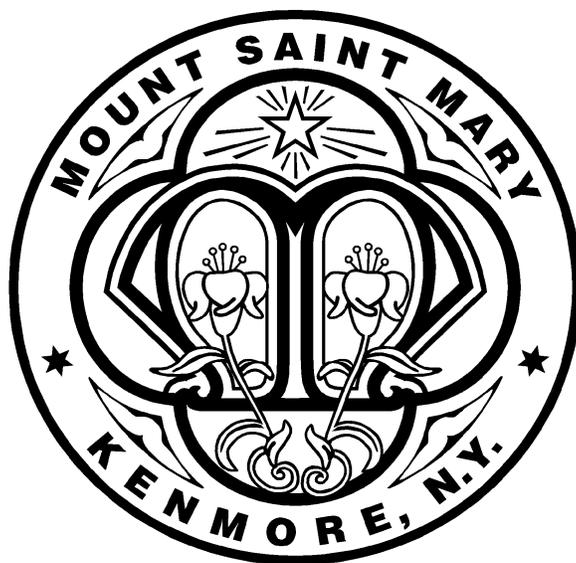


Mount St. Mary Academy



Course Catalog *2016-2017*

Course of Studies

All students are required to take a minimum of six and one-half academic credits each year. Students should work with the Guidance Department to see that all requirements are met. To receive an Advanced Regents diploma, students need to pass additional New York State Regents exams. In order to receive an Honors distinction, a student must attain a 90% overall average on certain New York State Regents exams. Only Regents and Advanced Regents diplomas are issued. We do not issue Local diplomas.

Honors classes differ from Regents classes in that they will stress a higher level of academic excellence and rigor, teach in-depth content, extend the content of the curriculum, integrate information from other disciplines, emphasize critical thinking, student-directed learning, and incorporate extensive reading and writing.

MSM Graduation Requirements

Required credits

English	4 credits
Social Studies	4 credits
Math	4 credits
Foreign Language*	3 credits
Science*	3 credits (one in Biology and 2 in physical science)
Art/Music	1 credits
Health	.5 credits
Phys. Ed.	2 credits
Religion	2 credits
Electives	<u>2.5 credits</u>
Total credits:	26 total

*Although not required, it is recommended to continue with a fourth credit in science and foreign language as a senior.

Required Regents Exams:

Regents Diploma (with a score of 65 or better):

- English 3
- Global History
- US History
- 1 Math
- 1 Science

MSM requires students pass the Regents exams in Global History and American History in order to graduate.

Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation (with a score of 65 or better):

All of the above plus:

- Geometry
- Algebra 2R (students must also pass Algebra)
- 2nd science (Biology must be passed and 1 Regents in physical science must be passed)
- 3 years of the same foreign language is required (the level 3 exam must be passed)

**To earn a diploma “with Honors”, students must obtain an *average* score of 90 or better on all required Regents exams (i.e.: five highest Regents exams for the Regents with Honors diploma, or eight required exams for Advanced Designation with Honors diploma).

** A mastery in math and science annotation on the diploma can be achieved if students obtain at least an 85% on three Regents exams in that discipline and meet the requirements for an Advanced Regents diploma.

**Please consult your school counselor if you have questions.

Course Change Policy

Once courses are selected, it is expected that there will be no further changes. There is no guarantee that course change requests will be honored. Schedule changes **for both semesters** should be completed by Friday of the first full week of classes in September. Any course dropped after that time will receive a withdraw “W” on the transcript. Changes based on teacher preference are not permitted.

Playing Division Athletics in College

Students planning to play Division I or II sports in college need to let their counselor know by the end of freshman year so an academic plan can be made. There are certain course and GPA requirements that need to be met.

Course Placement

Each upper level (Honors, Advanced Placement and NUStep) course carries specific prerequisites that must be met in order to enroll in that course. Students not meeting the prerequisites for an advanced class (honors or AP level), will not be placed into those courses. Students who are on the border of meeting the requirement, can request a review after June exam and final grades are completed or may be asked to complete a "Course Challenge Form" that will be reviewed by her counselor and department chairs.

Due to the nature of the courses in the sciences and mathematics, more attention is given to teacher recommendations for students’ future placement. Students should consult with their current science and math teachers if they have questions concerning appropriate choices for the coming school year.

Please note that all courses are subject to minimum enrollment to run.

Below, please find basic course descriptions for all of the courses that may be offered in each department. Please note that changes may occur due to factors such as class size, section numbers and availability.

English Department

In-Coming 9th Graders

English I Regents (015) – 1 credit

This full-credit course is an introduction to the major literary forms (poetry, novel, short story, drama and nonfiction writings). An emphasis is placed on grammar, writing and basic literary vocabulary during this year. Students will also learn and build upon basic skills involved with research and synthesizing information, with a focus on the Modern Language Association format of research writing. A brief research paper will be completed.

English I Honors (010) - 1 credit

This full-credit course is an introduction to the major literary forms (poetry, novel, short story, drama and nonfiction writings). An emphasis is placed on grammar, writing and basic literary vocabulary during this year. Students will begin to develop the literary analysis skills necessary to be successful in an Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition course.

English Practicum (005) – ½ credit

The English Practicum course will be offered to a specially selected group of students to improve vocabulary development, to develop reading fluency, speed and comprehension, and to improve literacy skills that are necessary for success in high school studies.

English II Regents (025) – 1 credit

English II is a continuation of the study of literary genres introduced in English I. This full-credit course includes an analysis of novels, drama, poetry, short stories and a variety of nonfiction selections. The Modern Language Association research writing process will be reinforced, in conjunction with the utilization of Common Core materials.

English II Honors (020) - 1 credit

(Prerequisite - Combined English average of 93% or above.)

This full credit course introduces interpretation and analysis of novels, short stories, drama, poetry and nonfiction selections. The study of a variety of authors and their writings will serve as a vehicle to improve the student's own writing skills. Common Core materials will be used to increase reading, writing, listening and speaking skills and to introduce the American Psychological Association method of research writing.

English III Regents (035) – 1 credit

This full-credit course is a study of various highlights of each genre of American Literature, in conjunction with the New York State Regents Exam and Common Core requirements. A major emphasis will be placed on nonfiction reading (articles, journals, biographies, autobiographies) and writing/speaking in response to these publications. To enhance the students understanding of the American Psychological Association method of writing, citing and analyzing sources, research writing will be an integral part of the course.

English III Honors (030) - 1 credit

(Prerequisite - Combined English average of 93% or above)

This course is taught with Pre-AP (Advanced Placement) strategies and tools to ensure that every student develops the skills, habits of mind, and concepts needed to succeed in AP and college-level class work. The quantity and quality of discussions, oral presentations, interpretation of assigned readings (American Literature and nonfiction), and research work aid the students in reaching the next level of their educational careers.

English IV - Survey of World Literature (045) – 1 credit

This is a full-year, full-credit course in which students will read and analyze works of literature. A major focus of the course is college preparation through the continued development of research writing skills, group discussion techniques, oral presentation skills and recognizing a writer's purpose in both fiction and nonfiction.

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition (055) - 1 credit

(Prerequisite - Combined English average of 93% and above. Open to Juniors and Seniors.)

This is a full year college-level course during which students will focus on close reading a wide range of literary texts. Students will be exposed to literature written by diverse authors and from varied cultures, and will deepen their critical analysis skills through reading and writing. All research and synthesis skills will be built upon and further refined. In addition to rigorously discussing the literary elements involved in creating each work, students will prepare for the Advanced Placement Exam in May and have the opportunity to earn college credit. Junior students will also take the New York State Regents Exam in June.

A course fee, which includes the AP exam fee, will be incurred. College credit is given at the discretion of the college to which the student applies.

NUSTEP ENG 100 Introduction to Literature (Semester One)– NUSTEP WRT 100 Thinking and Writing (Semester Two) – (049) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: 90% combined average or better in English I, II and III; AP Lit students)

The transferability of college credits is subject to the college to which the student applies.)

Six total credit hours from Niagara University are earned upon successful completion of this full-year course.

ENG 100: Introduction to Literature- Introduces students to several genres of literature (usually poetry, drama, fiction), and to contemporary critical-theoretical approaches literary scholars use. Students write extensively in this course, arguing for their own interpretations, applying critical approaches, and incorporating secondary source ideas in

thesis-driven analysis. Assigned literary works are diverse and multicultural, and may be organized by theme or motif.

WRT 100: Thinking and Writing- Writing 100 is a one-semester seminar taken by all first-year students in their first year of studies. In all sections, writing is taught as a means of acquiring as well as expressing ideas. Students receive instruction and practice in analysis and argument, in revision, and in the use and acknowledgement of sources. The emphasis in class is on developing ideas and refining them through writing. A more thorough information sheet will be provided by the instructor. It is important to note that this class utilizes a blended approach to instruction. There is a heavy emphasis on online learning as students will be expected to use Blackboard, a Learning Management System, to access all course materials. Students should plan to spend 5-7 hours per week outside of the classroom to meet the course requirements.

A course fee will be incurred and students must purchase books.

The following half-credit electives are available to sophomores, juniors and seniors based on enrollment:

Journalism (060) – ½ credit

This half-credit course will explore the exciting field of communications, including writing, broadcast, news photography and public relations. Students will be introduced to the multimedia discipline of gathering, writing and reporting news, editing, proofreading, and publishing both in print and online. Students will learn about the various forms of media and learn to work both in front of and behind the camera. They will have a variety of publishing opportunities, both in school and out in the community.

Journalism II (066) – ½ credit

This half-credit course is designed to extend and deepen students' work in the field of communications. Students will be guided through and develop in-depth journalism projects, learning to conduct more detailed interviews, writing more complex and challenging stories, and planning and publishing long-term projects. This course is open to any students who have successfully completed the introductory Journalism course.

Journalism III (067) – ½ credit

This half-credit course is designed to prepare students for a professional career in the field of communications. With guidance from their teacher, students will initiate independent journalism projects, study and practice communications leadership, connect with communications professionals, and develop professional-level portfolios of their work. This course is open to any students who have successfully completed the introductory Journalism course and Journalism II.

Journalism IV (067) – ½ credit

This half-credit course is a master-level program in which students will engage in project-based communications work. Projects will be developed using a multimedia approach, incorporating writing, photography, video and social media. This course is designed to prepare students for college-level work in the communications field and is open to any students who have successfully completed the introductory Journalism course and Journalism II and III.

**Lessons of Life Through Literature (071)
– ½ credit**

(Prerequisite: English III)

Elements of American culture will be introduced through literature, music, art and film. All units will concentrate on major lessons learned in life, such as the need to maintain personal strength, the importance of understanding others, and making the correct choices in order to lead a good life. Students will apply lessons to their own lives through personal writing and personal discussions.

Lessons in Lyrics (069) - ½ credit

(Prerequisite English I)

Students will analyze the lyrics of songs from past decades to present time, including the genres of rock and roll, jazz, the blues, rap and contemporary top 40. Through the research done to find the meaning of the songs, questions will be consistent in the course structure such as: was the song written with the base of personal experiences, a response to the societal values and issues of the time, or relationships blooming or broken? Oral and written presentations of the gathered research will be a major feature of the course, based on the history of the artist, song and/or title. Skills to be developed will be analyzation skills, research and writing skills and public speaking skills.

Creative Writing (068)- ½ credit

Designed to develop students' writing skills beyond academic writing, students will compile a portfolio of their work showcasing each of the areas explored through the course. This course will focus on short stories, personal essays, screenwriting and various other forms of creative writing.

Women in Literature (071) - ½ credit

Students will be introduced to representative works by and about women from social, historical and literary perspectives, as a focus is maintained on gender identities. Through reading, writing and research, the differences of gender in literature will be studied. Students will gain knowledge of a variety of social movements, authors and texts, as they relate to women in the literary arena.

Math Department

Please note that teacher recommendation plays a major role in placement for courses.

Algebra (105) - 1 credit

Also known as Pre-Algebra, the emphasis of this full-credit course is to reinforce basic arithmetic skills, improve operations with signed numbers, fractions, and decimals, and introduce basic concepts of algebra to prepare students for a Regents Algebra course. This is a two semester course. There is a school exam in June.

Algebra Practicum (111) – ½ credit

The Algebra Practicum course is offered to a select group of students to reinforce lessons taught in Algebra Regents. Pre-teaching of topics in the Regents curriculum as well as support of daily class material will be given. This is a two-semester course, which meets twice a week. Students receive a Pass (P) or Fail (F) grade.

Algebra Regents - NYS Common Core Curriculum (110) – 1 credit

The content standards associated with Algebra I are based on the New York State Common Core Learning Standards for Mathematics and the PARCC Model Content Framework for Algebra I. Algebra I is associated with high school content standards within four conceptual categories: Number & Quantity, Algebra, Functions, and Statistics & Probability. This is a two semester course. There is a Regents exam in June.

Geometry Practicum (121) – ½ credit

This course is offered to a select group of students to reinforce lessons taught in Geometry Regents. Pre-teaching of topics in the Regents curriculum as well as support of daily class material will be given. This is a two-semester course, which meets twice a week. Students receive a Pass (P) or Fail (F) grade.

Geometry Regents - NYS Common Core Curriculum (120) - 1 credit

The content standards associated with Geometry are based on the New York State Common Core Learning Standards for Mathematics and the PARCC Model Content Framework for Geometry. Topics include Congruence, Similarity, Right Triangles, and Trigonometry, Circles, Expressing Geometric Properties with Equations, Geometric Measurement and Dimensions, Modeling with Geometry. This is a two semester course. There is a Regents exam in June.

Geometry Honors - NYS Common Core Curriculum (123) - 1 credit

(Prerequisites: For incoming freshmen who scored 85% or higher on Regents Common Core Algebra Exam.)

This full-credit course covers the same curriculum as Geometry Regents, however, Honors Geometry will further explore select topics, such as Laws of Sines and Cosines. This is a two semester course. There is a Regents exam in June.

Algebra II – (132) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: Students who have completed Algebra I and teacher recommendation.)

This non-regents class strengthens basic algebra concepts, and introduces advanced algebra concepts, including Composition of Functions, Radical and Inequality equations, and explores the algebraic aspects of Quadratic and higher degree functions. This is a two semester course. There is a school exam in June.

Algebra II Regents - NYS Common Core Curriculum (135) - 1 credit

(Prerequisite: Students who have successfully completed Algebra I and Geometry.)

Building on their work with linear, quadratic, and exponential functions, students extend their repertoire of functions to include polynomial, rational, and radical functions. Module 1: Polynomial, Rational, and Radical Relationships Module 2: Trigonometric Functions Module 3: Functions Module 4: Inferences and Conclusions from Data. This is a two semester course. There is a Regents exam in June.

Algebra II Honors - NYS Common Core Curriculum (136) - 1 credit

(Prerequisite: Combined math average of 93 or above, and teacher recommendation)

Formerly known as Algebra

2/Trigonometry Honors. This full-credit course covers the same curriculum as Algebra II Regents, however, Honors Algebra II will further explore select topics. This is a two semester course. There is a Regents exam in June.

Math 12 (145) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: Seniors who have completed Algebra II)

This course is divided into two topics- Algebra 3 and Personal Finance. The first half of the year is designed to build a stronger foundation in algebra and introduce college level concepts. The second semester will reinforce the basic math skills needed to successfully navigate the real world of personal finance. Topics will include budgeting, taxes, credit, savings and investing. This is a two semester course. There is a house exam covering Algebra concepts in January and a final project relating to Personal Finance in May.

Pre-Calculus (140) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: Students who have successfully completed Regents level Algebra, Geometry and Algebra II, and teacher recommendation)

The purpose for this full-credit course is to prepare for calculus. The course is theory-based in nature and relies on strong algebra skills as well as an understanding of functions and their graphs. The curriculum covers an in depth look at linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions. Important calculus concepts are introduced. This is a two semester course. There is a house exam in May.

Pre-Calculus Honors (142) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: Students who have successfully completed Regents level Algebra, Geometry and Algebra II, have a combined math average of 93 or above, and teacher recommendation)

This full-credit course covers the same curriculum as regular Pre-Calculus, however, Pre-Calculus Honors will further explore select topics, such as conic sections, and move at a faster pace. This is a two semester course. There is a house exam in May.

Introduction to Calculus (149) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: For seniors who have successfully completed Pre-Calculus, and teacher recommendation.)

This class will introduce and expand upon topics such as limits and differential calculus. This is a two semester course. There will be a house exam in May.

Calculus – Advanced Placement (150) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: 92% or higher in Pre-Calculus and teacher recommendation)

This college-level full-credit course covers limits, derivatives, integration and applications of derivatives and integrals. This is a two semester course. Students will take the Advanced Placement exam given by the CEEB in May.

A course fee, which includes the AP exam fee, will be incurred. College credit is given at the discretion of the college to which the student applies.

Introduction to Statistics (147) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: Seniors)

This class will cover topics such as gathering, organizing and interpreting data, probability and inference. It will conclude with either a house exam or a project. This course could meet a math requirement.

Science Department

*Please note that teacher recommendation plays a large role in the placement of science courses.

Biology Regents (220) – 1 credit

This one-credit course focuses on the similarities and the differences in structure and function of living organisms. A variety of organisms representative of simple and more complex systems are studied in detail. The structure, biochemistry and genetics of cells are discussed in depth. Cellular arrangement, specialization and dependence in multicellular organisms, and the interaction of living organisms with the environment are studied. The development of laboratory skills is emphasized.

Earth Science Regents (210) – 1 credit

This one-credit course deals with the earth, its motions, energy, weather, water supply, climates, erosion, deposition, and the formation of rock. The earth's history, crustal movement and the story told in the rocks and the landscape developments are also covered. There is an emphasis on laboratory work. The skills needed to collect, organize and graph data are practiced. The use of reference tables and the skills of interpreting questions are emphasized.

Principles of Chemistry (235) – 1 credit (previously called "General Chemistry")

(Note: You will not be eligible to take Regents Chemistry if you are enrolled in this course.)

This one-credit course presents a modern view of chemistry. The principles of matter and energy, atomic structure, bonding, the periodic table, kinetics and equilibrium, acids and bases and organic chemistry are studied to understand our physical environment. This course will emphasize the concepts in Chemistry, not the mathematical aspects as well as hand-on activities. The student does not need a strong math background to take this course.

Chemistry Regents (230) – 1 credit

(Note: You may not have taken General Chemistry prior to this course.)

This one-credit course presents a modern view of chemistry. The principles of matter and energy, atomic structure, bonding, the periodic table, kinetics and equilibrium, acids and bases and organic chemistry are studied to understand our physical environment. It is recommended that a student possess a strong math background, which is essential to the completion of the laboratory experience in this course. The student enrolled in this class will take the NYS Regents Exam in June.

Chemistry Honors (233) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: Students entering their sophomore year and taking Algebra II Regents/Honors. Students must have at least a 90% average in their current science course).

This one-credit course presents a modern view of chemistry. The principles of matter and energy, atomic structure, bonding, the periodic table, kinetics and equilibrium, acids and bases and organic chemistry are studied to understand our physical environment. It is recommended that a student possess a strong math background, which is essential to the completion of the laboratory experience in this course. This course will strengthen the student's critical thinking skills. The student enrolled in this course will take the NYS Regents Exam in June.

Chemistry- Advanced Placement (237) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: students must have taken both Regents Chemistry and Algebra II and had an overall average of at least 85%, and teacher approval)

This course will allow students a more in-depth look at Atomic Structure, Periodic Table, Bonding, Stoichiometry, Gases and Phase Changes, Thermodynamics, Solutions, Equilibrium, Acids and Bases, Kinetics, Oxidation- Reduction and Electrochemistry, Nuclear Decay, and Organic Chemistry.

Students will be required to read a college-level text and do independent reading and note taking. They will also need to participate in classroom discussions and advanced laboratory experiments.

Students will take the Advanced Placement Exam given in May. Successful completion of this exam may provide them an opportunity to receive college credit. A course fee, which includes the AP exam fee, will be incurred. College credit is given at the discretion of the college to which the student applies.

Physics Regents (240) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: Students must have passed Regents Biology and Regents Chemistry with at least an 80%.)

(Note: You may not have taken General Physics prior to this course.)

This one-credit course includes the major topics of mechanics, motion in a plane, energy, heat, electricity and magnetism, wave phenomena and modern physics. The course develops the skills needed for critical thinking and problem solving, which includes considerable work on the analysis and solution of word problems. Physics is of value to anyone who wants to improve her critical thinking skills and in addition emphasizes hands-on laboratory experiments. It is recommended that the student have a strong background in mathematics prior to taking this course.

Honors Physics (246)– 1 credit

(Prerequisite: Students must have passed Regents Biology and Regents Chemistry, with at least an 85% average. Additionally, students must have passed Regents Algebra and Geometry with at least a 90% average).

(Note: You may not have taken General Physics prior to this course.)

This one-credit course includes the major topics of mechanics, motion in a plane, energy, heat, electricity and magnetism, wave phenomena and modern physics. This course develops the skills needed for critical thinking and problem solving, which includes considerable work on the analysis and solution of word problems. Honors Physics is designed for students interested in continuing their higher education in science, and as such will cover additional topics than are required for the NYS Physics Regents course. Additional topics covered include, but are not limited to: angular motion, the Hand Rules for electromagnetism, Lenz Law, and Concave and Convex lens. In addition, this course will emphasize not only

hands-on laboratory experiments but also computer simulations. It is recommended that the student have a strong background in mathematics prior to taking this course. Students enrolled in Honors Physics will take the NYS Regents Exam in June.

Principles of Physics (245) – 1 credit (previously called “General Physics”)

(Note: You will not be eligible to take Regents Physics if you are enrolled in this course.)

This one-credit course includes the major topics of mechanics, motion in a plane, energy, heat, electricity and magnetism, and wave phenomena. The course develops the skills needed for critical thinking and problem solving, which includes considerable work on the analysis and solution of word problems. The course emphasizes the conceptual, rather than mathematical, nature of Physics; as well as hands-on laboratory experimentations and computer simulations. A student does not need a strong background in mathematics, although basic algebra and trigonometry skills are required.

NUSTEP BIO 101/

NUSTEP BIO 102 (Two Semester courses) (285) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: 90% average or better in Biology; 85% or better in Chemistry; 80% or above on the Living Environment and Chemistry Regents exams.

Six total credit hours from Niagara University are earned upon successful completion of this full-year course.

A two-semester series designed to study the basic functions of the human body in health and disease. This course is designed to increase the student’s understanding of elementary human physiology. It will emphasize the functional aspects of the body at the cellular, tissue, organ, and organ system levels. It is designed as a terminal nonlaboratory course. The course is designed for students with no prior college biology courses.

The student will be required to purchase required text. A course fee will be incurred. (The transferability of college credits is subject to the college to which the student applies.)

Environmental Studies- (293)- 1 credit

(Prerequisite: Earth Science)

This will be a full year course of study. There will be discussions on environmental measurements, environmental systems and their response to stressors, and the four “R's” to protect the environment. This course will focus on Case Studies of Real-World situations that may include but are not limited to: Love Canal, Flint, Michigan water supply, and climate change.

The Following Electives are open depending on enrollment:

Intro to Forensic Science – (292) – ½ credit

This course will help you to learn what Forensic Science is. We will discuss how forensic investigators use the scientific method, what evidence is and how it is classified, different evidence-gathering techniques, how a crime laboratory is organized, expert witness testimony, and possibly choosing forensic science as a career. This class will include labs and other hands-on activities.

Introduction to Health Professions- (298) ½ credit

This course will explore major areas of the health care system and the scope of practice for each of the health professions. It will also touch on the desired skills of health care professionals and the contributions these professions bring to patient care. A review of educational preparation and practice requirements for each of the health careers will be explored to assist students in further delineating their own educational and career goals

Social Studies Department

Global Studies I ~ Regents (310) – 1 credit

Global Studies and Geography I follows a chronological study of world history in keeping with the standards of the New York State Regents curriculum. Students begin with the study of pre-history and explore various regions and civilizations at given times through the Enlightenment period. Beginning in 2016, adjustments will be made to reflect the 3C framework changes introduced by NYS.

Global Studies I ~ Honors (315) – 1 credit

Global Studies follows a chronological study of world history and application of world geography in order to match the standards of the NYS Regents curriculum. At the same time, students will focus on the strategies and tools necessary for a successful experience in the course which will follow (Advanced Placement European History) and the opportunity to earn college credits. Emphasis on note-taking, reading analysis of primary sources, writing and study strategies will be stressed, in order for students to become more independent thinkers. Beginning in 2016, adjustments will be made to reflect the 3C framework changes introduced by NYS.

Global Studies II ~ Regents (320) – 1 credit

Students continue the chronological approach of Global History during their involvement in Global Studies and Geography II - Regents. This course will cover events beginning with the Enlightenment era to present-day. Students are required to pass the New York State Regents exam administered by the Board of Regents.

Global Studies II ~ Honors (325) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: 90% average or better in Global Studies I - Honors, 93% average or better in Global I)

This course will cover events beginning with the Enlightenment era to present-day. Emphasis on note-taking, reading analysis of primary sources, writing, geographic skill building such as reading maps, and study strategies will be stressed. Students are required to pass the New York State Regents exam administered by the Board of Regents.

European History ~ Advanced Placement (328) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: 90% average or better in Global Studies I Honors; 93% average or better in Global IR)

This course allows sophomores an opportunity for in-depth study of European History from 1450 to modern times. Students are expected to take the Advanced Placement exam in May and will also take the Global Studies Regents exam in June. Successful completion of the exam offers the opportunity to earn college credits. Students will be expected to extensively read a college-level text and primary sources, independently note-take, and be able to contribute to class discussions. Time management and a serious level of independent study is essential for this course.

A course fee, which includes the AP exam fee, will be incurred. College credit is given at the discretion of the college to which the student applies.

United States History and Government ~ Regents (335) – 1 credit

This is a full-year course concentrating on the political, social, and economic forces that have shaped the United States. This course is required of all juniors, who must pass the New York State Regents exam.

United States History and Government-Honors (333)- 1 credit

(Prerequisite : 93% in Global II Regents, 90% in Global II Honors or 85% in AP European)

This is a full-year course concentrating on the political, social, and economic forces that have shaped the United States. Juniors in the Honors class will be exposed to college-level text and writing processes. All students must take the New York State Regents exam in June.

United States History ~ Advanced Placement (330) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: 85% or better in AP Euro, 90% or better in Global Studies.)

This intensified, in-depth college-level course examines the history of the United States. Students will engage in college level work including a research project. Students will take the Advanced Placement exam given in May and take the New York State Regents exam in June. A course fee, which includes the AP exam fee, will be incurred. College credit is given at the discretion of the college to which the student applies.

All seniors must take 1 full credit of Social Studies which includes 1 government and 1 economics course. The following courses are offered to meet that requirement.

Economics (340) – ½ credit

This is a required half-credit course for seniors dealing with basic economic system concepts. Topics include inflation, the Stock Market, income taxes, and government expenditures. A special focus will be placed on personal economics. Students will be involved in the Stock Market Game.

Macroeconomics ~ Advanced Placement (343) - 1 credit

The purpose of the AP course in Macroeconomics is to give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. The course will review topics such as national income, price level determination, economic growth and stabilization, as well as other topics. Students are expected to take the Advanced Placement exam in May. Successful completion of the exam offers the opportunity to earn college credits. This course meets the NYS requirements for 12th-grade Economics. A course fee, which includes the AP exam fee, will be incurred. College credit is given at the discretion of the college to which the student applies.

Participation in Government (345) – ½ credit

This is a half-credit course, which provides the student with a deeper understanding of the structure and operation of American government. Special emphasis is on class discussion, current events, voter registration, and citizen participation in present day America.

Government Honors (346) - ½ credit
(Prerequisite: 90% or better in US History)

This is a half-credit course that fulfills the Government portion of the Senior Social Studies requirement. Students will be exposed to a deeper understanding of the workings of the US federal government. A special emphasis is placed on citizen participation. Students in this level will be exposed to the use of college level texts and primary source material.

Government- S (347)- ½ credit

This half credit course is offered over the summer prior to a student's senior year. This provides the student with a deeper understanding of the structure and operation of American government. The course will be offered fully online over a set 6 week period. Students must have regular internet access to successfully complete the course. This course will fulfill the NYS requirements. A course fee will be assessed prior to taking the course.

US Government and Politics ~ Advanced Placement (348) - 1 credit

(Prerequisite: 85% in AP US History, 90% in US Honors or US Regents)

This course provides an analytical perspective in government and politics in the U.S. The course involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret U. S. politics and the analysis of specific case studies. It requires familiarity with various institutions, groups, beliefs and ideas that constitute U. S. political reality.

Students are expected to take the Advanced Placement exam in May. Successful completion of the exam offers the opportunity to earn college credits. This course meets the NYS requirements for 12th-grade Participatory Government.

A course fee, which includes the AP exam fee, will be incurred. College credit is given at the discretion of the college to which the student applies.

Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics (370)- 1 credit

(Prerequisite: 85% in AP European History and AP US History, 90% in Global Studies and US History)

Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics is the equivalent of a one-semester college--level introductory Comparative Political Science course. This course involves both the studies of general concepts used to interpret Comparative politics respective to the governments and politics of China, Great Britain, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, and Russia. Students are encouraged to become familiar with current events through newspapers, scholarly journals, news magazines, and broadcasts. AP Comparative Government and Politics is a highly academic and demanding course. Students are required to thoroughly read a college--level text, scholarly journals,

supplemental political readings and periodicals. Students will be expected to take the AP Exam in May for college-credit potential. This course meets the NYS requirements for 12th-grade Participatory Government.

A course fee, which includes the AP exam fee, will be incurred. College credit is given at the discretion of the college to which the student applies

The following electives are available based on enrollment:

Psychology (355) – ½ credit

This social science elective is a half-credit course involving the exploration of the many different aspects of the mind and human behavior. Among the many topics covered include approaches to psychology, early childhood development, stages of life, management of stress, and the study of personality and identity formation. Emphasis will also be placed on researching current events that relate to the fields approached in class.

Sociology - Niagara University NUStep (365) – ½ credit

(Prerequisite: 85% average or higher in Social Studies)

Three college credit hours are awarded. (The transferability of college credits is subject to the college to which the student applies.)

This half-year course introduces the science of Sociology as the investigation and analysis of human relations. Topics covered include: personality, social groups, social stratification, social institutions, the family, deviance, crime, poverty, and age groups. Students will earn one half MSM credit for this course.

A course fee will be incurred.

The Holocaust (380) – ½ credit
(Prerequisite: Juniors and seniors only)

The Holocaust is a half-credit elective providing an in-depth investigation of the correlating foundations, experiences, and outcomes relating to the Holocaust. This course examines the Holocaust by focusing first on the deeply rooted history of Judaism and anti-Semitism and thereafter the history of Germany in terms of unification and war. The course illustrates historical and psychological viewpoints, concentrating both on Hitler and the Nazi Party, as well as the concepts of conformity and obedience. Moreover, students engage in discussion regarding the Holocaust as an event in itself. Examined topics include: steps leading up to the final solution, labor and concentration camps, WWII causes, responses by individuals, institutions and nations, the non-Jewish Holocaust, results of the Holocaust, victims and survivors, Nuremberg Trials, and finally, the Holocaust remembered.

Women's Studies (350) – ½ credit
(Prerequisite: Juniors and seniors only)

This half-credit course will examine the struggles and contributions of women throughout history. Literature, non-fiction, and film will guide students as they explore and discuss the lives and impact of these women. An emphasis will be placed on current challenges and issues of importance faced by 21st century women throughout the world.

Foreign Languages Department

A three-year sequence in foreign language is required for an Advanced Regents diploma. The diverse backgrounds with which students now come to high school is taken into consideration in planning the schedule of each foreign language student. An MSM Language Proficiency Exam is required of all incoming freshmen who desire placement in a second-level language class. Provision is made for acceleration.

French I Regents (420)- 1 credit **Spanish I Regents (425) – 1 credit**

The first level introduces students to the four language skill areas: listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing. Also covered in this full-credit course is the geography and certain cultural aspects of the target language.

Latin I Regents (423) – 1 credit

This full-credit course introduces students to the following Latin language skill areas: Latin paradigms and basic grammar, correct pronunciation, reading comprehension and translation from English into Latin. Roman culture and mythology are also presented. This is also an excellent elective for students to choose once they have finished their Foreign Language requirement.

French II Regents (430) – 1 credit **Spanish II Regents (435) – 1 credit**

(Prerequisite for freshmen: Successful completion of MSM foreign language placement test.)

This second-year, full-credit course expands the application of the four basic skills.

Latin II (433) – 1 credit

This second-year Latin course offers a full-credit and presents more complex Latin grammar along with readings and translations of more difficult passages. Cultural and mythological studies continue.

French III Regents (440) – 1 credit **Spanish III Regents (445) – 1 credit**

The third-level full-credit course continues to focus on the oral fluency in the language and is designed to increase reading, speaking and writing proficiency.

Latin III Regents (443) – 1 credit

The third level full-credit course continues with readings and translations of more difficult/original text.

Latin- Advanced Placement (454) – 1 credit

(Prerequisites: Latin III)

This college-level course introduces students to the works of two Roman authors: Caesar's *de Bello Gallico* and Vergil's *Aeneid*. Throughout the year, students will translate selections from each work, taking time to analyze the style and content of each author. We will also learn, through teacher- and student-presentations, various aspects of the historical, social, cultural, and political contexts of each author and his work. There will be daily translation assignments, in-class activities, and discussion of the works in English. The course will culminate with the AP exam, which is administered in May. A course fee, which includes the AP exam fee, will be incurred. College credit is given at the discretion of the college to which the student applies.

The following electives are available based on enrollment:

Spanish IV (455) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: 85% average or higher in Spanish III)

This full-year, full-credit elective is designed to provide the student with continued oral practice and an increased fluency in Spanish. Also included is the reading of at least one major literary work, viewing and discussion of the movies in the target language, along with a study of culture, art, music and cuisine.

NUSTEP SPA 103/104 Intermediate Spanish Language (453) – 1 credit

(Prerequisite: 85% average or higher in Spanish IV)

Six college credit hours are awarded. (The transferability of college credits is subject to the college to which the student applies.)

This full-year course will include brief review and expand communication skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing) through materials reflecting the history, literature and culture of the Hispanic world. This course will be taught almost exclusively in Spanish, at a pace of instruction equal to that of a college-level course.

A course fee will be incurred for each year, and the purchase of textbooks will be necessary.

Spanish V (456) 1 credit (or ½ credit depending on the number of sections)

(Prerequisite: Students must have passed Spanish IV)

This course, is for students wishing to avoid a gap in their language studies between high school and college, but are not interested in taking a college course. Spanish V will provide an in-depth review to begin the year. While instruction will still be almost exclusively in Spanish, and focus on communication skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing), through a study of history, literature and culture of the Hispanic world, it will not be taught at the same rigorous pace as that of a college course.

Conversational Italian (475) - ½ credit

This course, which will not fulfill a Regents requirement, is meant to introduce students to the Italian language and culture. The focus will be on developing basic conversational skills, and we will focus on such topics as family life, traveling within the country, financial transactions, food, and cinema. The course will also seek to expose students to the culture of modern Italy, through music, film, and other forms of popular culture. It is recommended, but not required, that students have finished their Regents language courses before enrolling in this course.

Discovering Hispanic Culture (486)- ½ credit

Take time to learn more about the countries and cultures of Spanish-speakers around the world. This course will take the prior knowledge you have gained in past Spanish classes a step further. Celebrate the diversity of Spanish-speakers, by focusing on food, music and dance, crafts and festivals, slang, indigenous groups, and more!

Fine Arts Department

Fine Arts Requirement

New York State requires all students to complete one credit of Fine Arts study within their four years of high school. Students may choose full or half-year courses in any of the Fine Arts. These include Visual Arts, Music (instrumental and vocal), Theater and Dance electives. Dance Movement credit is applied to Physical Education.

Visual Arts

Studio in Art (550) – 1 credit

This class encourages creative investigation of the nature, function and techniques of the Visual Arts. Emphasis is placed on the manipulation of materials in a studio atmosphere while discovering and developing a personal artistic style. A variety of projects will be completed to familiarize students with individual artists, art movements, and the ability to analyze and write about artwork. This is a core course for students who are planning to continue in the Visual Arts curriculum.

Drawing & Painting I (560) – ½ credit (Prerequisite: Studio in Art, or Introduction to Fine Arts, open to students in grades 10, 11 and 12)

Students will use the concepts of shading, value and form to improve skills in drawing & painting mediums. Objects will be rendered from life and attention will be given to building strong composition. Standard techniques are studied, while experimentation is encouraged to develop each student's personal style.

Crafts (590) – ½ credit (Prerequisite: Open to students in grades 10, 11 and 12)

This course introduces the foundation of two or three dimensional design while students investigate a variety of contemporary, historical and multicultural crafts. Activities may include work with textiles, printmaking, pottery, jewelry, and paper crafts.

Ceramics I (580) – ½ credit (Prerequisite: Open to students in grades 10, 11 and 12)

This course offers the study of basic clay working techniques. Students will learn to handle clay using hand-building techniques such as pinch, coil, slab and drape. Glazing and decorating techniques will be taught along with firing and finishing. Students will be assigned projects relevant to ceramic history, criticism, function and aesthetics.

Ceramics II (581) ½ credit (Prerequisite: Ceramics I)

This course offers the continued study of clay working techniques. In addition to using hand-building techniques, students will experiment with texturing and sculptural uses for clay. Time permitting, throwing work on the wheel will be introduced. Advanced use of glazing and decorating techniques will be explored along with alternative means of firing and finishing. Students may be required to put in work time other than the assigned class time, as work cannot be done at home.

Introduction to Fine Arts (500) ½ credit Student will be introduced to the elements and principles of art & design through a series of hands-on studio projects. The manipulation of a variety of materials (paper, paint, collage, pencil, ink, etc.) will allow students to explore the creative process and learn about the way art is integrated into other facets of their life.

Digital Photography/Photoshop (555) – ½ credit (Prerequisite: Open to students in grades 10, 11 and 12)

This class will cover how to use a digital camera, manipulating the elements and principles of design to get attractive photographs, and how to edit the photographs using Photoshop. Students will use computers as tools for design, modeling, information processing, and communication.

Music

Chorus (525) – ½ credit

This class is open to all students in each grade level. This performance-based class focuses on singing techniques, singing in harmony as an ensemble, and performing a variety of vocal music including musical theater, classical and pop. This ensemble performs in school concerts and other events throughout the school year.

Gemtones (528) – 1/2 credit

Gemtones is an auditioned singing ensemble open to all students. The ensemble is performance-based and utilizes various singing techniques and styles as well as advanced harmonic and rhythmic content. The ensemble's repertoire emphasizes pop and musical theatre, but is not limited to any style. The ensemble performs in school concerts and other events throughout the school year. Students in Gemtones are expected to enroll in Voice, Private Instruction (527).

Music Theory (515) – ½ credit

This half-credit course is intended for the more serious music student. Students will learn music reading skills, intervals, chords, modes, cadences, music notation and ear training. This class is open to students at all grade levels.

Voice, Private Instruction (527) – ¼ credit

This quarter-credit course is for the individual student interested in building her vocal repertoire and enhancing her singing performance technique. Students will meet twice per cycle to work individually on songs in a variety of genres. They will also study basic music reading and sight singing. Each student will participate in a studio recital at the conclusion of the semester. This class is open to students in all grades.

Theater

Acting & Theater I (540) ½ credit

Acting involves every part of the performer. The mind, body, voice and even one's determination play important parts in creating a character that lives within the framework of the play. Students will learn many aspects of putting on a show including performance, stage management, and design. The course includes multiple workshops with area professionals in the world of theatre. Topics will include scene work, auditioning, elements of design and the history of theatre.

Acting & Theater II- (541) 1/2 credit (Prerequisite: Acting & Theatre I)

The class is available at the completion of Acting I and will involve similar activities taken to a higher level. Students enrolled in Acting & Theatre II will be expected to lead the class in exercises and demonstrate their continuation of growth as a performer and participant.

Musical Theater I (543)- 1/2 credit

Musical Theatre is a new class offering a specific focus on learning classic musical theatre choreography, the history of musical theatre as we know it, and the specific roles of song and dance in a musical. Students taking Musical Theatre are expected to participate in the MSM school musical in some capacity. In this participation based class, we will shift focus between dance, acting, auditioning, musical theatre history, and developing skills as an informed audience member. Students should be prepared to see one to three musicals per year outside of class time.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Band (520) – ½ credit

The Concert Band is a half-credit course designed for students who play (or wish to learn to play) woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. Piano and bass guitar players are also welcome. This course will focus on various genres of concert band repertoire. Students will receive lessons on a rotating basis through the year. The ensemble works as a team performing in various concerts on and off campus throughout the year and marches in area parades. There is a fee associated with this course.

Jazz Ensemble (523) – ½ credit

(Prerequisite: Concert Band)

(Students will be accepted by audition only.)

The Jazz Ensemble is a half-credit course open to students who play saxophone, trombone, trumpet, drums, guitar, bass guitar, or keyboard in the Concert Band. This course focuses on various genres of jazz music and students learn to improvise solos on their respective instruments. The ensemble works as a team performing in various concerts on and off campus throughout the year. There is a fee associated with this course.

String Ensemble (522) – ½ credit

(Students will be accepted by audition only.)

The String Ensemble is a half-credit course open to students who own and play a string instrument. This course focuses on string orchestra music and students will receive lessons on a rotating basis through the year. The ensemble works as a team performing in various concerts on and off campus throughout the year. There is a fee associated with this course.

Religion Department

The Religion Department

All students are required to complete four years of religion, and 25 - 60 hours of community service. The religion curriculum provides students with the opportunity to participate in the sacramental and liturgical life of the Church. Each course develops and enhances the student's relationship with God through different types of prayer.

Community Service

As we assist our young women to deepen their faith and be an active disciple of Jesus, we try to instill in them that their faith must be "lived out," in order to witness to the Gospel. For this reason, Mount St. Mary Academy has a Community Service Program, which offers opportunities for students to do such things as feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and shelter the homeless. Our service requirements are as follows: freshmen - 25 hours; sophomores - 35 hours; juniors - 45 hours; and seniors - 60 hours of service. Service requirements must be completed by May 1 in order to receive credit for religion and advance to the next year.

Retreats

Retreats afford students the opportunity to step away from their day-to-day routine for the purpose of self-evaluation, rejuvenation, spiritual growth, and the strengthening of relationships. Participation in retreats can greatly aid students in the development of character and in choosing direction for their lives. All students are required to participate in a retreat during each of their years at Mount St. Mary Academy.

Freshman Religion – Sacred Scripture: the Old Testament (610) – ½ credit

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to a Catholic study of God's Word focusing on the Old Testament as a living source of God's Revelation to us. Students will learn about the authorship, message, and historical context of the Pentateuch, the Historical Books, the Wisdom Books, and the Prophets.

Sophomore Religion - Sacred Scripture: the New Testament (620) – ½ credit

The purpose of this course is to continue the study of God's Word focusing on the New Testament as a living source of God's Revelation to us. Through the study of the authorship, message, and historical context of the Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, the Letters of St. Paul, and other Catholic Letters, students examine more deeply the Mystery of Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God, and the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Students will learn that Jesus reaffirms our dignity and worth, inviting us into a personal relationship with Him, one that can transform our lives, giving us meaning and direction.

Junior Religion – Our Catholic Faith: Living What We Believe (630) – ½ credit

This course helps students understand the living source of God's Revelation to us through Tradition in the study of the Church, the Creed, and Catholic Morality. Students will explore models of the Church, the Sacraments, the Communion of Saints, Eschatology, Prayer and how we form our conscience, make moral decisions, and answer the call to Social Justice in the life of the Church.

Senior Religion - Our Meaning in Life (640) – 1/2 credit

We recognize that this is a special time for our seniors since they are in their final year at the Mount. We strive to ensure that as they leave our establishment, they will have a strong foundation in their Faith as well as knowledge, moral values and service to others in living their Christian life. Human beings are searchers and seekers. We ask questions and search for our meaning in life. "Why was I born?" "Why do people suffer?" "What type of person will I become?" "Will I find true happiness?" "Where does God fit into the grand scheme of things?" This course will attempt to bring these many unspoken questions to light with readings, reflections and journaling while using the latest technology.

NUStep REL 206 - World Religions (650)

– 1/2 credit

Three total credit hours from Niagara University are earned upon successful completion of this full-year course. The transferability of college credits is subject to the college to which the student applies.

This is a survey course in the beliefs and history of the world's religions. It explores the human response to the manifestations of the divine in various cultures. In particular, this course studies the Eastern religions of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism, as well as the monotheistic religions of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

A course fee will be incurred and students will be required to purchase textbooks.

Physical Education

Physical Education (800) – ½ credit

The Physical Education Department attempts to build a strong foundation in all sports so that the students will be prepared to participate on interscholastic teams and in physical education classes in the years ahead, as well as engage in physical wellness as a lifelong goal. Sports are introduced by the season. Fun games for fitness are also intertwined so that fitness and fun are the main objectives.

Advanced Physical Education (810) – ½ credit

(Prerequisite- must be a Varsity athlete)

This course incorporates higher levels of competition in game playing. It is designed for students interested in playing at a higher level. Basic Skills and game rules are reviewed, but not taught in detail. Students interested in this class should have the basics.

Fitness, Nutrition and Weight Training (825) – ½ credit

This half-credit course, which is meant to be an alternative for students who prefer individual fitness to team sports, will be taught in our Wellness Center. Students will be able to keep in shape with aerobic activities and weight training. Alternative disciplines such as yoga, pilates and core strength training will also be included. Participants will be expected to work independently on fitness plans they help to create. Numbers will be limited to twelve students per class.

Dance Movement I (850) – ½ credit

Dance Movement is an alternative to traditional gym class. This class was conceived to promote body fitness and emotional well being using the art of dance. Classes incorporate multiple dance forms that are designed to improve flexibility, body strength, muscle tone, and aerobic endurance. Through participation, students will also develop musicality, become familiar with dance terminology, and receive tips on health and stress management. Dance Movement is available to all grade levels.

Dance Movement II (855) – ½ credit

This course is available by invitation or audition after completion of Dance I. Building upon the skills learned in Dance I, Dance II will encourage the student to expand and push herself further through dance. The course combines dance performance and the study of the present day world of dance. Dance II will focus on advanced dance skills, theater skills necessary for performance, and learning dance pieces to perform for events here at school and out in the community. Students will learn to choreograph their own pieces and perform several times a year.

Health (270) – ½ credit

This half-credit required course will help students understand key concepts of health, explore influences on their healthy living, identify appropriate sources of health information, practice healthy behaviors and provides the knowledge to lifelong health. An important theme of this course is prevention, teaching students that the choices they make and the actions they take now will have a dramatic impact on their futures. This course is required for graduation.

Health- Summer (275)- ½ credit

This half-credit required course will help students understand key concepts of health, explore influences on their healthy living, identify appropriate sources of health information, practice healthy behaviors and provides the knowledge to lifelong health. An important theme of this course is prevention, teaching students that the choices they make and the actions they take now will have a dramatic impact on their futures. All work will take place online over an established period of time to be communicated with each student in June. This course meets the NYS requirements for graduation. There is a fee for this course which will be assessed prior to the beginning of the course.

Technology

The following electives are available based on enrollment:

Accounting 1 (722)- 1 credit

This course can be offered for college credit through Erie Community College

Accounting has often been referred to as the “language of business”. In addition to students entering the accounting field it is beneficial to students that want to explore careers in Business Ownership, Finance, Management and/or Marketing. The first part of the course offers an introduction to the how and why of financial record keeping. Topics to be examined will include the basic accounting cycle, analysis of assets and liabilities, payroll accounting and tax records. The concepts of ethics, integrity and confidentiality in accounting will also be addressed. The second half of the course will examine how and why the Internal Revenue Service was established. Tax laws and the proper way to compile both Federal and State returns will be discussed. Through the study of these topics students will gain valuable knowledge that will benefit them not only in the workplace but in their personal financial lives. A course fee may apply.

21st Century Computer Applications (721)- 1 credit -

This course investigates various types of computer software, computer programming, game design, 3-D design, and Cyber Security. Students are introduced to fundamentals of computers with an emphasis on computer software applications. Class time is divided between learning concepts and a hands on introduction to various software programs including game design, simple website design, database management, and Microsoft Office business suite software. Other topics include computer hardware, computer networking, and Internet security. Computer based projects in a lab setting count for a significant portion of the student's grade.

Keyboarding (700) – ½ credit

Master the tool that unlocks the world of software applications, the Internet and multi-media communications. The emphasis in this course is on developing good keyboarding techniques and habits to help students to improve their overall typing skills. On average, a student can expect to improve her keyboarding speed fifteen to twenty words per minute, regardless of her speed at the beginning of the semester. Beginning computer keyboarding includes the mastery of the alphabetic keyboard using the “key-by-touch” method. Using Microsoft Word, students will practice basic word processing functions on a variety of document types including an emphasis on MLA-style format for research papers. Students will also enhance the skills of proofreading, composing at the keyboard, and basic computer operation and maintenance.

Exploring Computer Science (290) – 1 credit

This course is designed to introduce students to the breadth of the field of computer science through an exploration of engaging and accessible topics. Students will learn the creative, collaborative, interdisciplinary and problem solving nature of real world computing problems. Students will engage in several in-depth projects to demonstrate the real-world applications of computing. Topics include: human/machine interaction, problem-solving, web design, programming, data analysis and robotics.

Additional Courses and Opportunities

Career Search Internship Program (890) – 1 credit

(Students will be accepted through an application process only; This course is open to Juniors and Seniors only)

The Career Search Internship Program is a serious commitment by college-bound, career-focused students to both coursework and non-paid work experience at a mutually agreeable site. Students must have course time available in their schedules and have transportation to the career-related, approved worksite. Attendance is mandatory at all classroom sessions. All work experiences are arranged for college-associated fields and will provide training and mentoring. Time logs certified by the employer, as well as personal journaling, are required. Students with specific career goals should make application, including two teacher recommendations, for a limited number of positions. One credit toward graduation is granted upon successful completion.

Academy Scholars Program (Freshmen 910) – ¼ credit; (Sophomores 915), (Juniors 920), (Seniors 925) – ½ credit

Mount St. Mary Academy's "Academy Scholars Program" is designed for academically outstanding and highly motivated students. This program offers these young ladies a special opportunity to experience a unique elective program that has been created to broaden and enhance their academic horizons. Students will develop career skills and plan, build and operate their own businesses in all levels beyond Freshman year. Students will also have the opportunity to use their presentation and sales skills to compete against other student-run firms at business competitions

In order to participate in the program, students must be in Honors levels courses, complete an application and obtain recommendations. In addition, sophomores, juniors, and seniors must fulfill 30 hours of peer tutoring throughout the academic year. It is also required that all of the students participate in at least one extracurricular activity. In their junior and senior year, students must take at least one Advanced Placement or college-level class.

Foundations of Learning (710) – ½ credit

This required course introduces first year high school students to the foundations of vocabulary building and of critical thinking. Through a basic introduction to the Latin language, students will begin to expand their English vocabulary and familiarity with English grammar. Also, students will learn to do basic Latin translation through problem-solving techniques that can be applied to other classes. We will also look at how a basic understanding of Latin can help with specialized vocabulary in Global, Biology, Earth Science, and other classes.

NOTE: This course does NOT fulfill the foreign language requirement. This course does not cover the material covered in Latin 1. Students interested in learning Latin should enroll in the class, as Foundations of Learning uses Latin to improve vocabulary and critical thinking skills. It is not an actual Latin class.

Foundations of STEM (740) - ½ credit

This introductory course is required of all sophomore students. Students will be exposed to the basic overview of concepts related to science, technology, engineering and math. Students will participate in an overall capstone project.

Practical STEAM(741)- ½ credit

(Prerequisite: You must be a Senior during the 2016-17 school year.)

This is a half-year course. In this course, there will be basic life skills relating to the STEAM initiative. This may include but is not limited to: Household budgeting for large and small items, computer and wi-fi set-up, heating and electrical systems, basic auto systems, and general safety topics.

Sports Psychology (390) – ½ credit

This half-credit course is for the athlete and non-athlete alike. The material covered will focus on human behavior in different settings. In essence, it will examine what motivates athletes and how their emotions affect performance. In addition, students will be taught strategies to regulate their thoughts, feelings, and emotions to be more successful under "fire," whether athletically, academically, or in everyday life.

Personal Training Certification-Online Course (780) – 1/2 credit

(Prerequisites: Open to seniors with prior fitness and exercise experience and an interest in the fields of medicine or kinesiology . This is an Independent Study course and students must have access to a computer and be enrolled in the Fitness/Wellness Class)

This 80-minutes-per-week online study would provide students with adequate knowledge and training to pass the Personal Training Certification Exam. The student will gain knowledge in the following areas; anatomy, fitness assessment, nutrition, exercise science, exercise programming and progressions, instructional and spotting techniques, lifestyle modification, and professional scope of practice. The course would be geared toward the NSCA-CPT certification exam that the students would be able to take following graduation. All expenses, registering, and transportation to the exam would be the responsibility of the student.

