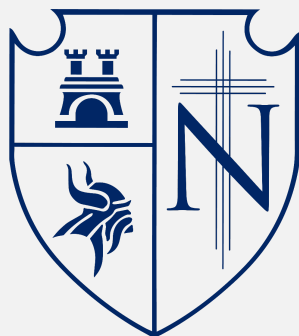


Nolan Catholic High School



NOLAN CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL

ACADEMICS | CHARACTER | FAITH | LEADERSHIP

Academic Course Guide

2025-2026

DIPLOMA PROGRAMS

I. STANDARD DIPLOMA PROGRAM (class of 2029)

Note: A minimum of 28 credits required for graduation

Core Courses		
English	4 years	4 Credits
Mathematics	4 years	4 Credits
Social Studies	4 years	4 Credits
Science	4 years	4 Credits
Theology	4 years	4 Credits
Elective Courses		
Communication Applications or Rhetoric	1 semester	½ Credit
Career & Technical Education (CTE)	1 year	1 Credit
Composition	1 semester	½ Credit
Fine Arts	1 year	1 Credit
Health	1 semester	½ Credit
Physical Education	1 year	1 Credit
World Languages	2 years	2 Credits
Leadership	1 year	1 Credit

II. STANDARD DIPLOMA PROGRAM (class of 2027-2028)

Note: A minimum of 28 credits required for graduation

Core Courses		
English	4 years	4 Credits
Mathematics	4 years	4 Credits
Social Studies	4 years	4 Credits
Science	4 years	4 Credits
Theology	4 years	4 Credits
Elective Courses		
Communication Applications or Rhetoric	1 semester	½ Credit
Career & Technical Education (CTE)	1 year	1 Credit
Composition	1 semester	½ Credit
Fine Arts	1 year	1 Credit
Health	1 semester	½ Credit
Physical Education	1 year	1 Credit
World Languages	2 years	2 Credits
World Geography	1 semester	½ Credit

III. STANDARD DIPLOMA PROGRAM (class of 2026)

Note: A minimum of 28 credits required for graduation

Core Courses		
English	4 years	4 Credits
Mathematics	4 years	4 Credits
Social Studies	4 years	4 Credits
Science	4 years	4 Credits
Theology	4 years	4 Credits
Elective Courses		
Communication Applications or Rhetoric	1 semester	½ Credit
Career & Technical Education (CTE)	1 year	1 Credit
Fine Arts	1 year	1 Credit
Health	1 semester	½ Credit
Physical Education	1 year	1 Credit
World Languages	2 years	2 Credits

IV. HONORS DIPLOMA PROGRAM

Note: In addition to meeting standard diploma requirements, students must meet the following requirements to earn an Honors Diploma.

1. Grade Point Average: Minimum 93.00 G.P.A by end of 1st semester senior year.
2. World Language: 3 consecutive courses in the same World Language.
3. Math: Students must have taken Pre-Calculus
4. Honors Courses: Students must have taken 6 Honors Level Courses.

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

A. OVERVIEW

Because one is called in Baptism and gifted by the Holy Spirit, the life of the Christian is one of loving service to those in need. The Christian Ministry program of Nolan Catholic High School is an opportunity to explore the many ministry opportunities of the Church and the wider community. Please see expectations below:

- Seventy-five hours of Christian Ministry are required for graduation.
- Students may begin their Christian Ministry in June prior to their freshman year.
- It is expected that students complete all hours prior to the beginning of the senior year. Students are required to complete 25 hours of ministry each school year, with the exception of the senior year.
- Students who do not complete their required hours by the end of the year may be placed on academic probation. For more information about Christian Ministry, please refer to the Nolan Catholic High School Student-Parent Handbook.
- Additionally, all students are required to attend grade level retreat with their classmates each year.

B. CHRISTIAN MINISTRY GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY HOURS

Note: Students must earn 75 total community service hours. Deadlines for hour completion are below. Adjustments are made for transfer students.

9 th Grade	25 of 75 hours completed
10 th Grade	50 of 75 hours completed
11 th Grade	75 of 75 hours completed

ACADEMIC GRADING & REPORTING

A. GRADING SCALE

Grading is numerical only; no equivalents are given. Nolan Catholic High School uses the following scale.

A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
F	69 and Below

B. REPORT CARDS

Nolan Catholic High School on a four- quarter academic calendar (Quarter 1, Quarter 2, Quarter 3, and Quarter 4). Report cards are released a week after the end of each academic term. Report cards reflect quarterly and semester grades. Each quarter is 40% of a student's semester grades. A student's semester grade is calculated by average the two quarters (40% each) and the semester exam (20%).

- $(Q1 \text{ Grade} \times 40\%) + (Q2 \text{ Grade} \times 40\%) + (\text{Exam 1 Grade} \times 20\%) = \text{Semester 1 Grade}$
- $(Q1 \text{ Grade} \times 40\%) + (Q2 \text{ Grade} \times 40\%) + (\text{Exam 1 Grade} \times 20\%) = \text{Semester 2 Grade}$

Semester grades are used to determine whether a student receives credit in a course. Students receive credit for any grade above a 70%

C. HONORS WEIGHTING

An “Honors Course” refers to any honors, advanced placement (AP), or dual credit course. Honors courses receive an additional 8 points on the **semester grade**. While dual credit courses are college-level courses and count as honors classes for Graduation honors, these courses only receive 4 points on the semester grade.

D. GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

Nolan Catholic High School uses a 100-point scale to represent student grade point average. The grade point average, or GPA, is a running cumulative average of a student’s semester grades. There are two GPAs:

- Weighted GPA = Student’s GPA including additional honors points.
- Unweighted GPA = Student’s GPA without honors points.

The GPA reflected on a Nolan transcript is a student’s weighted GPA.

E. HONOR ROLL

The Honor Roll recognizes student achievement in a single semester of coursework. A student’s semester average is not rounded for Honor Roll consideration. The semester Honor Roll is determined using the criteria below:

- “Honors” are earned by those students who have earned a numerical average of 85 to 89.999 with all grades being at least 77 and no “incompletes” as of the last day of the semester.
- “High Honors” are earned by those students with a numerical average of 90 to 95.999 with all grades being at least 77 and no “incompletes” as of the last day of the semester.
- “Highest Honors” are earned by those students with a numerical average of 96 or above with all grades being at least 77 and no “incompletes” as of the last day of the semester.

F. GRADUATING SENIOR HONORS

Senior Honors awards are determined based on the first seven semesters.

- *Amon G. Carter Students*: Semester average of 95.00 or higher for 7 consecutive semesters, Completed 6 or more credits in Honors/AP classes
- *Summa Cum Laude (Highest Honors)*: 96.00 to 108 grade average, No semester grade below 70
- *Magna Cum Laude (High Honors)*: 90.00 to 95.99 grade average, No semester grade below 70
- *Cum Laude (Honors)*: 85.000 to 89.99 grade average; No semester grade below 70

G. VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN SELECTION PROCESS

Valedictorian and Salutatorian awards are based on the first seven semesters, and are awarded to the graduating seniors with the highest and second-highest GPA at the end of seven semesters. To be eligible, a student must have attended at least five semesters at Nolan Catholic High School, including the first semester of senior year. In addition, the student must graduate from Nolan Catholic High School.

HONORS COURSES

Nolan Catholic High School offers Honors courses in Mathematics, Modern and Classical Languages, Social Studies, Science, Technology, Theology, English, Fine Arts, and Engineering. These courses offer the student valuable challenges and enrichments that encourage intellectual rigor and creative discovery.

A. ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) COURSES

Advanced Placement (AP) courses offer qualified, 10th-12th grade students an opportunity to do college-level work while in high school. Students enrolled in AP courses are encouraged to take the AP exam to potentially earn college credit.

Based on performance on the AP exam, a student may receive up to six college credit hours for each exam he/she takes. Exams are administered in May at a cost set by the College Board and paid by the family. NCHS cannot guarantee acceptance of AP scores or the number of college hours granted by any college or university. For a current list of post-secondary institutions that accept qualifying grades for AP exams, consult the Guidance Office.

All AP and Dual Credit courses are considered college-level classes and are taught with enhanced rigor. Students determining whether to take AP or dual credit coursework should consider many factors and do research about the benefits of each with respect to the colleges and universities they are considering. The Guidance office can provide support.

Nolan Catholic offers the following Advanced Placement (AP) courses, depending on student interest/teacher course load:

Art Art & Design	Sciences - Biology - Chemistry - Physics I: Algebra Based - Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism	World Languages & Cultures - AP French Language & Culture - AP Latin - AP Spanish Language & Culture - AP Spanish Literature & Culture
English - English Language & Composition - English Literature & Composition		
Mathematics & Computer Science - Calculus AB - Calculus BC - Computer Science Principles - Pre-Calculus - Statistics	Social Studies - Comparative Politics - European History - Macroeconomics - Psychology - US Government & Politics - US History - World History	

B. DUAL CREDIT COURSES

Dual Credit courses offer qualified students the opportunity to simultaneously receive credit for a high school course while being officially enrolled in a college course.

As individual colleges and universities have their own criteria, NCHS cannot guarantee acceptance of dual credit coursework by any college or university (i.e. some public institutions will not accept Dual Credit if the course is a requirement of a student's major).

All AP and Dual Credit courses are considered college-level classes and are taught with increased rigor compared to on-level courses. Students determining whether to take AP or Dual Credit coursework should consider many factors and do research about the benefits of each with respect to the colleges and universities they are considering. The Guidance office can provide support.

Nolan Catholic offers the following dual credit classes:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Composition I/II (11th Grade) US History (11th Grade) British Literature II (12th Grade) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> American Literature II (12th Grade) US Government (12th Grade) Texas History (11th/12th Grade) |
|---|--|

COURSE CHANGES

A. ADD/DROP DEADLINE

Students may add/drop **year-long courses** within the first 2 full weeks of Semester 1, with parent permission. Students should submit a Schedule Change Request by the Add/Drop deadline. Students may add/drop Semester 2 courses within the first 2 weeks of semester 2 (**semester courses only**), with parent permission. Students requesting a course change after the add/drop deadline must receive both parent and administrator permission. Acceptable reasons for dropping a course after the add/drop deadline are as follows:

- Administrative or teacher request
- The student was mistakenly enrolled in a class before earning the necessary prerequisite(s)
- The student was scheduled for a course in which he/she has already received credit
- A senior requires a specific course for graduation
- A physical disability prevents a student from adequate participation in a class

B. LEVELING DOWN

Students have an extended deadline to level down from an honors course. This extended deadline provides students, teachers, and families an opportunity to determine if the honors level course is an appropriate fit. For year-long and semester 1 honors classes, students must request a level down by Progress Reports (4th/5th week of school). For those honors classes begun in semester 2, students have until 3rd quarter Progress Reports (4th/5th week of Sem 2) to level down.

I. THEOLOGY

In the spirit of St. Anselm of Canterbury, "Theology is faith seeking understanding." NCHS students embark on a four-year journey in which they engage in theological discussions with the hope that, through their understanding, they may further nurture their faith, life, and religious practice.

The theology program presents a comprehensive study of the Catholic faith and practice. Working with Campus Ministry, the theology program provides opportunities for development of one's prayer life, participation in the sacraments, integration of Christian virtues and beliefs, and Christian ministry.

Theology I: The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture

This scripture course provides the theological and moral foundation for subsequent courses. The study of our Jewish roots and the Christian Scriptures enables students to understand God's word as it comes to us in a variety of literary forms. The stories of scripture are our stories; we are called to a relationship with God in community. With the background knowledge of the scripture texts, students can reflect individually on their relationship with God and apply the Gospel message to their daily lives.

Grade: 9th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

Theology II: Church & Sacraments

Theology II is a study of the history, nature, and practices of the Catholic Church as both the "Mystical Body of Christ" and "People of God." The nature, purposes, and ritual practices of each of the sacraments will be studied within a doctrinal and historical context. Special emphasis is given to the Mass as the central expression of our faith and worship.

Grade: 10th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Theology I

Theology III: Moral Life in Christ

The major focus of this course is to enable students to know and understand the principles of Catholic moral teaching and practice. The course will cover the Cardinal Virtues, natural law, Catholic social teachings, and their application to our daily lives. The hope is to help our students form strong consciences in accordance with Catholic teaching.

Grade: 11th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Theology II

*** Theology IV: Great Theological Controversies (Honors)**

This senior Honors course is designed to enable students to address the primary texts of the great theologians and philosophers from the second century to the present. The purpose of the course is to help the students enter into the world's most important discussions by way of a close reading of the texts, analyzing them, and forming their own views in response to the great ideas. The Honors designation indicates the deeper investigation of reading, higher-level scholarship of discussion and writing, and greater expectation of academic performance.

Grade: 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: 95% or above in Theology III & Teacher Recommendation

Theology IV: Bioethics

This course is a theological, philosophical, and historical study of the main issues and topics engaged today by the pro-life movement. The central doctrines and moral teachings of the Catholic Church in regard to human life and human dignity are taught with the aim of inspiring the student to employ the Church's teaching in real-life situations and beyond.

Grade: 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: Theology III

Theology IV: New Testament Writings of St. John and St. Paul

This course affords students an opportunity to explore God's revelation through an in-depth reading of these books and thoughtful analysis of each in the context of the whole of Scripture and Sacred Tradition. This course will challenge students to discover how the divine message and truths revealed in the Scriptural books are as relevant today as when they were written.

Grade: 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: Theology III

Theology IV: Spiritual Theology

This course will study the spiritual lives and teachings of revered Catholic saints and mystics through an exploration of their writings, lived experience, and prayer. Students will delve into accounts of the saints regarding the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts, the Eucharist and Divine Mercy along with studying Benedictine, Augustinian, Franciscan, Dominican, Ignatian, Carmelite and Salesian

Spiritualities. Students will engage in reflective study, discussion and prayer, aiming to understand, embody, and apply the wisdom of these saints to their own lives of faith.

Grade: 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: Theology III

Theology IV: Theology of Loss and Hope

This course explores issues of loss and the Christian approach and response to such losses in light of the Paschal Mystery. Particular attention will be focused on suffering brought about by certain losses we go through in life; grief and the grieving process; death; cultural practices related to death and burial; the dignity of human life; terminal illness; adolescent suicide; divorce; euthanasia, eschatology, and the Theology of Hope. Students will examine these topics in light of Catholic doctrines and traditions.

Grade: 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: Theology III

Theology IV: The God Machine

This course explores fundamental philosophical principles that govern human nature and the place of technology in living a morally upright life. Particular attention will be given to current and possible future technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, energy, food, weaponry, travel, and entertainment. Students will examine these topics in light of Catholic doctrines and traditions.

Grade: 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: Theology III

Theology IV: World Religions

This course is a philosophical and historical study of various world religions, with the purpose within the Catholic Tradition of an ecumenical apologetic. Some attention is paid to a comparison of the major world religions with the contemporary philosophical world-view of Secular Humanism as a quasi-religion. Major tenets of Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and other religions are also studied.

Grade: 12th (1 semester / .5 credit)

Prerequisite: Theology III

LIFE (Living in Faith Experience)

This course focuses on the Christian formation of the student as a disciple of Christ by developing their faith in a Christian context. Students will examine their baptismal call to serve and cultivate a deeper relationship ("divine intimacy") with Jesus Christ through the Sacraments, the prayers and devotions of the Church, discussion, and service opportunities. Students will learn vocational discernment and receive the tools needed to discern God's call. Students will develop skills that will enable them to follow God's will in their life. This is an elective class that does not count towards Theology credit.

Grade: 11th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Application & Interview

NOTE: Credit (CR) only; no grade received

II. ENGLISH

The English department guides students to understand, appreciate, and love beautiful literature while developing the skills of reading, thinking, discussing, writing, and public speaking. Through literature, authors express truths about our humanity in multiple forms (genres), from epic and tragedy to lyric and comedy, giving form to our dreams, longings, struggles, suffering, aspirations, and joys. As Flannery O'Connor said, "A story is a way to say something that can't be said any other way." When students encounter this type of literature, these works have the power to move and order the soul towards the things that are true, good, and beautiful. These experiences help form the poetic imagination of our students, which leads them to see the world and humanity as God created them and thus to see creation for all its beauty and integrity. A well-formed poetic imagination is integral to a well-formed mind and soul.

In English, students write essays at least quarterly. If a student is placed in an advanced course, the content of the literature demands a mature reader and thinker. Parents/guardians need to be aware of the maturity level of their child before agreeing to AP or Dual Credit reading lists. Summer reading is required for all students.

English I

This course introduces students to the study and appreciation of literature through reading foundational works of Western Civilization. Focusing on classics of Greek and Roman literature, students will study the main literary genres and learn how to read a text closely to increase comprehension and vocabulary. Throughout this course, students will develop the art of literary analysis through seminar-style discussions and written essays that focus on identifying key themes and developing a persuasive argument. This course seeks to help students recognize and implement the formal writing structure in essays, as well as practice their critical thinking and analytical skills while studying classical texts.

Grade: 9th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

*** English I (Honors)**

This course is designed for students who have demonstrated a desire to achieve mastery in both literature and composition. Multi-paragraphed essays of exposition and argumentation are fused to literary study throughout the year. The literary content of this course introduces students to the study and appreciation of literature through reading foundational works of Western Civilization. Focusing on classics of Greek and Roman literature, students will study the main literary genres and learn how to read a text closely to increase comprehension and vocabulary. Similar to English I but going more in-depth and at a faster pace, students will develop the art of literary analysis through seminar-style discussions and written compositions. This course is designed to help students recognize and apply the formal writing structure in essays, practice their critical thinking and analytical skills while studying classical texts. This course is designed to challenge the students with more demanding writing prompts and an emphasis on explanation and analysis.

Grade: 9th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: 80% Reading and 80% Verbal Aptitude on High School Placement Test

English II

This course continues the development of literary analysis skills begun in English I and focuses on the search for truth and the argumentative process. Underlying this focus is the development of critical thinking skills, which will aid literary study, writing, and argumentation. Composition arises from literary study, while the grammar refinement and vocabulary enrichment are integrated into the writing process. The result is growth in critical thinking from close reading of a variety of texts such as novels, poems, and plays. The goals of the course are to help students grow in their ability to construct well-structured, formal academic arguments, to expose students to a greater variety of literary genres, and to further students' ability to enjoy and think critically about literature.

Grade: 10th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: English I

*** English II (Honors)**

This course is designed for students who have demonstrated superior skills and motivation in their literature studies, as well as those who illustrate insight and critical thinking skills beyond the average student. The content in literature is similar to English II; however, the texts present a greater complexity and depth of study at a quicker pace. Composition arises from literary study while the refining of grammar and a systematic enriching of vocabulary are integrated into the writing process. The result is growth in critical thinking from close reading and coherent writing. This advanced course is intended to help students develop in their ability to construct well-structured, formal academic arguments by giving the opportunity to engage with more conceptually demanding and analytical essay prompts.

Grade: 10th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: English I, 93% or above in previous Honors English course, 95% or above in previous on-level English course and teacher recommendation

English III

English III focuses on the American literary tradition. Literary selections are presented thematically or chronologically to help students develop a greater understanding of and appreciation for literature and culture. Students sharpen their critical thinking skills by connecting what we read with problems we face in contemporary society, critically recognize and evaluate universal themes in discourse and literature, and seek to grow as individuals in assertiveness and creative innovation.

Grade: 11th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: English II

*** AP English Language and Composition (Honors)**

This is a college-level course, and students can, based on performance on the Advanced Placement Examination, earn college credit hours depending on universities' criteria. The course includes both close reading and analysis of both fiction and non-fiction source materials and the study of the process of analytic writing. Students will study examples of writing from various sources, genres, and time periods. These examples will be used to produce academic essays in three modes: the argumentative essay, the rhetorical analysis, and the synthesis essay. Students will also engage in research in order to support an argument. Through study and practice, students will gain an understanding of the principles of effective analytic writing and become more proficient academic writers. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 11th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: English II, 93% or above in previous honors English course, 95% or above in previous on-level English course and teacher recommendation

*** Dual Credit: English Composition I (English 1301- Honors- 4 points)**

This introductory college-level Dual Credit course offers extensive practice of the writing process, including drafting, revising, editing,

and research. The course focuses on writing the academic essay based on effective rhetorical choices, including audience and style. Successful completion of this course may earn students college credit at some colleges and universities; see your guidance counselor for more information.

Grade: 11th (1 semester / .5 credit)

Prerequisite: English II, 90% Cumulative GPA, required grade on TSI or PSAT Exam

*PLEASE NOTE: Dual Credit courses receive **four** added points to the semester grade.*

*** Dual Credit: English Composition II (English 1302- Honors- 4 points)**

This course offers intensive practice in developing effective research skills, including the use of primary and secondary sources. In addition, the course focuses on critical reading of a variety of texts, including fiction, non-fiction, multimedia, and visual. The course also focuses on the importance of writing an academic essay which includes strong evidence and analysis. Successful completion of this course may earn students college credit at some colleges and universities; see your guidance counselor for more information.

Grade: 11th (1 semester / .5 credit)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 1301

*PLEASE NOTE: Dual Credit courses receive **four** added points to the semester grade.*

English IV

As the culmination of students' study of literature, this course seeks to hone the skills of analysis and argumentative writing developed over the previous three years. Students will spend more time with fewer works of literature in order to delve into them more deeply and thoroughly; this will also allow more time for composition. While there is no overarching theme or cultural focus for the year, many of the works contrast the inner moral life of man with his role in society, highlighting the conflict between a character's desires or beliefs and his responsibility to his fellow man.

Grade: 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: English III

*** AP English Literature and Composition (Honors)**

This is a college-level course, and students can, based on performance on the Advanced Placement Examination, earn college credit hours depending on universities' criteria. This course focuses on reading, analyzing, and writing about literature, including poetry and drama. Students are required to apply close reading and critical analysis skills to the literature in order to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and enjoyment. Students are expected to examine a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as the use of figurative language. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: English III, 93% or above in previous Honors English course, 95% or above in previous on-level English course and teacher recommendation

*** Dual Credit: British Literature II (Honors- 4 points)**

This college-level course is a survey of the development of British literature from the Romantic period to the present. Students will study works of prose, poetry, and drama in order to understand the historical and cultural context of each work. Students are required to apply close reading and critical analysis skills to the literature in order to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and enjoyment. Successful completion of this course may earn students college credit at some colleges and universities; see your guidance counselor for more information.

Grade: 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: 90% overall GPA, successful completion of ENG1301 and ENG1302 OR Passing AP English III Exam Score (3 or higher)

*PLEASE NOTE: Dual Credit courses receive **four** added points to the semester grade.*

*** Dual Credit: American Literature II (Honors- 4 points)**

This college-level course is a survey of American literature from the Civil War to the present. Students will study prose, poetry, drama, and fiction in relation to their historical and cultural contexts. Students are required to apply close reading and critical analysis skills to the literature in order to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and enjoyment. Successful completion of this course may earn students college credit at some colleges and universities; see your guidance counselor for more information.

Grade: 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: 90% overall GPA, successful completion of ENG1301 and ENG1302 OR Passing AP English III Exam Score (3 or higher)

*PLEASE NOTE: Dual Credit courses receive **four** added points to the semester grade.*

Communication Applications

This course introduces students to the art of public speaking, including speaking techniques, speech structure, and outline formation. Students will study famous speeches throughout history, as well as writing and presenting speeches of their own. This class seeks to build students' confidence in public speaking while also developing proper listening skills.

Grade: 9th - 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: None

*** Rhetoric (Honors)**

The study of rhetoric allows students to effectively analyze, create, and apply elements of persuasive discourse in real-world situations. Building from a foundation of language and logic, this course allows students to develop original ideas and communicate them with eloquence and confidence. This level incorporates a variety of rhetorical concepts, from classical to modern, designed to help promote critical thinking, logical reasoning, and problem-solving skills. The material covered in the rhetoric stage will help prepare students for advanced academics and civic life.

Grade: 10th - 12th (1 semester / .5 credit)

Prerequisite: 93% or above in previous Honors English course, 95% or above in previous on-level English course

Creative Writing

This elective course focuses on the reading and critiquing of a variety of works by contemporary authors, ultimately leading to students writing their own short fiction stories. Students who successfully complete the course will gain a better understanding of the elements of writing fiction and how to apply them, while developing an understanding of how a writer's choices influence the outcome of the story. Students will have practice in guided workshop environments in the techniques of writing and an opportunity to create a portfolio of finished stories.

Grade: 10th - 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: None

Grammar

This course develops a student's understanding of the art of language, focusing on the fundamentals of grammar, usage, and mechanics while cultivating style. With this foundation, students will develop their writing skills, focusing on the elements of composition and the academic essay. Students will learn how to write effective sentences, paragraphs, and essays by studying well-ordered and beautiful works that are worthy of imitation. This course will provide the foundations for successful academic and personal essay writing.

Grade: 9th - 12th (1 semesters / .5 credit)

Prerequisite: None

NOTE: Credit (CR) only; no grade received

Logic

The second course in the Trivium track, the goal of this course is to develop the art of thinking and speaking so that students use words and make statements logically and correctly. Students will learn how to identify fallacious reasoning, to think with valid and well-ordered reasoning, and to communicate this way through improved writing and composition skills.

Grade: 10th - 12th (1 semester / .5 credit)

Prerequisite: None

*** Senior Seminar (Honors)**

In the capstone class of the Trivium program, students will develop and practice the skills in research, collaboration, and communication that they'll need in any academic discipline. While focused on an underlying class theme, they'll investigate topics in a variety of subject areas, write research-based essays, and design and give presentations both individually and as part of a team.

Grade: 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Rhetoric OR 93% or above in English III class

III. MATHEMATICS

The goal of the Mathematics Department is to provide 21st Century mathematical content and skills. Emphasis is placed on process standards including problem solving, analysis and organization of data and quantitative ideas, selection of appropriate tools, mathematical communication skills and collaboration, and argumentation using precise mathematical language. Departmental approval for enrollment in courses is based upon established objective criteria. Students are required to take mathematics courses sequentially and for each year of attendance at Nolan. Technology is integrated throughout the mathematics curriculum using the required TI84+ calculator and various online learning platforms. Students enrolled in Algebra I in 8th grade will be required to take the Algebra I Mastery Test to determine placement in either Algebra I, Geometry, or Geometry Honors.

Algebra I

Algebra I is the first course in the college preparatory program. Algebra I emphasizes the study of arithmetic laws applied to algebraic structure and uses variables, equations, and graphs to provide a firm foundation in skills that are necessary to be successful in future high school and college mathematical courses.

Grade: 9th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

Geometry

Geometry emphasizes critical thinking skills as they relate to logical reasoning and argument. The course includes the study of logic and proofs, parallel and perpendicular lines, quadrilaterals, triangles and right triangles, circles and trigonometry, and surface area and volume. In Geometry, a student will develop spatial reasoning and problem solving skills. The goal is not only to understand the basic geometric figures and their interrelationships, but also to become analytical and creative thinkers. Web-based software and the TI-84 calculator will be integrated throughout the course.

Grade: 9th – 10th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Algebra I; incoming 9th grade students must demonstrate proficiency in Algebra I on the Algebra I Mastery Test

* Geometry (Honors)

Honors Geometry challenges students by emphasizing logic via mathematical proof. Critical thinking and creative problem-solving are similarly emphasized. Topics include geometric figures, deductive reasoning using postulates, theorems, corollaries and definitions, parallel lines and planes, triangles, quadrilaterals, geometric inequality, trigonometric ratios, circles, constructions, area, volume and introduction to coordinate geometry. The goal is not only to understand the basic geometric figures and their interrelationships, but also to become analytical and creative thinkers

Grade: 9th – 10th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Algebra I with a minimum semester grade of 93% and teacher recommendation; incoming 9th grade students must demonstrate mastery of Algebra I on the Algebra I Mastery Test

Algebra II

This course reviews the essentials of Algebra I, then continues covering the following concepts: linear functions and relations, solving systems of linear equations or inequalities, radicals and irrational numbers, functions, quadratic relations and systems, and exponents. All concepts are examined as tools for modeling real-world situations. The TI-84 calculator will be integrated throughout the course.

Grades: 10th – 11th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry

* Algebra II (Honors)

This course is a study of special classes of functions. Relationships between theory and real-world applications are thoroughly explored. Critical thinking is developed by a strong emphasis on graphing and creative problem solving. Topics include: functions and relations; linear functions; systems of linear equations and inequalities; quadratic functions and complex numbers; exponential and logarithmic functions; rational and irrational algebraic functions; quadratic relations and systems; higher degree functions and complex numbers; sequences and series; and an introduction to probability. Technology is integrated throughout this course.

Grades: 10th – 11th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry (Honors) with a minimum semester grade of 93% OR Geometry with a minimum semester grade of 95% and teacher recommendation.

Pre-Calculus

In Pre-Calculus, students learn relations, functions and graphs; inequalities; polynomial functions; exponential and logarithmic functions; trigonometry; sequences and series; and conic sections. The class integrates technology and real-world applications.

Grade: 11th – 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II/Algebra II (Honors) with a minimum semester grade of 80%

* AP Pre-Calculus (Honors)

This college-level course will prepare students for the AP Pre-Calculus exam in the spring. Students learn relations, functions and graphs; inequalities; polynomial functions; exponential and logarithmic functions; trigonometry; sequences and series; and conic sections. This class integrates technology and real-world applications.

Grade: 11th – 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II (Honors) with a minimum semester grade of 93% OR Algebra II with a minimum semester grade of 95% and teacher recommendation.

Introduction to Statistics

This course introduces students to the major tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students will study sampling and experimentation, categorical and quantitative data, probability and random variables, inference, bivariate data, and learn how to connect data and statistical processes to real-world situations.

Grade: 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II

* AP Statistics (Honors)

This college-level course will prepare students for the AP Statistics exam in the spring. It is divided into four major themes:

exploratory analysis of data to study patterns and departure from patterns, data collection using a well-developed plan to ensure the validity of the information to be obtained, anticipation of what the distribution of data should look like under a given model using probability as a tool, and selection of appropriate models using statistical inference as a guide.

Grade: 11th – 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

*Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and Pre-Calculus/Pre-Calculus (Honors) with a minimum semester grade of 93% OR must have completed Algebra II with a grade of 95% or above **and concurrently** be enrolled in Pre-Calculus and teacher recommendation.*

*** Calculus (Honors- 4 pts.)**

This course covers the fundamental concepts of calculus from a non-physics perspective to prepare students for college-level calculus. This course is for students who have demonstrated mastery of algebra, geometry, and pre-calculus. Though not as rigorous as AP Calculus, this course covers the same fundamental topics of limits, differentiation, and integration, as well as applications of these concepts. A TI-84 calculator is required for this class.

Grade: 11th – 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and Pre-Calculus with a minimum semester grade of 80%

*PLEASE NOTE: Calculus (Honors) will receive **four** added points to the semester grade.*

*** AP Calculus AB (Honors)**

This college-level course will prepare students for the AP Pre-Calculus exam. Students will explore rates of change, concavity, polynomial functions, end behavior, limits, rational functions, transformations, arithmetic and geometric sequences, exponential functions, composition, inverses, logarithms, trigonometry, and polar functions. This class integrates technology and real-world applications, and prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and Pre-Calculus (Honors) with a minimum semester grade of 93% or Pre-Calculus with a minimum semester grade of 95% and teacher recommendation

*** AP Calculus BC (Honors)**

This college-level course includes the study of single-variable calculus that includes all the topics of Calculus AB plus additional topics including parametric functions, polar functions, vector functions, and sequences and series. The course is equivalent to at least a year of calculus at most universities. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and Pre-Calculus (Honors) with a minimum semester grade of 103% and teacher recommendation

IV. SCIENCE

All students are required to earn 4 credits in Science, including a credit in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Based on Nolan Catholic placement test scores, standardized test scores, and grades, freshmen will be enrolled in Biology or Biology Honors. From there, they progress into Chemistry as sophomores, Physics as juniors and can choose from many classes for senior credit based on their interests. Students that are considering a career in science are encouraged to take additional courses their junior and/or senior year as schedules allow.

Biology

Biology is a laboratory-oriented survey of the structure and function of living organisms. Biology students will study living organisms and the organism's similarities and differences. We will investigate how all living organisms interact with each other and their environment. Students will learn how scientists use the scientific method, solve problems objectively, and make decisions concerning biological issues. Topics studied include biochemistry, cell anatomy and physiology, genetics, evolutionary theory, ecology, and a comparative survey of major kingdoms and phyla in the 3-domain/6 classification system. There is a substantial laboratory component, including animal dissection at the end of the second semester.

Grade: 9th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

*** Biology (Honors)**

This course is designed for students who have demonstrated superior verbal and linguistic skills. It elaborates on basic concepts of biology, uses more technical vocabulary, and includes labs that require more skill and analysis than Biology. Students will explore scientific phenomena in the laboratory as well as read about the questions pursued by other scientists as published in scientific journals. Classroom investigation and experimentation emphasize scientific skills, such as observing, measuring, replicating experiments, manipulating equipment, and collecting and reporting data. Experimentation will be both directed and open-ended.

Grade: 9th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: 80% Reading & 80% Verbal on placement exam.

Chemistry

This course studies the relationship between the structure and properties of matter. Students will investigate how chemistry is an integral part of our daily lives. Students will analyze a system in terms of its components and how these components relate to each other, to the whole, and to the external environment. Lab work applies theoretical concepts and the scientific method.

Grade: 10th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Biology

* Chemistry (Honors)

This course covers the structure & properties of matter in more depth than in Chemistry. Critical thinking and problem-solving skills are used extensively. Successful completion of this course prepares the student for AP Chemistry. Lab work applies theoretical concepts and the scientific method.

Grade: 10th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Biology, 93% or above in Biology (Honors) and current Honors math class or 95% or above in Biology and current math class and teacher recommendation

Physics I

Physics is a conceptual and math-based course using both lecture and lab oriented techniques for mastering learning objectives. Physics vertically aligns with all other high school science courses in terms of lab safety, scientific processes, measurements, and equipment usage. The main concepts of study for physics are kinematics (motion), dynamics (forces), energy and momentum, electricity, waves, and nuclear physics. Critical thinking and problem solving are required as students apply physics concepts and algebra to solve real world problems. Students will apply critical thinking skills and inquiry through lab investigations and demonstrate proficiency in accurate/precise measurements and analysis of data to support scientific conclusions.

Grade: 11th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Chemistry

* AP Physics I: Algebra-based (Honors)

AP Physics I is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course. Students cultivate their understanding of Physics through inquiry-based investigations as they explore the topics of kinematics, dynamics, circular motion and gravitation, energy, momentum, simple harmonic motion, torque and rotational motion. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 11th – 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Chemistry, 93% or above in current honors math class and Chemistry (Honors) or 95% or above in current math class and Chemistry

* AP Biology: Cell & Molecular Biology (Honors)

AP Biology is a college-level course that focuses on the chemical and molecular bases of life, including metabolism, cell structure and function, and genetics. Laboratory experiments are designed to complement theory presented in lecture. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 11th – 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Average of 93% or above in current Honors science course or 95% or above in current on-level science course

* AP Chemistry (Honors)

AP Chemistry is a college-level course that focuses on chemical problem-solving. Atomic structure, kinetics, chemical equilibrium, and basic thermodynamics are presented in-depth. Lab procedures and techniques are emphasized and are equivalent to a college lab course. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 11th – 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: 93% or above in current honors science & math or 95% or above in on-level science and math and department approval

* AP Physics C: Mechanics / Electricity & Magnetism (Honors)

This college-level calculus-based course focuses on advanced topics in physics with emphasis on Mechanics first semester and Electricity and Magnetism second semester. Students will build upon the physics knowledge gained in AP Physics I and find the correlation between previously used equations and how they can be interpreted through Calculus. Math skills, particularly Calculus will be reinforced and refined throughout the course. This class prepares students for both AP exams in May.

Grade: 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: 93% or above in current honors science & math or 95% or above in on-level science and math and department approval; must be concurrently enrolled in Calculus

* Scientific Research & Design (Ecology Honors)

Scientific Research and Design (Ecology Honors) introduces the biological study of populations, communities, and ecosystems. This

research course emphasizes the formulation of hypotheses and acquisition of data based on field work in a variety of habitats. Students will learn the myriad of ways organisms interact with each other and the environment through lecture in the classroom, analysis of scholarly research, and location-based field experiences. Overnight field trips are required both semesters. Expenses will be incurred each semester to cover the cost of the field trips. The Costa Rica trip is optional but does require an additional fee.

Grade: 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: 93% or above in current honors science course or 95% or above in current on-level science course and teacher recommendation

*** Human Anatomy & Physiology (Honors)**

This college-level course prepares students interested in healthcare and pharmaceutical science. Students learn form and function of the human body through the levels of organization; support and movement, control and regulation, fluids and transport and environmental change. Clinical aspects and terminology of all eleven body systems are covered. Models of human organs, along with dissections of animal organs, enhance the lab experience for comparative anatomy. Emphasis is placed on interrelationships among systems and regulation of physiological functions involved in maintaining homeostasis. This will be achieved through demonstrations, human skeletal, muscular and organ systems models, dissection, anatomical models, lecture, guided review sessions, and self-directed learning.

Grade: 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: 93% or above in current honors science course or 95% or above in current on-level science course and teacher recommendation

Earth & Space Science

Earth and Space Science is designed to build on students' prior scientific knowledge and skills to develop understanding of Earth's system in space and time. The course will broaden students' understanding of the physical processes that exist all around them on (and off) Earth. This is a survey course exploring aspects of astronomy, meteorology, geology, and oceanography.

Grade: 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry, and Physics

Environmental Systems

This course examines the interaction of humans with the environment and integrates materials from the biological, physical, and social sciences. This course is suggested for students interested in applied ecology and related sciences. Good stewardship of the environment as God's Creation is emphasized.

Grade: 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry, and Physics

V. SOCIAL STUDIES

The Social Studies Department seeks to nurture important leadership skills that our students must have in order to make a positive contribution as knowledgeable and virtuous citizens of our society. We expect that our students will participate in society with the Catholic perspective of respect for human dignity, promotion of the common good, and the right use of freedom. Through the study of history, students will gain a better understanding of how the past has been formative for the present and appreciate great persons and events that have contributed to human flourishing throughout time while also studying those figures and events that deviated from this pursuit.

World Geography

This course introduces students to the global regions of the world. Students are responsible for identifying and locating the various nations of these regions as well as correlating the impact of topography on culture. The major challenge of this course involves understanding social organization, traditions/history, language, arts, religion, government, and economy, and applying this template to targeted cultures.

Grade: 9th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

*** Ancient History (Honors)**

This course surveys world geography and history from ancient civilizations to the Middle Ages, focusing on the foundations of Western Civilization in Israel, Mesopotamia, Greece, Rome, and Early Christian societies. Students will examine how societies developed, how civilizations formed, and the persons and events that led to human flourishing. This survey course will include the study of art, economics, ethics, geography, inventions, music, politics, religion, as well as the development of the Great Ideas and how these have come to affect the lives of future societies and people. This course is a more rigorous version of Ancient History and World Geography and focuses heavily on primary source reading, historical research, and written analysis.

Grade: 9th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

World History

This course surveys world history from the Renaissance to the present. Students will examine how empires and nations were formed and people prospered by successfully building on the work of those before. In addition to events, inventions, art, conflicts and culture, students will also look at the development of the world's great ideas and how these have come to affect the lives of people today.

Grade: 10th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: World Geography or Ancient History (Honors)

*** AP World History (Honors)**

AP World History develops a greater understanding of the evolution of global societies from AD 1200 to the present. The course emphasizes a combination of selective factual knowledge and appropriate analytical skills. Time periods will be compared across common themes of human interaction with the environment, development of cultures, state-building, creation of economic systems, and development of social structures. The course offers balanced global coverage, with Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania all represented. Students learn to evaluate and construct arguments, critically use primary documents, and analyze global patterns. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 10th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Ancient History, 93% or above in previous honors Social Studies course or 95% or above in on-level Social Studies course and teacher recommendation

U.S. History

This survey course examines American development from colonial times to the present. The basic principles of societal and political systems, qualities of individual rights, representative government, and equality of opportunity are emphasized. The course fosters appreciation for American history and provides insights into relationships among the people, ideologies, and events that have shaped present-day American society. Social, political and economic factors are studied in various methodologies. This course aids students in relating the past to the present and projecting events in the future.

Grade: 11th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: World History

*** AP U. S. History (Honors)**

The college-level Advanced Placement course in American History is designed to provide students with knowledge and analytical skills to deal critically with problems and materials in American history. AP U.S. History is an introductory college-level U.S. history course. Students cultivate their understanding of U.S. history from c. 1491 CE to the present through analyzing historical sources and learning to make connections and craft historical arguments as they explore concepts like American and national identity; work, exchange, and technology; geography and the environment; migration and settlement; politics and power; America in the world; American and regional culture; and social structures. AP U.S. History is for the motivated, college-bound student and includes a considerable amount of reading and lecture material. Students learn to assess primary source historical material and determine its importance, reliability, and relevance to an interpretive problem. Course work assists the student in developing the skills necessary to arrive at informed conclusions and to present evidence clearly and persuasively in an essay format. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 11th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: World History, 93% or above in previous honors Social Studies course or 95% or above in on-level Social Studies course and teacher recommendation

*** Dual Credit: U.S. History (Honors- 4 points)**

This college-level course is a survey of the social, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of the United States from the pre-Columbian era to the present. This study of multiple eras includes colonial, revolutionary, early national, slavery and sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Post-Civil War topics include industrialization, immigration, world wars, the Great Depression, the Cold War, and post-Cold War eras. Themes that may be addressed include American settlement and diversity, American culture, religion, civil and human rights, technological change, economic change, immigration and migration, and creation of the federal government. Successful completion of this course may earn students college credit at some colleges and universities; see your guidance counselor for more information.

Grade: 11th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: World History, 90% cumulative GPA, required grade on the TSI or PSAT exam

*PLEASE NOTE: Dual Credit classes receive **four** added honors points to the semester grade.*

Economics

This course is designed as a basic introduction to the principles of economics. Students will use case studies, web links, tables,

graphs, and anecdotes to learn the basics of economics. Students will apply both their intuition and rational judgment when considering various practical economic models and theories. Finally, students will consider a Catholic perspective to this discipline which offers them a foundation, a point of reference, that they will use in college and in their professional and personal lives.

Grade: 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: U.S. History

*** AP Macroeconomics (Honors)**

The AP Macroeconomics course is a college-level class modeled on the foundation of "the big ideas". They are the overarching concepts or themes that allow students to develop deeper conceptual understanding. The four big ideas are using essential economic measurements, the understanding of markets, basic macroeconomic models, and applying fiscal and monetary policy models to an economy's output, price level, and employment in both the short and long run. Students spiral the learning of these four big ideas within the context of six major units of study: basic economic concepts, economic indicators and the business cycle, national income and price determination, the financial sector, long-run consequences of stabilization policies, and international trade and finance. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: U.S. History, 93% or above in previous honors Social Studies course or 95% or above in on-level Social Studies course and teacher recommendation

U.S. Government

U.S. Government provides an analytical perspective on the political system. The course covers the U.S. Constitution, the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches, civil rights and civil liberties, political ideology, and political parties. The goal of this class is to understand the philosophy, institutions, and practice of government in the United States so students will be able to participate knowledgeably in a democratic republic.

Grade: 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: U.S. History

*** AP U.S. Government (Honors)**

This college-level course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. government and politics and the analysis of specific examples. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. government and politics. Students should become acquainted with a variety of theoretical perspectives and explanations for various behaviors and outcomes. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: U.S. History, 93% or above in previous honors Social Studies course or 95% or above in on-level Social Studies course and teacher recommendation

*** Dual Credit: U.S. Government (Honors- 4 points)**

As an introductory, university level course, GOVT 2305 provides students with the opportunity to earn high school and college credit simultaneously. This course will expose students to the rigor of a college course. This course focuses on the U.S. national government, its institutions, and public policies. Topics to be covered include: U.S. Constitution, federalism, civil liberties and civil rights, political participation, elections, and public policy. Successful completion of this course may earn students college credit at some colleges and universities; see your guidance counselor for more information.

Grade: 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: US History, 90% cumulative GPA, required grade on the TSI or PSAT exam

*PLEASE NOTE: Dual Credit classes receive **four** added honors points to the semester grade.*

*** AP Comparative Politics (Honors)**

The AP Comparative Government and Politics Course and Exam Description defines what representative colleges and universities typically expect students to know and be able to do in order to earn college credit or placement. Students practice the skills used by comparative political scientists by studying data, political writings from different countries, and the processes and outcomes of politics in a variety of country settings. Students will show mastery of these skills on the AP Exam through various means, including applying concepts, analyzing data, comparing countries, and writing political science arguments. Students study six countries in AP Comparative Government and Politics: China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom.

Grade: 11th-12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: U.S. History, World History, 90% or above in previous social studies course

*** AP European History (Honors)**

This college-level course focuses on European History from 1450 to the present. The class examines the intellectual, cultural, political, social, and economic development of Europe from the early Renaissance to modern times. The class's main goals are to develop an

understanding of some of the main themes in European history, analyze historical evidence, and cultivate the ability to express historical understanding through discussion and writing. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 11th – 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: 93% or above in previous social studies course

Psychology

This course is a broad survey of psychology as a social science and is divided into three parts. First, the history and the “major schools” of psychology are considered. Second, this course considers important background knowledge of human development. Finally, this foundation is used to examine such topics as personality, learning and motivation, social psychology, psycho-pathology and treatment, and growth toward personal fulfillment. The course focuses on the student’s cognitive understanding and on the student’s ability to apply this to his/ her experience.

Grade: 10th – 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: None

*** AP Psychology (Honors)**

AP Psychology is a college-level course that introduces students to the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes in humans and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. Students learn methods used by psychologists in their science and practice. Major areas of study include biological bases of behavior, motivation, emotions, developmental psychology, personality, abnormal behavior, treatment, and learning. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 11th – 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: 90% or above in previous social studies course

Criminal Justice

Criminal Justice is designed to provide the student with a working knowledge of American jurisprudence and enforcement tactics. We will study levels of criminal offenses, as well as the make-up and procedures of our court system. The course examines the American criminal justice system based on various scenarios to determine the fairness of laws and the appropriateness of enforcement. Students will also study various criminal case histories, some unknown and some notorious, and investigate them to reach their own conclusions. The course entails some group work and lots of group discussion and debate.

Grade: 10th – 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: None

History of the Atlantic World

Explore the experiences of people in the complex Atlantic World. The waters of the Atlantic Ocean have connected countries and people for nearly five hundred years. This class will delve into the lived experiences of the people who lived in the midst of that world. The people who lived on the edge of the Atlantic world bring a different perspective to the human experience.

Grade: 11th – 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: 90% or above in previous Social Studies course

*** Dual Credit: Texas History (Honors- 4 points)**

A survey of the political, social, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of Texas from the pre-Columbian era to the present. Themes that may be addressed in Texas History include: Spanish colonization and Spanish Texas; Mexican Texas; the Republic of Texas; statehood and secession; oil, industrialization, and urbanization; civil rights; and modern Texas.. Successful completion of this course may earn students college credit at some colleges and universities; see your guidance counselor for more information.

Grade: 11th – 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: World History or WHAP, 90% cumulative GPA, required grade on the TSI or PSAT exam

*PLEASE NOTE: Dual Credit classes receive **four** added honors points to the semester grade.*

*** World Cultures (Honors)**

With a focus on World Cultures, this course will explore complex relationships of cause and effect that exist among people, their environments, and historical and contemporary actions. The course will explore all cultural aspects including religion, language, government, economics, and the human environment interaction. problems of economic development and cultural change.

Grade: 11th-12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: World History/WHAP, 90% or above in previous social studies course

VI. CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

The goal of the CTE Department is to equip students with skills that will lead to success in various career fields. Courses build upon each other, and work becomes more student driven at the top end of each track. Students can explore opportunities in Marketing, Digital Media, Graphic Design, Photography, Computer Science, Culinary Arts, and Plant Science.

Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance

In Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance, students gain knowledge and skills in economies and private enterprise systems, the impact of global business, the marketing of goods and services, advertising, and product pricing. Students analyze the sales process and financial management principles. This course allows students to reinforce, apply, and transfer academic knowledge and skills to a variety of interesting and relevant activities, problems, and settings in business, marketing, and finance.

Grades: 9th - 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: None

Personal Finance

This course explores the theories and techniques of managing personal income. It provides students with tools and knowledge for short- and long-term financial success. Topics include financial planning, budgeting, building and maintaining good credit, retirement and estate planning, and creating an investment portfolio.

Grades: 10th - 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: None

* Catholic Entrepreneurship and Design (Dual Credit)

CEDE is a high school entrepreneurship program driven by experiential and project-based learning. Combining academic rigor with fun and engaging action, CEDE is organized into 3 phases of Discern, Create, and Grow. As such, it is not strictly for those who want to found companies, launch ventures, or go into business. CEDE's broad and widely-applicable call to an entrepreneurial spirit will serve all students, whether they become priests, parents, teachers, business people, or chefs! The course has 12 Foundational Modules built. In each module, students are challenged to complete projects that create real human value. Each module uses a student prompt that sets the context for learning through direct delivery to each individual student. Then, modules use excerpts from the Catechism of the Catholic Church to reinforce Catholic Social Teaching, with entrepreneurial profiles and case studies to reinforce discussions, driving project work. Throughout, engaging activities provide the experiential element necessary for internalizing and applying the concepts. There is an additional cost for this course.

Grades: 11th - 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: 90% cumulative GPA

*PLEASE NOTE: Dual Credit classes receive **four** added honors points to the semester grade.*

Introduction to Digital Media

This course exposes students to career opportunities in the emerging field of digital art and media presentation. This is an introductory class that is required for advanced Digital Media courses, which will introduce students to principles of Animation, Video Technology, Graphic Design & Illustration, and Photography. Concentrating on the overlap of these four content areas, Introduction to Digital Media explores the Elements of Art; Principles of Design; Color Theory & Digital Color Models; Digital Media Management; and Digital Media Creation. Adobe Photoshop CC and Adobe Premiere CC are used heavily.

Grades: 9th - 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: None

Animation

This course exposes students to a wide range of contemporary 2D animation techniques and workflows. Students will explore the history and evolution of animation while using modern software to create motion graphic content. Students will execute these skills using Adobe Animate CC (formerly Adobe Flash) and Adobe After Effects CC. Animation I provides an overview of every stage of animation, beginning with storyboarding, character creation, stage design, character rigging, culminating in a completed animation project. Students will also learn basic sound design and audio production fundamentals to help bring animation and motion graphics projects to life.

Grades: 10th - 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Digital Media

Graphic Design and Illustration

This course is a platform for students to nurture their creative and artistic skill sets. Students will use Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign in a contemporary digital arts environment. With Adobe Illustrator, students can become designers and visual storytellers by creating digital artwork for creative and professional outlets. With Adobe InDesign, students will create professional digital products including magazines, books, and brochures.

Grades: 9th - 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Digital Media

Photography

Photography explores the purpose of photography in both fine arts and communication. Students learn intermediate digital photography skills to be applied to a variety of fine art and photojournalism projects. Emphasis is placed on camera handling skills, elements of design, storytelling, the history of photography, and ethics in the photography industry. Students will develop technology skills in media management and software usage, along with mastering a broad range of photographic techniques.

Grade: 9th - 12th (1 semester / .5 credit)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Digital Media

Yearbook

This course offers the student an opportunity to be a part of the NCHS yearbook staff. Yearbook staff members use industry standard software, writing/reporting skills, and design conventions to create the Lepanto Yearbook documenting the current school year. Students will manage media, conduct interviews, generate coverage, write articles, and design spreads with Adobe InDesign. Reliability and willingness to work outside school hours are required. Students are also asked to attend a summer workshop to help prepare a theme for the school year. Due to the course structure, dropping this class at semester is not permitted.

Grade: 10th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Photography I (or Instructor Approval)

Film Studies

This elective course is an introduction to the art and craft of film. Students will study all aspects of film development and the history of film. Students will view and critique a variety of films, from the beginning of movie-making to the present day, and develop an appreciation for films from different genres and time periods.

Grade: 10th - 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: None

International Cinema

This course follows Film Studies and introduces students to a more diverse breadth of art and cinema movements from 1895 until the present. This course will explore the artistic styles and cultural influences that informed and fostered traditions spanning the globe, including Italian Neorealism, French New Wave, German Expressionism, Iranian New Wave, Soviet Montage, Post-war Japanese Cinema, and many others. Students will engage with films that have shaped global cinema history while analyzing how artists and filmmakers have responded to societal challenges, political change, and shifting cultural identity. This course will focus on artistic analysis through outside writing and in-class discussion.

Grade: 11th - 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: Film Studies

Computer Science Essentials (PLTW)

This year-long high school course offers a dynamic introduction to the PLTW (Project Lead The Way) curriculum, focusing on computational thinking and fostering collaborative skills. Designed as an ideal starting point for students embarking on their PLTW Computer Science journey, Computer Science Essentials provides a comprehensive exploration of computational thinking concepts, fundamentals, and tools to empower students and enhance their confidence in the realm of computer science. There is an activity fee to participate in the class.

Grade: 9th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

*** Computer Science A (PLTW + Honors)**

This is a college-level course, and students can, based on performance on the Advanced Placement Examination, earn college credit hours based on universities' criteria. This course familiarizes students with the concepts and tools of computer science as they learn a subset of the Java programming language. Students will do hands-on work to design, write, and test computer programs that solve problems or accomplish tasks. There is an activity fee to participate in the class.

Grade: 10th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Computer Science Essentials, Intro to Engineering Design, OR Programming II

*** Computer Science Principles (PLTW + Honors)**

Using Python as a primary tool, students explore and become inspired by career paths that utilize computing, discover tools that foster creativity and collaboration, and use what they've learned to tackle challenges like app development and simulation. There is an activity fee to participate in the class.

Grade: 11th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Computer Science Essentials, Intro to Engineering Design, OR Programming II

Culinary Arts I

Culinary Arts I introduces students to the fundamentals of cooking applicable in either a commercial or home kitchen. Students learn safety, sanitation, knife skills, cooking techniques and the science of baking. This course provides students with foundational knowledge and hands-on experiences. Students must complete a food handlers course and will practice presentation skills and sanitation requirements. The skills acquired in this class will provide a foundation for continuing through the program, working in a professional setting, and cooking at home. Opportunities to earn service hours may occur during this class/program. There is an activity fee to participate in the class.

Grades: 9th - 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisites: Application and Instructor Approval

Culinary Arts II

This is the second course in the culinary arts program. Students will build upon the foundational skills gained in Culinary Arts I. Culinary Arts II is a year-long class with one semester focusing on French contributions to culinary arts, regional and historical influences on French foods, and French cooking and baking techniques, while the second semester focuses on the same for Italian cuisine. Research projects will be involved as well as cooking. Culinary service hours may be required for this class, and the final for this course will be outside of instructional time. There is an activity fee to participate in the class.

Grades: 10th - 12th (2 semester / 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Culinary Arts I, Application, and Instructor Approval

*** Culinary Arts III (Honors)**

Students will continue to explore cuisines across cultures. Students will research, learn, practice, and teach cooking techniques, ingredients, and recipes associated with different cultures in Latin America, Caribbean, and Asia. Students will also begin developing their own personal cooking styles with signature dishes and pastries. There is an activity fee to participate in the class.

Grades: 11th - 12th (2 semester / 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Culinary Arts II, Application, and Instructor Approval

*** Culinary Arts IV (Honors)**

Culinary Arts IV is a year-long class in which students will serve as leaders of the culinary arts program while developing personal projects, skills, and interests. Culinary Arts IV students will serve dual roles: sous chefs for Culinary Arts I or Culinary Arts II classes while also completing personal assignments, projects, and portfolios. Culinary Arts IV students will be expected to assist in teaching and leading a Culinary Arts class, teach multiple lessons, and evaluate food prepared by Culinary Arts I or II students. Culinary Arts II students will also play a major role in planning, organizing, budgeting, and leading culinary arts events. Students will research, present, and defend a culinary arts topic approved by the instructor or complete a culinary arts capstone project during the first semester. During the second semester, Culinary Arts IV students will complete a project that includes, researching, field testing, budgeting, and showcasing a personal culinary portfolio. There is an activity fee to participate in the class.

Grades: 11th - 12th (2 semester / 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Culinary Arts III (Honors), Application, and Instructor Approval

Introduction to Plant Science

Introduction to Plant Science will acquaint students with the Nolan Catholic Greenhouse and Floral Design shop. Students will learn basic botany and plant propagation techniques, explore career opportunities relevant to plant science, participate in on-campus gardening projects, and delve into the principles and elements of design as they relate to floral design and landscape design. Successful completion of this course will prepare students for Horticulture Science and/or Floral Design. There is an activity fee to participate in this class.

Grades: 9th - 12th (1 semester / .5 credit)

Prerequisites: None

Horticultural Science

Horticultural Science will provide students with opportunities for hands-on learning in the greenhouse, community gardens and courtyards. Students will learn about native Texas plants, greenhouse management, Integrated Pest Management, landscape design and fruit and vegetable gardening. There is an activity fee to participate in this class.

Grades: 9th - 12th (1 semester / .5 credit)

Prerequisites: Introduction to Plant Science

Floral Design

Floral Design will provide students with opportunities for hands-on learning. Students will study floral design styles and care of common cut flowers. Students will gain practical experience in designing and creating floral arrangements including tabletop arrangements, bouquets, corsages and boutonnieres. This class prepares students for the High School Floral Design certification level 1 test through the Texas State Florists Association. There is an activity fee to participate in this class.

Grades: 10th - 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisites: Introduction to Plant Science

*** Agribusiness Management and Marketing (Honors)**

This is a hands-on class providing selected students with opportunities to manage the on-campus greenhouse, floral design shop, and/or partner school field trip program. Instruction will include budgeting, record keeping, finance and marketing. Students will gain valuable management and customer service skills. Students will be expected to demonstrate a strong work ethic and ability to work independently.

Grades: 10th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Horticultural Science or Floral Design and Instructor Approval

VII. ENGINEERING

The Engineering program at Nolan Catholic is intended to give students hands-on experience in the Engineering field that will prepare them for Engineering courses in college. Using the program Project Lead the Way, students will engage in projects and simulations that will give them opportunities to explore a variety of engineering fields. Engineering courses fulfill a students' CTE requirement.

Engineering Essentials (PLTW)

Engineering Essentials offers a multi-disciplinary approach to teaching and learning foundational concepts of engineering practice, providing students opportunities to explore the breadth of engineering career opportunities and experiences and solve engaging and challenging real-world problems. By inspiring and empowering students with an understanding of engineering and career opportunities, Engineering Essentials broadens participation in engineering education and the engineering profession. Engineering Essentials is the entry course for the engineering program. Any student entering the engineering program will start with this class. There is an activity fee to participate in the class.

Grade: 9th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

*** Introduction to Engineering Design (PLTW + Honors)**

Introduction to Engineering Design builds upon foundational engineering concepts with an emphasis on the application of modeling in the engineering design process to develop mechanical solutions. Students dig deep into the engineering design process, applying math, science, and engineering standards to hands-on projects. They work both individually and in teams to design solutions to a variety of problems using 3D modeling software and use an engineering notebook to document their work. There is an activity fee to participate in the class.

Grades: 10th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Engineering Essentials OR Geometry

*** Computer Integrated Manufacturing (PLTW + Honors)**

Manufactured items are part of everyday life, yet most students have not been introduced to the high-tech, innovative nature of modern manufacturing. This course illuminates the opportunities related to understanding manufacturing. At the same time, it teaches students about manufacturing processes, product design, robotics, and automation. Students can earn a virtual manufacturing badge recognized by the National Manufacturing Badge system. There is an activity fee to participate in the class.

Grade: 11th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Engineering Design

*** Principles of Engineering (PLTW + Honors)**

Principles of Engineering (POE) is a foundation course of the high school engineering pathway. This survey course exposes students to some of the major concepts that they will encounter in a postsecondary engineering course of study. Through problems that engage and challenge, students explore a broad range of engineering topics, including mechanisms, the strength of materials and structures, automation, and kinematics. The course applies and concurrently develops secondary level knowledge and skills in mathematics, science, and technology. Students have the opportunity to develop skills and understanding of course concepts through activity-, project-, and problem-based (APB) learning. By solving rigorous and relevant design problems using engineering and science

concepts within a collaborative learning environment, APB learning challenges students to continually hone their interpersonal skills, creative abilities, and problem solving skills. Students will also learn how to document their work and communicate their solutions to their peers and members of the professional community. It also allows students to develop strategies to enable and direct their own learning, which is the ultimate goal of education. There is an activity fee to participate in the class.

Grade: 11th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Engineering Design

*** PLTW Capstone (PLTW + Honors)**

The knowledge and skills students acquire throughout PLTW Engineering come together in Engineering Design and Development as they identify an issue and then research, design, and test a solution, ultimately presenting their solution to a panel of engineers. Students apply the professional skills they have developed to document a design process to standards, completing Engineering Design and Development ready to take on any post-secondary program or career. There is an activity fee to participate in the class.

Grade: 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Computer Integrated Manufacturing OR Principles of Engineering OR Computer Science A

VIII. FINE ARTS

The Nolan Catholic Fine Arts Department works to train and develop students in the application of both performance and visual arts. Students are required to complete 1 credit of Fine Arts for graduation.

Art I

This is a studio-based course emphasizing the development of skills in a variety of media through the understanding of the elements of art and principles of design. Students will create a wide range of artwork in 2D and 3D. Students will learn techniques for drawing with a wide range of drawing mediums: graphite, charcoal, ink, Prismacolor pencils, pastels, watercolors, and acrylics; as well as, 3D design with plaster, clay and other assorted mixed media. Art history is drawn upon to broaden students' understanding of art and relate their classroom experiences to the wider art world of the past and present. Students will be charged an additional fee for supplies for this class.

Grade: 9th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

Art II (2D)

Art II 2D is a studio-based course offering an in-depth study of the areas covered in Art I through more advanced projects. Mediums used include graphite, charcoal, ink, pastels, watercolors, prismacolor pencils, markers, clay, and acrylic paints. Students will broaden their knowledge of color theory and learn different techniques of painting. Students will learn how to combine mediums to create compositions while fine-tuning technique and skills. Historic and current artists will be researched and referenced for project inspiration. More freedom will be allowed to students on projects so they can develop their own style of artistic expression. Students will be charged an additional fee for supplies for this class.

Grades: 10th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Art I

*** AP Art & Design (Honors)**

AP Art & Design is a college-level course for the committed art student who seeks to develop their own artistic style in any medium of art. This can include, but is not limited to, drawing, painting, assemblage, installation, photography, and digital art. This is an opportunity to be an authentic artist with minimal restrictions. The goal of the class is to meet guidelines set forth by the AP College Board. A portfolio of advanced artwork, five selected works, and a year-long sustained investigation will be submitted in May for evaluation. A qualifying portfolio score can earn college credit. The student may choose which portfolio in which they would like to submit artwork: Drawing, 2D, or 3D.

Grades: 10th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit) Students will be charged an additional fee for supplies for this class.

Prerequisite: Art I and Art II (2D)

Ceramics

This semester class will introduce students to the beauty of ceramics. Focus will be placed on three handbuilding techniques, pinch methods, coil processes, and slab methods. The potter's wheel and sculpture will also be explored. Students will create functional and decorative clay pieces while learning various ways to form and manipulate clay. A variety of glazing and decoration techniques will be introduced. Students may not have long fingernails in this class as it hinders the students ability to make a quality artwork. One full year of fine art credit is required before taking ceramics. Students will be charged an additional fee for supplies for this class.

Grades: 10th - 12th (1 semester / .5 credit)

Prerequisite: Students must have completed fine arts credit

Painting Big

Painting Big is a semester course exploring design ideas and painting techniques of modern and postmodern art on a larger scale which is not done in other classes. The majority of the work will be on large panels (2' x 3' up to 4' x 5') requiring students to work and stand at an easel. This class is an opportunity for the exploration of self-expression using paint on a grand scale while learning about historical artworks and artists of the twentieth century. Students will be charged an additional fee for supplies for this class.

Grades: 10th - 12th (1 semester / .5 credit)

Prerequisite: Art I

Theatre I

This course introduces the student to theatre from basic stage techniques to elements of performance. Learned techniques include improvisation, pantomime, blocking, voice and diction, play production, and characterization. In addition to these techniques, students will study theatre by engaging in scenes and script analysis.

Grade: 9th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

Technical Theatre

Technical Theatre introduces students to concepts and skills related to stage production. These include, but are not limited to, safety, set construction, lighting, sound, set design, stage management, costumes and makeup, properties, and house management.

Grade: 9th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

Theatre Production

Before you pack up your bags and shuffle off to Broadway, be sure to try out the Theatre Production Class. Work with other actors and people interested in technical theatre to produce several theatrical productions and earn the opportunity to travel and compete against other schools. This course focuses on all aspects of theatrical production: acting concepts and skills, production concepts and skills, student-directed one-act plays, and aesthetic growth through appreciation of theatrical events. Students will share in the theatre experience by working in the various areas associated with overall production, including but not limited to the TAPPS One-Act Play competition piece. There are after school rehearsal requirements for this class.

Grades: 10th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Theatre I; Audition-Based Admission

Musical Theatre

Musical Theatre is a semester-long class that immerses students in the captivating world of musical theatre. This course covers acting, singing, and dance techniques while delving into the history and current trends of the genre. Students will explore character development, vocal training, choreography, and audition preparation. The class emphasizes collaborative learning, creativity, and culminates in performances that showcase the skills and knowledge acquired during the semester. Whether you dream of a career in theatre or want to explore your creative side, this class offers a comprehensive introduction to the art of musical theatre.

Grade: 9th - 12th (1 semester / .5 credit)

Prerequisite: None

Choral Music I (Beginner)

Beginner choir is for students entering their first or second year of choral singing. Students will receive training in Kodaly hand signs, practice the basics of counting rhythms, learn how to mark scores with solfège and other markings, and be taught proper breathing and vocal technique. Performed music is mostly two or three part harmonies in multiple languages and genres. Students participate in competitive auditions for All-State Choirs, including TMEA (Texas Music Educators Association) and TPSMEA (Texas Private School Music Educators Association). Each quarter there is a performance which is required; alternate tests will be given if the students cannot attend. Semester activities include: choir socials, competitions individually and in groups, performances, and rehearsals outside of regular school hours.

Grades: 9th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

Choral Music II (Intermediate)

Intermediate choir is for students who have auditioned with the choir director or have had previous choral training. This course includes performing music in three to four part harmonies, tuning and blending with choir members, proper vocal technique, and singing in various languages and genres. Students will focus on tone production, rhythm and pitch accuracy, and advanced sight reading. Students participate in competitive auditions for All State Choir such as TMEA (Texas Music Educators Association) and TPSMEA (Texas Private School Music Educators Association). Each quarter there is a performance which is required; alternate tests will be given if the students cannot attend. Semester activities include: choir socials, competitions individually and in groups, performances, and rehearsals outside of regular school hours. Students are placed in this course based on audition and previous vocal/choral training.

Grades: 10th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Placement by audition

Choral Music III (Advanced)

Advanced Choir is for students with advanced sight reading skills, tone production, musicianship, dedication, and performance experience. Training in tuning individual voices, ensemble blend, advanced sight reading, and exceptional performance will occur on a daily basis. Music learned is in four parts or more (SSAATTBB). Students participate in competitive auditions for All State Choir, including TMEA (Texas Music Educators Association) and TPSMEA (Texas Private School Music Educators Association). Each quarter there is a performance which is required; alternate tests will be given if the students cannot attend. Semester activities include: choir socials, competitions individually and in groups, performances, and rehearsals outside of regular school hours. Students are placed in this course by audition focusing on advanced tone quality in solo and ensemble singing and previous vocal/choral training.

Grades: 10th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Placement by audition

Class Piano

Class Piano is designed for students who wish to develop basic piano playing skills, or improve their existing skills. During the course of the class, students will be working individually and in small groups to master the techniques of playing and to learn repertoire. A majority of this course is geared toward preparing students for a collegiate piano entrance exam.

Grades: 9th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

String Orchestra

String Orchestra is focused on broadening the artistic level and interest of its members while performing challenging music of artistic and historic significance. Members of the String Orchestra will broaden and expand performance skills to experience the highest level of music making. The String Orchestra includes the instrumentation of guitar, violin, viola, cello and string bass, and performs a variety of music with a focus on musicianship and ensemble playing. The String Orchestra performs at various school and other functions and interscholastic contests throughout the year. Students have the opportunity to compete in individual interscholastic contests (All-Region Orchestra, All-State Orchestra, Solo, and Ensemble, etc.).

Grades: 9th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

Wind Ensemble

The Wind Ensemble is focused on broadening the artistic level and interest of its members while performing challenging music of artistic and historic significance. Members of the Wind Ensemble will broaden and expand performance skills to experience the highest level of music making. The Wind Ensemble uses full instrumentation and performs a variety of music with a focus on musicianship and ensemble playing. The band plays at various school and other functions and interscholastic contests throughout the year. Students have the opportunity to compete in individual, interscholastic contests (All-Region Band, All-State Band, Solo, and Ensemble, etc.). The first semester begins with Marching Band. Students learn and develop skills through a marching show production that will include body movement, choreography, marching techniques and reading/setting drill formation charts. Opportunities will also be available for students to develop discipline and leadership skills. Students in the Wind Ensemble are required to participate in marching band.

**1/2 credit may be earned toward Physical Education graduation requirements. (Fall Semester only)*

Grades: 9th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

Percussion Ensemble

Members of the percussion class will broaden and expand performance skills to experience the highest level of music making. Students will explore a variety of percussion genres and perform a variety of music with a focus on musicianship and ensemble playing. The Percussion Ensemble Class performs at various school and other functions and interscholastic contests throughout the

year. Students have the opportunity to compete in individual interscholastic contests (All-Region Band, All-State Band, Solo, and Ensemble, etc.). The first semester begins with Drumline and Front Ensemble (also known as the pit), two components within the Marching Band. Students learn and develop skills through a marching show production that will include body movement, choreography, marching techniques, and reading/setting drill formation charts. Opportunities will also be available for students to develop discipline and leadership skills. Students in the Percussion Ensemble are required to participate in marching band. Auditions for the drumline and front ensemble are held in the spring semester prior to the upcoming school year. Students of all levels are welcome to be included in the class.

**1/2 credit may be earned toward Physical Education graduation requirements. (Fall Semester only)*

Grades: 9th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Placement by audition

Dance I (Beginners)

Introduction to Dance is for students with limited or no previous dance training. Students will participate daily in the fundamentals of various dance techniques. Areas covered include ballet, modern dance, and tap. This class works to increase fine motor skills, flexibility, and injury prevention. There are clothing requirements for dance students. Attendance at outside of class dance performances is mandatory.

***Note:** Course may satisfy PE credit if Fine Art credit has already been received.*

Grades: 9th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

Dance II (Intermediate)

This course addresses students who, having studied dance technique, find themselves between beginner and advanced dance levels. Areas of training include ballet, jazz, lyrical, and hip hop. Students who have had four or more years of dance instruction should make an effort to enroll in this class rather than Dance I. Students who have completed a year of Dance I may enroll in this class. There are clothing requirements for dance students. Attendance at rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Students purchase their own costumes.

***Note:** Course may satisfy PE credit if Fine Art credit has already been received.*

Grades: 9th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Dance I or Instructor Approval

Dance III (Advanced)

This upper-level course is designed for students who have completed Dance II and wish to advance their dance skills. Students with six or more years of consistent study in dance may enroll in this class rather than Dance I or II. Disciplines taught are ballet, tap, and modern dance. There are clothing requirements for dance students. Attendance at rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Students purchase their own costumes.

***Note:** Course may satisfy PE credit if Fine Art credit has already been received.*

Grades: 9th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Dance II or Instructor Approval

Dance IV: Production

This upper-level course will focus on the student becoming the choreographer using techniques and skills to create movement and phrases. Students will also learn about the elements of dance and how lighting can set the mood for a performance. There are clothing requirements for dance students. Attendance at rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Students purchase their own costumes.

***Note:** Course may satisfy PE credit if Fine Art credit has already been received.*

Grades: 10th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Dance III or Instructor Approval

History of Western Music

In this course, students will explore the seven musical stylistic periods of Western music. By the end of the course, they will be able to identify the key characteristics, representative composers, and popular works from each period. By experiencing musical periods and styles, students will understand the relevance of music to history, culture, and the world, including the relationship of music to other academic disciplines and the vocational possibilities offered. Through critical listening, students analyze, evaluate, and respond to music, developing criteria for making critical judgments and informed choices.

Grades: 10th - 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: None

IX. PHYSICAL EDUCATION & ATHLETICS

The PE/Health department works to develop student wellness physically and emotionally. Health is required for graduation, as is one credit of PE.

Functional Health

This course is designed to promote wellness, health literacy, and positive health behaviors in young adults. It focuses on all aspects of health: physical, mental, emotional, and social. Students will learn how to create long-term goals to reach optimal health, as well as how to evaluate their current health. Students will become Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED certified through the American Heart Association.

Grade: 9th – 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: None

Athletic Conditioning

The focus of this class is on physical fitness with strength and cardiovascular training. Our conditioning classes are designed for student athletes so that they may further develop strength and endurance during their competitive seasons, as well as in the off-season. Students will participate in weight training, various cardiovascular activities, and sport specific training. The workouts reflect the sports fitness and conditioning components.

Grade: 9th – 12th (1 semester / .5 credit)

Prerequisite: None

NOTE: Credit (CR) only; no grade received

Fitness (Boys)

The focus of this class is on physical fitness, strength and cardiovascular training. Students will participate in weight training, flexibility and various cardiovascular activities. The programs are designed for novice level students that choose not to participate in competitive athletics, but want to enhance their overall physical fitness.

Grade: 9th – 12th (1 semester / .5 credit)

Prerequisite: None

Fitness (Girls)

This course is designed to develop the student's overall fitness levels with a focus on core body strength, cardiovascular endurance, flexibility, and conditioning. The student will understand the relationship between physical activity and healthy living habits.

Grade: 9th – 12th (1 semester / .5 credit)

Prerequisite: None

Athletic Training Clinical Practicum

This course is the application of athletic training knowledge and skills in a practicum setting, including but not limited to prevention of athletic injuries; recognition, evaluation, and immediate care of athletic injuries; rehabilitation and management skills; taping and wrapping techniques; first aid/CPR/AED emergency action plans; human anatomy and physiology; therapeutic modalities; and rehabilitation exercises.

Grade: 9th – 12th (1 semester / .5 credits)

Prerequisite: Instructor Approval

NOTE: Credit (CR) only; no grade received

P.E. (Option)

The following activities may count towards PE credit (.5 max): Athletic Conditioning, Athletic Filming, Athletic Team Managing, Ballet Folklorico, Color Guard, Dance, Dance Team (Royelles), Marching Band, Norsemen, and Sailing.

Note: *Students must complete a PE substitution "Log" for any of the listed that occur outside the school day.*

Grade: 9th – 12th (1 semester / .5 credit)

Prerequisite: Administrator approval

NOTE: Credit (CR) only; no grade received

X. WORLD LANGUAGES

World Languages exposes students to the language and culture of other societies. The Recommended Plan Diploma requires two consecutive years of high school-level study within the same foreign language. The Honors Diploma requires three consecutive years of high school-level study within the same foreign language. The Texas Education Agency and many colleges and universities encourage students to study three years of the same foreign language. Three consecutive years of study is strongly recommended.

Latin I

This course serves an introduction to the Latin language and ancient Roman culture with a focus on ancient Roman daily life. Students practice interpretive language skills in the translation of elementary Latin sentences and passages, which are designed to allow students an intuitive experience translating Latin into English. Students research and analyze Roman cultural practices, then present their findings to their classmates. Latin I covers vocabulary consistent with the National Latin Exam for first year students.

Grade: 9th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

Latin II

This course continues the Latin student's progress through the language, adding advanced grammar. Students learn more about the values and customs of the ancient Romans and their impact on modern institutions, such as the U.S. government and the Catholic Church. Students further their interpretive language skills by translating passages of progressive difficulty. Interpersonal and presentational modes of communication are maintained.

Grade: 9th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Latin I

* Latin III (Honors)

In this advanced course, students practice interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication. The course consists of extensive reading and translation of authentic Latin texts.

Grade: 10th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Latin II and instructor approval

* AP Latin IV (Honors)

AP Latin is a college-level course designed to provide students with a rich and rigorous Latin course. Students learn to prepare and translate the required Latin readings with an accuracy that reflects precise understanding of the Latin language. Students interpret both poetry and prose through written analyses that demonstrate the results of critical reading in clear and coherent arguments supported by textual examples. Students relate those readings to the historical, political and cultural contexts of Caesar's Gallic Wars, Vergil's Aeneid and other authentic texts. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 11th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Latin III

Spanish I

This course is designed for the beginner-level student and stresses interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication through oral and listening practice, reading comprehension, and effective writing skills within appropriate cultural contexts. A high degree of accuracy and consistency is obtained through grammatical review, which occurs textually throughout the year. Selected readings deepen the students' understanding of both language and culture. This course prepares students for the next study level of Spanish.

Grade: 9th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

Spanish I (Accelerated)

Spanish I Accelerated is designed for students with a level of proficiency that enables them to proceed at a faster pace and at a greater level of comprehension. This course stresses interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication. This accelerated class is recommended for students with native-speaking ability and for those whose previous study of Spanish has brought them to a certain level of proficiency. This is not an Honors course.

Grade: 9th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Placement test

Spanish (Heritage Speakers)

This course is taught completely in the target language and is for students who have oral comprehension but may still need help in written and formal Spanish. The course develops language skills in the interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication with focus on reading, writing, spelling and vocabulary. This course also promotes the learning of the Hispanic culture, literature, and history of the Spanish-speaking world. This course allows heritage speakers to focus on oral and comprehension and give them a foundation for the advanced levels of Spanish. After having met all requirements to pass the course, students will be tested and enroll in Spanish III, Spanish III Honors, or q based on their placement test results. If a student enrolls in this class, they are required to meet all other foreign language requirements for a Regular or an Honors Diploma.

Grade: 9th - 10th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Placement test

Spanish II

Spanish II resumes the development of skills in the interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication through the introduction of more complex grammatical structures and vocabulary in dialogue form. Oral and written competencies are stressed.

Grade: 9th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Spanish I or Instructor Approval

Spanish II (Accelerated)

Spanish II Accelerated is designed for students with a level of proficiency that enables them to proceed at a faster pace and at a greater level of comprehension than Spanish II. The course stresses the interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication. The course is more detailed in content than Spanish II, which is achieved through oral, listening, reading comprehension, and effective writing skills within appropriate cultural contexts. This is not an Honors course.

Grade: 9th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Spanish I or Instructor Approval

Spanish III

This course strengthens listening, reading comprehension, and effective writing skills by means of interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication. A higher degree of accuracy and consistency is obtained through grammatical review, which occurs textually throughout the year. Selected readings deepen the students' understanding of both language and culture.

Grade: 10th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Spanish II

*** Spanish III (Honors)**

This course is designed for the advanced student and stresses the interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication through the practice of oral, listening, reading comprehension, and effective writing skills within appropriate cultural contexts. A higher degree of accuracy and consistency is obtained through grammatical review throughout the year. Selected readings deepen the students' understanding of both language and culture. This course prepares students for the advanced study of Spanish.

Grade: 10th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Spanish II Accelerated or Instructor Approval

*** AP Spanish IV - Language and Culture (Honors)**

This college-level course stresses the interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication through oral, compositional writing, and reading comprehension skills. Accuracy and fluency in all areas are emphasized. Grammatical review punctuates the topics. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 10th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Spanish III (Honors) or Instructor Approval

*** AP Spanish V - Literature and Culture (Honors)**

This course is the second part of the Advanced Placement Spanish program, and it covers the literature of the Hispanic world. This course is a survey of Spanish and Latin American literature beginning with the Golden Age in Spain. Thematic, philosophical, and stylistic issues are examined and stress the interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication. Spanish is the mode of communication in the class and all literature read is in the target language. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 11th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: AP Spanish IV or Instructor Approval

French I

Students develop proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening in cultural context, along with the three models of communication (interpersonal, interpretive and presentational) defined in the Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st

Century. Basic vocabulary, grammatical structures, and an introduction to the culture of the French-speaking world are stressed.

Grade: 9th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

French II

Students continue to develop proficiency in the French language through reading, writing, speaking, and listening within a cultural context. All four components will be weighted equally. Mastery of grammatical structures are highly emphasized for enhanced communication and comprehension. This course further develops students' skills in the interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational modes of communication. Grammar is more advanced, and oral and written expressions continue through guided written compositions and oral interviews.

Grade: 9th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: French I

*** French III (Honors)**

This course focuses on advanced grammar, the cultures of French-speaking nations, and the development of written and oral proficiency. Reading comprehension and written composition are developed within a multidisciplinary context (geography, history, literature, art, culture, and pivotal figures). The three models of communication are foundational to this advanced course.

Grade: 10th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: French II and Instructor Approval

*** AP French IV: Language and Culture (Honors)**

This course focuses on advanced grammar, the cultures of French-speaking nations, and the development of written and oral proficiency. Reading comprehension and written composition are developed within a multidisciplinary context (geography, history, literature, art, culture, and pivotal figures). The three models of communication are foundational to this advanced course. This class prepares students for the AP exam in May.

Grade: 11th - 12th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: French III Honors or Department Approval

XI. SPECIALIZED COURSES

Leadership

Introduction to Leadership teaches freshmen 4 hard skills, 4 soft skills, 6 core values, as well as essential academic skills. By closely examining the lives of extraordinary leaders, this class is designed to start freshmen on the path to becoming: Bold Leaders, Obedient to Christ, Intellectually Excellent, Eager to Serve, Accountable, and Compassionate to Others. Students master values-based decision making, strategic thinking, problem solving, and effective communication, while developing crucial soft skills like active listening, conflict resolution, coaching, and work ethic. From St. Thomas More's unwavering integrity to St. Joan of Arc's strategic courage, each core value comes alive through engaging case studies that connect Catholic tradition with modern leadership challenges.

Grade: 9th (2 semesters / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: None

Independent Study

In some cases, a student may request an Independent Study with an instructor in certain departments. The student must seek approval from the Principal of Academic Affairs before proposing an Independent Study. Most Independent Study courses are for credit only (no grade given) unless otherwise noted by the instructor with administrative approval.

Grade: 11th - 12th (1 semester / .5 credit)

Prerequisites: Administrator approval

Office Aide

Library / Front Office / Guidance / Retail / President's Office / Campus Ministry

Senior students may sign up to be a runner/aide in either the Front Office, Guidance Office, Library, President's Office, Campus Ministry, or School Store. Acceptance as an aide is based on academic and behavioral good standing. This class receives no credit.

Grade: 12th (1 semester- No Credit)

Prerequisite: Application and Academic & Behavioral good standing

House Council

The Student Leadership class is an elective in which students work with both the Administration and their peers to plan House events. These events are meant to enrich the community of Nolan Catholic High School.

Grade: 12th (2 semester / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Application and Election

NOTE: Credit (CR) only; no grade received

Study Hall

Junior and senior students may sign up for a study hall. This class receives no credit.

Grade: 11th - 12th (1 semester- No Credit)

Prerequisite: None

Academic Coaching

This course teaches study skills and strategies, and it also guides individual students to establish daily habits that promote academic success. Students learn techniques for learning from texts, develop organizational skills necessary to manage their time, keep track of assignments, and monitor their academic progress. In addition, students develop a variety of learning and test-taking strategies and practice these strategies either within the framework of the class or while working on their other class assignments.

Grade: 9th - 12th (2 semester / 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Administrator approval

NOTE: Credit (CR) only; no grade received