practice and performances during and after school are mandatory.

One full unit or one-half unit of non-graded credit of non-graded credit.

ACCOUNTING - 827

This is a basic course on the steps followed by business today in keeping complete and accurate financial records. The course 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 statements for businesses of various sizes. *This class requires a \$25.00 fee for supplemental materials.* (Grades 11 – 12) **One-half unit, one semester**

GENERAL BUSINESS I/II - 847 – Fall ½ credit**848 – Spring ½ credit**

The primary goal of the course is explaining in simple terms the role that economics play in understanding and improving the quality of the choice-making process. The course examines how economics affects one's own individual decisions as well as those of the parish, state, nation, and world. It also is designed 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 the study of the business and economic environment. Topics include careers, money management, banking, credit, investment, insurance, and the government's role in the economy. (Grades: 10 – 12)

BUSINESS LAW - 835 (Prerequisite: Signature of the department head)

This course 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)**

12TH GRADE SKILLS MANAGEMENT/ORGANIZATION (RESOURCE) - 941

(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)**

EARLY DISMISSAL - 953(Full Year) / 951(Fall Only) / 952(Spring Only)

Seniors scheduled to earn at least 26 units by the end of the school year are allowed, with their parents' approval, to be dismissed at the eighth period for a semester or for the entire year. They are not allowed to linger on campus. No credit is given for early dismissal.