

St. Mary Catholic Schools

**812 N. State Ave.
Dell Rapids, SD 57022
605-428-5591**

2010-2011



COURSE DESCRIPTION BOOK

INTRODUCTION

This Course Description and Curriculum Guide will provide information on the education program offered by St. Mary High School. A four-year program, including preparation for post high school education or employment should be developed using this guide. Specific course selections also allow students to pursue special interests.

Teachers and the Guidance Department personnel will be available to discuss educational choices with students and parents. With the exception of state and local requirements, final decisions regarding curriculum choices are left with students and their parents.

SCHEDULED STUDY PERIODS—are those periods in which students are not scheduled for academic classes. Students are to use this time for educational purposes of study, research, and reading. Students may obtain passes to work in the library, computer labs, or laboratories during scheduled study periods.

SPECIAL NEEDS—St. Mary High School is committed to providing educational services to students with special needs. Depending on individual circumstances, coursework may need to be modified to meet the needs of the student. Individuals identified through the Student Assistance Process as needing an adjusted curriculum will be in the regular classroom setting, but adjustments will be made to meet the students' needs/abilities. A meeting will be conducted with parents and the Student Assistance Team (which includes teachers and administration/guidance personnel) to agree on the course(s) to be modified and to what extent.

All high school students who complete the prescribed curriculum satisfactorily will participate in graduation exercises and be issued a diploma provided all financial obligations to the school are satisfied. No unsigned diplomas will be given.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All high school students who complete the prescribed curriculum satisfactorily will participate in graduation exercises and be issued a diploma, provided all financial obligations to the school are satisfied. Required classes need to be taken here at SMCS. No unsigned diplomas will be given. High school **Classes of 2011, 2012 and 2013** must satisfactorily complete 26 credits as prescribed by the South Dakota Department of Education and the St. Mary Catholic Schools Educational Advisory Committee per the following guide:

1. Four credits in Religion
 - a. One credit for each year in attendance
2. Four credits in English
 - a. English I, II, III, IV
3. Three credits in Social Studies
 - a. One-half credit of Geography
 - b. One-half credit of World History
 - c. One credit of US History
 - d. One credit of US Government
4. Three credits in Mathematics
 - a. One credit of Algebra I
 - b. One credit of Geometry
 - c. One credit of Algebra II or higher class
5. Three credits in Laboratory Science
 - a. One credit of Physical Science
 - b. One credit of Biology
 - c. One credit of Chemistry or Physics
6. One-half credit of Computer Science (Computers I)
7. One-half credit of Physical Education (Lifetime Athletics)
8. One-half credit of Personal Finance or Economics
9. One credit in Fine Arts
 - a. Band is worth one-half credit per semester
 - b. Vocal is worth one-half credit per semester
 - c. Art is worth one-half credit per semester
 - d. Play participation is worth one-fourth credit per performance
10. Two credits of any combination of:
 - a. World Language
 - b. Computer Studies
 - c. Approved Career & Technical Education courses

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All high school students who complete the prescribed curriculum satisfactorily will participate in graduation exercises and be issued a diploma, provided all financial obligations to the school are satisfied. Required classes need to be taken here at SMCS. No unsigned diplomas will be given. High school **Classes of 2014 and beyond** must satisfactorily complete 26 credits as prescribed by the South Dakota Department of Education and the St. Mary Catholic Schools Educational Advisory Committee per the following guide:

1. Four credits in Religion
 - a. One credit for each year in attendance

2. Four credits in English
 - a. One credit of Freshmen English
 - a. One-half credit of Freshman Composition
 - b. One-half credit of English/Literature I
 - b. One credit of Sophomore English
 - a. One-half credit of World Literature
 - b. One-half credit of Speech I
 - c. One credit of Junior English
 - a. One-half credit of American Literature
 - b. One-half credit of Junior Composition
 - d. One credit of Senior English
 - a. One-half credit of British Literature
 - b. One-half credit of Creative Writing

3. Three credits in Social Studies
 - a. One-half credit of Geography
 - b. One-half credit of World History
 - c. One credit of US History
 - d. One credit of US Government

4. Three credits in Mathematics
 - a. One credit of Algebra I
 - b. One credit of Geometry
 - c. One credit of Algebra II or higher class

5. Three credits in Laboratory Science
 - a. One credit of Physical Science
 - b. One credit of Biology
 - c. One credit of Chemistry or Physics

6. One-half credit in Computer Science (Computers I)

7. One-half credit in Physical Education (Lifetime Athletics)

8. One-half credit in Personal Finance or Economics

9. One credit in Fine Arts

- a. Band is worth one-half credit per semester
- b. Vocal is worth one-half credit per semester
- c. Art is worth one-half credit per semester
- d. Play participation is worth one-fourth credit per performance

10. Two credits of any combination of:

- a. World Language
- b. Approved Career & Technical Education courses

If any parents wishes to waive this course of study and pursue an alternative plan of study (as defined by the DOE), a parental agreement must be signed and submitted by the parent. This alternative plan of study is up to the approval of the high school administration.

The South Dakota Board of Education developed “Pathways to Graduation” to prepare students for success in higher education, the workforce and life. Beginning with the freshman class of 2006, Pathways require students to choose one of three routes to high school graduation. These routes are:

- Standard
- Advanced
- Distinguished

St. Mary Catholic School complies with state law in requiring that all students participate in graduation standards that are aligned with the *Advanced* route of the “Pathways to Graduation”. Students are encouraged to pursue the *Distinguished* route.

If any parent wishes to waive this course of study and pursue a *Standard* course of study (as defined by the DOE), a parental agreement must be signed and submitted in the office while a student is attending St. Mary Catholic High School. This course of study must be approved by administration.

WORK-EXPERIENCE CLASSES

A work-experience class (WEC) at SMHS is an elective course offered to juniors and seniors upon approval from the administration. It is intended to introduce the student to the experiences of employment while still enrolled in high school. It is not meant as an early release from the school day. The WEC is intended to expand the school into the vocational arena without causing undue financial burden through staffing and curriculum modifications. The student in the WEC will be observed twice each quarter by school personnel and written documentation provided. The WEC class can only be taken for 2 credits in high school career.

The WEC supervisor will also assess the student once each quarter and provide the school with written documentation. The grade given for the WEC class will not be used when figuring honor roll or advanced class rankings. Poor academic performance in any core-subject area, weak quarterly observation, poor job performance in the WEC, or school or work attendance problems may result in removal from the class and re-entry into a traditional classroom subject. A Release-of-Liability form must be on file with the school before this class begins. The student is responsible for finding his/her own job prior to the semester beginning. The guidance counselor and principal are responsible for employment contacts and supervisory evaluations for grading.

INDEPENDENT STUDIES

An independent studies class (IS) is a rare situation at SMHS. Nothing replaces the classroom interactions and consistent student-teacher contact of a traditional class period. An IS is used only

when all other means of offering a course have been exhausted or is seen as the only opportunity for successfully completing a required course. Students taking an IS class must have approval from the administrator and instructor. An IS class will require a certified teacher to coordinate school work with the student during an agreed upon contract signed by the administration, teacher, student, and parent. The grading and the curriculum taught for the IS must be the same as for the class in a regular classroom setting.

AP DESCRIPTION

Advanced Placement classes (AP) are designed for college-bound students. These classes are designed to challenge students and prepare them for college curriculum. Upon completion of an AP class the student has the option to take the AP Exam and earn college credits.

GRADING SCALE

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Grade Points</u>
100+	A+	4.0
97-99	A	4.0
94-96	A-	3.66
91-93	B+	3.33
88-90	B	3.0
86-87	B-	2.66
83-85	C+	2.33
80-82	C	2.0
77-79	C-	1.66
74-76	D+	1.33
71-73	D	1.0
68-70	D-	.66
67 – below	F	0

Grading emphasis and procedures may differ with individual teachers in computing final percentages. Teachers shall explain their grading practices to their students the first week of school.

WEIGHTED CLASSES

In an effort to encourage students to challenge themselves academically, the following class will be weighted by adding one grade point above the normal grade point: Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy, Pre-Calculus, approved dual credit classes (credit for college), and Advanced Placement classes.

WEIGHTED AVERAGES

Under the weighted average system, grade categories are assigned a weight as a percentage of the final grade. Different types of work performed by the student will be assigned a value that will help determine the final grade earned for the course. This concept of proportional relevance means that in the greater scheme of things, the tests carry more importance in making a good grade for the course, although the successful completion of other components will ensure earning the highest grade. Semester Tests for high school students will carry a weighted average of 14.28%. Tests and quizzes will carry a weighted average of no more than 50% and no less than 40%. Remaining grade categories and weights are left to the discretion of the individual teachers.

SOUTH DAKOTA REGENTS SCHOLARS

The South Dakota Regent Scholar Diploma and the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship are two different award programs. Students must have completed all high school courses listed below with no final grade below a “C” (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) and an overall grade point average of “B” (3.0 on a 4.0 scale). 4 units of English, 4 units of algebra or higher mathematics, 4 units of science including 3 units of approved laboratory science, 3 units of social studies, 2 units of modern or classical language, 1 unit of fine arts, and ½ unit of computer science.

SOUTH DAKOTA OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

The South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship provides \$5,000 over four years to qualifying students who attend an eligible higher education institution in South Dakota. Students must fulfill Regent Scholar curriculum with no final grade below a C (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, have an ACT composite score of 24 or and/or the sum of the verbal and mathematics scores on the SAT must be at least 1070 or higher. The Opportunity Scholarship is applied for after a student completes all classes and the final transcript is evaluated following graduation.

REQUIREMENTS FOR COLLEGE ENTRANCE

College admission requirements vary from college to college and from one region of the country to another. Because of this variation, it is important that students and parents begin early to investigate the admission policies of colleges in which they are interested. The responsibility of planning a high school program, which will meet these requirements, rests with students and their parents. School guidance personnel will furnish information and provide guidance when interest in a particular college is indicated.

Parents and students should be aware that college entrance requirements are continually changing. Also, particular schools or departments (such as science or engineering) within a university may have their own entrance requirements. The following are the requirements that will be necessary for admission to most four-year programs at a state supported school in South Dakota:

- English 4 credits
- Social Science 3 credits
- Computer Science ½ credit
- Fine Arts 1 credit
- Science 3 credits of Lab Science
- Mathematics* 3 credits—Courses must be Algebra I level and above

**Be aware that there may be additional entrance requirements at some colleges. If a student is considering a college out of state or a private college in state or out of state, the student should look at the individual college requirements in college catalogues or other publications. Consult the guidance counselor for further information.

The preceding requirements or recommendations represent minimum general preparation for many institutions of higher learning. The best guide or reference remains the publications of the colleges themselves. **College-bound students are strongly encouraged to prepare by exceeding minimal entrance requirements, including advanced math and science classes along with two years of one foreign language. This type of preparation will benefit students academically and allow them greater choices regarding institutions of higher learning.**

The American College Test (ACT) and the College Board Scholastic Aptitude test (SAT I and SAT II) are most often used for college admissions. Both are tests of general achievement and scholastic aptitude. They attempt to measure acquired knowledge in various subject areas and general ability to do academic work. The tests are one of the requirements universities and colleges use for admission. The results are also used to aid in placing the student in various courses or in varying levels of a

course. College entrance tests are administered five or six times during the year. It is generally recommended that they be taken at the end of the Junior year or early in the Senior year. Registration materials and information about the tests can be obtained from the Guidance Office.

AGRICULTURE

Course Title	Credit	Grade	Course Description
Ag I (DRPS)	1	9-12	Elective. Areas of study are crop science, managing our natural resources, introductory horticulture, agricultural and shop safety, wood construction shop tools use and care, FFA, Leadership, record keeping, exploration of agriculture careers, and shop work
Ag II (DRPS)	1	10-12	Elective. Areas of study are animal science, meat identification and grading, FFA, leadership, record keeping, Ag. Processing, arc welding, acetylene (gas) welding, exploration of agriculture career, shop safety, and shop work.
Ag III (DRPS)	1	11-12	Elective. Areas of study are small gasoline engines, concrete, large engine tune-up and maintenance, horticulture, agriculture buildings, Ag level and uses, agricultural machinery, FFA, leadership, record keeping, exploring agricultural careers, and shop work.
Ag IV (DRPS)	1	12	Elective. Areas of study are electricity, Ag. Management, FFA, leadership, shop work, record keeping, and looking into possible careers. Basic wiring, electric controls, motor selection is included in the electricity unit.
Ag Manufacturing (DRPS)	1	11-12	Elective. Pre-requisite—Ag I or teacher recommendation. Areas of study will help for the entry into College or vocational training after High School. This course will be an extension of the skills learned in Ag III or Welding. Students will be primarily in the shop constructing larger projects both out of wood and metal. Other areas will include individual mechanics and electrical projects. The projects will be developed and paid for by the students.

ENGLISH

Course Title	Credit	Grade	Course Description
Freshman English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freshman Comp English/Lit 1 	1	9	<p>Required. <u>Freshman Composition</u> is designed for freshman to build upon previous writing skills. The course seeks to develop the writing processes and practices necessary for producing successful high school compositions. Students will learn to write persuasive, critical, and creative multi-paragraph essays and compositions.</p> <p><u>English/Literature 1</u> is designed for freshman to introduce them to two or more genres of literature (novel, short story, poetry, etc). Exploration of each genre's literary elements; determination of theme and intent; and the examination of vocabulary and semantics will be included.</p>
Sophomore English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Literature Speech 1 	1	10	<p>Required. <u>World Literature</u> is designed to use representative literature selections from ancient and/or modern times from countries around the world. Students will improve their critical thinking skills as they comprehend the diversity of literary traditions and the influences of those traditions.</p> <p><u>Speech 1</u> is designed to enable students, through practice, to develop communication skills that can be used in a variety of speaking situations (such as small and large group discussions, delivery of lectures or speeches in front of audiences, etc). Course topics may include research and organization, writing for verbal delivery, stylistic choices, visual and presentation skills, analysis and critique, and development of self-confidence.</p>
Junior English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> American Literature Junior Composition 	1	11	<p>Required. <u>American Literature</u> focuses upon commonly known American authors and their work. Students improve their critical thinking skills as they determine the underlying assumptions and values within the selected works and as they understand how the literature reflects the society of the time.</p> <p><u>Junior Composition</u> is designed to build upon previous writing skills. Reinforcing the logic and critical thinking skills that accompany good writing, this course will emphasize word choice, usage, and writing mechanics, and will provide continued and advanced instruction in writing for a variety of purposes and audiences.</p>
Senior English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> British Literature Creative Writing 	1	12	<p>Required. <u>British Literature</u> provides a survey of British literature or may focus on a selected timeframe of English's history. Students improve their critical thinking skills as they determine the underlying assumptions and values within the selected works and as they understand how the literature reflects the society of the time</p>

			<u>Creative Writing</u> focuses on developing and improving student techniques and individual style in poetry, short story, drama, essays, and others forms of prose. The emphasis of the course is on writing; however, students may study exemplary representations and authors to obtain a fuller appreciation of the form and craft.
Journalism	½ sem	10-12	Elective. Journalism is an introduction to the field of newspaper journalism with an emphasis placed on gathering, writing, editing, and publishing news. Consideration will also be given to the design and layout of a school newspaper. The school yearbook is created in this class.
Short Story (DRPS)	½	9-12	Elective. Students will read and discuss a variety of short stories in specific sub-genres such as science fiction, mystery, romance, horror, and western. Students will study character, plot, setting, theme and point-of-view, along with studying the writing process, culminating in the writing of a short story of their own.
Creative Writing and Criticism of Print and Film (DRPS)	½	10-12	Elective. This class is designed for students to have (1)an opportunity to understand, read, and learn to write in the script format (2) an opportunity to experience a broader range of movies than they are perhaps, used to seeing, and (3)as an occasion to learn and practice a more analytical—precise and elaborated—language for talking and writing about film and print mediums.
College Bound English (DRPS)	1	12	Elective. May substitute for English IV. In this course, the class is organized to provide the college minded individual with an intense background of literature, grammar, speech, researching and research paper formats, and journal writing exercises. Students will read British Literature (including one Shakespearean play), Native American Literature, and other forms of in-depth novels to help promote critical thinking skills.

ENGLISH CONTINUED:

Course Title	Credit	Grade	Course Description
Media and Film Criticism (DRPS)	½	10-12	Elective. This course is a thoughtful and critical analysis of film, television, documentary, news, and commercials. Students will discuss and write about the film styles of the 20th and 21st centuries, in addition to the analysis of the television drama, comedy, commercials, reality TV, and print advertising. Students will learn and practice a more analytical, precise and elaborated language for talking and writing about film and print mediums.
Short Prose Non-Fiction (DRPS)	½	10-12	Elective. A class modeled after the Short Story class. Short Prose will entail a comprehensive critical study of a wide variety of writing and topics featuring selections of non-fiction. Students will discuss and write about essays, articles, memoirs, short stories, reviews and more. Students will also learn to analyze and write about prose from multiple perspectives. Students with opinions and open-minds required.

FINE ARTS

Course Title	Credit	Grade	Course Description
Drama	¼ per performance	9-12	Elective. Students will study elements of stage production and performance. Students will develop performance confidence and a theatrical appreciation.
Vocal	½ sem	9-12	Elective. Students will improve their ability to sing in a single and group environment. Contests and concerts are performed.
Band	½ sem	9-12	Elective. Students will improve their ability to play instruments in a single and group environment. Contests and concerts are performed.
Art I	½ sem	9-12	Elective. An introduction to the elements of art, the principles of design, basic color theory, art history, and visual aesthetics. Students will be challenged with a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional media, including: drawing, painting, print-making, ceramics, and mixed media. Emphasis is placed on effort, concentrated problem investigation, and the critique of artwork of all genres.
Art II	½ sem	9-12	Elective. An intense study of the fundamentals of art. Students will further explore traditional media while adding an element of professional presentation. The problems to be solved in Art II involve a higher sense of responsibility, organization, and creative thinking. Emphasis is placed on a student's justification of solution.
Art III	½ sem	10-12	Elective. This course provides students with the opportunity for advanced exploration of drawing, painting, and clay. Students will develop independent project ideas and explore new techniques to complete these projects.
Art IV (DRPS)	1	11-12	Elective. The student, with instructor guidance, will determine the direction and area of study. This course is for students with serious interest in Art. The course will be able to be taken as an independent study.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Course Title	Credit	Grade	Course Description
Spanish I	1	9-12	Elective. This class consists of reading, writing and speaking the language. Emphasis will be on speaking Spanish. The culture of Hispanic countries will be explored.
Spanish II	1	10-12	Elective. Level II includes intensive grammar along with vocabulary. Reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills and study of culture are also emphasized.
Spanish III (Correspondence)	1	11-12	Elective. This course will review the basic elements of Spanish I and II. More advanced grammar will be studied and through selected readings we will explore the literature, history and culture of Hispanic countries. Prepares students for college level courses. The cost of this course is above and beyond tuition at SMCS and will be assessed to student's family.
Spanish IV (Correspondence)	1	11-12	Elective. This course will review the basic elements of Spanish I and II. More advanced grammar will be studied and through selected readings we will explore the literature, history and culture of Hispanic countries. Prepares students for college level courses. The cost of this course is above and beyond tuition at SMCS and will be assessed to student's family.

MATH

Course Title	Credit	Grade	Course Description
Algebra I	1	9-12	Required. This course is designed to teach the student the basic structure of algebra (the real number system), recognize the techniques of algebra as concept and skills, perceive the role of deductive reasoning in algebra, and to appreciate the need for precision of language.
Geometry	1	10-12	Required. The student will work with triangle congruence, perimeter, area, surface area, volume, and similarity of shapes, circles, and polygons. They will explore logical thinking and be introduced to trigonometry.
Algebra II	1	10-12	Required. The student will review systems of equations and all functions. They will work with matrices, quadratic functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, polynomial functions, and radical functions. They will also explore conic sections and trigonometry.
Pre-Calculus	1	11-12	Elective. The student will study polynomial and rational functions and their graphs, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometry and analytic geometry. They will also explore limits and continuity.
AP Calculus (DRPS)	1	12	Elective. This course includes is designed for students who are seriously thinking of entering a mathematics related field where a background of calculus would be beneficial to the student. Students who complete the class may seek college credit, college placement, or both, from institutions of higher learning. The course will cover functions, limits, derivatives, anti-derivatives, and other calculus related areas. The course is limited to students who have completed pre-calculus.
Pre-Algebra (DRPS)	1	9	Elective. Teacher recommendation required Pre-Algebra is a course designed for the student who needs an intermediate step between their junior high math and their high school algebra. This course helps bring together the student's basic computational skills and their general mathematical concepts. With these two ideas in mind a lot of exercises, examples, and verbal problems are used. A great deal of emphasis is put on maintaining previously attained skills and at the same time continuing to extend those skills. Pre-Algebra is a good course for people who desire or need an extensive review before entering high school algebra. It does not meet the math requirement for acceptance to a South Dakota college.

MATH CONTINUED:

Accelerated Algebra II (DRPS)	1	10-12	Elective. Prerequisites: Geometry II or Geometry I with teacher's recommendation The pace and depth of topics in this course will be challenging. A strong math aptitude and work ethic are needed to be successful. Topics covered will include polynomial, radical, exponential, logarithmic, rational, and trigonometric functions, matrices, conic sections, probability, and systems of equations and inequalities. Graphing calculators will be used as an aid in understanding concepts and developing patterns.
Geometry II (DRPS)	1	10-12	Elective. Teacher recommendation required The course deals with the measurement properties and relationships of points, lines, angles, surface, and solids. The course involves Euclidean geometry, coordinate geometry, solid geometry, set theory, and logic. An informal guided discovery approach is used in our "learn by doing" method of instruction. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning. Reading skills and reasoning skills are important to the student's success. A considerable amount of student work time will be spent using the computer.

RELIGION

Course Title	Credit	Grade	Course Description
Religion I	1	9	Required. Christian Service Plan, Living as Christ in Today's World, Ethics & Relationships. Course introduces students to the basic core of Catholic teachings regarding doctrine, sacraments, and faith within a community orientation. After students learn the fundamentals of Catholic social teaching, they will analyze various economic and social injustices based on these principles.
Religion II	1	10	Required. Christian Service Plan, The Bible and You, Celebrations of God's Life. Catholic students will complete confirmation preparation. Course consists of an overview of both Old and New Testament. Students will be familiarized with the tools necessary to read scripture with a historical and literary understanding and to personally integrate God's Word. Students will come to comprehend and understand Catholic teaching on the nature of sacrament and the seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church.
Religion III	1	11	Required. Christian Service Plan, Together in Faith. Course will help students to better understand the nature of the Catholic Church through study of the major events and people that have shaped it through history. The connection between these historical events and modern church life will be discovered. Students will complete three of four course-lets during the second half of this class. These are liturgy preparation, Christian prayer, world religions, and a Catholic novel review.
Religion IV	1	12	Required. Christian Service Plan, Believing, Understanding Human Sexuality, Relationship. Non-Catholic students will be given the option to complete religious electives. Course equips students to respond articulately and with confidence to questions about the Catholic Christian Faith by providing solid explanations for commonly debated topics. The course explores the claim that we find God in loving, committed relationships and that we are called to live our lives in loving response to the one who loved us first. Students reflect on identity, communication, love, sexuality, and Christian commitments (marriage, holy orders, and religious life) in light of Christ's example and teaching.

SCIENCE

Course Title	Credit	Grade	Course Description
Physical Science	1	9	Required. Scientific methods and skills needed for future science classes are learned in this class. Topics such as motion, forces, energy, and physical properties of objects, light and sound are covered. Students develop logic and thinking skills applicable to all real-life situations.
Biology	1	10	Required. During the first quarter, the basics of ecology are covered. Second is spent on cells, energy and the beginnings of DNA. Genetics and Plants are covered & the year is wrapped up with animals and human reproduction. Students actively participate in labs, discussion, projects and current events.
Anatomy & Physiology (DRPS)	1	11-12	Elective. Students will study the inner workings of the human body. A basic foundation of cells and tissues will be laid out before beginning the organ systems. Students will actively participate in dissections and projects to reinforce the material covered.
Chemistry	1	11-12	Required or Elective. Introductory topics in Chemistry, problem solving, and logic skills will be covered & emphasized. Chemical equations, Electron configurations and the mathematics of chemical equations are a few of the many topics covered. A strong background in math is recommended before taking this class.
Physics	1	11-12	Required or Elective. Physics includes the study of physical mechanics, light, sound, electricity, and some nuclear physics. Advanced Algebra and Chemistry are strongly recommended before taking Physics. This is college prep lab course.
Advanced Chemistry (DRPS)	1	12	Elective. Prerequisite: 1 year of each Physical Science, Biology and Chemistry. This course is designed to prepare students for science majors such as pre-engineering, pre-medicine, or chemistry. This course expands on first year Chemistry concepts with emphasis on modern bonding theories, various equilibria, electrochemistry, chemical thermodynamics, kinetics, and some organic, biochemistry and nuclear chemistry. Students must have demonstrated a high degree of competency in mathematics, and must have the self-discipline to put in many hours each week for studies outside of class. Some skills that will be used are critical thinking, clear and logical expression of ideas orally and in writing, and problem solving. This is both a college prep course and a Tech Prep course.

SOCIAL STUDIES

SMCS strives to assist our students in making wise and reasoned decisions as Catholic citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in a complex and interdependent world.

Course Title	Credit	Grade	Course Description
World Geography	½	10	Required. This class will study the geography and cultures of the world. Geographic studies will enable students to understand the earth's people, places, and environments.
American History	1	11	Required. This class will study the history of the US from the industrial revolution to the present. Through this material students will develop an understanding of the historical development of American ideas and institutions. This material will give the students the opportunities to not only study the past, but to analyze it, and interpret what they have learned.
American Government	1	12	Required. This class will study the Government of the US from its inception to the present. The goal of this course is to provide knowledge of the functioning of our government, and the understanding of the processes that takes place to make those things happen.
Psychology	½	9-12	Elective. This class focuses on the study of human behavior, mental health, stress, human motivation, dreaming, and states of consciousness.
Sociology (DRPS)	½	9-12	Elective. The study of societal groups including their formation, interaction, and purposes in society. Topics of study include socialization process, poverty and wealth, and crime and family.
World History	½	10	Required. This course will be covering from pre-historic to modern times, both western and non-western worlds. Topics include: the rise of civilization; political, social and economic developments of the Middle Ages; the Renaissance and era of discovery; the growth of democracy and nationalism; the industrial revolution; and the two world wars. Postwar problems and recent developments are also studied.
Psychology II (DRPS)	½	10-12	Elective. Prerequisites: Psychology I Students will explore in depth the areas of the influence of social and cultural factors on personality development and behavior, the study of emotional and behavioral abnormality and treatment strategies. The development and adjustment of adolescents in the socialization process is also a focus.

SOCIAL SCIENCE CONTINUED:

Course Title	Credit	Grade	Course Description
Great Tragedies in History (DRPS)	½	10-12	Instead of the normal chronological approach to history, this course is built around a single concept, tragedy. Many of our best tests as a nation have resulted from often unforeseen events that have captivated us and would also help to define us as a people. The first unit will center on more of a local or regional basis. Students will research such topics as the Rapid City flood, Governor Mickelson plane crash, Spencer Tornado, or the Wounded Knee massacre. Unit two will center more on research in the area of assassinations. We will find out what makes a murder an assassination. With no shortage of choices, most students choose to learn more about the death of JFK, RFK, Dr. King or, Lincoln. Our third unit will center on a potpourri of titles of famous defining moments in history such as the Titanic, Apollo 13, the Hindenburg, or the Great Chicago Fire. A fourth unit will center on tragedies of war including such topics as the Bataan Death March, Hitler's death camps, or the D Day Invasion. A fifth and final unit will center more around the sadly increasing number of terrorist activities plaguing our world such as Oklahoma City, Columbine, and 9-11.
America & The World Today (DRPS)	½	10-12	Elective. A concentration on current events throughout world for the purpose of developing understanding of these events by utilizing mass media. Political, economic, ideological, historical, and geographical background information is incorporated into the study of the issues of today with emphasis on citizenship and American involvement in world affairs.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Course offerings in the Technology Department provide instruction and training for future vocational needs and personal use. The primary goals of the Technology Department are to provide education about business related concepts and prepare students for the global business community they will enter in their future.

Course Title	Credit	Grade	Course Description
Computer I	½	9	Required. This class will study all of the components of Microsoft Office. They will also master their skills on the Internet and they will comply with all the requirements of the SD Board of Regents for College entrance.
Web Design	½	10-12	Elective. This course teaches the use of Front Page. Creating, updating, and maintaining the school web site is part of this class.
Computer Programming (DRPS)	½	10-12	Elective. This course is designed for students who have an interest in advancing their knowledge of how computers work. Students will also learn the history of programming, introductory concepts of Visual Basic programming language and write windows based programs using Visual Basic 6.0.
Computer Programming II (DRPS)	½	10-12	Elective. Prerequisites: Successfully completed a full year of Computer Applications Computer Programming I This course will be a continuation of Computer Programming I. Coursework will include an advanced in-depth analysis of Visual Basic programming language and design. Students will read and write text files into list boxes and arrays, study SQL database (Structured Query Language), use custom controls, learn common windows controls, create multiple-document applications, program with class, and compile and distribute programs. Students will also write individual programs for use in other classes.
Video Editing (DRPS)	½	10-12	Elective. Prerequisites: Computer Applications This course is designed for students wishing to gain experience in the different aspects of creating a video. Concepts covered in this course will include hardware, and the planning, creating, editing, and producing of a video. Students will also learn the different features available on a digital camcorder.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION CONTINUED

<p>Desktop Publishing (DRPS)</p>	<p align="center">½</p>	<p align="center">10-12</p>	<p>Elective. Prerequisite: Successfully completed a full year of Computer Applications This one semester course will be a combination of layout and design concepts related to desktop publishing and web-page development. During the first part of this course, students will learn advanced concepts of desktop publishing by designing and creating professional quality publications for business and home. Emphasis on student created projects will include newsletters, annual reports, brochures and promotional materials. During the second part of this course, students will learn advanced concepts of web page development by planning and constructing web pages. Students will discuss historical, ethical, and social implications of using web pages. Students will develop a balance of technical and aesthetic knowledge of desktop publishing and web page development.</p>
<p>Computer Graphics (DRPS)</p>	<p align="center">½</p>	<p align="center">10-12</p>	<p>Elective. Prerequisite: Successfully completed a full year of Computer Applications with a “C” or better This course is designed to incorporate art into technology. Students will use photo-editing software to learn the concepts for morphing still images and creating animated pictures. Students will also gain an in-depth understanding of the use of digital cameras and scanners as tools in computer graphics.</p>
<p>Computer Graphics II (DRPS)</p>	<p align="center">½</p>	<p align="center">10-12</p>	<p>Elective. Prerequisite: Successfully completed Computer Graphics This course is designed for students that have completed computer graphics. The student with instructor guidance will determine the special project for this course. Students will gain a more advanced use in using tools for computer graphics.</p>

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION CONTINUED

<p>Integrated Technology (DRPS)</p>	<p align="center">½</p>	<p align="center">9-12</p>	<p>Elective. This course is a hands-on class that reflects current and future technologies.</p> <p>The course will serve as a foundation for a lifetime of interested and application. Students design and improve technology through problem-solving activities. Technologies to be explored include Aerodynamics, Animations, Robotics and Automation, Computer Aided Drafting, Flight Simulation, Electronics, Engineering and Stress Analysis, Radio Broadcasting, Video Production, Alternative Energy, Plastics, Manufacturing Processes, 3-D Design and Construction. This course will be taught in the new Industrial Technology lab. The program is a dynamic design technology approach for providing exciting curriculum, processes, and resources to implement a quality technology foundation.</p>
<p>Construction Technology (DRPS)</p>	<p align="center">½</p>	<p align="center">10-12</p>	<p>Elective. This course helps prepare students for immediate employment and the entrance into Vocational Education. College-bound students are given the background to be able to understand occupations in the construction field. Construction is a full semester course, designed to make students aware of different types of construction and focusing of framing construction. Students will be involved in designing, estimating and building a utility shed.</p>

MISCELLANEOUS COURSES

Course Title	Credit	Grade	Course Description
Personal Finance	½	11-12	Required or Elective. Does not meet Math requirement. This course develops life-long skills for making wise financial decisions. The content includes the use of credit, financial planning, investments, banking services, insurance (auto, life, health) and budgeting.
Work-Experience Classes	1	11-12	Elective. Intended to introduce the student to the experiences of employment while still enrolled in high school. A maximum of 2 credits of WEC can be taken for each student during his/her high school education.
Teacher Assistant	½/sem	11-12	Elective. Allows the student the opportunity to work in a classroom setting assisting students and the teacher. This course helps the upper class students build rapport with grade and middle school students. This class also exposes the maturing student to the responsibilities and duties of a classroom teacher. Responsibility and accountability are key requirements of this class. Students will be asked to work with small groups of students, supervise students, and to perform tasks without direct supervision. The actual performance goals are determined by each teacher and explained to the student at the start of the class period. TA classes can only be taken for a maximum of 2 credits during a student's high school career.
Accounting I (DRPS)	1	11-12	Elective. Students will learn the bookkeeping cycle in the simplest form. They will also learn uses of special journals and subsidiary ledgers, combination journals, payroll, and special bookkeeping transactions. Helpful for those interested in a business career and will also help students organize their personal financial records and income tax.
Accounting II (DRPS)	1	12	Elective. Students will learn the application of accounting principles for general accounting, business and capital accounting, and special accounting. Analyzing accounting records will be stressed. Accounting I is a prerequisite.
Lifetime Athletics	½	9	Required. Instruction and participation in a wide variety of individual lifetime activities such as bowling, golf, tennis, ping pong, etc. Students may be required to pay for some field trips.
Drafting (DRPS)	½	9-12	Elective. The class will move from basic to advanced drafting during the semester providing exploratory experiences in phases of drafting and development.
Basic Life Skills (DRPS)	1	9-10	Elective. This course is designed to develop the total well being of the student. It will develop skills to empower the student to become a productive, well-adjusted and healthy individual, Family member and worker.
Nutrition and Foods (DRPS)	½	10-12	Elective. The family and consumer science class focuses on nutrition, wellness and food principles. It will also include a special food entrepreneurship project that includes a business plan.

MISCELLANEOUS CONTINUED:

Course Title	Credit	Grade	Course Description
Advanced Nutrition and Foods (DRPS)	½	10-12	Elective. The course will focus on advanced nutrition and food principles. The course will develop skills and knowledge necessary for a healthy individual. Some of the topics to be covered include dietary needs and intake comparisons, special diets for the child, elderly, weight control, low-cholesterol and other special dietetic needs. There will also be some emphasis on preparation and serving of meals, meal planning and careers in the food industry.
Economics (DRPS)	½	10-12	Required or Elective. This course reflects upon our national ideas and how the free enterprise system influences our levels of living. Economics is designed to give a basic understanding of how our system functions which is essential to our development as producers, consumers, and citizens.
Business Law (DRPS)	½	11-12	Elective. This course is designed to acquaint the student with the various types of laws and how they relate to his or her daily life.
Woodworking Technology (DRPS)	½	9-12	Elective. This introductory course provides instruction and information concerning tools, machines, materials, safe work habits and practice on projects that are basic to the broad area of woodworking.
Advanced Woodworking Technology (DRPS)	½	10-12	Elective. The course is for students that have completed Woodworking Technology. The students will be provided instruction and information concerning tools, machines, materials, and safe work habits. Students will have the opportunity to further their woodworking skills and build more advanced woodworking projects. Students must be serious about building their projects and spending quality time in the shop.
Child Development & Parenting (DRPS)	½	10-12	Elective. This course is designed to develop skills and knowledge in the area of human development for the child up to the age of six.
Concurrent Enrollment (Credit is determined on a case by case basis)		11-12	There are a number of classes offered to students from institutions of higher learning. Those courses can be taken off campus, through the distance learning system, or over the Internet. This allows students to receive high school credit along with college credit when taking the class. If you are a student interested in this type of opportunity, you should visit with the principal or guidance counselor for more information.
Welding (DRPS)	½	11-12	Elective. This one semester course is set up to give you the basics that will allow you to learn on the job, attend a vocational school or college. The course will cover the shop safety, arc, oxy-acetylene, MIG, TIG, spot, laser, and high frequency in the classroom. In the shop arc, gas and wire feed welding will be done with cutting also included.

MISCELLANEOUS CONTINUED:

Small Engine Basic Mechanics Class (DRPS)	½	11-12	Elective. This one semester course will be the study of basic small engine mechanics. Terminology, formulas, safety, measuring devices, and the use of the technical manual will be used in the class. Work on small engines will be done in the shop. Large engine maintenance, tune-up and troubleshooting will also be covered.
Career, Family, and Community Connections (DRPS)	½	10-12	Elective. The course is designed to develop leadership skills. This will help students prepare for leadership roles in their families, schools, communities and careers. Topics covered will include leadership roles, qualities, styles and skills, becoming effective problem solver, creative and critical thinking skills, communication styles and techniques, public relations and public speaking and working as teams. This will lead to hands –on learning activities through activities and projects done in the community.
Post-High Living (DRPS)	½	11-12	Elective. The course is designed to develop the total well being of the student. The student will develop knowledge and skills for life after high school. Course content areas include: managing resources (time & money); checking and savings accounts; budgeting; health, auto, homeowners/renters, liability insurance; buying a car; home and clothing, maintenance; consumer rights and responsibilities; wellness and nutrition; examining careers.
Relationships (DRPS)	½	11-12	Elective. The course will address topics that include: self-awareness; communication skills; characteristics of relationships; developing team and community spirit; roles, expectations and responsibilities of families; problem solving and decision making skills; leadership skills; family life cycle; dating, mate selection; marriage; parenting roles and responsibilities; and coping with family crisis situations such as job loss, abuse, divorce, death and dying, and the elderly generation.
Family Housing Resources (DRPS)	½	10-12	Elective. This class is designed to enable the student to make wise decisions and choices for individual and family needs and wants in relation to shelter. Topics covered include choosing housing alternatives according to individual wants and needs; developing and working with a budgeting plan according to various incomes; implementing decisions related to housing and furnishing; determining costs of housing; evaluating floor plans; and applying art principles and design for choosing and designing interior design items.

MISCELLANEOUS CONTINUED:

Physical Education (DRPS)	½	9-12	Elective. The classes will be co-educational and meet every day. Physical education activities will be selected from archery, aerobics, bowling, dance, fitness, golf, gymnastics, pickle ball, tennis, weight training, frisbee, croquet, softball, baseball, and soccer. Evaluation of the students' progress made through skill tests, knowledge tests, and subjective evaluation.
Weight Training (DRPS)	½	9-12	Elective. The class is a physical education elective open to any student. The class will be co-educational and will meet each day. Evaluations will be made based on attendance, strength ratings, daily effort and tests over classroom material presented during the grading period. Topics presented will include muscle physiology, effects of exercise based on age and gender, skill development, nutrition and weight loss, exercise and fatigue, diseases and steroid use. The lifting program is set up for partners. The student will move from station to station based on a certain time interval. Students will work upper body one day and lower body muscles the next.
Advanced Weight Training (DRPS)	½	9-12	Elective. This course is designed for students who wish to continue the individual programs that were started in Weight Training. A variety of training styles for experienced students will be presented. Additional "power lifts" will be included when appropriate.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

Course Title	Credit	Grade	Course Description
AP Calculus AB	1	11-12	AP Calculus AB students will learn to understand change geometrically and visually (by studying graphs of curves), analytically (by studying and working with mathematical formulas), numerically (by seeing patterns in sets of numbers), and verbally. Instead of simply getting the right answer, students learn to evaluate the soundness of proposed solutions and to apply mathematical reasoning to real-world models. Calculus helps scientists, engineers, and financial analysts understand the complex relationships behind real-world phenomena. AP Calculus AB prepares students for the AP Exam.
AP Statistics	1	11-12	AP Statistics students will learn hands-on experience collecting, analyzing, graphing, and interpreting real-world data. They'll learn to effectively design and analyze research studies by reviewing and evaluating real research examples taken from daily life. The next time they hear the results from another poll or study, they'll know whether the results are valid. As the art of drawing conclusions from imperfect data and the science of real world uncertainties, statistics plays an important role in many fields. AP Statistics prepares students for the AP Exam.
AP Biology	1	11-12	AP Biology students will build the conceptual framework necessary to understand science as a process. The content is divided into three sections, with correlating laboratory exercises: molecules and cells; heredity and evolution; and organisms and populations. Students will also explore evolution, energy transfer, continuity and change, the relationship of structure to function, regulation, interdependence in nature, and the balance of science, technology, and nature. AP Biology prepares students for the AP Exam.
AP Chemistry	1	11-12	Students will build an understanding of the nature and reactivity of matter. After studying the structure of atoms, molecules, and ions, students move on to solve quantitative chemical problems and explore how molecular structure relates to chemical and physical properties. Students will examine the molecular composition of common substances and learn to predictably transform them through chemical reactions. AP Chemistry prepares students for the AP Exam.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CONTINUED

Course Title	Credit	Grade	Course Description
AP Physics B	1	11-12	AP Physics B is a non-calculus survey curriculum covering five general areas: Newtonian mechanics, thermal physics, electricity and magnetism, waves and optics, and atomic and nuclear physics. Students will gain an understanding of physics' core principles and then apply them to problem-solving exercises. They'll learn how to measure the mass of a planet without weighing it, find out how electricity makes a motor turn, and learn how opticians know how to shape the lenses for glasses. AP Physics B prepares students for the AP Exam.
AP Psychology	½	11-12	AP Psychology provides an overview of current psychological research methods and theories. Students will explore the therapies used by professional counselors and clinical psychologists and examine the reasons for normal human reactions: how people learn and think, the process of human development and human aggression, altruism, intimacy, and self-reflection. They'll study core psychological concepts, such as the brain and sense functions, and learn to gauge human reactions, gather information, and form meaningful syntheses. Along the way, students will also investigate relevant concepts like study skills and information retention. AP Psychology prepares students for the AP Exam.
AP English Literature and Composition	1	11-12	AP English Literature and Composition immerses students in novels, plays, poems, and short stories from various periods. Students will read and write daily, using a variety of multimedia and interactive activities, interpretive writing assignments, and class discussions to assess and improve their skills and knowledge. The curriculum places special emphasis on reading comprehension, structural and critical analysis of written works, literary vocabulary, and recognizing and understanding literary devices. AP English Literature and Composition prepares students for the AP Exam.
AP English Language and Composition	1	11-12	In AP English Language and Composition, students learn to understand and analyze complex styles of writing by reading works from a variety of authors. They'll explore the richness of language, including syntax, imitation, word choice, and tone. They'll also learn about their own composition style and process, starting with exploration, planning, and writing, and continuing through editing, peer review, rewriting, polishing, and applying what they learn to a breadth of academic, personal, and professional contexts. AP English Language and Composition prepares students for the AP Exam.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CONTINUED

Course Title	Credit	Grade	Course Description
AP Macroeconomics	½	11-12	AP Macroeconomics studies the understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole. Students will learn the study of national income and price-level determination. Students will also become familiar with economic performance measures, the financial sector, stabilization policies, economic growth, and international economics. AP Macroeconomics prepares students for the AP Exam.
AP Microeconomics	½	11-12	AP Microeconomics studies the behavior of individuals and businesses as they exchange goods and services in the marketplace. Students will learn why the same product costs different amounts at different stores, in different cities, at different times. They'll also learn to spot patterns in economic behavior and how to use those patterns to explain buyer and seller behavior under various conditions. Microeconomics studies the economic way of thinking, understanding the nature and function of markets, the role of scarcity and competition, the influence of factors such as interest rates on business decisions, and the role of government in promoting a healthy economy. AP Microeconomics prepares students for the AP Exam
AP U.S. Government and Politics	½	11-12	AP U.S. Government and Politics studies the operations and structure of the U.S. government and the behavior of the electorate and politicians. Students will gain the analytic perspective necessary to critically evaluate political data, hypotheses, concepts, opinions, and processes. Along the way, they'll learn how to gather data about political behavior and develop their own theoretical analysis of American politics. They'll also build the skills they need to examine general propositions about government and politics, and to analyze the specific relationships between political, social, and economic institutions. AP U.S. Government and Politics prepares students for the AP Exam.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CONTINUED:

Course Title	Credit	Grade	Course Description
AP U.S. History	1	11-12	AP U.S. History analyzes and explores the economic, political, and social changes in America since Columbus. Students master historical knowledge and critical analysis, build reading, writing, and communication skills, and discover how historical events have contributed to American culture. In the process, they'll learn how decisions and events of the past continue to have profound effects on the world today and how knowledge of the causes behind past events can influence future decisions. AP U.S. History encourages students to put their factual knowledge to work by weighing evidence and interpreting problems presented by historians. AP U.S. History prepares students for the AP Exam.
AP French Language	1	11-12	AP French Language students apply their French grammar and vocabulary knowledge and their listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills to a wide variety of real-world contexts. Students learn to speak fluently and accurately, write complicated compositions, and comprehend native speakers. AP French Language prepares students for the AP Exam.
AP Spanish Language	1	11-12	AP Spanish Language students practice perfecting their Spanish speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. They study vocabulary, grammar, and cultural aspects of the language, and then apply what they've learned in extensive written and spoken exercises. AP Spanish Language students will have an expansive vocabulary and a solid, working knowledge of all verb forms and tenses. AP Spanish Language prepares students for the AP Exam.