

# FRESHMAN COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## 2010-2011

### REQUIRED COURSES

#### **RELIGIOUS STUDIES I – 614**

**Written on our Hearts** - This course helps students to comprehend the wealth of the Judeo-Christian spiritual tradition and challenges them to grow in their appreciation of God, themselves, and other people through the study of the Hebrew Scriptures.

**Our Sacramental Life** - The second semester offers students an opportunity to explore the rich tradition of sacramental theology and practice that is fundamental to Catholicism. The course seeks to engage students in an encounter with this essential dimension of Catholic life so that they can better appreciate the meaning underlying the sacraments and the relationship between the sacraments and their own life.

#### **SKILLS ENGLISH I - 011**

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

**Co-requisite: Skills Reading I)**

A course designed to teach basic skills in English grammar and usage in a non-traditional, multi-sensory manner. Some computer activities and audio-visually are used.

#### **SKILLS READING I - 012**

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

**Co-requisite: Skills English I)**

A reading course designed to raise both the instructional and independent reading levels of the student. The use of non-traditional, multi-sensory methods will enhance instruction in vocabulary, study skills, and reading essential to the content areas of literature, social studies, and science.

#### **ENGLISH I - 014**

A course designed to stress basic skills in grammar, spelling, and vocabulary. Literature includes short stories, poetry, novels, and a Shakespearean play. Writing emphasis is on mastering paragraphs and essay questions with an introduction to research.

#### **ENGLISH I LEVEL I - 017**

An honors course which challenges the student in appropriate developmental and/or enriched instruction in basic grammar / usage, composition, vocabulary, and literature. Literary areas stressed are the short story, an introduction to poetry, a Shakespearean play, and selected novels. Writing skills emphasize a mastery of paragraphs and essay questions and include an introduction to research and the book report.

#### **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 LEVEL I - 117**

Comprehensive study of geometry, which includes plane figures and their properties, together with some aspects of solid and coordinate geometry. The course emphasizes logic, reasoning, and the writing of concise, coherent proofs. Simple constructions are completed using a compass and straightedge.

#### **GEOMETRY - 124**

A basic geometry course that 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.

**PHYSICAL SCIENCE - 314**

A course designed as a prerequisite to all high school sciences. Structured as one semester of chemistry (the structure of matter), and one semester of physics (how matter and energy are related).

**BIOLOGY I LEVEL I - 317**

An honors course designed to be an in-depth survey of biological sciences, emphasizing the broad concepts applicable to all living systems. Details the diversity of processes, structures, and organisms as they relate to the unifying principles and features of all life. Uses demonstrations, laboratory experience, and individual research to reinforce classroom lectures.

**BIOLOGY I - 324**

A study of organisms and life processes 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.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION I - 416 (Boys) / 417 (Girls)**

Designed to improve students' physical, social, and psychomotor development. Emphasis on development of basic knowledge of rules and strategies for team and individual sports including volleyball, basketball, softball, track and field, golf, bowling, horseshoes, archery, and weightlifting.

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

**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.**

**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)**

**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.

**FRENCH I - 514 (Prerequisite: B or higher in 8<sup>th</sup> grade English and Reading; C or higher in 8<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.

**SPANISH I - 515 (Prerequisite: B or higher in 8<sup>th</sup> grade English and Reading; C or higher in 8<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.

**Latin I - 516 (Prerequisite: B or higher in 8<sup>th</sup> grade English and Reading; C or higher in 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math)**

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

**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.*

**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)**

**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.**

**ART I - 811**

A basic introduction to art requiring no prerequisites. 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 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.**

**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 is on the legal, moral, and social approach to driving, and on handling emergencies. *There is a fee for driver education.*

**One-half unit credit (Classes before and after school only; cannot be scheduled as a class)**

**9TH GRADE SKILLS MANAGEMENT/ORGANIZATION (RESOURCE) - 911**

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

Study skills and organizational skills are emphasized. Students learn to organize their thoughts in writing by composing daily journals. 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)**