

# PROGRAM OF STUDIES

ARCHBISHOP ALTER  
HIGH SCHOOL  
KETTERING, OHIO



2026-2027

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**\*POLICY CHANGES IN THIS PROGRAM OF STUDIES ARE DENOTED IN RED\***

## MISSION STATEMENT

Archbishop Alter High School is committed to challenging students to reach their fullest potential by providing academic excellence and fostering personal growth in a Christ-centered, co-educational, Catholic environment.

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

- There is God-given dignity in every person.
- The best education develops the whole person: physically, emotionally, intellectually, morally, and spiritually.
- Our purpose is to cultivate servant leaders.
- A diverse community best expresses the fullness of the Body of Christ.
- Our goal is to create a legacy that lasts by ensuring that students grow together as a community in Christ.

## EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

**STUDENTS ARE KNOWN, VALUED AND LOVED:** Archbishop Alter High School is a diverse community where students are encouraged to grow in their faith, in their knowledge, and in their relationships. Our students come from many different schools, cities, and counties. While the majority are Catholic, a wide variety of religious denominations are represented at Alter. Students bring with them many different experiences, gifts, talents, and aspirations that make Alter the vibrant and exceptional place it is. Alter High School regularly produces students who are confident, motivated, prepared, sought-after, and ready to take on the challenges ahead. An Alter education produces students who are academically strong, who have a heart for service, who are leaders, and who are part of a lifelong and worldwide network of Knights. We invite you to learn more about the incredible FAITH, PRIDE, and SPIRIT that are hallmarks of every aspect of Archbishop Alter High School, and we look forward to walking beside you as you journey through the halls of our school and into your future.

**OUR FAITH:** At Alter, faith in Jesus is behind all things we do. From classes to sports to clubs, we believe that there are limitless ways to know and love God, and we strive to see His presence in all things. But beyond incorporating our faith into our daily lives, our faith encourages us to be welcoming and it challenges us to work for justice. It ignites our passion for service and reminds us to practice compassion. It calls us to prayer and a deeper relationship with Christ, and it inspires us to be leaders who can share our faith with the larger community and the world.

**HOW WE CONNECT:** Students at Alter are involved in a myriad of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities on campus. With more than 25 existing clubs, and the opportunity for students to found new clubs, there are so many ways to explore academic and career interests, to learn new skills, and to form connections with peers. Students can participate in organizations centered around performing and visual arts, student government, faith and service, as well as athletics. Faith and service are pillars of daily life at Alter High School. Mornings and afternoons are times for school-wide prayer, and we worship and celebrate Mass as a school at least once per month. Theology

courses, First Friday masses, as well as faith-based organizations such as Upper Room and Men's and Women's Fellowship offer opportunities for students to grow in their own faith and support their peers in their faith development. Alter Knights participate in a four-year retreat program and find opportunities to serve their community through Key Club and Magnified Giving.

**PREPARE AND SUCCEED:** Alter High School has a professional staff of 41 who have a combined average of over 15 years teaching experience. A Master's Degree is held by 62% of the faculty, and the student to faculty ratio is 12:1. We believe that the key to high performing students is high performing teachers. Our generous and gifted educators encourage students to dream big and reach higher. In addition, our caring staff of intervention specialists work closely with classroom teachers and parents to help students who need additional academic support find success. Alter faculty and staff members continue to teach long after the final bell has rung. Their dedication to our students' needs extends beyond the classroom as they mentor students through various clubs and other co-curricular activities.

## **ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

### **ACCREDITATION**

Archbishop Alter High School is accredited by the Department of Education of the State of Ohio and the Ohio Catholic School Accrediting Association. It is approved and recognized as a senior high school whose students may apply for entrance into any college or university and are prepared to secure a position in the various fields of employment. It holds membership in the National Catholic Education Association.

### **ACADEMIC PROGRAM**

The mission of Archbishop Alter High School is to challenge students to reach their full potential by providing academic excellence and fostering personal growth in a Christ-centered, co-educational, Catholic environment. Alter High School offers a challenging academic program to students of all abilities. Course offerings are varied to meet the needs of the college-bound student and the non-collegebound student. The dignity and integrity of the institution and of each individual student are of paramount concern to the administration, faculty, staff, and the students themselves. An Archbishop Alter High School diploma should recognize not only the successful completion of an academically rigorous course of study, but also the formation of adults with high ideals of morality, honesty, and respect for themselves and their community.

### **GOALS FOR THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

The goals for the educational program at Archbishop Alter High School are to:

- Lead students to an awareness of Jesus Christ in their lives through religious instruction in Catholic beliefs and through programs of retreat, liturgy, and prayer.
- Challenge the unique, individual abilities of each student in such a manner as to enhance self-worth and to attain mature Christian leadership and academic excellence.
- Nurture a core of caring faculty and staff recognized for their competence and vision and for their ability to integrate the values of the Church within the practical order of education.
- Provide the opportunity for development of a Christian community.

- Develop an interdependence among all staff offices and activities of the school to enhance the quality of the educational program.
- Promote responsible and mature service to family as well as to the local and global community.
- Provide for the development of responsible decision making and social awareness of and responsiveness to current world issues.
- Provide for the opportunity of students to develop an understanding of the consequences of responsible use of the earth's resources.
- Develop skills in critical thinking and problem solving;
- Prepare students to evaluate, analyze, and synthesize material in a creative, logical manner.
- Impart a broad foundation of knowledge in the academic disciplines in preparation for further education and for life.
- Provide opportunities for student enrichment and creative expression.
- Provide information and direction that will help students make vocation career decisions.

## **STUDENT HONOR CODE**

As a Catholic institution, Alter High School is committed to upholding Christian values. These values are rooted in the Gospel because it is the Gospel of Christ that gives the school its inspiration. The dignity of the person, personal integrity, responsibility, and community are key concepts, which are in keeping with the Gospel message. We build our honor code on these four concepts. The dignity of the person is central to the teaching and actions of Jesus. We recognize that each person is entitled to respect while at the same time, each person must give respect to others. From this foundation of human dignity flow the values of integrity and responsibility. Integrity means honesty, keeping oneself on the path of truth. The person of integrity tells the truth at all times and takes credit for only what is honestly achieved. Integrity means taking responsibility for one's actions. Taking pride in one's accomplishments and achievements as well as admitting one's failings and shortcomings are marks of the responsible person. In school, responsibility means giving one's full attention and best effort to one's studies. The Gospel calls all to community, to being members of the Body of Christ. This Christian community should be a positive and affirming influence on its members. We are not isolated individuals, but we are all related to one another. What each person does affects the community. Keeping the honor code by respecting others, by being honest and by being responsible are ways of building up the community. This is the way of keeping the Gospel of Jesus Christ alive.

## **COURSE CURRICULUM**

Alter's comprehensive curriculum offers more than 120 courses across 13 departments at the college preparatory, as well as Honors Level. We offer eleven Advanced Placement Courses. Additionally, students are permitted to independently study for AP examinations in subject areas for which there is no course offered. Our Catholic faith is integrated into every class, promoting the school's mission to educate students in spirit, mind, and body. For incoming freshmen, placement in Honors courses is based upon student achievement on the High School Placement Test (HSPT), teacher recommendations, i-Ready, MAP, EOC or other additional Standardized Test scores, and academic grades earned in junior high.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

Advanced Placement courses offer students the opportunity to participate in college-level studies in grades ten through twelve. **If the AP class is offered at Alter, students must be enrolled in the class to take the test.** Upon completion of the AP course, students are required to take the nationally administered examination in May at the prevailing fee. **Failure to take the exam may result in but is not limited to removal of the AP weight or a drop in letter grade.** According to their performance on the examination, students may receive college credit. This makes it possible for the student who is successful on the exam(s) and in the course(s) to enter college at a level beyond that of a beginning freshman.

Each college has its own criteria for granting AP credits. Please check with the college admissions office for specific information.

Advanced Placement courses are offered in the following subjects (Please check course prerequisites):

AP American Government  
AP English Language  
AP Biology  
AP Precalculus  
AP Calculus AB  
AP Chemistry  
AP 2D Art & Design

AP 3D Art & Design  
AP United States History  
AP English Literature  
AP Psychology  
AP Calculus BC  
AP Physics I

## DESCRIPTION OF GRADING SYSTEM

A — outstanding, superior performance/achievement  
B — above average performance/achievement  
C — average performance/achievement  
D — below average performance/achievement, but passing  
F — failing

## COURSE WEIGHTING

| Grade | Numeric | Regular | Honors | AP    |
|-------|---------|---------|--------|-------|
| A+    | 98-100  | 4.333   | 4.833  | 5.333 |
| A     | 94-97   | 4.000   | 4.500  | 5.000 |
| A-    | 91-93   | 3.667   | 4.167  | 4.667 |
| B+    | 88-90   | 3.333   | 3.833  | 4.333 |
| B     | 84-87   | 3.000   | 3.500  | 4.000 |
| B-    | 81-83   | 2.667   | 3.167  | 3.667 |
| C+    | 78-80   | 2.333   | 2.833  | 3.333 |
| C     | 74-77   | 2.000   | 2.500  | 3.000 |
| C-    | 71-73   | 1.667   | 2.167  | 2.667 |
| D     | 66-70   | 1.000   | 1.500  | 2.000 |
| F     | 0-65    | 0.000   | 0.000  | 0.000 |

## **GRADE POINT AVERAGE AND HONOR ROLL**

Each letter grade on a student's quarter report card (excluding Yearbook) is converted to a number from 0 to 5 according to the grade and weight of the course. The sum of these numbers divided by the number of credits earned in the quarter is the student's grade point average for the quarter.

Honors with Distinction – Seniors may earn Honors with Distinction by earning all A's all four quarters for all four years.

First Honors – Awarded each quarter to students who earn all A's.

Second Honors- Awarded each quarter to students who earn all A's and no more than one B.

Honor Rolls are based on quarter grades. Poor attendance may affect honor roll status.

## **ACADEMIC AWARDS**

An academic school letter is awarded to those students who receive honor roll status for three consecutive quarters in the same academic year. The Academic and Senior Awards Assembly are held each year to give recognition to students for **academic honor roll**.

## **CLASS RANK**

Admission to Archbishop Alter High School is based primarily on admissions test scores, elementary school performance and standardized testing. Due to the homogeneous nature of our student population, Archbishop Alter High School does not rank.

## **REPORT CARDS/PERMANENT RECORDS (TRANSCRIPTS)**

A special evaluative report is made in each subject after each quarter. This report includes the student's progress and present status in the course. Status is indicated by letters (A, B, C, D, and F) and the final grade in the course appears on the student's permanent record (transcript) at the end of each semester. In order to receive the credit assigned to each course, the student must complete the course and have a passing final grade (D or higher).

## **CREDIT FLEXIBILITY**

Students may earn high school graduation credit by demonstrating subject area competency through the completion of traditional coursework, testing out or otherwise demonstrating mastery of course content and/or pursuing an approved educational option made possible by the model for credit flexibility adopted by the State Board of Education. However, students are required to earn a minimum of 5 traditional credits in classes offered here at Alter each year. For complete policy guidelines and the Flex Credit application, please see your counselor.

## **FAILURE OF COURSES**

If a student fails a course required for graduation, he/she will make up the course in an approved summer school program. Details and time requirements must be worked out with the guidance counselor and administration.

A failing grade in a course is counted in the GPA. Credit is awarded for successful completion of summer school courses or any other make-up courses, but summer school and other makeup work are not counted in the GPA.

Because English and Theology courses are sequential, students must pass these courses in order to be promoted to the next grade level and to graduate from Alter High School. If a student fails a required course, he or she must repeat the course in an approved summer school program, at the student's expense in the summer immediately following the failure.

If a senior fails a required course during the first semester, he/she may elect to make up the course through an approved correspondence or web-based program at an accredited educational institution or during summer school. If a senior fails a requirement for graduation, he/she may participate in the commencement ceremonies. The diploma will be issued upon completion of the make-up course. If a senior fails two or more courses required for graduation, he/she may not participate in any graduation exercises.

Any student who fails three or more courses in a school year may be asked to withdraw from Archbishop Alter High School regardless of credits made up in summer school.

## **GRADE CHANGES**

Students who think an error may have been made in their quarter/semester grades are to contact the subject teacher within one week of the distribution of report cards in order to request that a grade to be changed.

## **SCHEDULE CHANGES**

Since student scheduling requests are used to plan the master schedule and hire teachers for the following year, once scheduling is completed, changes are not ordinarily permitted. As a rule, schedule changes are made only:

- If the student has been academically misplaced by the teacher and/or has not met the requirements of the course **after evaluation by the teacher/Assistant Principal**
- If there is an irresolvable scheduling conflict.

Students must confer with teachers, parents, and their Guidance Counselor prior to requesting a change in schedule. The fee for dropping a class is \$100 assessed through the students FACTS account. The Guidance Counselor will not process the schedule change without parent permission in writing.

- **First Semester and yearlong schedule changes must be requested by August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026 at 3:00 pm.**
  - **Year-long courses may not be changed for the second semester**
- **Second semester schedule changes must be requested by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 at 3:00 pm.**

## **SEMESTER EXAMS**

Comprehensive examinations are required at the end of each semester. Examinations are to measure objectives as stated in the Graded Course of Study for each subject. The grade for the semester examination will constitute 20% of the semester average.

A special exam schedule is established to provide 90 minutes for each exam. Teachers are to administer exams during specially scheduled times unless there is a true emergency.

Seniors only may be exempt from the semester exam. They may be exempt if they have at least an A for each quarter in the semester and have fewer than 7 absences. **Seniors may not be exempt from year-long class exams first semester.**

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

**Course Completion** – Each student is required to successfully complete the yearly Theology program and mandatory retreat program, state required courses, competency demonstration, readiness demonstration, and have a total of 24 credits in order to receive a diploma from Alter High School.

Each student is **required** to successfully complete a minimum of 24 units of credit. These credits must include the following:

English 4 credits (World Literature, American Literature, British Literature)

Mathematics 4 credits (Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2)

Social Studies 3 credits (World Studies, U.S. Government, U.S. History)

Science 3 credits (Biology, Physical Science/Chemistry)

Theology 1 credit for each year enrolled at Alter (including faith based service, retreats, and Magnified Giving)

Fine Arts 1 credit

Technology Skills and Ethics 1 credit

Physical Education .5 credit \*

Health .5 credit

Speech .5 credit

Financial Literacy .5 credit

\* Students who participate in interscholastic athletics, band or cheerleading for two full seasons may use their participation experience as their physical education requirement. Students must take another course of at least 60 contact hours in its' place. Students wishing to exercise this option must see their counselor in advance for full details. Students who wish to complete their physical education requirement through Alter may take any two semester physical education courses of their choice.

**Competency Demonstration:** Students must earn a competent score on the IOWA Test of at least 255 in Algebra and 249 in English II. Students who do not meet competency on these tests will be offered additional support and must retake the test. If unable to demonstrate competency on the test, the following options could replace this requirement: earn a "remediation free" score on the ACT/SAT in the area needed, earn college credit for a course in the needed area of Mathematics/English, or enlist in the military.

**Readiness Demonstration:** Students are required to earn at least two State of Ohio Graduation Seals with one being defined as a state seal.

1. Citizenship Seal (State) – earn a score of proficient or higher on the IOWA for US History (246) and Government (271) or a "B" or higher in US History and Government courses.
2. College-Ready Seal (State) – earn a remediation free score on ACT (English 18/Reading 22/Math 22) or SAT (EBRW 480/Math 530)

3. Community Service Seal (Local) – complete Alter’s Magnified Giving requirements.
4. Honors Diploma Seal (State) – see Ohio’s Academic Honors Diploma requirements below.
5. Military Enlistment Seal (State)
6. Science Seal (State) – earn a score of proficient or higher on the IOWA for Biology (263) or a “B” or higher in an Advanced Science course.
7. Seal of Biliteracy (State) – meet the requirements and criteria, including proficiency requirements on assessments in a World Language and English II.
8. Student Engagement Seal (Local) – participate in four activities (athletics, theatre, or clubs) over your four years in high school with meaningful participation. Completion of required form located in guidance.
9. Technology Seal (State) – complete the Technology Skills and Ethics course.
10. Fine and Performing Arts Seal (Local) – demonstrate skill requirements in fine or performing arts as defined by Alter High School. Completion of required form located in guidance.

## **ADDITIONAL GRADUATION ACHIEVEMENTS**

Students who wish to challenge themselves and go above and beyond the compulsory graduation requirements may earn the following recognitions:

### **DIPLOMA WITH HONORS**

To earn an Ohio Diploma with Honors, a student must meet the required graduation course requirements and complete seven of the eight requirements outlined below:

1. Fourth unit of Mathematics must be above Algebra II
2. Earn one additional unit of Advanced Science
3. Earn one additional unit of Social Studies
4. Earn three sequential units of one World Language or no less than two sequential units of two World Languages
5. Maintain an overall unweighted grade point average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale
6. Obtain at least a composite superscore of 27 on the ACT or at least a combined super score of 1280 on the SAT
7. Earn two additional diploma seals (four in total), not including Honors Diploma Seal
8. Achieve the Experiential Learning option by earning the OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal

### **CONSERVATORY OF THE ARTS CERTIFICATE**

The Alter High School Conservatory for the Arts and the Conservatory Certificate is dedicated to the finest teaching of performance, pedagogy, and academic core standards in music, dance, theatre, and the visual arts.

#### **Program Requirements**

- Enrollment meeting with moderator.
- Take 3.5 credits of Fine Arts (Music, Art, Theatre, Dance) classes for the culminating (all 4 years combined) Conservatory Certificate (If this is an issue please come talk to moderator)
- Involvement in at least one of Alter’s Fine Art Organizations/ensembles/productions and submit a short paragraph reflection on your experience.

**Freshman Year:** Attend one production of an Alter Fine Arts Production (Castle Players/Theatre, Art Show, Marching Band, Improv show). This must be a production that the student is not involved in. Write a performance critique over this production.

**Sophomore Year:** Attend one production outside of Alter High School (Muse Machine, High School Show, Touring Company, Dance Concert, Band Competition, etc.) and submit a performance critique on this production OR attend a museum or art event and write a critique (compare) on two pieces.

**Junior Year:** Apprentice/Shadow Project in your field of Visual or Performing Art. Conduct a professional interview including assessment of current work, list of goals and professional goals.

**Senior Year:** Video Presentation of Production in “Ted Talk” style. “Ted Talk” must discuss your progress, goals, and journey to get to where you are currently in your artistry. Write a reflection paper on the process of completing your “Ted Talk.”

## **ALTER SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

The Alter Scholars Program seeks academically outstanding students committed to learning in all its dimensions. The Scholars program is designed to help students develop their academic, ethical, and cultural understanding of what it means to be a true scholar. Acceptance into the program is based on teacher recommendations and submitted essays. Any eligible freshman may apply by filling out an application after the first semester of freshman year. Applications will be reviewed and selected students will be notified during the second semester.

### **Program Requirements**

- Maintain a minimum of 3.6 GPA for students in the graduating classes of 2027
- Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.7 for students in the graduating class of 2028 and beyond
- Accumulate fewer than 37 hours/semester of absences
- Remain a student in good standing accumulating fewer than six demerits per school year and no demerits for integrity issues.

### **Academic Requirements**

Each year students focus on the areas of faith, service, cultural and community events. Students are required to complete a variety of activities and reflect on what they have gained from participating in them.

**Freshman year:** Focus is on activities to explore what Alter has to offer and to discover the student’s own learning styles.

**Sophomore year:** Emphasis is on completing a variety of activities to begin career and college exploration.

**Junior year:** Students will have opportunities to job shadow and make connections between their academic world and outside world.

**Senior year:** Alter Scholars will concentrate on a particular field of study and work on their final Scholar’s Capstone Project presented to a panel of faculty during their second semester.

## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

**Purpose** The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to recognize those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. The purpose of The Archbishop Alter High School Chapter of the National Honor society is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character.

The purpose of The Archbishop Alter High School Chapter of the National Honor society is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character. Selection of Membership Criteria: National Guidelines are followed. Applicants are rated in the qualities of (1) scholarship, (2) leadership, (3) service, (4) extracurricular activities, and (5) character. All have equal weight. See Archbishop Alter NHS rating rubrics for specific criteria within each section. Applicants must achieve a minimum of 15 points to gain admission.

### Program Requirements:

- Students must have 3.75 cumulative grade point average (GPA) beginning with the class of 2030 through the most recent grading period
- Students must have 3.7 cumulative grade point average (GPA) beginning with the class of 2028 and 2029 through the most recent grading period.
- Students in the class of 2027 must have a 3.6 GPA through the most recent grading period.
- Students must participate actively in school activities and/or community activities.

**Selection Process:** Students must submit a completed application, which is then reviewed by a selection committee comprised of a number of faculty members.

At the beginning of each school year, mandatory informational meetings are held for all students who are eligible for NHS. At this meeting, the application packet is distributed and deadline for returning the completed packet is given. No packets will be accepted after the deadline. A faculty board then reviews the information and makes the final selection. New members are inducted at a ceremony.

To retain membership, the student must be an active participant in NHS, maintain the minimum cumulative GPA for their class, complete the service hour requirements, and maintain good character. Any violation of these principles may cause dismissal from NHS.

## COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

Many Ohio colleges and universities require the following units of high school study:

4 units of English

3-4 units of Mathematics (Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2)

2 or 3 units of World Language

3 units of Laboratory Sciences

3 units of Social Studies

1 unit of visual or performing arts (Fine Arts)

Alter High School recommends that students take as many units of academic course work as possible during the high school career to avoid a deficiency for college entrance. However, since our students attend such a variety of colleges and universities, it is the responsibility of students and parents to contact the college of choice to determine specific entrance requirements for that institution.

### NCAA ELIGIBLE CLASSES

If you wish to participate in NCAA Division I or II athletics, you need to be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center. A student becomes certified by acquiring credits (16 for Division I and II) in the core subject areas. Only certain courses count towards that certification. These courses are marked with the following icon:  Please see your counselor for complete details.

## EDUCATIONAL INTERVENTION SERVICES

### **Grade 9, 10, 11, 12 • 1 Semester**

**Prerequisite:** Eligibility for educational intervention services is Current IEP or Service Plan for Learning Disabilities and Other Health Impairments. Other students may be considered through an approved process including the counselors and the Educational Intervention Staff.

Alter High School's Educational Intervention Services provide assistance to eligible students in a small group setting where students work with highly qualified staff members for one period daily or on a consultation basis. Educational Intervention Service teachers reinforce content area academics, organizational and study skills. Individualized goals are monitored and collaboration between Educational Intervention Service staff, classroom teachers, and parent are established. The Educational Intervention Services goals are to teach students strategies they need to compensate for learning problems and to encourage students to use those strategies to become independent, successful learners while in high school and beyond.

Alter High School is committed to including individuals with disabilities as full participants in its programs, services, and activities through compliance with the American Disabilities Act of 1990 and the applicable provisions of IDEIA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004). The Kettering public School Psychologist works in conjunction with the Learning Center staff in regard to Multi Factored evaluations as mandated by the state of Ohio.

## **CURRICULUM OFFERINGS**

### **BUSINESS**

The business department seeks to meet the needs of our students by providing them with the foundational skills to be successful. Technology Skills and Ethics is taught to all freshmen with an emphasis on learning management systems and internet skills. Financial Literacy students gain insight into financial issues that are relevant to adult life. Business classes offer students the opportunity to explore business-related careers including Accounting, Marketing, and Business Law. With a focus on experiential learning throughout the curriculum, these project-based courses give students hands-on practice.

#### **TECHNOLOGY SKILLS AND ETHICS**

**Grade 9 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course will review proper keyboarding skills and the use of Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint as it applies to requirements of Alter High School and everyday life. Fundamental concepts of computer hardware and software will be discussed as well as introducing students to Alter's Learning Management System, Student Information Portal, and Alter's email. Coursework will include the skills and understandings that are necessary for students to be responsible and ethical digital citizens.

#### **FINANCIAL LITERACY**

**Grade 11, 12 • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Technology Skills and Ethics

**Description:** This course provides students with the opportunity to learn how to manage some of the financial obligations of living as an adult. Students will be exposed to financial topics that are of interest to young adults: salary and benefits, taxes, budgeting, bank accounts, benefits and responsibilities of credit cards and loans, renting a residence, and procuring insurance.

#### **ACCOUNTING 1**

**Grade 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Previous math grades must be a minimum of a C+.

**Description:** This course teaches accounting principles and terminology.

The student learns how the accounting cycle works for service businesses organized as proprietorships and for merchandising businesses organized as corporations. Students complete Internet research activities related to the science of accounting. In addition, students will use Microsoft Excel to complete classroom assignments. Accounting 1 and 2 are recommended for students planning any business major in college.

## ACCOUNTING 2

**Grade 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Minimum of C+ in Accounting 1

**Description:** This course teaches accounting for a merchandising business organized as a corporation—adjustments and valuation, accounting for partnerships, and the recording of international and Internet sales. Students will complete Internet research activities related to the science of accounting. They will use Microsoft Excel to complete many of their classroom assignments. Accounting 1 and 2 are recommended for students planning any business major in college. **Course may be offered on a rotating basis due to enrollment.**

## BUSINESS LAW

**Grade 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course is designed to prepare students to recognize and understand how the law works in their communities and throughout the country. Specific topics include constitutional laws and freedoms, civil and criminal law, contracts, credit, and insurance. Guest speakers, projects and activities will complement this course.

## MULTIMEDIA

**Grade 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** In this project driven course, students use the latest software programs as well as digital/video cameras, scanners, microphones, and photo and sound-editing software to make multimedia presentations. This course will prepare students to add these components to personal or classroom presentations as well as the digital footprint of Alter High School. Students will use discovery and critical thinking to create the projects. This is not a lecture-based course.

## INTRODUCTION TO MARKETING

**Grade 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course includes all the activities required in a business or organization to get goods and/or services from where they are produced to where they are consumed. The study of marketing enables students to identify and learn concepts that will be helpful to them in future years as consumers. Students will be completing projects and activities to learn about marketing.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**Grade 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course is designed for students interested in a business career including those who aspire to owning their own business. The course focuses on what it takes to own and run a business. Creating a business plan is covered, and students will develop a business plan project for launching their own business ideas.

# CONSUMER SCIENCES, PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

The consumer sciences department provides students with opportunities to explore culinary skills, including planning and executing menus and participating in service projects, such as cookie baking for the Kairos prison ministry and Lasagna Love. Students in our physical education department take part in challenging and satisfying experiences in meaningful movement, self-expression, physical well-being and knowledge and techniques of sport activities. Health classes prepare and empower students to value and engage in life-long healthy lifestyles which will allow them to reach their fullest potential and assure that they become productive, responsible citizens.

## — FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES —

### CHEF 1

**Grade 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** Chef 1 is designed for students with little or no knowledge of food preparation. Through lecture and extensive lab work, Chef 1 covers: reading a recipe; basics of food preparation spanning all three meals and snacks; cooking terms and techniques; identification, use, care, and selection of kitchen equipment/utensils; and nutrition. The Chef program focuses on expanding a student's appreciation for all foods; therefore, students are expected to eat the food prepared in class. Preparation of a simple family meal is required with a video project submitted for documentation. Completion of Family Meal Project is required to take Chef 2.

### CHEF 2

**Grade 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Chef 1

**Description:** Chef 2 continues the skills learned in Chef 1 with a heavy focus on meal planning, organization, preparation, and service. Working in a team environment, students use recipes focused on a variety of advanced preparation techniques. There is a strong emphasis in Chef 2 on expanding a student's appreciation of all foods as well as learning how seasonings affect flavor. Therefore, students are expected to eat the food prepared in class.

## — PHYSICAL EDUCATION —

### WORK IT OUT 1

**Grade 9, 10, 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ¼ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None – **The purpose of this course is for students who have not met the physical education credit through extracurricular activities.**

**Description:** This physical education course will focus on the fundamentals of physical activity and exercise. Student will learn techniques of exercise including calisthenics, strength training, cardiorespiratory exercise, and flexibility. In addition, students will learn the history, skills, and rules of sports. The goal of this class is to give students a foundational knowledge of physical activity and exercise that they may use to maintain lifelong fitness. This class meets daily.

## WORK IT OUT 2

**Grade 9, 10, 11, 12 · Elective · 1 Semester · ¼ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Work It Out 1 or instructor signature - **The purpose of this course is for students who have not met the physical education credit through extracurricular activities.**

**Description:** This course will review the fundamentals of physical activity and exercise from Work It Out 1 while expanding on more advanced exercise concepts. Students will explore principles such as progression, overload, specificity, reversibility, and FITT. In addition, we will discuss principles of leadership and coaching. The course will be centered on three major projects: 1.) A workout journal that allows students to track the progress of their training throughout the course; 2.) The development of an offseason workout program for a sport of each student's choosing; and 3.) A student-led group training session of their own design. This class meets daily.

## HEALTH

**Grade 9, 10 · 1 Semester · ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course develops attitudes and skills conducive to positive spiritual, mental, social, and physical health. Students explore mental and social issues including symptoms and sources of help as well as the physical health topics of drug education, nutrition, fitness, reproductive health, disease, and CPR. Students become equipped to access, analyze, and apply health information in their daily lives.

# ENGLISH

The purpose of the English program is to prepare students to further their personal and formal education. The curriculum at Alter begins with critical reading and discussion and leads to critical analysis and writing. A direct encounter with various genres of literature develops reading and thinking abilities, along with an aesthetic appreciation of literature for the present and the future. The understanding of the structural principles of literature, drama, and poetry is considered crucial to the development of organized skills in composition. A directed emphasis on the writing of individual students serves as a means for learning and further enhances critical and analytical thinking across the curriculum. Discussion and student presentations improve listening skills and the ability to communicate ideas and information.

## LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION (101)

**Grade 9 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** High School Placement Test and teacher recommendation

**Description:** This course offers students the opportunity to develop and polish their written expression by focusing on traditional grammar and composition skills aimed at strengthening students' writing proficiency. Principles of unity and coherence as well as sentence and grammatical structure will be practiced. Students will practice writing descriptive, narrative, and expository essays. Projects will also strengthen pre-writing and paragraphing. Research skills will be introduced, parts of speech, sentence structure, and punctuation will be emphasized as students work to improve their usage of standard English. Students will develop their reading comprehension by analyzing various forms of literature, such as non-fiction, the short story, novel, drama, and poetry.

## LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION (102)

**Grade 9 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** High School Placement Test and teacher recommendation

**Description:** This course is designed to give students a solid background on the fundamentals of English study that will carry over into future courses. A major part of the year will be devoted to critically analyzing various genres of literature, such as non-fiction, the short story, novel, drama, and poetry. The course creates a foundation of terms that are applied to analyze texts for a deeper meaning. Students in this course will concentrate on improving their ability to develop various forms of exposition. This includes paragraph organization with major and minor support sentences that develop in depth the controlling idea of a clear topic sentence. Research techniques will be incorporated, and students will write an annotated bibliography. Rigorous study of the English language through vocabulary, grammar and syntax will accompany reading and writing assignments for this course.

## HONORS LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

**Grade 9 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** High School Placement Test and teacher recommendation

**Description:** This course is intended for students whose reading skills are very well developed and whose writing skills are developed for essay composition. Students will be expected to analyze challenging works of literature and to express that analysis in written as well as oral composition. The writing in this class will focus on developing compositions of various lengths. The content of the class will require students to analyze concepts and synthesize divergent ideas. Students should expect lengthy reading assignments as well as intense vocabulary and language study. This course will include

techniques of research; students will write an annotated bibliography using MLA format. Critical analysis of various forms of literature, such as the short story, novel, drama, and poetry will be stressed. **All students must read 1-2 books, depending on length of book, and write one paper over the summer. The students will receive the appropriate instructions at the end of the school year.**

## **WORLD LITERATURE (202)** **NCAA**

**Grade 10 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** English 101, English 102, Honors English 103

**Description:** This course emphasizes the development of composition skills including outlining, pre-writing, composing, and revising. Students will write multi-paragraph essays and will learn vocabulary development, grammar, and language skills in conjunction with course material. The teacher will also reinforce library research skills and documentation of sources, using MLA format. Students will write a research paper. The course is an overview of ancient literature including Egyptian, Indian, Greek, Chinese, Japanese, and African literature along with European and Russian literature from the 19th Century until today.

## **HONORS WORLD LITERATURE** **NCAA**

**Grade 10 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** A in English 102, Honors English 103, or recommendation of the department chair

**Description:** Students will learn vocabulary and word usage skills in conjunction with course material. Through the study of literary classics of Western Civilization, Greek, and Roman mythology, the teacher will emphasize the development of students' analytical skills and introduce them to the major literary movements. Students should expect lengthy reading assignments as they employ literary analysis and critical thinking skills. The teacher will also reinforce library research skills that will include paraphrasing, summary, and documentation. The development of composition skills will be stressed, and students will write a research paper. **All students must read 1-2 books, depending on length of book, and write 1 paper over the summer. The students will receive the appropriate instructions at the end of the school year.**

## **AMERICAN LITERATURE (302)** **NCAA**

**Grade 11 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** English 202 or Honors English 203

**Description:** This course includes a chronological study of American Literature from colonial times to the present. Material will be covered through short stories, poetry, drama, and novels. Students will write essays, including a research paper, and will continue vocabulary development, grammar, and language skills in conjunction with course material.

## **HONORS AMERICAN LITERATURE** **NCAA**

**Grade 11 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** A in English 202, Honors English 203, or recommendation of department chair

**Description:** Students in this course undertake an intensive study of a chronological/thematic survey of American Literature from colonial times to the contemporary era through a variety of genres including short stories, novels, poetry, and drama. Students should expect lengthy reading assignments employing literary analysis, writing essays and a research paper using MLA format. **All students must read 1-2**

books, depending on length of book, and write 1 paper over the summer. The students will receive the appropriate instructions at the end of the school year.

## **ENGLISH 11 ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE** **NCAA**

**Grade 11 • Elective • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Honors English 203 or recommendation of department chair

**Description:** Enrollment is based on the recommendation of English 10 teacher. The English Department Chair will make the final selection. **All students will read several books from a list of recommended reading and write several papers during the summer. All pertinent information in this regard will be handed out at the end of the school year.** The AP English Language and Composition course is built around a Non-Fiction base and is designed to help students become skilled readers of prose in a variety of rhetorical contexts and to become skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Students will learn to read primary and secondary sources carefully and to synthesize materials from these texts for their own compositions. Students will research, write, and present a research paper, using MLA format. Students will take the AP exam in May at the prevailing fee.

## **SPEECH 1** **NCAA**

**Grades 11, 12 • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course provides a study of the fundamentals of public speaking in contexts ranging from small group communication to formal presentation and debate. A primary goal in this course is to provide ample opportunity for students to develop confidence in their ability to articulate ideas in any public situation.

## **BRITISH LITERATURE (402)** **NCAA**

**Grade 12 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** English 302, Honors English 303, AP Language and Composition

**Description:** This course stresses the study of British Literature within the historical context that produced it. The first semester will cover up through the English Renaissance and the second semester from the seventeenth century to the modern period. In addition, the course emphasizes the development of composition, grammar, and vocabulary skills. The students will write a research paper using MLA format.

## **HONORS BRITISH LITERATURE** **NCAA**

**Grade 12 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** A in English 302, Honors English 303, AP Language and Composition or recommendation of department chair

**Description:** This course is highly intensive, stressing the study of British literature within the historical context that produced it. The course emphasizes reading and writing critical analyses of selected works of major British writers. Students will write a research paper, using MLA format. **All students must read 1-2 books, depending on length of book, and write 1 paper over the summer. The students will receive the appropriate instructions at the end of the school year.**

## ENGLISH 12 ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

**NCAA**

**Grade 12 • Elective • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Honors English 303 or AP Language and Composition or recommendation of department chair

**Description:** AP English Literature and Composition is a course in which students will learn how to understand and evaluate works of fiction, poetry and drama from various periods and cultures. Students will improve their analysis skills through reading, writing, and oral presentations over a variety of works of literature. This AP course is designed for students who are capable of doing college-level work in English. Enrollment is based on the recommendation of the Honors English 303/AP Language teacher. The department chair will make the final selection. The students will take the AP exam in May at the prevailing fee. **All students must read several books and write an essay during the summer. The students will receive the appropriate instructions at the end of the school year.**

## COLLEGE BOUND WRITING **NCAA**

**Grade 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** Students will focus on improving their writing skills. Building vocabulary in addition to grammar training will help enrich students' writing. A variety of different writing forms will be presented with an emphasis on fluent, college-worthy writing. Potential forms of writing: journalism, essay, research, lab report, and multimedia presentations. Students will also be trained in how to become better editors for their peers and for their own work. Students should expect daily writing assignments.

**Course may be offered on a rotating basis due to enrollment.**

## CREATIVE WRITING **NCAA**

**Grade 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course will focus on creative writing through the process of brainstorming, drafting, editing, and perfecting writing pieces. Students will create a portfolio of written work. Students will be encouraged to enter writing competitions and use this portfolio for college admissions. In addition, basic grammar, structure, technique, and style will be mastered. Students should expect daily writing assignments. **Course may be offered on a rotating basis due to enrollment.**

## EXCALIBUR YEARBOOK

**Grades 10, 11, 12 • Elective • 2 Semesters • ½ Credit**

**Limit:** 20 students

**Grade:** Pass/Fail

**Prerequisite:** Application Process

**Description:** This class will design, compile, and publish the Alter High School yearbook, Excalibur. The students will utilize design, planning, and journalistic skills in creating the annual. Students are required to sell a minimum of six ads to local businesses.

## FINE ARTS

The Alter High School Fine Arts Department and Conservatory for the Arts has the most comprehensive, intensive, and award-winning Art, Dance, Music, and Theater curricular and co-curricular programs among private schools in Southwest Ohio. Offerings include comprehensive music classes, instrumental ensembles, theatre classes, productions, dance classes for a variety of skill levels, and a full complement of visual art disciplines from drawing, painting, photography, ceramics, and design.

### — VISUAL ART —

The art department offers a wide range of courses for students at all levels of interest in art, from recreational to career-oriented. It is suggested that students who plan to major in an art-related field arrange their schedule to include Art I in the freshman year to provide opportunities for advanced study.

#### ART HISTORY

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 · Elective · 1 Semester (Spring) · ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course moves through art history from prehistory to contemporary art, examining art as a language that predates written words and is fundamental to humanity. Students will experience various art styles, movements, and media through hands-on experiments and written/reading assignments. **Course may be offered on a rotating basis due to enrollment.**

#### ART FOUNDATIONS 1

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 · Elective · 1 Semester · ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** In this course, students will form a better understanding and appreciation of art through studying the elements and principles of design. While gaining experience with a variety of 2-D media, students will increase their powers of observation and logical problem solving. Much emphasis is placed on exposure to, and experimentation with, a wide variety of drawing materials.

#### ART FOUNDATIONS 2

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 · Elective · 1 Semester · ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Art Foundations 1

**Description:** In this course, students build upon the 2-D media experience and observational skills gained in Foundations 1, to form a deeper understanding of art appreciation and application of skills. Students will begin to translate their 2-D skills into 3-D media.

#### ART FOUNDATIONS 3

**Grades 10, 11, 12 · Elective · 1 Semester · ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Art Foundations 2

**Description:** This course is designed to begin building upon a student's artistic voice. There will be an application of skills and techniques gained in Art I & II, and the student will begin to choose a media emphasis such as painting, drawing, or 3D to encouraging a deeper understanding of that media. This course begins to emphasize the intrinsic motivations behind a student's art making.

## **ART FOUNDATIONS 4**

**Grades 10, 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Art Foundations 3

**Description:** This course is an extension of Art III for those who have a continued interest in art. Independent explorations of themes and concepts of interest will be demonstrated.

## **CERAMICS 1**

**Grades 10, 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** Ceramics or pottery is a popular and practical area of interest in art. Students experiment in the various clay hand-building techniques of pinch, coil, and slab as well as throwing on the potter's wheel. Glaze application techniques are also covered.

## **CERAMICS 2**

**Grades 10, 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Ceramics 1

**Description:** The emphasis in this course is on developing further skill in working with clay, particularly on the potter's wheel. Unique surface decoration and glaze experimentation is encouraged.

## **CERAMICS 3**

**Grades 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Ceramics 2

**Description:** The emphasis in this course is on developing advanced skills working with clay. Students will be given the opportunity to cultivate their own body of work and will be encouraged to experiment with surface decoration and glazing.

## **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND ART**

**Grades 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Art Foundations 1

**Description:** In this course, students will learn the basic settings of DSLR cameras. Projects will also cover composition, lighting, fun techniques, and CS6 PhotoShop. Students will be able to use school cameras or their personal cameras. (Personal cameras must be DSLR — not a point and shoot or a cell phone.)

## **AP 2D ART & DESIGN**

**Grades 11, 12 • Elective • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Art Foundations 3 or Art Foundations 4

**Description:** Building upon the foundation laid in ART 3 and 4, AP 2D Art and Design is designed for students in Grade 11 and 12 who possess a sustained passion for artistic expression. This course serves as an extension of ART 3 and 4, fostering independent explorations of themes and concepts that pique individual interest. Students will delve deeper into the world of two-dimensional art, honing their skills and expanding their creative horizons through their personal experience in 2D mediums. Through a combination of hands-on projects and critical discussions, participants will refine their artistic voice, engage with diverse artistic techniques, and develop a comprehensive portfolio that showcases their unique perspectives. This dynamic course encourages students to push the boundaries of traditional

artistic norms and embrace innovation in the pursuit of meaningful self-expression. AP 2D Art and Design challenges students to elevate their artistic prowess and prepares them for advanced studies in the realm of visual arts. Students are required to submit a portfolio of artwork for evaluation through the AP Digital Portfolio in May at the prevailing fee.

## **AP 3D ART & DESIGN**

**Grades 11, 12 • Elective • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Ceramics 3 and Product Design or Architecture Design

**Description:** This course offers students the opportunity to develop their skills in creating three-dimensional works of art. Through sustained investigation students will explore a range of materials, processes, and ideas, engaging in practice, experimentation, and revision. Students will demonstrate their understanding of 3D art and design concepts through mediums of their choice including sculpture, architecture, and apparel design. The course emphasizes the development of a personal artistic voice while encouraging innovation and craftsmanship while earning a college course equivalent credit. Students are required to submit a portfolio of artwork for evaluation through the AP Digital Portfolio in May at the prevailing fee.

## **2D/3D PORTFOLIO A**

**Grade 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** 4 semesters of any art classes, Art Foundations 3 is encouraged

**Description:** In this course, students will focus on widening their skills through critical thinking and application of media and assignments. Designed to strengthen a portfolio for the use of applying to colleges and/or future art careers. **Course may be offered on a rotating basis due to enrollment.**

## **2D/3D PORTFOLIO B**

**Grade 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Portfolio A

**Description:** Designed in conjunction with Portfolio A, students will choose a concentration concept to study in depth throughout the semester. **Course may be offered on a rotating basis due to enrollment.**

## **PRODUCT DESIGN (GRAPHIC/FASHION)**

**Grades 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester (Fall) • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** 3 visual art classes

**Description:** This course will introduce basic design concepts and apply them to branding products and creating a fashion line. Students will experience the psychology of advertising, various design principles, and incorporate their knowledge into their own collaborative product. Graphic and Fashion design focused. **Course may be offered on a rotating basis due to enrollment.**

## **ARCHITECTURE DESIGN (INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR)**

**Grades 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester (Spring) • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** 3 visual art classes

**Description:** This course will explore the history of architecture, exteriors and interiors, and the design principles involved in all. Students will experience designing their own buildings, rendering, and creating mockups of their own designs.

## FILM PRODUCTION

**Grades:** 10,11,12 • **Elective** • 1 Semester • ½ Credit

**Prerequisite:** Art Foundations 1 and Theatre 101

**Description:** In this comprehensive, hands-on course, students will explore both the performance and artistic elements of filmmaking. Combining the creative focuses of *Acting in Film* and *Art in Film*, this class provides an immersive experience in front of and behind the camera. Students will study screen acting techniques, composition, color grading, editing, and visual storytelling to understand how performance and design work together to shape a film's narrative and emotional impact. Through collaboration, students will write, produce, and edit a series of original short films that showcase their combined skills in acting, directing, cinematography, and production design. The course culminates in a film showcase celebrating student creativity and collaboration in the art of filmmaking. Please note that this is not a performance-based class for all students. A duplicate description of this course may also be found under the Theatre section.

## — DANCE —

### JAZZ DANCE 1

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12** • **Elective** • 1 Semester • ½ Credit

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** Jazz Dance offers a broad range of dance styles. During this class you will learn classical jazz, contemporary and lyrical jazz, along with some modern and hip-hop movement. No previous dance training is necessary.

### JAZZ DANCE 2

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12** • **Elective** • 1 Semester • ½ Credit

**Prerequisite:** Jazz Dance 1 or teacher's signature

**Description:** Students may continue jazz dance training by taking this course. In this class, students will continue to explore the different types of jazz dance at a higher and more intricate level.

### JAZZ DANCE 3

**Grades 10, 11, 12** • **Elective** • 1 Semester • ½ Credit

**Prerequisite:** Jazz 2, or teacher's signature

**Description:** In this course we will explore different jazz styles. Students will build from what they learned in Jazz 1 and 2 and will continue developing more advanced steps and techniques.

### BALLET DANCE 1

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12** • **Elective** • 1 Semester • ½ Credit

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** Learn the basics of ballet. Ballet is the center of all dance. During this class, students will learn basic ballet movement, style, and language, along with some dance history. No previous dance training is necessary.

## **BALLET DANCE 2**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Ballet Dance 1 or instructor approval.

**Description:** Continue learning more intricate ballet steps and dance away from the basic movements. In this class, you will learn the intermediate to advanced ballet moves and learn some classical ballet variations, as well.

## **TAP DANCE**

**Grades 10, 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** Learn the basic skills of tap dance. Students will learn many different styles of tap, including improvisational, vaudeville, theatre, and classical. No previous dance training is necessary.

## **CONTEMPORARY & LYRICAL DANCE**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Ballet Dance 1 or Jazz Dance 1 or approval of instructor

**Description:** This is a performance-based dance class incorporating a variety of techniques and movements drawn from ballet, modern, and jazz. Students will learn movement and incorporate these steps and techniques into dance.

## **— MUSIC —**

### **BAND: BRASS, WOODWIND AND PERCUSSION**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • Elective • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** All instrumental band members must be enrolled

**Description:** Band class meets during the school day in sections of Brass, Woodwind, and Percussion. This course involves participation in the Alter Concert Band in both the fall and spring semesters on Mondays after school. Students are involved in a comprehensive music learning environment in the study of their individual instrument as it relates to the current music curriculum. Students are exposed to the latest technology as it relates to music education. Students will grow technically and expressively by performing band literature by the world's finest composers and gain essential elements of theory and historical context. Students are responsible for all the activities performed by the ensemble, including rehearsals, festivals, and concerts both on and off campus. Co-curricular rehearsals for the Concert Band on select days after school. There are fees associated with the Concert Band.

### **MARCHING BAND**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester (Fall) • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Enrollment in Band Class. Marching Band members are members of the Alter Marching Knights and the Alter Concert Band.

**Description:** This course involves after-school participation in the first semester for all marching band and visual ensemble members. The goal of the Marching Knights is to learn values and standards of performance, both musical and non-musical, including music literature, music theory, music history, and

modern body movement. Students will grow technically and expressively as an ensemble. Students are responsible for all activities performed by the Marching Knights, which include: all summer rehearsals, band camps, parades, competitions, festivals, football games, and after-school rehearsals and sectionals. This course meets the fall semester Mondays 3:40-5:40 pm (sectionals) and Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 3:40-5:40 pm plus football games (full ensemble.) There are fees associated with the Marching Band.

### **VISUAL ENSEMBLE 1- COLOR GUARD**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 · Elective · 1 Semester (Fall) · ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** The Visual Ensemble is comprised of students grades 9-12 interested in learning and developing advanced performance techniques in dance, movement, and equipment. Students will progress in techniques of spinning flag, rifle, and saber, as well as techniques in all forms of dance choreography from ballet to contemporary. During the first semester, the Visual Ensemble serves as the color guard of the Marching Knights. Students must also be enrolled in Band PM (after school marching band rehearsal.)

### **VISUAL ENSEMBLE 2- WINTER GUARD**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 · Elective · 1 Semester (Spring) · ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Tryout

**Description:** The Visual Ensemble is comprised of students grades 9-12 interested in learning and developing advanced performance techniques in dance, movement, and equipment. Students will progress in techniques of spinning flag, rifle, and saber, as well as techniques in all forms of dance choreography from ballet to contemporary. During the second semester, the Visual Ensemble serves as the competition winter guard. There are also fees associated with the winter guard.

### **MUSIC TECHNOLOGY 1**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 · Elective · 1 Semester · ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course is designed to study the use of technology in music education. MIDI technology, music software, podcasting, composing, recording, editing, and using a variety of hardware and software, synthesizers and integrating all of it to produce audio projects. A desire to be creative are essential. No previous skills are necessary.

### **MUSIC TECHNOLOGY 2**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 · Elective · 1 Semester · ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Music Technology 1

**Description:** This course is a continuation of skills learned in Music Technology and will focus on music creation and composition through digital mediums, including editing/creating software, with the goal of a digital music portfolio/album.

## **MUSIC TECHNOLOGY 3**

**Grades 10, 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Completion of Music Technology 1 & 2 or equivalent mastery of BandLab.edu

**Description:** Advanced music production course where students use their existing Digital Audio Workstation skills to explore deeper production, audio engineering, and sound design. Emphasis on production roles and collaboration, including recording, mixing, mastering, sound design, working collaboratively on professional style projects. All students will use computers, headphones, microphones and online DAW tools.

## **— THEATRE —**

The theatre department offers a wide range of courses for students at all levels of interest in theatre, from design to performance. It is suggested that students who plan to major in the theatre field arrange their schedule to include Theatre 101 freshman year to provide opportunities for advanced study. To continue growing as an artist outside of the school day, join the Castle Players. The Castle Players rehearse after school and produce theatre productions throughout the year. There are several opportunities for performers, as well as tech, build and stage crew.

## **THEATRE 101**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course will take you on a theatrical journey of the work of theatre. You will learn everything from theatre design, improvisation, pantomime, theatre history, and playwriting. This is not a performance-based course, but you will learn the basic skills needed to be a professional artist, designer, director, and playwright and should be able to and willing to put the work that you learned on its feet.

## **ACTING 1**

**Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Theatre 101

**Description:** Students will continue to learn about theatre with an emphasis on performing. Those enrolled will work on improv, viewpoints, monologues, scene work, and script analysis. This is a performance-based class.

## **ACTING 2**

**Grades 10, 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Theatre 101 and Acting 1

**Description:** Students will continue their experiences in acting with an emphasis on performing. Those enrolled will continue with advanced level acting, building on techniques learned in previous classes. Students will work on Shakespeare, Stanislavski techniques, monologues, scene work, and the business side of being a professional actor. The advanced actor will be responsible for finding materials used

during the semester, including monologues and scenes. The student will also be required to audition for one show during the semester to practice his or her skills.

### **ACTING 3**

**Grades 10, 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Theatre 101, Acting 1, Acting 2

**Description:** Students will continue growing as actors and artists by building techniques learned in previous classes. Students will focus on the great playwrights of Ibsen, Shaw, and Chekhov. **Course may be offered on a rotating basis due to enrollment.**

### **MUSICAL THEATRE**

**Grades 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Theatre 101 and either Triple Threat 1 or Triple Threat 2

**Description:** This course will focus on the American Musical- exploring the Golden Age of musical theatre through present day musicals as well as exploring the inner artist and how to protect that artist. Students will also focus on their dream role in a musical and learn what it takes to create a vision and bring that vision to life on the stage. This is a developmental performance and skill-based class.

### **TRIPLE THREAT 1**

**Grades 10, 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Theatre 101

**Description:** This course will focus on the true triple threat in theatre and students will explore singing, acting, and dancing in the context of musical theatre. This is a developmental performance and skill-based class. Students will acquire and advance skills learned.

### **TRIPLE THREAT 2**

**Grades 10, 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Triple Threat 1 or instructor approval

**Description:** Triple threat performers are multi-talented, and this course will continue helping you become a more versatile performer. Students will continue focusing on singing, acting, and dancing in the context of musical theatre. This is a developmental performance and skill-based class. Students will acquire and advance skills learned.

### **TRIPLE THREAT 3**

**Grades 10, 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Triple Threat 1, 2 or instructor approval

**Description:** This course is designed to help you continue your growth as a well-rounded performer in the art of acting, singing, and dancing. In this course we will focus on what it takes to nail your auditions: how to choose songs, how to prepare your sheet music for the pianist, how to prepare and build your resume, how to prepare for cold readings, and how to prepare for dance auditions.

### **TRIPLE THREAT 4**

**Grades 11, 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Triple Threat 1, 2, 3 or instructor approval

**Description:** Utilizing various learned skills from performance (as well as prerequisites), this course will allow YOU to be the producer/director/music director/choreographer/scenic designer/costumer/props master and more. During this course, students will select a musical and from start to finish will discover just what it takes to be on the “other side of the table,” from auditions to performance- all within the confines of the class itself. This is a hands-on, performance-heavy course focused on the collaborative nature of the artform.

## **FILM PRODUCTION**

**Grades:** 10,11,12 • **Elective** • 1 Semester • ½ Credit

**Prerequisite:** Art Foundations 1 and Theatre 101

**Description:** In this comprehensive, hands-on course, students will explore both the performance and artistic elements of filmmaking. Combining the creative focuses of *Acting in Film* and *Art in Film*, this class provides an immersive experience in front of and behind the camera. Students will study screen acting techniques, composition, color grading, editing, and visual storytelling to understand how performance and design work together to shape a film’s narrative and emotional impact. Through collaboration, students will write, produce, and edit a series of original short films that showcase their combined skills in acting, directing, cinematography, and production design. The course culminates in a film showcase celebrating student creativity and collaboration in the art of filmmaking. Please note that this is not a performance-based class for all students. A duplicate description of this course may also be found under the Visual Art section.

# MATH

The Mathematics Department offers the following courses in order to fulfill four general goals: first, to instill in our students the realization that mathematics is a complete language and a unified way of thought, not a simple series of computational skills; second, to insure that each student will be able to handle the ordinary mathematical transactions of everyday lives; third, to develop in our students skills in the uses of technology in order to pursue mathematical investigations; fourth, to provide adequate mathematical preparation for the next phase of each student's education or career.

## REQUIRED - ALL STUDENTS MUST HAVE A TI84 CALCULATOR

### PRE-ALGEBRA

**Grade 9 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Placement determined by Math department

**Description:** Pre-Algebra is a year-long course for students who need additional academic support prior to beginning Algebra 1. The course will include operations of all types of real numbers, rates and ratios, percents, solving equations and inequalities, introduction to functions, and linear functions.

### ALGEBRA 101

**Grades 9,10 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Placement determined by Math department

**Description:** Students will study real number properties that are used to solve linear equations and inequalities. Students will also study functions and graphing, systems of equations, factoring and polynomial operations, solving quadratic equations, and data distribution.

### ALGEBRA 102

**Grade 9 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Placement determined by Math department

**Description:** Students will study the use of algebraic concepts to solve linear equations and inequalities. Students will study functions and graphing, systems of equations, factoring and polynomial operations, solving quadratic equations, radicals, and statistics. Students will apply the concepts they have learned in a variety of real-world applications.

### HONORS ALGEBRA 1

**Grade 9 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Placement determined by Math department

**Description:** In addition to the concepts presented in Algebra 102, this course enriches the Algebra I concepts with an in-depth study of theory and problem solving. Possible additional topics include direct proofs, factoring cubics, simplifying zero and negative integral exponents, solving systems of three equations in three variables, and an introduction to irrational numbers.

## **GEOMETRY 101** **NCAA**

**Grades 10,11 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Algebra 101

**Description:** Students will study essential geometric terms, reasoning, parallel and perpendicular lines, angle pair relationships, congruency and similarity of triangles, transformations, right triangle trigonometry, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, perimeter, area, and volume.

## **GEOMETRY 102** **NCAA**

**Grades 9,10,11 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** A in Algebra 101; C in Algebra 102

**Description:** Students will study essential geometric terms, definitions, postulates, and theorems. Students will also study reasoning and proofs, parallel and perpendicular lines, angle pair relationships, congruency and similarity of triangles, transformations, right triangle trigonometry, quadrilaterals, polygons, perimeter, area, volume, and circles.

## **HONORS GEOMETRY** **NCAA**

**Grades 9,10 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** A in Algebra 102; B- in Honors Algebra I

**Description:** In addition to the concepts presented in Geometry 102, this course presents geometry as a mathematical system and uses proof as an integral part of most topics covered, including flow proofs.

## **ALGEBRA 201** **NCAA**

**Grades 11,12 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Geometry 101

**Description:** Students will expand their knowledge of concepts taught in Algebra 101 and 102 including solving linear equations and inequalities, and systems of equations. Students will also study complex numbers, polynomial behavior and properties, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometry, and probability. Students will also learn to use technology to solve problems.

## **ALGEBRA 202** **NCAA**

**Grades 10,11,12 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** A in Geometry 101 and in Algebra 101; C in Geometry 102 and Algebra 102

**Description:** Students will expand their knowledge of concepts taught in Algebra 101 and 102 including solving linear equations and inequalities, systems of equations, and quadratic functions and graphs. Students will go more in depth in their study of complex numbers, polynomial functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, rational functions, and trigonometry. Students will apply the concepts they have learned in a variety of real-world applications.

## **HONORS ALGEBRA 2 – TRIG** **NCAA**

**Grades 10,11 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** A in Geometry 102 and Algebra 102; B- in Honors Geometry and Honors Algebra I

**Description:** In addition to the concepts in the other Algebra 2 courses, this course includes complex factoring and solving of higher degree polynomials, graphs of all trigonometric functions and working with trigonometric identities.

## **PRECALCULUS B** **NCAA**

**Grades 11,12 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** C in Algebra 202

**Description:** This course will include analytic geometry of all conic sections, trigonometric formulas, equations and identities, advanced graphing, polar coordinates with complex numbers, binomial theorem with probability, first derivative theory and practice, and an extensive use of graphing calculators.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT PRECALCULUS** **NCAA**

**Grades 10, 11,12 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** B- in Honors Algebra 2, A- in Precalculus B

**Description:** The course covers polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions as well as parametric equations, vectors, and matrices. Students will develop skills in problem-solving, modeling, and symbolic manipulation with an emphasis on the covariation, equivalence, and modeling of functions while using precise language and providing rationales for conclusions. It is expected that students enrolled in AP Precalculus will take the AP Precalculus exam in May at the prevailing fee.

## **HONORS CALCULUS** **NCAA**

**Grade 12 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** B- in Precalculus B

**Description:** This course covers topics in elementary functions, differential and integral calculus comparable to first year courses in colleges and universities. Topics include properties of functions, limits, derivatives of elementary, composite, implicitly defined, inverse, and logarithmic functions, applications of the derivative, techniques of integration and applications of the integral.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS AB** **NCAA**

**Grades 11,12 • Elective • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** B- in Honors Precalculus

**Description:** Advanced Placement Calculus AB emphasizes a multi-representational approach to Calculus with concepts, results, and problems being expressed graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. Broad concepts and widely applicable methods are emphasized. Technology is used regularly to reinforce the relationships among the multiple representation of functions, to confirm written work, to implement experimentation, and to assist in interpreting results. It is expected that students enrolled in AP Calculus AB will take the AP Calculus AB exam in May at the prevailing fee.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS BC** **NCAA**

**Grade 12 • Elective • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** B in AP Calculus AB

**Description:** Advanced Placement Calculus BC extends the topics learned in AP Calculus AB. The course introduces different types of equations and sequences and series as well as continues to cover topics graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. Broad concepts and widely applicable methods are emphasized. Technology is used regularly to reinforce the relationships among the multiple representation of functions, to confirm written work, to implement experimentation, and to assist in interpreting results. It is expected that students enrolled in AP Calculus BC will take the AP Calculus BC exam in May at the prevailing fee.

## **SELECTED MATH TOPICS**

**Grade 12 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** D in Algebra 201 or Algebra 202

**Description:** This course is for students who need a math course, but not at the PreCalculus level. Topics include, but are not limited to, voting and appointment; graph theory; probability and statistics; loans, installment buying and investments.

## **STATISTICS**

**Grade 12 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** C in Algebra 202; A- in Algebra 201

**Description:** This course is designed to prepare students for college math courses required for a liberal arts major. In this course students will study ways to graph data, lines of regression, probability, normal curves and distributions and inferences.

# SCIENCE

Upon completion of the full science program, the Alter student has the following knowledge to critically observe and understand much of the world around them from a scientific view. By questioning, observing, and communicating scientific information, the student approaches the outside world and its problems with the curiosity and openness needed to become a critical thinker.

## **BIOLOGY 101**

### **Grade 9 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Recommendation from 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, current (8<sup>th</sup> grade) grades, and State Achievement Tests such as i-Ready/Map/EOC Scores.

**Description:** Biology 101 is an introduction to Biology with an emphasis on understanding the four main tenets of biology: cells, heredity, evolution, and biodiversity. Time is given for completing labs in class, reading and making tables/graphs, and learning proper organizational/studying techniques. Students will be expected to work cooperatively in a laboratory setting and become proficient in the use of the microscope and other scientific equipment.

## **BIOLOGY 102**

### **Grade 9 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Recommendation from 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, current (8<sup>th</sup> grade) grades, and State Achievement Tests such as i-Ready/Map/EOC Scores.

**Description:** Biology 102 is a college preparatory course which places much emphasis on the chemical basis of life processes, relationships between science and other academic disciplines, and how they relate to everyday life. Units include studies of the scientific method, the metric system, cell structure and function, genetics, evolution, and taxonomy. A research project will include an in-depth study of a current environmental and/or energy topic of the students choosing. Students will be expected to work cooperatively in a laboratory setting and become proficient in the use of the microscope and other scientific equipment.

## **HONORS BIOLOGY**

### **Grade 9 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Recommendation from 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, current (8<sup>th</sup> grade) grades, and State Achievement Tests such as i-Ready/Map/EOC Scores

**Description:** Honors Biology is an inquiry-based course which requires more than memorization skills, but also critical thinking skills. High motivation, good study techniques, and attention to detail are critical for success in this class. Topics include biochemistry, cells, energy, genetics, evolution, microbiology, and ecology. Students will be expected to work cooperatively in a laboratory setting and become proficient in the use of the microscope and other scientific equipment. **Students will also be required to complete one year of a two-year science fair project.**

## **CHEMISTRY**

### **Grade 10 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Completion of Honors Algebra 1 with a C Average or Algebra 102 with a C+ average.

**Description:** Chemistry is a physical science that studies the composition, properties and reactions of matter. Topics studied include the metric system, atomic structure, periodicity, chemical reactions and bonding, gas laws, the mole concept, solutions, acid base chemistry, and energy concepts. A variety of laboratory investigations are used to reinforce concepts studied in class.

## HONORS CHEMISTRY

**Grade 10 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Completion of Honors Algebra 1 with a B+ average. **Students not enrolled in Honors Biology as a freshman will be required to complete a research paper in the summer before class starts.**

**Description:** Honors Chemistry is designed for a highly motivated science student. Topics studied include the metric system, atomic structure, periodicity, chemical reactions, bonding and structure, gas laws, the mole concept, solutions, equilibrium, acid-base chemistry, and energy concepts. Concepts are covered in greater detail with added emphasis on quantitative aspects. Laboratory investigations on both the macro and micro level reinforce topics discussed in lecture. **Continuation of the Science Fair project from Honors Biology is required of all students enrolled.**

## PHYSICAL SCIENCE

**Grade 10 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course combines chemistry and physics. Students will be exposed to motion and the forces that cause motion. Topics include work and energy, heat, waves, sound, and electricity. Students will also be exposed to atoms, how they are structured, and how they react with each other. Topics include states of matter, the Periodic table, chemical reactions, solutions and nuclear changes. Unit appropriate labs and activities are included.

## — LIFE SCIENCE —

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY

**Grades 11,12 • Elective • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Completion of Honors Biology with a B- or higher, Biology B with an A- or higher. Honors Chemistry is strongly recommended.

**Description:** AP Biology is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory course for science majors. Biochemistry, cells, genetics, evolution, plant structure and function, and animal structure and function will be covered in depth. **Students must complete a summer assignment in preparation for the school year.** The course prepares the student for the AP exam in May. Students are required to take this exam at the prevailing fee. Previous or concurrent enrollment in Anatomy and Physiology is encouraged.

## APPLIED ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

**Grades 11,12 • Elective • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisites:** None

**Description:** This course begins with a brief overview of all the major body systems and how they contribute to homeostasis (balance) in the body as a whole, to maintain good health. Next the body systems will be covered more in-depth by looking at what happens if homeostasis is disrupted. This class uses more laboratory and hands-on activities than Honors Anatomy and Physiology. Critical thinking skills and the ability to work in groups are required.

## HONORS ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY

**Grades 11,12 • Elective • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisites:** Completion of an honors science class is strongly recommended and completion of any chemistry class with a B or higher.

**Description:** This course is designed for students who are interested in the medical field and are preparing or

concurrently enrolled in AP Biology or AP Chemistry. Structures (anatomy) and functions (physiology) at both the micro- and macro- level will be studied. This class will emphasize more micro-anatomy and physiology than Applied Anatomy and Physiology. The major systems of the body will be covered culminating in an extensive dissection of the cat. All dissections are required to receive full credit for the course!

### **INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY** **NCAA**

**Grades 11,12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** Invertebrate Zoology is designed for students who have an interest in the diversity of the animal kingdom. The class is a survey of the invertebrate animals. Laboratory work, including dissections, and activities accompany many of the units.

### **VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY** **NCAA**

**Grades 11,12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** Vertebrate Zoology is designed for students who have an interest in the diversity of the animal kingdom. The class is a survey of the vertebrate animals. Laboratory work, including dissections, and activities accompany many of the units.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE** **NCAA**

**Grades 11,12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisites:** None

**Description:** Environmental Science includes a wide range of topics which concentrate on the interconnectedness between humans and the environment. Topics include ecosystems, energy resources, pollution, recycling, conservation, invasive species, and other current topics. The goal of the class is to become more environmentally aware. This is accomplished by producing various projects, written reports, and designed graphs.

## **— PHYSICAL SCIENCE —**

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT CHEMISTRY** **NCAA**

**Grades 11,12 • Elective • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Completion of Honors Chemistry with a minimum of a B- or Chemistry B with a B+ minimum

**Description:** The AP chemistry course is designed to be the equivalent of a college level general chemistry course usually taken during the first college year. The course follows the College Board recommendations and topics such as the structure of matter, kinetic theory, chemical equilibrium, chemical kinetics, and thermodynamics are covered in depth. Mathematical and laboratory skills are emphasized in accordance with AP requirements. **A summer assignment is required.** Students must take the AP Exam in May at the prevailing fee.

## PHYSICS

**Grades 11,12 • Elective • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Completion or currently enrolled in Algebra 202.

**Description:** This is a general course in Physics, designed for the student who intends to pursue a career in science, mathematics, engineering, or medicine. It is divided into three major units: mechanics and classical problems in physics, wave motion (including light and sound), and electricity and magnetism. Problem solving using algebra, geometry, and trigonometry, as well as proficiency in laboratory work, are stressed throughout the course. **Course may be offered on a rotating basis due to enrollment.**

## HONORS PHYSICS

**Grades 11,12 • Elective • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Currently or previously enrolled in Honors Algebra II Trig or Honors Pre-Calc.

**Description:** This is a first year physics course designed for the above average math and science student. This course is taught at a faster pace and much more in depth than regular physics. The same topics as regular physics are covered, as well as several others. Projects are required.

## AP PHYSICS I

**Grade 12 • Elective • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Completion or current enrollment in Honors Algebra II Trig.

**Description:** A yearlong course in physics and problem solving that should prepare students for a college physics course for science or engineering majors. The class will cover all topics that would be covered in a college class. It will not be calculus based but calculus concepts will be discussed in order to help understand physics. Projects are required. Students must take the AP Exam in May at the prevailing fee.

## HONORS ORGANIC CHEMISTRY WITH BIOLOGICAL TOPICS

**Grades 11,12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Completion of Honors Chemistry with a B- or above or Chemistry B with a B+ or above.

**Description:** Honors Organic Chemistry with Biological Topics is an advanced college level course that will provide opportunities for students to develop an understanding of the structure, nomenclature, 3D orientation of organic molecules, as well as gaining a familiarity with the reactions of alkanes. Organic compounds varying by the additional of functional groups such as hydroxyl or carboxylic acid will be studied in conjunction with the role of stereochemistry in these reaction mechanisms. In addition to learning about these topics in an isolated system, their role and importance in biological settings will be explored as well.

## HONORS PRINCIPLES OF ENGINEERING

**Grades 11,12 • Elective • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Completion or currently enrolled in Algebra 202 and Chemistry with a B average.

**Description:** Principles of Engineering survey course exposes students to major concepts they will encounter in a post-secondary engineering course of study. Topics include mechanisms, energy, statics, materials, and kinematics. They develop problem-solving skills and apply their knowledge of research and design to create solutions to various challenges, document their work and communicate solutions. The topics covered will be similar to a one semester physics course but covered more in depth.

## **HONORS DIGITAL ELECTRONICS**

**Grade 12 • Elective • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Completion of Algebra 202 and Honors Principals of Engineering is strongly recommended.

**Description:** A course in applied logic that encompasses the application of electronic circuits and devices. Computer simulation software is used to design and test digital circuitry prior to the actual construction of circuits and devices. Projects are required. **Course may be offered on a rotating basis due to enrollment.**

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

**Grades 9,10,11,12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Completion or currently enrolled in any level of Algebra 2.

**Description:** This is a single semester course designed as an introduction to the Java programming language and general programming concepts. Topics will include For Loops, While Loops, if/else statements, and user input.

## **EARTH SCIENCE II: OCEANOGRAPHY/METEOROLOGY**

**Grades 11,12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This class focuses on how oceans and atmosphere combine to form weather and climate on the Earth. We begin with a study on the ocean floor, water composition, and circulation. Next we study how these things influence the atmosphere and weather, along with the positions of the Sun, Earth, and Moon system. We end with research on Global Climate Change. Online resources, research articles, laboratory activities and models will be incorporated into the lessons.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

The Social Studies Department at Alter offers a program of study centered upon the importance and significance of history and civics. All students take a three-year sequence of courses in World Studies, United States Government and United States History. Completing these core courses prepares students to succeed in a complex, multi-cultural world. Students search for meaning in the past by using a wide variety of primary and secondary sources. Writing is used across the curriculum. This will provide opportunities for students to explain, evaluate, and criticize the ideas and actions of people across time and cultures.

### WORLD STUDIES

**Grade 9 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course will trace the emergence of Modern Europe from 1750 to the present day and present such topics as the Russian Revolution, World War I and II, and modern-day western civilization. As students study each historical event, they consider the geographic setting, the cultural perspectives, and the economic implications and the role of government.

### HONORS WORLD STUDIES

**Grade 9 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Recommendation for Honors English I.

**Description:** Honors World Studies is a year-long survey course for freshmen that will focus on the development of various cultures throughout the world and their historical impact. It will also emphasize and discuss significant people, places, and events that have shaped the various cultures of the world. Throughout the year, the course will focus on many social studies related issues including social development, cultural differences, political implications, economics, geography, historical events and their significance, and the various other factors that have affected the development of various cultures throughout the world. Particular emphasis will be given to critical thinking and analysis of important time periods and events and will include the analysis of primary source documents from various periods studied throughout the year. The course is intended to prepare students to enroll in AP courses in later years.

### UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

**Grade 10 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** American Government is the study of political systems, democratic theory and practice, civil liberties, and citizenship. American politics, political parties, and the operation of national, state, and local governments are also included. The course is designed to prepare the student for the intelligent exercise of the rights and duties of citizenship. Because of state requirements, students must receive credit for American Government in order to graduate.

## **HONORS UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**

**Grade 10 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of either Honors English 9, Honors World Studies, or both. “A” average in World Studies.

**Description:** This is a year-long course for Sophomores that will focus on the development of the United States political structure and the various roles and responsibilities that define the political process. During the course we will examine the U.S. Constitution and the separation of powers; the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government and their respective powers, duties, and responsibilities; political parties, interest groups, voter behavior, and landmark Supreme Court decisions. This course will involve a significant amount of reading, reflection, and analysis. Guided discussion and participation will play a significant role here as this is a course that lends itself to opportunities for good, thoughtful discussion. Significant time will be spent analyzing significant court cases and familiarization with primary source analysis and documentation. This course will have some common ground with the AP Government course but will differ in pace and methodology. This course encourages students to take a more hands on approach to understanding the political process.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**Grades 10,11 • Elective • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Students must have earned a 3.0 cumulative GPA in Social Studies and English Courses. Students cannot waiver into AP courses. Students must earn a “A” in Honors World studies to take AP Government.

**Description:** Advanced Placement US Government and Politics is a college-level introductory course for students who wish to experience a more in-depth examination of the American system of government. Special attention is paid to the decision-making process within each of the three branches of the federal government, and the linkages between society, media, interest groups, and the government. Students are expected to hone their writing and critical thinking skills, in preparation for the AP exam in May. Students are required to take the AP exam in May at the prevailing fee. Self-directed readings are a key component to this course, which moves rapidly to facilitate study of a broader range of topics than are covered in a standard government class.

## **UNITED STATES HISTORY**

**Grade 11 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course is a study of American History from the Post-Reconstruction period through formative events of today’s world. Students will study those events, both domestic and foreign, that help shape modern America. Students will consider the influence of geographic settings, cultural perspectives, economic systems, and forms of government.

## **HONORS UNITED STATES HISTORY**

**Grade 11 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of either Honors English 10, Honors US Government, or both. “A” average in US Government.

**Description:** Honors American Studies is a year – long survey course for Juniors that will focus on the development of the United States from the time of the American Civil War through to the emergence of the U.S. as the predominant world power and beyond. We will also empathize and discuss significant people, places, and events that have shaped the history and development of the United States since the middle of the 19th Century. Throughout this year, we will focus on many social studies related issues including social development of American regions, political movements and their implications, economic development, historical events and their significance, and the various other factors that have impacted the growth and development of the United States. Students will examine history not only through traditional means, but also expand on their critical thinking skills

with thought provoking discussions and projects as well as primary source documentation. While this course will retain some of the learning objectives present in the AP course, a more methodical approach will allow students to delve deeper into material and offer more project based, longer term assignments.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES HISTORY**

**Grades 11,12 • Elective • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Students must have earned a 3.0 cumulative GPA in Social Studies and English. Students cannot waiver into AP courses. Students must earn an “A” grade in honors government to take AP US History.

**Description:** Advanced Placement US History is an introductory college-level course for students who are able to experience a more challenging American History offering. The course covers the complete American experience from colonization to present day. Students will study the roots of our democracy, the development and struggles of a young nation, and the challenges faced in assuming our position of world leadership. Participants are encouraged to think critically, to evaluate what they read, and to present well organized written and verbal arguments. Students are required to take the AP Exam in May at the prevailing fee.

## **ECONOMICS**

**Grades 11,12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** Economic philosophies and programs greatly influence our daily lives. Students investigate basic economic theory, principles, institutions, and problems through practical applications. A study of economics will help students understand this always changing global economy. The value of money, the way goods are distributed, interest rates and the Federal Reserve, plant closings and lay-offs, the Stock Market, and wage rates are just a few of the topics covered.

## **U.S. SOCIETY & CULTURE**

**Grades 11,12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** Junior and Seniors will focus on the social development of the United States during the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Students will examine our history during this time period through various social and cultural means, such as film, music, television, and literature. We will focus on many social studies related issues including social development through cultural vehicles like film or television, political implications or activism and protest as exclaimed in music literature, and television, etc. The overall objective of this class is to allow students to view the United States in the 20th century and beyond through a lens outside of what they would get in a traditional history course, and gain a thorough understanding of what it meant to be a person during the various decades and eras that have defined different generations.

## **PSYCHOLOGY & PERSONAL GROWTH**

**Grade 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** The Psychology and Personal Growth course focuses on the psychology of happiness. This is a semester course that will examine the latest research in the field of Psychology on how to live a happy and fulfilling life. The course is designed to help students identify the qualities of a happy life and incorporate these qualities in their own lives. With an emphasis on trends in Positive Psychology, students will learn how to be mentally healthy by living a life of healthy relationships, gratitude, generosity, love, faith, and hope by engaging in cognitive reframing and behavioral changes. The course will address the following topics: Qualities of a Happy Life, Healthy Relationships, Gratitude, Generosity, Living Life with Purpose, Forgiveness, Emotional IQ, Communication Skills, Mindfulness, and the Psychology of Hope. It will help students develop self-awareness and learn skills to develop resiliency in the face of the challenges of life.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT PSYCHOLOGY

**Grade 12 • Elective • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Students must have a 3.5 GPA or higher, taken either AP English/Literature or AP US History/AP Government to enroll in the class.

**Description:** AP Psychology is a comprehensive examination of the field of psychology from a historical, scientific, theoretical, and biological perspective. Historically, students will learn about the various perspectives of psychologists throughout history. Scientifically, students will explore significant factors in research and popular studies on human learning, motivation, personality, and psychosocial development. From a theoretical perspective, students will examine human behavior from the psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive, and humanistic approach. Including, how these approaches view abnormality. Finally, students will study the human brain and other biological influences on mental processes. By gaining a better understanding of the dynamics of the human mind, students will come to a deeper understanding of themselves, others and how our behavior is shaped by perception and interaction with the world around us. Students are required to take the AP Exam in May at the prevailing fee. **In preparation for this class, students are assigned a summer reading, due on the first day of class.**

# THEOLOGY

The Theology Department seeks to meet the religious and spiritual needs of developing adolescents. Teachers strive to become familiar with and respect the experiences of the students entrusted to their care. At the same time, the department has a responsibility to pass on the riches of the Christian faith in the Roman Catholic tradition. Within this tradition, there is a strong emphasis not only on the articulation of the essentials of faith but also on the communal liturgical celebration of faith, personal prayer, and living a moral life. Each student takes a year of religious studies for each year in attendance at Alter. In light of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishop's Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for the Young People of High School Age and the Archdiocesan Course of Studies for Secondary Schools, the Theology Department adopted the following course sequence and description.

## THEOLOGY 1 SEMESTER ONE INTRODUCTION TO CATHOLICISM

**Grade 9 • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course examines the most important aspect of our lives – our Faith. In this Introduction to Catholicism class, we cover the basic tenets of the Catholic faith as found in the Creed as well as understand that Catholic doctrine is founded in Scripture and Tradition. Along with the Creed the students will also be introduced to the Cult (means of worship i.e. Liturgy, Sacraments, etc.) and Code (standards for Moral Behavior). Students will also be introduced to the history of Alter High School: its traditions and culture.

## THEOLOGY 1 SEMESTER TWO THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST IN SCRIPTURE (OT)

**Grade 9 • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** The purpose of this course is to give students a general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. Through their study of the Bible, they will come to encounter the living Word of God, and Jesus Christ in the Old Testament. In the course they will learn about the Bible, authored by God through inspiration, and its unprecedented value. They will learn how to read the Bible and will become familiar with the major sections of the Bible and the books included in each section.

## THEOLOGY 2 SEMESTER ONE WHO IS JESUS CHRIST (NT)

**Grade 10 • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Theology 1

**Description:** The purpose of this course is for the student to investigate their knowledge about, understanding of, and relationship with Jesus. This is a course wherein the student focus is on the nature of Jesus Christ. Through a New Testament study of Jesus (with a focus on the Gospels) the student will recognize Jesus as the ultimate revelation to us from God.

## **THEOLOGY 2 SEMESTER TWO**

### **ECLESIOLOGY/CHURCH HISTORY**

**Grade 10 • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Theology 1 and Theology 2 (1st Semester)

**Description:** This course introduces the role and importance of the Church as the primary institution that carries on the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. The students will investigate the ways Christ is constantly present in the Church and will study the historical origins of the Church, examining key growth moments of the Church. (Church History)

## **THEOLOGY 3 SEMESTER ONE**

### **THE SACRAMENTS OF CHRIST**

**Grade 11 • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Theology 1 and Theology 2

**Description:** This course strives to help the students recognize that the sacraments are essential for any and all who walk the path of Jesus. Through an investigation of the sacraments: their history, their ritual, and their symbols the students will appreciate how the sacraments draw us closer to God and to one another. This course requires a Service Learning Project that includes 10 hours of service in the student's parish.

## **THEOLOGY 3 SEMESTER TWO**

### **OUR LIFE IN CHRIST**

**Grade 11 • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Theology 1, Theology 2, and Theology 3 (Semester 1)

**Description:** This course strives to help the students recognize meaning of discipleship. Through the course the students will confront the challenges to living as a disciple of Jesus and develop an understanding of Christian morality. This course requires a Service Learning Project that includes 10 hours of service in the student's parish.

## **THEOLOGY 4 SEMESTER ONE**

### **LIVING AS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST IN SOCIETY (CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING)**

**Grade 12 • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Theology 1, Theology 2, and Theology 3

**Description:** The purpose of this course is to introduce the students to the Church's social teaching. In this course, students are to learn how Christ's concern for others, especially the poor and needy, is present today in the Church's social teaching and mission. The student continues the course by studying the vocations of life: how Christ calls us to live. Students learn what it means to live life for the benefit of others and the value in considering a vocation in the service to the Christian community. This course requires a Service Learning Project that includes 10 hours of service at a local non-profit organization.

## **THEOLOGY 4 SEMESTER TWO**

### **RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF JESUS CHRIST**

### **ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS ISSUES**

### **(CATHOLIC LIFESTYLES AND VOCATIONS)**

**Grade 12 • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Theology 1, Theology 2, Theology 3, Theology 4 (Semester 1)

**Description:** The purpose of this course is to invite the student to embrace their personal response to the call of Jesus Christ through a study of Catholic lifestyles and vocations. To empower the student to answer their call. Following this the student will embark on a study to help the students understand the manner in which the Catholic Church relates to non-Catholic Christians as well as to other religions of the world. Building on the foundational truth that Jesus Christ established the Catholic Church and entrusted to her the fullness of God's Revelation, the course is intended to help students to recognize the 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. It is also intended to help them to recognize the ways in which other systems of belief and practice differ from the Catholic faith.

## **THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY**

**Grade 12 • Elective • 1 Semester • ½ Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Recommendation of Theology Teacher

**Description:** This is an elective course in which students will investigate ministry within the church. The course will provide students with practical ministry experience at school and in the larger church. Students will take on leadership roles within the Peer Ministry Program and coordinate various ministries for their peers. Students will study the theology of Christian ministry and develop a vision of ministry. They will investigate the many and varied ministries in the church and acquire the skills and knowledge needed to minister to others. They will take leadership roles in ministry work within and outside of the school.

# WORLD LANGUAGES

Our proficiency-oriented classes in world languages stress the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The context of the lessons helps students to understand and appreciate diverse cultures, which prepares them for life in a pluralistic society. Teachers use the target language as much as is appropriate to the level of the class. The department supports and guides students, encouraging them to continue learning a world language at the next level.

## **FRENCH 1**

**Grades 9,10,11,12 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course introduces the novice student to all aspects of foreign language instruction: cultural and reading. The student will be well acquainted with French structure and basic conversational skills. Vocabulary building will also be emphasized. The cultural emphasis will be primarily on Paris.

## **FRENCH 2**

**Grades 9,10,11,12 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Completion of French 1 or achieving a successful placement test.

**Description:** This course is designed to maintain and develop oral/aural competence while developing written and reading skills in French. The study of grammar is continued and there is a progressive development of the writing skills as well as of the cultural awareness of France and other French-speaking countries. Vocabulary building continues to be an important component within this course.

## **FRENCH 3**

**Grades 10,11,12 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Completion of French 1 and 2

**Description:** Increased competence enables the serious language student to refine the basic listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills acquired in French 1 and 2.

## **HONORS FRENCH 4**

**Grades 11,12 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Completion of French 1, 2, and 3

**Description:** In French 4 the student is required to use all the skills learned previously. Free discussion in French is expected and encouraged. The French culture and thought are studied through various forms of literature including full length classical literary works. Skill in composition, including the grammatical intricacies of the French language, is further redefined.

## **HONORS FRENCH 5**

**Grade 12 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Completion of French 1, 2, 3, and 4

**Description:** In French 4 and 5 the student is required to use all the skills learned previously. Free discussion in French is expected and encouraged. The French culture and thought are studied through various forms of literature including full length classical literary works. Skill in composition, including the grammatical intricacies of the French language, is further redefined.

## **GERMAN 1** **NCAA**

**Grades 9,10,11,12 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course introduces novice students to the German language through the four areas of language: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Primary emphasis is on mastering the basics of German grammar, acquiring vocabulary, and beginning communications skills. In addition, students start to learn about the geography, cultural traditions and history of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

## **GERMAN 2** **NCAA**

**Grades 9,10,11,12 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Completion of German 1 or achieving a successful placement test.

**Description:** The second year of German is a continuation of German 1. Students participate in a comprehensive program composed of grammar, vocabulary, and communicative activities. Emphasis is placed on expanding proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing. The second year will continue the students' exposure to the German culture. A variety of techniques will be used for optimal achievement of language proficiency.

## **GERMAN 3** **NCAA**

**Grades 10,11,12 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Completion of German 1 and 2

**Description:** This course continues to develop a greater proficiency in speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills. More detailed grammar will be incorporated into the activities. The serious language student is expected to increase his/her awareness of the Germanic cultures by reading excerpts from German literature, contemporary magazines, newspaper articles and internet sites. Students will expand upon material used in class with authentic forms of assessment including original videotaped narratives.

## **HONORS GERMAN 4** **NCAA**

**Grades 11,12 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Completion of German 1, 2, and 3

**Description:** In German 4 serious students are expected to achieve greater language proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Acquiring new vocabulary tailored to real-life situations will be expanded and the study of grammar will be more intricate. Students will read literature and continue to fine-tune writing skills. Emphasis is also on studying and presenting cultural, historical, and current issues.

## **HONORS GERMAN 5** **NCAA**

**Grade 12 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Completion of German 1, 2, 3, and 4

**Description:** German 5 students continue to advance their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. A review of grammar and vocabulary will be extensive for preparation of further studies at the college level. Students will work independently on specific projects to obtain greater understanding of German poetry, drama, art, literature, film, and music. Discussion and presentation of current events, culture and tourism will be expected to increase proficiency in German.

## **SPANISH 1** **NCAA**

**Grades 9,10,11,12 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course introduces students to all aspects of foreign language learning: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and Hispanic culture. Learners in this course will become familiar with basic conversational and writing skills, will develop their ability to understand spoken Spanish, and will begin reading short passages. Basic grammatical concepts are stressed. Emphasis is placed on practical use of the language.

## **SPANISH 2** **NCAA**

**Grades 9,10,11,12 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Completion of Spanish 1 or achieving a successful placement test.

**Description:** Spanish 2 continues the development of skills established in Spanish 1. Students will extend their ability to read and write in Spanish, while broadening their capacity to understand and respond in practical conversation scenarios. In addition, students will continue the study of Hispanic culture and customs. Vocabulary and grammatical precision are key elements of instruction.

## **SPANISH 3** **NCAA**

**Grades 10,11,12 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Completion of Spanish 1 and 2

**Description:** Spanish 3 is a challenging yet accessible course designed to continue the advancement of skills in all four areas of foreign language competence: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The serious language student is expected to master complex grammar topics, to increase proficiency in speaking and listening tasks, to develop fluency in reading and writing, and to increase his/her awareness of Hispanic cultures.

## **HONORS SPANISH 4** **NCAA**

**Grades 11,12 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Completion of Spanish 1, 2, and 3

**Description:** This upper-level course provides a thorough review of the major components of Spanish grammar, including more complex syntax and structures. Students will sample Hispanic literature they increase fluency while speaking, reading, listening, and writing. As students continue their study of the Spanish-speaking world, they will listen to audio excerpts of native speakers.

## **HONORS SPANISH 5** **NCAA**

**Grade 12 • 2 Semesters • 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite:** Completion of Spanish 1, 2, 3, and 4

**Description:** Spanish 5 students employ advanced foreign language skills developed in previous courses to read and respond to some of the Hispanic world's most well-known authors of poetry, prose, and drama. In addition, classroom discussion is held in Spanish about diverse topics, including history, art, literature, and current events. A comprehensive review demands mastery of Spanish grammar.

# Schedule Planning Worksheet:

## CLASS OF 2027



24 CREDITS ARE REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION, INCLUDING:

|                            |                                                                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| English                    | 4 credits                                                           |
| Mathematics                | 4 credits                                                           |
| Social Studies             | 3 credits (including 1 World Studies; 1 U.S. History; 1 Government) |
| Science                    | 3 credits (including 1 Biology; 1 Physical)                         |
| Theology                   | 1 credit for each year at Alter                                     |
| Technology Skills & Ethics | 1 credit                                                            |
| Fine Arts                  | 1 credit                                                            |
| Speech                     | ½ credit                                                            |
| Physical Education*        | ½ credit (one semester equals ¼ credit)                             |
| Health                     | ½ credit                                                            |
| Financial Literacy         | ½ credit                                                            |

\* Students who participate in interscholastic athletics, band or cheerleading for 2 full seasons will be exempt from the physical education requirement. Any student wishing to exercise this option MUST see their counselor in advance for details.

- Use the chart below to help plan for your year at Alter, while referencing the above requirements, the scheduling information sheet, and the program of studies.
- If you are attempting to earn the Honors or Conservatory for the Arts diplomas or are a member of the Alter Scholars Program, refer to the program of studies for requirements.
- Be sure you meet the prerequisites listed in the course description booklet for every class you request.

WRITE THE SPECIFIC COURSE NAME IN THE AREA PROVIDED BELOW:

| SUBJECT AREA   | FIRST SEMESTER CLASS NAMES | SECOND SEMESTER CLASS NAMES |
|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Theology    |                            |                             |
| 2. English     |                            |                             |
| 3. Mathematics |                            |                             |
| 4. Elective    |                            |                             |
| 5. Elective    |                            |                             |
| 6. Elective    |                            |                             |
| 7. Elective    |                            |                             |
| 8. Elective    |                            |                             |

# Schedule Planning Worksheet:

## CLASS OF 2028



24 CREDITS ARE REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION, INCLUDING:

|                            |                                                                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| English                    | 4 credits                                                           |
| Mathematics                | 4 credits                                                           |
| Social Studies             | 3 credits (including 1 World Studies; 1 U.S. History; 1 Government) |
| Science                    | 3 credits (including 1 Biology; 1 Physical)                         |
| Theology                   | 1 credit for each year at Alter                                     |
| Technology Skills & Ethics | 1 credit                                                            |
| Fine Arts                  | 1 credit                                                            |
| Speech                     | ½ credit                                                            |
| Physical Education*        | ½ credit (one semester equals ¼ credit)                             |
| Health                     | ½ credit                                                            |
| Financial Literacy         | ½ credit                                                            |

\* Students who participate in interscholastic athletics, band or cheerleading for 2 full seasons will be exempt from the physical education requirement. Any student wishing to exercise this option MUST see their counselor in advance for details.

- Use the chart below to help plan for your year at Alter, while referencing the above requirements, the scheduling information sheet, and the program of studies.
- If you are attempting to earn the Honors or Conservatory for the Arts diplomas or are a member of the Alter Scholars Program, refer to the program of studies for requirements.
- Be sure you meet the prerequisites listed in the course description booklet for every class you request.

WRITE THE SPECIFIC COURSE NAME IN THE AREA PROVIDED BELOW:

| SUBJECT AREA      | FIRST SEMESTER CLASS NAMES | SECOND SEMESTER CLASS NAMES |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Theology       |                            |                             |
| 2. English        |                            |                             |
| 3. Mathematics    |                            |                             |
| 4. Social Studies |                            |                             |
| 5. Elective       |                            |                             |
| 6. Elective       |                            |                             |
| 7. Elective       |                            |                             |
| 8. Elective       |                            |                             |

# Schedule Planning Worksheet:

## CLASS OF 2029



24 CREDITS ARE REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION, INCLUDING:

|                            |                                                                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| English                    | 4 credits                                                           |
| Mathematics                | 4 credits                                                           |
| Social Studies             | 3 credits (including 1 World Studies; 1 U.S. History; 1 Government) |
| Science                    | 3 credits (including 1 Biology; 1 Physical)                         |
| Theology                   | 1 credit for each year at Alter                                     |
| Technology Skills & Ethics | 1 credit                                                            |
| Fine Arts                  | 1 credit                                                            |
| Speech                     | ½ credit                                                            |
| Physical Education*        | ½ credit (one semester equals ¼ credit)                             |
| Health                     | ½ credit                                                            |
| Financial Literacy         | ½ credit                                                            |

\* Students who participate in interscholastic athletics, band or cheerleading for 2 full seasons will be exempt from the physical education requirement. Any student wishing to exercise this option MUST see their counselor in advance for details.

- Use the chart below to help plan for your year at Alter, while referencing the above requirements, the scheduling information sheet, and the program of studies.
- If you are attempting to earn the Honors or Conservatory for the Arts diplomas or are a member of the Alter Scholars Program, refer to the program of studies for requirements.
- Be sure you meet the prerequisites listed in the course description booklet for every class you request.

WRITE THE SPECIFIC COURSE NAME IN THE AREA PROVIDED BELOW:

| SUBJECT AREA      | FIRST SEMESTER CLASS NAMES | SECOND SEMESTER CLASS NAMES |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Theology       |                            |                             |
| 2. English        |                            |                             |
| 3. Mathematics    |                            |                             |
| 4. Social Studies |                            |                             |
| 5. Science        |                            |                             |
| 6. Science Lab    |                            |                             |
| 7. Elective       |                            |                             |
| 8. Elective       |                            |                             |

# Schedule Planning Worksheet: CLASS OF 2030



24 CREDITS ARE REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION, INCLUDING:

|                            |                                                                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| English                    | 4 credits                                                           |
| Mathematics                | 4 credits                                                           |
| Social Studies             | 3 credits (including 1 World Studies; 1 U.S. History; 1 Government) |
| Science                    | 3 credits (including 1 Biology; 1 Physical)                         |
| Theology                   | 1 credit for each year at Alter                                     |
| Technology Skills & Ethics | 1 credit                                                            |
| Fine Arts                  | 1 credit                                                            |
| Speech                     | ½ credit                                                            |
| Physical Education*        | ½ credit (one semester equals ¼ credit)                             |
| Health                     | ½ credit                                                            |
| Financial Literacy         | ½ credit                                                            |

\* Students who participate in interscholastic athletics, band or cheerleading for 2 full seasons will be exempt from the physical education requirement. Any student wishing to exercise this option MUST see their counselor in advance for details.

- Use the chart below to help plan for your year at Alter, while referencing the above requirements, the scheduling information sheet, and the program of studies.
- If you are attempting to earn the Honors or Conservatory for the Arts diplomas or are a member of the Alter Scholars Program, refer to the program of studies for requirements.
- Be sure you meet the prerequisites listed in the course description booklet for every class you request.

WRITE THE SPECIFIC COURSE NAME IN THE AREA PROVIDED BELOW:

| SUBJECT AREA      | FIRST SEMESTER CLASS NAMES | SECOND SEMESTER CLASS NAMES |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1.Theology        |                            |                             |
| 2.English         |                            |                             |
| 3.Mathematics     |                            |                             |
| 4. Social Studies |                            |                             |
| 5. Science        |                            |                             |
| 6. Business       |                            |                             |
| 7. Elective       |                            |                             |
| 8. Elective       |                            |                             |