

Arlington Catholic High School Program of Studies

2024 - 2025

This booklet is designed to acquaint you with the courses for ninth grade students at Arlington Catholic High School. You must carry a minimum program of six full credit courses, any ½ credit arts course/Achievement Center, and PE. Consideration should be given to your abilities, interests, and aptitudes when choosing courses. Requirements for high school graduation and college admission are important factors in course selection.

Requirements for Graduation

English 4 years

Theology 4 years

Mathematics 4 years

Science 3 years (including Biology & Chemistry)

Social Studies 3 years (including World History &

US History)

World Language/Classics 2 consecutive years of the same

language (3-4 years is strongly

recommended)

Fine Arts/Humanities 1 credit

Physical Education ½ credit (required in grades 9 & 10)

Community Service Specific hours required each year (see

Theology Dept. section)

Requirements

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Algebra 1	Biology*	Algebra 2	English 4
English 1	English 2	Chemistry*	Mathematics
World History	Geometry	English 3	Science*
Language	Language	Theology 3	Social Studies*
Theology 1	Theology 2	United States History	Theology 4
Physical Education	Physical Education		Fine Arts/Humanities*
½ credit art course			

^{*} These courses must be taken in these years if they are still needed

Honors and Advanced Placement Courses

Honors (Grade 9)

- In an honors level course, students are expected to have a serious, consistent work ethic, be actively engaged in class material and discussion, and be self-motivated.
- A minimum of a B+ average in the appropriate subject area in grades 7 & 8.
- Scores on standardized tests, including the High School Placement Test, that indicate the student is capable in a particular subject area.
- Scores on Arlington Catholic's Placement Exams (see Math and World Language sections)
- Since topics covered are cumulative and require considerable critical thinking, regular school attendance, including a minimal number of tardies and dismissals, is required.

Honors & Advanced Placement (Grades 10, 11, 12)

- In an honors/AP level course, students are expected to have a serious, consistent work ethic, be actively engaged in class material and discussion, and be self-motivated.
- Specific requirements for each course or department can be found in each department's section of this Program of Studies
- Since topics covered are cumulative and require considerable critical thinking, regular school attendance, including a minimal number of tardies and dismissals, is required.
- Standardized test scores including PSAT, SAT etc. if applicable
- Placement tests may be required for transfer students

Please note that no one standard automatically qualifies a student's placement into a course.

Department approval is required for all courses.

Students should consult with parents, teachers, and Guidance Counselors to plan a program appropriate for their abilities, interests, and future plans. Students should choose courses based on interest and ability, not by teacher. Students are encouraged to take a challenging program, but also to be realistic about their commitments in and out of school

Students must complete their enrollment packet <u>and</u> be financially up to date to be scheduled. Students who are not enrolled, up to date financially, or who do not choose courses by April 1, 2024 will not be scheduled and may then have limited course options available when they do complete the process.

Incoming students, both transfers and Grade 9, must meet requirements and pass department placement exams, as required, for certain courses. Academic departments will review course requests and student's academic records before students are scheduled. Students and families who appeal the department's decision and choose a level of course at the objection of the faculty and administration may forfeit their ability to change course levels at a later date.

We will attempt to honor all approved requests; however, we reserve the right to not run an under enrolled course. Conflicts may occur in the scheduling process, students will be advised of the issue or conflict and asked to select an alternative course.

Selection of courses is a serious matter; it will be difficult, and/or impossible, to make changes after the schedule has been created. Courses should be chosen with the assumption that changes will not be permitted. Because the course request process is a cooperative venture between the student, family, and school, it is expected that students will honor their course commitments even if they represent an academic challenge or if interests change.

After the schedule has been constructed, we must limit changes; students will be allowed to make schedule changes within the timeline and limitations listed below. Proper protocol must be followed. No changes that overload classes will be made. We will not accommodate changes for teacher preference, class period, etc.

- Prior to August 15: Students may change selections based on space available.
- No elective course changes will be permitted after August 15.
- First week of school: Level changes of the same course as space permits.
- Second and third weeks of school: Only level changes initiated by a teacher, counselor, or administrator will be allowed as space permits.
- No changes will be made after the third week of school. A minimal number of level changes may be made following midyear exams (prior to the start of Quarter 3) with permission of the current teacher, Guidance, and Administration. No course may be 'dropped' after the first semester.

English Department

All students are required to take four years of English.
Summer reading is required each year.
Department approval is required for Honors & AP courses.

ENGLISH 1: Leaving For Points Unknown

1 Credit

English 1 provides a comprehensive foundation of close reading, writing, and grammar skills that students build upon throughout their high school career. Fiction and nonfiction reading selections from a variety of literary genres center around the theme of *Leaving for Points Unknown*. The students and teacher often collaborate regarding the choice of readings and assignments. In order to begin to think more critically about these works, freshmen consider literal and figurative language. They identify literary devices, build vocabulary, understand effective sentence structure, and practice close reading. Using the writing process, they craft personal, expository, analytical, and argumentative paragraphs and essays, as well as imaginative pieces.

Grade: 9

HONORS ENGLISH 1: Leaving For Points Unknown

1 Credit

Honors English 1 covers content similar to that of English 1. This course provides a comprehensive foundation of close reading, writing, and grammar skills that students build upon throughout their high school career; however, students are required to read and write on a more analytical level. In addition, students are often expected to work more independently. Students read both fiction and nonfiction selections from the major literary genres that center around the theme of *Leaving for Points Unknown*, and begin to think more critically about these works. They learn to identify literary language, build vocabulary, understand effective sentence structure, and practice close reading. Using the writing process, they craft personal, expository, analytical, and argumentative paragraphs and essays, as well as imaginative pieces. In an honors level course, students are expected to have a serious, consistent work ethic, be actively engaged in class material and discussion, and be self-motivated.

Fine Arts Department

All students are required to take one <u>credit</u> of Fine Arts or Humanities courses; note that some arts courses only earn ½ credit. Courses that fulfill this requirement are also found in other Departments, these courses are indicated by an asterisk (*).

Any 1/2 credit course may only be chosen as a seventh course

What makes AC Arts "inspiring and uplifting?"
The "spiritual" element comes into play when the learner becomes the artist.
The artist must be "inspired" to create.... ("Inspire" means to *breathe in the spirit*).
We offer classes that provide students with the opportunity to do just that.

ART 1

1 Credit

This course is an introduction to art. Students use a range of artistic mediums and techniques to gain a broad understanding of visual art as a whole. Student work in this class includes pencil drawings, watercolor, ink, acrylic, cut paper, ceramics, and various other mediums.

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

FINE ARTS APPRECIATION

1/2 Credit

This course will provide an overview of the Visual Arts, from early art through modern times. Major artists, as well as their works will be studied. Pieces that continue to influence the contemporary world of art will be stressed. The purpose of this course is to awaken an appreciation for the arts and encourage participation in other art courses.

This course meets twice each week and is required for all students in Grade 9 unless they are enrolled in Choir I, Music Appreciation, Theater Arts, or the Achievement Center. Upper Class students may choose to enroll in this course and replace their study twice per week.

MUSIC APPRECIATION

1/2 Credit

Music Appreciation is a class for all students who love music and would like to develop knowledge to enhance their musical skills. This course will include an introduction to music theory and the elements of music such as rhythm, modality, tempo, timbre, and form, as well as the evolution of music throughout history. Students will then apply their knowledge of music theory and history to songwriting and recording projects. Some performance elements will also be included in the course.

This course will meet twice each week and is required for all 9th grade students unless they are enrolled in Choir I, Fine Arts Appreciation, Theater Arts, or the Achievement Center. Upper Class students may choose to enroll in this course and replace their study twice per week.

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

CHOIR I

1/2 Credit

Chorus is a performing class for all students who wish to develop their vocal technique and choral singing skills. Students will sing quality choral and a cappella repertoire from a variety of musical time periods and genres including sacred, classical, world music, musical theater and contemporary music. Students will work to improve sight reading, vocal technique, choral blend, harmonic independence, diction and musical expression. There will be at least one required performance each term. Chorus may be repeated for additional credit with the permission of the instructor.

This course will meet twice each week and is required for all 9th grade students unless they are enrolled in Music Appreciation, Fine Arts Appreciation, Theater Arts, or the Achievement Center. Upper Class students may choose to enroll in this course and replace their study twice per week.

THEATER ARTS

1/2 Credit

Theater Arts is a mix of a performance and non performance. Students will be introduced to various aspects of theater such as playwriting, acting, set design, lighting, sound, costuming, directing, and dramaturgy. At the end of each unit, students will have the opportunity to apply their skills. This course may be repeated with the permission of the instructor.

This course will meet twice each week and is required for all 9th grade students unless they are enrolled in Choir I, Music Appreciation, Fine Arts Appreciation, or the Achievement Center. Upper Class students may choose to enroll in this course and replace their study twice per week.

Mathematics Department

All students are required to take four years of math, which generally includes Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2.

The Numworks Graphing Calculator is required in all 9th - 11th grade math classes.

(New students will be billed for a calculator ordered by the school at a discount.) Any version of the TI-84 or TI-84 Plus graphing calculator is required in all other math classes.

All incoming 9th grade students will take a placement test to determine appropriate placement.

A grade of B- is required to remain in Advanced or Honors Math courses. A year end grade of A- and departmental approval are both required to move from an Honors level course to an Advanced level course; as well as to move from a college-prep level to an Honors level course.

Departmental approval is required for Honors & AP courses.

ALGEBRA 1

1 Credit

Algebra 1 is designed to give the students a solid foundation in basic algebraic concepts and skills which include sets, structure of number systems, equalities, and graphing in the coordinate plane. Highlighting some of the key areas of introductory geometry and basic logical reasoning, provides students the underlying groundwork for future mathematics courses.

Grade: 9

HONORS ALGEBRA 1

1 Credit

This course is designed for the student well prepared by fundamental pre-algebra. Moving at a rapid pace, students are challenged by a highly competitive atmosphere. Students discover and develop algebraic concepts and skills by relating their knowledge of numbers to the variable. Topics include the language of sets, linear equalities, and inequalities, quadratic equations, linear systems, and functions. Numerous word problems provide practical application of the concepts being developed.

ADVANCED GEOMETRY

1 Credit

This course is designed for highly motivated students with exceptional math skills and a strong background in Algebra. The course integrates Algebra concepts in the study of Geometry. The work centers around two basic understandings: the development of geometrical principles on a plane, and the nature of mathematical proofs. These two objectives are met by starting with undefined terms, such as point, line and plane, and then proceeding through the axioms and postulates to the theorems. In this approach, concepts are important as they relate to one another. The course concludes with the study of Area and Volume. In Advanced Geometry the subject matter is studied in greater depth, with more difficult proofs, than in the Honors Geometry course.

Physical Education

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

1/4 Credit

Physical Education is a requirement for all Freshmen and Sophomores. The Physical Education class is an introduction to basic skills and movement by participation and instruction in the following activities: Badminton, Basketball, Flag Football, Lacrosse, Paddle Tennis, Pillo-Polo, Ping Pong, Wiffle Ball, Soccer, and Ultimate Frisbee. Students will work on individual skills as well as group work and teamwork by participating in a variety of structured recreational games. Physical Education class will also utilize and understand the importance of the Wellness Center and the Turf Field. The program helps students develop socially, emotionally and physically in a healthy environment with emphasis placed on good sportsmanship and fair play.

Grades: 9, 10

Science Department

All students are required to take three years of science, including Biology and Chemistry. Most students should take Biology in Grade 9 and Chemistry in Grade 10.

Any version of the TI-84/TI-84 Plus or Numworks graphing calculator is required in all Chemistry, Physics, Astronomy, and Engineering classes.

Department approval is required for all Honors and AP courses.

BIOLOGY 1

1 Credit

Biology 1 is a required course offered to freshmen and sophomores. This course is designed to heighten awareness of the interdependence of living organisms with the environment. Topics covered include: cell structure and function, the cell cycle, biochemistry of organic nutrients, classification, energy transformations, DNA, genetics, evolution and life processes as they relate to various organisms.

Grades: 9, 10

HONORS BIOLOGY 1

1 Credit

Honors Biology 1 is designed for freshmen who plan to take four years of science at Arlington Catholic and have demonstrated high aptitude in mathematics and reading comprehension. It provides students with a deeper knowledge of biology and it further develops their investigative and critical thinking skills. Its content is taught on a molecular level, which allows students a better understanding of the rapid advances in biology. Topics include: cell structure and function, energy transformations, DNA structure, protein synthesis, genetics, evolution, biochemistry, as well as a deeper study of life processes as they relate to various organisms. This course requires independent research and study.

Grades: 9, 10

Social Studies Department

All students are required to take three years of Social Studies, which includes World History in 9th grade and US History in 11th grade. AP Seminar may be used to fulfill the three year requirement, but does not, for juniors, replace US History.

Department approval is required for Honors and AP courses.

WORLD HISTORY

1 Credit

This course is a survey of the great civilizations of the world. Beginning with pre-history, and ancient cultures, students will study The Middle East, China, India, Africa, Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia and Europe. The course concludes with a study of the Renaissance. Students develop skills in geography and writing, as well as in document reading and analysis. Current events will be incorporated to develop and enhance historical thinking skills.

Grade: 9

HONORS WORLD HISTORY

1 Credit

This course is a study of the great civilizations of the world, beginning with Prehistory through the Renaissance. Students will study The Middle East, China, India, Africa, Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and Europe. The main aspects of a civilization are covered: culture, government structure, belief systems, societal structure, and geography. Emphasis will be placed on critical reading and writing as well as the development of a student's analytical skills. Current events will be incorporated to develop and enhance historical thinking skills. In an honors level course, students are expected to have a serious, consistent work ethic, be actively engaged in class material and discussion, and be self-motivated.

Theology Department

All students are required to take four years of Theology.

Active participation is expected in all classes.

Departmental approval is required for Honors courses.

THEOLOGY 1

1 Credit

ENCOUNTERING CHRIST

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. In this course students will understand that Jesus Christ is the ultimate Revelation to us from God. In learning about who he is, the students will also learn who he calls them to be. This course introduces students to the Blessed Trinity in and through the fullness of God's revelation of Himself: Jesus Christ. They will study the Incarnation, the union of Christ's two natures, Jesus as the exemplar of humanity, as well as the unique role of Mary, the mother of God. This course prepares students to overcome the challenges of Faith, and leads them to a more profound understanding of what it means to believe.

SACRED SCRIPTURE: EXPLORING THE OLD TESTAMENT

This course is designed as an introduction to the Bible as well as a study of the Hebrew Scriptures. It offers students an opportunity to read the Bible and learn how to understand and apply its truths to their own lives. Through a study of basic biblical themes, the course develops an understanding of how God has worked in human history and still works in our world today.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT

"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so also you should love one another." (John 13:34)

In keeping with our mission as a Catholic school and to living out our Core Values, students are required to complete community service hours each year. As part of their Theology course, students will reflect on service from a Christian perspective.

Required Hours:

Bridge Academy: 10 hours
Freshmen: 20 hours

Seniors: 10 hours

Seniors: 10 hours

Sophomores: 20 hours

Service Site Requirements: No more than half of service hours may be accrued in service to the school (Orientation, Open House, Retreats, Mass participation, etc.).

Remaining hours must be completed through (or in partnership with) an official organization that serves the wider community beyond the walls of AC (non-profits, hospitals, churches, libraries, schools, etc.). Service is *not* given to family and friends and is, by definition, not financially compensated in any way. Service sites must be approved by the Campus Ministry office; students are strongly encouraged to find volunteer opportunities at their local parish, St Agnes Parish or St Agnes School.

Deadlines: Students may choose to complete their service hours over the summer. All service must be completed no later than *March 1st* of each year; service hours for seniors must be completed by the *end of the first quarter*.

Instructions for Logging Hours:

Hours must be logged, by families/students, in the RenWeb Portal. This is done by clicking the Family section, changing the name in the dropdown menu at the top to the name of the student, clicking the "+" sign, and adding the necessary information:

- Date: Select the date the service was completed, not the date you are logging
- Hours: # of hours
- Description: 1-2 sentences detailing who and how you served
- Verified by: Provide the name of your volunteer supervisor as well as a phone number or email

As Community Service is both essential to our mission as a Catholic school as well as a graduation requirement, students who do not complete the requirement may be ineligible to return to Arlington Catholic.

World Language/Classics Department

All students are required to take a minimum of two consecutive years of the same language. Students are strongly encouraged to take 3 or 4 years of a language.

A minimum of a B- average in an honors course is required to remain at that level.

A minimum of a B+ average in the appropriate prerequisite college preparatory course(s) is required to move to the honors level.

Incoming Grade 9 and Bridge Academy students must take the department placement test in order to be placed in a College Prep level 2 or Honors level 2 course.

Departmental approval is required for all Honors and AP courses.

FRENCH 1

1 Credit

French 1 is for students who have never studied French before or have had very little French at the middle school level. Emphasis is on developing communicative competence by practicing listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills with basic structures and vocabulary. Developing an understanding of the customs and cultures of the French-speaking world is also emphasized. In order for students to have an immersive language experience which facilitates acquisition, the class is conducted mostly in French and students are encouraged to speak as much French as possible.

Grades: 9, 10, 11

HONORS FRENCH 1

1 Credit

Honors French 1 is for students who have never studied French before or have had very little French at the middle school level and are generally strong students academically. Emphasis is on developing communicative competence by practicing listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills with basic structures and vocabulary. Developing an understanding of the customs and cultures of the French-speaking world is also emphasized. In order for students to have an immersive language experience which facilitates acquisition, the class is conducted mostly in French and students are encouraged to speak as much French as possible.

Grades: 9, 10, 11

FRENCH 2

1 Credit

French 2 is for students who have completed a French 1 course either at the middle school level or at the high school level. This course builds on the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills developed in level 1 and continues to explore the customs and cultures of French-speaking countries. In order for students to have an immersive language experience which facilitates acquisition, the class is conducted in French and students are expected to speak only French during class time. Please note: Incoming freshmen must take the department placement test to enroll in this level.

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

HONORS FRENCH 2

1 Credit

Honors French 2 is for students who have completed a French 1 course either at the middle school level or at the high school level and are generally strong students academically. The course builds on the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills developed in level 1 and continues to explore the customs and cultures of French-speaking countries. In order for students to have an immersive language experience which facilitates acquisition, the class is conducted in French and students are expected to speak only French during class time. Please note: Incoming freshmen must take the department placement test to enroll in this level.

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

ITALIAN 1

1 Credit

Italian 1 is for students who have never studied Italian before or have had very little Italian at the middle school level. Emphasis is on developing communicative competence by practicing listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills with basic structures and vocabulary. Developing an understanding of the customs and culture of Italy is also emphasized. In order for students to have an immersive language experience which facilitates acquisition, the class is conducted mostly in Italian and students are encouraged to speak as much Italian as possible.

Grades: 9, 10, 11

HONORS ITALIAN 1

1 Credit

Honors Italian 1 is for students who have never studied Italian before or have had very little Italian at the middle school level and are generally strong students academically. Emphasis is on developing communicative competence by practicing listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills with basic structures and vocabulary. Developing an understanding of the customs and culture of Italy is also emphasized. In order for students to have an immersive language experience which facilitates acquisition, the class is conducted mostly in Italian and students are encouraged to speak as much Italian as possible.

Grades: 9, 10, 11

ITALIAN 2

1 Credit

Italian 2 is for students who have completed an Italian 1 course either at the middle school level or at the high school level. This course builds on the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills developed in level 1 and continues to explore the customs and cultures of Italy. In order for students to have an immersive language experience which facilitates acquisition, the class is conducted in Italian and students are expected to speak only Italian during class time. Please note: Incoming freshmen must take the department placement test to enroll in this level.

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

HONORS ITALIAN 2

1 Credit

Honors Italian 2 is for students who have completed an Italian 1 course either at the middle school level or at the high school level and are generally strong students academically. The course builds on the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills developed in level 1 and continues to explore the customs and cultures of Italy. In order for students to have an immersive language experience which facilitates acquisition, the class is conducted in Italian and students are expected to speak only Italian during class time. Please note: Incoming freshmen must take the department placement test to enroll in this level.

LATIN 1

1 Credit

This course is designed for students who have had no previous study of Latin. Latin-derived English vocabulary and the general principles of how such words are formed will be a major focus of the course. In addition, important aspects of Roman civilization will be presented.

Grades: 9, 10, 11

HONORS LATIN 1

1 Credit

This course is designed for students who have had no previous study of Latin and are generally strong academically. Students will work at a more intensive pace than in Latin 1. The major focus of the course is Latin vocabulary, grammar and reading comprehension. In addition, important aspects of Roman civilization will be presented. Students will be prepared to take the Level 1 National Latin Exam in the spring.

Grades: 9, 10, 11

LATIN 2

1 Credit

This course builds on the skills learned in Latin 1. Students will be expected to do work involving the active production of Latin as well as reading comprehension of increasingly authentic Latin prose. In addition, important aspects of Roman history and civilization will be presented. Please note: Incoming freshmen must take the department placement test to enroll in this level.

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

HONORS LATIN 2

1 Credit

This course builds on the skills learned in Honors Latin 1. Taught at a more rigorous pace than Latin 2, students will be expected to do work involving the active production of Latin as well as reading comprehension of increasingly authentic Latin prose. In addition, important aspects of Roman history and civilization will be presented. Students will be prepared to take the Level 2 National Latin Exam in the spring. Please note: Incoming freshmen must take the department placement test to enroll in this level.

SPANISH 1

1 Credit

Spanish 1 is for students who have never studied Spanish before or have had very little Spanish at the middle school level. Emphasis is on developing communicative competence by practicing listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills with basic structures and vocabulary. Developing an understanding of the customs and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world is also emphasized. In order for students to have an immersive language experience which facilitates acquisition, the class is conducted mostly in Spanish and students are encouraged to speak Spanish in class.

Grades: 9, 10, 11

HONORS SPANISH 1

1 Credit

Honors Spanish 1 is for students who have never studied Spanish before or have had very little Spanish at the middle school level and are generally strong students. This course is taught at a more rigorous pace than Spanish 1. Emphasis is on developing communicative competence by practicing listening, speaking, reading and writing skills with basic structures and vocabulary. Developing an understanding of the customs and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world is also emphasized. In order for students to have an immersive language experience which facilitates acquisition, the class is conducted mostly in Spanish and students are encouraged to speak as much Spanish as possible.

Grades: 9, 10, 11

SPANISH 2

1 Credit

Spanish 2 is for students who have completed a Spanish 1 course either at the middle school level or at the high school level. This course builds on the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills developed in level 1 and continues to explore the customs and cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. In order for students to have an immersive language experience which facilitates acquisition, the class is conducted in Spanish and students are expected to speak only Spanish during class time. Please note: Incoming freshmen must take the department placement test to enroll in this level.

HONORS SPANISH 2

1 Credit

Honors Spanish 2 is for students who have completed a Spanish 1 course either at the middle school level or at the high school level and are generally strong students academically. Taught at a more rigorous pace than Spanish 2, this course builds on the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills developed in level 1 and continues to explore the customs and cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. In order for students to have an immersive language experience which facilitates acquisition, the class is conducted in Spanish and students are expected to speak only Spanish during class time. Please note: Incoming freshmen must take the department placement test to enroll in this level.

Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12

STUDY HALL

Study Hall is designed to provide students with opportunities to do independent study, to use the Library, and to take tests missed. Also, the student can arrange conferences with teachers or guidance counselors. While always under adult supervision, the student develops a sense of self-responsibility, self-discipline, efficient use of unstructured time, and serious study habits. This will prepare students for the reality of college classes, so that they know the discipline required to use time wisely.

Students in the Achievement Center will have those 2 periods replace their study hall.

Students in Grade 9 will have one scheduled study period per week.