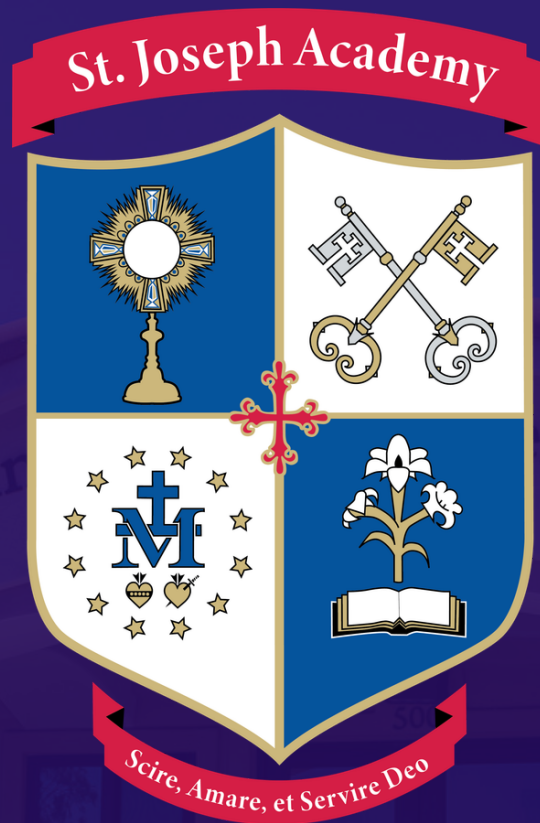


Saint Joseph Academy



2026-2027 High School Course Catalog

Classical • Faithful • Catholic

www.sjaclassical.org

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OUR IDENTITY

Saint Joseph Academy is a Catholic high school faithful to the Magisterium of the Church, committed to classical education, academic excellence, sacred beauty, competitive athletics, and joyful Christian service.

We exist to form Saints.

Everything we do—every class, every practice, every rehearsal, every service project—flows from our conviction that Jesus Christ is Lord, that truth is knowable, that virtue is attainable, and that human flourishing reaches its fulfillment in heaven.

MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Joseph Academy forms students in wisdom and virtue through a classical, faithful, Catholic education so that they may know Christ, love His Church, and joyfully transform the world for His glory.

PHILOSOPHY OF SAINT JOSEPH ACADEMY

St. Joseph Academy is a **classical, faithful, and Catholic school** dedicated to forming the whole person—spiritually, physically, intellectually, and for mission—while preparing students for life and forming them for heaven.

Our mission is evangelization: sharing the kingship of Christ and the good news of the Gospel. With St. Irenaeus, we believe that the glory of God is man fully alive.

We ground decision-making in Christian morality and Catholic anthropology, aspiring for students to encounter and be shaped by the true, the good, and the beautiful. The ends of our educational program are wisdom, virtue, and ultimately growth in union with Christ.

Our four pillars—**classical education, competitive CIF athletics, a Christ-centered culture, and sacred beauty in the arts**—work together to form joyful disciples. We also affirm the human arts of friendship, service, festivity, and joy as essential dimensions of student formation.



CATHOLIC COMMITMENT

Saint Joseph Academy is unequivocally Catholic

We teach in full communion with the teachings of the Catholic Church and in fidelity to the Magisterium. Theology is not an elective at SJA—it is the heart of our curriculum. All subjects are taught in harmony with the Catholic intellectual tradition, affirming the unity of faith and reason.

Students:

- **Encounter Christ** through daily prayer, retreats, and the sacred liturgy
- **Study Sacred Scripture** and the great theologians of the Church
- **Learn moral theology** grounded in truth and charity
- **Engage in Christian service** rooted in love of neighbor
- **Are formed to live courageously** and joyfully as missionary disciples

Not only do we prepare students for college; but we also form them for heaven.

THE CLASSICAL VISION

Saint Joseph Academy embraces the classical tradition of education, rooted in the liberal arts and the pursuit of wisdom.

Education is not primarily about job training or performance on standardized testing metrics. It is about formation—forming minds to think clearly, hearts to love rightly, and souls to seek God.

Our classical approach emphasizes:

- **The Trivium:** Grammar (knowledge), Logic (understanding), and Rhetoric (articulate expression)
- **Great books** of Western civilization
- Primary source texts and Socratic discussion
- The integration of **philosophy and theology**
- **Intellectual discipline** and clarity of thought
- The formation of moral imagination

Students are taught not what to think, but how to think—deeply, logically, and beautifully

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Our college-preparatory curriculum challenges students to pursue mastery across the humanities, mathematics, sciences, philosophy, theology, and the arts. Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses stretch gifted students toward their highest potential.

Excellence at SJA means:

- **Clear thinking and eloquent communication**
- **Mastery of foundational skills**
- **Intellectual perseverance**
- **Love of truth**
- **Integration of knowledge**

We cultivate scholars who read deeply, reason carefully, write persuasively, and speak confidently. Academic excellence is not pursued for prestige, but for formation.

ATHLETICS: DISCIPLINE & GLORY

The Catholic Church teaches that the human body is made in the image of God, which the Catechism explains “it is a human body precisely because it is animated by a spiritual soul” (CCC 364).

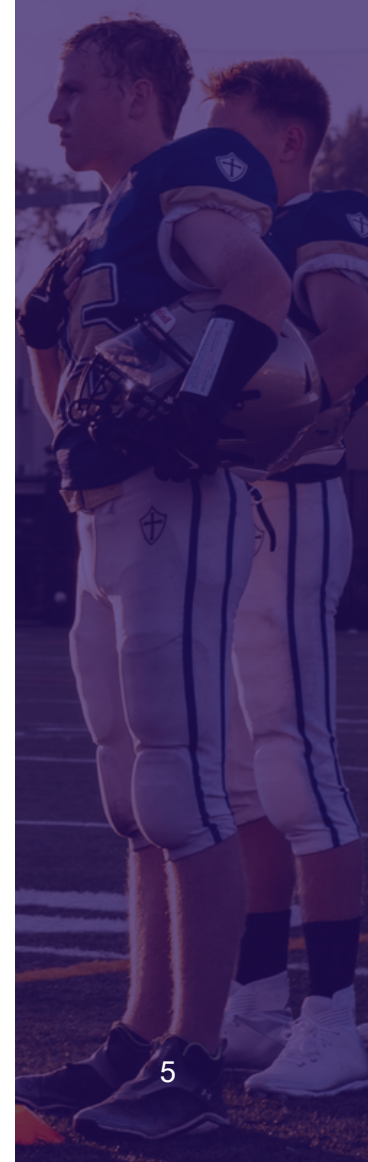
Through competitive CIF athletics, students learn discipline, courage, teamwork, sacrifice, and perseverance, and good sportsmanship.

Athletic formation at SJA builds character and strengthens virtue.

Sports are not extracurricular—they are formative.

Competition teaches:

- **Fortitude under pressure**
- **Respect for authority**
- **Loyalty to teammates**
- **Humility in victory**
- **Resilience in defeat**



BEAUTY & THE ARTS

We aim to build strong bodies in accordance with God's design and purpose.

At Saint Joseph Academy, students learn the true meaning of beauty. The fine arts—**music, drama, dance, visual arts**—play an essential role in forming the soul. Beauty awakens wonder and directs the heart toward God.

Students:

- **Study art history in the context of Christian civilization**
Perform sacred and classical music
- **Stage dramatic works that elevate the imagination**
- **Learn that beauty is objective, not arbitrary**
- **Discover that artistic excellence requires discipline**

We reject the modern reduction of art to self-expression. Instead, we form students to **recognize, create, and love what is truly beautiful.**

JOYFUL SERVICE & MISSION

We cultivate joyful service grounded in love, not obligation. While completing 30 service hours per year, students learn:

- **That leadership is servant-hearted**
- **That greatness is measured by self-gift**
- **That evangelization is lived witness**
- **That joy is the fruit of charity**

We form young adults ready to build strong families, strengthen parishes, and renew culture.

INTEGRAL STUDENT OUTCOMES

In pursuit of our mission of evangelization—sharing the kingship of Christ and the good news of the Gospel—St. Joseph Academy forms the whole person spiritually, physically, intellectually, and for mission. With St. Irenaeus, we hold that the glory of God is man fully alive.

OUR GRADUATES ARE:

#1. Faithful Disciples

Rooted in the sacramental life of the Church and confident in Catholic teaching

#2. Classically Formed Scholars

Grounded in the liberal arts and capable of deep intellectual engagement

#3. Virtuous Leaders

Guided by Christian morality and prepared to transform and advance human culture for Christ

#4. Whole and Joyful Persons

Physically disciplined, emotionally mature, socially confident, and spiritually alive

ADMISSIONS & REGISTRATION

Saint Joseph Academy admits male and female students of any race, color, nationality, and ethnic origin. All admitted students are privy to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies or other school-administered programs.

Saint Joseph Academy reserves the right to select students on the basis of academic performance, religious commitment, lifestyle choices, and personal qualifications, including a willingness to cooperate with SJA administration and policies.

Please see the Admissions page on the Saint Joseph Academy website and/or the Parent-Student Handbook for additional information on admission and registration requirements.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

The academic program at Saint Joseph Academy is college-preparatory. For students looking for the most challenging academic experience, there are several Honors and AP courses offered for those who qualify. Students are accepted based on the expectation that they are capable of meeting the academic rigor of the curriculum which prepares students for a post-secondary education. Therefore, students must maintain a cumulative academic Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 or better.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

Any student who earns a total unweighted GPA below 2.0 (in core, non-elective classes) or a grade of “F” on any quarter or semester grade report shall be placed on academic probation for the following quarter. At mid-quarter, a reassessment will be done to see if the student has improved enough to be removed from probation.

Students on academic probation may participate in extracurricular activities during this quarter but may not play in games or scrimmages. Extracurriculars may also include all sports, high school drama, middle school theatre, high school dances, and other activities. Students should not miss any class time for these extracurriculars. Students on academic probation may not perform in drama productions or dance showcases.

Students who earn a total unweighted GPA greater than 2.0 but less than 2.5 (in core, non-elective classes) on any quarter or semester grade report will also be placed on a modified academic probation. (Usually removal from games and practices for one week at a time until the GPA moves above an unweighted 2.5 GPA in core, non-elective classes.)

In addition, the appropriate faculty (Athletic Director and Dean of Academics) reserves the right to declare any student ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities if he/she is performing below acceptable academic standards for that particular student (regardless of the student’s GPA).

Evidence that a student is performing below acceptable academic standards normally includes, among other things, the student earning two “D” grades and/or an “F” grade on any quarter or semester grade report. Any student who is on academic probation for two consecutive quarters shall be subject to dismissal from the school if he fails to earn a total GPA of at least 2.0 by the end of the second probationary quarter.

ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

According to state CIF rules, students must have a current GPA of 2.0 or better in order to be eligible to participate in any sport. Students on academic probation are ineligible to compete in any extracurricular activities until he/she has been removed from academic probation. The Dean of Academics, Vice-Principal, or Athletics Director can declare a student ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities if it is determined that he/she is performing below acceptable academic or behavior standards, regardless of the student’s total GPA. *For daily participation, unless there are extremely extenuating circumstances, students are ineligible to participate in or attend an athletic contest/practice or any extracurricular activity unless they are in attendance by the beginning of the third hour of the school day on the day of the practice/event. This means, in class for four periods before leaving for a game on Monday through Thursday and three periods on Fridays before leaving for a game.*

INCOMPLETE, UNSATISFACTORY, AND FAILING GRADES

(I, D, AND F GRADES)

“I” (Incomplete) is used when a student has missed work due to an excused absence at the end of the grading period. If the Incomplete grade is not made up within a reasonable time (maximum of 3 weeks, unless there are extenuating circumstances) determined by the administration, the grade will become an “F.”

All classes required for graduation in which a student received an “F” or a “D” for the semester(s) must be repeated in summer school and earn a grade of C- (70%) or better. A student who does not receive a passing grade in a course is required to make up the “F” or “D” as a condition of continuing their studies at Saint Joseph Academy. The President, Vice Principal, or Dean of Academics must approve any summer school class taken to replace a Saint Joseph Academy graduation requirement before the class is taken. Only those approved classes will appear on the Saint Joseph Academy transcript. The original “F” or “D” grade will not be included in the GPA calculation, and the new grade will be used. If the student repeats a course in which he or she initially earned a grade of C- or better, the higher of the two grades will be used.

LITERATURE AND ARTS POLICY

Mission and Philosophy

Our literature and arts curriculum serves the classical Catholic mission of forming students in truth, beauty, and goodness. Through engagement with great works of literature and artistic expression, students develop critical thinking, moral reasoning, and aesthetic appreciation while deepening their understanding of the human condition and their relationship with God.

CURRICULUM STANDARDS

Text Selection Criteria:

- Literary merit and contribution to the Western canon
- Age-appropriate content that supports moral and intellectual development
- Works that exemplify or explore Christian themes and virtues
- Balance of classical texts (Greek, Roman, medieval) with quality modern literature
- Inclusion of Catholic authors and saints’ writings

CONTENT GUIDELINES

- Materials must align with Catholic teaching and school values
- Mature themes addressed within appropriate developmental and moral contexts
- Challenging historical or philosophical content presented with proper theological framework

- Faculty provide advance notice of potentially sensitive material
- Prohibited Materials: Works promoting relativism, immorality, or ideologies contrary to Catholic doctrine (e.g., glorifying violence, sexual content, or anti-life themes without redemptive context). All selections undergo review by faculty and administration to ensure fidelity to the Magisterium.

ARTS INTEGRATION

Visual arts, music, and drama complement literary study by:

- Illustrating the interconnectedness of **truth, beauty, & goodness**
- Providing creative outlets for student expression within Catholic principles
- Supporting comprehension of historical and cultural contexts
- Fostering appreciation for **sacred art and music traditions**
- **Music:** Inclusion of choir with Gregorian Chant, note reading, and sacred music appreciation to foster liturgical traditions
- **Drama:** Elective opportunities to explore theatrical expression of virtues and historical narratives
- **Technology Use:** Limited incorporation of digital tools (e.g., for virtual art appreciation) to enhance understanding, provided they support Catholic values and do not replace hands-on creative expression

COMMUNITY COLLEGE CLASSES

Students may take classes at local community colleges when these classes are not offered at Saint Joseph Academy, through Keystone online school (or another approved online program), or when remediating a grade of “D” or “F” on a semester report card. These classes may not be taken in lieu of a class at Saint Joseph Academy. Any student wishing to take a class at a local community college is required by the college and Saint Joseph Academy to have the signed approval of the Dean of Academics, President, or Vice Principal. As a local high school, Saint Joseph Academy is bound by the Community College not to allow more than 15% of its student body to attend the local Community College during any given semester. Only approved classes will appear on the Saint Joseph Academy Transcript. In order for the course to be included in the Saint Joseph Academy G.P.A., it must have been previously approved by the President or his/her designee.

FRANCISCAN ADVANTAGE (FA)

Juniors and seniors (at least 16 years of age, with a 2.4 GPA) can sign up for certain classes within the FA program, which very nearly mirror classes we are already teaching, take two online tests (December and May), and get college credits on a college transcript as well as grades in the same classes we teach here. There is a maximum of two courses per semester and 29 total credits. Students who complete and pass one course automatically receive a \$2,000 scholarship each year for four years at Franciscan University. There is also automatic acceptance into Franciscan University with a 3.0 GPA in three or more classes. The cost is \$150 per credit. Price may vary.

COURSE PLACEMENT- HONORS AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Course placement is determined by previous academic achievement and the recommendations of the student's previous teachers and/or department chairs. Students taking Honors courses will have 1 point weighted credit in their GPA for every Honors course taken.

Honors Courses:

Honors courses are designed for students who have demonstrated intellectual depth, strong comprehension of academic material, and an ability to exceed classroom expectations. These courses are united by a threefold motivation.

First, they aspire to academically challenge students in order to help students reach their full potential. Students must apply for honors-level courses during the first week of each semester, and certain academic and intellectual thresholds must be met before a student gains admittance: an A- average in the previous course or a B average combined with a teacher recommendation. The courses themselves run parallel to non-honors courses and vary in their additional demands: some courses require engagement with more complex source texts and secondary literature. In others, they move more briskly through concepts or involve self-directed learning.

Second, honors courses create intellectual community as students bond through common interests and shared experiences. Students relish exploring intellectual and cultural monuments with classmates who share their curiosity, aptitude, and desire to learn. And as they build community with peers, students also begin to relate to their scholarly forebears as conversation partners—friends, even.

Finally, our honors courses orient students toward future learning by instilling key intellectual habits that will serve them well throughout life: deep and insightful thinking, productive engagement with complex problems, and clear communication. In a special way, honors courses grow out of the conviction that habits of learning ultimately transcend the classroom and become an integral part of a rewarding life.

Only by preparing students to thrive in their future circumstances and to accomplish their God-given missions can we feel we have accomplished our own mission as educators.

AP and Honors classes have 1 point weighted credit in their GPA for every Honors course taken (for grades A, B, and C). After the first week of a semester, students may only drop an AP/honors course with the approval of the Dean of Academics. Certain honors classes may be dropped at the semester break with approval from the High School Lead and the Dean of Academics.

Advanced Placement Tests:

We offer AP (Advanced Placement) courses: currently Pre-calculus, Calculus AB, Physics 1, Biology, and Cybersecurity. Our Western Civ II course prepares students for the AP test for those that want to take it. If a student wants to take an AP test for a class we do not offer, the teacher and Dean of Academics will help facilitate the process. Tests are scored on a five point scale; most colleges will only grant college credit if a student scores a 3, 4, or 5 on the AP test. Colleges will receive an information sheet from SJA outlining our available courses.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE

Saint Joseph Academy High School uses a weighted grading system. The scale below is used to determine the value of each letter grade. Courses included are on an A-F scale, with pluses and minuses assigned a point value. Grades are weighted according to the level of difficulty of the course.

GRADING SCALE

100-98	A+	89-87	B+	79-77	C+	69-67	D+	59-0	F
97-93	A	86-83	B	76-73	C	66-63	D		
92-90	A-	82-80	B-	72-70	C-	62-60	D-		

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter Grade	Regular Course	Weighted Course (AP or Honors)
A+, A	4.0	5.0
A-	3.7	4.7
B+	3.3	4.3
B	3.0	4.0
B-	2.7	3.7
C+	2.3	3.3
C	2.0	3.0
C-	1.7	2.7
D+	1.3	1.3
D	1.0	1.0
D-	0.7	0.7
F	0	0

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

English (Literature and Writing)	4 Years – 50 credits	Ancient, Medieval and Renaissance Literature, Early Modern Literature, Modern Literature, Rhetoric (1 sem.), Senior Thesis (1 sem.)
History	3 years – 30 credits	Western Civ I, Western Civ II, Ancient/Medieval History, World History, U.S. History, Civics (1 sem.), Economics (1 sem.) , Philosophy
Foreign Language	2 years – 20 credits 3 years recommended	Spanish I, Spanish II (or two years of another foreign language online)
Mathematics	4 years – 40 credits	Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II , Precalculus, Calculus, Personal Finance
Theology	4 years – 40 credits	Intro to Theology, Scriptural Theology, Moral Theology, Spiritual Theology
Science	3 years – 30 credits	Zoology, Biology, Chemistry , AP Biology, Physics, Astronomy, Forensic Science (5 credits)
Fine Arts	1 year or 10 credits	Art History (10 credits per year), Dance (5 per year), Choir (5 per year), Drama (5 per year)
Other	2 year – 20 credits	Drawing and Painting, AP Cybersecurity

GRADUATION POLICY

To receive a diploma from SJA, a student must:

- Earn 240 academic credits;
- Complete 30 Christian Service Hours per year (120 total);
- If inducted into NHS, and additional 10 hours must be completed for each full year enrolled in NHS;
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better;
- Have no “F” or “D” grades on the transcript;
- Remediate all incomplete grades; and
- Resolve any outstanding financial obligations to the school

PREREQUISITES

All prerequisites (conditions that must be met before taking a course) are listed in the course descriptions. Students may not register for courses for which they have not met the prerequisites.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS FOR COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

e.g. UCSD, UCLA, UC Berkeley

A-G REQUIREMENTS: All students are required to satisfy with an A - G overall G. P. A. of 3.00 and a minimum grade of 'C'.

A — HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES: Two years are required to include: one year of U.S. History or one semester of U.S. History and semester of Civics or American government; one year of world history, world cultures, geography, or western civilization.

B — ENGLISH: Four years required, to include frequent and regular writing and reading of classic and modern literature, poetry, and drama.

C — MATHEMATICS: Three years required, four years recommended, to include: elementary algebra, geometry and second year (advanced) algebra.

D — LABORATORY SCIENCE: Two years required, three years recommended, in at least two of these three areas: biology, chemistry, and physics. Laboratory courses in earth/space sciences are acceptable if they have as prerequisites or provide basic knowledge in biology, chemistry, or physics. Not more than one year of grade 9 laboratory science can be used to meet the requirement.

E — LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH: Two years required, three years recommended

F—FINEARTS: One year of visual & performing arts required.

G — College Preparatory Electives: One year in addition to those required in A - E above, chosen from the following areas: visual and performing arts, certain religion classes, history, social science, Fundamentals of Speech, English, advanced mathematics, laboratory science and languages other than English (a third year in the language used for the E requirement or two years of another language).

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

e.g. San Diego State, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, CSU San Marcos

Required Courses: Same as University of California minimum course requirements. Science must include Biology and may include Physical Science.

PRIVATE COLLEGES

e.g. University of San Diego, Stanford, Notre Dame

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEES MAKE THEIR DECISIONS ON A VARIETY OF FACTORS:

1. Subject requirements are often similar to CSU requirements.
2. Highly favored is the applicant who has a talent or a demonstrated ability in some area (athletics, leadership, music, etc.) and/or involvement in constructive school/community projects.
3. The most highly selective colleges look for students who have excelled in academics (most rigorous courses), extra-curricular areas, and leadership.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

e.g. Mira Costa, Palomar

Responsibility: A high school diploma (or its equivalent) or being 18 years of age or older. No tests are required for admission, but placement tests are required for some subjects.

NCAA REQUIREMENTS

NCAA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS for Division I entering freshmen athletes will need to present sixteen core courses in the following:

- Four years of English
- Three years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher)
- Two years of natural/physical science (one lab science a must)
- One year of additional English, math, or science
- Two years of social studies
- Four years, additional approved core courses from any listed

Students must complete 10 of the 16 core courses, including seven in English, Math, or Natural/Physical Science, before the start of their seventh semester.

Once students begin their seventh semester, they may not repeat or replace any of those 10 courses to improve their core - course G. P. A.

Students must also take either the SAT or the ACT college entrance tests and report their scores (9999) to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

See the NCAA Eligibility Center websites for more information:

www.ncaa.org

www.web3.ncaa.org/eewr3/



ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES

THEOLOGY

Theology comes from two Greek words meaning “God” (*theos*) and “word” (*logos*) and refers most properly to practical and theoretical inquiry into God and His self-revelation through Jesus Christ. The Theology program at Saint Joseph Academy seeks to give students a well-rounded exposure to what the Church and her greatest theologians teach while also providing students the training to go beyond mere catechesis and engage in theological speculation for themselves. In this context, “speculation” does not refer to baseless conjecture, but to *thought for the sake of truth*. Theological speculation—the speculative study of theology—is not directed toward practice or action, but to *knowledge of God in himself*. For Catholics, this is the reason we exist: *to know, love, and serve God*. Speculative theological knowledge begets love, and service erupts out of a loving heart. Therefore, studying theology for its own sake is the first and foremost priority in the curricular choices of Saint Joseph Academy.

Intro to Theology (Foundations)

This course will introduce students to the science of theology, namely a reasoned exploration of the mysteries that God has revealed to us and that we hold by faith. After introducing students to what theology is—its methods, its sources, and what it studies—students will explore in detail the major mysteries of the Faith, with a focus on their interconnectedness and how they illuminate the meaning of the Faith as a whole. This is the discipline generally called “Systematic Theology.” The course will focus on the writings and methods of the Church’s greatest theologian, St. Thomas Aquinas, as contained in his masterwork, the *Summa Theologiae*. ***Honors optional.***

Scriptural Theology (Biblical)

This course will study the Holy Bible as a collection of divinely inspired scriptures. It will focus in particular on the “big picture” narrative of the Bible, and thus will devote itself to examining those books of the Bible that contain the main story of salvation history, especially those that recount the six covenants that God formed with his people. Another major aspect of our study will be biblical typology, or the ways in which the persons and events of the New Testament, especially Christ and our Redemption, are foreshadowed in the Old Testament. ***Honors optional.***

Moral Theology

St. Augustine wrote, “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee.” This course takes as its starting point the divinely revealed truth that we are made by God, for God, and destined for unity with God in heaven. It follows that Jesus became man not to give us a set of rules to impede our freedom, but to show us the way to true freedom, which is achieved only through a close, personal relationship with the one who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. The first semester focuses on universal human questions: What is happiness? What is truth? What is the life of virtue and why we should strive to live it? In the second semester, the course shifts to integrate the Church’s reasoning on various special topics such as abortion, homosexuality, contraception, in-vitro fertilization, and St. John Paul II’s Theology of the Body. ***Honors optional.***

Spiritual Theology

As the capstone of our Theology program, this course invites students to move beyond the classroom and into a deeper, living relationship with God through reading spiritual classics such as Augustine's *Confessions* and St. Francis de Sales' *Introduction to the Devout Life*. Often referred to in Catholic tradition as the "interior life," this journey is about more than just facts; it is about "divinization"—the process of being transformed by God's grace through study, prayer and relationship with Him. Students will explore time-honored paths to holiness and practice proven methods of prayer, such as St. Ignatius of Loyola's *Spiritual Exercises*. The goal is for every student to realize that union with God is not a distant concept, but a personal reality. ***Honors optional***

LITERATURE & COMPOSITION

The Literature and Composition courses focus heavily on the **reading and discussion of classical texts**. The selection of texts and teachers' guidance in discussions highlights literary, historical, and philosophical insights from the particular epoch being studied. Included in the texts are philosophical works by Plato, Aristotle, and others whose philosophical concepts were integrated into Christendom by thinkers such as Augustine and Aquinas.

Ancient Literature

This course exposes students to the enduring literary works of Ancient Greece and Rome. Students engage with these works and their perennial themes through careful reading, robust discussion, and articulate writing. Students will use the Classical process of Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric to explore the thought and creative ambition of these ancient Greek and Roman authors. Faced with questions about why we should read stories about a bygone time or how these stories could possibly relate to modern life, students come to see that the True, the Good, and the Beautiful transcend passing concerns and opinions precisely because these timeless, supernatural values are written on our hearts by God. ***Honors optional.***

Medieval & Renaissance Literature

Proceeding into the literature of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, this course brings students into close contact with more of the greatest literature ever produced, now with a distinctly Christian cast of mind. As with the literature of ancient Greece and Rome, the literary masterworks of Christendom present students with visions of a social and spiritual order largely vanished from modern awareness, yet bearing on that modern awareness, once they are discovered, with curious intensity. ***Honors optional.***

Early Modern Literature

From its earliest phases, the modern era brings dramatic growth and varied expression in its signature literary form: the novel. Employing the lenses of lyric poetry and drama alongside the lens of the novel, this course considers the positive shifts resulting from Europe's increasing appreciation of individual dignity and the complexity of interior life—without a doubt two of the great fruits of Christian anthropology. At the same time, such an appreciation of individual interiority and freedom invites great authors to issue increasingly bold challenges to received values, previous modes of communication, and longstanding social orders. ***Honors optional.***

Modern Literature

This course offers seniors an opportunity to contemplate the continuing arc of modernity as it finds literary expression in America, Europe, and elsewhere. The freedom claimed and celebrated in earlier periods now presses on authors as a thrilling adventure—or as a burden that demands a reckoning in its own right. Increasing chaos and uncertainty in the world also demand a response from artists: the wisest among them return to the existential questions that have always driven great art, and the most honest among them shudder before the magnitude of their task. **Honors optional.**

Rhetoric

As Quintilian says, the ideal rhetor is *bonus dicendi peritus*, “a good [person] speaking well.” In order to guide students toward this ideal, this one-semester course introduces students to the art of rhetoric both in great speeches and in great writing. Aristotle’s Rhetoric provides a scaffold for the course with its exploration of the three rhetorical appeals: ethos, pathos, logos. Students, meanwhile, examine and practice the five canons of rhetoric: invention, organization, style, memory and delivery. The course concludes with a study of the three genres of rhetoric and an accompanying presentation.

Senior Thesis

This one-semester course—which has long been a rite of passage at SJA—provides students with an opportunity to apply the principles of grammar, logic, and rhetoric to a particular area of research. Students are expected to develop a cogent argument that addresses a topic of public concern, interacts with scholarly sources, and urges a course of action. Students pay additional attention to how their topics fit within the Catholic worldview, demonstrating the wisdom of the faith and impacting human flourishing. At the end of the course, students present their argument orally before their peers and a panel of three respondents. **Honors optional.**

MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics Department is dedicated to the Catholic tradition of educational excellence in the pursuit of the intellectual, spiritual, and moral formation of each student. The programs we offer challenge students at their particular level of ability in mathematics in preparation for college and life. Each program is designed to develop logical reasoning skills used throughout life, regardless of profession. Finally, the ultimate goal of our program is to teach each student to think, to understand, and to be able to communicate and utilize mathematical ideas.

Students may move ahead in Math to their competency (per successful completion of prerequisite course(s) or by passing the appropriate math placement examination).

Algebra 1

This study of introductory algebra equips students with knowledge of the real number system, basic symbol language, techniques of problem solving, rational and irrational expressions, polynomials, factoring, inequalities, functions, absolute value, linear and quadratic equations, systems of linear equations, and graphing lines and parabolas. **Honors optional.**

Geometry

This geometry course takes a comprehensive look at geometric concepts. These concepts include parallel and perpendicular lines, the coordinate plane, triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, trigonometry, congruence and similarity, area, perimeter, surface area, volume and transformations. Solving proofs also develops students' skills in logical and deductive reasoning, which are foundational for higher mathematics and applicable to many real-world situations.

Honors optional

Algebra 2

This course in advanced algebra gives students an opportunity to study number systems, exponents and radicals, polynomials, factoring, rational and irrational expressions, inequalities, complex numbers, and systems of equations. A review of elementary algebra is incorporated as new material is introduced, and the course concludes with an introduction to trigonometry.

Honors optional

AP Pre-Calculus

This one-year course explores mathematical concepts that will be needed by students wishing to pursue calculus and other advanced math courses. The primary methods of this exploration will be in-depth studies of functions and their graphs, polynomial and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometry, systems of equations, matrices, sequences and series, and analytic geometry. **This is an AP level course that requires successful completion of three years of high school mathematics.**

AP Calculus AB

AP Calculus AB is designed to be the equivalent of a first-semester college calculus course. Students cultivate their understanding of differential and integral calculus by engaging with real-world problems represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. Using definitions and theorems to build arguments and justify conclusions, they explore concepts like change, limits, and the analysis of functions. **This is an AP level course that requires successful completion of four years of high school mathematics.**

Finance

In this course, students will be introduced to the basics of personal finance and learn how to apply this knowledge to their own life using the best practices in money management.

SCIENCE

The Science Department of Saint Joseph Academy offers a sequence of classical science courses to help prepare every student for college and life. The four core laboratory science courses offered at SJA, which comprise the classical college preparatory sequence, include high school Zoology, Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. In the science department, students are encouraged to explore their natural curiosity and wonder to find logic and patterns in nature, thus building critical thinking and problem-solving skills that will serve them throughout life. Labs are offered for a hands-on approach to learning. Creation and Evolution are taught according to the directives of the Catholic Church. God, as Creator, is always given precedence. Every course in the natural sciences emphasizes a healthy relationship between science and theology. The relationship between science and theology, like the relationship between faith and reason, is one of complimentary, not conflict.

Zoology

This survey course examines the vast diversity of animal life, vertebrate and invertebrate, as well as the evolutionary and ecological principles underlying that diversity. Hands-on lab work, including dissections of invertebrates and vertebrates, complements in-class discussion. Semester-long projects include an insect collection project and a local field guide. ***Honors optional.***

Biology

This course in general biology studies biological systems and processes, from the macro-scales of ecology, biospheres, populations, and evolution, to the micro and molecular levels of cell division, cellular replication, transcription, translation, gene expression, host/pathogen interactions, organelles, genetic material, mitosis, and meiosis. The course also introduces students to different classifications in biology as well as to human physiology and anatomy. ***Honors optional.***

AP Biology

This AP Biology course is designed to offer students a solid curriculum in introductory college-level biology, and the course focuses on enduring conceptual understandings and the biological content that supports them. Science practices are employed to help students utilize inquiry-based learning that maximizes depth of learning. The AP course is structured around four big ideas, enduring understandings within the big ideas, and essential knowledge within the enduring understandings. Students are given opportunities to develop skills utilized by biologists as they employ the science practices throughout the course. This course has high expectations, a fast pace, and will require a lot of work on your part outside of class.

Chemistry

This introductory chemistry course studies basic laws of chemistry and the properties of elements. Hands-on lab work complements in-class discussion of atomic theory, chemical reactions, solutions, chemical equations, and some coverage of organic and basic biochemistry. ***Honors optional.***

Physics

At an introductory algebra-based level, this course studies certain quantifiable and predictable aspects of the material world, including motion, force, energy, momentum, oscillation, and rotation. Students learn to understand the patterns that govern the world of matter and energy that surrounds them and to apply mathematical skills to make predictions about physical phenomena.

Honors optional.

Astronomy

This course gives students an appreciation of the order of creation and the complexity of the cosmos. Topics of interest include the different kinds of celestial objects, from star groups to comets to black holes, along with their characteristics and life cycles. The origin, development, and future of the universe also receive consideration, as well as the question of whether other planets and life forms exist.

HISTORY

The primary goal of our history department is to hand on the intellectual tradition of western civilization. It is this intellectual tradition from which and within which the Catholic faith has developed and has been passed on for two millenia.

Western Civ I (Ancient and Medieval History)

This course explores the political, economic, religious, social, intellectual, and artistic trends that shaped Western Civilization from the Paleolithic Age to the Late Middle Ages. Emphasis is placed on Greeks and Romans and the major historical periods and turning points, analyzing primary and secondary sources to evaluate cause-and-effect relationships. **Honors optional.**

Western Civ II (World History)

World History explores the political, economic, religious, social, intellectual, and artistic trends that shaped Western Civilization from the Renaissance to the Industrial Revolution. Students communicate historical understanding through writing and discussion, making a point of connecting past events to current issues. **Honors optional.**

United States History

This course surveys the history of the United States and North America from colonial to modern times. By participating in seminars and producing written analyses and research papers, students learn to critically analyze and evaluate the major events and movements that have influenced the development of the United States. Special attention is paid to the key figures and historical documents (e.g., the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and the articles of secession of the various southern states) that have shaped our nation. **Honors optional.**

Economics/Civics

The first semester of this course considers the structure of the American economy and how our national economy relates to other economies and market forces in the world. The second semester shifts to examine the ways in which the American government is organized, as well as its functions, its procedures, and the ways in which it is controlled by its citizens. Students come to recognize that a fundamental characteristic of both the American economy and the American system of government is dynamic change—growth, adaptation, and innovation.

FINE ARTS

The intention of our art class is to provide a meaningful experience and breadth of knowledge of the historical and cultural content as well as the authentic value of the arts. The Fine Arts focus primarily on beauty. They are not merely the venue of arbitrary self expression. They are uniquely human (i.e., rational and social) way of expressing and enjoying goodness and truth. The fine arts produce (and train the student to appreciate) that which is truly beautiful. Beauty is that which causes pleasure upon being seen. The definition of beauty may sound subjective, but the idea that beauty would be subjective is a common misconception in contemporary society. Fine Arts at Saint Joseph Academy seeks to disavow the student of this misconception and train his taste of experience please at those sites which are truly noble and admirable, rather than those that are based or degrading. The production and appreciation of beauty is the true end of the Fine Arts. However, the ability to produce and achieve true beauty is one that must be trained and habituated towards. Since Fine Arts has a focus on training the student to produce and appreciate beautiful things, the ultimate end of this discipline is God himself, who is by divine nature beauty itself.

Art History

In the words of St. John Paul II, this course will be “rooted in the very essence of both religious experience and artistic creativity.” More specifically, this chronological survey teaches students to create, examine, analyze, and interpret works of art in order to develop their own understanding and appreciation of the true, the good, and the beautiful. ***Honors optional.***

ELECTIVES

Choir (Fine Arts credits)

Music is a great gift. It expresses our human dignity, and, done well, creates an experience that leads us towards God. Choir students improve their voices using traditional vocal techniques and also prepare and perform music for our all-school Masses and other community events. Students learn valuable skills in breathing, voice control, tuning, blending, sight reading, and ear training.

Dance (Fine Arts credits)

Dance is a practical, necessary, and worthwhile skill that leads to confidence, well-being, and improved relationality and happiness. In this course, students learn the basics of different types of social dancing with the intention of sharing with an audience the joyful gratitude for life that dance expresses. Students of all levels are welcome, and there is a backstage manager option for those who do not desire to perform. Honors optional. ***Honors optional.***

Drama (Fine Arts credits)

In Drama, students work to stage two productions a year, either plays or musicals, with one production occurring each semester. As far as possible, shows are chosen to align with the values and curriculum of St. Joseph Academy; our ambition is for our performances (and the labors behind them) not only to entertain our audiences, but to help them become saints. Past productions including: *Pride and Prejudice*, *Les Miserables*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Music Man*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Pygmalion*, and *Henry V*.

Yearbook

This class provides an introduction to graphic design, digital photography, copywriting, editing, and marketing. Students will apply these skills in the production of the school yearbook. In the process of producing the yearbook from the ground up they will also enjoy a variety of related in-class projects.

ASB

The purpose of the Associated Student Body (ASB) is threefold. First, ASB instills in students a high standard of leadership and discipline. Second, it fosters cooperation between the SJA administration, staff and student body. Third, its members cooperate to organize and execute all student activities and fundraisers, and to inspire fellowship and loyalty in the SJA High School students.

Campus Ministry

The Campus Ministry elective, which is open to students who are preparing to receive or have already received their Sacrament of Confirmation (sophomores, juniors, and seniors, most often), is composed of four pillars: interior life, leadership, service, and evangelization. Through engagement with the four pillars, Campus Ministry aims to provide students with the skills they need not only to minister to schoolmates on campus, but also to build Christ's kingdom in the larger community.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE PHILOSOPHY

Our program combines rigorous linguistic training with an immersion into the Catholic heritage of the Hispanic world. Beyond mastering grammar and vocabulary, students at Saint Joseph Academy learn to see the face of Christ in every culture. By developing the ability to communicate across borders, students are equipped to promote the Gospel values of justice and peace, turning a practical skill into a lifelong vocation of Christian service and understanding.

Spanish I

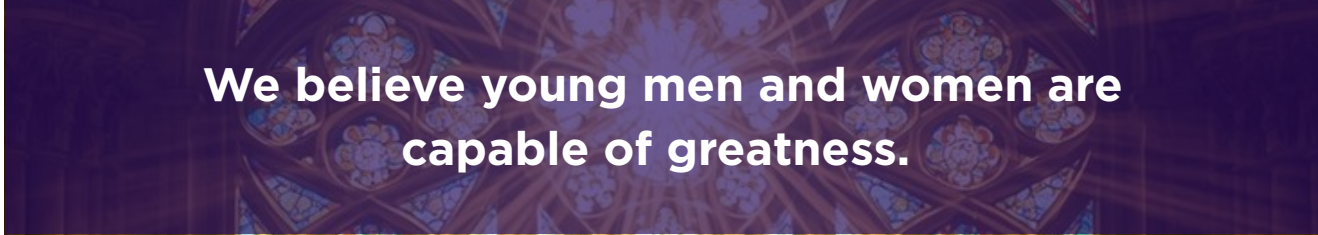
This course provides the grammar and vocabulary fundamentals of Spanish and prepares students to communicate at a beginner's level. The textbook fuses underlying linguistic principles, which it calls the "Five C's" (Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, Communities), with features and activities that build students' speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. As a result, right from the start students begin acquiring the tools to express themselves in Spanish.

Spanish II

Building from Spanish I, this course provides more advanced grammar and vocabulary to students working toward fluency in Spanish. As in Spanish I, the selected textbook blends the underlying principles of the "Five C's" (Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, Communities) with features and strategies tailored specifically to build students' speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. As a result, Spanish II students are increasingly able to articulate complex thoughts, interact meaningfully with others, and become highly competent Spanish-language communicators. ***Honors optional.***

A FINAL WORD

Saint Joseph Academy is not merely an academic institution. It is a community of formation.



We believe young men and women are capable of greatness.

We believe virtue is possible.



We believe beauty matters.

We believe Christ is King.



And we believe education should form students who are fully alive—in this world and the next.