



St. Catherine of Siena Academy ~ Draft Curriculum

Courses in bold print are required; the others are electives.

Catholic Theology *4 credits required*

- Grade 9 ♦ **Sacred Scripture I and II**
- Grade 10 ♦ **Christology / the Church**
- Grade 11 ♦ **The Sacraments / Morality**
- Grade 12 ♦ **Catholic social teaching / Vocations**
- Electives* ♦ Church History
- ♦ Women in the Bible and Church History
- ♦ Ecumenical and Inter-religious issues
- ♦ Vatican Council II

Theology at SCA will focus on bringing students to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ through Scripture, the Catechism, the liturgy, and the living tradition of the Church. Students will read selections from great Catholic thinkers such as Augustine, Aquinas, John Henry Newman, and John Paul II.

A “sidebar” on the theology of the body—John Paul II’s catecheses on the human person, the body, and the gift of sexuality—will be included each year.

English *4 credits required*

- Grade 9 ♦ **English I**
- Grade 10 ♦ **English II**
- Grade 11 ♦ **English III or Honors English**
- Grade 12 ♦ **English IV or AP English Lit & Comp**
- Electives* ♦ Public Speaking
- ♦ Creative Writing
- ♦ Journalism I-II
- ♦ Yearbook I-II
- ♦ Debate

SCA students will learn to read, write, and speak with skill, confidence, and ease. Students will be taught to think logically and creatively in interpreting literature and to use language skills with precision and purpose.

History *4 credits required*

- Grade 9 ♦ **World History I**
- Grade 10 ♦ **U.S. History I**
- Grade 11 ♦ **European History**
- Electives* ♦ World History II
- ♦ U.S. Government
- ♦ AP European History
- ♦ AP U.S. History
- ♦ Economics

Teachers will emphasize the importance of critical and comparative analyses with regard to domestic and international political, economic and social issues at each point throughout human history.

Mathematics *3 credits required*

- Grade 9 ♦ **Algebra I or Honors Algebra I**
- Grade 10 ♦ **Geometry or Honors Geometry**
- Grade 11 ♦ **Algebra II or Honors Algebra II**
- Electives* ♦ Honors Pre-Calculus / Trigonometry
- ♦ Honors Calculus
- ♦ AP Calculus

Each level of mathematics emphasizes the acquisition of basic and complex skills, clarity and precision of language, and effective techniques for solving problems and writing proofs.

Science *3 credits required*

- Grade 9 ♦ **Biology or Honors Biology**
- Grade 10 ♦ **Chemistry or Honors Chemistry**
- Grade 11 ♦ **Physics or Honors Physics**
- Electives* ♦ Anatomy & Physiology I and II
- ♦ Microbiology
- ♦ Genetics / Molecular Genetics
- ♦ AP Physics
- ♦ AP Chemistry
- ♦ AP Biology
- ♦ AP Environmental Science

The goal of the SCA Science curriculum is to impart a fundamental knowledge of both scientific principles and facts. Students will learn to organize knowledge rather than simply collect data, to inquire by scientific methods, and to conduct well-planned laboratory exercises.

Latin *2 credits required*

- All grades* ♦ **Latin I**
- ♦ **Latin II**
- Electives* ♦ Latin III
- ♦ Latin IV

From Cicero to C. S. Lewis, from Thomas Aquinas to Thomas Jefferson, the great minds of the West have been formed by a classical curriculum founded on Latin and Greek. Knowledge of Latin gives students a competitive advantage in English vocabulary, clear thinking and correct diction.

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Foreign Languages *2 credits required*

- All grades* ♦ **French I or Spanish I**
♦ **French II or Spanish II**
- Electives* ♦ French III
♦ Spanish III
♦ AP French
♦ AP Spanish
♦ Chinese I

SCA students will learn to appreciate foreign cultures and to communicate effectively by developing skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Beginning with the third year, instruction will be conducted almost exclusively in the target language.

Philosophy *1 credit required*

- Grades 11-12* ♦ Introduction to Philosophy
♦ Philosophy of the Human Person
♦ Bioethical Issues at the Beginning of Life
♦ Bioethical Issues at the End of Life

Philosophy courses will introduce students to the great questions that have occupied thinkers through the ages—questions about God, the world, the human person, and our ultimate destiny. An SCA student will learn to develop an effective argument by defining her terms, stating her principles, and proving her conclusions. There will be a special focus on the application of Catholic teaching to bioethical questions today.

Fine Arts *1 credit required*

- All grades* ♦ Acting I and II
♦ Drawing
♦ Digital Photography
♦ Graphic Design
♦ American Musical Theater
♦ Music Theory and Composition
♦ Concert Chorus
♦ Concert Band
♦ AP Studio Art

The Fine Arts program will be dedicated to artistic excellence, allowing each student to stimulate and develop her own artistic talents.

Business/Computer

- All grades* ♦ Personal Finance
♦ Introduction to Business
♦ Business Ethics

Physical Education *2 credits required*

- Grade 9 ♦ **Physical Education I**
Grade 10 ♦ **Physical Education II / Drivers' Ed**
- Electives* ♦ Physical Education III
♦ Personal Fitness for Athletes
♦ Health: An Ethical Approach
♦ Dance

The athletic program will help fulfill the school's mission of strengthening our students in mind, body and soul. Athletic classes and competitions will be viewed as an extension of the academic day, and will teach students the skills they need for life-long fitness and health. Participation in athletic competitions will cultivate character, discipline and leadership. Participating in an athletic team will build self-confidence and respect for others, while encouraging growth in the virtues of courage, perseverance, humility, and sacrifice.

Senior Seminar

Each semester, seminar courses will be offered to groups of 10-12 senior students. These courses will be taught solely using the Socratic method to encourage a more profound understanding of the subject matter and to prepare seniors for the rigorous academic dialogue that they will encounter in college. Seminar topics will be chosen according to faculty areas of expertise and student interest. Examples may include:

- Grade 12 ♦ Pope John Paul II: *Love and Responsibility*
♦ Case Studies and Applications in Bioethics
♦ Pope Paul VI: *Humanae Vitae*
♦ Willa Cather: *My Antonia*
♦ Cervantes: *Don Quixote*
♦ Hamilton, Madison, Jay: *Federalist Papers*

Extracurricular Activities and Community Service

A robust array of activities and service opportunities will round out students' intellectual, physical, and faith formation at SCA. Athletic competitions, dances, choral and band concerts, and service in the local community will be pillars of SCA student life. Students will be encouraged to create clubs according to their particular interests, and to make a difference in the lives of others in the local community and or even around the world by sharing their time and talent.