



FRESHMAN COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2022-2023

REQUIRED COURSES:

RELIGIOUS STUDIES I – 614

This course focuses on the Old Testament. It uses a textbook written by Dr. Scott Hahn. It presents a Catholic approach to Scripture, highlighting the theme of covenant. Tracing a path through salvation history, the course explains the various books of the Bible and the importance of each event in salvation history. The course will provide an understanding of Sacred Scripture so critical to the Catholic Faith.

SKILLS ENGLISH I – 011

This course is designed to teach the English Language Arts standards of Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language in a small group environment that seeks to support the students' capabilities. Teachers use the myPerspectives series by Pearson. Each Unit focuses on an Essential Question. Within the Units, students are taught to apply skills to various texts and use textual evidence in their numerous Performance Tasks which culminate in a Performance-Based Assessment at the end of each Unit. Pacing, reading selections, and depth of content are adjusted by the teacher based on the students' abilities. There is a fee for this course. **Prerequisite: Must be enrolled in VCHS Resource Program**

ENGLISH I - 014

This course is designed to teach the English Language Arts standards of Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language in an environment that supports the students' development and encourages them to read texts of different types such as short stories, news articles, informative essays, narrative nonfiction, and dramas. Teachers use the myPerspectives series by Pearson along with selected Trade Books that correspond to each Unit of Study. Each Unit focuses on an Essential Question. Within the units, students are taught to apply skills to various texts and use textual evidence in their numerous Performance Tasks which culminates in a Performance-Based Assessment at the end of each Unit.

ENGLISH I LEVEL I - 017

This course is designed to teach the English Language Arts standards of Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language in an appropriately enriched and challenging environment. Students are encouraged to read texts of different types such as short stories, news articles, informative essays, narrative nonfiction, and dramas. Teachers use the myPerspectives series by Pearson along with selected Trade Books that correspond to each Unit of Study. Each Unit focuses on an Essential Question. Within the units students are taught to apply skills to various texts and use textual evidence in their numerous Performance Tasks which culminates in a Performance-Based Assessment at the end of each Unit.

ALGEBRA I - 114

Algebra I covers the basic functions of real numbers (whole numbers, integers, fractions), equations, polynomials, factoring, and graphing. Emphasis is on solving equations, solving basic word problems, and factoring.

PRACTICAL ALGEBRA I – 108

Practical Algebra I is a skills course designed for the student who requires certain accommodations in the mastery of topics and skills covered in Algebra I. The course covers the same amount of material as the regular Algebra I class but at a pace that allows for better management of a student's study time. Methods of presentation are geared to students with learning differences.

GEOMETRY LEVEL I - 117

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

Prerequisite: Algebra I LV

GEOMETRY - 124

This is a basic geometry course that stresses the use of inductive reasoning through constructions and measurements. Algebra is applied to enhance the concepts. Topics covered are geometric terms, areas, ratios, and proportions. (Prerequisite-Algebra I)

PHYSICAL SCIENCE - 314

Physical science is a prerequisite to all high school sciences. It is composed of one semester of chemistry- the structure of matter, and one semester of physics - how matter and energy are related.

BIOLOGY I LEVEL I - 317

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

BIOLOGY I - 324

Biology I consists of the study of organisms and life processes through classroom lectures, demonstrations, and laboratory experience. An emphasis is placed on the appreciation of natural habitats, life forms that thrive within the habitats, and their relationship to the environment. The course also stresses understanding structure and function of organisms.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY - 206

This course is designed to present a broad overview of information and processes through which people attempt to understand the spatial arrangements and interaction of land, water, climate, people, and culture over the earth. World Geography relates physical geography to cultural, social, political, and economic activities.

This course is only needed if it was not taken during 8th grade year.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION I - 416 (Boys Half Year) / 417 (Girls Half Year)/ 412 (Boys Full Year)/ 413 (Girls Full Year)

Physical education is designed to improve students' physical, social, and psychomotor development. An emphasis is placed on the development of the basic knowledge of rules and strategies for team and individual sports including volleyball, basketball, softball, track and field, golf, bowling, horseshoes, archery, and weightlifting.

HEALTH I - 420 (Boys) / 421 (Girls)

Health is designed to enable students to gain the knowledge and skills essential for health literacy. Health topics include substance abuse, CPR/first aid, nutrition, fitness, and disease.

One-half unit of credit, one semester. Only needed if course was not taken during 8th grade year.

ATHLETIC PHYSICAL EDUCATION I

448 (Football)/450 (Baseball)/452 (Boys Basketball)/ 454 (Girls Basketball)/

458 (Softball)/ 460 (Volleyball)/ 462(Football-H)/ 463 (Baseball-H)/ 464 (Basketball Girls-H)/

465 (Basketball Boys-H)/ 466 (Softball-H)/ 467 (Volleyball-H) / 487 (Soccer 9th Girls)/

488 (Soccer 9th Girls-H)/ 491 (Soccer 9th Boys)/ 495 (Soccer 9th Boys H)

Strength and Conditioning class will provide an opportunity for development of strength and conditioning for various sports and fitness related activities. *Students wishing to enroll in this class will need a recommendation from their coach.* Free weights, exercise machines and conditioning activities will be incorporated to promote improvement in strength, endurance, balance, agility, and speed. Students will lift according to the strength program and will participate in conditioning activities. Proper technique, safety precautions and proper application of the Principles of Training will be emphasized. A plan to achieve goals will be developed and implemented during this year long course.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSES

FRENCH I - 514

This is a basic survey course in French stressing three major areas: listening and comprehension, reading and writing, and enrichment through the study of geography and culture.

SPANISH I - 515

This is an introductory course stressing reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Major emphasis is placed on vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. An introduction to the cultures of Mexico, Central America, and South America is included.

LATIN I - 516

This is an introduction to classical studies through the mother tongue of the Romance language. The course emphasizes vocabulary and essential grammar in connection with drills in pronunciation so that students may begin reading and speaking basic Latin

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I – 570

This is an overview of American Sign Language (ASL), its basic vocabulary, structure, syntax and grammar. Students will focus on mastering the basics of fingerspelling, numbers, colors, facial grammar and sentence structure; students will also learn conversational/cultural behaviors necessary to hold a beginning-level conversation in ASL, with deaf/hard-of-hearing native users of the language. Introductory information about deaf culture will also be presented to provide students with a broad picture of language and culture.

Limited to resource students only. A \$75 course fee is required.

ELECTIVE COURSES

INTERACTIVE MEDIA ARTS- 809

This course will introduce students to the theory and fundamentals of using Apple's Logic Pro X software and the hardware tools for recording and producing music during the first semester. The class will stress application and creative content, using a series of creative activities and projects which will provide students exposure to performing with electronic instruments, multi-track recording (both MIDI sequencing and live instruments), music arranging, generating performance materials for others, and equipment configuration. In the second semester we will move into the utilization of Final Cut Pro video editing software. Students will learn the key features for Video and Audio Editing and learn elements for creating professional videos with the use of transitions and effects, titles and motion graphics, color correction, 360 Video and Media Management. The implementation of Adobe Photoshop and the use of digital cameras and drones will be infused throughout the curriculum. **(full year, one unit of art credit) Grades: 9 – 12**

TV/FILM PRODUCTION- 088

This course will examine the history of radio and television, the basic workings of television and the camera, the language of motion pictures, as well as the production and post-production process. The class will write and produce video news programs and public relations videos. Each student will have hands-on experience with each phase of production. **An application is required. (full year, one unit of credit) Grades: 9 – 12**

GRAPHIC DESIGN I- 843

This is an introductory course to graphic design elements, including the history of graphics in modern advertising and typography. There will also be a brief introduction to animation, layout design and digital photography. Assessments will be product based with a focus on Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop. Students will have the opportunity to be Adobe Certified upon the completion of this course. **A \$75.00 lab fee is required. (full year, one unit of credit) Grades: 9 – 12**

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS/CODING- 164

This course stresses basic keyboarding skills, Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Google App, Google Sites and Google Certification. It provides instruction in using a personal computer and networking skills as a tool to simplify life as a student or an employee. It will focus on HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) and CSS. Students will be able to use HTML and CSS to write code in order to make responsive web pages that are compatible on multiple devices. Students will also be able to make drawings and animation using code.

(full year, one unit of credit) Grades: 9 – 12

PSYCHOLOGY I - 294

This course introduces basic psychological theories and terms and will cover topics including: an introduction to major figures in psychological history, areas of study in psychology, consciousness, sleep, dreams, hypnosis, the physical effects of drugs on the body, mental illnesses, the influence of groups on our behavior, aggression, ESP and why people believe in the supernatural, thought processes, and memory systems.

(One-half unit of credit, one semester) Grades: 9 – 12

PSYCHOLOGY II - 295

This is a theory course studying the science of psychology. Topics covered will include Freud's Theory of Personality, personality theories since Freud, the brain and behavior, child development, adolescent development, psychotherapy, psychological testing, and case histories.

(One-half unit of credit, one semester) Grades: 9 – 12

SOCIOLOGY -- 232

Introduction to Sociology is a one semester course intended to give you a broad picture of the field of sociology with an emphasis on preparation for college and critical thinking. The course will offer you a set of intellectual tools with which to more accurately understand the society in which you live. Group activity, work, and cooperation are emphasized.

(One-half unit of credit, one semester) Grades: 9 – 12

MAKING MUSIC - 802

This class offers the band experience at the introductory level. This class is for students who have no experience and want to learn an instrument with no required musical performances. The instruments taught are flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, tuba and percussion. No experience is necessary – only the will and desire to play an instrument. Musical topics are introduced such as reading, music notation, analyzing and evaluating music. The students will be given the opportunity to participate in the marching band and concert band, but not required. There is no fee required, and students will try all of the instruments at the beginning of the course before settling on their selection.

(full year, one unit of art credit) Grades: 8– 12

BAND/BRASS – 799

Instruction focuses on basic music theory, ear training, technique development on trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone/euphonium, or tuba. Students will perform in the marching band and symphonic band.

Required performances include football games, marching contests and festivals, Mardi Gras parades, Christmas and Spring Concerts, and concert festivals. Students are required to attend two weeks of summer band camp, after school and summer rehearsals. *There is a \$350 required band fee.*

BAND/WOODWINDS - 710

Instruction focuses on basic music theory, ear training, technique development on flute/piccolo, soprano and bass clarinet, alto/tenor/and baritone saxophones, and oboe/bassoon. Students will perform in the marching band and symphonic band. Required performances include football games, marching contests and festivals, Mardi Gras parades, Christmas and Spring Concerts, and concert festivals. Students are required to attend two weeks of summer band camp, after school and summer rehearsals. *There is a \$350 required band fee.*

BAND/BATTERY PERCUSSION - 753

Instruction focuses on basic music theory, ear training, technique development on snare/tenor/and bass drums, timpani, and hand percussion. Students will perform in the marching band and symphonic band.

Required performances include football games, marching contests and festivals, Mardi Gras parades, Christmas and Spring Concerts, and concert festivals. Students are required to attend two weeks of summer band camp, after school and summer rehearsals. Battery Percussion students will have the opportunity to audition for the Indoor Percussion Ensemble, one of the Elite Competitive Ensembles. *There is a \$350 required band fee.*

BAND/KEYBOARD PERCUSSION - 774

Instruction focuses on basic music theory, ear training, technique development on marimba, vibraphone, xylophone, concert bells, chimes, and hand percussion. Students will perform in the marching band and

symphonic band. Required performances include football games, marching contests and festivals, Mardi Gras parades, Christmas and Spring Concerts, and concert festivals. Students are required to attend two weeks of summer band camp, after school and summer rehearsals. Keyboard Percussion students will have the opportunity to audition for the Indoor Percussion Ensemble, one of the Elite Competitive Ensembles. ***There is a \$350 required band fee.***

MIXED CHOIR – 761

Mixed Choir is a performance group. This class is considered a co-curricular activity involving out of school rehearsals and performances. Students will be required to purchase/rent uniforms and participate in fund-raising activities. Students will review basic singing and choral techniques and move to more advanced sight-reading material and choral repertoire. Nominal activity fees may be required throughout the year.

Prerequisite: Audition or permission of the instructor (Grades: 8– 12)

THEATRE- 070 full year / 078 Creative Communication (Fall)/ 071 Acting (Spring)

THIS course will be an exploration of principles of interpersonal communication and ways of understanding how or why we communicate the way we do. Students will prepare and deliver a variety of speeches-informative, convincing, thought-provoking and entertaining. Students will be challenged to think and listen critically and analytically. Learning to act/perform will allow students to develop an awareness of their response to emotion in order to truthfully recreate these responses appropriately. Emphasis will be on personalization, analysis and dynamics of performance-self, voice, emotion and imagination. These skills and techniques will be used to bring characterization to life.

Course is contingent upon enrollment and instructor availability. Grades: 9– 12

ART I - 811

Art I is a basic introduction to art requiring no prerequisites. The course covers introduction to drawing, painting, graphics, and sculpture through the use of various media--pencil, scratchboard, charcoal, ink, tempera, linoleum block, and papier- mâché. Presents basic design and color theories, as well as slides and lectures concentrating on early cultures of art history. ***A \$90.00 lab fee is required.***

FINE ARTS SURVEY - 807

This course will give an overview of Music, Dance, Art, and Theater. The music and dance portion of this course will begin with music from the 1920's to current trends focusing on major influencers throughout modern history. The dance portion will parallel the music of the time periods, beginning with Charleston and Foxtrot spanning to current Hip Hop trends. The art and Theater portion of this course will focus on famous artworks and artists throughout history as well as historical Theater spanning through current Musical Theater. **Grades: 9– 12**

PERSONAL AND FAMILY FINANCE – 849 / 851

This course informs students how individual choices directly influence occupational goals and future earnings potential. Real world topics covered will include income, money management, spending and credit, as well as saving and investing. Students will design personal and household budgets utilizing checking and saving accounts, gain knowledge in finance, debt and credit management, and evaluate and understand insurance and taxes. This course will provide a foundational understanding for making informed personal financial decisions leading to financial independence.

(849: full year, one unit of credit) (851: One-half unit of credit, one semester) Grades: 9 – 12

STUDY SKILLS I- 902

The course will start off the year with various study skills techniques (flashcards, graphic organizers, and useful apps) and a binder system to help organize students' notes and work. A reading intervention program called Achieve 3000 will also be utilized. Achieve 3000 provides differentiated instruction for nonfiction reading and writing that is tailored to each student's Lexile reading level.

Prerequisite: Must be enrolled in VCHS Resource Program. A fee is required.