

Human Diseases .5 credit 11-12

A one-semester course that examines the mechanisms that lead to disturbances in homeostasis in the body triggering a variety of responses that often produce disease; a state of functional disequilibrium. **Prerequisites: Human Biology.**

Geology .5 credit 11-12

A one-semester course which covers basic geological concepts and principles. Topics include origin and structure of the earth, processes involved in shaping the earth's crust, as well as the nature and classification of earth materials.

Introduction to Forensic Science .5 credit 11-12

A one-semester course designed to introduce the student to the study and application of science to matters of law. **Prerequisite: Human Biology and Chemistry.**

Physics 1 credit 12th only

A two-semester concepts course on how things work. The class will examine fundamentals of mechanics, atoms, heat, sound, light and electricity. **Prerequisite: Biology I, Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II concurrently.**

TECHNOLOGY

Computer Studies .5 credit 9-12

A required one-semester course in which students will review and practice keyboarding skills and the proper format for tables, letters, reports, outlines, academic papers and memorandums using word processing. **Students may take a proficiency exam to test out of this course with a score of 50 wpm, but will still be required to take 2 semesters of computers.**

Spreadsheets/Presentations .5 credit 9-12

Spreadsheets/Presentations is a one-semester course in which the student will learn to make spreadsheets using Excel and presentations using Power Point. **Prerequisite: Computer Studies**

Programming .5 credit 11-12

Programming is a one-semester course in which the student will be introduced to Visual Basic. Topics covered will include computer technology, variables and constants, decision structures, loop structures, procedures, functions, arrays and structures. **Prerequisite: Computer Studies**

Digital Photography I & II**.5 credit****11-12**

Digital Photography will introduce the student to the field of digital photography. The student will be introduced to the use of digital cameras and scanners. They will learn to edit their photographs using digital programs such as Photoshop and Photoshop Elements. **Photo II requires a minimum of 85% in Photo I. Technology or Fine Arts credit will be given for Digital Photo II.**

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The English Department requires summer reading for all levels. Books may be checked out from the instructor in May or purchased. Students will be tested on literature upon return to school in August. Students who are enrolled in AP classes have different readings; they must contact the instructor before the end of the current school year. Titles are subject to change each year.

Required Summer Reading

English I	Mrs. Mike
English II	I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
Pre-AP English II	Pigs in Heaven/Joy Luck Club
English III	Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
AP English III	The Grapes of Wrath/To Kill a Mockingbird
English IV	1984
AP English IV	Once and Future King, Heart of Darkness

English I & II**1 credit each year****9 & 10**

English I & II involve the study of literature through a variety of genres focusing on search for identity, grammar skills, vocabulary development, and diversified writing using the Writing Process.

English III**1 credit****11**

English III emphasizes the study of American Literature, advanced grammar skills, SAT verbal skills development, and varied analytical writings using the Writing Process.

English IV**1 credit****12**

English IV emphasizes the study of British Literature, advanced grammar skills, college-bound vocabulary skills, and preparation for college-level and analytical writing using the Writing Process.

Pre-AP English I (2nd Sem)**.5 credit****9**

Pre-AP English I is an introduction to more advanced reading and writing skills. The focus is on literary analysis in both reading and writing and more complex grammar and vocabulary skills. **A contract is required for enrollment.**

Humanities

.5 credit

12

Humanities is an interdisciplinary course in which students recognize writing as an art form. Students read widely to understand how various authors craft compositions for various aesthetic purposes. This course includes the study of major historical and cultural movements and their relationship to literature and other fine arts, including musical representation.

COMMUNICATION ARTS

Speech

.5 credit

9-12

Required in 9th for all freshmen

Students in Speech study the communication process as it relates to their lives and experiences. Areas of study include the ethics of communication, informative speaking, researching and organizing speeches, oral interpretation of prose and poetry, group communication and problem solving; and, lastly, interviewing, interpersonal, and business communication skills. Speech students have many opportunities to speak in front of class in both prepared and impromptu formats. The class is required for all freshmen and for new students who have not had a high school speech course. In addition to preparing students for speech making and delivery across the curriculum, it is intended to prepare students to become effective communicators.

Speech and Debate

.5 credit

10-12

After School – Schedule set by sponsor

Speech and Debate is a course that will teach the art of public speaking in different modes such as Interpretive Speaking, Duet Acting, etc. It includes development of Debate Skills and studies current events as debate topics. Participants in this course will participate in Speech and Debate Tournaments as part of the Loretto Academy Speech and Debate Team. This course meets after school – times to be set by sponsor.

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Visual Art

One of the many different definitions of art is: Skill that is attained by study, practice, or observation.

Starting with Art I through Art IV it is the aim of the Visual Arts Program to reinforce the study, practice and observation needed in refinement of our students' artistic abilities. A large variety of disciplines in the visual arts are offered; Drawing, Sculpture, Painting, Clay work and other variations and manipulations of these visual medias will be introduced to the art student.

Art I **.5 credit** **9-11**

A one-semester course which focuses on basic and intermediate drawing skills. These skills are taught based on the elements and principles of drawing and design.

Art II **.5 credit** **9-12**

A one-semester course which focuses on 2-D and 3-D design. The student will be introduced to the development of formal, functional and experimental design.

Art III & IV **.5 credit each** **10-12**

Each is a one-semester course in which the advanced student learns to incorporate their abilities by research and practice to develop their own conceptual work. Art III presents topics such as political, religious, environmental, cultural etc... the student is responsible at looking at other artists work in the particular topic, looking up literary and other type references. This research will lead them to create a piece that allows them to articulate their accumulated knowledge in visual form using different media enabling the student to express themselves clearly.

AP Art **1 credit** **11-12**

AP Portfolio Required

AP Art is designed for the selected, advanced students who have demonstrated a strong commitment and/or have reached an independent level of working on an art project. It is college level work. There is no written exam, but the AP students are required to prepare a digital photo presentation and a portfolio of their artwork in May. **In order to pass and to receive college credit, both the contract and the teacher's approval are required for enrollment. The student must have had a minimum of one year of art and/or a portfolio of her artwork.**

Theatre Arts **.5 credit** **9-12**

In Theatre Arts the most important thing to remember is that Theatre is a cooperative art form. It is also a highly extensive subject. In this course students will explore basic acting skills and the idea that theatre is a reflection of their own lives by direct application of dramatic concepts through both performance and evaluation. Specifically, students will make use of dramatic acting techniques by exploring: a) physicalization and the power of facial and body movement to communicate action and character intentions, b) improvisation to enhance imagination and clear, creative thinking translated into spontaneous action, and c) script analysis and dialogue interpretation through both solo and group performances. **Fine Arts credit.**

Play Production **.5 credit** **9-12**

(Offered after school hours in the fall and in the spring)

Chamber Choir .5 credit each semester 6-12

Offered before school 3 times a week

Body, Mind, Spirit, Voice – it takes all four to sing and rejoice. No auditions required. The only expectation is commitment and regular attendance. (80 hrs minimum) MTW 6:45 – 8:00 a.m.
Counts as a Fine Arts credit.

Show Choir .5 credit each semester 9-12

Offered after school 4 times a week

An after school Fine Arts credit which involves fun activities such as performing for the Fall Event, Christmas Caroling 1st Semester and preparing /participating in the annual Show Choir Production 2nd Semester. No auditions required, just a willingness to have fun singing and some hard work learning songs for performances. Students must attend regularly (80 hrs minimum) each semester in order to receive credit. Sponsor/Director determines practice times. **Counts as Fine Arts credit.**

FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

While the State requires only two credits in the same language, some colleges now require **three credits** and some may require four. Students are responsible for checking college catalogs for requirements. All students enrolling in a Spanish class at Loretto the first time must receive departmental approval before registering for a Spanish class. Current students get that approval signature from the teachers from whom they are now taking a Spanish class.

Spanish I 1 credit 9-12

A two-semester course for students who have none or little knowledge of Spanish. The course includes basic grammatical structures within the framework of communicative activities. Emphasis is placed on learning vocabulary using a contextual approach. **Required: Placement exam/interview for admission.**

Spanish I-S 1 credit 9-12

A two-semester course for students who have an intermediate knowledge of Spanish. This course focuses on helping the student develop her conversational ability and mastery of Spanish in formal and informal situations. The course also includes grammar, vocabulary, and writing activities designed to help the student master these skills. **Required: Placement exam/interview for admission.**

Spanish II 1 credit 9-12

A two-semester course for students who possess an intermediate knowledge of Spanish. The course focuses on helping the student strengthen her listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. More advanced grammatical structures and vocabulary will be discussed and reviewed. **Required: Placement exam/interview for admission.**

Spanish II-S **1 credit** **9-12**

A two-semester course for students who possess intermediate/advanced knowledge of Spanish. Emphasis is placed on developing and strengthening the student's mastery of grammar, vocabulary, reading and writing in the target language. This course also stresses the importance of Spanish-speaking countries along with their history and literature. **Required: Placement exam and/or departmental interviews.**

Spanish III **1 credit** **10-12**

A two-semester course for students who wish to study more complex grammatical structures and more advanced vocabulary. Reading and writing activities in the target language are also emphasized. **Required: Placement exam and/or departmental approval.**

Spanish III-S **1 credit** **10-12**

A two-semester course with an emphasis on an introduction to Spanish and Latin American literature. Emphasis is also placed on developing mastery of more advanced vocabulary and grammatical structures. **Required: A placement exam and/or departmental approval. This course may combine with II-S or II if enrollment is low in III-S.**

AP Spanish Language **1 credit** **11-12**

This is a college level course that gives the student an opportunity to obtain university credits while still in high school if she passes the AP exam at the end of the year. The course focuses strongly on writing skills, higher-level critical thinking skills, and preparation for the AP exam. **Required: A placement exam and departmental approval. (AP Exam Required)**

French I **1 credit** **9-12**

This course is designed to help each student attain proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing on a beginning level with exposure to cultural aspects of French-speaking countries in various parts of the world.

French II **1 credit** **10-12**

This course focuses on strengthening the skills in listening, speaking, writing and reading. Particular emphasis will be placed on vocabulary and written expression. There will be videos and some software to reinforce the four skills. The student who completes this course will be at an intermediate level at the end of the last semester. Prerequisite: French I

French III **1 credit** **11-12**

This is an advanced course in which the student will apply those skills learned in her first two years of French through a study of French literature and culture. **Prerequisites: French I and French II**

French IV**1 credit****12**

This course continues to refine the student's knowledge of the French language. After reading or viewing various authentic materials, such as short stories, poetry, news articles and films, the student responds to both factual and interpretive questions. The student expresses opinions and makes judgments verbally and in writing. Creative, well-organized compositions are written on given topics. The student learns to communicate appropriately in a variety of specific situations. Cultural study includes various literacy, historical, and artistic periods and personalities and their connections to each other. **Pre-requisites: French III/Adv French and students must have a B or above to be able to enroll in this class.**

MATH DEPARTMENT**Algebra I****1 credit****9**

Algebra I includes a study of number properties, linear equations, factoring, exponents, system of equations, inequalities, and radical expressions and equations. Special emphasis is placed on linear functions and their graphs.

Pre-AP Algebra I**1 credit****9**

(Assigned to 9th according to placement test)

Assigned students will take Pre-AP Algebra I which includes an in-depth study of number properties, linear equations, factoring, exponents, system of equations, inequalities, and radical expressions and equations. This enhanced course includes a basic understanding of the properties and attributes of linear, absolute value, quadratic, and exponential functions. **A contract is required for enrollment in Pre-AP Algebra I.**

Geometry**1 credit****9-11**

Geometry introduces students to the use of deductive reasoning in proofs. A thorough analysis of geometric figures, symbols, and algebraic properties is included. The construction of three-dimensional figures with their respective lengths, areas and volume formulas are studied. A student in this course must work through many challenging assignments and extra projects. **A contract is required for enrollment in Pre-AP Geometry.**

Algebra II**1 credit****10-12**

This course begins with a short review of Algebra I fundamental number topics that lead to Algebra II level problem solving techniques, factoring, functions, graphing of second-degree polynomials. A strong emphasis is made on fundamental number properties.

Pre-AP Algebra II**1 credit****10-11**

In this advanced course the students use properties and attributes of functions with algebraic skills to solve equations and inequalities that model real world scenarios. The students connect algebraic and geometric representations of functions and learn the relationships of conic sections. **A contract is required for enrollment in Pre-AP Algebra II.**

Dance Performance**.5 credit****9-12**

The study of the fundamentals, techniques, and history of several dance styles. This course will teach jazz dance, contemporary, modern and ballet movement. Students will perform in the recital of the Orchesis Dance Club.

Health**.5 credit****10-12**

The required health course is a comprehensive study of current health issues and concepts. The semester course reviews basic anatomy and physiology so that students may apply it to material learned in class and through their reading. Health is designed to enable students to learn critical thinking skills in order to make the appropriate choices for a healthy lifestyle. The course also focuses on health promotion and prevention so that students will become aware of today's health care delivery system.

RELIGION DEPARTMENT

All students are required to take courses in religion each semester at Loretto

Scripture I-A**.5 credit****9**

Written on our Hearts, a one-semester course, increases comprehension of some of the major themes and events of the Hebrew Scriptures. They are key to understanding the whole history of salvation and give greater meaning to the Christian Scriptures. The course aims to help students comprehend the wealth of the Judeo-Christian spiritual tradition and challenges them to grow in their appreciation of God, themselves, and other people. **Pending the release of the revision approval by the Catholic Bishops Conference.**

Scripture I-B**.5 credit****9**

Jesus of History, Christ of Faith, a one-semester course, continues the story of salvation history with the coming of Jesus and the events in the early church. It includes a study of the Jewish, historical, religious, and cultural world into which Jesus was born, the major Church and creedal statements about Jesus the Christ, presented within the historical context that gave birth to them. **Pending the release of the revision approval by the Catholic Bishops Conference.**

Theology II-A – World Religions**.5 credit****10**

World Religions: A Voyage of Discovery, a one-semester course, aims to help students understand the people, dimensions, and religious principles of the world's major religions. It includes a brief study of primitive religions. It introduces students to the founders, creeds, sacred texts and beliefs of each of the major religions, such as Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam and Buddhism. **Pending the release of the revision approval by the Catholic Bishops Conference.**

Theology II-B – Sacraments .5 credit 10

Celebrating Sacraments, a one-semester course, provides students with a greater understanding of the seven sacraments as extensions of Christ’s ministry to the world and offers students an opportunity to explore the rich tradition of sacramental theology and practice that is fundamental to Catholicism. It seeks to give teens an appreciation of the meaning underlying the sacraments and the relationship between the sacraments and their own life. **Pending the release of the revision approval by the Catholic Bishops Conference.**

Theology III-A – Christian Morality .5 credit 11

Growing in Christian Morality, a one-semester course, utilizes Scripture, the teachings of faith traditions, the community, and the work of theologians, to enable teens to understand the process of forming one’s conscience and making good moral decisions. Students read, research case studies and learn to apply principles for moral thinking. **Pending the release of the revision approval by the Catholic Bishops Conference.**

Theology III-B – Living Justice and Peace .5 credit 11

Living Justice and Peace, a once-semester course, provides practical ways for teens to respond to the call of justice in their daily lives. It fosters their sense of compassion for those who suffer from injustice and enables them to examine society critically, using the values of the Scripture and Catholic teaching. Specific topics addressed, include abortion, capital punishment, racism, poverty, the environment, violence and peace, the rights of workers and the dignity of work. **Pending the release of the revision approval by the Catholic Bishops Conference.**

Justice Issues .5 credit 11- 12

Justice Issues, a one-semester course is an elective for juniors and seniors who wish to examine and discuss the many issues concerning justice in our society. It offers an opportunity to explore the various types of justice, the economic, political and cultural aspects of society that continue to break down justice. The course utilizes the documents of the Church on issues of justice and the seven themes of Catholic social teaching.

Social Action .5 credit 12

Social Action is an opportunity for students to be of service to others. In the process you will learn skills not taught in a classroom setting. These students will have various experiences in classrooms according to the needs of the teachers who are overseeing them. The teacher or department for whom they may work must approve them.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

World Geography 1 credit 9

World Geography is a two-semester course, which examines the role of geography in shaping the history, economic and cultural development of the world’s diverse regions. The first semester emphasizes social studies, reference work, and reading and study skills. The first semester covers

North America, South America, Europe and Russia. The second semester covers the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia, South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia and Oceania, Sub-Saharan Africa and Antarctica.

World History **1 credit** **10**

This year long required course (two semesters) is for all sophomores. It deals with the history of western civilization from its prehistoric origins to the present day. Prerequisite: **World Geography**.

American History **1 credit** **11**

This year long class is a requirement for all juniors. It covers U.S. history beginning with the events of 1492 and ending with the present day. **Prerequisite: World Geography and World History.**

U. S. Government **.5 credit** **12**

This required semester course is to be taken by all seniors. The course of study deals with the underlying political principles inherent in U.S. governing bodies from the local to the national level.

Economics **.5 credit** **12**

This required semester course is to be taken by all seniors. Economics deals with the economic principles, which govern the world's marketplace.

Psychology I **.5 credit** **12**

Students have the opportunity to examine behavior from a psychological perspective. This course examines stress and its effects, theories of personality, coping processes and the self. This class focuses on social psychology and allows students to take a closer look at why we do the things we do.

Psychology II **.5 credit** **12**

Building on what was learned in the first semester, this course moves on to look at friendship and love, gender and behavior, development, psychological disorders and treatment. **Psychology I is a pre-requisite.**

AP Psychology **1 credit** **12**

This course gives students the chance to earn college credit while in high school. This all year course covers a wide span of material including the history of psychology, biological bases of behavior, personality, abnormal psychology and social psychology. This class is very similar to an introductory college course and, therefore, is very demanding. **(AP Exam Required)**

Sociology

.5 credit

12

Sociology is a one semester course which provides students with an overview of current societies, how societies operate, and examines standard sociological theories. The course explores issues that affect individuals and society, issues that concern culture and issues that concern social institutions including the family, economics, politics and education. This course also discusses the history of sociology, it's place in the social sciences and examines the three theoretical perspectives.

Study Skills

.5 credit

9

Study Skills is designed to help ninth graders learn the basic elements necessary for academic success in high school. Topics such as time management, self-organization, creating an environment for study, memory, concentration, stress management, test anxiety and writing are covered throughout the semester course. Reading comprehension skills and in depth familiarity with the library are equally emphasized. **This is a Counselor recommended course.**

Student Leadership

1 credit

12

Student Leadership is a two semester course which provides an opportunity to study, practice and develop group and individual leadership and organizational skills. These skills include, but are not limited to the following topics or areas: leadership roles, interpersonal relations, civic responsibility, decision making, problem solving and communication.

Students enrolled in this course apply these skills in dealing with peers, school administration and the community. This course takes a hands-on, lab-oriented approach to leadership by involving students in participatory leadership through project planning and implementation. **Only seniors holding a leadership position within the school (ie., student council, school approved clubs, sports) are allowed to take this course and any students registering for this class must be approved by the instructor.**

Service Learning

.5 credit

9-12

Service Learning is our Homeroom based Service Projects Program. All students are required to participate in the directed projects both in and out of school. Demonstration of the individual student's participation in these projects is written reflections of the impact to self, to others and to the community. The project participation must be documented in an electronic student portfolio. Yearly assessment of the electronic student portfolio will be done by the Homeroom teacher. **Credit will be issued at the end of the Senior year. Students must complete a minimum of 20 hours of service each year and a reflection about the project.**