



## SAINT PETER'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL JERSEY CITY, NJ



### OVERVIEW OF COURSE OF STUDIES 2009 - 2010

*Saint Peter's Prep, a Jesuit high school founded in 1872, offers a college preparatory curriculum that provides a well-balanced course of studies to meet the needs and interests of its students. Each year, a student takes 6 major courses, plus physical education. To graduate, every student must take 4 years of religious education, 4 years of English, 2 years of Latin, 2 years of a modern language, 3 years of history, 3 years of mathematics, 2 years of lab sciences, 2 years of health, and 4 years of physical education. In addition, students in the first three years must complete studies in art, music, and group guidance, and fulfill a Christian Service requirement.*

*Students may choose electives beginning in sophomore year. In junior and senior years, a student may take a seventh major course with permission. The specific requirements for study in each discipline are listed at the beginning of each set of course descriptions.*

#### COURSE SELECTIONS

In freshman year, all students pursue virtually the same course of studies. Honors sections are offered in English and mathematics for freshmen based on the results of their spring placement tests. Prep advises parents of incoming freshmen of their son's placement at the spring orientation meeting. In sophomore, junior and senior years, course selections become increasingly varied. Honors sections are available in most disciplines. Therefore, it is important that each student carefully read this booklet and plan accordingly.

*There is no one best course of studies. Students should choose those courses that provide them the best education, given their interests and talents. The college counselors at Prep offer the following insights based on their experience with the college admissions process:*

(1) College admissions officers base their decisions on (a) GPA and the strength of the

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course of studies taken; (b) standardized test scores (SAT, ACT); (c) school recommendations; and (d) degree of involvement in co-curriculars, outside activities, work, etc.

(2) For a student who meets the qualifications, it is preferable to take Honors or Advanced Placement (AP) courses despite the fact that his cumulative GPA may suffer slightly. Competitive colleges value such courses.

(3) No matter what a student's future academic goals may be, there is no substitute for good study habits and well-developed reading and writing skills. These skills do not come easily. They are acquired by hard work and repetition.

(4) Students should prepare wisely for their future and remember that their guidance counselors, teachers and members of the administration are available to help them as they consider various options.

Some courses are limited in enrollment; some may be canceled if registration is low; and some requests may be impossible to schedule. If there is any problem with scheduling, a student will be contacted by the vice principal to resolve the difficulty.

#### HONORS AND AP COURSES

Saint Peter's Prep offers Honors and Advanced Placement courses to challenge and engage its students. Honors and Advanced Placement courses require work well above the college preparatory courses. Teachers will expect students in Honors and Advanced Placement courses to be capable of a great deal of independent learning and committed to meeting the challenges these courses will present. Students must be aware of the additional requirements and responsibilities demanded by these courses and plan how best to use their time and energies.

Honors and/or Advanced Placement sections are offered in English, classical and modern languages, history, mathematics, and science. In freshman year, the departments choose students for honors sections based on their performance on the spring placement test. After freshman year, the selection for honors courses depends on a student's performance at Prep. To gain entry into an Honors or Advanced Placement class, an upperclassman must (a) meet the specified grade requirements, (b) show evidence of motivation and willingness to do the additional work that will be required, and (c) have the approval of the department involved. Except in rare cases, no one will be considered for any honors or AP courses if he is failing any academic course.

The deadline for applying for any honors or AP course is **April 30**.

Students are advised that once they are placed in an Honors or Advanced Placement class, their schedules generally will not be changed. Requests for transfer from an Honors or Advanced Placement class are granted infrequently and only for good cause. A student will not be transferred from an Honors or Advanced Placement class solely because he finds the work too difficult.

Students who take Advanced Placement courses are required to take the College Board's Advanced Placement Examinations given each May. Many colleges will award credit or advanced standing to students who score well in these exams. The cost for taking an AP Examination is currently \$86.00. Students will be charged for all AP courses. Finances should not prevent a student from being in AP classes. Students for whom finances are a problem should see the vice principal to make arrangements for enrolling in AP classes.

#### STUDENT COURSE SELECTIONS

Guidance counselors will review the course selections of all students. Prep limits the number of honors courses and the number of major subjects that a student may take in a given year. The vice principal must approve the selections of any upperclassman who is recommended for more than three Honors and/or Advanced Placement courses (or more than four Honors and/or Advanced Placement courses if one is a Level-3 modern language course), and/or who wishes to take more than six majors.

#### CHANGES IN SELECTIONS

Prep will change a student's course selection without penalty until April 30, provided a parental note is submitted detailing the change. After this date, any change requires written parental approval, payment of a \$20.00 course change fee, and the vice principal's approval. The course change fee increases to \$40.00 after August 31.

#### RELIGION DEPARTMENT

*In response to the ultimate aim of Jesuit secondary education and the deepest hungers of the students whom we serve, the Religion Department accompanies a student in the development of his knowledge of and relationship with God. Religion faculty members encourage a student's sense of wonder as he experiences God and God's world. Religious studies form the student's inner life. The religion curriculum gives a student the opportunity and resources to reflect on his life and education in light of his encounters with Jesus Christ and the Church. Finally,*

religion classes prepare a student for the college study of religion.

**0010 INTRODUCTION TO RELIGION:  
HEBREW SCRIPTURE, IGNATIAN  
HERITAGE, AND CATHOLIC  
FOUNDATIONS**

During freshman year at Saint Peter's Prep, students will closely read the life of Ignatius of Loyola. Instructors will introduce students to the history, teachings, and sacraments of Catholic Christianity. The first-year curriculum will begin the boys' study of the Bible with a historical introduction to the Old Testament, especially Genesis and Exodus.

**0020 NEW TESTAMENT**

During the second year at Saint Peter's Prep, students will have the opportunity through New Testament studies to encounter Jesus. Through historical, social, literary, theological and Christological studies of the Gospels and Letters, students will focus on how Jesus of Nazareth becomes the Christ of faith. Instructors also introduce students to Jesus' vision of and mission in service to the Kingdom of God as the foundation for Christian moral decision-making and social justice (in preparation for Junior year studies).

**0031 CHRISTIAN ETHICS:  
MORAL DECISION MAKING AND  
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

At Saint Peter's Prep, Jesus is the model for human life. The Christian's relationship with God is authentically expressed in a person's deep human concern for others, especially the poor. During the third year of studies, students reflect on personal moral decision-making grounded in Christian virtues. Students also learn how to look at social systems and structures on a global as well as national scale in light of the Gospel and Catholic social teachings.

**0040 SEMINAR IN RELIGION:  
CHURCH HISTORY, WORLD  
RELIGIONS, AND IGNATIAN  
SPIRITUAL RESOURCES**

During senior year, students return to the study of Church history and Ignatian spirituality. Students complement those studies with an introduction to World Religions because they live in one of the most religiously diverse sections of the country, and because they will pursue college studies and adult life in a religiously diverse world. Senior year will give particular attention to examinations of their educational and life experiences with assistance from Ignatian spiritual resources — considering the Jesuit understanding of being a contemplative in action.

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**CHRISTIAN SERVICE**

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Christian Service is a graduation requirement at Saint Peter's Prep, and must be completed by freshman, sophomore, and junior students. Our aim is to educate students who are competent, moral, and engaged in work that promotes justice for all people. Juniors complete 60 hours of

service between the end of sophomore year and the first semester of junior year. Their service may be completed either through participation in an immersion trip over the summer, or through 60 hours of direct service at an approved non-profit agency. Work with the poor and disadvantaged is the primary criterion for approved service. Reflection on the service is a required part of the course. This is achieved through individual and group sharing, a written journal, and take-home assignments.

Freshmen must complete 15 hours of service work through interactions with youth. Their program will be organized and administered by the school; in addition to their service work, students are expected to take part in after-school reflection seminars and complete written journal assignments.

Sophomore Christian Service will be satisfied through the school's new overnight sophomore retreat, which incorporates faith-based reflections and direct service to the marginalized. Dates and information for this mandatory sophomore program will be available prior to the start of the next school year.

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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

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*All Prep students must take four years of English. A student may choose to take additional English classes offered by the department.*

**1010 ENGLISH 1:  
FOUNDATIONAL WRITING**

This methodical, practice-oriented writing course takes freshmen through the entire writing process: from reading and note-taking through proofreading, editing and revising. Classroom lessons include explanations of mechanics, punctuation, diction, style and support. All writing assignments are derived from literature and focus on textual analysis. The readings may include *Antigone*, *Odyssey*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Things Fall Apart*, and *The Kite Runner*, as well as selected short stories and poetry.

**1015 ENGLISH 1 HONORS:  
LITERARY GENRES**

**Requirement: Departmental approval.** English 1 Honors is designed to expose the student to the basic literary genres: the short story, the novel, drama, and poetry. Students will analyze and interpret various literary works and be able to move beyond a mere textual playback of the literature to make observations that apply to today's society and their own lives. The writing and vocabulary will enable the student to express his ideas about the literature and other relevant topics.

**1020 ENGLISH 2**

Focusing mainly on American literature of the Twentieth Century, the course endeavors to continue the emphasis on process writing by examining significant and representative texts, such as *Huckleberry Finn*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Catcher in the Rye*, *Fences*, and *A*

*Streetcar Named Desire*. The course, by examining the important themes and movements found in the literature, is designed to expose the student to texts that best embody the American spirit.

**1025 ENGLISH 2 HONORS**

**Requirement: Minimum grade of 90 in English 1 or 85 in English 1 Honors, and departmental approval.**

This course incorporates all the objectives and focuses of English 2 and adds more challenging texts, writing assignments and student expectations.

**1030 ENGLISH 3**

This course is a required survey course in British literature. The student is exposed to Britain's most prominent authors in all literary genres from the Anglo-Saxon period to modern times. The student will analyze literary pieces with respect to theme, form and style. A chronological approach to literary movements will allow the student to develop a general overview and appreciation of all the centuries of British literature. The writing program is coordinated with the literature in this course in that all writing assignments will deal with material covered in class.

**1037 AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**Requirement: Minimum grade of 90 in English 2 or 85 in English 2 Honors, and departmental approval.**

This is also a survey course of British literature; however, there are more extensive reading and writing assignments than in the standard English 3 course.

**1640 ENGLISH 4**

English 4 is a full-year course that focuses on the analysis of both poetic and prosaic literary texts. Students will construct sophisticated interpretations of a variety of literature, both full-length texts and selected works. The writing that the students exhibit will more closely resemble that of a college freshman than that of a high school student.

**1940 AP ENGLISH LITERATURE**

**Requirement: Minimum grade of 90 in English 3 or 85 in AP English Literature, and departmental approval.**

This course emphasizes the development of skills in critical reading of imaginative and discursive literature, and in writing about literature and related ideas. It enables students to learn at a rate commensurate to their abilities; to deal with material that intellectually mature students find engaging; to refine reading and writing skills important for success in college; and to cultivate habits of reading, writing and thinking that characterize life-long learning and enjoyment.

The students will study representative British, American and European works of recognized literary merit, worthy of scrutiny because of their richness of thought and language that challenges the reader. Writing assignments will focus on the

critical analysis of literature.

*NOTE: The following two courses in Creative Writing do not fulfill the required four years of English. Nevertheless, students interested in these two forms of writing are encouraged to take either or both of these electives.*

### **1968 CREATIVE WRITING 1** (Semester minor course)

**Requirement: Departmental approval.** This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of writing such as poetry, playwriting, short story and memoir. Students will study the techniques used by successful writers, learn from them, and incorporate these techniques in their own efforts. Peer review is an integral component of this course.

The class meets half time for one semester and is open to juniors and seniors. It can be taken independently or in conjunction with course 1970 Creative Writing 2.

### **1970 CREATIVE WRITING 2** (Semester course)

This course is an introduction to the fundamentals of short story writing. It is for those who want to examine the basic skills and techniques used by established authors, and to learn from them. Students will begin by writing short exercises on the basic elements of the short story, such as plot, setting, character, theme, viewpoint, etc., and then go on to write their own stories. All work is read aloud in class so that students learn from group feedback. Everyone has a story to tell. This course will help each student tell his.

## **CLASSICAL LANGUAGES**

*All students are required to study two years of classical Latin at Saint Peter's; the third and fourth years of study are offered as electives. The Latin program approaches the language through analysis of grammar, linguistics, and Roman culture and civilization in general. The grammatical deconstruction of Latin and the inevitable gains in knowledge of English grammar are vital to the program. For those students demonstrating mastery of and interest in Latin, Homeric Greek is offered as an honors-level elective for seniors. The Greek program is designed to develop reading skills and cultural literacy.*

### **2010 LATIN 1**

Latin 1 is an introduction to the Latin language and Roman civilization. Students study basic Latin grammar, with emphasis on the recognition of forms (morphology), the deconstruction and analysis of grammatical functions, the acquisition of Latin vocabulary and its influence on English, and the development of reading comprehension through translation and plot analysis. When time permits, cultural and historical aspects of the Roman world are examined, especially in relating them to our own culture. As with all levels, students take the National Latin Exam in the

Spring.

### **2020 LATIN 2**

Latin 2 continues the work started in Latin 1. Students deal with more sophisticated grammar and more complicated readings, including authentic excerpts from ancient authors. The goal is for students to complete the study of all the essential grammatical concepts (including the subjunctive) that will enable them to translate and make critical comments on unadapted texts by year's end. English derivatives from Latin and a more in-depth examination of Roman cultural life are also central to the course.

### **2025 LATIN 2 HONORS**

**Requirement: Minimum grade of 90 in both semesters of Latin 1, and departmental approval.**

Latin 2 Honors is an intensive second-year course. Students cover material more quickly than other sections, do more reading of ancient authors, and explore the ancient world more thoroughly.

### **2030 LATIN 3 HONORS**

**Requirement: Minimum grade of 90 in both semesters of Latin 2, and departmental approval.**

Latin 3 Honors is a survey of Latin literature. At the beginning of the course, students cover/review advanced grammar and begin reading prose selections written by ancient authors such as Caesar, Cicero, and Livy. Moreover, Roman poetry is examined, with special attention to Horace and Ovid. In addition to reading/translating the Latin selections, students are required to read secondary articles about the politics of the late republic. The second semester focuses on mythology and/or daily life. The goal is for students not only to translate the texts, but also to make original critiques and interpretations of the content. Poetic figures of speech are introduced, and an appreciation of writing style is central.

### **2045 AP LATIN: VERGIL**

**Requirement: Minimum grade of 90 in both semesters of Latin 3 Honors, and departmental approval.**

AP Latin is dedicated to the study of Vergil's Aeneid. Significant portions of Books I, II, IV, VI, VIII and XII are studied in Latin, while the entire epic is read in translation. The focus of the course is on developing an appreciation of this epic (in its entirety) for its literary, political and artistic significance. Students are required to do secondary readings on the politics and art of the Augustan Age, and the conventions of epic poetry in the ancient world.

### **2120 GREEK 1**

Greek 1, an honors-level elective for seniors, is designed to enable students to read Attic Greek, the ancient Greek dialect spoken in Athens and the surrounding area. Since the students in the course have generally done very well in Latin studies, grammatical material is covered very quickly. The student will leave the course with knowledge of basic Attic Greek grammar and of the Ancient Greek world in which Attic Greek

was used.

### **2125 GREEK DRAMA AND SOCIETY** (Junior and Senior elective)

This course aims to introduce students to the nature of ancient Greek drama, both as an art form and as a product of a specific historical society. It aims to address fundamental questions about the nature and purpose of theater in the ancient world and the relationship of Greek drama to the modern world. Students will examine and experience ancient Greek drama, in English translation, both as a product of its own historical period and as a living art form by closely reading the surviving texts, viewing modern productions of ancient theatrical works, and recreating Greek plays.

## **MODERN LANGUAGES**

*In addition to the two-year Latin requirement, all Prep students also study a modern foreign language for a minimum of two years, beginning in sophomore year. Though not a requirement, the department strongly recommends that all students consider studying a modern language in senior year. Students may choose one of the following languages: French, German, Italian, or Spanish. Questions regarding language requirements or expectations should be directed to any of the language teachers.*

### **LEVEL 1**

#### **3020 FRENCH 1**

#### **3120 GERMAN 1**

#### **3220 ITALIAN 1**

#### **3320 SPANISH 1**

The students at this level begin to communicate by means of the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, combined with examining the mannerisms and customs of the culture being studied. The students are encouraged to think in the foreign language by means of visual stimuli and word associations.

#### **3325 SPANISH 1 HONORS**

This course is designed for those who have background knowledge of the language in any of the following ways: (1) the student has had daily exposure to the language in the home, either at the present or at some previous time; (2) the student has lived and/or studied for any considerable period of time in a Spanish-speaking country; (3) the student has participated in a special situation that would give him an advanced knowledge of Spanish beyond an elementary stage.

The aim of this course is to improve the student's fluency in speaking and writing Spanish through oral recitation and through the basic stylistic techniques of composition, as well as through a thorough review of grammar.

## LEVEL 2

3030	FRENCH 2
3130	GERMAN 2
3230	ITALIAN 2
3330	SPANISH 2

These courses are a continuation of Level I, with increased emphasis on the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The skills are honed with the aid of various readings: poems, short stories, and other appropriate texts. Culture and geography of the nation and its neighbors are also stressed.

### 3332 AP SPANISH LANGUAGE

**Requirement: Spanish I Honors and departmental approval.**

The AP Spanish Language course parallels the skill development of a college Spanish course in advanced composition and conversation. The course, therefore, focuses on the mastery of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills, and the mastery of content of various texts.

## LEVEL 3 HONORS

**Requirement: Grade of 85 or above in Level 2 and Departmental approval.**

3040	FRENCH 3 HONORS
3141	GERMAN 3 HONORS
3240	ITALIAN 3 HONORS
3342	SPANISH 3 HONORS

The skills from the previous two years of study are maintained and improved. Analysis of the language grows in complexity. Familiarity with the contemporary societies is broadened by reading in the areas of history, literature, contemporary social and political structures and everyday life.

### 3343 SPANISH FOR THE MEDICAL AND BUSINESS PROFESSIONS: LEVEL 3 HONORS

**Requirements: Grade of 85 or above in Spanish 2, strong communication skills, and departmental approval.**

This course is designed to introduce students who are interested in business or the medical professions to the basics of Spanish for these fields. A familiarity with the Spanish language is necessary, as this course will enhance the student's communications skills for the business world as well as teach him basic medical terminology for daily interactions with Spanish-speaking patients. Emphasis will be placed on contemporary culture and societies.

### 3341 AP SPANISH LITERATURE

**Requirement: Departmental approval.**

The AP Spanish Literature course prepares students to understand lectures in Spanish; to participate actively in literary discussions in Spanish; to perform a close reading of modern Hispanic literary texts of all genres; and to analyze, both orally and in writing, the form and content of literary works, using appropriate terminology. The course is the equivalent of a

college-level "Introduction to Hispanic Literature" course, covering selected works of Spanish and Spanish-American literature.

### 3357 AP GERMAN LANGUAGE

**Requirement: 90 or above in German 2 and departmental approval.**

The AP German Language course emphasizes the use of the language for active communication. It is designed to develop strong command of vocabulary and structure; understanding of spoken German in various conversational situations; the ability to read newspaper and magazine articles, contemporary fiction and non-technical writings without the use of a dictionary; and fluency and accuracy in expressing ideas orally and in writing.

### 3055 AP FRENCH LANGUAGE

**Requirement: 90 or above in French 2 and departmental approval.**

The AP French Language course prepares students for active communication in French. It is designed to help students develop the ability to understand spoken French in various contexts; acquire a broad French vocabulary that allows them to read newspapers, magazines, literary texts and other non-technical writings; and be able to express themselves coherently, resourcefully, and with reasonable fluency and accuracy in both written and spoken French. This course seeks to develop language skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) that can be used in various activities and disciplines rather than to cover any specific body of subject matter. Extensive training in the organization and writing of compositions will also be emphasized.

## HISTORY DEPARTMENT

*Saint Peter's requires three years of history. All freshmen take the World Civilizations course. Upperclassmen must take two years of United States History. All of the other history courses listed are electives and can be chosen to complete a student's course of study at Prep. Students who apply for admission to AP US History I and II must be prepared to complete lengthy reading assignments and participate actively in the classroom.*

### 4010 WORLD CIVILIZATIONS

A one-year required course for freshmen. The course examines selected civilizations in the Middle East, Europe, Asia and Africa, with an overarching focus on how those civilizations have responded to important challenges. For example, in studying ancient Greece, students are asked to consider how that society met the challenge of balancing the individual and the community; when examining the Middle East, students explore the challenge of integrating religious beliefs and government. Through regular assignments and projects, the course also stresses the development of appropriate skills, such as writing (both reflective journal writing and expository essays), note-taking, critical thinking, and discussion.

### 4030 UNITED STATES HISTORY 1

This course is a chronological study that traces the history of the United States from the pre-Columbian period to the beginning of World War I. The course examines political, economic, cultural and social developments. In addition, stress is placed on continued development of critical thinking and writing skills.

### 4035 AP UNITED STATES HISTORY 1

**Requirements: Grade of 90 or higher in past history class, overall GPA, departmental approval.**

This year-long course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in United States history. Chronologically, the course runs from the pre-Columbian period to the beginning of World War I. Attention is given to political, social, economic, cultural, intellectual and diplomatic developments. Students learn to assess historical materials and to weigh the evidence and interpretations. In addition to the text, particular emphasis is placed on the reading and evaluation of historical essays and monographs, and on working with primary sources, including documentary material, maps, graphs and pictorial evidence. Students also concentrate on the development of well-written analytical essays and research papers.

### 4040 UNITED STATES HISTORY 2

Chronologically, this year-long course covers the period from the beginning of World War I to the present. Stress is placed on foreign policy and domestic, political and economic developments. Attention is paid to social and cultural affairs, as well. Continued development of critical thinking and writing skills is emphasized.

### 4045 AP UNITED STATES HISTORY 2

**Requirements: Grade of 85 or higher in AP US History 1, and departmental approval.**

This year-long course is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the study of United States history. Chronologically, this course covers the period from the beginning of World War I to the present. Attention is given to political, social, economic, cultural, intellectual and diplomatic developments. Students learn to assess historical materials and to weigh evidence and interpretations. In addition to the text, particular emphasis is placed on the reading and evaluation of historical essays and monographs, and on working with primary sources, including documentary material, maps, graphs and pictorial evidence. Students also concentrate on the development of well-written analytical essays and research papers. Students are prepared to take the AP United States History Exam in May.

## SEMESTER COURSES

### 4468 CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

This course will deal with prominent problems and possible solutions confronting the world today. Topics include health care, education, population growth, infrastructure, the environment and issues of concern for today's youth. The course will address what can be done

on the local, national and international levels to deal with these concerns in the future.

Readings will be taken from newspapers and periodicals. In the second half of the course, students will have the opportunity to do independent research on a topic of their own choosing.

#### **4482 UNITED STATES LAW**

This course will explore the areas which comprise the foundation of American Jurisprudence, including Constitutional Law and Fundamental Rights, Evidence, Criminal Law and Procedure, Contracts, Real Property, Torts and Civil Procedure. Focus will be on the history of seminal case law, with an eye toward applying it to facts taken from current events and actual cases in order to understand how the law is applied in our society under the judicial system. This process will challenge the student to question whether the law has been applied in a manner promoting the common good and social justice. To help develop analytical and writing skills, the student will be required to research and write a memo, brief, or motion and participate in class debates.

#### **4484 THE COMMUNIST EXPERIMENT**

This course explores the implementation of the Communist Manifesto in the Soviet Union, China, North Korea and Cuba. The class will analyze the differences each country made in the theory of communism.

#### **4485 HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE EAST**

This course provides an overview of the history of the troubled region from the period dominated by European Imperialism of the 19th century to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars of today. Conflicts seen as contemporary political disputes often have deep historical roots. Drawing on material from a variety of sources, students will explore the roots of conflicts in the Middle East, including the decline of the Ottoman Empire, World Wars I and II, the rise of Arab nationalism, the creation of the state of Israel, the region as a battleground of the Cold War, the emergence of radical Islam, the Arab-Israeli Wars, 9/11, and the war on terrorism. Finally, students will examine the prospects for stability in the 21st century.

### **MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT**

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*All students must study mathematics during their first three years. Senior math is an elective. Many colleges require four years of high school math. Students should consult their math teachers, guidance counselors and the college placement office if they have any questions about the fourth year of math.*

#### **5010 ALGEBRA 1**

The following topics are treated: properties of real numbers, equations, polynomials, factoring, systems of linear equations, inequalities, rational and irrational numbers, the quadratic formula,

and problem solving.

Algebra 1 is a contemporary course in which problem solving and critical thinking are introduced and integrated into the entire curriculum. Applications are presented, reasoning skills are developed, and critical thinking skills are introduced. This course is the beginning of a math sequence which will culminate in Precalculus or Calculus.

#### **5012 ALGEBRA 1**

This first course in Algebra will cover most of the same topics as the other Algebra 1 course with some exceptions. Specific attention will be given to some of the basic skills required to be successful for the remainder of the Prep math courses. All pre-requisite topics for Geometry will be covered, but some of the techniques for solving problems will be pared down so that the student has more time to concentrate on one or two techniques for topics such as graphing, linear solutions, or problem solving. This course is designed for the incoming student who needs additional work to get ready for the more advanced math sections. Students will be placed into this course based upon entrance test scores and the Prep Placement Test.

#### **5018 INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA HONORS**

**Requirement: Departmental approval.**

This course is the first course of Prep's honors program in math studies. Students who successfully complete this course would progress to Honors Geometry, Precalculus and Trigonometry Honors, and then AP Calculus. The topics covered in this class include all topics from secondary school Algebra, including equations and inequalities, functions, systems of equations and inequalities, matrices, quadratic functions, polynomials, radicals, exponential and logarithmic functions, rational equations and functions, sequences, series, probability, and statistics.

This course is structured to introduce the student to the critical thinking skills necessary for the higher level math courses, as it is the start of a sequence of courses culminating in either AP Calculus or Calculus Honors.

#### **5020 GEOMETRY**

Geometry involves the mastery of definitions, postulates and formal proofs, as well as learning the geometric principles needed in problem solving.

#### **5025 GEOMETRY HONORS**

**Requirement: Grade of 96 in Algebra 1 (88 if Intermediate Algebra Honors), and departmental approval.**

The honors section is recommended for future math, science, and science-related college majors. The honors section will extend the usual geometry course to include three-dimensional space, solids, and non-Euclidean geometry.

#### **5030 ALGEBRA 2 WITH TRIGONOMETRY**

This is a required course in the three-year math sequence. It is a comprehensive study of second-level algebra and an introduction to trigonometry. The use of TI-83 graphing calculators is an important component of this course.

This course extends the students' ability to handle polynomials, polynomial equations, and inequalities in one or more variables; linear quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions; rational algebraic expressions; and the complex number system. It also continues the student's ability to think critically about these issues and how they extend to real life situations.

#### **5032 ALGEBRA 2**

This third level course is designed for the student who may need additional course work in some of the Algebra 2 topics and may not be planning to take Precalculus or Calculus courses. It will spend more time on several of the Algebra 2 topics necessary for the SAT exams.

This course continues and examines in more detail the topics of Algebra 1 and covers such topics as the real number system and its development; polynomials, polynomial equations, and inequalities in one or more variables; linear, quadratic and exponential functions; and the algebra of rational expressions. Topics will help continue to develop the student's critical thinking capabilities. Students will use graphing calculators to enhance their learning.

#### **5035 ALGEBRA 2 WITH TRIGONOMETRY HONORS**

This course is an in-depth study of the topics of Algebra 2 with Trigonometry. These topics will be handled in greater detail. Additionally, rational functions, inverse functions, and their relationship to the development of the logarithm will be developed, as well as the circular functions and their development into the trigonometry of the unit circle.

#### **5037 PRECALCULUS HONORS**

**Requirement: Minimum grades of 96 in both Algebra 1 and Geometry (88 if both Algebra Honors and Geometry Honors), and departmental approval.**

The honors section is recommended for future math, science, and science-related college majors. In general, students are expected to spend 45 minutes to an hour each day on math homework. The use of TI-83 graphing calculators is an important component of this course.

#### **5045 TOPICS IN COLLEGE MATHEMATICS**

**Requirement: Departmental approval.**

This full-year course for seniors covers the math topics required of an incoming college freshman who may choose a non-math or non-science major. Topics will include probability, statistics, linear programming, logic, advanced algebra, and

set theory. In college this course may be called Finite Math.

#### 5740 PRECALCULUS

**Requirement: Departmental approval.**

This elective course is designed to prepare students for college math. Emphasis is placed on functions, trigonometry and trigonometric functions, sequences and series, analytic geometry, probability, and statistics.

#### 5840 CALCULUS HONORS

**Requirement: Algebra 2 & Trig Honors or Precalculus Honors and departmental approval.**

This course is designed to further prepare a student for college level calculus. Topics will include limits, differentiation and integration of algebraic, logarithmic, exponential, trigonometric, and inverse trigonometric functions from a non-theoretical point of view. The business and economic applications to be emphasized include break-even point analysis cost benefit-models, supply and demand curves, marginal costs and profit functions, growth and decay models, optimization techniques, average cost, and elementary differential equations.

#### 5845 AP CALCULUS

**Requirement: Minimum grades of 96 in previous math courses (88 in previous math honors courses), and departmental approval.**

Advanced Placement Calculus is designed as a college-level Calculus I course. It will include the concept of limits, differentiation and integration of both algebraic and transcendental functions from a theoretical to non-theoretical point of view. Applications will include related rates, sketching curves, velocity and accelerations, maxima and minima, Rolle's and the Mean Value and Theorems, the Fundamental Theory of Calculus, areas under the curve, and solids of revolution along with their applications.

#### 5847 AP STATISTICS

**Requirement: Minimum grades of 85 in Algebra 2 Honors or 93 in Algebra 2, as well as a G.P.A. of 85. Also, at least Precalculus at the same time and departmental approval.**

This college-level course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes: exploring data, sampling and experimentation, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference. Important components of the course include the use of technology, projects, cooperative group problem-solving, and technical writing. Such elements are used as part of the concept-oriented instruction and assessment integral to this course.

### COMPUTER COURSES

*The Computer Science curriculum emphasizes learning to use various technologies to extend a student's ability to solve problems, manage data, and study intricate systems. Application-specific courses focus on tools for communication and*

*analysis. Programming courses focus on the computer as a tool and provide a foundation for honors and college-level study.*

#### 7031 CS: APPLICATIONS (Semester course)

The objectives of this course are to explore the world of computer science by examining computer operations and to present an overview of Microsoft Word, Power Point, and Excel. The main focus will be on using the latest technology as a tool for the effective communication of ideas.

#### 7032 CS: PROGRAMMING (Semester course)

**Requirement: Minimum of 80 in Math courses and departmental approval.**

This introductory-level course will begin with a study of the fundamentals of programming (math ops, conditional, iteration, and strings) and will continue with expanded operations (one- and two-dimensional arrays), graphics and beginning use of objects. This course is recommended for juniors as a lead-in to computers in senior year.

#### 7033 CS: WEBSITE DESIGN (Semester course)

In this course, students learn the process of designing web sites using HTML, Dreamweaver, Fireworks, and JavaScript. We will focus on linking, images, style issues, and the use of tables and layers. By the completion of the course, the student will be able to compose a multi-page linked website.

#### 7035 CS: JAVA HONORS

**Requirement: Minimum of 85 in math courses, and departmental approval.**

This full-year course provides a rigorous involvement with object-oriented Java programming. The basic syllabus of the Advanced Placement A course will be followed. Emphasis is placed on programming methods, algorithms, data types, and structures.

### SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

*The science curriculum at Prep is designed to allow students to interact with science as a discipline and to experience empirical inquiry as a method of investigation. Science courses focus on the scientific process, enabling students to discover and interpret scientific knowledge, develop positive attitudes and interests about science, and recognize that what they learn can be applied to decisions they will make in a world influenced by science and technology.*

*To prepare students for this world, Prep has adopted the "Physics First" sequence of teaching science. Students study physics in grade 9, chemistry in grade 10, and biology in grade 11 or 12. This method, which teaches physics concepts in concrete ways, takes into account the cognitive development of high schools students. It also acknowledges that students need to master basic principles of physics in order to understand chemistry at a deeper level, while a strong*

*foundation in physics and chemistry will allow them to explore biology with a more solid foundation. Electives and Advanced Placement courses provide opportunities for advanced study.*

*Prep requires two years of laboratory science as a minimum graduation requirement, but strongly recommends at least three years of laboratory science. Many colleges require three or more lab sciences, or particular lab sciences. Each student is encouraged to consult with his science teachers and with his guidance counselor and the college placement office to determine his best course of study in the sciences.*

#### 6013 PHYSICS

This course is an activity-based study of physics. Students work in cooperative groups to explore fundamental physics phenomena such as motion, forces, energy, electricity, light and sound. While math will be included in the course, emphasis will be placed on understanding physical concepts, which will provide a foundation for students as they take future science courses.

#### 6030 CHEMISTRY

This course is an inquiry-oriented exploration of the major topics in chemistry. The practical use of chemistry in the real world is emphasized. Concepts studied include atoms, molecules, acids, bases, compounds and chemical kinetics. The course is group-oriented and hands-on whenever possible. Appropriate technology for data-gathering and simulation is employed. Problem solving appropriate to a college preparatory course is also included. This course is the mandatory second-year course in lab science.

#### 6035 CHEMISTRY HONORS

Requirements: Minimum grade of 90 in physics and math, and departmental approval.

Chemistry Honors covers the concepts found in the standard course, but is paced faster so that additional topics can be introduced. The course also places greater emphasis on the quantitative and mathematical aspects of chemistry.

#### 6041 BIOLOGY

**Requirement: Physics and Chemistry**

Biology is the study of the processes of living organisms and their interaction with each other and the environment. Areas of study include organization, continuity, development and ecology. The emphasis of the course is studying the science of life as it affects the human person and everyday activities. Teaching is inquiry-based using primarily small groups. Case studies, on-line and computer activities also are included. While significant amounts of content will be covered, integration of knowledge is the key skill in the course.

#### 6045 BIOLOGY HONORS

**Requirements: Grade of 90 or above in physics and chemistry, and departmental approval.**

Biology Honors covers the concepts found in the standard course, but is paced so that additional

topics can be introduced. Also, topics are covered in greater detail than in the standard course, and there is greater emphasis on biochemistry.

#### **6648 HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY**

**Requirement: Physics, Chemistry and Biology**

This course is the exploration of the human body through two integrated sciences: anatomy and physiology. Students study and investigate all the major systems and structures of the human body, as well as the physical and chemical processes that occur within and between them.

#### **6015 ADVANCED PHYSICS**

**Requirement: Physics and Chemistry. Co-requisite: Precalculus or Calculus. Departmental approval. Senior elective.**

This course is designed for students who wish to investigate more deeply the concepts and problems that were introduced in the first-year Physics course. It concentrates on problem-solving and how to state verbally and mathematically the basic laws of physics so as to expand the student's understanding of the principles. The content of this course will include topics in Mechanics and Dynamics, Electricity and Magnetism, and Light and Modern Physics.

#### **6048 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**

**Requirements: Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Senior elective.**

This course will be an investigation of the role of humans in their environment. Drawing on material from a variety of sources, including local opportunities for field study, students will develop a knowledge base about their own biological and physical environment that will equip them to apply scientific principles to the outside world that can improve the human condition and that of the environment. Topics to be covered include ecology; population; water, air and land resources; mineral and energy resources; human and environmental health.

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT SCIENCE COURSES**

Advanced placement science courses are open to students who have completed a first course in the respective subject area. However, it is highly advisable that any student considering college studies in the sciences and related fields take the first courses in physics, chemistry and biology by graduation. A G.P.A. of 90 or above is usually required.

#### **6027 AP BIOLOGY**

**Requirement: Biology, minimum grade of 90 in science courses, and departmental approval.**

The AP Biology course is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory course usually taken by biology majors during their first year. Using evolutionary thinking as a unifying concept, the course covers the following major themes: scientific inquiry, the chemical basis of

life, metabolism of cells, genetic continuity, homeostasis in animals and plants, a survey of the five kingdoms, and an overview of how populations evolve and are part of ecosystems. The students will build on their knowledge of biology from their first course by applying scientific methodologies to gain conceptual mastery. Laboratory sessions are devoted to each of the main areas listed.

#### **6037 AP CHEMISTRY**

**Requirement: Chemistry, minimum grade of 90 in math and science, and departmental approval.**

AP Chemistry represents a second year of study in chemistry. It probes, in depth, the traditional areas covered in a college freshman-level chemistry course. Laboratory experiences (investigative preparation, performance and reporting) will be an important part of the course. Problem solving, mathematical and conceptual, will be stressed. This course is an excellent preparation for anyone interested in pursuing science in college.

### **FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT**

*Saint Peter's Prep wants its students to appreciate the arts, and provides opportunities for students to develop their artistic talents. All freshmen take Introduction to Art and Music. All other offerings of the department are electives. Students with special talents or interest in these areas are strongly encouraged to enroll in these courses.*

#### **7720 INTRODUCTION TO ART (Semester course)**

This course is designed to promote visual literacy, inspire interest in visual art, and introduce the students to studio arts production. Students will learn art language, concepts, and processes through coordination with their World Civilizations course. This interdisciplinary approach reinforces the lessons presented in both courses, while allowing students to see relevant connections. Each art section focuses on an element of art, an area of the world studied in the freshman history course, and a particular studio process.

#### **7710 INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC (Semester course)**

This course is divided into two units. During the first marking period, students are presented with an introduction and review of basic music elements, including rhythm, melody, harmony, timbre and dynamics. Contemporary music is used as a reference for the study and understanding of these elements. In the second marking period, students begin to explore various aspects of music as it has developed from the Medieval world through the Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical periods in Europe. These periods are studied by analyzing their basic musical elements and exploring the music's historical context.

#### **7480 BEGINNING INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS**

This course is available to all students wishing to learn brass, woodwind, percussion or guitar as an instrument. A limited number of school loaner instruments is available on a first come, first served basis. In most cases, students have to provide their own instruments. Students who successfully complete the course may join the school concert band or other ensembles.

#### **7482 JAZZ BAND**

This course is available to students by audition only. The class meets two times per cycle after school, emphasizing improvisation and small ensemble performances. Many styles, including swing, modal and fusion jazz, are part of this ensemble's repertoire. The group performs at many school functions and in the annual school concerts, as well. Students' technical abilities are met with demanding music and, therefore, practice beyond rehearsals is necessary.

#### **7483 BASIC MUSIC THEORY (Semester minor course)**

This class is for students interested in studying basic harmony, melody, tonality and rhythm. Scales, key relationships, intervals, chord structures, functions and progressions, notation and meter are studied. Ear training also is reviewed in order to provide students with the opportunity to better their musical awareness. The course is designed to build a basic understanding of the language of music in both aural and written form.

#### **7484 ADVANCED MUSIC THEORY (Semester course)**

**Requirement: Basic Music Theory or permission of the instructor.**

This one-semester class will continue building upon the concepts covered in Basic Music Theory. A study of harmony will include modulation and the use of secondary dominants. Also, ear training, voice leading, transposition, form and the basics of orchestration will be presented as a foundation for a final project that will involve writing an original composition for several instruments.

#### **7485 MUSIC SYNTHESIS AND PRODUCTION (Semester minor course)**

The course, which will meet half time, is designed to provide students with the opportunity to explore the fundamentals of composing, arranging and producing original music. With the use of professional level music production software, students will gain understanding of MIDI formats, sequencing, part-looping plug-in effects and final mix-downs of projects. Students will also record live performances in order to develop a basic understanding of wave files and combining sounds from various formats. Final projects will include a final production of CDs and MP3s.

**7485 MUSIC SYNTHESIS AND PRODUCTION II**  
(Semester minor course)

**Requirement: Music Synthesis and Production**

This half-time course is designed to allow students to further develop their interest and knowledge in electronic-based music and sound production. With the use of professional-level music production software, students will create projects using their understanding and experience from the first level class, but will have the opportunity to develop advanced-level techniques and apply them to original recordings using sequencing with live sound samples and audio wave forms. Sound effects and the basics of sound synthesis will be reviewed throughout the class.

**7500 CONCERT BAND**

Concert band is open to all intermediate and advanced brass, woodwind and percussion players. Students who wish to enroll in this class need to have taken lessons for at least one year and be able to play a chromatic scale in the full range of their instrument. Rehearsals are from 7:30 a.m. until homeroom, three mornings a week, and after school one day each week. Performances include the annual Christmas and spring concerts, football games, an annual music festival competition and several other performances in the metropolitan area.

**7502 PREP CHORUS**

This graded course is available by audition, at which students will be asked to demonstrate a basic ability to sing on pitch and in rhythm. Musical styles range from pop, folk, and theatrical music to more difficult classical and religious music. Rehearsals are from 7:30 a.m. until homeroom, three days a week. Performances include the Christmas and spring concerts, with possible additional performances in competition or festival settings. Depending on the difficulty of the repertoire and the experience level of the individual students, some practice outside of rehearsal may be necessary.

**7718 SOPHOMORE ART: BEGINNING PROCESS OF ART**  
(Semester minor course)

This course, which meets half time, will focus on how a particular period in time provided a context for an artistic movement (from the Renaissance to Modern Art). This abbreviated studio course will include drawing and exposure to a variety of art materials and processes.

**7727 STUDIO ART: DRAWING AND COMPOSITION (Semester course)**

Drawing and Composition centers on art production and skill-building in the areas of basic drawing and composition. Students will focus on the fundamentals of visual art and develop critical and analytical thinking skills through regular critiques. The course also offers an emphasis on drawing materials and methods. Students may enroll in this class in their junior or senior years.

**7727-A STUDIO ART: DRAWING AND COMPOSITION 2**  
(Semester course)

**Requirement: Drawing and Composition.**

In this class, students create drawings with various color and black/white media as they explore different areas of illustration and expression. Students will find effective ways to combine images and ideas as they work to develop a personal visual vocabulary.

**7728 STUDIO ART: DESIGN AND COLOR**  
(Semester course)

Design and Color stresses art production and skill-building in the areas of 2-D design and color theory. Students will design repeat patterns and logos, and will use the computer as a design tool. Each assignment will significantly involve the use of color, materials such as colored pencils, watercolor, and gouache. Students may enroll in this class in their junior or senior years.

**7729 STUDIO ART: PAINTING**  
(Semester course)

In this class, students create paintings with various water-based media as they explore color theory, art history and personal expression. Students will also learn how to prepare painting surfaces, such as watercolor paper and canvas.

**7735 ADVANCED ART CONCEPTS: PORTFOLIO PREPARATION**  
(First semester course)

**Requirement: Completion of two studio art courses.**

Portfolio is offered to students who have taken two or more Studio Art courses. The focus of this course is the development of the students' portfolio to be used in college and art school applications.

In this class, each student will develop an area of interest or concentration and create 10-12 works within that theme or concept. Students will also write a paper related to their concentration, connecting their area of study with art historical and contemporary references. Participation in a year-end exhibition is required.

**7736 STUDIO ART: SCULPTURE**  
(Semester course)

In this course, students build a basic vocabulary and understanding of three-dimensional forms, which have height, depth and width. Light and shadow will be considered and emphasized as they relate to mass and volume. Students will explore some of the great sculptors in the history of art. A variety of materials and processes will be explored. Students may enroll in this class in their junior or senior years.

**7738 STUDIO ART: CERAMICS**  
(Semester course)

Students learn basic hand-building techniques such as slab, coil, and pinch construction to create a variety of projects, from sculptural forms to functional objects. Creating simple forms on the potter's wheel will also be introduced. The work will be kiln-fired and surface decoration will

include glazing and painting. Students will examine historical references with each project. Students may enroll in this class in their junior or senior years.

**SPRING STUDENT ART EXHIBITION PROJECT**

This project is the second-semester exam. All students taking Studio Art courses and Portfolio participate. Preparing and presenting art work for the exhibition is stressed. In addition, each student must attend the two-hour exhibition opening as his exam period. Finally, each student will sit on an active committee, which deals with an aspect of the exhibition, e.g., installation, promotion, reception, framing, and so on. Failure to do any one of the three parts of the project results in loss of a third of the overall grade.

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**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

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**8000 PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION**

The Prep physical education program is a comprehensive exploration of a wide range of activities and life sports. The program includes skill and technique development in football, basketball, soccer, wiffle ball, volleyball, floor hockey, weight training and conditioning. This program is complemented by a health education program

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**GROUP GUIDANCE**

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*To complement the individual guidance needs of its students, Prep provides group guidance for its freshmen and juniors. The group guidance program is designed to assist the student during his adolescence to become more self-reflective, more responsible for his decisions, and more aware of the personal, academic and career choices open to him during the coming years.*

**8900 FRESHMAN GROUP GUIDANCE**

This year-long course is designed to acquaint the freshmen to life at Prep; to assist in their personal development by discussing issues such as smoking, self-esteem and substance abuse; and finally to facilitate the transition to high school by reviewing study skills and methods of test preparation.

**8902 JUNIOR GROUP GUIDANCE**

During the first semester, the counselors work with students to heighten their awareness of their increased levels of responsibility for their academic, personal and social lives. In the second semester, juniors explore options and decision-making processes concerning college choices and career decisions.