

# MOUNT MERCY ACADEMY



## COURSE SELECTION CATALOG **2009 - 2010**

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## GENERAL ACADEMIC INFORMATION

### ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The academic program at Mount Mercy Academy aims to meet the needs, interests and aptitudes of every student. The college preparatory curriculum includes advanced placement and college-level courses. It stresses mastery of analytical and critical thinking, problem solving, and the ability to communicate ideas effectively.

### ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

The number of units of credit required to earn a diploma from Mount Mercy Academy varies depending on a student's year of graduation. See page 4 for a list of graduation years and credits required. A unit of credit is earned by studying a subject for a school year. A semester course earns ½ unit of credit. An elective is a subject chosen beyond the basic core courses; it may be sequential or non-sequential. **For each elective a student will choose an alternative course.** A sequence is a three unit study in a special field. A five unit sequence is offered in Art, Career and Computer Development (Business), English, and Fine Arts. **Students are expected to register for at least seven (7) units of credit per year. This means that they will take four (4) subjects each day.**

### GRADING AND PROMOTION PRACTICES

Report cards are issued quarterly and immediately directed to parents. Students are promoted on an average of four (4) quarters, and the final assessment marks. A student must have a promotion mark of at least 65%, and at least a 55% on the final examination, to receive school credit for a course. In order to continue in a required subject, a student must meet the prerequisites of the department.

**It is expected that if a student has failed any course, she will retake the course in summer school. If the course is not offered or should she fail the course or should she not**

**attend summer school, she will need to repeat the course in the next academic year. This especially holds true for sequence subjects (Math, Science, etc.)**

A student must attain at least 7 credits to become a sophomore; 13 ½ credits to become a junior and 20 credits to be a senior.

**A student lacking units of credit may be asked to leave Mount Mercy.**

### COURSE SELECTION POLICIES

Each spring, the student, with the assistance of her school counselor, completes her course selection for the next year. This course selection must be approved by parent signature before it is finalized. **No schedule changes may be made after August 31<sup>st</sup>. Those requested after that date are subject to a fee.** To assist the student in achieving her potential, emphasis in course selection will be focused on completing four or five years in the core areas of science, mathematics and language.

### COURSE OFFERINGS

Any particular course or selection of a course will be offered provided that a sufficient number of applications are received and accepted. The school reserves the right to withdraw a course or any section of a course and reserves the right to modify the course description or general requirements.

### PLACEMENT

Placement is the sole responsibility and determination of the school. A student's initial placement is based on a careful study of her academic performance (based on report cards and/or transcripts) and her academic potential (based on the placement examination and/or standardized achievement test scores). A student's initial placement and course selections are to be approved by the parent(s). After the recommendation of the

school is made and if a student and her parent(s) elect not to follow the recommendation, the student must remain in the course of studies she has chosen. In selecting courses for the following academic year, the student is responsible for obtaining approval and meeting all prerequisites as stated in the Course Selection Catalog.

### ACADEMIC ACCELERATION

Students who wish to accelerate in a subject area in order to advance to the next level must indicate their desire to do so by the prescribed date. The student must score an 85 or better on the final exam for that course and then successfully complete a project for that course. Students will be granted course credit and allowed to register for the next level course. Procedure: A student who wishes to challenge a course must indicate by April 1 of the preceding school year of their intent to challenge that course; The student will be administered the final exam in that course during the last week of June; The student will be notified of their result on the exam within one week of taking the exam; The student who receives a score of 85 or better on the exam will then be given a comprehensive project to be completed no later than August 1; If a student successfully completes the project with a grade of 85 or better, the student will be registered for the next level course; Students may not challenge Living Environment, Earth Science, Regents Chemistry or Regents Physics because of lab requirements for New York State.

### POLICY ON TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students who wish to transfer to Mt. Mercy Academy may do so by applying through the Admissions Office. Student transcripts must be supplied by the school the student is currently attending. Only students in

good academic, attendance, and disciplinary standing will be considered for transfer. A committee composed of the Admissions Director, a Counselor, and an Administrator will be convened to review the application and interview the potential transfer student and parent(s) or guardians. Transfer students will be accepted conditionally for a semester. If the transfer student maintains good academic standing and disciplinary standing, permanent acceptance will be granted.

A transfer student's grades from her previous high school(s) in addition to her Mt. Mercy grades will be used to calculate averages that will result in an overall GPA for transcript and college application purposes. Only students who attend Mt. Mercy for all four years of high school are eligible to be named valedictorian or salutatorian.

### REQUIRED READING LISTS

In June, parents and students will receive a list of mandatory summer readings for each grade level along with an explanation of the project requirements set by the English department. All students will submit their chosen projects during September and the mark will be averaged into the students' first quarter English grades. Students must successfully complete the summer reading work before advancing to the next level

### LOTE AND MATH POLICY

Provided that state requirements for graduation have been met, seniors have the option of taking a language other than English (French, Latin, or Spanish) course or a math course. Seniors must be enrolled in a foreign language course, a math course, or both. The foreign language course must be an upper-level continuation of French, Latin, or Spanish (level IV or higher) or a course involving a second language (level II or higher). This implies that a level I course of the second language has already been

completed. Seniors may opt to take Latin I or French I as a second foreign language; however, Latin I will accommodate underclass students first. Any remaining openings would be available to seniors. The math course would be the next course in the student's sequence. Once a student is enrolled in the course of her choice, she will not be allowed to drop the course. Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors MUST be enrolled in a math course.

### ARTICULATION AGREEMENT WITH BRYANT & STRATTON COLLEGE

Students who plan on attending Bryant & Stratton College may earn up to nine college credits while still attending high school by simply taking classes that MMA already offers! This agreement is only applicable to students that enroll into Bryant & Stratton after high school. Students may take any of the following courses at MMA and must earn an 80% or better:

- Economics
- Life Skills
- Introduction to Business
- Keyboarding Communications
- Desktop Applications & Design

An Admissions Counselor at Bryant & Stratton will then review the student's high school transcript and grant credit as applicable. For more information, contact your School Counselor.

### ARTICULATION AGREEMENT WITH TROCAIRE COLLEGE

These Mt. Mercy Academy courses may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College:

- Statistics
- Intro to Sociology
- Calculus
- Creative Writing
- The following AP courses:  
Studio in Art, English  
Language and Composition,

English Literature and Composition, Statistics, Calculus BC, Biology, World History, European History, US History, Psychology, and Latin.

A final average of 85% or better, or a minimum score of three on the AP exam, must be earned.

Eligible students have the option of paying a fee to have the college credits transcribed by Trocaire College. Seniors who will be attending Trocaire College after graduation from MMA do not need to pay the course fee!

These students still need to arrange to have the course(s) transcribed by the college (free of charge).

Students who attend college elsewhere can request to have their Trocaire College transcript sent to that institution. It is then left to the discretion of *that* college as to whether or not they accept the transfer credits, as well as how they might apply to the student's degree. Upon successful completion of the course, the *student* must contact the Trocaire College Registrar's Office to have the course transcribed. Please see your Counselor for more information.

### ARTICULATION AGREEMENT WITH ECC

The following courses may be eligible for college credit through Erie Community College:

- Calculus
- AP Chemistry

Students must obtain an average of 85 or better in the course. Please see your School Counselor for more information.

### ARTICULATION AGREEMENT WITH HILBERT COLLEGE

The following courses may be eligible for college credit through Hilbert College:

- Spanish V
- French V

Please see your School Counselor for more information.

**REQUIRED CREDITS**

English	4 units
Social Studies	4 units
Math	4 units
LOTE	3 units
-Or- Math 3 units plus LOTE 4 units	
Science	3 units
Art/Music	1 unit
Health	.5 unit
Phys. Ed.	2 units
Religion	4 units
Electives	

Total credits

Class of 2010:	27.5 units
Class of 2011:	28 units
Class of 2012:	28 units
Class of 2013:	28 units



**REQUIRED REGENTS EXAMS**

For Class of 2010

Regents Diploma:

- English
- Global History
- US History
- Math A
- Science (any one)

Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation:

- English
- Global History
- US History
- Math A
- Math B
- one Life Science (Living Environment)
- one Physical Science (Earth Science or Chemistry)
- LOTE

\*\*To earn a diploma “with Honors”, students must obtain an *average* score of 90 or better on all required Regents exams (i.e., five required exams for the Regents with honors diploma, or eight/nine required exams for Advanced Designation with honors diploma).

For Classes of 2011, 2012, 2013

Regents Diploma:

- English
- Global History
- US History
- Integrated Algebra
- Science (any one)

Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation:

- English
- Global History
- US History
- Integrated Algebra
- Geometry
- Integrated Algebra 2/Trigonometry
- one Life Science (Living Environment)
- one Physical Science (Earth Science or Chemistry)
- LOTE

Note: For any student in the class of 2011 who took “Math II” as a freshman and passed the Math A exam at the end of her freshman year, please see “For Class of 2010” for your required Regents exams.

# ART

## **501–STUDIO IN ART (ART I)**

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

This full year course fulfills the New York State graduation requirement for art and music. This course is required for a three-unit or a five-unit sequence in Art. Students will be introduced to the history, philosophy and techniques of the visual arts through various studio art practices such as drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, and sculpture.

*Evaluation: Eight major projects and final assessment project*

*(1 unit)*

## **502–STUDIO IN DRAWING AND PAINTING (ART II)**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

*Prerequisite: Studio in Art*

This full year course is required for a five-unit sequence in Art. Students develop skills in drawing and painting techniques with media including pastel, charcoal, graphite, watercolor, and acrylic. Study of the history of drawing and painting will be incorporated into studio activities.

*Evaluation: Eight major projects, sketchbook, and final assessment*

*(1 unit)*

## **504–STUDIO IN ADVANCED DRAWING AND PAINTING**

(Grades 11, 12)

*Prerequisite: Studio in Art and Drawing and Painting*

This full year course involves advanced drawing and painting techniques. Students will have the opportunity to experiment with a variety of traditional and newer art materials, including water-based oils, encaustic, oil and chalk pastel, mixed media and others. Study of the history of drawing and painting with an emphasis on women artists will be incorporated into studio projects.

*Evaluation: Eight major projects, sketchbook, and final assessment*

*(1 unit)*

## **505–STUDIO IN CERAMICS**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

*Prerequisite: Studio in Art*

This full year course includes experimentation with various methods of hand-building and an introduction to the potter's wheel. The course will examine the history of ceramics and contemporary uses of clay.

*Evaluation: Eight major projects, sketchbook, and final assessment*

*(1 unit)*

## **512–STUDIO IN ART HISTORY**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

*Art or non-Art majors (no Art prerequisite required)*

This half-year course takes the student from cave painting to Renaissance painting through related art projects with tangential exploration into various artists who are working today. Field trips to local art galleries and museums enrich the student's art experience.

*Evaluation: Art projects, sketchbook/journal, and final assessment*

*(1/2 unit)*

## **515–STUDIO IN DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

*Prerequisites: none; maximum class size is 10 students*

This half-year course is an introduction to the basics of digital photography as an art form and as a technological tool. Students will learn how to operate a digital camera, scanner, computer software and printer in hands-on art photography projects. Students will use Photoshop 7.0 in order to work with layers of the digital image and will manipulate photos using brushes, filters, etc. The history of photography and major modern artists will be studied.

*Evaluation: Art projects, sketchbook/journal, and final assessment project*

*(1/2 unit)*

## **506–STUDIO IN PORTFOLIO PREPARATION (ART III)**

(Grade 12)

*Prerequisites: Studio in Art and one other Art course*

Either this course or AP Studio in Art is required as the last course in the three-unit or five-unit sequence in Art. This full year course focuses on the development of each student's portfolio for presentation to colleges. Students will explore a variety of media and art techniques and participate in group critiques and self-evaluations. They will investigate career opportunities in the Arts and various colleges and universities. Drawing from life is emphasized in this class as are advanced levels of craftsmanship and presentation. Student's needs and personal choices for their portfolio work are considered on an individual basis. All students will create an electronic portfolio of their original artworks.

*Evaluation: Portfolio of work, sketchbook, and final assessment*

*(1 unit)*

## **516–STUDIO IN ADVANCED PHOTOGRAPHY & MEDIA**

(Grades 11, 12)

*Prerequisite: Studio in Digital Photography*

Studio in Advanced Digital Media is a course that will reinforce and further develop the basics taught in Studio in Digital Photography. Students would expand upon the skills necessary to properly operate a digital camera, scanner, computer software, and printer for digital photography. Students will utilize Photoshop, Microsoft Digital Image Suite, Photo Story, and Windows Movie Maker to edit photos, create digital artworks, and create short videos and slide shows. Students will examine the history of graphic art and design as well as photography and other digital media.

*Evaluation: Eight major art projects, sketchbook/notebook, electronic portfolio of artworks, and final assessment project. (1 unit)*

## **509–INTRODUCTION TO ARCHITECTURE**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

*Prerequisite: Studio in Art One*

In this full-year course students will explore the art history and development of architecture through research and studio artwork. The focus of this course will be on planning, rendering and model building of various architectural spaces. A component of the course will be field research during a tour of downtown Buffalo to uncover the city's incredible wealth of architectural variety. A visit to the new Burchfield-Penney Art Center and an accompanying environmental project will facilitate student understanding of the latest architectural challenge: building green.

*Evaluation: sketchbook, 8 projects*

*(1 unit)*

## **526–ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDIO IN ART**

(Grade 12)

*Prerequisites: Studio in Art and one other art course, 90% art average, recommendation of art department and guidance counselor, application by student and attendance by student at meeting for course candidates*

Either this course or Portfolio Preparation is required as the last course in the three-unit or five-unit sequence in Art. In this full year course students may earn college art credit while working on a 2D, 3D, or design portfolio. Students use a variety of media of their choice to develop a series of works based on one theme as well as other projects that show mastery of concept, process, and material. They gain experience in formal, technical, and expressive methods of working in art and share experiences and ideas in group critiques.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Advanced Placement examination (portfolio) in May is required of all students enrolled in this course; career artist interview, local art gallery research, twelve major projects*

*(1 unit)*

# **CAREER & COMPUTER DEVELOPMENT**

## **601–INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS**

(Grade 10)

This course is required of all business majors. Students develop transferable skills which can be used in work and home situations. Course content emphasizes business transactions, functions, and business operations. Students participate in career exploration activities.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Bryant and Stratton College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Local examination*

*(1/2 unit)*

## **603–CAREER SEMINAR**

(Grade 9)

Students will take an extensive look into their personal qualities to discover where their aptitudes, abilities, and career goals lie. They will learn how to effectively use the decision making process in dealing with their career selections. The course will be held one class period per cycle for one semester for a total of 20 classes. This is the first step in a three phase preparation for career choice. Students will create a portfolio which will follow them through the rest of the program.

*Evaluation: Portfolio, project, presentations, and a reflective paper*

*(1/4 unit)*

## **604–CAREER SEMINAR 2**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

Students will be involved in a hands-on work experience that will help them make sound educational and career choices. Students will be required to complete 10 hours outside of school in a mentoring setting. Students will continue to create a portfolio which will follow them through the rest of the program.

*Evaluation: Portfolio*

*(1/4 unit)*

## **611–KEYBOARDING/COMMUNICATIONS**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

This is a one semester course designed for basic keyboarding developmental skills using IBM compatible computers. Emphasis will be on operating techniques basic to “touch” keyboarding operation with control. Instruction will be given in enumerations, personal-business and business letters, tables and one page reports using Microsoft Office.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Bryant and Stratton College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Local exam*

*(1/2 unit)*

## **618–DESKTOP APPLICATIONS AND DESIGN**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

*Prerequisites: Keyboarding/Communications*

Students who take Office Desktop Publishing will be introduced to the advanced features of the Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint). Students will also gain a basic understanding of web design.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Bryant and Stratton College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Projects*

*(1/2 unit)*

## 613–LIFE SKILLS

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

Students will develop skills in money management: budgeting, income taxes, checking and savings accounts, and other banking services. They will be introduced to different investment strategies to guarantee financial security. Students will learn how to manage credit purchasing, buying insurance, and the skills necessary to make sound financial decisions. Job exploration and the interview process is an integral part of the course.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Bryant and Stratton College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Local exam*

*(1/2 unit)*

## 615–ACCOUNTING

(Grades 11, 12)

This course is designed to develop occupational competencies in bookkeeping. The course is open to all students and is recommended for college bound students, especially those interested in majoring in accounting and business administration. Course content encompasses accounting concepts as they relate to the accounting cycle. Emphasis is placed on practical, real-world application, including the use of computerized spreadsheets. Students will be introduced to computer accounting software.

*Evaluation: Local exam*

*(1 unit)*

## 630–BUSINESS AND PERSONAL LAW

(Grades 11, 12)

This course emphasizes the relationship of business law to an individual's personal life as well as occupational life. Topics covered include: the court system, law enforcement, contracts, buying and selling goods, employer-employee relations, bailment, buying services, renting, owning and transferring real property and current legal issues.

*Evaluation: Local exam*

*(1 unit)*

## 633–QUANTITATIVE BUSINESS MATH

(Grade 12)

*Prerequisites: Successfully passed Math A exam*

This course is designed to prepare students for both college level business programs and to understand the complex financial world they will encounter during their lives. This course can be used to fulfill one of the three units of mathematics required for a Regents diploma.

*Evaluation: Local exam*

*(1 unit)*

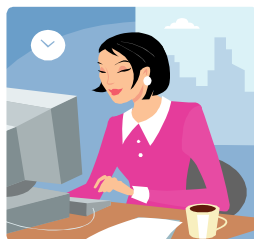
## 636–MARKETING AND ADVERTISING

(Grades 11, 12)

This course will introduce students to the fundamental principles involved in the fields of marketing and advertising. Major aspects of the course will cover consumer research, product development, advertising to influence consumers, pricing and distribution of products. The course is "hands on" with the completion of several projects. Integral to this course will be the use of computers, Microsoft Office and desktop publishing programs.

*Evaluation: Local exam*

*(1/2 unit)*



# ENGLISH

## **001–ENGLISH I**

(Grade 9)

In this Regents course, students will learn to write well-constructed expository, persuasive and descriptive compositions. Students will practice listening skills, nonfiction reading comprehension, and the writing of compositions in the styles required for the Regents examination. Study of the novel, play, short story and poem challenge students in elements of figurative language and fiction. Research skills, letter writing, public speaking skills and grammar are also stressed. Students make use of the process approach to writing and work in cooperative groups to edit and revise their work.

*Evaluation: Local exam modeled on Regents exam*

*(1 unit)*

## **007 –ENGLISH I HONORS**

(Grade 9)

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of an essay/test in the spring before freshman year and the recommendation of the English Department*

Honors English I is an introductory course to the study of literature that meets the requirements of English I at an accelerated pace. Self-responsibility is stressed with class discussions and assignments. Independent thinking is encouraged with writing and the analysis of literature. Students will learn to write well-constructed, stylized expository, persuasive and descriptive compositions. Study of the novel, play, short story and poem challenges students in elements of figurative language and fiction. The study and expression of literary analysis will also figure into the curriculum of study. Research skills, letter writing, public speaking skills and grammar are also stressed. This course is preparation for future Honors level courses.

*Evaluation: Local exam modeled on Regents exam*

*(1 unit)*

## **002–ENGLISH II**

(Grade 10)

*Prerequisite: English I*

Students will master listening skills, nonfiction reading comprehension, and the writing of compositions in the styles required for the New York State Regents examination. Well-supported analyses of issues, ideas and arguments will be practiced in written and oral presentations. Research skills are reinforced and required for a five to six page research analysis. The novel, short story, drama, and poetry are studied in depth. In this writing intensive course, students will build on writing process skills by examining more sophisticated persuasive, comparative, and critical essay techniques and structures in preparation for the NYS Regents examination.

*Evaluation: Local examination modeled on the NYS Regents exam*

*(1 unit)*

## **008–ENGLISH II HONORS**

(Grade 10)

*Prerequisite: Eligible students include McAuley Scholars (required course) and sophomores with a 95% or better average in English I, recommendations of English I teacher and Guidance Counselor*

Honors English II is an accelerated course that meets the graduation requirement for sophomore English. A primary goal of this class is to prepare students for the Comprehensive English Regents. This includes listening skills, literary analysis and analytical essay writing. Students who take AP Language and Composition as juniors must take the English Regents exam in June of their sophomore year. The study of literature includes world literary works and extended reading. Students deepen their understanding of various literary genres through intensive study. In addition, oral presentations and a variety of writing types are discussed and utilized for various purpose and audiences. A research paper with in paper citations and works sited page will be completed as well.

*Evaluation: Local final exam or Regents exam for AP students*

*(1 unit)*

### **003–ENGLISH III**

(Grade 11)

*Prerequisite: English II*

In preparation for the New York State Regents examination, listening skills and analytical, expository and persuasive essays are studied. The skills necessary to produce a research paper containing references and a works cited list are reinforced. In addition, students will prepare for the SAT verbal and essay sections, including appropriate vocabulary. An historical survey of American literature includes the study of at least two American novels, drama, several short stories and poems.

*Evaluation: Regents exam and final assessment*

*(1 unit)*

### **015–ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION**

(Grade 11)

*Prerequisites: English II, 94% or above English average, passing the English Regents exam in June of Sophomore year, the recommendation of English department and Guidance Counselor, application by student, attendance by student at meeting for course candidates*

This college level course emphasizes the analysis and close reading of nonfiction works. Students develop composition skills by writing essays in various rhetorical modes. Research skills are an important element of this course and a full length research paper is required of all students.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Advanced Placement exam in May is required of all students enrolled in this course; final assessment*

*(1 unit)*

### **004–ENGLISH IV**

(Grade 12)

*Prerequisites: English III*

English IV is a multi-genre survey of British literature and culture from the earliest mythical epics to the modern novel. Students will also work on improving their writing skills in preparation for college level work. In addition to class work, regular homework, tests and quizzes, students are required to complete numerous literary and writing projects, a writing portfolio, independent reading, and a research project.

*Evaluation: Local exam*

*(1 unit)*

### **016–ADVANCED PLACEMENT LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION**

(Grade 12)

*Prerequisites: English III; with a minimum 94% average; recommendation of English Department and Guidance Counselor, application by student, attendance by student at meeting for course candidates*

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition is an in-depth study of literature at an analytical and theoretical level consistent with that of any introductory college course. In this course students will explore literature spanning different genres and time periods while engaging in diverse methods of analysis. Students will study works of the literary canon primarily from British and American literature. In addition to preparing for the specific demands of the AP exam, students will spend much time developing their writing skills toward producing a college level research paper and critical analyses. Class participation and discussion are key elements of this course.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Advanced Placement exam in May is required of all students enrolled in this course / final assessment*

*(1 unit)*

**PLEASE NOTE: THE FOLLOWING COURSES DO NOT REPLACE ANY OTHER ENGLISH COURSES. STUDENTS TAKING THESE COURSES ARE EXPECTED TO FULFILL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REGULAR ENGLISH PROGRAM.**

### **025-CREATIVE WRITING**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

*Note: This course is offered every other school year.*

This course will provide an in-depth look at the various modes of writing, focusing on the strategies and techniques needed for successful fiction and personal writing. Some areas of writing that will be explored include poetry, short stories, personal and fictional narratives, character sketches and dialogue. Students will have time to conference with both the teacher and other students about their writing. Students will compile a portfolio of their written works, turning in a final portfolio of their best works.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Creative writing portfolio and final project/exam*

*(1/2 unit)*

### **060-DRAMA/THEATER STUDIES**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

*Note: This course is offered every other school year.*

This course will introduce students to the fundamentals of theater arts including analysis and interpretation of plays, acting exercises, and play production. Students will read various types of drama, explore the origin and the history of theater, and participate in several physical acting techniques. Students will also explore the physical make-up of plays, including sets and costumes, as well as view several filmed and/or live stage performances. Final assessments will be based on cumulative portfolios as well as a final project/performance.

*Evaluation: Cumulative portfolio and final project/exam*

*(1/2 unit)*

### **031-MEDIA STUDIES**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

*Note: This course is offered every other school year.*

This class explores the history, development, production, influence, and interpretation of modern media. The connections between the development of American culture and changes within and resulting from modern media will be explored as well. Students will gain an understanding of such forms as TV, film, music, radio, and internet as both entertainment and cultural texts. Students will learn to read media critically, interpreting and analyzing it for both meaning and value. Assessments may include analytical writing, personal responses, small research assignments, homework readings, quizzes/tests and a final project or exam.

*Evaluation: Local exam and/or final project*

*(1/2 unit)*

### **020- JOURNALISM**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

This course will explore the entire spectrum of journalism including writing for newspapers, radio, magazines, and the internet. Students will study news writing, feature writing, and editorial writing. In addition, students will study interview techniques, beat reporting, layout and design, advertising, journalistic ethics, publishing, and careers in journalism. Students will also read and analyze examples of each type of writing. Assessments will include regular writing assignments and quizzes/tests.

*Evaluation: Portfolio and a final project or exam*

*(1/2 unit)*



# LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

## (LOTE)

**PLEASE NOTE:** ALL MOUNT MERCY ACADEMY STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE THREE YEARS OF A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH. WE ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO STUDY A FOURTH OR FIFTH YEAR OF A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH FOR PROFICIENCY. SEE THE POLICY UNDER GENERAL ACADEMIC INFORMATION ON PAGE 3 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY FOR THE SECOND LEVEL OF ANY LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH IS BASED ON SUCCESSFULLY PASSING THE FIRST LEVEL EXAMINATION OF THE TARGET LANGUAGE (FRENCH I, LATIN I OR SPANISH I). MOUNT MERCY DOES NOT ACCEPT THE NEW YORK STATE PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION AS A CRITERIA FOR PLACEMENT IN THE SECOND LEVEL OF A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH.

### **401–FRENCH I**

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

French I is the first of a three year sequence in which students learn to communicate on a daily basis in French. Communication in listening, speaking, reading and writing French is accomplished through careful organization and pacing of material. Oral skills are emphasized. There is much role-playing and mimicking of teacher or tape pronunciation in real life situations. Simple grammar is presented, culture is introduced, but the stress is on vocabulary.

*Evaluation: Local exam*

*(1 unit)*

### **402–FRENCH II**

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

*Prerequisites: French I or a passing grade on the Mount Mercy French I placement exam for entering ninth grade students.*

This is the second course of the three year sequence in which students increase their skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. More intensive grammar explanations are given, as many verb tenses are introduced. Emphasis is still on communication through effective speaking of the target language. Simple writing is begun and more extensive culture is presented. There is much role-playing, memorization of dialogues, creation of original situations, and oral conversations on simple daily life.

*Evaluation: Local exam*

*(1 unit)*

### **403–FRENCH III**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

*Prerequisites: French I & II*

This course completes the three year sequence, culminating in the New York State Regents examination. Extensive work is done in fourteen areas of daily French life: home, work, school, shopping, leisure, etc. Much oral practice is required, as well as correct writing on simple topics. Listening and reading comprehension are stressed. Culture study is intensified. Current events are discussed as French magazines and newspapers are read.

*Evaluation: Regents exam*

*(1 unit)*

## **404–FRENCH IV-ADVANCED CONVERSATIONAL FRENCH & COMPOSITION**

(Grades 11, 12)

*Prerequisites: Completion of Regents sequence and teacher recommendation.*

This is an advanced French course for high school students who have completed through level 3 (Regents). The course is the first half of a two year sequence designed to emphasize advanced communication, comprehension and composition. Reading of selected literary pieces will help the students begin to understand French literature and help them to develop a way to analyze and read it at a mature level. Early Middle Ages excerpts of legends and simple fairy tales will be the focus. Writing skills will be developed to approach the level of the students' skills in their native language. A simple original fairy tale will be formulated, written and illustrated. Grammar is an integral part of the course. Previously learned structure will be reviewed and reinforced; new structures will be introduced for mastery.

*Evaluation: Local exam or final project*

*(1 unit)*

## **405–FRENCH V-ADVANCED CONVERSATIONAL FRENCH & COMPOSITION-HILBERT COLLEGE ADVANCED HIGH SCHOOL FRENCH 104\***

(Grade 12)

*Prerequisites: Completion of French IV and recommendation of teacher.*

This is an advanced French course for high school students who have completed through level 4. The course will emphasize advanced communication and listening skills. Reading at an advanced level will give students an overview of French literature from the Middle Ages to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, including two complete novels, LE PETIT PRINCE and CANDIDE. Writing skills will be enhanced through portrait, descriptive and analytical styles. Journals will also be kept. Grammar will be an integral part of the course. Previously learned structures will be introduced for mastery. Inherent in the course is understanding of the different cultures in the franco-phone world and of their major contributions to literature and life.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Hilbert College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Hilbert College Performance-Based exam*

*(1 unit)*

## **411–LATIN I**

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

In Latin I, students begin the fundamentals of Latin grammar and learn about Roman culture. The Latin language and the English language are compared. Students learn about Rome and read stories about ancient mythology and gods. Latin vocabulary is studied for the purpose of building English vocabulary.

*Evaluation: Local exam*

*(1 unit)*

## **412–LATIN II**

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

*Prerequisite: Latin I or a passing grade on the Mount Mercy Latin I placement exam for entering ninth grade students.*

Latin II strengthens the grammar concepts learned in Latin I and introduces more complex sentence structures. There are readings about heroes and adventures and Roman family life. There is further study of English Latin derivatives.

*Evaluation: Local exam*

*(1 unit)*

## **413–LATIN III**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

*Prerequisites: Latin II*

Latin III emphasizes the building of reading comprehension skills through various selections of Latin literature. Special emphasis is placed on Roman history. The life and times of famous Romans, as well as Roman politics and government are studied. The fundamentals of Latin grammar and syntax are reviewed. The study of English words derived from Latin roots continues throughout the year.

*Evaluation: Regents exam*

*(1 unit)*

## **414–LATIN IV**

(Grades 11, 12)

*Prerequisites: Successful completion of Latin III and teacher recommendation*

The major areas of study in Latin IV are poetry, mythology and early Roman history. The focus is on the Late Republic, the Early Empire, and the Etruscan Kingdom. Students will read selections from Catullus, Virgil, Cicero, Caesar, Livy, Suetonius, Ovid, Petronius, et al.

*Evaluation: Local exam*

*(1 unit)*

## **416–ADVANCED PLACEMENT LATIN LITERATURE**

(Grade 12)

*Prerequisites: Recommendation by LOTE Department and Guidance Counselor, application by student, attendance by student at meeting for course candidates.*

This is AP Latin Vergil. Students cover figures of speech in Latin poetry and learn how to scan classical verse. Students will read selections from the Aeneid in English and in Latin.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Advanced Placement exam in May is required of all students enrolled in this course*

*(1 unit)*

## **421–SPANISH I**

(Grades 9, 10, 11)

Spanish I is the first in a three year sequence in which students learn to communicate on a daily basis in Spanish. Communication in speaking, listening, reading and writing in Spanish is accomplished through careful organization and pacing of material. Students experience a true sense of satisfaction and success as they learn to use the language. Simple straightforward grammar explanations, culture and exercise material are all presented in real life situations.

*Evaluation: Local exam*

*(1 unit)*

## **422–SPANISH II**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

*Prerequisites: Spanish I or a passing grade on the Mount Mercy Spanish I placement exam for entering ninth grade students.*

The second course of the three year sequence increases student skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing Spanish. Emphasis is on learning vocabulary, grammar, and on conversation in order to communicate in real life situations. Study, awareness and appreciation of Hispanic culture are broadened.

*Evaluation: Local exam*

*(1 unit)*

## **423–SPANISH III**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

*Prerequisites: Spanish II*

This course completes the three year sequence. Students perfect their speaking skills through extensive oral practice. Vocabulary and use of grammar are studied. Composition in the Spanish language is stressed and listening skills are emphasized. Study of Hispanic culture is woven into the lessons throughout the course.

*Evaluation: Regents exam*

*(1 unit)*

## **424–SPANISH IV: SPANISH LITERATURE AND CONVERSATION I**

(Grades 11, 12)

*Prerequisites: Successful completion of the Spanish III Regents examination and teacher recommendation.*

Works of Spanish literature, especially short stories, are studied. Reading and writing skills are emphasized. Students will demonstrate advanced knowledge of the language through projects and written analyses of the literature. There is a continuing emphasis on advanced Spanish grammar. Conversations and discussions are conducted in Spanish and presentations in Spanish are a continuing part of the use of the language.

*Evaluation: Final Project*

*(1 unit)*

## 425–SPANISH V-ADVANCED SPANISH COMPOSITION AND LITERATURE-HILBERT COLLEGE ADVANCED HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH 104\*

(Grade 12)

*Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish IV and teacher recommendation.*

This is an advanced Spanish course for high school students who have completed 4 high school units of study. As such, the course will emphasize advanced communication and listening skills. Reading at an advanced level will introduce some literature and stress comprehension. Writing skills will be practiced through composition in connection to the literature and personal cultural reflection. Grammar will be an integral part of the course. Previously learned structures will be reviewed and reinforced while advanced grammatical structure will be introduced for mastery. Students will add to their vocabulary through study of the literature and vocabulary learned to enhance their communication abilities. The culture of Spain and Spanish America will be an integral part of studies. Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Hilbert College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Hilbert College Performance-Based exam*

*(1 unit)*



# MATHEMATICS

**PLEASE NOTE:** ALL MOUNT MERCY ACADEMY STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE AN APPROPRIATE MATHEMATICS COURSE EACH OF THEIR FOUR YEARS IN HIGH SCHOOL. SEE THE POLICY UNDER GENERAL ACADEMIC INFORMATION ON PAGE 3 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

## **208–INTEGRATED ALGEBRA**

(Grade 9)

The core of this yearlong course is algebra. Students will study the following topics using a broad spectrum of problems and problem solving strategies: solving equations and inequalities, graphing linear functions and inequalities, operations with algebraic expressions and fractions, systems of equations and inequalities, ratio and proportion, factoring, radicals, and quadratics. Other topics will include probability, statistics, and trigonometry of the right triangle. Students will take the Integrated Algebra Regents examination at the end of the course. A TI-83 Plus Graphing Calculator is required for this course.

*Evaluation: Local assessment and Regents exam in June*

*(1 unit)*

## **260 – REGENTS GEOMETRY**

(Grade 9, 10)

*Prerequisites: Integrated Algebra*

This is the second of three courses required to receive a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation. The core of this year-long course is geometry. Main topics include geometric relationships, transformational and coordinate geometry, constructions, locus, and formal and informal proofs. A TI-83 Plus Graphing Calculator is required for this course.

*Evaluation: Local assessment and Regents exam in June*

*(1 unit)*

## **265–ALGEBRA II/TRIGONOMETRY**

(Grades 10, 11)

*Prerequisites: Regents Geometry*

This is the third of three courses required to receive a Regents Diploma with Advance Distinction. Topics will include a review and extension of algebraic techniques, imaginary numbers, families of functions, direct and indirect variation, systems of equations, data analysis, sequences, probability, and trigonometry. A TI-83 Plus Graphing Calculator is required for this course.

*Evaluation: Local assessment and Regents exam in June*

*(1 unit)*

## **204–COURSE IV**

(Grades 11, 12)

*Prerequisites: Math III or Math III/Math B and teacher recommendation*

This course is designed for students who will be taking calculus either at Mount Mercy or at the college level. Precalculus mathematics, including families of functions, matrices, vectors, conic sections, and polar equations, will be covered. Important algebra skills will be reviewed and extended. The course content will be investigated using both algebraic techniques and a graphing calculator. The TI-83 Plus Graphing Calculator is required for this course.

*Evaluation: Local exam*

*(1 unit)*



## 215—MATH 12

(Grade 12)

*Prerequisites: Math 11 or Math III and teacher recommendation*

This math elective will cover a myriad of topics to help prepare students to take a math placement test at any college or university. The topics include but are not limited to algebra, geometry, trigonometry, probability, statistics, and essential math skills.

*Evaluation: Local exam*

*(1 unit)*

## 220—STATISTICS

(Grade 12)

*Prerequisites: Successful completion of Math III, Math III/Math B or Course IV and teacher recommendation*

This course covers both methods of descriptive and inferential statistics. Topics will include measures of central tendency, dispersion and position, the normal and binomial distributions, estimation, hypothesis testing, correlation, regression and contingency tables. Students will use the TI-83 Plus graphing calculator and Microsoft Excel software packages. This course is designed for students considering careers in business, education, or the social sciences.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Local exam*

*(1 unit)*

## 231—INTRODUCTION TO CALCULUS

(Grade 12)

*Prerequisites: Successful completion of Course IV and recommendation of Math Department*

In this course students will be introduced to many of the topics covered in a college-level calculus course, including limits, derivatives, and integrals. Various applications of calculus will also be discussed. A TI-83 Plus Graphing Calculator is required for this course. Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College and/or Erie Community College. Please see page 3 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Local exam*

*(1 unit)*

## 232—ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS BC

(Grade 12)

*Prerequisites: Successful completion of Course IV, 90% or above math average, recommendation of Mathematics Department and Guidance Counselor, application by student, attendance by student at meeting for course candidates*

In this course students will learn much of the material covered in two-semester of college-level calculus. The AB portion focuses on limits, differentiation, integration, and differential equations. The BC portion looks at techniques of integration, sequences and series, parametric and polar equations, and vector-valued functions. During the second semester, students will consult with the teacher about which AP Exam (AB or BC) to take. A TI-83 Plus Graphing Calculator is required for this course.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 3 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Advanced Placement examination required of all students enrolled in this course*

*(2 units)*

## 221—ADVANCED PLACEMENT STATISTICS

(Grade 12)

*Prerequisites: Successful completion of Math III, Math III/Math B, or Course IV, recommendation of Math Department and Guidance Counselor, application by student, attendance by student at meeting for course candidates*

The purpose of AP Statistics is to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students will be exposed to four broad conceptual themes: exploring data, planning a study, anticipating patterns, and statistical inferences. A TI-83 Plus Graphing Calculator is required for this course.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Advanced Placement examination required of all students enrolled in this course*

*(1 unit)*

# MUSIC

**PLEASE NOTE: CHORUS I OR CHORUS I/SHOW CHOIR IS A PREREQUISITE TO ALL OTHER MUSIC COURSES.**

## **540–CHORUS I**

(Grade 9, 10, 11, 12)

Designed for the student interested in music, this full year course focuses on basic vocal production including posture, breath control, vowel formation and tone. Students also study the elements of music, music history, rhythm patterns, sight singing, and basic theory.

*Evaluation: Written tests, performance examination, and participation in Christmas and spring concerts (1 unit)*

## **550–CHORUS II**

## **552–CHORUS III**

## **554–CHORUS IV**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

*Prerequisites: Successful completion of Chorus I*

In Chorus II, III and IV the principles of singing are further refined. Three part harmony, blend, balance, proper diction and dynamics are emphasized. Students also learn to differentiate tonalities, perform rhythm patterns, and practice sight singing.

*Evaluation: Performance examination and participation in Christmas and spring concerts and liturgical celebrations. (1/2 unit)*

**N.B. STUDENTS IN CHORUS MAY AUDITION FOR PARTICIPATION IN ALL-COUNTY CHORUS.**

## **541–CHORUS I/SHOWCHOIR (“PURE MAGIC”)**

## **551–CHORUS II/SHOWCHOIR (“PURE MAGIC”)**

## **553–CHORUS III/SHOWCHOIR (“PURE MAGIC”)**

## **555–CHORUS IV/SHOWCHOIR (“PURE MAGIC”)**

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

*Prerequisites: Audition during May of previous school year*

This is a select, choreographed singing group which competes annually in national music festivals and performs extensively in the local area. Students learn to coordinate dance techniques with vocal techniques and master 12 to 16 pieces in pop, swing, show and Christmas idioms. Rehearsals are held Sundays during the school year, and Monday through Thursday evenings during the last two weeks of August. All students must also register for dance (1/2 unit). Dance fulfills the physical education requirement.

*Evaluation: Performance examination and participation in concerts and competition 541 (1 ½ units); 551, 553, 555 (1 unit)*

## **560–HANDBELL CHOIR**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

*Prerequisite: Chorus I*

This one semester course is an introduction to the art of handbell ringing. It is a performance course involving reading rhythm patterns as well as perfecting handbell techniques. Although previous instrumental instruction is helpful, it is not essential.

*Evaluation: Participation in Christmas and spring concerts and liturgical celebrations (1/2 unit)*

## 561–INTERMEDIATE HANDBELL CHOIR

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

*Prerequisites: Chorus I, Handbell Choir, or permission of the instructor*

This course is for the intermediate student who wishes to further her skill in playing handbells.

*Evaluation: Participation in Christmas and spring concerts and liturgical celebrations*

*(1/2 unit)*

## 562–ADVANCED HANDBELL CHOIR (“MAGIC BELLES”)

(Grades 11, 12)

*Prerequisites: Chorus I, audition during June of previous school year; acceptance is based on rhythm pattern reading, experience, school attendance, and academic average*

Advanced Handbell Choir offers refinement of the art of handbell ringing. The group also competes annually in national music festivals and performs extensively in the local area. The course involves reading more complex rhythm patterns and ringing more difficult pieces.

*Evaluation: Performance ability and participation in concerts and competition*

*(1 unit)*

## 570–THEORY I

(Grade 10, 11, 12)

*Prerequisite: Chorus I*

Theory I is required for all students who wish to obtain a music or fine arts sequence. This one-semester course builds on the fundamentals learned in Chorus I. Scales, intervals, triads, harmonic progression and melodic/harmonic dictation are all emphasized.

*Evaluation: Quizzes, tests, final project*

*(1/2 unit)*



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION / HEALTH

## **806–PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

(Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)

The physical education curriculum focuses on fitness and wellness for young woman. Basic skills in individual and team sports take place in order to encourage lifetime participation in leisure activities. Interscholastic competition is also available at Mount Mercy. Basketball, soccer, softball, lacrosse, swimming, volleyball, tennis, track and field and cross-country are presently part of the athletic department. Opportunities are available for downhill skiing as a club activity.

*Evaluation: Preparation, participation, homework and written tests on selected topics*

*(1/2 unit)*

## **350–HEALTH**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

Health is a pro-active educational strategy to help improve the wellness of students. This course makes every effort to address all NYS health standards for commencement level. The course is designed to develop attitudes, knowledge and critical thinking skills, which will serve the students now and in the future. Students will also be required to participate in class discussions, prevention projects, role plays, problem solving activities, actively engage with guest speakers and research community resources that are available to assist students in developing their personal wellness plan.

*Evaluation: Local exam*

*(1/2 unit)*

## **360–SENIOR HEALTH ELECTIVE**

(Grade 12)

*Prerequisites: Successful completion of Health*

This course is directed toward the college bound student who will rapidly be facing independence and responsibility. The choices they will be making in the next year can determine their success in school and in life. Mercy has always prepared students for the academic rigors of college. This course will address the health, social and dating choices of college life. The course will be student directed and will incorporate role play, guest speakers and field trips to give students an up close and personal look at what the next year will bring. The better prepared a student is for this major life transition, the more resilient they will be when met by adversity.

*Evaluation: Local exam*

*(1/2 unit)*



# RELIGION

**THE RELIGION CURRICULUM AT MOUNT MERCY ACADEMY IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE EDUCATION NOT ONLY ON THE DOCTRINES OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH, BUT ALSO TO DEVELOP THE PRACTICE OF FAITH THROUGH LIVED EXPERIENCE.**

**INSPIRED BY THE WORK OF CATHERINE MCAULEY AND ANIMATED BY THE CALL OF THE GOSPEL, WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY TO PROMOTE PEACE AND LIVE JUSTICE. THROUGHOUT THE CURRICULUM, ATTENTION IS GIVEN TO ISSUES RELATED TO WOMEN AND THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AS WITNESSES OF THE GOSPEL AND INSTRUMENTS OF MERCY.**

**THE CHARISM OF MERCY, CHRISTIAN SEXUALITY FROM A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE, ONGOING EXPERIENCE IN PRAYER, LITURGY, AND THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS ARE INTEGRATED THROUGHOUT THE RELIGION CURRICULUM.**

**PARTICIPATION IN SERVICE EXPERIENCES IS DEFINITIVE OF WHO WE ARE AS A MERCY COMMUNITY. THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF SERVICE HOURS AT EVERY GRADE LEVEL IS NECESSARY FOR GRADUATING FROM MMA; PUTTING INTO PRACTICE THE SPIRITUAL AND CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY.**

## **721–RELIGIOUS STUDIES I**

(Grade 9)

This course offers the opportunity for students to get to know the Catholic heritage. Students from many backgrounds and degrees of knowledge of Catholicism can "get on the same page" with regard to the basics of the faith, developing a common vocabulary for understanding their later Religion courses. Through the study of prayer, the Mass, and the Sacraments, students will explore their faith at a personal and affective level. The course is intended to help the students to gain a better understanding of the Catholic Christian tradition in greater depth.

*Evaluation: Local examination*

*(1 unit)*

## **722–RELIGIOUS STUDIES II**

(Grade 10)

Sophomores are required to take two semester courses focusing on the Sacred Scriptures. Catholic Biblical scholarship will guide this study and particular attention will be given to the stories of women in both Testaments. The liturgical year, Creed, and aspects of early Church history will be incorporated.

**Old Testament:** The first semester the students will explore the Hebrew Scriptures with particular attention to the first five books of the Bible. This will include an examination of the Creation Stories, the history of the Jewish nation, and the Prophets.

**New Testament:** During the second semester the focus will be on coming to know Jesus better and growing in relationship with God through the study of the Gospels. Particular attention is given to Jesus' relationship with women in Scripture and the application of the message of the Gospel to our life experience and the practice of our faith.

*Evaluation: Local examination*

*(1 unit)*

## 723–RELIGIOUS STUDIES III

(Grade 11)

**Catholic Social Teaching:** Called the “Best Kept Secret of the Catholic Church”, Catholic Social Teaching will be kept a secret no more! Building upon the foundation of Sacred Scripture Juniors will discover how being a follower of Christ calls us to be witnesses to the world. Beginning with respect and dignity of the human person, students will be able to identify key terms and concepts and apply them to specific topics including issues of life, prejudice, racism, poverty, peace, work, and the environment. The goal of this course is to empower students to take their place in the world as young women of “Mercy” with principles for reflection, criteria for judgment, and guidance for action.

*Evaluation: Final project*

*(1 unit)*

## 724–RELIGIOUS STUDIES IV

(Grade 12)

Seniors are required to take two semester courses which encompass two separate topics.

**World Religions:** What is *spirituality*, what does it mean to be *religious*? In today’s global world, understanding of faith, religion, and spirituality are necessary aspects of understanding others and the world around us. The basic dimensions of the world’s major religions will be studied as this course will explore the questions various religions seek to answer. Special attention will be given to images of God and roles of women in the various faith traditions, as well as an exploration of beliefs about what happens after one dies.

**Media Mindfulness:** The second aspect of senior religion will focus on empowering students to understand and appreciate the fascinating world of media from their Christian faith. Understanding the role of media culture in one’s life as well as becoming wise media consumers through media choices, creating meaningful media, questioning and analyzing media will be the objectives of this course. The curriculum expands on what is expected of women in society based on messages from the media.

*Evaluation: Various assessment tools*

*(1 unit)*

## 725 – PEER LEADERSHIP IN MINISTRY

*Prerequisite: Religious Studies I. Students accepted into the Peer Ministry course must apply through written application and teacher recommendation*

(Grade 10)

Peer Leadership in Ministry is offered in lieu of Religious Studies II and is offered as a track for sophomore students as their Religion requirement. It is based upon the Sacred Scriptures curriculum, with the added component and application of Peer Leadership Ministry. This course will equip students with techniques and understanding to better minister in a variety of leadership arenas. Participants will practice skills and knowledge gained through experiences they plan and implement for MMA and other appropriate organizations. Course focus incorporates understanding of self, relating to others, and responding to God using Jesus as a model.

*Evaluation: Local examination and practicum*

*(1 unit)*



# SCIENCE

**PLEASE NOTE: THE THREE CREDITS IN SCIENCE REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION MUST BE REGENTS-LEVEL COURSES: LIVING ENVIRONMENT AND PHYSICAL SETTING: EARTH SCIENCE, CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS. A FOURTH CREDIT IN SCIENCE IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED.**

## **300–LIVING ENVIRONMENT**

(Grade 9, 10)

*Prerequisites: Eligibility is based on grade 8 averages in science and scores earned on the admissions exam.*

This course is designed to develop understanding and appreciation of the fundamental principles of biology, the study of living things. Concentration will be on these themes: energy, matter and organization, maintaining a dynamic equilibrium, interaction and interdependence, reproduction, growth and development, genetic and molecular biology and evolution. The course requires one block of laboratory and research experience per cycle.

*Evaluation: Regents exam*

*(1 unit)*

## **303–LIVING ENVIRONMENT HONORS**

(Grade 9, 10)

*Prerequisites: strong science grades in middle school, successful completion of summer assignment, teacher recommendation*

This course satisfies graduation requirement in science. All topics from the NYS Regents Core Curriculum for Living Environment will be covered as in Regents, but with more depth and an emphasis on current and relevant findings in the field. Students will acquire an understanding of the study of life maintained in animals and plants, reproduction and development, transmission of traits from generation to generation, modern genetics, evolution and diversity, ecology, and human physiology. Students will be required to communicate their knowledge using both qualitative and quantitative means. This course provides an excellent foundation for students with an interest and ability in science who plan to pursue advanced science courses. This class meets 3 times a cycle, with an additional lab meeting time once a cycle.

*Evaluation: Regents exam, projects, tests, and quizzes*

*(1 unit)*

## **312–PHYSICAL SETTING: EARTH SCIENCE**

(Grade 10)

Earth Science is a New York State Regents laboratory course aimed at the examination of the earth and its natural processes. Climate, weather, atmospheric phenomena and energy exchange are topics studied with a focus on the geological history of New York State, its landscape and environmental change. One block of laboratory activities per cycle is required. A long-term investigative project is required as part of the local assessment.

*Evaluation: Regents exam and local assessment*

*(1 unit)*

## **321–PHYSICAL SETTING: CHEMISTRY**

(Grades 10, 11, 12)

*Prerequisites: Successful completion of Physical Setting: Earth Science*

*Sophomore Prerequisites: 90% overall average in Living Environment, 85% overall average in Math, and teacher recommendation*

This course is designed to follow the new Regents Chemistry curriculum. Emphasis will be on the applications of chemistry in the world. Topics will include: Energy and Matter, Atomic Structure, Bonding, Periodic Table, Math in Chemistry, Kinetics, Acids and Bases, and Redox and Organic Chemistry. One block per cycle of laboratory activities is required.

*Evaluation: Regents exam and local assessment*

*(1 unit)*

### 320–PRACTICAL CHEMISTRY

(Grades 11, 12)

*Prerequisites: Living Environment, Earth Science, freshman-level mathematics, teacher recommendation*

This course is intended to have a more “inquiry” and “problem-solving” based approach. The course will employ less lecture and more demonstrations, class discussions, small group sharing and activity-based teaching practices. It will rely less on Regents style testing and more on portfolio (report/project) type assessment. Topics will include matter, atomic structure, the periodic table, acids and bases, nuclear chemistry and organic chemistry, and touch on industrial uses of chemicals as well as water and air pollution.

*Evaluation: Local exam and/or project*

*(1 unit)*

### 324–PHYSICS

(Grade 11, 12)

*Prerequisites: Passing grade in Math I and Math II*

This course is a continuation of the core courses in the science program with a focus on understanding how the physical world works. Topics of mechanics, wave phenomena, electricity, atomic and nuclear physics are discussed. One block of laboratory work per cycle is required. This course will familiarize students with concepts required for entering engineering, physical therapy and health science college majors.

*Evaluation: Local exam*

*(1 unit)*

### 314–CONCEPTUAL PHYSICS

(Grade 12)

*Prerequisites: Passing grade in previous two years of math and science*

This course is designed for non-science majors to give them a better understanding of the physical aspects of the world. It covers the topics of mechanics, wave phenomena, heat, electricity, light, sound and atomic physics. The course includes laboratory hours integrated into the curriculum.

*Evaluation: Local exam*

*(1 unit)*

### 341–ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY

(Grades 11, 12)

*Prerequisites: Living Environment and Chemistry Regents with grades of 85% or better on the Living Environment Regents exam and 75% or better on the Chemistry Regents exam, prior or concurrent enrollment in Physics, 85% or above science average, recommendation of Science Dept and Counselor, application by student, attendance by student at meeting for course candidates*  
*NOTE: Both AP Biology and AP Chemistry will be offered in 2009-2010; in 2010-2011 only AP Chemistry will be offered; in 2011-2012 only AP Biology will be offered.*

This one year course is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory biology course usually taken by biology majors during their first year. It includes the study of biological chemistry, cells, genetics and evolution, organisms and populations. A substantial laboratory component is an integral part of the course.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Advanced Placement exam in May is required of all students enrolled in this course*

*(2 units)*



### 343–ADVANCED PLACEMENT CHEMISTRY

(Grades 11, 12)

*Prerequisites: Living Environment and Chemistry Regents; minimum of 70% on the Chemistry Regents exam, 90% or above science average, prior or current enrollment in Physics, recommendation of the Science Department, Math Department, and Guidance Counselor, application by student, attendance by student at a meeting for course candidates*

*NOTE: Both AP Chemistry and AP Biology will be offered in 2009-2010; in 2010-2011 only AP Chemistry will be offered; in 2011-2012 only AP Biology will be offered.*

This one year course is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory chemistry course for engineering and science majors. It includes the study of atomic structure and bonding, stoichiometry, reaction equilibrium and kinetics, gas laws, thermochemistry, and electrochemistry. Students will apply mathematical knowledge and understanding of algebra, logarithms, and exponential equations. The class will meet every day for 80 minutes. A substantial laboratory component is an integral part of the course.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Erie Community College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Advanced Placement exam in May is required of all students enrolled in this course (2 units)*

**PLEASE NOTE: THE FOLLOWING COURSES ARE DESIGNED AS ELECTIVES FOR THOSE STUDENTS WHO HAVE A PERSONAL DESIRE TO FURTHER EXPLORE THE WORLD OF SCIENCE. THEY DO NOT FULFILL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS IN SCIENCE.**

### 363 – HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY I (1<sup>st</sup> Semester)

(Grade 12)

*Prerequisites: Successful completion of Living Environment and Physical Setting: Chemistry, completion or concurrent enrollment in Physics. This course does not require enrollment in Human Anatomy and Physiology II.*

*NOTE: This course is only offered 1<sup>st</sup> semester. It meets every other day as well as one lab time for a total of 4 blocks every cycle.*

This course is geared toward students who are considering pursuing a career in any of the health-related fields. The course content will provide an integrated view of how the human body and different body systems work. The systems covered in this course include: an introduction to the body, integument, skeletal, muscular, nervous, special senses and endocrine systems. All physiological concepts are tied to some level of body structure and organization. Laboratory activities and dissections are a required part of the course.

*Evaluation: Local assessment (1/2 unit)*

### 364 – HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY II (2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)

(Grade 12)

*Prerequisites: Successful completion of Living Environment and Physical Setting: Chemistry, completion or concurrent enrollment in Physics. This course does not require enrollment in Human Anatomy and Physiology I.*

*NOTE: This course is only offered 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. It meets every other day as well as one lab time for a total of 4 blocks every cycle.*

This course is geared toward students who are considering pursuing a career in any of the health-related fields. The course content will provide an integrated view of how the human body and different body systems work. The systems covered in this course include: cardiovascular, circulatory, immune, digestive, urinary, and reproductive systems. All physiological concepts are tied to some level of body structure and organization. Laboratory activities and dissections are a required part of the course.

*Evaluation: Local assessment (1/2 unit)*

### 333–PRINCIPLES OF SPORTS MEDICINE

(Grade 12)

The following topics will be presented and discussed in an introductory method: anatomy and physiology as related to athletics; applied kinesiology; facilitated stretching; conditioning and training; principles of exercise physiology; sports nutrition, first aid and sports related injuries, the use of therapeutic modalities with taping and wrapping; role of an athletic trainer and legal issues involving athletics; and sports psychology.

*Evaluation: Local assessment (1/2 unit)*

# SOCIAL STUDIES

## **100–GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY I**

(Grade 9)

The curriculum of Global History and Geography I will focus on the major ideas, eras, themes, developments and turning points in world history. The course is a chronological study of world history up to 1750. Emphasis is placed on the impact of geography on the development of world civilizations. Students will examine the broad sweep of history and geography from a variety of perspectives.

*Evaluation: Local exam*

*(1 unit)*

## **125–GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY I HONORS**

(Grade 9)

*Prerequisites: Strong Social Studies grades in middle school, teacher recommendation, Counselor approval*

Honors Global History and Geography I follows the curriculum of the Global I Regents course which focuses on geography, as well as the major eras, ideas, themes, developments, and turning points in world history. The course is a chronological study of history up to 1750. However, Honors Global I is more rigorous and detailed in its approach. Special emphasis will be placed on primary source readings, extensive writing assignments, and outside class readings. Assessments, due at specific times during the summer and regular school year, will be required. Honors Global I is intended to prepare students for a variety of Advanced Placement courses in the upper grades. Acceptance into Honors Global I is determined by the Social Studies department and the School Counselors.

*Evaluation: A separate, honors-level Global History and Geography I final exam will be administered in June.*

*(1 unit)*

## **102–GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY II**

(Grade 10)

This course continues the chronological study of world history and geography from 1750 to the present. Students will examine the development and interaction of social, political, economic, cultural and religious systems in different regions of the world.

*Evaluation: Regents exam, which covers both Global I and Global II.*

*(1 unit)*

## **109—ADVANCED PLACEMENT WORLD HISTORY**

(Grade 10)

*Prerequisites: Eligible students include McAuley Scholars (required course) and sophomores with a 90% or better Social Studies average, recommendation of Social Studies Department and Guidance Counselor, application by student, attendance by student at a meeting for course candidates*

Advanced Placement World History covers the time frame from the beginning of civilization to the present day. The purpose of the course is to allow students to develop a greater understanding about human societies and how they grow and interact. The course covers the broad spectrum of history with emphasis placed on the understanding of cultural, institutional, technological, and geographic experiences. Students will be introduced to college level work and must take the Advanced Placement exam in May in addition to the Global History and Geography Regents examination.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Advanced Placement exam in May is required of all students enrolled in this course; Regents exam in June* (1 unit)

## **103–U.S. HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT**

(Grade 11)

This course includes a chronological study of United States history with an emphasis on the United States as a developing and as a fully developed nation. The course covers post-Civil War to present day America. Constitutional and legal issues are explored in depth, as well as problems of a dynamic and industrial society in an increasingly complex and technologically oriented world.

*Evaluation: Regents exam*

*(1 unit)*

## **111–ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES HISTORY**

(Grade 11)

*Prerequisites: Global History and Geography I and II, 90% or above Social Studies average, recommendation of Global History and Geography I and II teachers and Guidance Counselor, application by student, attendance by student at a meeting for course candidates*

This one year course is a chronological study of U.S. history from colonial time to the present. Emphasis is placed on primary sources and interpretation of differing viewpoints of historians. The purpose of the course is to provide students with an opportunity to study history on a college level. The course involves extensive reading and writing assignments.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Advanced Placement exam in May is required of all students enrolled in this course; Regents exam in June (1 unit)*

## **104–PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT**

(Grade 12)

*Prerequisites: Global History and Geography I and II, U.S. History and Government*

This one semester course is designed to promote active citizenship by encouraging students to understand and participate in the democratic process. The content of this course emphasizes the interaction between citizens and government at all levels: federal, state, and local. Completion of three hours of political service and a written paper are requirements for graduation.

*Evaluation: Local exam or alternative assessment*

*(1/2 unit)*

## **105–ECONOMICS**

(Grade 12)

*Prerequisites: Global History and Geography I and II, U.S. History and Government*

This one semester course emphasizes economics and economic decision making. The course includes basic economic concepts and understandings which all persons need to function effectively and intelligently as citizens and participants in the economy of the United States and the world. Content presents a rational decision making process which can be applied to all economic decisions. Microeconomic and macroeconomic topics will be discussed.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Bryant and Stratton College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Local exam or alternative assessment*

*(1/2 unit)*

## **121–INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY**

(Grades 11, 12)

This one semester course will introduce the basic concepts of sociology. Emphasis is placed on the nature of human relationships, human development throughout life span, and the nature of groups and social institutions.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Local exam or alternative assessment*

*(1/2 unit)*

## **120–INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY**

(Grades 11, 12)

This one semester course is a general survey of the various divisions of behavioral study. The major topics that will be covered include the brain, sensation and perception, learning, human development, personality theory, and abnormal psychology.

*Evaluation: Local exam or alternative assessment*

*(1/2 unit)*

## 116–ADVANCED PLACEMENT PSYCHOLOGY

(Grade 12)

*Prerequisites: Global Studies I and II, US History and Government, 90% overall average, recommendation of Social Studies Department and Guidance Counselor, student application, attendance by student at a meeting for course candidates*

A survey of the scientific study of human behavior that includes as major topics: the brain, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, learning and memory, development, emotion, personality, abnormal psychology and social psychology. This course is especially recommended for students who wish to pursue careers in the social sciences or medical fields.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Advanced Placement exam in May is required of all students enrolled in this class*

*(1 unit)*

## 117–ADVANCED PLACEMENT EUROPEAN HISTORY

(Grade 12)

*Prerequisites: Global I and Global II, US History and Government, recommendation of Social Studies Department and Guidance Counselor, student application, and attendance at a meeting for course candidates*

Note: *This is not a substitute for Participation in Government or Economics*

AP European History is designed to develop a greater understanding of Western Civilization and its impact on the history of mankind. The time frame for study in this course will be primarily the last 1000 years of European history. Students will expand their knowledge of the geography of our independent world. In addition, students will be introduced to numerous primary and secondary sources and develop their analytical skills through writing and class discussion.

Note: This course may be eligible for college credit through Trocaire College. Please see page 4 and your School Counselor for more information.

*Evaluation: Advanced Placement exam in May is required of all students enrolled in this class.*

*(1 unit)*



# ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES

## **045–CAREER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

(Grades 11, 12)

*Prerequisites: a junior or senior in good academic standing, availability of internship site, application and interview*

Mount Mercy's Career Internship Program allows a student to experience an occupation first hand. A student will have the opportunity to interact with a professional in a field of the student's choice. Over a period of time she will view the skills, both academic and interpersonal, that are needed to succeed at the job site.

*Evaluation: 50 hours of non-paid work at an approved site, a log of participation and of activities observed at the work site, a search of colleges and major courses of study for the career observed, a post-interview on the internship experience (1/2 unit)*



# MERCY LEARNING ONLINE

The Network for Mercy Education sponsors Mercy Learning Online. Mercy educators throughout the Mercy secondary educational system teach the courses. The courses listed below are being offered for the summer of 2009.

Mandatory Orientation: TBA

Dates: June 22, 2009 – July 23, 2009

Tuition: \$215.00 per course

Credits: ½ credit per course

## Credit Courses

- American Government
- Art History
- Creative Writing
- Economics
- Health
- Introduction to Psychology
- Fitness
- Sociology

## Credit Recovery Courses

- Algebra I
- Biology
- English 9
- English 10
- English 11 – 12
- Geometry
- Theology 9 – 10
- Theology 11 – 12

## Enrichment

- Mathematics Skills Course: Developing Pre-Algebra Skills – Recommended for students entering first year secondary school (9<sup>th</sup> grade). This is a non-credit enrichment course (\$140.00)

See [www.emercyed.org](http://www.emercyed.org) for a brochure that describes the Mercy Learning Online program. Course descriptions, information about books, and the Code of Conduct can also be found on the website. Registration for these courses is done through your counselor at the Mount Mercy Academy Counseling Center. Mrs. Staszak, the Assistant Principal, may be contacted if you have further questions.

