



MERCY HIGH SCHOOL

COURSE CATALOG
2012-2013

GRADE 10-12



**COURSE CATALOG - GRADES 10-12
2012-13
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Mercy High School was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1945 and is sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, West-Midwest Community.

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL admits female students of any race, national or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded to students. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin or sex in the administration of its hiring and personnel policies in compliance with the terms of Title IX of the Education Act of 1972, Public Law 92-318 (as amended by Public Law 93-568).

COURSE PLANNING GUIDE

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Mercy High School is a college preparatory school and thus strongly suggests that students plan their course of studies carefully. A total of **24 credits** and 8 semesters of full enrollment (**6** classes per semester) are required for graduation. One semester course earns .5 credit.

These 24 credits include:

- 4 credits English
- 3 credits Social Studies include:
 - Two semesters of World History
 - One semester of American Government
 - Two semesters of American History
 - One semester of Economics
- 4 credits Mathematics include:
 - Two semesters of Algebra I
 - Two semesters of Geometry
 - Two semesters of Algebra II
 - Two semesters of Additional Math or Math-Related Elective (one semester senior year)
- 3 credits Laboratory Science include:
 - Two semesters of Biology
 - Two semesters of Chemistry or Physics
- 2 credits of one World Language
- 3.5 credits Religious Studies
- 1 credit Visual, Performing and Applied Arts
- .5 credit Design Foundations (Beginning Class of 2016)
- .5 credit Speech
- .5 credit Physical Education/Swim
- .5 credit Health
- 1.5 credits Electives

****All students must complete a minimum of 40 service hours (see student handbook)

***Note: a single course may not be used to fulfill a dual credit

*****Class of 2013 – Please pay special attention to the following information: Seniors gain the privilege of released time. They do not gain a guarantee as to when their unscheduled time will occur. Their course requests are the priority. REQUESTS BY STUDENTS OR PARENTS FOR AN UNSCHEDULED SEVENTH HOUR WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. We cannot accommodate the time requests from seniors for after school job responsibilities, sibling care or assistance needed at a family business. Please make arrangements that allow for a 2:35 pm dismissal.**

Grade Point Average:

Grade Point Average (GPA) is used for college transcripts, scholarship recommendations, etc. GPA is computed each semester and is based on all grades earned. Mercy High School does not rank students.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

The Advanced Placement [AP] program includes college-level courses and exams given to secondary students as an opportunity to gain advanced placement and/or credit in college. More than 90 percent of the colleges attended by advanced placement candidates grant credit and/or placement to students whose exam grades are considered acceptable. Advanced Placement courses are special college-level learning experiences that most often take a full academic year. These courses explore subjects in greater depth, and compared to other high school courses, are more challenging and stimulating.

At present, Mercy High School offers full year Advanced Placement courses in **American History** and **European History, American Government and Politics, Calculus, Biology, Chemistry** and **Physics**.

Past students have successfully completed Advanced Placement tests in the following subject areas: **Studio Art, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, English Literature and Composition, Economics, French Language, European History, American History, Calculus, and Spanish Language**. All AP exams (except Studio Art) contain both multiple choice and free-response questions that require essay writing, problem solving, and other skills. Most of the examinations are three hours long. They are given every year during two weeks in May. The fee for each exam in May 2011 was \$86.

COURSE FEES

A number of courses have associated course fees. These fees generally cover the cost of materials / supplies used in class (Art classes), are in place of a text (Art classes, Actor's Workshop).

The following fees are applied to the course specified:

Course	Fee	Course	Fee
Design Foundations	\$75	Ceramics 1	\$75
Graphic Design	\$25	Ceramics 2	\$75
Jewelry 1	\$75	Portfolio Preparation	\$110
Jewelry 2	\$75	Physical Education/Swim	\$45-\$75
Sculpture	\$75	Nutrition and Exercise	\$25
Drawing 1	\$75	Lifetime Fitness	\$25
Drawing 2	\$75	Swim	\$20-\$50
Painting 1	\$110	Fitness Swim	\$20-\$50
Painting 2	\$110	Lifeguard Training	\$80-85
Fibers	\$75	Actor's Workshop	\$25

FINE ARTS REQUIREMENT

Each student is required to take two semesters in any of the fine or performing arts areas sometime during her four years at Mercy. All Art and Performing Arts classes fulfill the Fine Arts requirement. Yearbook Production and Advanced Journalism (Newsprint) will also fulfill the Fine Arts Requirement.

HONORS / ADVANCED PLACEMENT REGISTRATION

In selecting an Honors or Advanced Placement course, 10th, 11th and 12th graders and parents will make a minimum commitment for one full semester. Completion of a signed agreement, which specifies such a commitment, will be necessary to finalize the registration process. This agreement will be part of the course verification materials that are mailed home after registration is completed in school. Any request to drop the course or transfer to another course will not be considered until the end of the first semester. These courses are, by design, more rigorous. The learning will be challenging and stimulating and likely move at a faster pace than the average class. As such, when students register for these courses and we provide the staffing, ever mindful of class size and teacher load, the student cannot make a different choice after the fact. Such requests negatively impact class size and staffing decisions already made.

SERVICE REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION

A Mercy Community Action Program (MCAP) service obligation is required of all students who graduate from Mercy High School. Forty hours of community volunteer service is required of all students sometime during their attendance. Community volunteer service must be outside of Mercy through an agency, church, community center, hospital or other organization. Students are supervised and work is evaluated. It is preferable that the service experience be continuous with one agency on a regular basis for a given period of time (i.e. semester, year). Components of the MCAP program include the following: the service experience and regular reflection with the MCAP Coordinator regarding selection of service, performance, progress, learning self-evaluation, completion of service and a final written evaluation/summary of the experience. Students meet with the MCAP Coordinator on a regular basis during their unscheduled time to complete these components.

Students register for MCAP by contacting the MCAP Coordinator and completing an initial application indicating the type of service in which they want to become involved. Students are encouraged to make their own arrangements for service opportunities with the assistance of their parents, through their youth groups, churches and other connections. If students need further assistance in finding a service opportunity guidance will be given by the MCAP Coordinator. The service requirement may be accomplished during the summer months. Students who wish to do this should see the MCAP Coordinator before the end of school in the spring. Seniors involved in MCAP must have all components of the program completed by Easter break of senior year.

TECHNICAL CENTER - LIVONIA

Courses at the Livonia Career Technical Center are open to Juniors and Seniors. **There is no Livonia residency requirement; Mercy students, however, must provide their own transportation both to and from the center.** There is no additional cost for participation in this curriculum. There are both one and two year programs. Counselors will help the students make decisions regarding course selections at the center as well as scheduling their course selections at Mercy. Students still satisfy the graduation requirements from Mercy without difficulty.

Parents and prospective students are encouraged to call and/or visit the Livonia Career Technical Center (734 744-2816) to investigate any program of interest. Further information and descriptive brochures are available in Mercy's counseling office. There may be a limited number of openings for Mercy students in particular programs. Courses offered include: Visual Communications, Website Design & Administration, CISCO Systems, Network Administration/Computer Technician, Architectural Technology, Engineering Technology (CAD), Criminal Justice, Health Occupations, Medical Assistant, Sports Medicine, Fashion Merchandising, Cosmetology (meets off site from center), Culinary Arts (meets at Franklin High School, Livonia).

TECHNICAL CENTER - OAKLAND

The Technical Center Program is open to Juniors and Seniors who live in Oakland County. There is no additional cost for participation in this curriculum. There are one and two year programs. We recommend that one year courses be taken in the Senior year so that skills learned can lead to employment after high school.

Students receive three credits per year for this Technical Program. They leave Harrison High School at 7:30am each morning on a Farmington school bus. They are returned to our school about 11:15am. This means that students can enroll in 3 or 4 classes at Mercy in the afternoon. Their program will be individually scheduled. There is no problem completing required course work for graduation from Mercy High School.

Counselors will help students make these decisions. Parents and prospective students are encouraged to visit the Oakland Technical Center to investigate any program of interest. A student makes a commitment for the entire year. Further information and descriptive brochures are available in the counseling office. There are only a limited number of openings for Mercy students.

Seventeen different programs are offered at the Technical Center. The following courses may be of interest:

Auto Body Repair; Automotive Technology; Automated Office; Computer Aided Design - Architectural; Computer Aided Design - Engineering; Computer Information Systems; Cosmetology; Dental Assisting; Desktop Publishing; Electronics Technology; Floral Design & Sales; Greenhouse Management & Landscaping; Heavy Equipment & Truck Technology; Machine Technology; Medical Assisting; Visual Merchandising; Welding & Fabricating.

ART

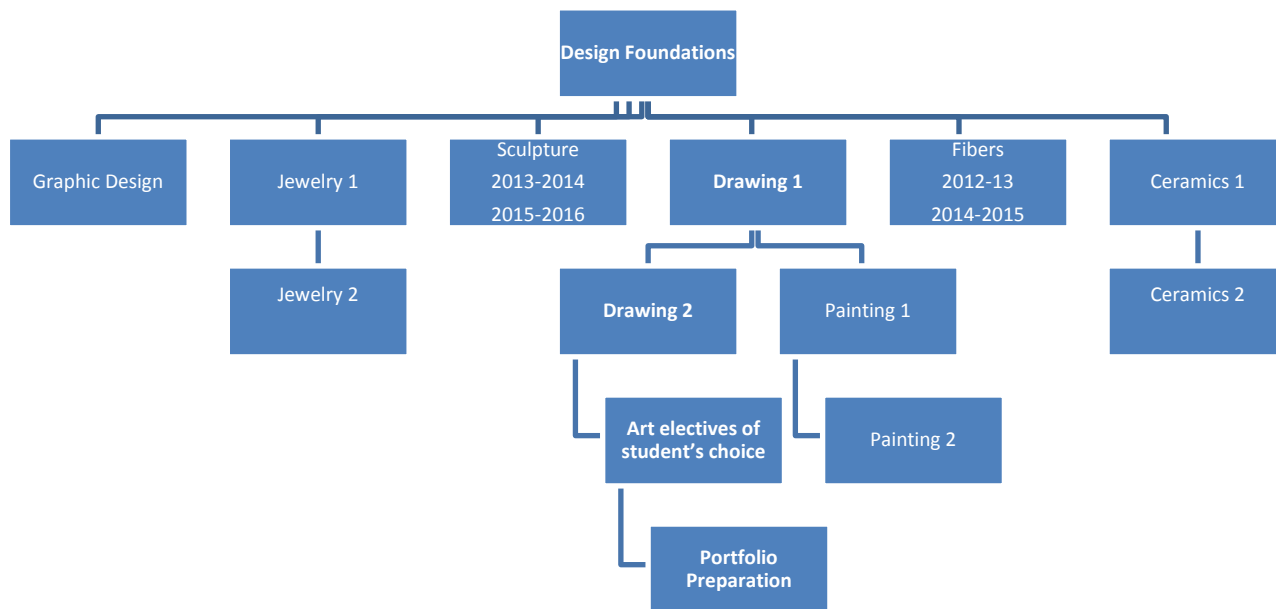
While the art curriculum provides a four-year program designed for the college-bound art major, it also remains flexible to meet the elective needs of all students. The chart below illustrates the course offerings. Design Foundations is the pre-requisite for the six classes in the second row – Graphic Design, Jewelry 1, Sculpture, Drawing 1, Fibers and Ceramics 1. The bold boxes show the track for students who may be considering art as a major in college. **Students who have a serious interest in art should plan take two semesters of art (Design Foundations plus another) in the ninth grade to allow for time for the sequential classes necessary to take the senior level Portfolio Preparation class. Serious students should also take a minimum of six semesters of art. Eight semesters are recommended for the college-bound art major.** Design Foundation is a 9th grade requirement. Portfolio Preparation is open to seniors only. All other classes are open to 9-12th grades. All classes are semester classes except Portfolio Preparation. Most classes are offered yearly. Sculpture and Fibers are offered every other year.

Classes focus on studio art production. Lessons in art history, art criticism, aesthetics, art careers, studio etiquette and technology are also integrated.

Note: Prerequisites are required for all classes except Design Foundations.

Art Department Course Fees

In lieu of using a textbook, art students use a variety of supplies and materials as they participate in the artistic process. For the convenience of parents, all supplies are purchased in bulk by the art instructors and are distributed in class. Parents are asked to reimburse the art department by paying a course fee which is assessed with tuition. The art department has acquired purchasing power through many years of negotiating with a variety of vendors. Discounts are reflected in the course fees. With the fee, students obtain a variety of supplies. Some are lasting tools such as pencils, paintbrushes and portfolios which the students own and take with them beyond the class. Some supplies are shared class supplies such as large bottles of paint or boxes of clay. In the case of shared supplies, students are charged for the average portion used per student. The supplies provided vary depending on the media emphasized in each class. For example, course fees in Jewelry pay for sterling silver while course fees in Graphic Design pay for specialty papers and ink. Students receive detailed information regarding supplies from the art instructor upon beginning the course. If a student must drop an art course, she will be charged a portion of the course fee for materials. No refund of any portion of course fees will be made after the withdrawal deadline.



719 – Design Foundations

Design Foundations offers all students an opportunity to discover their own creativity while acquiring knowledge and skill in both traditional fine art and computer art techniques. Students will learn the basic elements of art (color, texture, form, value, line, shape, space) and the principles of design (balance, contrast, emphasis, unity, pattern, rhythm and movement). The Design Foundations requirement acknowledges that we live in a visual world and the ability to communicate effectively in visual mediums is increasingly important. Instruction in these early skills becomes the basis of the

student's technology integration experience in high school. It also serves as a prerequisite for other art department courses. Students complete assignments in the areas of photography, video, animation, web page creation, drawing, painting and sculpture. (one semester)

Course fee: To be determined

703 - Graphic Design

Graphic Design students problem solve in the field of visual communication while creating pieces such as posters, brochures, banners, invitations, stationery, flyers and advertisements. Typography, logo design, illustration and corporate identity are topics that students explore. Students will also explore the basics of digital photography and video. This course utilizes Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign and Premiere Pro. (one semester)

Prerequisite: Design or Art Foundations.

Course fee: \$50

705 – Jewelry 1

Jewelry is an introduction to three-dimensional design and metalworking techniques. Techniques include piercing, sawing, silver soldering and riveting. Possible pieces include rings, pendants and bracelets. (one semester)

Prerequisite: Design or Art Foundations.

Course fee: \$75

707 – Jewelry 2

Students in Jewelry 2 use basic techniques in new ways and explore advanced jewelry-making and metalworking techniques such as lost wax casting, forging, doming and hinge construction. The students further develop their design skills and work towards a more individualized and expressive direction in their jewelry-making. Pieces may include rings, necklaces, boxes and book covers. (one semester)

Prerequisites: Design or Art Foundations and Jewelry 1

Course fee: \$75

709 – Sculpture

Students in Sculpture learn basic techniques to create both relief sculptures and sculptures in the round. The study of form, value and space will be emphasized as students use materials as varied as clay, plaster, foam board and paper. The practice of mold making is also covered. **This class is offered in one section every other school year. It will be offered in 2013-2014 and 2015-2016.** (one semester)

Prerequisite: Design or Art Foundations

Course fee: \$75

711 – Drawing 1

Students in Drawing acquire knowledge and perceptual skills to draw objects realistically. They learn to transfer three-dimensional objects to a two-dimensional picture plane. This course is modeled after the book, Drawing from the Right Side of the Brain by Betty Edwards. Basic concepts of drawing such as line, negative space, proportion, perspective and value are covered. A variety of subjects are drawn in pencil including interiors, portraits and still-life. (one semester)

Prerequisite: Design or Art Foundations

Course fee: \$75

713 – Drawing 2

In Drawing 2, students study the human skeletal structure to draw portraits and the human figure in proportion. Students build upon the basic skills acquired in Design Foundations and Drawing 1. Materials include pencil, charcoal, ink and pastel. This course is of great value to any student who may consider a major in art. (one semester)

Prerequisites: Design or Art Foundations and Drawing 1

Course fee: \$75

715 – Painting 1

Students in Painting 1 further their knowledge and skill in art through various painting techniques. Students continue to build upon the skills acquired in Design Foundations, Drawing 1. Subject matter includes still-life, people and landscapes. Materials include acrylic and watercolor paint. (one semester)

Prerequisites: Design or Art Foundations and Drawing 1

Course fee: \$110

717 – Painting 2

Students in Painting 2 further their knowledge and skill in art through the principles of design (balance, unity, contrast, pattern, emphasis, movement, rhythm). Students continue to build upon the skills acquired in Design Foundations, Drawing 1, and Painting 1. Subject matter includes still-life, architecture, landscape and figure. Materials include oil and watercolor paint. (one semester)

Prerequisites: Design or Art Foundations, Drawing 1 and Painting 1

Course fee: \$110

721 – Fibers

Fibers class is an introduction to three-dimensional design as it relates to fabrics. Possibilities for both functional and non-functional pieces are explored. Fabric dyeing, weaving, felting and beading are some of the techniques covered. **This class is offered in one section every other school year. It will be offered in 2012-2013 and 2014-2015.** (one semester)

Prerequisite: Design or Art Foundations

Course fee: \$75

723 – Ceramics 1

Students learn basic hand forming techniques and may have the option of throwing on the wheel. Emphasis is placed on design principles as well as on technical skills. Possibilities for both functional and non-functional pieces are explored by working with pinch, coil, slab and a combination of these methods. Students are exposed to both contemporary and historical ceramics. (one semester)

Prerequisite: Design or Art Foundations

Course fee: \$75

725 – Ceramics 2

Studio work in Advanced Ceramics focuses on improving technique and skill level. Projects include using the potter's wheel and may also include press molds, slabs, and coils to further students' knowledge of the ceramic medium. Advanced students may learn how to load and fire kilns and are expected to recycle clay. Projects incorporate both functional and sculptural clay work. (one semester)

Prerequisite: Design or Art Foundations and Ceramics 1

Course fee: \$75

730 – Portfolio Preparation

Students in this advanced class are expected to apply learning from the previous art classes to solve challenging design problems in the fine arts. Emphasis will be placed on completion of a portfolio acceptable for college admission. **Enrollment in Portfolio Preparation entails the following. Students register for two semester classes total. Students will be enrolled in Portfolio Preparation for the fall semester and a companion class of their choice from the following list of art electives: Ceramics 1 or 2, Jewelry 1 or 2, Painting 1 or 2, Fibers, Sculpture, Graphic Design.**

Prerequisite: Design or Art Foundations, Drawing 1, Drawing 2, at least one other art elective and department approval.

Course fee: \$110

COMPUTER/BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY

Responsive to the demands of today's high tech society, the course offerings in this area are preparation for today's computer oriented world.

381 - Accounting 1

This is an essential elective for students planning to major in Business in college! Accounting 1 is an introduction to the fundamental accounting concepts (debits, credits, journals, ledgers, worksheets, reconciling a bank statement. etc) using manual and computerized records for recording data. This course also includes managing credit and career exploration. No prerequisite (one semester) This course will fulfill a senior math requirement.

383 - Accounting 2

Accounting 2 introduces the use of combination journals, end-of-period adjustments, payroll, taxes, and the procedure for handling depreciation, bad debts, accruals, and deferrals using manual and computerized accounting for recording data.

(one semester) This course will fulfill a senior math requirement.

Prerequisite: Accounting 1

385- Entrepreneurship, Marketing, and Media (Essentials of Owning Your Own Business)

Anyone who dreams of owning her own business should take this class! In this course, students choose their own business and create a comprehensive business plan along with marketing and advertising materials to promote their business. Students draw on a variety of business and technology skills including presentation and communication skills, desktop publishing, graphic design, word processing, spreadsheets, internet research, web design, planning and decision making, as well as business ethics and values. Students will learn how to start and run their own business and culminate with their own professional business plan.
(one semester)

391 - Life Skills and Personal Finance

This course includes essential skills for all young adults. Learn important independent living skills including all aspects of banking, managing and maintaining good credit, taxes, insurance, budgeting, and money management. Also explore the cost of a car, an apartment, and other items needed for daily living. Learn to create a resume and business letter as well as important interview skills. Also complete a college and career project. Along with the financial and business aspects of life, learn car maintenance, simple sewing skills, and women's self-defense. This course is a must for all young ladies getting ready to leave high school and enter the world of college and employment! (one semester) This course will fulfill a senior math requirement.

ENGLISH

102 – Studies in British Literature

In this full year sophomore English program, students will explore various forms of British literature including poetry, short stories, an intensive study of a Shakespearean play and several long narrative works from the medieval to the modern period. A variety of writing experiences will provide the opportunity of continuing the development of composition skills with a focus on the literary essay. The second of these major essays will involve research, either on the historical or biographical element associated with one of the literary works. (year)

In addition to the required sophomore English program, sophomores may participate in the Journalism or Yearbook Design program but only if recommended by their 9th grade English teacher. **Yearbook Production and Advanced Journalism (Newsprint) will also fulfill the Fine Arts Requirement.**

Junior-Senior Electives

A student designs her choice of literature, writing and publications experiences in the Junior-Senior Elective program. These one-semester courses extend the learning experiences of the previous years. It is recommended that a student plan her choices in order to experience a wide range of literature during the four semesters. **An English course is required each semester.**

Creative Writing

111 - Poetry Writing

This is a presentation of the structure and unique possibilities of poetry as an art form. Aside from studying tested methods of writing from well-known authors, students' own creativity and clarity of expression will be encouraged. Efforts will be made to publish student work throughout this course. Required: A previous English teacher recommendation (one semester)

Literature Courses

All literature courses require written work such as take-home essay exams, in-class essay exams, and creative writing assignments. In addition, the multi-paragraph literary essay will be a requirement in all elective literature courses.

American Literature

20th Century American Literature
American Authors: Colonial Period to Jazz Age
Literature of the American South (2013-14)
Race Relations in American Literature (2012-13)

World Literature

Literature to Film
Myth, Tale and Legend
Shakespeare
Studies in Short Fiction
Women and Literature
World Cultures in Literature

Because of the heavy work load in junior-senior literature courses, the English Department strongly discourages students from taking two junior-senior literature courses in the same semester.

133 - Women and Literature

This semester elective will explore a variety of literary genres written by and about women. Feminine perspectives on issues particular to women, specifically difficulties in establishing their own identities apart from men, their relationships with each other and their relationships with men will be studied. The course will attempt to investigate and celebrate the literary and artistic merits of women writers as they continue to develop and define their own voice, style and niche in a literary world still dominated by male writers. Course work will include opportunities for formal writing assignments, creative writing, journal writing, impromptu writing and research projects. (one semester)

135 - Shakespeare

Students sample the comedies, histories, tragedies, romances and sonnets of an author whose impact on the English language is equaled only by the King James' translation of the Bible. Shakespeare's plays are brought to life through readings, audio recordings, films, and live productions (when available). The course's goal is to give the student an appreciation for Shakespeare's immense contribution to our theatrical and literary culture. (one semester)

137 – Major American Authors: Colonial Period to the Jazz Age

Major American Authors presents a survey of significant writers of the past. The primary focus on works from the 19th and early 20th centuries will include the study of novels, short stories, poetry as well as possible non-fiction. Students will consider the contributions of these early writers to the American experience of both the past and present. Works by some of the following may be included: Hawthorne, Melville, Cather, Twain, Poe, Dickinson, Hurston, Steinbeck, Faulkner and Fitzgerald. (one semester)

139 - Studies in Short Fiction

Studies in Short Fiction will explore the art of the short story—both the little gems that can stand on their own and those masterwork collections by a single author (in which each story thematically enhances the others). Students should expect to read a story per class, on average, as they look at writers of note such as Sherwood Anderson, Eudora Welty, Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor, Gloria Naylor, Henry James, Richard Wright, and others. (one semester)

141 - Literature to Film

Students will read and analyze major works of literature and then view and analyze the films based on those literary works. Through discussion and composition, students will demonstrate an understanding of the challenges involved in successfully translating literature into cinema. (one semester)

143 - Myth Tale and Legend

Myth Tale and Legend will acquaint the student with traditional forms of folk literature. Aside from reading some classical literature from various world cultures, students will read a sampling of formal written literature (novels, short stories, scripts, poetry) which depends on characters, symbols and motifs from specific myths, tales and legends. Writing activities will be diversified, including some formal expository writing (critical papers, literary papers, impromptu writing) as well as some creative writing (i.e. writing a myth). The object of the course is to not only expose students to more classical literature but to show the relationship of it to modern written expression and to get them to draw some of their own conclusions about those relationships. (one semester)

147 - Race Relations in American Literature (2012-13)

Race Relations will use literature to explore the ongoing dilemma faced by each American generation--the relationship between two races whose histories, for better and for worse, have twined together since 1619. How both these races have conducted themselves during the long period of contact and conflict with the tribes native to this land also will be covered. The historical underpinnings of the literary study will derive from Joel Williamson's The Crucible of Race and George Fredrickson's White Supremacy. **This class is offered every other year.** (one semester)

149 - Literature of the American South (2013-14)

Literature of the American South offers an introduction to the life and culture of the American South - that region once known as the Old Confederacy. Even today, people there share a host of different values and traditions, beliefs and rituals. Sentiments about history and family and religion, caste and class, sex and race and the land will provide a focus for study of some distinguished Southern literature. **This class is offered every other year.** (one semester)

151- World Cultures in Literature

Certain experiences have emerged across world literature: generational conflicts, socio-political adversity, the personal fight for one's dignity, the struggle of the individual against society, coming of age, the question of war, and difficulties in maintaining human relationships. In this course students learn about various world cultures through literature in order to discuss and write about experiences that are woven into the fabric of a common humanity. Course selections will include literature from such cultures as East Indian, Japanese, Greek, Hungarian, Canadian, and Russian. (one semester)

153- 20th Century American Literature

America's history is a unique experiment. Its literature expresses hope, ideals, conflicts, and contradictions. In this course students will consider vital issues woven into the fabric of American life in the second half of the twentieth century: civil rights and women's rights movements and the backlash against these; ideals and realities in war zones; diversity and disenfranchisement, the work ethic and the success myth, rural life and urban life, the Lost Generation and the Greatest Generation, to name a few. We will survey works by poets, novelists, essayists, playwrights, and short fiction writers. (one semester)

Journalism

Yearbook Production and Advanced Journalism (Newsprint) will also fulfill the Fine Arts Requirement.

191 - Journalism

Students learn by doing. From the beginning, students choose topics, arrange and conduct interviews, and write full-length articles: sports, features, news and opinion. Students examine articles from previous issues of *Newsprint* and discuss the ethics of journalism as well as the quirks and mechanics of journalistic style. They are introduced to desktop publishing. Students are accepted into Journalism in sophomore year only, and only with recommendation of their freshman English teacher. Journalism will prepare students for work on the "Newsprint." (one semester) **The best qualified students from this class will be invited to the Advanced Journalism class for Newsprint.**

193/7 -Advanced Journalism -- Students in Advanced Journalism must apply for this course and are chosen based on their performance in Journalism. After learning and demonstrating a thorough understanding of the principles and ethics involved in writing journalistically, students put these skills to work in a real world environment by creating and producing *Newsprint*, Mercy High School's student newspaper, and newsprintnow.net, the online news web site for this publication. Staff members of *Newsprint* are responsible for: generating story ideas; reporting, writing, interviewing, and editing a variety of articles, columns and editorials; submitting publication-quality photography and video to accompany stories; and designing creative pages that appeal to readers. (year)

Prerequisite: Journalism

195 - Yearbook Design

Yearbook Design prepares the student for producing the yearbook by studying skills required to create artistic yearbook pages. The student will learn the basic techniques of lay-out and design, copy writing, photography and theme presentation, as well as the responsibilities of various staff positions. Students are accepted into Yearbook Design in sophomore year only, and only with recommendation of their freshman English teacher. Upon completion of the class, the student may staff the school's yearbook, *Lore*. (one semester) **The best qualified students from this class will be invited to the Yearbook Production class for Lore.**

187/9 - Yearbook Production

Students who are invited to this course will be responsible for all aspects of the school's yearbook, *Lore*. They make a commitment to meet deadlines and sell advertising to finance the book. (year)

Prerequisite: Yearbook Design

MATHEMATICS

HONORS / ADVANCED PLACEMENT REGISTRATION

In selecting an Honors or Advanced Placement course, 10th, 11th and 12th graders and parents will make a minimum commitment for one full semester. Completion of a signed agreement, which specifies such a commitment, will be necessary to finalize the registration process. This agreement will be part of the registration verification materials mailed home. Any request to drop the course or transfer to another course will not be considered until the end of the first semester. These courses are, by design, more rigorous. The learning will be challenging and stimulating and likely move at a faster pace than the average class. As such, when students register for these courses and we provide the staffing, ever mindful of class size and teacher load, the student cannot make a different choice after the fact. Such requests negatively impact class size and staffing decisions already made.

The Mathematics Department offers a variety of course selections to accommodate the various interests and needs of the students. Four years of math are required for all students.

Suggested sequences are shown below. Crossing from one sequence to another is certainly possible and the recommendations for each course are given with its description. In order for a student to perform her best, placement in the course that corresponds to her present ability is very important. The Math Department assists students in their placement.

NOTE: Students may elect to take more than one course per semester. ELECTIVES ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL STUDENTS WHO MEET COURSE PREREQUISITES.

CORE COURSES

Regular Sequences			Honors Sequences	
Concepts of Algebra I	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra I H	Geometry H
Applied Geometry	Geometry	Algebra II	Geometry H	Algebra II Trig H
Concepts of Algebra II	Algebra II	Analysis w/Trig	Algebra II Trig H	Pre-Calculus H
Senior Math	Analysis w/Trig	Pre-Calculus H	Pre-Calculus H	AP Calculus H

Elective Courses (semester)

Probability and Statistics
Trig with Applications

Core Classes : (year classes)

321/3- Applied Geometry

This course is designed for the student who has had difficulty with Math in the past. It focuses on the key topics that provide a strong foundation in the essentials of Geometry. Emphasis is placed on understanding and applying the fundamentals of Euclidean Geometry. Students will gain an understanding of segments, angles, lines, polygons, circles, trigonometry, deductive proofs and geometric constructions in a clear, straightforward manner. Special emphasis will be placed on practicing algebraic skills.

313/5 - Geometry

Euclidean Geometry includes the concepts of angle relationships, parallel lines, planes, congruence, similarity and circles. This course is designed to give the student a better understanding of a mathematical system, to improve spatial visualization, to strengthen logical reasoning skills and to apply algebraic concepts. Formal mathematical proof is stressed.

Recommended: Algebra I

317/9 - Geometry Honors

Enriched Euclidean Geometry includes all the topics of Geometry in greater detail and at a faster pace. It is recommended for the student with outstanding background in and strong motivation for mathematics.

Recommended: B average in Algebra I Honors

320/1 - Concepts of Algebra II

This class is designed to help students who need extra guidance with Algebra II concepts. The classes are designed to be small with more individual attention given to the student. Concepts of Algebra II are for those students that have had difficulty with math in the past. Topics include the properties of real numbers, factoring, complex numbers, linear and quadratic equations, polynomial functions, conic sections, and sequences and series.

325/7 - Algebra II

Topics include the properties of real numbers and applications of linear and quadratic equations, polynomial functions, factoring, complex numbers, conic sections, sequences and series.

Recommended: C average in Algebra I and Geometry

329/31- Algebra II - Trigonometry Honors

Topics include all those of Algebra II as well as exponential functions, logarithms, trigonometric functions and identities, circular functions and their graphs.

Recommended: B average in Geometry Honors

333/5 - Analysis w/ Trigonometry

Emphasis is placed on the theory and application of the mathematics using an analytical approach. Topics for this class include: relations and functions, exponential functions, logarithms, trigonometric and circular functions and their applications. Elementary calculus topics – vectors, derivatives and limits are introduced.

Recommended: B average in Algebra II

341/3 - Pre-Calculus Honors

Preparation for calculus is the purpose of this class. Theory, critical and analytical thinking are emphasized. The concept of functions is central to the course. The following topics are emphasized: algebra of functions, curve sketching and elementary calculus: limits, continuity and the derivative. Also included are topics such as conic sections, circular functions and trigonometry. Students coming into this course should have a background with trigonometric functions.

Recommended: B average in Algebra II/Trig Hon

345/7 - AP Calculus

Topics for this college level course include the following: limits, derivatives of algebraic functions and applications, integration and applications, plane analytic geometry, transcendental functions and applications of the integral. This class is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement exam in May that is required of students electing this course.

Recommended: B average in Pre-Calculus (Honors)

Math Elective Classes (One semester)

353 - Probability and Statistics

Students will learn to analyze data using frequency distributions, measures of center, z-scores, scatter plots, stem-and-leaf, box plots, correlation and regression. In addition, students will study probability including addition and multiplication rules and binomial probability distribution. The class will enhance instructions through the use of graphing calculators and Excel spreadsheets. A calculator of the TI-83 family is required.

355 - Trigonometry with Applications

This is a semester class focusing on trigonometric functions, radian measure, the unit circle, sum and difference identities, graphs, and complex numbers with practical applications. The class will enhance instructions through the use of graphing calculators. The class is designed to be an application based, college preparatory course for non-science and non-engineering students. A calculator of the TI-83, TI-84 family is required.

MEDIA CENTER

911 – Student Library Aide

Earn $\frac{1}{4}$ credit (3 days/cycle) or $\frac{1}{2}$ credit (6 days/cycle) per semester (CR/NCR). Learn library organization and operation, Dewey Classification, OPAC Catalog and Mercy's library collection. Duties require aide to process new books/magazines, shelve materials, reconcile returns and assist students with computer problems. Student aides provide general assistance for library staff.

PERFORMING ARTS

The Performing Arts Department offers a broad scope of musical and theater experiences.

MUSIC: For any student who is interested in music, Choral and/or Orchestra classes may be taken one or both semesters each year up to a maximum of 8 semester, all four years.

741 – Glee

Glee is a non-audition music class **open to all grade levels** as a basic choral class. Students will learn the basic elements of good vocal production, sight reading and rhythm and music theory and are exposed to many styles of music for listening and appreciation. Students will study a wide variety of music literature and will have the opportunity to perform often throughout the school year. Individual students may enter the Solo and Ensemble Festival. Emphasis is on performance and presentation. Attendance is mandatory at all performances including, Pizza, Jams and Jeans, Choral Festival, and the Christmas/Spring Concerts. This course may be elected for two semesters.

743 – Advanced Glee

This class is an intermediate level choral class that addresses the technical needs of the changing voice as well as more advanced literature for the purpose of performing. Listening and analyzing skills are strengthened through in-class and out-of-class activities. Music theory, sight reading and rhythm are explored in more depth. This choir attends the District Choral Festival in the spring and individual students may enter the Solo and Ensemble Festival. Emphasis is on performance and presentation. Attendance is mandatory at all performances including Pizza, Jams and Jeans, Choral Festival, and the Christmas/Spring Concerts. This course may be elected for two semesters.

Pre-requisite: Glee or permission of the music director.

749 - Mercyaires Honor Choir

This honors choir will audition in mid-February for the following year and is open to tenth, eleventh and twelfth graders. Students perform advanced literature of many styles and countries and build on sight-reading skills. This choir attends the District Choral Festival in the spring and individual students may enter the Solo and Ensemble Festival in the winter. Emphasis is on performance and presentation. Attendance is mandatory at all performances, including Pizza, Jams and Jeans, Choral Festival and the Christmas and Spring Concerts. This group tours locally and serves as ambassadors for Mercy High School ** **Note: Students must register for both fall and spring semesters and attend a week long camp in mid-August. This ensemble group has a participation fee of \$200 which covers all costs.**

Orchestra

The Mercy Instrumental music program is open to string and wind (woodwind and brass) players demonstrating at least an intermediate level of ability. Students should have a minimum of two years of playing experience and be able to read music. Private lessons are strongly recommended. The orchestra classes perform at all major concerts as well as their own chamber recitals. Students learn a variety of music and gain instruction in theory and history. Orchestra students are encouraged to participate in the Michigan Solo and Ensemble Festival. Attendance is mandatory at the Christmas and Spring Concerts. Students may elect this course for two semesters each year.

753 – Orchestra – Strings

757 – Orchestra – Wind (woodwind and brass)

THEATER: The theater program begins with Speech, a one-semester course required of all freshmen, as the building block of presentation and performance. Students may then elect to take any of the other offerings in the program. The three acting classes are sequential and should be taken in order. After Acting II, students may audition to participate in the Mercy Mimes, a troupe that performs for school activities and community events. The department also presents a fall play and a spring musical. Students, electing Oral Interpretation, may compete in the Detroit Catholic Forensic League tournaments. For eligible students, the department sponsors Troupe 5693 of the International Thespian Society.

THEATER COURSES

Freshmen	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors
<u>Requirement:</u> Speech	<u>Electives:</u> Semester I: Acting I Oral Interpretation	<u>Electives:</u> Semester I: Acting I Acting II Broadcasting Oral Interpretation Theater Production	<u>Electives:</u> Semester I: Acting I Acting II Broadcasting Oral Interpretation Theater Production
<u>Electives:</u> Semester I: Acting I Semester II: Acting I	Semester II: Acting I Acting II	Semester II: Acting I Acting II Broadcasting Actors Workshop Directing (2013-14)	Semester II: Acting I Acting II Actors Workshop Broadcasting Directing (2013-14)

763 - Speech

Speech, required of all ninth graders, enables the students to gain confidence and to recognize the importance of speech in daily life. Through a variety of assignments, the students develop vocal and physical qualities necessary in public speaking. The students learn to choose appealing topics, ranging from informative to persuasive, to outline these speeches for greater effectiveness, and to deliver them to an audience. The class will also focus on camera work and a Keynote presentation. (one semester)

765 - Theater Production

Theater Production introduces students to various technical aspects of the production of a play. Areas of study include the fundamentals of acting and the technical elements of scenery, lighting and sound. The course also focuses on make-up and costume design. The final project in the class is a student prompt book, integrating the material learned. (one semester)

Prerequisite: Acting I

769 - Broadcasting

Broadcasting introduces the elements of broadcasting found in the radio and television studios. The first quarter looks at the responsibilities of a radio broadcaster. Areas of study include equipment operation and presentation of a disc jockey program. The second quarter focuses on the different aspects of television production, beginning with a study of equipment and camera operations and continuing with computer video editing. The class culminates with the production of a short video. (one semester)

Prerequisite: junior/senior status with preference given to seniors

771 - Oral Interpretation

Oral Interpretation introduces the student to the dramatic interpretation of literature. Students learn how to select material in order to prepare a manuscript for presentation. Emphasis is placed on training the student to read aloud with bodily actions and vocal expression. The areas of study include humorous and serious readings, poetry, dramatic interpretation, dramatic duo interpretation, and storytelling. The class will also focus on the public speaking events of Oratorical Declamation, Original Oratory and Extemporaneous Speaking. Students electing this course may compete in the Detroit Catholic Forensic League. (one semester)

773 - Acting I

Acting introduces students to the basic skills of performing. Besides studying stage terminology, the students develop their powers of observation and imagination to create different characters and emotions. The students work with their peers to present assignments for analysis. (one semester)

775 - Acting II

Acting skills are developed further through the performances of mime, improvisations and monologues. Concentration on character motivation is stressed. The student's monologue is used as an audition piece to cast roles in one-act plays that are presented at An Evening of Acting in early January and late May. The second quarter of the class is spent in rehearsal for this project. (one semester)

Prerequisites: Acting I

777 - Directing (2013-14)

Directing examines the director's role in the theater and then delves into the total production process of a play. Students will learn about royalties, ordering scripts, auditioning and casting, planning a rehearsal schedule, blocking and designing materials for publicity. The students will select a one-act play and plan all aspects of the production which include rendering a set design, blocking a prompt book, casting and directing a scene for presentation and analysis. **This class is offered every other year.** (one semester)

Prerequisites: Acting II

779 - Actor's Workshop (2012-13)

Actor's Workshop gives students practical experience in the areas of acting, directing, make-up, and costuming as they participate in a Children's Company that visits elementary schools in the area.

This class is offered every other year. (one semester)

Prerequisites: Acting I, Acting II and junior or senior status.

Course Fee: \$25.00 for costume rental and script.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education has a unique, but not exclusive role in the education of individuals. This role is two-fold: to enhance an individual's physical fitness and well-being and to teach her a wide variety of motor skills. Through its activities and experiences, Physical Education contributes to the shared goals of education -- self-direction, self-esteem and cooperative behavior. Physical Education should also be enjoyable.

CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

One semester of Health plus one semester of Physical Education/Swim or one semester of Health plus one semester of Swim and one semester of Physical Education

Grade 10	Gym (select one)	Swim (select one)
Health	Nutrition and Exercise	
(required)	Lifetime Fitness	Lifeguard Training
	One Semester ->One quarter PE	/One Quarter Swim

All students (grades 9-12) participating in Gym or Swim classes must have a current physical and proof of insurance form on file. Due to the fact that health problems may suddenly develop in any person, we feel that this is necessary. Gym uniforms must be purchased through the department. Swimsuits, caps, and goggles may be purchased through the department or brought from home, per department approval. Physicals and insurance forms must be on file by the end of the first week of school and uniforms must be obtained by the end of the first week of the semester in which the class meets.

881 - Health (Required of all tenth graders)

The Health Class uses a holistic approach to discussing the important issues of today's teenagers. The class is designed to increase the students' awareness and knowledge of today's most critical health issues for teenagers. Good health does not just happen. One must know and understand the issues and how one can best apply the resources to a lifestyle. There is a need to know what one can do to promote one's own good health and to prevent illness and disease, now and in the years to come. (one semester)

897 – Swim/Physical Ed: The swimming portion of this class is structured for those who have little or no experience with water through those who want to improve their basic knowledge of the strokes. This class would suit those whose interests include learning the basic strokes of freestyle and backstroke as well as diving and some water fitness. The physical education portion of this class is structured for students who desire to participate in fitness and conditioning on a regular basis. This class will focus on a variety of aerobic activities as well as strength training and games. The class will prepare and encourage students to include fitness as a part of their daily lives.

Course Fee: \$45-70 (swim suit, cap, goggles, gym shorts, top and lock)

899 – Advanced Swim/Weight Training: The swimming portion of this class is structured for those who have significant experience in the water. Students taking this class should be proficient in freestyle and backstroke, be able to swim eight (8) lengths of the pool (200 yards) without stopping or resting and be able to tread water for 3 minutes without stopping or resting. The first day of the course, students will be asked to demonstrate the above tasks to ensure their safety while taking this course.

This course will be endurance swimming based, and students will learn all four of the basic strokes. They will also become proficient in both diving and flip turns. Students will learn in- water exercise that promotes life-long activity.

The weight training portion is designed to allow students to develop an individualized weight training program to best suit their needs, goals and body types. The focus will be on total body conditioning while gaining knowledge of the muscular system.

Course Fee: \$45-70 (swim suit, cap, goggles, gym shorts, top and lock)

Phys. Ed. offers two class options that would fulfill the gym requirement.

883 – Nutrition and Exercise

Nutrition and Exercise is a course that offers a practical approach for understanding the inter-relationship between nutrition and exercise. The class provides students with the knowledge and insight needed for developing healthy fitness programs that will meet personal goals. The course provides an opportunity for students not only to design a personal fitness program, but also to put the program into practice. In addition, students will monitor personal nutrition choices. (one semester) **Course fee: \$25 (uniform and lock)**

887 - Lifetime Fitness

The Lifetime Fitness class is structured for those students who desire to participate in fitness and conditioning activities on a regular basis. The class will focus on aerobic activities and games along with a regular weight training program. This class will prepare and encourage students to develop a personal fitness program that can become part of their lifestyle. (one semester)

Course Fee: \$25 (uniform and lock)

Lifeguarding will fulfill the swimming requirement.

895 - Lifeguard Training

The Lifeguard Training class is for those students who have an advanced knowledge of the strokes as well as a fair amount of swimming endurance ability. The class would lead to certification after successful testing in American Red Cross Lifeguard Training, with First Aid and CPR certification.

The requirement to take this class is a minimum age of 15 and the following Red Cross test:

- 1) Swim 300 yards continuously using these strokes in the following order (No time limit)
 - 100 freestyle using rhythmic breathing and a stabilizing kick . Rhythmic breathing can be to the front or the side
 - 100 yards breaststroke using a kick, pull, glide sequence
 - 100 yards of either freestyle or breaststroke

- 2.) Starting in the water, swim 20 yards using freestyle, surface dive 7-10 feet retrieve a 10 lb brick, return to the surface and swim 20 yards on back to the starting point with the object on chest, above water, and then exit the pool in 1:40 seconds (one semester)

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

Course Fee: Approximately \$80-85 (swimsuit, cap, lock and textbook)

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The Religious Studies Department offers ten semester courses that address the interests and backgrounds of a diverse student population. These courses provide the opportunity for a solid foundation in Catholic Christianity. Students are also exposed to the contributions of the other Christian churches and to other religious traditions.

The program in Religious Studies begins with Introductory Theology, the required ninth grade semester course. In Sophomore year students study Christian moral teaching and are introduced to Scripture. Later, students choose a theology course and three other electives to complete the seven-semester graduation requirement. A variety of electives introduce students to aspects of Christian and Catholic practices and beliefs

An underlying goal of the entire program is to strengthen and deepen the spirituality, the religious commitment and the faith life of every student. The roles and contributions of women will be highlighted in the various courses.

In planning your future Religious Studies course selections, it is important to consider the following:

- Juniors or Seniors must choose either Christian Tradition or Catholic Theology
- Catholic Theology is recommended for Catholic students, but all are welcome.

Religious Studies

Required Courses (10th):	One required (11th or 12th)	Elective Courses (11th-12th):
Christian Morality	Christian Tradition	Current Issues in Justice and Peace
The Bible	Catholic Theology	Women in the Bible
		Prayer and Spirituality
		Relationships
		World Religions

Required for all sophomores: (one each semester)

621 - Christian Morality

Principles of Christian conscience formation are presented as well as the process of responsible decision-making. These principles are applied to a guided study of various moral problems. (one semester)

631 – The Bible

This course is an introduction to the Scriptures looking at the cultural traditions that were the basis for the Old Testament and the lives of the early prophets, and the life and message of Jesus Christ as expressed in the New Testament gospels. (one semester)

Junior and Senior Electives: (one is required each semester)

625 - Current Issues in Justice and Peace

Current Issues in Justice and Peace challenges students to relate the teachings of Jesus and the Church to the struggles for justice and peace in our world today. Timely topics to be covered include poverty, hunger, homelessness, prejudice, the environment and peacemaking. Reflection and action projects will be used to examine these issues in the light of our religious tradition. (one semester)

627 - Relationships

This course considers how one can better relate to others through the study of such areas as one's self-concept, personality, friendships, infatuation, love, dating, sexuality, communication and marriage as a sacrament. (one semester)

635 - Women in the Bible

The stories of women in both Testaments carry pertinent messages. Through the reading of these stories as well as an examination of historical, contextual and source criticisms, students can gain insights into their message today. (one semester)

641 - Christian Tradition

Students in Christian Tradition learn about the beliefs, practices and structures of the Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant religions. These three Christian traditions are studied in the historical context in which they developed. (one semester)

643 - Catholic Theology

Catholic Theology studies Catholic beliefs and practices on a more advanced level. It includes topics such as the nature of theology, God and revelation, the Bible, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and Trinity, sin and grace, church, sacraments, various forms of service / ministry, death and new life. (one semester)

651 - World Religions

This is a study of the nature of all religions and the role it plays in the lives of millions of people throughout the world. Six major religions are examined, namely, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Shintoism, Judaism and Islam. (one semester)

653 - Prayer and Spirituality

The Prayer and Spirituality class is built around the belief that God is at the center of the human spirit. Accordingly, the study of and experiences of various kinds of prayer are designed especially for students interested in getting in touch with and developing their spiritual self. (one semester)

SCIENCE

HONORS / ADVANCED PLACEMENT REGISTRATION

In selecting an Advanced Placement course, 10th, 11th and 12th graders and parents will make a minimum commitment for one full semester. Completion of a signed agreement, which specifies such a commitment, will be necessary to finalize the registration process. This agreement will be part of the registration verification mailed home. Any request to drop the course or transfer to another course will not be considered until the end of the first semester. These courses are, by design, more rigorous. The learning will be challenging and stimulating and likely move at a faster pace than the average class. As such, when students register for these courses and we provide the staffing, ever mindful of class size and teacher load, the student cannot make a different choice after the fact. Such requests negatively impact class size and staffing decisions already made.

The Science Department provides the opportunity for a four year program. Three years of a laboratory science fulfills the science requirements for graduation. It is possible for Juniors and Seniors to carry two sciences, allowing them to take advantage of advanced courses in science.

The main goals of the Science Department are to:

- provide for individual differences in interest areas through a wide range of course offerings,
- provide the most up-to-date, comprehensive and reliable knowledge of science,
- integrate the sciences with other disciplines in order to give the student an adequate foundation for life in modern and future society.

Michigan Department of Education requires three years of science for all students: Biology , one lab science (Chemistry or Physics) and one additional year of science.

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Biology	Biology	Biology	ChemCom / Chemistry AP Chemistry
	Chemistry	ChemCom / Chemistry AP Chemistry	Practical Physics / Physics / AP Physics
	Practical Physics	Practical Physics / Physics	Anatomy & Physiology
		Anatomy & Physiology	Microbiology
		Microbiology	AP Biology
		AP Biology	

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Biology is the beginning course in the science student's curriculum.
2. **Biology, Chemistry and Physics are strongly recommended for all college bound students. These three courses give students a well-rounded background in the basic sciences and will best prepare them for various career choices.**

All science classes are year courses.

401/3 - Biology

This course is an introductory inquiry into the principles of college prep life sciences. Topics covered include, but are not limited to, the scientific method, general chemistry, biochemical concepts, the cell theory, energetics, cellular respiration, photosynthesis, inheritance, DNA, human genetics and evolutionary theory. Second semester of this year-long course moves into plant and animal sciences, especially the human systems. Lab experimentation supplements course work (at least, one experiment per chapter.)

Corequisite: Algebra I or higher (year)

405/7 - Anatomy and Physiology

This is a study of the structure and function of the human body. It is medically oriented and is intended to assist students interested in various medical fields as well as those interested in a broader knowledge of biology as it applies to humans. There is significant independent reading and use of interactive tools to aid learning and understanding of the visual and functional components of the human body.

Prerequisite: one year of Biology and one year of a Chemistry

413/5 - AP Biology

This course provides inquiry-based instruction in molecular and cellular biology, organismal biology, and population biology. It provides preparation for the Advanced Placement Exam in Biology.

Prerequisite: one year of Biology and one year of a Chemistry class

409/11- Microbiology

This is a study of the biology of microorganisms: bacteria, viruses, protozoans and fungi. Topics will include microbial anatomy, growth and reproduction, microbial biochemistry, bacterial genetics, virology, sterilization and disinfection procedures and pathogenic microbes and disease. Laboratory work in this course is designed to illustrate the principles discussed in the lecture, and employ diagnostic and identification techniques unique to microbiology. This course has an extensive independent reading component.

Prerequisite: one year of Biology and one year of a Chemistry class

419/21 - ChemCom - Chemistry in the Community

ChemCom is a student centered, activity based, issues oriented chemistry curriculum that has been developed by the American Chemical Society. This course is designed primarily for the college bound student who does not plan to pursue a science career. Each of ChemCom's eight units center on a chemistry related technological issue now confronting our society and the world. The eight units include the major concepts, basic vocabulary, and intellectual and laboratory skills expected in any introductory chemistry course.

Prerequisite: one year of Biology and junior status

421/3 - Chemistry

Chemistry is an intensive course which integrates laboratory experience and chemical theory. Emphasis is placed upon ability to apply critical scientific thinking in solving problems. This course is intended for students who may be preparing for college in fields which will require a strong background in chemistry.

Prerequisite: One year of Biology

425/7 - AP Chemistry

Advanced Placement Chemistry is a study of states of matter, solutions, chemical thermodynamics and equilibria, kinetics, electrochemistry and redox, selected properties of the elements, atomic and molecular structure, nuclear reactions and stoichiometry. It includes experiments involving basic laboratory techniques and qualitative analysis. This course prepares students for the Advanced Placement Exam in Chemistry.

Prerequisite: one year of Chemistry

429/31 - Practical Physics

This is an introductory concept-based Physics course covering motion, forces, energy, sound, light, and electricity. This course is activity/lab based and offers numerous opportunities for application of the concepts learned.

Prerequisite or Co-requisite: Geometry or higher

433/5 - Physics

This is a study of motion and measurement, heat, light, sound, electricity, and energy. The main emphasis is on principles and problem solving. A college prep course for students who may be pursuing engineering and other science related fields in college.

Recommended: Algebra II, Biology and Chemistry

437/9 - AP Physics

Advanced Placement Physics is a study of motion as applied to mechanics, vectors, rotational equilibrium, fluids, thermodynamics, sound, light, electricity, magnetism and atomic physics. It includes lab work involving applications of the above topics. The emphasis is on mathematical application and preparation for the AP Physics B Test.

Prerequisite: Physics

Co-requisite: Pre-Calculus or Calculus level in Math

SOCIAL STUDIES

ADVANCED PLACEMENT REGISTRATION

In selecting an Advanced Placement course, 10th, 11th and 12th graders and parents will make a minimum commitment for one full semester. Completion of a signed agreement, which specifies such a commitment, will be necessary to finalize the registration process. This agreement will be part of the registration verification mailed home. Any request to drop the course or transfer to another course will not be considered until the end of the first semester. These courses are, by design, more rigorous. The learning will be challenging and stimulating and likely move at a faster pace than the average class. As such, when students register for these courses and we provide the staffing, ever mindful of class size and teacher load, the student cannot make a different choice after the fact. Such requests negatively impact class size and staffing decisions already made.

The primary goal of the Social Studies Department is to help develop in each student a person who is aware of the dignity of all persons and of her global responsibilities. Michigan Department of Education requires all students take a year of World History and American History and a semester each of American Government and Economics. The chart below reflects those requirements. Other electives in Social Studies are also available.

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grades 11-12	Grade 12
Required Courses:	World History	American Government	American History <u>or</u> AP American History Economics (may be taken junior or senior year)	Economics
Electives:			AP European History Sociology Psychology Law in Action (2012-13)	AP United States Government and Politics

The following course is **required of all freshman and any new students entering Mercy High School who have not fulfilled a World History Requirement.**

201/3 - World History (Required)

We live in a world of stories that extend far beyond our neighborhoods. Some are very ancient stories and some are very different from our American story. This is our hope: that learning the many stories of the world, students will learn to respect others, empathize with people different from themselves and become involved in the story of life which we call history. (year)

The following course is **required of all Sophomores** and any new students entering Mercy High School after Sophomore year.

211 - American Government

Democracy demands of its citizens responsibility during times of peace and crisis. In this class students will study Constitutional questions and decisions. They will examine the role of citizenship as it relates to the Legislative, Judicial and Executive branches of our government. State and local government is also reviewed. (one semester)

The following courses are open to Juniors and Seniors only:

One of the American History Courses listed below is required for graduation:

221/3 - American History

His story (or her story) is what history is all about: stories of events, people, places, and cultures. We will have an overview of the human element which includes hearing personal stories of those who

lived through the changing times. We will try to see and experience it through their eyes. We will look at the relevance of history by finding a connection between past and present to see where it will take us in the future. (year)

225/7 - AP American History

This course is intended to prepare students for the American History Advanced Placement exam in May. It covers the major themes of American History using a college level textbook. Primary source material is studied. Writing critical essays on historical themes is an important requirement of this course. This two semester class does fulfill the American History graduation requirement.

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

Required for graduation:

251 – Economics

This is an introductory course in the study of Economics. The goal is to help students develop an understanding of our economy at home and abroad. In this every changing global community, our economies are all tightly connected. Students will be required to think critically in order to analyze, synthesize, evaluate, compare and contrast, as well as argue with well balanced data and evidence. It will help students develop reasoning skills to think objectively, rationally and with some degree of sophistication about current economic issues in our rapidly changing world. Some of the many topics to be studied will include: Market Economy; Competitive Markets; Supply and Demand; The Role of the National Government; International Economies; Trade and a section on Personal Finance. (one semester)

Social Studies Electives:

241/3 - AP European History

Advanced Placement European History is designed to increase the student's understanding of Europe's history from 1450 to the present and its development and institutions, with the goal of having every student complete the European History Advanced Placement exam in May. Students will gain an understanding of western traditions and the role played by Europe in the world today. The course is divided into two semesters, 1450 - 1815 and 1815 - present. This college level class examines, through research, lecture, discussion and the analysis of primary documents, the traditions of western Europe and its social, economic, political, cultural and intellectual development. Writing critical essays on historical themes is expected by all students in this course. (year)

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

253 – Sociology (2011-12)

Sociology is the study of human relationships and group interactions. Students will be introduced to the discipline and terminology of sociology. The major issues of aging, minorities, crime and poverty are analyzed with the goal of seeking just solutions to these social problems. **This class is offered every other year.** (one semester)

255 - Law in Action (2012-13)

This semester course is designed to give students an in-depth look into individual rights and challenges to those rights through the Supreme Court. It will also look at teen rights, crime and community. And lastly it will look at the more recent type of crime in electronic monitoring, computer crime, employee rights and invasion of privacy and whistle-blowing to mention a few. A close look at Supreme Court cases, you be the judge cases, media and primary sources will be some of the formats used to bring law into action in the classroom. **This class is offered every other year.** (one semester)

261 - Psychology

This is an introductory course that provides a solid foundation in basic theories and principles of psychology. Also stressed is the dignity of each person and her potential for self-understanding and growth in her uniqueness. Personality, learning, intelligence, motivation, abnormality and adjustment are also explored. (one semester)

The following course is open to **Seniors** only:

250 - AP United States Government and Politics

This class provides students with a thorough and systematic comprehension of U.S. government. Students are guided to use specific information critically in order to evaluate general propositions about government and politics as well as to analyze political relationships between people and different institutions. Students also are required to interpret and utilize basic data relevant to government and politics in sustained written arguments. This is a college level class. (year)

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

WORLD LANGUAGES

Consistent with the belief that learning a foreign language is not only an essential factor in a well-rounded education but also a necessary requirement for college preparation, career training / job marketability and a greater international / global awareness, a four year sequence in at least one language is very highly recommended as a integral part of the student's total curriculum. This four year sequence is usually begun in the ninth grade. Students interested in taking more than one language are encouraged to do so.

French	Latin	Spanish
French 1	Latin 1	Spanish 1
French 2	Latin 2	Spanish 2
French 3	Latin 3	Spanish 3
French 4	Latin 4	Spanish 4
Advanced French		Advanced Spanish

FRENCH OFFERINGS

501/3 - French 1

This class is an introduction to the French language with emphasis on developing proficiency in the skills of speaking and listening. Students become acquainted with reading and writing. France, Canada and Africa are an integral part of cultural studies and activities.

505/7- French 2

The basic proficiency skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing continue to be developed. Emphasis is given to communicative activities based on everyday situations. Students study more in depth the French culture, including an introduction to the Francophone world.

Prerequisite: one year of French or its equivalent.

511/3 - French 3

This course is designed to help students become more proficient in speaking, listening, reading and writing French. The Francophone world and its diverse cultures are extensively integrated and explored (Belgium, Switzerland and French Africa) in this higher level of course work.

Prerequisite: two years of French or its equivalent.

521/3 – French 4 (2012-13)

This course is designed to advance the student's oral and written expression skills in French as they develop an appreciation of the arts and contemporary lifestyles in France and the Francophone countries throughout the world. Students learn strategies and techniques which allow them to converse in French confidently and comfortably. Students have an opportunity to explore in depth francophone literature, art, music and film.

Pre-requisite: 3 years of French or its equivalent.

525/7 – Advanced French (2011-12)

This course is designed to advance the student's oral and written expression skills in French as they develop an appreciation of the arts and contemporary lifestyles in France and the francophone countries throughout the world. Students learn strategies and techniques which allow them to converse in French confidently and comfortably. Students have an opportunity to explore in depth Francophone literature, art, music and film.

Pre-requisite: 3 years of French or its equivalent.

LATIN OFFERINGS

533/5 - Latin 1

Latin 1 introduces reading and understanding authentic Latin passages at sight. Students learn pronunciation, grammar, syntax, vocabulary, and English derivations. Culture is integrated into the course.

537/9 - Latin 2

In Latin 2 students continue to develop an understanding of the grammar and syntax components of the language. Students increase their ability to read and to comprehend authentic Latin at sight. Students continue to understand the impact of Roman history and culture on Europe and the West.

Prerequisite: one year of Latin.

543/5 - Latin 3

In Latin 3 the emphasis is the comprehension, analysis and appreciation of the writings of various prose and poetry selections of Latin authors from the Classical and Silver periods.

Prerequisite: two years of Latin

547/9 - Latin 4

Latin 4 introduces students to a variety of Latin authors. The focus of this course is the comprehension, analysis and appreciation of selected writings of literature from Caesar, Virgil, Cicero, Catullus and Ovid. Selections from the Vulgate Bible of St. Jerome, medieval songs and prayers are also included in the course.

Prerequisite: three years of Latin

SPANISH OFFERINGS

551/3 - Spanish 1

This class is an introduction to the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Hispanic culture and activities are included.

555/7 - Spanish 2

Students continue to develop the basic skills in aural comprehension, pronunciation, and oral/written expression. Hispanic culture and activities are included.

Prerequisite: one year of Spanish or its equivalent.

561/3 - Spanish 3

Students continue development of the four basic skills. Students become increasingly proficient in the use of Spanish. Culture is an integral part of the course.

Prerequisite: two years of Spanish or its equivalent.

571/3 – Spanish 4 (2012-13)

Development of language skills occur on a more advanced level through a variety of activities stressing the application of grammatical structures, oral expression of ideas and culture as integral parts of the course.

Prerequisite: three years of Spanish or its equivalent

575/7 – Advanced Spanish (2011-12)

Development of language skills occur on a more advanced level through a variety of activities stressing the application of grammatical structures, oral expression of ideas and culture as integral parts of the course.

Prerequisite: three years of Spanish or its equivalent

