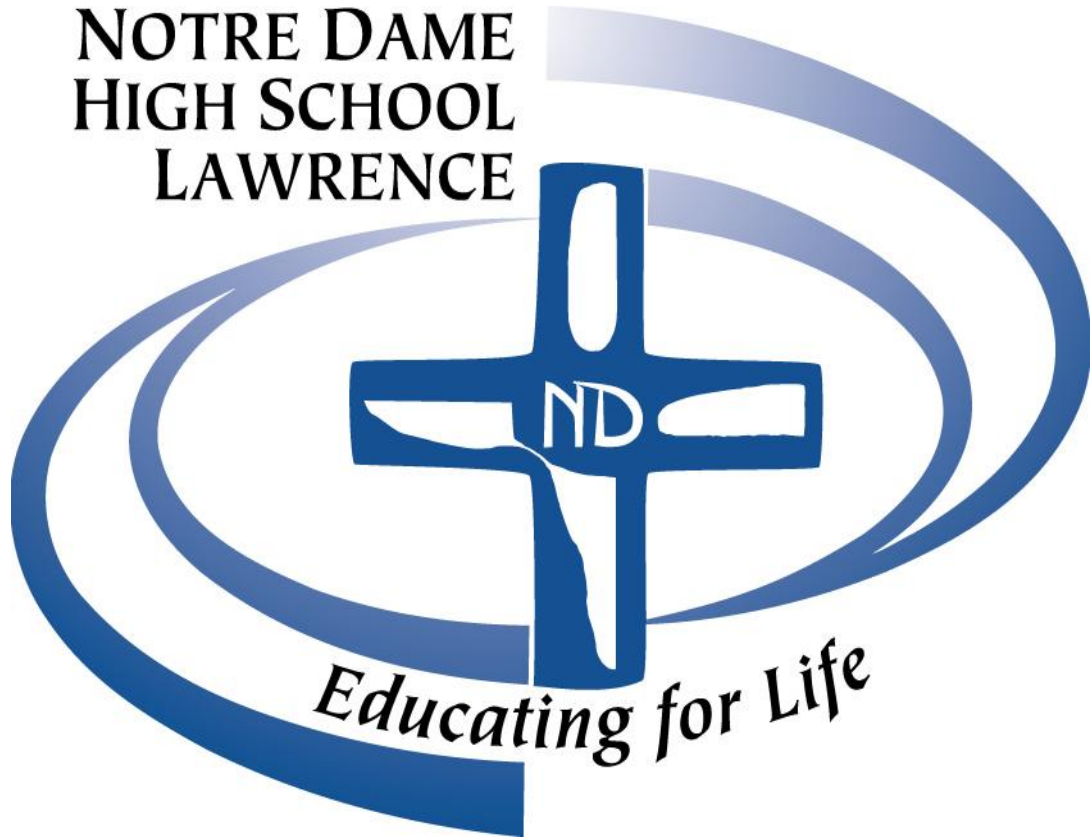


**NOTRE DAME
HIGH SCHOOL
LAWRENCE**



Program of Studies 2011 – 2012

Notre Dame High School
207 Hampshire Street
Lawrence, MA 01841



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Dear Parents and Students:

This Program of Studies provides you with the information on the courses that Notre Dame High School offers students during their four years at Notre Dame High School.

Many of the courses are required for all students while others are elective in nature. Each student is required to take six courses each semester plus participate in the Corporate Work Study Program. Each full year course is assigned one credit and a one semester course is assigned one-half credit. Students must earn seven credits each year and amass a total of twenty-eight credits in order to graduate.

Each student must participate in the Corporate Work Study Program in order to attend Notre Dame High School. In order to participate in the program each student must complete a two week summer training program upon entering Notre Dame High School. In order to remain in the program students must meet the guidelines as outlined in the course description on page 9.

Students must maintain a grade point average of 2.0 in order to be in good standing. Students who fall below a 2.0 grade point average will be placed on academic probation. Failure to meet the 2.0 Grade point average after two quarters of Academic Probation will lead to dismissal from Notre Dame High School

Good Luck,
Thomas F. Ryan Ed.D.
Principal

Rights of Parents and Students

Notre Dame High School is committed in full measure to the recognition of the rights of all parents and students as guaranteed by law.

Title 11 of the American with Disabilities Act: Prohibits discrimination, exclusion from participation and denial of benefits on the basis of disability in areas of educational programming.

Title 1X of the Americans with Disabilities Act: Prohibits discrimination, exclusion from participation and denial of benefits in educational programming on the basis of gender.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964: Prohibits discrimination, exclusion from participation and denial of benefits based on race, color, or national origin.

Mission Statement

Our Mission

In the tradition of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Notre Dame High School provides affordable, culturally sensitive, college preparatory education enhanced by professional work experience for young men and women from families with limited income

Our Vision

Notre Dame High School will be known for graduating confident, academically successful students who are spiritually rooted, intellectually curious, active community and global citizens and college graduated leaders.

Our Core Values

Goodness of God
Education for Life
Integrity
Respect
Family
Community

Graduation Requirements

Credit Requirements for Graduation:

Religion	4 credits
English	4 credits
Writing	2 credits
Spanish	2 credits
Math	4/5 credits
Health	.5 credits
Science	3/4 credits
Social Studies	2 credits
Computer Applications	.5 credits
Corporate work /study	4 credits

Total for Graduation: 28 credits

Levels of Instruction

The majority of courses taught at Notre Dame High School are offered at the College Preparatory (CP) level. In a number of the CP courses student may elect to work at an honors level and receive honors credit within the CP class. These classes will be listed in the course descriptions as offering CP/HON credit. Advanced Placement courses are offered in Calculus and Spanish. Permission to take the Honors and Advanced Placement Level must be received from the previous year's teacher of that subject.

Students receiving Honors credit will receive an extra .5 on their average and students receiving AP credit will receive an additional 1.0 on the average.

Levels of Instruction and Grading Scale GPA EQUIVELANT			
	CP	HON	AP
A+ (97-100)	4.33	4.83	5.33
A (94-96)	4.0	4.5	5.0
A- (90-93)	3.67	4.17	4.67
B+ (87-89)	3.33	3.83	4.33
B (84-86)	3.0	3.5	4.0
B- (80-83)	2.67	3.17	3.67
C+ (77-79)	2.33	2.83	3.33
C (74-76)	2.0	2.5	3.0
C- (70-73)	1.67	2.17	2.67
D+ (67-69)	1.33	1.83	2.33
D (64-66)	1.0	1.5	2.0
D- (60-63)	.67	1.17	1.67
F 0-59	0	0	0

Honor Roll

Honor Roll is posted at the end of each quarter and is based upon the individual grade point average for that quarter:

Principal's Honor Circle	4.0 and above (no letter grade below an A-)
High Honor Roll	3.67 – 3.99 (no grade below a B-)
Honor Roll	3.0 – 3.49 (may include one grade of C)

Anyone receiving more than one "C" or any "D" or "F" is not eligible for the Honor Roll regardless of his/her grade point average.

Student Activities Eligibility

In order for a student to be eligible for student activities he/she must have a 2.0 average in quarter preceding the activity.

Academic Support

The Academic Support Program at Notre Dame High School is designed to help students who are encountering difficulty in a subject area. The school offers a tutoring program that includes peer tutors as well as adult volunteer tutors. Teachers are also available each day after school to help students in need of academic assistance.

Summer School

Students who fail a course at the end of a year must retake the failed course(s) in summer school and receive a passing grade (C or better) in order to return to Notre Dame High School the following September.

Standard Curriculum Plan

Grade 9

English 1
Writing Workshop
Algebra 1 or Geometry
Fundamentals of Math or Earth Science
World History/World Religions
Introduction to Computers
Health
Corporate Work Study

Grade 10

English 2/ American Literature
Spanish Native or Spanish Non-Native
Geometry 1 or Algebra 2
Religion/Scripture
United States History 1
Biology
Corporate Work Study

Grade 11

English 3/ World Literature
Spanish 2 Native or Spanish 2 Non Native or AP Spanish Language
Algebra or Pre-Calculus
Religion/ Morality and Sexuality
United States History 2
Chemistry
Corporate Work Study

Grade 12

English 4/ British Literature
College Writing
Spanish 3 Native or Spanish 3 Non-Native or AP Literature
Pre-Calculus or Calculus
Physics or Environmental Science
Religion/Social Justice
Corporate Work Study

Standard Curriculum Plan, Notre Dame High School

Department	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English	English 1: Survey and Writing Workshop	English 2 American Literature	English 3 World Literature	English 4: British Literature and College Writing
Math	Algebra 1 and Fundamentals of Math or Geometry and Earth Science	Geometry or Algebra 2	Algebra 2 or Pre-Calculus	AP Calculus or Pre-Calculus
Religious Studies	World History/ World Religions	Scripture	Morality and Sexuality	Social Justice
Social Studies and Electives	World History/ World Religions	American History, 1	American History, 2	
Modern Language		Spanish 1 Native or Spanish 1 Non Native	Spanish 2 Native or AP Spanish Language Spanish 2 Non Native or AP Spanish Language	AP Spanish Literature or Spanish 3 Native or Spanish 3 Non Native
Science	Earth Science and Introduction to Computer/Health	Biology	Chemistry	Physics or Environmental Science

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CORPORATE WORK STUDY 9-12 (Required for all students each year) 1 Credit (4 credits required for graduation)

The Corporate Work Study Program is an integral part of each student's educational experience at Notre Dame High School throughout all four years. Students gain valuable exposure to a variety of job related environments to learn to work and interact with adults in a professional atmosphere. The CWSP staff does its best to place students in job situations that match their abilities and interests. Student workers are put into job-sharing teams and their academic schedules are modified so that four students job share a full time, entry level job without missing class. Students each work one day per week for four weeks and two days every fifth week. Students must remain in the Corporate Work Study Program in order to attend Notre Dame High School.

GRADE 9 COURSES

English 1: Survey of Literature

1 Credit
CP Credit

This course is a college preparatory course which involves literature appreciation and analysis through the study of the various genres including poetry, short-stories - both fiction and non-fiction - and novels. Students are expected to use active reading techniques and work toward becoming more discerning readers becoming aware of the author's purpose and his/her manipulation of literary devices within each piece. They are required to write analytical compositions as well as imitative pieces of famous works. Vocabulary awareness and development as well as public speaking will be incorporated. Outside reading based on personal choice is required and evaluated throughout the year.

Writing Workshop

1 Credit
CP Credit

This course is intended to develop writing skills enabling students to write well-constructed and grammatically acceptable essays. Using a process approach with emphasis on strategies for revision, students write a variety of genres, including literary analysis, persuasive, and comparison-contrast. Students are guided by the Six Traits of Effective Writing: *Ideas, Organization, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Voice, and Conventions*. Writing is also strengthened through a study of vocabulary, grammar, and independent reading.

Religion 1/World Religions

1 Credit

CP Credit

This course incorporates the study of the major religions of the world in the historical context in which these religions first developed. Students will be introduced to the historical foundations and basic beliefs, rituals and spirituality of Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam. In addition students will study the history of the world from ancient times to the period of the Reformation examining major events and culture of civilizations and how religion and religious beliefs played a role in the growth and development of these societies.

Algebra 1 (Enrollment determined by placement testing)

1 Credit

CP Credit

This course is a rigorous entry level course into the high school math program. This course emphasizes algebraic language, structure, concepts and skills. Major topics include algebraic properties and the real number system, functions and their graphs, linear equations and inequalities, systems of linear equations and inequalities, polynomials and factoring, algebraic fractions and real world applications. This course fulfills one of the four mathematics courses required for graduation.

Fundamental of Mathematics (Required for all Algebra 1 students)

1 Credit

This course is a general math review course for incoming freshmen that initially emphasizes the number sense to work with fractions, decimals and percents. From that point on, the focus is on algebraic reasoning, square roots, exponents, scientific notation and consumer math. Within the new areas of study, we continue to reinforce the basic skills required in higher level mathematics. This course is a second math class for some freshmen as they continue to solidify their math skills.

Geometry (Enrollment determined by entrance testing)

1 credit

CP Credit

Note: Students enrolled in Geometry will also be enrolled in Earth Science.

This course is an introduction to geometric properties such as points, lines, planes, angles, triangles, quadrilaterals, circles, transformations and mathematical reasoning. Students will explore these topics and place emphasis on reasoning and applications. Students are expected to have completed a course in Algebra I or its equivalent.

Earth Science (Required for all ninth grade Geometry students)

1 Credit

CP Credit

This course is designed for students who need to fulfill college requirements for a lab science. The purpose of this course is (1) to introduce students to the specific disciplines of astronomy, meteorology, geology, and oceanography and (2) to prepare college-bound students for the “most common” course which non-science majors choose to fulfill their science requirements in college. Laboratory exercises, projects, lectures, library and research reports are an integral part of this course.

Computer Literacy

.5 Credits (One semester course)

This course gives students the skills they need to work as part of a group and to use computers to create and edit the materials they will encounter in school and on the job. The course covers consistent document formatting in Word and the use of styles and tables. Excel projects show the uses of the program and how to create formulas and format the display of the information in a cell. Students also learn the use of functions and the formatting worksheets for work on screen and to be informative in print. Students work to transfer information between Word and Excel.

Health

.5 credits (One semester course)

This course is intended to give students information that will assist them in making informed decisions by recognizing the consequences of the choices they make. By providing sound and up to date information on a variety of health topics, students will garner the knowledge needed to lead a positive, active, and healthy lifestyle. A wide range of topics will be covered including mental health, communication skills, body image, fitness and exercise, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, drug, alcohol and tobacco education, steroids, nutrition, the endocrine and human reproductive systems, and depression.

GRADE 10

English 2: American Literature

1 Credit

CP / Hon Credit

This course explores and analyzes several American literary works including, but not limited to, The Crucible, To Kill a Mockingbird, and The Color Purple, as well as Puritanism, Transcendentalism, poetry, and other literature from the anthology. Students are expected to discuss and reflect on the way in which history impacts authors and the subjects on which they write. Skill-oriented assignments relate to grammar, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. Skills developed include writing essays of literary interpretation, narrative writing, reading inferentially, and making literary connections to their own lives and the world.

Religion 2: Scripture

1 Credit

CP Credit

This course explores the major themes presented in both the Old and New Testaments. The first semester provides students the opportunity to delve into the major stories of the Old Testament which reveal and establish the basic tenets of Judeo-Christian theology including the Creation Stories, the establishment of the Covenant, the ancestors of faith, the pre-Christian idea of Resurrection, the Psalms, and the importance of Isaiah as both prophet and source for early Christian understandings of the Christ event. The second semester unpacks the Paschal Mystery by examining, as well as comparing and contrasting, the Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, and major themes in the Pauline corpus.

Spanish 1: Native Speakers

1 Credit

CP Credit

The course provides instruction directed at student's continued development of existing competencies in the Spanish language. Students will acquire skills that range from learning grammar and spelling, and developing specialized vocabulary through the study of other disciplines, to interpretation and analysis of different literary genres. Students will also increase their awareness and appreciation of different Hispanic cultures. Students will compare and contrast language functions between Spanish and English and enhance their language skills in both languages. Spanish is used exclusively in the classroom.

Spanish 1: Non-Native Speakers

1 credit

CP Credit

This course is designed to provide a solid introduction to the Spanish language and the Spanish-speaking world. Spanish 1 is a beginner's level course in which the student will develop the following skills: speaking, listening, writing and reading. Particular emphasis will be placed on vocabulary acquisition, comprehension, and pronunciation while grammar plays an important role in the course.

United States History 1

1 Credit

CP / HON Credit

This course will survey the development of the United States from the colonial period to the end of the 19th century. Using both a chronological and thematic approach, students will explore the key developments and documents in the history of the United States. Topics will include the colonial and revolutionary periods, development of the Constitution, westward expansion, slavery and the Civil War, Reconstruction and industrialization. At the completion of this course, students will have a firm background in the early development of the United States.

Geometry

1 Credit

CP Credit

This course is an introduction to geometric properties such as points, lines, planes, angles, triangles, quadrilaterals, circles, transformations and mathematical reasoning. Students will explore these topics and place emphasis on reasoning and applications. Students are expected to have completed a course in Algebra I or its equivalent.

Algebra 2 (Prerequisite of a passing grade in Geometry)

1 Credit

CP Credit

This course complements and expands the content and concepts of Algebra 1. Students who master Algebra 2 will be able to solve problems of increasing level of difficulty. Students' knowledge of number systems will be expanded to include both the real and imaginary number systems. Functions will be explored in depth through evaluation, composition, numerical and graphical representation. Other topics include: matrices, exponents, radicals, and linear and quadratic functions. Students will use the TI-83 or TI-84 calculator for this course.

Algebra 2 Honors (Prerequisite A- in Geometry)

1 Credit

HON Credit

This course complements and expands the content and concepts of Algebra 1. Students who master Algebra 2 will be able to solve problems of increasing level of difficulty. Students' knowledge of number systems will be expanded to include both the real and imaginary number systems. Functions will be explored in depth through evaluation, composition, numerical and graphical representation. Other topics include: matrices, exponents, radicals, and linear and quadratic functions. Students will create a mathematical portfolio that identifies the Algebraic concepts learned in class. Students will use the TI-83 or TI-84 calculator for this course.

Biology

1 Credit

CP Credit

This course, using an inquiry approach of instruction, offers students a thorough knowledge of basic biology concepts. The course encompasses chemical and cellular basis of life, energy transformations, genetics, evolution and biodiversity, and animal systems. In addition, emerging topics in Environmental Science will be explored. Each topic will be supported by appropriate laboratory experiences.

Grade 11

English 3: World Literature

1 Credit

CP/HON Credit

This course is a survey of world literature, with a focus on short stories, the novel, poetry, drama, and non-fiction. Emphasis will be on the development of critical thinking skills and strategies for the purposes of improving reading, speaking, and writing. Writing will be examined for adequate development, unity, and coherence with increased attention to style, dictation, and sentence variety.

Religion 3: Morality and Sexuality

1 Credit

CP Credit

This course has two distinct movements, each of which lasts a semester. During the first semester students get an overview of Catholic Ethics. The primary text for this part of the course is Your Life in Christ: Foundations of Catholic Morality written by Michael Pennock and published by Ave Maria Press. In the second semester students are introduced to Catholic sexual ethics and Catholic social ethics. By learning the core concepts of Catholic ethics and applying them to the issues of sexual and social ethics, students will encounter moral issues on both personal and societal levels.

Spanish 2 Native Speakers

1 Credit

CP Credit

The course provides more advanced instruction directed at students' continued development of existing competencies in the Spanish language. Students will continue to acquire skills that range from learning grammar and spelling, and developing specialized vocabulary through the study of other disciplines, to interpretation and analysis of different literary genres. Students will also expand their awareness and appreciation of different Hispanic cultures. They will compare and contrast language functions between Spanish and English and enhance their language skills in both languages. Spanish is used exclusively in the classroom.

Spanish 2 Non-Native Speakers

1 Credit

CP Credit

This course is designed to provide a solid instruction of the Spanish language. Prior knowledge and successful completion of Spanish 1 is required. The goal of Spanish 2 is to communicate in Spanish and to further develop the four language skills introduced in Spanish 1: speaking, listening, writing and reading. Emphasis will be placed on vocabulary acquisition, pronunciation, and comprehension of the language while grammar plays an important role in the learning process of the language.

AP Spanish Language

1 Credit

AP Credit

This course is intended for students who wish to develop proficiency in all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The main objective of this course is to develop student's three communicative modes (interpersonal, interpretive and presentational). This course is equivalent to a 3rd year college Spanish course and will be conducted entirely in Spanish. Students will be able to understand and interpret conversation in a wide variety of styles and understand the Spanish language in multiple formats. Emphasis will be place on students being able to express themselves in a variety of modalities. Each student is required to take the AP exam in May.

Algebra 2 (Prerequisite of passing grade in Geometry)

1 Credit

CP Credit

This course complements and expands the mathematical content and concepts of Algebra I. Students who master Algebra 2 will be able to solve problems of increasing levels of difficulty. Students' knowledge of number systems will be expanded to include both the real and imaginary number systems. Functions will be explored in depth through evaluation, composition, numerical and graphical representation. Other topics include: matrices, exponents, radicals, and linear and quadratic functions. Students will use the TI-83 or TI-84 calculator for this course.

Pre-Calculus (Prerequisite A- in Algebra 2)

1 Credit

CP/HON Credit

This course is designed for juniors who excel in math and plan to study calculus either in high school or college. The course content includes the study of exponents and logarithms, functions, limits and polar coordinates, circle and triangle trigonometry, sequences and series, and basic theories of probability. Students will be able to solve a variety of equations and apply mathematical concepts and formulas to real life applications (e.g. population growth and compound interest). Students will use the TI-83 or TI-84 calculator for this course.

Chemistry

1 Credit

CP/HON Credit

This course is designed for college preparatory students who wish to obtain a good insight into the fundamentals of chemistry. Chemical mathematics is stressed throughout and augmented by practical applications during laboratory experiments. Students are expected to solve problems by applying algebraic methods and to follow all safety rules and laboratory procedures. Topics in this course are comparable to those in a freshman college chemistry course; starting with a science math review and progressing to atomic chemistry, periodic behavior, nomenclature, ionic and covalent bonding, acids, chemical reactions, moles, stoichiometry, gases and environmental chemistry.

Grade 12

English 4: British Literature

1 Credit

CP/Hon Credit

This course introduces students to British Literature, through a survey of works tracing the evolution of English Language and Literature from the Anglo-Saxon Period to the present. The course will place an emphasis on improving the skills of critical analysis, both oral and written, with particular attention paid to improving the content, form and style of student writing.

College Writing

1 Credit

CP Credit

This course prepares seniors on two fronts: writing improvement and college readiness. Because the class is designed to emulate a college level course as much as possible, students are expected to follow the class's syllabus which contains each day's class work and assignments. Throughout the academic year, students strengthen their writing abilities by practicing various types of writing, learning how to use appropriate evidence to support arguments, bolstering their vocabulary and grammar, and becoming familiar with the Modern Language Association (MLA), American Psychological Association (APA), and the Chicago styles of writing.

Religion 4: Social Justice

1 Credit

CP Credit

This course follows the Christian Morality course taken junior year. The final unit in the Christian Morality course provides an introduction to Catholic Social Teaching. The Social Justice course compliments and extends this unit insofar as it explores the notion of justice, the complexities of writing a universal definition and our responsibility in making justice a reality in our world. The course reinforces the importance of Catholic Social Teaching as a framework for a just society as well as exposing students to other theoretical and philosophical theories of justice. Throughout the course students are challenged to apply the justice theories learned to social justice issues facing their local community, the nation as a whole and the wider global community. By the end of the course students will be able to formulate thoughtful, critical analyses of social justice issues incorporating concern for cultural diversity, religious difference, personal experience, and socio-economic influences.

Spanish 3
1 Credit
CP Credit

This course is designed to assure the student that he/she can read, write, and speak the Spanish language at an intermediate level. The student in this course will acquire a comfortable level of competency in the target language. Prior knowledge and the successful completion of Spanish 2 are required. Emphasis will continue to be placed on developing the four skills: speaking, listening, writing and reading of the language.

Particular emphasis will be placed on conversational ability through vocabulary acquisition and pronunciation of the language. The study of grammar is further advanced and completed, as much emphasis is placed upon the designation of the different verb tenses, so that the student not only feels comfortable dealing with Spanish, but that he/she also knows how it grammatically works.

AP Spanish Literature
1 Credit
AP Credit

This course is designed to prepare the student for the AP Spanish Literature Exam. The course incorporates selected works of prose, poetry, and theater from the Medieval and Golden Age of Spanish Literature through the 20th Century. AP Spanish Literature is the equivalent of a third year college survey course of Spanish literature and serves as an introduction to literary analysis and discussion of Spanish-language literature. Students will learn the terminology and academic language to discuss content, structure, theme, character development, and figurative language. They will also write interpretive and analytical compositions and work to develop their academic writing skills in Spanish. The class is conducted entirely in Spanish. It is expected that the student will take the exam in May.

Pre Calculus
1 Credit
CP Credit

This course is designed for students who will go on to study calculus either in high school or college. The course content includes the study of exponents and logarithms, functions and limits, circle and triangle trigonometry, sequences and series, and basic theories of probability. Students will be able to solve a variety of equations and apply mathematical concepts and formulas to real life applications (e.g. population growth and compound interest). Students will use the TI-83 or TI-84 calculator for this course.

AP Calculus
1 Credit
AP/HON Credit

This course is a rigorous course for outstanding math students who will be prepared for calculus at a college level. The course begins with a review of functions and their properties. Following the review students will investigate limits, techniques for determining derivatives and integrals, and application of derivatives and integrals for problem solving. Students will be required to use a TI-83 graphing calculator in this course. Students taking this course at an Advanced Placement level are required to take the Calculus AB test offered in May.

Physics
1 Credit
CP/HON Credit

This course is designed for college preparatory students who wish to obtain a good insight into the fundamentals of physics. Mathematics is stressed throughout and augmented by practical applications during laboratory experiments. Students are expected to solve complex word problems by applying algebraic methods and to follow all safety rules and laboratory procedures. Topics in this course are comparable to those in a freshman college physics course; starting with kinematics and moving on to forces, energy, work, heat, light, sound and electricity.

Environmental Science
1 Credit
CP Credit

This course is an integrated science where students will study the basic ecological principles that govern the natural world and the many ways in which humans affect the environment. Topics include the following: ecosystems and how they function; finding balance among population, soil, water and agriculture; sustainability and natural resource management. Periodic labs will be performed to reinforce and deepen concept understanding of the above topics.