2026-2027
Course Curriculum Guide

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Graduation Requirements

For graduation from high school, a student is required to have earned a minimum of 25 units of credit and have successfully earned credit in the following areas:

Theology	4 credits
Language Arts	4 credits: 4 Semesters each of Composition & Literature
Mathematics	4 credits: Algebra 1 & 2, Geometry
Science	3 credits: Biology & either Physics or Chemistry
Social Studies	3 credits: World History, US History, Government, & Economics
World Language	2 credits: 2 Consecutive Years of a World Language
Fine Arts	1 credit
Technology	1 credit
Public Speaking	½ credit: Public Speaking
Physical Education	½ credit
Health	½ credit

In addition to the required academic credits, 42 community service hours must be completed and documented before a diploma will be awarded. See Student Planner for the specifics of this requirement.

To improve their chances of acceptance to the college of their choice, students are encouraged to select courses from the highest level for which they qualify.

Course Selection Guidelines

1. All students are required to take 7 courses each semester.
2. Students must discuss their course selections with their parents and consult with their teachers and counselor. A parent's signature is required on the course request form. Double check prerequisites for courses selected.
3. Any error on the student's schedule must be brought to the attention of the counselor within the first five days of school.
4. Students and parents should realize that, though rare, a student's schedule might include two courses of the same subject (e.g. 2 Physical Education, 2 Social Studies) in one semester. This occurs when it is the only way to accommodate the courses selected by the student.
5. Students are not permitted to add or to drop courses once the course selection sheet has been turned in. Any approved change must be made before the end of the second week of a semester. If a change is approved, a fee of $50 must be paid before the change will be processed.
7. Yearlong classes cannot be dropped at the semester.
8. Student Aide positions are available in particular subjects, as described in the Course Offerings. At the time of registration, all aide and assistant positions must be approved and signed by the appropriate teacher or department chairperson. See individual department aide/assistant positions for eligibility and grading policy. Unpublished aide positions assigned during schedule conflict resolution are graded pass/fail, do not count for credit, and are not included in the student's career GPA.

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

Students enrolled in AP Courses are required to take the AP Exam. The exam fee, currently $99.00, is the responsibility of the student and will be billed along with course fees. The fee is determined by The College Board and will be billed at the rate published at the time of billing.

Adjusted Grade Point Averages

The grade point average that Gabriel Richard publishes is an *adjusted GPA*. Additional quality points are added to the point value of grades earned in Honors and AP courses. Honors courses receive an additional 1/3 of a point (A=4.33, etc.). AP courses receive an additional 1 point (A=5.00, etc.).

Pass/Fail and No Credit Courses

Pass/fail courses carry a weight of 0.0 and earn 0.5 credits if passed. *No credit* courses (generally unlisted teacher/department aides) carry a weight of 0.0 and earn 0.0 credits.

College Courses

Courses earing college credit are not included in high school GPA calculation.

Dual Enrollment

The State of Michigan has enacted legislation that permits students in private schools to benefit from *dual enrollment*.

Dual enrollment allows students in grades 9 - 12 to take courses, including those online, at Michigan public or private colleges and universities. The State of Michigan pays for the tuition, fees, and books of students who qualify for the program but does cap the total amount of funds allocated to each student. This is an exceptional opportunity for many students, but there are a number of specific conditions regarding participation:

- A student must have qualifying standardized assessment scores as determined by the State of Michigan.
- The course cannot be a required academic class needed for high school graduation or one already offered at Gabriel Richard Catholic High School.
- The course cannot be taken in the summer term.
- The student must demonstrate college readiness and personal responsibility.
- The following types of college courses do not qualify: physical education, theology, hobbies, crafts, or recreational interests.
- Eligible students may elect no more than ten dual enrollment courses while in high school.
- International students with an active visa cannot participate.
- If a course is not completed or if a student receives a failing grade, the student must repay all expenses to the Michigan Department of Treasury.

Participation in dual enrollment does not exempt a student from earning all of the required credits for graduation and electing the required number of on-campus classes as specified in the school handbook. College courses must be taken after school or on the weekend. The regular school-day schedule will not be modified to accommodate dual enrollment classes.

Because of the restrictions and deadlines involved, it is very important that students who would like to take advantage of dual enrollment opportunities be in contact with the counselor about the program. If you have questions regarding participation, please contact the counseling department as soon as possible to discuss eligibility.

LANGUAGE ARTS

The Language Arts Department offers two levels of study: General and Honors. These courses focus on a traditional academic approach to English in order to prepare a student for college. The Department recommends, however, that the above average student select the Honors program. College admissions committees tend to evaluate the taking of Honors courses more favorably for admission and scholarships. Ability and/or teacher recommendation may be required for course choice acceptance.

Curriculum Overview

	General	Honors
Grade 9	English 9	Honors English 9
Grade 10	English 10	Honors Composition 10 Honors American Literature
Grade 11	Composition 11 American Literature	AP English Language and Composition
Grade 12	Research Techniques British Literature	AP English Literature and Composition

Course Descriptions

English 9 (Year)
Grade level: 9
Students will review grammar, develop further understanding of sentence structures, and begin learning development for formal paragraph writing. Students will also be introduced to a variety of literary works, including short stories, poetry, drama, and the novel. Students will study basic literary terms such as plot, setting, characterization, and theme. Reading comprehension skills, writing development skills, and verbal communication skills will be stressed.

Honors English 9 (Year)
Grade Level: 9
Prerequisite: Qualifying High School Placement Test score
This course will review and further develop grammar and writing skills, as well as provide instruction on the writing of the expository essay. An appreciation for literature and a development of reading skills will be promoted as students pursue an analytical and interpretive approach to a broad variety of global literature.

English 10 (Year)
Grade Level: 10
Prerequisite: English 9
The course will review and further develop grammar and formal paragraphing skills, as well as introduce the expository essay. Students will also continue to study the types of literature introduced in English 9. The elements of nonfiction and the epic will be introduced. Writing about literature, as well as discussing the selections, will be stressed.

Honors Composition 10 (First Semester)
Grade Level: 10
Prerequisite: Honors English 9
Students in this course will explore, analyze, and apply advanced techniques of essay writing.

Honors American Literature (Second Semester)
Grade Level: 10
Prerequisite: Honors English 9, Honors Composition 10
As students learn to understand the significance of all forms of literature in the emerging American nation, they will develop their analytical and interpretive skills. Writing and speaking about literature will be stressed.

Composition 11 (First Semester)
Grade Level: 11
Prerequisite: English 10
This course provides instruction for effective essay writing: forming a legitimate opinion, defending it with logical detail, and writing about it with style.

American Literature (Second Semester)
Grade Level: 11
Prerequisite: English 10
Students will survey the literary periods and the short stories, novels, essays, poetry, and drama of American authors. Writing and speaking about the literature will be stressed.

British Literature (Semester)
Grade Level: 12
Prerequisite: Composition 11, American Literature
Literature of all genres from around the world will be read, interpreted, and analyzed by students in this course. The history and cultures of the countries from which the literature comes will also be studied as an integral part of understanding the authors' messages, themes, points of view, and characterizations. Students will respond to what they read in both written and verbal form.

Research Techniques (Semester)
Grade Level: 12
Prerequisite: Composition 11
This course is designed to teach the college-bound student the necessary skills for writing research papers at the collegiate level. Special attention will be paid to note taking, outlining, developing a thesis, and revising a paper. Methods of research and citation will be taught as students organize data into a coherent, properly presented research paper.

AP English Language and Composition (AP) (Year)

Grade Level: 11

Prerequisite: Honors Composition 10, Honors American Literature

The AP English Language and Composition course focuses on the development and revision of evidence-based analytic and argumentative writing and the rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts. The AP English Language and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Throughout the course, students develop a personal style by making appropriate grammatical choices. Additionally, students read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of text, from many disciplines and historical periods.

AP English Literature and Composition (AP) (Year)

Grade Level: 12

Prerequisite: Signature of Ms. Sovel

AP English is offered to seniors of superior ability in English desiring a challenge. This course is designed to prepare students for college level skills in literary analysis and expository writing. Students will study critical standards for evaluating and appreciating any literary work. After reading selected fiction, drama, and poetry, students will compose critical essays about each work. Students passing the AP Exam may earn college credit. Students will be required to do extensive reading and writing during the summer before senior year.

Creative Writing (Semester)

This course does not apply toward the required Language Arts credits.

Grade Level: 10-12

Prerequisite: Signature of Mr. Lopez

This course is designed for the student who wants an opportunity to explore his/her creative potential in writing. Traditional classroom structure will give way to individualized instruction, and students will be involved in lessons on selected genres and writers to help students explore and understand style and techniques. At least one publication will be produced during the semester.

The Graphic Novel (Semester)

This course does not apply toward the required Language Arts credits.

Grade Level: 11-12

Prerequisite: Signature of Mr. Lopez

This course will introduce students to the diverse body of literature known as *graphic novels.* While emphasis will be placed on works that are specifically considered graphic novels, it may also include the study of other comics-strips and books that have significantly contributed to the development of the form. Students can expect to be exposed not only to a wide range of graphic novel types, such as autobiography, journalism, history, humor, dramatic fiction, manga, and superheroes, but also to a deeper understanding of the methods of telling stories that are unique to comics.

Modern Literature (Semester)

This course does not apply toward the required Language Arts credits.

Grade Level: 10-12

This course is designed to encourage students to be independent readers and to foster an enjoyment of reading. During class, students will read either fiction or non-fiction books of their choice. Students will have conferences with the instructor to discuss the books, as well as to evaluate and ensure reading progress. Class assessments will include group discussions of books being read, written and verbal evaluations, tests, and presentations.

Public Speaking (Semester)

Grade Level: 10-12

This is an introductory course to the skills and techniques necessary for acquiring self-confidence and poise in speaking articulately and effectively, specifically in public situations.

THEOLOGY

Requirements

Four years of Theology are required for graduation. The freshman, sophomore, and junior curricula are required as listed. Freshman, sophomore, and junior retreats are mandatory. Retreat fees are included in the summer billing.

Course Descriptions

Freshman Theology (Year)

Grade Level: 9

The first semester will cover The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture. It will focus on a general knowledge and appreciation of Sacred Scripture. Students will encounter the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ. The second semester will help students answer the question "Who is Jesus Christ?" by focusing on Jesus' earthly life, His Mission and Ministry.

Sophomore Theology (Year)

Grade Level: 10

Jesus Christ: Source of our Salvation Students will explore the Paschal Mystery in greater depth, focusing on the life, passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Church: Our Story explores the interrelationship of the various components of the Catholic Church. This course provides insights as to how the Church has come to its contemporary expression.

In addition, students will be taught Theology of the Body.

Junior Theology (Year)

Grade Level: 11

Junior Theology includes a first semester study of the Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church and a second semester that deals with Christian values. Students will be led through the processes of conscience formation and moral decision-making. Students will be challenged to assume responsibility for their own growth and faithfulness to the persons they are called to be.

Senior Theology (Year)

Grade Level: 12

Living as a Disciple of Jesus Christ in Society This section introduces the seven themes of Catholic social teaching. Students are challenged to put their faith into action by responding to the needs of those whose rights are being violated in our world today.

Ecumenical and Interreligious Issues This section helps students understand how the Catholic Church relates to non-Catholic Christians, as well as to other religions of the world. The course helps students recognize ways in which important spiritual truths can also be found in non-Catholic Christian churches and ecclesial communities, as well as in non-Christian religions.

MATHEMATICS

Course Placement

Course requests will be reviewed and approved by the student's current teacher at the end of each school year. While receiving a *D* may give a student credit for a particular course, it does not indicate that the student has the necessary skills to take the follow-up course. Summer school will be recommended before the student takes the following course. Consideration is given to students with a full year of Algebra before attending Gabriel Richard.

AP Calculus

If a student intends to take AP Calculus in their senior year, they must either:

- Have had a full year of Algebra 1 in the eighth grade
- Take two math classes in their sophomore year: Honors Algebra 2 and Honors Geometry

Curriculum Overview

	General	**Honors**
Grade 9	Algebra 1	Honors Geomegry
Grade 10	Geometry	Honors Geometry Honors Algebra 2
Grade 11	Algebra 2	Honors Algebra 2 AP Precalculus
Grade 12 (Recommended)	AP Precalculus	AP Precalculus AP Calculus AP Statistics
(Alternate)	Probability & Statistics Math Analysis	Probability & Statistics Math Analysis

All math courses beyond Grade 9 require the signature of the student's current math teacher.

Course Descriptions

Algebra 1 (Year)
Grade Level: 9
A first year Algebra course will cover the basic operations involving real numbers, polynomials, special products and factoring, linear equations and inequalities, graphing on the number line and the Cartesian plane, algebraic word problems, absolute value concepts and the laws of exponents. It is a prerequisite for anyone who desires further study in mathematics, chemistry, or physics.

Geometry (Year)
Grade Level: 10
This course will cover the concepts of plane Euclidean geometry including points, lines, planes, congruence, and similarity of figures, special right triangles, circle and arcs, and some 3-dimensional geometry. Critical analysis and logical thinking will be stressed.

Algebra 2 (Year)
Grade Level: 11
Algebra 2 is a continued study of Algebra concepts. Emphasis will be placed upon the development of Algebra skills through the study of linear, quadratic, and polynomial equations and inequalities, relations, functions, radicals, imaginary/complex numbers and trigonometry, including functions, graphs, identities, and equations.

Honors Algebra 2 (Year)
Grade Level: 10
Prerequisite: Honors Algebra 1 / Teacher Recommendation
An accelerated course similar to Algebra 2, but with an emphasis on applications.

Math Analysis (Year)
Grade Level: 11-12
This course is for students who have completed Algebra II, but are not prepared for the level of difficulty found in Precalculus. Functions, logarithms, and trigonometry will be explored and practical applications are studied. A TI-84 calculator is highly recommended for this class. The course is designed to prepare students for material that is on college entrance and placement exams. This course fulfills the 4th year requirement for Math credit.

Probability and Statistics (Year)
Grade Level: 11-12
Prerequisite: successful completion of two years of mathematics
This course will cover one semester of probability and one semester of statistics. The course will include many real-life based projects and activities. Topics will include sample space, odds and expectations, permutations, combinations, probability, measures of central tendency, measures of dispersion, measures of position, sampling distribution, normal distribution, and z-score.

AP Precalculus (Year)
Grade Level: 11-12
Prerequisite: Honors Geometry and Honors Algebra 2 / Teacher Recommendation
Requirement: Texas Instruments Graphing Calculator
This course is designed as preparation for college-level math and science courses. It correlates directly with the AP Calculus course. Emphasis will be on analyzing, graphing, combining, composing, and solving applications with functions including polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric, and polar. Other topics addressed include analyzing, graphing and solving applications involving parametric equations, vectors and matrices. From the College Board website, "Through regular practice, students build deep mastery of modeling and functions, and they examine scenarios through multiple representations. The course framework delineates content and skills common to college precalculus courses that are foundational for careers in mathematics, physics, biology, health science, social science, and data science."

AP Calculus (Year)
Grade Level: 12
Prerequisite: C in Honors Precalculus / Teacher Recommendation
Requirement: Graphing Calculator
This course is a standard college course in differential and integral calculus. The course will cover limits, differentiation and integration and their applications, and the calculus of the common transcendental functions.

AP Statistics (Year)
Grade Level: 11-12
Prerequisite: C in (Hon/Gen) Algebra 2 or concurrent enrollment in Honors Algebra 2
Requirement: Graphing Calculator - TI-84 strongly recommended.
The AP Statistics course is equivalent to a one-semester, introductory, non-calculus-based college course in statistics. The course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. There are four themes in the AP Statistics course: exploring data, sampling and experimentation, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference. Students use technology, investigations, problem solving, and writing as they build conceptual understanding.

SCIENCE

Requirements

Three credits in science, including one year of Biology and one year of either Chemistry or Physics, are required. Four credits of science are recommended for college-bound students who anticipate a science-related major in college. These majors include science, biology, physics, chemistry, health/medical fields, engineering, and other technical fields.

Curriculum Overview

Freshmen Year

Biology

Sophomore Year

Chemistry
Honors Chemistry

Junior / Senior Year

AP Biology
AP Chemistry
AP Environmental Science
AP Physics
Honors Anatomy and Physiology
Physics
Forensic Science
Zoology

The College Board requires all AP Science courses to include a minimum of one lab hour per week outside of regular school hours.

Course Descriptions

Biology (Year)
Grade Level: 9
Fee: $30.00
Biology is a course designed to expand the students' knowledge of living organisms. This course will include a comprehensive study of contemporary biology, covering biochemistry, cells, genetics, evolution, and classification. A variety of teaching methods will be used including labs, group work, individual assignments and projects, and class discussions.

Chemistry (Year)
Grade Level: 10
Prerequisite: Biology or Honors Biology
Fee: 35.00
Chemistry is a study of matter and its changing composition. It includes a study of atomic structure, interactions of matter, stoichiometry, states of matter, chemical equilibrium, acids and bases, redox chemistry, kinetics and thermodynamics.

Honors Chemistry (Year)
Grade Level: 10
Prerequisite: B+ in Algebra 1 or *B* in Algebra 2, *B* in Honors Biology or *A* in Biology
Fee: $35.00
Topics will include those studied in Chemistry. An emphasis will be placed on advanced mathematical calculations. Quantitative and qualitative laboratory techniques, as well as organic and nuclear chemistry will be studied.

Honors Physics (Year)
Grade Level: 11-12
Prerequisite: Algebra 1, Geometry
Fee: $35.00
This course focuses on core physics principles (motion, forces, energy, waves, electricity and magnetism) through in-depth problem solving, lab work and conceptual analysis. It emphasizes scientific inquiry, logical reasoning and application of concepts in real-world scenarios, requiring strong algebra skills.

Honors Human Anatomy and Physiology (Year)
Grade Level: 11-12
Prerequisite: B in Biology or *B-* in Honors Biology, *C+* in Chemistry (concurrent)
Signature of Student's Biology Teacher
Fee: $35.00
Offered 2026-2027 Not offered 2025-2026
This course is an advanced Biology course, which aims to familiarize students with the structure and function of the human body through lecture and lab work, especially the dissection of organ systems. It is recommended for students aspiring to a health career requiring at least four years of college preparation. This course requires strong memorization skills.

AP Biology (Year)

Grade Level: 11-12

Prerequisite: B+ in Biology or *B* in Honors Biology, *B* in Chemistry (concurrent)
Signature of Mrs. Faoro

Fee: $35.00

Offered 2027-2028 Not offered 2026-2027

This course is designed for the advanced science student who wants to place out of introductory Biology courses in college. This course is an in-depth study of the major biological topics. It aims to provide students with the conceptual framework, factual knowledge, and analytical skills necessary to deal critically with the rapidly changing science of biology. Approximately 50% of class time will be spent on organisms and populations, 25% on genetics and evolution and 25% on molecules and cells. Heavy emphasis will be placed on laboratory activities.

AP Chemistry (Year)

Grade Level: 11-12

Prerequisite A- in Chemistry or *B+* in Honors Chemistry, *B+* in Algebra 1, Signature of Mrs. Loria

Fee: $35

Offered 2026-2027; Not offered 2027-2028

This course is an in-depth study of general chemistry designed for advanced science students who want to place out of their introductory Chemistry course in college. This course will be taught at a college level and will move at a rapid pace. Both, quantitative and qualitative laboratory techniques will be covered. A strong Math background is required for this course.

AP Environmental Science (Year)

Grade Level: 11-12

Prerequisite: B in biology, *C+* in Chemistry (concurrent), Signature of current or past Science teacher

Fee: $35.00

Offered 2026-2027; Not offered 2027-2028

This course is designed to be the equivalent of a college-level course in Environmental Science and will prepare students for success on the National Exam. AP Environmental Science (APES) is an inter-disciplinary field of study that integrates material from Biology, Earth Science, Chemistry, Mathematics and Social Sciences to come to an understanding of the natural world and the forces that affect it. The goal of the course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to consider alternative solutions to resolve or prevent them. Topics include an exploration of ecosystems, biodiversity, population dynamics, resource use and conservation, environmental problems, and the impact of human activities on the earth. Students will engage in comprehensive reading, laboratory investigations, critical writing analysis and projects. The curriculum is aligned to that recommended by the College Board. Summer work may be required.

AP Physics (Year)
Grade Level: 11-12
Prerequisite: B in Algebra 1 and Geometry, Algebra 2 (concurrent), Signature of Mrs. Loria
Fee: $35.00
Offered 2027-2028; Not offered 2026-2027
This course is equivalent to a first-semester college course in algebra-based physics. The course will cover Newtonian mechanics (including rotational dynamics and angular momentum); work, energy, and power; and mechanical waves and sound. It will also introduce electric circuits. No prior course work in physics is necessary for students to enroll in AP Physics. Although the AP Physics course includes basic use of trigonometric functions, this understanding can be gained either in the concurrent math course or in the AP Physics course.

Forensic Science (Year)
Grade level: 11-12
Prerequisite: Biology, Chemistry
Fee: $35.00
This introductory course of crime scene investigations incorporates theories and techniques used in real-world investigations. Guest speakers and hands on activities are an integral part of the course. Staged crime scenes will be involved in the assessment of the course.

Zoology (Semester)
Grade Level: 11-12
Prerequisite: C in Biology
Fee: $30.00
This course covers the animal kingdom from invertebrates such as sponges to complex vertebrates such as primates. Focus will be on the structure and behaviors of each group. Students will use memorization and Latin root words to learn the different classifications of the animal kingdom. Class will include factual content and laboratory activities, including some dissection.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Curriculum Overview

Students may begin taking Social Studies courses in either their freshmen or sophomore year. The State of Michigan requires that students earn one credit each of world history and US history and one-half credit each of US government and economics. Electives may be taken concurrently with required courses. Students planning to take honors or AP courses should consult with their current social studies teacher and honors/AP course instructor (see signature requirements in course descriptions) before making course selections.

Recommended Course Sequence

	General	Honors
Grade 9/10 W	World History and Geography	World History and Geography
Grade 10/11	US History	AP Human Geography United States Government and Politics
Grade 11/12	American Government Economics	United States Government and Politics AP US History Economics

Course Descriptions

World History and Geography (Year)
Grade Level: 9-10
This course focuses on the period of history from ancient Greece and Rome to the twentieth century. Units include Ancient Greece and Rome, India, China, and the early Americans, Renaissance and Reformation, the dominance of Europe, and the beginning of a global society.

United States History (Year)
Grade Level: 10-11
This class focuses on 1870 to the present.

American Government (Semester)
Grade Level: 11-12
Prerequisite: US History
This course surveys the organization and activities of the federal government. Topics such as lobbying, political humor, presidential powers, and landmark Supreme Court cases will be studied.

Economics (Semester)
Grade Level: 11-12
This course covers topics such as the American economy and consumerism, as well as microeconomics and macroeconomics.

AP European History (Year)
Grade Level: 11-12
Prerequisite: 3.3 GPA, signature of Mr. Lopez
This course is a college level survey class where students are expected to demonstrate knowledge of basic chronology and of major events and trends from approximately 1450 to the present. The goals of this course are "to develop (a) an understanding of some of the principal themes in modern European history, (b) an ability to analyze historical evidence, and (c) an ability to analyze and to express historical understanding in writing." Students will be expected to participate in discussion and to give evidence of their grasp of material through multiple-choice tests and through essays. College credit may be earned by passing the AP Exam at the end of the year.

AP Psychology (Year)
Grade Level: 11-12
Prerequisite: 3.3 GPA, signature of Mr. Merchak
This course covers the history and methods of psychology, sensation, and perception, states of consciousness, learning, cognition, personality, abnormal behavior, and social psychology. The class will involve lecture and discussion, essay writing and projects. College credit may be earned by passing the AP Exam at the end of the year.

AP United States Government and Politics (Year)
Grade Level: 11-12
Prerequisite: 3.3 GPA, US History, signature of Mr. Rutkowski
This course gives students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. The course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret US politics and the analysis of specific examples. It requires a familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute US politics. Topics covered will include Constitutional underpinnings of the US Government, Political Beliefs and Behaviors, Political Parties, Interest Groups and Mass Media, Public Policy and Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. AP History is recommended before taking this course. College credit may be earned by passing the AP Exam at the end of the year.

AP US History (Year)
Grade Level: 11-12
Prerequisite: 3.3 GPA, signature of Ms. Sovel
This college level survey class is designed for the student with superior ability and interest in United States History. This class will stress reading and researching historical material analytically and critically with an emphasis on primary sources. The class format includes lectures, small group discussions, and oral and written reports. It is expected that students in this course are able to convey their grasp of material through multiple choice tests and essays. College credit may be earned by passing the AP Exam at the end of the year.

AP World History (Year)
Grade Level: 10-12
Prerequisite: 3.0 GPA, signature of Mr. Merchak
Fee: $97.00 (AP Test Fee)
Students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from 1200 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change over time. The course provides six themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation.

History in Film (Semester)
This course does not satisfy the US History requirement.
Grade Level: 11-12
This course involves students watching movies, television shows, and other film medium. Activities include analyzing the history shown in the films, examining the historical context of the media, and assessing the historical accuracy of the films.

Psychology (Semester)
Grade Level: 11-12
This one semester course covers units such as human development, personality, psychological disorders, therapy, and social behavior.

Sociology (Semester)
Grade Level: 11-12
This semester course deals with the complex social issues of our time. Topics discussed will include the changing family structure, cultural deviance and juvenile delinquency, social inequalities, religion, and the future.

WORLD LANGUAGES

French 1 (Year)
Grade Level: 9-12*
Students will learn the basics of speaking French. The class will consist of everyday conversation, careful listening and pronouncing, reading and writing exercises, and a study of French-speaking people.
*Freshmen may take French 1 only by counselor recommendation if planning to take four years of French.

French 2 (Year)
Grade Level: 10-12
Students will continue their study of the basic skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. More French customs and history will be learned.

French 3 (Year)
Grade Level: 10-12
Prerequisite: *C* in French 2, Signature of Mrs. Smith
The third-year course emphasizes oral skills and the grammatical concepts. More information will be given about the customs, culture, and history of France.

French 4 (Year)
Grade Level: 11-12
Prerequisite: *C* in French 3, Signature of Mrs. Smith
Students will read and discuss literary works, news articles, and other selected materials, write various compositions, and learn more of French history and art. They will review and perfect grammar and learn more sophisticated ways of writing and speaking French.

Spanish 1 (Year)

Grade Level: 9-12*

Students will learn the basics of speaking the Spanish language and Hispanic Culture. The class will consist of everyday conversation, careful listening and pronouncing, reading and writing exercises, and a study of Spanish-speaking cultures and religions.

*Freshmen may take Spanish 1 only by counselor recommendation if planning to take four years of Spanish.

Spanish 2 (Year)

Grade Level: 9-12*

Prerequisite: Spanish 1

Building on the basics of a new language learned in Spanish 1, students will begin usage in dialogues, conversations, reading, and writing. They will expand their grasp of grammatical and cultural concepts. This will be enriched by the study of the customs, celebrations, and history of Spanish-speaking people.

*Freshmen may take Spanish 2 only by counselor recommendation with pervious Spanish instruction and a passing score on a Spanish proficiency exam.

Spanish 3 (Year)

Grade Level: 10-12

Prerequisite: *C* in Spanish 2, Signature of Department Chair

Continued refinement of Spanish grammar and mechanics will prepare students to speak more fluently. The concentration will be on developing awareness of the broad spectrum of Spanish influence and the need for articulate speakers in the world market. Technological resources will also be utilized in order to expand communicative skills.

AP Spanish Language and Culture (Year)

Grade Level: 11-12

Prerequisite: *C* in Spanish 3, Signature of Department Chair

The aim of this course is for the student to excel in the four skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening Spanish. The six Areas of study include: Personal and Public Identities, Contemporary Life, Family and Communities, Beauty and Aesthetics, Science and Technology and World Challenges. The possibility of advanced placement will be available to above average language achievers who commit themselves to excellence and exhibit skill through conversation, composition, and study of classical writers of Spanish.

FINE ARTS

ART

Class fees cover general class supplies such as paint, ink, pastels, etc., which are dispensed to students on an as needed basis.

Art Introduction 1 (Semester)
Grade Level: 9
Fee: $60.00
This entry level art class focuses on the fundamental knowledge and skill of drawing, sculpting and design. Students will create two-dimensional projects using a variety of materials, tools, techniques, and processes. The art elements will be emphasized.

Art Introduction 2 (Semester)
Grade Level: 9
Fee: $60.00
This class is a continuation of the knowledge and skill building of drawing, sculpting and design. Students will create two-dimensional projects using a variety of materials, tools, techniques, and processes. The art elements will be emphasized.

Advanced Drawing (Semester)
Grade Level: 10-12
Fee: $60.00
This course is designed for the serious art student. A strong emphasis in traditional sketching will be explored. Students taking this course will sketch from daily observation in class. A variety of wet and dry media will be used to enhance the drawing skills of the student. This course will help any student seriously thinking of creating an AP drawing portfolio.

Acrylic Painting (Semester)
Grade Level: 10-12
Fee: $60.00
This course is an introduction to acrylic painting. Acrylic paint will be used as watercolor, and various other consistencies will be presented to help discover the versatility of the medium. Students will be encouraged to develop their own style of painting.

Acrylic Painting 2 (Semester)
Grade Level: 10-12
Prerequisite: Acrylic Painting
Fee: $60.00
Students will work with variety of painting styles and Acrylic paints. This course will help students develop a stronger portfolio for possibly taking AP studio art and preparing a portfolio. Students will be encouraged to develop their own style of painting.

Clayworks (Semester)
Grade Level: 10-12
Fee: $60.00
This course combines pottery and sculpture techniques using various hand building and finishing methods including the use of various glazes. Each student will experience the art of throwing on the potter's wheel. Instruction in the use of the kiln will be presented.

Clayworks 2 (Semester)
Grade Level: 10-12
Prerequisite: Clayworks
Fee: $60.00
This course further explores clay and pottery techniques for the skilled student. Wheel throwing will be incorporated into new projects. Students who desire to take AP 3D are encouraged to take this course.

Clayworks 3 (Semester)
Grade Level: 12
Prerequisite: Clayworks 2, Signature of Ms. Fedor
Fee: $60.00
This course further explores clay and pottery techniques for the skilled student. A theme will be chosen for the semester.

Clayworks 4 (Semester)
Grade Level: 12
Prerequisite: Clayworks 3, Signature of Ms. Fedor
Fee: $60.00
This course further explores clay and pottery techniques for the skilled student. A theme will be chosen for the semester.

Digital Photography and Design 1 (Semester)
Grade Level: 10-12
Fee: $40.00
Requirement: Digital Camera
This course explores a variety of digital photography techniques and processes including portraits, lighting, filters, color and B/W photography and photography style. Adobe Photoshop will be used to create a variety of design projects with student photography.

Digital Photography and Design 2 (Semester)
Grade Level: 10-12
Prerequisites: Digital Photography and Design 1
Fee: $40.00
Requirement: Digital Camera
This course will go in-depth with photography assignments. Portraits, sports, news, and special moment photography will be covered. The student will work on a series of photographs throughout the semester that will be put in a personal portfolio and used in print form. Graphic design projects will also be incorporated into the art the student will create.

AP Studio Art (Year)
Grade Level: 11-12
Prerequisite: Photo 1 or portfolio of previous art, Signature of Ms. Fedor
Fee: $60.00
This course is designed for students pursuing a career in art. AP Studio Art is offered to seniors of superior ability in drawing desiring a challenge. Students can enter in the area of drawing or general portfolio. The quantity of work is extensive. The Drawing Portfolio requires 5 works in the area of quality, up to 12 slides in the area of concentration, and 12 slides in the area of breadth. Drawing ability and imagination are the main criteria. Students taking the College Board AP Test (Portfolio Evaluation) may earn college credit. A weekly critique will take place for students to view and comment on art created for this class. Students will be required to submit ideas for their theme before the end of their Junior year for approval. Students are encouraged to begin working on their portfolios during the summer break.

MUSIC

Beginning Band (Year)
Grade Level: 9-12
Open to all students who have an interest in learning to play a musical instrument, this course requires no previous learning experience on a musical instrument. This course is designed to present the fundamentals of instrumental music to the student. The course material includes information on the proper care and handling of equipment used in band as well as the mechanics of good tone production on a chosen instrument. Each student is required by the end of the term to read music and pass an elementary proficiency examination.

Band (Year)
Grade Level: 9-12
Prerequisite: Beginning Band, any previous band experience, or passed audition held by the director.
Requirement: Attendance at all scheduled performances and rehearsals including performances at football and basketball games
Varsity Band is a performance ensemble. Emphasis is placed on the reading of concert performance music to expose the student to various musical styles. Students will be expected to perform in the proper musical style. The most important part of Varsity Band is to teach students self-discipline and how to work together as one unit to create a positive and successful musical experience.

Glee (Year)
Grade Level: 9-12
Requirement: Attendance at all scheduled performances and rehearsals
This class is for all students who have an interest in singing. The goal for this class is to be able to sing in four-part harmony. Students will be tested as to what section they will be singing in (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass). Students will be singing a wide range of music dating from the 1600's to the present.

BUSINESS

Accounting (Year)
This course does not apply toward the required Math credits.
Grade Level: 11-12
This course covers all principles of the accounting cycle. Students will begin by using T accounts, then learn procedures such as entering transactions into journals, posting to ledgers, completing worksheets, preparing financial statements, adjustments, and closing entries.

Business Law (Year)
Grade Level: 10-12
Business Law is designed for students to analyze various aspects of the legal environment, including ethics, the judicial system, contracts, personal property, sales, negotiable instruments, agency and employment, business organization, risk management, and real property.

Business Communication (Semester)
Grade Level: 10-12
The goal of Business Communication is to promote the acquisition of quality communication skills in the areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will also acquire skills in problem solving, team building, and presenting a professional image. In addition, the student will be assisted with understanding communications styles, improving interpersonal skills, preparing oral presentations, and communicating for employment. By studying Business Communications, students will acquire the necessary writing, speaking and interpersonal skills necessary to be successful in high school, in the workplace, and in advanced education courses.

College and Careers (Semester)
Grade Level: 10-12
Students will develop self-awareness and an understanding of how to navigate college, value diversity, develop skills and strategies for success, and explore career options.

Marketing (Semester)
Grade Level: 10-12
Covers fundamental marketing principles and theories, equipping students with a basic understanding of how marketing functions within a business. Typical topics: •Marketing mix (4 Ps): Product, Price, Place, Promotion •Target market analysis •Consumer behavior •Marketing research methods •Branding •Integrated marketing communications

Sports and Entertainment Marketing (Semester)
Grade Level: 10-12
Sports and Entertainment Marketing focuses on marketing and management functions/tasks that can be applied in amateur or professional sports or sporting events, entertainment or entertainment events, selling or renting of supplies and equipment (other than vehicles) used for recreational or sporting purposes, products and services related to hobbies or cultural events, or businesses primarily engaged in satisfying the desire to make productive or enjoyable use of leisure time.

Personal Finance (Semester)

Grade Level: 11-12

Personal Finance examines the decision-making processes behind earning money, spending money, saving and investing to build wealth, use credit, insure one's self and one's possessions, and invest in an education. This course is aligned to the Michigan's K-12 Personal Finance standards adopted in 2023. It is designed to fulfill a 1/2 credit in personal finance that meets subject area content expectations developed by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and approved by the State Board of Education (SBE) required for high school graduation.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

We offer computer classes, taught during the school day at Gabriel Richard, through a partnership with Madonna University. These courses are listed and enrolled separately from general registration.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Freshman Physical Education/Health (Year)
Grade Level: 9
Requirement: Regulation P.E. uniform
The emphasis of development in this class will be twofold: (1) physical fitness/sports skills and (2) health. Each student's fitness level will be evaluated at the beginning of the school year and will be retested throughout the year for progress. A workout period will be provided daily to improve fitness scores. The sport portion of the class will emphasize the fundamental skills, rules, and strategies of each activity. A written test will be administered at the conclusion of each unit. Various health concepts will be included in the class.

Personal Fitness 1/2 (Semester)
Grade Level: 10-12
Requirement: Regulation P.E. uniform
This course is intended to familiarize students with elements of personal fitness utilizing the FIT Principle (frequency, intensity, and time) in order to plan an individualized approach to their desired fitness goals. Students will have the opportunity to work on various aspects of training utilizing the gym, weight room, and track, as well as opportunities to improve fitness by involvement in various activities such as volleyball, badminton, and basketball. The concept of periodization, preplanned variations in training specificity, intensity, and volume organized in cycles within the overall program, will allow for a better understanding of overreaching and injury prevention. Students will also gain an understanding of how their sleep/wake schedule and nutritional intake affect their overall wellbeing.

Weight Training and Conditioning 1 (Semester)
Grade Level: 10-12
Requirement: Regulation Weight Training uniform
This course is intended to familiarize students with weight training apparatus and proper techniques with an emphasis on safety and injury prevention. The course covers basic concepts of weight training and conditioning such as lifting for muscular strength versus muscular endurance and conditioning for aerobic versus anaerobic performance, as well as seasonal training guidelines for those participating in athletics. Grading is based on the student's adherence to their training regimen and a written exam covering the basic concepts. Students considering the field of Exercise Science in college are encouraged to explore both Weight Training and Conditioning 1 & 2.

Weight Training and Conditioning 2 (Semester)
Grade Level: 10-12
Prerequisite: Weight Training 1
Requirement: Regulation Weight Training uniform
This course is intended to reinforce the basic concepts of Weight Training and Conditioning 1 and introduce students to more advanced aspects of training such as periodization, muscle hypertrophy, and interval training. Students will design a program tailored to their individual interests and stated goals. Students considering the field of Exercise Science in college are encouraged to explore both Weight Training and Conditioning 1 & 2.

Team Sports 1 (Semester)
Grade Level: 10-12
Requirement: Regulation Team Sports P.E. uniform, mouth guard for floor hockey
The emphasis of this class will be to improve upon and to develop additional sports skills. Activities that may be included are floor hockey, soccer, touch football, basketball, team handball, volleyball, and softball.

Team Sports 2 (Semester)
Grade Level: 10-12
Requirement: Regulation P.E. uniform
The emphasis of this class will be to improve and develop sports skills. Activities that may be included are: (team) handball, volleyball, softball, basketball, floor hockey, soccer, and touch football.

Inservice Team Sports (Semester)
Grade Level: 12
Prerequisite: Team sports class
Requirement: Regulation Inservice P.E. uniform
Grade: Pass/Fail
The student will act as an assistant to the teacher in the team sports classes. Students must have an extensive knowledge of the team sports rules, regulations and procedures to be covered in the class. Students must also possess the ability to assist in the development of individual skills in an advanced level class. Students will be responsible for setting up tournaments and assisting with setup of equipment.

Physical Education Aide (Semester)
Grade Level: 12
Requirement: Regulation Inservice P.E. uniform
Grade: Pass/Fail
The student will act as an assistant to the physical education teachers in the classes. He/she will assist in the development of sports and fitness skills and will assist more in the teaching of sports skills and in developing individual fitness levels. This class is intended for students who might be considering a teaching career or want a long-term experience working in a classroom.

Inservice Weight Training (Semester)
Grade Level: 12
Prerequisite: Weight Training 2
Requirement: Regulation Inservice PE Uniform
Grade: Pass/Fail
This course will give the student the opportunity to assist in the beginning Weight Training class. Students will assist with spotting and aiding other students in selecting exercises that will best help develop that student. The student will also assist the teacher in supervision of the workouts.

WE ARE