

# COURSE OFFERINGS AND REQUIREMENTS



*ACCREDITED BY  
AdvancED  
AND THE DIOCESE OF TRENTON*

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# Trenton Catholic Academy Upper School

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*The mission of Trenton Catholic Academy is to educate a diverse pre-K to 12 student body to be responsible citizens of a global society through a challenging and relevant curriculum centered in Catholic traditions and values.*

## **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

Trenton Catholic Academy is fully accredited by AdvancED Accreditation NCA Division and the Diocese of Trenton. Our curricula are aligned to the National Common Core Curriculum Standards, New Jersey Core Content Curriculum Standards, Catholic Standards & Benchmarks, and Diocesan curriculum documents and expectations. Our graduation requirements meet and far exceed New Jersey state requirements.

## **COURSE SELECTION**

A student's placement in courses is driven by State and TCA requirements as well as the student's college and career goals. Students are expected to consult with their guidance counselor, teachers, and parents when selecting courses.

In this guide, you will find course descriptions, grade levels for which the course is offered, and prerequisites needed for course enrollment. Placement in courses is based on past performance, ability level, and teacher recommendations. No student will be admitted into a course without noted prerequisites.

Serious consideration should be given to course selection because our decisions about the courses that actually run are based on students' selection sheets which are completed with their guidance counselor. Requests for changes after the master schedule is in place may not be accommodated and/or may incur a fee. Procedures for a course change may be found in the Student Handbook.

## **CREDITS AND TRANSCRIPT REVIEW**

Upon successful completion of a course, full year courses are awarded five credits. Semester courses receive 2.5 credits. For some courses meeting more or less often, the credits are adjusted accordingly. Every TCA student is expected to take eight courses each year, meeting and exceeding State requirements. Each student's transcript will be evaluated by his/her counselor *annually* to determine if the student is on target for graduation.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION / RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Non-Catholic students are welcome at Trenton Catholic Academy. Non-Catholic students are expected to understand and agree that the school exists to educate in the framework of Catholic values and tradition. Non-Catholic students must participate in the religion classes, liturgical services, and daily prayer.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Religious Studies .....	4 years
Retreat .....	One per year
Service requirements .....	95 hours total
Grade 9 Community Service .....	20 hours
Grade 10 Community Service .....	20 hours
Grade 11 Community Service .....	25 hours
Grade 12 Community Service .....	30 hours
English .....	4 years
Physical Education/Health .....	4 years
Mathematics .....	4 years
Social Studies .....	3 years
Science .....	3 years
World Languages .....	2 years
Visual/Performing Arts .....	2 semesters (5 credits)
Career/Technical Education .....	2 semesters (5 credits)
Personal Finance .....	1 semester (2.5 credits)
Elective courses .....	Depending on the level of classes throughout the four years, a student may require up to seven (7) elective courses in order to meet graduation requirements.

## COLLEGE CREDIT

Students may earn college credit while at TCA in three ways:

- Advanced Placement Credits: Students who score a grade of three or more on the Advanced Placement Test may be eligible for college credits at many four-year colleges. Students should check with college advisors for the college's Advanced Placement Testing Policy. Any student may register to take the Advanced Placement Tests administered in the spring. Students in our A.P. courses are required to take the AP exam. Parents/guardians will be responsible to pay additional fees for this testing.
- MCCC Credits: In an agreement with Mercer County Community College, certain courses offered at MCCC earn credit. Students should check with their guidance counselor for a list of these courses. MCCC does charge

tuition for such courses, and that tuition is the responsibility of the student and his/her parents.

- A new partnership has been formed with Seton Hall University's Project Acceleration. Students may take college-level courses while here at TCA, thereby earning college credit. The credits are awarded by Seton Hall and they carry a per-credit fee (yet to be determined).

### **ACADEMIC LEVELS**

All courses offered at TCA are college and career preparation courses aligned with national, State, and Diocesan standards. For students who exhibit a strong interest and a high academic ability, we offer the following types of courses:

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT:** These courses prepare students to take the Advance Placement Examinations. These college-level courses are in accordance with the national Advanced Placement Program and are approved by College Board.

**ADVANCED:** These courses are college-level courses for students that exhibit both interest and academic ability in the specialized content area.

**HONORS:** These courses are high school level courses that instruct concepts in more depth, at a more challenging level, and possibly at a faster pace than similar college preparation courses.

### **GRADING**

A = 91-100  
B = 82-90  
C = 75-81  
D = 70-74  
F = 69 and below

### **HONOR ROLL**

The Honor Roll for each marking period is calculated according to the following standards:

1. **HONORS WITH DISTINCTION:** A student must earn an average of 95 with no rounding and no grade lower than a 91;
2. **FIRST HONORS:** A student must earn an average of 91 with no rounding and no grade lower than an 85;
3. **SECOND HONORS:** A student must earn an average of 85 with no rounding and no grade lower than an 82;
4. **ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION:** A student's GPA must increase by 5 points from the previous quarter. This recognition will be awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters only.

## **CLASS RANK**

Class rank is computed once a year, in June, for Grades 9, 10, and 11. Grade 12 ranking is computed at the end of the seventh semester. However, no student will be ranked until he/she has been at TCA for at least one full year. Class rank is a cumulative rating based on the weighted G.P.A. Students may obtain their rank in the Guidance Office. Trenton Catholic Academy offers a *rank-optional policy* for college applications. Contact the Guidance Office for more information.

## **QUALITY POINTS AND GPA**

Both weighted and unweighted G.P.A.s are calculated each year. Weighted G.P.A.s are calculated using quality points to account for the higher level of difficulty of specialized courses. Grade point equivalents increase for grades earned in weighted courses. For example, a student who earned a 96% in an Honors level course would have a 3.84 unweighted G.P.A and a 4.32 weighted G.P.A.

There are two levels of courses utilized for the purpose of a weighted G.P.A.

1. Weighted level: Advanced Placement (AP) courses, Advanced courses, and Honors courses
2. Unweighted level: Any course not designated as Advanced, Advanced Placement, or Honors

### **Quality Points**

To calculate quality points for a course, we use the following calculations:

Weighted courses: Advanced and Advanced Placement courses = Student grade x .050

Honors courses = Student grade x .045

Unweighted courses: Student grade x .040

### **G.P.A. Calculation**

To determine the overall weighted G.P.A., divide the total number of weighted quality points earned (sum of quality points from each year in high school) by the total number of credits attempted (sum of all credits attempted in high school).

## **VALEDICTORIAN / SALUTATORIAN**

The class valedictorian and salutatorian will be named after the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the senior year. The criteria for the selection process follow:

- The two highest cumulative GPA records;
- The students have never been on either academic or disciplinary probation;
- The students' records are clear of any issues involving personal/academic integrity such as cheating, plagiarism, etc;
- The decision of the Administration is final. The Administration reserves the right to postpone its decision in the event of an especially close ranking.

## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Trenton Catholic Academy has established the McCorristin Chapter of the National Honor Society. Membership in this prestigious organization “is an honor bestowed upon a student” who exhibits outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Students who meet the specific criteria suggested by the National Office are invited to become members. Students may not apply for membership. Membership is granted only to those students selected by the Faculty Council who base their selection on the following:

- Membership is open to sophomores and juniors;
- The minimum cumulative grade point average is 90%;
- The academic requirement set by the National Council is based on a student’s cumulative grade point average with a specific prerequisite number of academic courses: Being enrolled in a minimum of two honors courses and four Level 1 courses for each year in 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades;
- Vo –Tech students must be enrolled in one academic course at Honors level and must maintain an “A” average in the Vo-Tech program;
- Students who meet the academic requirements are notified and must complete a Student Activity Information Profile;
- The faculty members submit recommendations for each student rating each candidate on character, leadership and service;
- A Faculty Council consisting of five teachers with voting privileges and the Chapter advisor, a non-voting member, review all information about each candidate and votes on each. Candidates receiving a majority vote of the Faculty Council may be invited to become members of the Chapter.

Students who hope to be nominated for membership are strongly encouraged to actively demonstrate their leadership skills, give numerous examples of service and always show good, positive character, both in the classroom and outside the classroom in the school community. *Although the academic criteria are important and are considered first, candidates are also evaluated on their performance in the areas of leadership, service and character.* Students who accept the invitation to become members must maintain the qualities of scholarship, service, leadership and character by which they were selected.

The McCorristin Chapter specifically requires its members to:

- Maintain the minimum cumulative grade point average of 90% or above for each marking period of membership;
- Complete 60 hours of service to the school, community or church for each year of membership;
- Pay \$10.00 dues for each year of membership.

A member who does not maintain these requirements is subject to probation or dismissal from the National Honor Society. Members in good standing are eligible to apply for a National Honor Society Scholarship during the senior year,

receive special recognition at graduation, and may attend any National Honor Society functions.

*ANY QUALIFIED STUDENT MAY BE ADMITTED TO THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY. NO ONE WILL BE EXCLUDED ON THE BASIS OF RACE, SEX, RELIGION OR NATIONAL ORIGIN.*

### OTHER HONOR SOCIETIES

Trenton Catholic Academy offers several other opportunities for students to be recognized for leadership and academic achievement. Trenton Catholic Academy proudly has chapter charters for the following honor societies:

- Quill & Scroll Journalism Honor Society
- Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society
- Tri-M Music Honor Society
- Thespian Theatre Honor Society
- Science Honor Society
- Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (Spanish Honor Society).

**SPECIAL NOTE: A complete explanation of all academic policies is included in the Student Handbook. The Administration of TCA reserves the right to review and amend all academic policies and decisions.**

## FINE & APPLIED ARTS DEPARTMENT

<b>ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS &amp; DRAFTING</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course is a basic drafting course which will incorporate architectural history. The first semester will focus on drafting and basic architectural elements, and the second semester will focus on scale dimensions and model building.            Grades: 11, 12  <b>Prerequisite: Basic Art</b></p>	
<b>BASIC ART</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>In this year-long course, the first semester discusses the Elements of Art, the second semester discusses the Principles of Design. Suited for any student at any level of artistic ability, students must complete this course before taking Fundamentals of Drawing &amp; 2D/3D Design or Architectural Elements &amp; Drafting.            Grades: 10, 11, 12</p>	
<b>FUNDAMENTALS OF DRAWING/2D-3D DESIGN</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This portfolio prep class is for students pursuing a career in art. In this full year course, the first semester is dedicated to drawing, which will include still life, portraiture and experimentation with various 2D media. At the end of this semester students will have 4-</p>	

<p>5 detailed drawings for inclusion in their portfolio. The second semester focuses on 2D and 3D design such as sculpture, carving, and building.</p> <p><b>Prerequisite: Basic Art</b> Grades: 11, 12</p>	
<b>PIANO</b>	<b>2.5 credits</b>
<p>This one-semester course will address the needs of students at varying levels of piano ability. Students' training follows a classical approach, focusing on technique, playing and reading music, and chord development. Musicians will be graded on individual ability and rate of growth.</p> <p>Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12</p>	
<b>RECORD PRODUCTION</b>	<b>2.5 credits</b>
<p>Students will learn about making and marketing music in the current technological market. This one-semester course will cover commonly-used terminology in the industry, the process of songwriting, licensing and distribution of music, and the role of social media in today's music world.</p> <p>Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12</p>	
<b>INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course gives students a basic overview of the different aspects of theatre. Intro to Theatre includes an overview of the history of theatre, basic approaches to acting and different roles involved in the production of a play. Students will have the opportunity to act, design a set, design costumes and makeup, and stage manage or direct a one-act performance for their class.</p> <p>Grades: 10, 11, 12</p>	
<b>ACTING AND PRODUCTION</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This second-level course follows a more in-depth study of the production of a play. Students will explore further methods of acting and directing and learn about the other members of a production team. They will also write scenes and short plays that will be performed by their classmates. This class is also responsible for the coordination and production of Café Corristin. Works studied will range from Shakespeare to contemporary drama.</p> <p><b>Prerequisite: Introduction to Theatre or Teacher Approval</b> Grades: 10, 11, 12</p>	
<b>MUSIC THEORY AND HISTORY</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This follows two different courses of study throughout the year. The first semester focuses on the rudiments of music theory, including, but not limited to, elements of the staff, rhythmic and melodic notation, music composition, and beginning piano skills. The second semester is an examination of American Music History, starting with the blues and leading up to contemporary music.</p> <p>Grades: 10, 11, 12</p>	

<b>CHORUS</b>	<b>No credit</b>
<p>The Chorus period is held daily during student study halls and is open to all students. Our Mixed Choir performs a variety of music, from classical pieces to contemporary music, as well as gospel and show tunes. Select Choir is an auditioned group which rehearses after school. Both groups are responsible for music at Mass and prayer services, as well as the Christmas Concert and other performances outside the school.</p> <p>Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12</p>	

## BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

<b>COMPUTER APPLICATIONS &amp; TECHNOLOGY</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>Students use computer software to learn basic keyboarding skills and learn to key personal and business letters and envelopes, memoranda, tables, and short reports with acceptable speed and accuracy. They are introduced to Microsoft Access, Excel, and Power Point, as well as gaining an in-depth knowledge of Microsoft Word.</p> <p>Grades: 10, 11, 12</p>	
<b>MARKETING &amp; ETHICS</b>	<b>2.5 credits</b>
<p>Sales and marketing is such a significant arena in job placement today. It is important that students know about all the different forms of marketing including e-commerce, retail, wholesale, and international marketing among others. Some specific areas of interest in marketing are pricing policies, consumer behavior, competition and advertising. In addition to marketing, the student will learn to make responsible and mature moral decisions through instruction in business ethics.</p> <p>Grades: 11, 12</p>	
<b>PERSONAL FINANCE</b>	<b>2.5 credits</b>
<p>This required course covers topics such as checking accounts, saving accounts, and other savings vehicles, as well as, interpreting stock market reports. The course delves into issues such as renting vs. buying a home, car purchases, establishing good credit and how to effectively use credit, investing for the future and the importance of thrift.</p> <p>Grades: 10, 11, 12</p>	
<b>ENTREPRENEURSHIP &amp; PUBLICATIONS</b>	<b>2.5 credits</b>
<p>This course gives students an opportunity to explore new business ideas and work through the process of molding innovative ideas into professional business proposals. Students will have an opportunity to write and present a professional business plan and a print publication that is being implemented in the community. Entrepreneurship emphasizes professionalism in business endeavors and sets a standard for creativity and drive in student achievement.</p> <p>Grades: 11, 12</p>	

<b>SPORTS MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>2.5 credits</b>
<p>This course is designed to develop a thorough understanding of the management and marketing concepts and theories that apply to sports and sporting events. This course is based on the business and marketing core that includes principles and practices of sport management, communication skills, distribution, marketing-information management, pricing, product/service management, promotion, selling, operations, strategic management, human resource management, and the economic impact and considerations involved in the sport management and marketing industries. Leadership development will also be provided through activities and competitive events.</p> <p>Grades: 11, 12</p>	

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

<b>HONORS ENGLISH I</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course exposes students to the major literary genres; i.e. short stories, non-fiction, poems, and excerpts from novels. Students will be expected to actively participate in discussions of literary works; moreover, they will be introduced to literary analysis techniques. In addition, writing assignments are designed to prepare students for a variety of written assessments required in high school. A research project will strengthen skills in the area of information literacy. Lastly, weekly vocabulary will enhance the course.</p> <p>Grade: 9</p>	
<b>ENGLISH I A</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course focuses on the major literary genres; i.e. short stories, non-fiction, poems, and excerpts from novels. In addition, the study of grammar, correct usage, and the development of writing skills will prepare students for the variety of assignments that they will be required to submit throughout high school. Finally, weekly lessons in vocabulary development complete the course.</p> <p>Grade: 9</p>	
<b>ENGLISH I B</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course emphasizes reading skills; as well, it focuses on correct writing mechanics. Students are exposed to a variety of literary genres including classic, modern, and contemporary with an emphasis on global perspectives and themes. Guidance in careful reading to enhance comprehension will help develop critical thinking skills. Lastly, vocabulary development complements the course.</p> <p>Grade: 9</p>	
<b>HONORS ENGLISH II</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course traces the development of American literature and language from the 1600's to the present day. Also, the course includes the reading of two selections of American literature during the summer and the study of two more American novels during the</p>	

<p>school year. Students continue to improve grammar, correct usage, and vocabulary through the writing of the multi-paragraph essay, with particular emphasis on the research paper. Grade: 10</p>	
<b>ENGLISH II A</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This English course covers this country's heritage; i.e. American literature from the Colonial Period to the Twentieth Century. Strengthening skills, building vocabulary and drilling the basics of grammar and correct usage are essential in the variety of written assignments including the multi-paragraph essay. Grade: 10</p>	
<b>ENGLISH II B</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course continues to emphasize basic reading skills and vocabulary development for better comprehension. The study of grammar and correct usage correlates with the teaching of skills necessary to compose basic essays. This course follows a chronological approach to the study of American Literature and also incorporates global perspectives and themes. Grade: 10</p>	
<b>HONORS ENGLISH III</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course features a chronological study of British literature as well as the study of several British novels and plays. To prepare for college writing, students write literary analysis papers. Vocabulary study focuses on the use and development of specialized literary terms and techniques. Students read three novels and complete book critiques during the summer preceding the course. Grade: 11</p>	
<b>ENGLISH III A</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course traces the development of English literature and language from the Anglo-Saxon Period to the Twentieth Century. This class includes the reading of a British novel and a Shakespearean tragedy. Students continue to improve grammar, correct usage, and vocabulary through the writing of the multi-paragraph essay with special emphasis on literary analysis. Grade: 11</p>	
<b>ENGLISH III B</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course reinforces basic reading skills. It traces the development of English literature and language from the Anglo-Saxon Period to the Twentieth Century. Students discover a wide selection of genres composed by a variety of authors and are provided opportunities to explore those genres in Hispanic and African American literature. Literature-based activities teach skills in all areas of language arts as well as in critical thinking, writing, and speaking. The study of grammar, correct usage, and weekly vocabulary round out the course. Grade: 11</p>	

<b>AP LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>To prepare students to take the College Board Advanced Placement Examination in Literature and Composition, this course focuses on the study of masterpieces of world literature. The class emphasizes critical thinking, speaking, and writing skills. At the same time students are studying selections of challenging world literature, they are also working on strategies to perform well on the examination. During both semesters, students write in a variety of rhetorical modes. Also, students respond to essay prompts that have appeared on previous AP Examinations. Students read extensively and complete four critical analysis papers during the summer preceding this course. Students are <u>required</u> to take the Advanced Placement Examination in Literature and Composition.</p> <p><b>Prerequisite: Department Recommendation</b> Grade: 12</p>	
<b>ENGLISH IV A</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course explores selections of world literature using a country and/or continent approach. The study begins with the African Literary Tradition, continues through literature of the Ancient Middle East, the literature of Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, India, China, Japan, Eastern Europe, and concludes with twentieth century selections in literature from the Americas. Instruction in developing a writing style is provided; in addition, vocabulary study is related to literature. To prepare for college writing, students review and strengthen essay-writing skills gaining experience in a variety of rhetorical modes.</p> <p>Grade: 12</p>	
<b>ENGLISH IV B</b>	
<p>This course will focus on a thematic approach to World Literature. Some of the themes are particularly relevant to seniors in high school, including “Priorities,” “Insights,” and “Reality.” Among the countries whose literature is featured are Greece, Chile, Norway, Poland, Japan, Russia, China, India, and Nigeria. Students will hone their writing skills through dedicated lessons; moreover, they will produce a research paper as well as essays analyzing literary selections.</p> <p>Grade: 12</p>	
<b>PUBLIC SPEAKING</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This semester course focuses on the skills necessary to be an effective communicator. Included among many activities are guidelines for introductions, suggestions for building self-esteem, and strategies for developing competence in group communication. Students also write and deliver various types of speeches.</p> <p>Grades: 10, 11, 12</p>	

**GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT**

The Guidance Department offers a variety of support services to our students. These include (but are not limited to) field trips to local colleges, applying for scholarships and tuition grants, and scheduling meetings with college representatives regarding programs available at their schools. Junior and Senior Parent Nights are also scheduled for the college application process and information about financial aid. Instruction in the college search process will occur in small group counseling sessions.

A certified School Psychologist is on duty daily to assist students with personal issues of a wide variety. Each student will meet with his/her counselor a minimum of four times per year. Students are encouraged to visit the Guidance Office as often as they care to do so. The counselors also assist students with course selection and a variety of other topics.

## MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

<b>HONORS ALGEBRA I</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course is designed for students who have mastered the basic math functions and are ready to work in the abstract area of algebra. It will cover all material listed below in Algebra I, but it will do so at a much faster pace. There will be a significant amount of homework required in this course.</p> <p>Grade: 9</p>	
<b>ALGEBRA I</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course is designed to help students understand the basic structure and language of Algebra. It places emphasis on fundamental mathematical processes and the real number system as well as the techniques of Algebra. This course aims to help students acquire a facility in applying algebraic concepts and skills.</p> <p>Grade: 9</p>	
<b>FUNDAMENTALS OF ALGEBRA I</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course is designed to reinforce the student's ability and aptitude in working with whole numbers, fractions and decimals as they move to the broad topics of Algebra I. These topics include properties of real numbers, polynomials and fractions, solving linear equations, problem solving and their applications.</p> <p>Grade: 9</p>	
<b>HONORS GEOMETRY</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course is designed for students who have successfully completed Honors Algebra. The regular Geometry curriculum content is taught but is accelerated and enriched. The course acquaints students with valuable techniques of logical reasoning and provides a field for creative thinking.</p> <p><b>Prerequisite: Honors Algebra I and/or Teacher Recommendation</b></p> <p>Grades: 9, 10</p>	

<b>GEOMETRY</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>By application of definition, Euclidean theorems and postulates, geometry exposes students, through the process of deductive reasoning, to the proof of key mathematical concepts involving two and three-dimensional figures. In-depth coverage of geometrical ideas places increased emphasis on inductive reasoning and individual discovery.</p> <p><b>Prerequisite: Algebra I</b> Grade: 10</p>	
<b>INFORMAL GEOMETRY</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>Geometry concepts are introduced informally and intuitively rather than through vigorous proofs of geometry theorems. The logical progression of the course will enable students to assimilate material easily and to develop problem-solving skills.</p> <p><b>Prerequisite: Algebra I</b> Grade: 10</p>	
<b>HONORS ALGEBRA II</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course provides a rich preparation for advanced courses in mathematics. The study of the real number system, polynomials, relations, functions, higher degree equations, exponential and logarithmic functions, and complex numbers are included in this course.</p> <p><b>Prerequisite: Honors Algebra I and Honors Geometry and/or Department Recommendation</b> Grades: 10, 11</p>	
<b>ALGEBRA II</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>The basics of Algebra I are reviewed and the students are presented with more advanced concepts of the subject. Topics include problem-solving, properties and operations of the real and complex number systems and the solution of linear, quadratic, polynomial, radical equations. Additional work is covered with systems of equations and real life applications.</p> <p><b>Prerequisite: Algebra I</b> Grade: 11</p>	
<b>INTEGRATED MATH I</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>Topics include linear inequalities, absolute value equations and inequalities, systems of equations, problem-solving and applications. Students are also presented with a broad view of more advanced algebraic concepts including problem-solving, complex numbers, and solving quadratic, polynomial and radical equations.</p> <p><b>Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Algebra I and Informal Geometry</b> Grade: 11</p>	
<b>HONORS PRECALCULUS</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course builds on the topics covered in Honors Algebra II with more applications, and includes a study of trigonometry. This course is designed to prepare students for the study of calculus, either in twelfth grade or in college.</p> <p><b>Prerequisite: Honors Algebra 2 and/or Department Recommendation</b> Grades: 11, 12</p>	

<b>HONORS CALCULUS</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course emphasizes the study of limits, differentiation of algebraic functions and applications of derivatives to maxima and minima. Integration, as the limit of summation, is applied to area, volume, and other practical problems. Students are encouraged to take the Advanced Placement Examination in Calculus AB.</p> <p><b>Prerequisite: Precalculus and Department Recommendation</b> Grade: 12</p>	
<b>HONORS TRIGONOMETRY AND ELEMENTARY ANALYSIS</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course provides a basic preparation for college courses. It assists the students in expanding and enriching their mathematical experiences. The study of trigonometric functions, identities, formulas, graphs, as well as circular functions and their inverses and complex numbers are covered. Vectors, sequences and series and other topics may be included depending on the needs of the students.</p> <p><b>Prerequisite: Algebra II and Department Recommendation</b> Grade: 12</p>	
<b>INTEGRATED MATH II</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>In the first semester, students will use their previous knowledge of Algebra I and Geometry to begin to look at the different branches of mathematics and how they are used in real world applications. Students will study number theory, formal logic, game theory, cryptography, and other practical applications of math. The second semester provides an elementary introduction to probability and statistics with real world applications. Topics include basic probability models, combinations and permutations, continuous probability distributions, an introduction to linear regression, and statistical estimations.</p> <p><b>Prerequisite: Algebra I and Geometry</b> Grade: 12</p>	

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b>	<b>3.75 credits per year</b>
<p>The Physical Education program is sequentially geared in scope and progression to individual and team activities. Skills, fitness, and recreational lifetime activities are taught. Emphasis is placed on growth and development as well as appreciation and participation. A TCA gym uniform is required. Students who do not participate in physical education are required to have a doctor's note on file. Instead, they will be assigned written work pertinent to the field of health and fitness.</p> <p>Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12</p>	

<b>DRIVER EDUCATION</b>	<b>1.25 credits</b>
<p>This course is taught during the sophomore year. It stresses the theory of good driving procedures based on attitude, knowledge of State laws, and acceptance of the responsibility of driving. The New Jersey State written test for the driving permit is also administered.</p> <p>Grade: 10</p>	
<b>HEALTH EDUCATION</b>	<b>1.25 credits</b>
<p>The Health Education Program aims to promote optimum health and wellness and focuses on the positive aspects of health. Relevant health concepts include mental and physical growth and development, substance abuse concentrating on drugs, alcohol and tobacco, sex education, A.I.D.S. education, stress management, first aid and nutrition. Topics are presented at the most appropriate developmental levels and in response to the needs of the students and demands of society. Current health problems and topics are presented as needed and as dictated by events, medical advancements, and an ever-changing society.</p> <p>Grades: 9, 11, 12</p>	
<b>FIRST AID</b>	<b>1.25 credits</b>
<p>As part of the SAT Cycle for juniors, this course will teach students the knowledge and skills necessary to give care in an emergency, help sustain life and minimize the consequences of injury or sudden illness until medical help arrives. Although this course will <u>not</u> certify students as a first aid responder, it will be strongly encouraged. Numerous dates, locations and costs associated with certification will be provided to the students.</p> <p>Grade: 11</p>	
<b>SPORTS MEDICINE</b>	<b>2.5 credits</b>
<p>This course is designed for students interested in fields such as athletic training, physical therapy, medicine, fitness, physiology of exercise, kinesiology, nutrition, and other sports medicine fields. The course includes classwork and practical hands-on application in the following areas: prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of sports injuries, taping and wrapping of injuries, first aid/CPR, emergency procedures, nutrition, sports psychology, anatomy and physiology, fitness/conditioning/strength programs and sports medicine careers. The course offers practical experiences with local sports medicine specialists.</p> <p><b>Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation</b></p> <p>Grades: 11, 12</p>	
<b>PERSONAL FITNESS</b>	<b>2.5 credits</b>
<p>This course covers the fundamental and current topics in physical fitness, diet and stress. The program encourages students to develop an individual optimum level of fitness, acquire knowledge of physical fitness concepts, and understand the significance of lifestyle in one's health and fitness. Student-centered practical application labs such as a two-mile run, weightlifting and aerobics are required portions of the curriculum.</p> <p><b>Prerequisite: Minimum 80% or above in last physical education course and Teacher Recommendation</b></p> <p>Grades: 11, 12</p>	

# RELIGION DEPARTMENT

All levels of study foster the student's personal growth in faith, participation in the Church's liturgical and sacramental life, and concern for justice and peace in the world. Each course level follows the guidelines of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' curriculum framework. Within each level, one unit of *Theology of the Body* will be implemented in order for students to appreciate the gift of human sexuality and to realize one's responsibility for caring for this gift.

<b>RELIGIOUS STUDIES I</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p><b>Scripture, the Revelation of God</b>            The purpose of this section of the course is to give students a general knowledge and appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures. In this course they will learn about the Bible as authored by God through Inspiration. 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. Students will pay particular attention to the Old Testament as preparation for their study of the Gospels, where they may grow to know and love Jesus Christ more personally.</p> <p><b>Who is Jesus?</b>            The purpose of this section of the course is to introduce students to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. In this course students will understand that Jesus Christ is the ultimate Revelation to us from God. In learning about who he is, the students will also learn who he calls them to be. This course will continue the student's study of the Gospels.            Grade: 9</p>	
<b>RELIGIOUS STUDIES II</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p><b>The Mission of Jesus: the Paschal Mystery</b>            The purpose of this section of the course is to help students understand all that God has done for us through his Son, Jesus Christ. Through this course of study, students will learn that for all eternity, God has planned for us to share eternal happiness with him, which is accomplished through the redemption Christ won for us. Students will learn that they share in this redemption only in and through Jesus Christ. They will also be introduced to what it means to be a disciple of Christ and what life as a disciple entails.</p> <p><b>Jesus Christ's Mission Continues in the Church</b>            The purpose of this section of the course is to help the students understand that in and through the Church they encounter the living Jesus Christ. They will be introduced to the fact that the Church was founded by Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by him through the Holy Spirit. The students will come to know that the Church is the living Body of Christ today, with both divine and human elements. In this course, students will learn not so much about the events in the life of the Church but about the sacred nature of the Church.            Grade: 10</p>	

<b>RELIGIOUS STUDIES III</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p><b>Sacraments</b> The purpose of this section of the course is to help students understand that they can encounter Christ today in a full and real way in and through the sacraments, and especially through the Eucharist. Students will examine each of the sacraments in detail so as to learn how they may encounter Christ throughout life.</p> <p><b>Living as a Disciple of Jesus Christ</b> The purpose of this section of the course is to introduce students to the Church's social teaching. In this course, students will learn how the Church's social teaching and mission call them to become instruments of Christ's concern for others, especially the poor and needy. They will explore the necessity of both acts of charity to address immediate needs and acts of social justice to bring about more equitable social systems. Grade: 11</p>	
<b>RELIGIOUS STUDIES IV</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p><b>Life in Jesus Christ</b> This course content is covered over two semesters. The purpose of this section of the course is to help students understand that it is only through Christ that they can fully live out God's plans for their lives. Students are to learn the moral concepts and precepts that govern the lives of Christ's disciples. Grade: 12</p>	
<b>HONORS RELIGIOUS STUDIES IV</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p><b>Life in Jesus Christ</b> This course content is covered over two semesters, unlike the other leveled courses. The purpose of the course is to help students understand that it is only through Christ that they can fully live out God's plans for their lives. Students are to learn the moral concepts and precepts that govern the lives of Christ's disciples. The material will be covered more in depth and at a much quicker pace than the Level IV class. <b>Prerequisite: 90% 1<sup>st</sup> semester Junior Year Average and/or Teacher Recommendation</b> Grade: 12</p>	

**SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

<b>HONORS BIOLOGY</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course is an in-depth study of cells, metabolism, genetics, and ecology. A survey of the five kingdoms is included. The course is designed for high ability, highly motivated students who are reading on or above grade level. Grades: 9, 10</p>	
<b>BIOLOGY</b>	<b>5 credits</b>

<p>This course develops an appreciation for the complexities and unity among living organisms. Topics include: the systems of the body, cell structure and function, genetics, animal classification and ecology. Emphasis is placed on the human species and their interrelationships with other species. Grades: 9, 10</p>	
<b>GEOPHYSICAL SCIENCE</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This basic, comprehensive first-year high school science curriculum emphasizes the study of the earth, solar system, weather, etc. Laboratory activities will enhance the knowledge and appreciation for the way science operates. As sophomores, these students will move into Foundations of Biology. Grade: 9</p>	
<b>FOUNDATIONS OF BIOLOGY</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This is a basic biology course designed for those students who began their high school study of science in Geophysical Science. Students will take a practical approach to the systems of the body, cells, genetics, animal classification, and ecology. Grade: 10</p>	
<b>HONORS CHEMISTRY</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This is a course designed to give students an in-depth study of fundamental math-based chemical concepts and laboratory techniques. Students study a wide range of inorganic chemical principles. Lab experiments compliment and complete the study of widespread chemical concepts and principles. Students who successfully completed Honors Biology will be assigned to this class. Grades: 10, 11</p>	
<b>CHEMISTRY</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course is designed to develop understanding and lab skills in fundamental chemical concepts beginning with matter and progressing through typical chemistry topics. Chemistry assumes a working knowledge of Algebra 1 and problem-solving skills. Grades: 10, 11</p>	
<b>CHEMISTRY IN THE COMMUNITY</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This is a basic Chemistry course designed for those students who have completed Foundations of Biology. The real-life applications of chemistry in our society will be explored. Lab experiments are required. Grade: 11</p>	
<b>HONORS PHYSICS</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>Students study matter and energy in logical sequence which enables them to achieve maximum comprehension of physics concepts. Students perform laboratory experiments dealing with force and motion, energy, optics, and electricity. <b>Prerequisite: Department Recommendation</b> Grades: 11, 12</p>	

<b>PHYSICS</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course is designed to acquaint students with the methods and ideas used by scientists to describe the physical world. With emphasis on laboratory investigations, basic principles of motion, force, energy, optics and light, electricity, magnetism and atomic physics are taught.</p> <p><b>Prerequisites: Algebra 1 and Geometry</b> Grades: 11, 12</p>	
<b>ADVANCED BIOLOGY</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This is an in-depth, college-level course that studies living systems. Topics cover cell structure, genetics, physiology, comparative anatomy, energy processes, homeostatic mechanisms and ecological interactions.</p> <p><b>Prerequisite: Department Recommendation</b> Grades: 12</p>	
<b>ADVANCED CHEMISTRY</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course is designed to be the equivalent of a general chemistry course taken during the first year of college. Students will attain an in-depth understanding of chemistry fundamentals and a reasonable competence in dealing with chemistry problems. Topics of study, including structure of matter, kinetic theory of gasses, chemical equilibrium, and basic concepts of thermodynamics, are presented in considerable depth.</p> <p><b>Prerequisite: Department Recommendation</b> Grades: 12</p>	
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course is designed for students interested in studying the impact of humans on our environment. The course will focus on environmental problems facing mankind and the scientific principles that affect their solution. Understanding what it really means to “go green” will be a priority in this class.</p> <p>Grades: 11, 12</p>	
<b>FORENSICS</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course involves the application of scientific principles and analyses to criminal and other legal investigations. Emphasis is placed on how fundamental principles of science are applied by forensic scientists to analyze physical evidence collected in conjunction with a criminal investigation. Coursework includes group activities, problem solving, and laboratory work.</p> <p>Grades: 11, 12</p>	

## SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

<b>HONORS WORLD HISTORY</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course will cover all of the topics mentioned below in World History, but expectations will differ in the amount of outside reading and project work required of the students. Only those students who are reading at or above grade level will be accepted into the honors course.</p> <p>Grade: 9</p>	
<b>WORLD HISTORY</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>Trace the development of humankind from prehistoric times to the modern period using a thematic approach. The classical, medieval, renaissance and enlightenment periods are explored in light of the cultural and political events which shaped the times. Non-western cultures are addressed as they influenced the developing cultures of Western Europe. Current events are intermingled to make interesting connections between past and present. Writing skills, independent research, and map skills are emphasized to develop critical thinking skills. Computer technology and “hands on” projects keep this class interesting and fast-paced. Cross-curricular connections are made with Religion and English.</p> <p>Grade: 9</p>	
<b>HONORS U.S. HISTORY I</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course examines the history of the U.S. from its earliest inhabitants through the reconstruction period after the Civil War. A thematic approach carries the students through the colonial period and the establishment of our Republic with an emphasis on primary and secondary source materials. Analytical and interpretive essay writing is developed as well as map, chart and graph interpretation.</p> <p><b>Prerequisite: 90+ in World History and Teacher Recommendation</b></p> <p>Grade: 10</p>	
<b>U.S. HISTORY I</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course examines the history of the U.S. from its earliest inhabitants through the Reconstruction after the Civil War. Our colonial heritage and the establishment of our Federal system of government are explored as well as various trends in our cultural development. A variety of audio-visual, computer technology and research is used to present an exciting look at our nation’s past. Map skills, charts and graphs are also emphasized along with current events.</p> <p>Grade: 10</p>	
<b>HONORS U.S. HISTORY II</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course provides an intense examination of the development of our nation from westward expansion through both World Wars and into the modern era. A thematic approach to the major political and cultural trends that shaped our nation allows students to analyze current trends and events in a more meaningful way. Analytical writing skills, critical thinking and research are emphasized.</p> <p><b>Prerequisite: 85+ in Honors U.S. History 1 and Teacher Recommendation</b></p> <p>Grade: 11</p>	

<b>U.S. HISTORY II</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course looks at the development of our nation from the period of westward expansion through both World Wars and into the modern age. Recurring political and social issues and trends are identified and looked at through a variety of audio-visual, computer technology and map, chart and graph interpretation. Current events add to the ability to make connections between our nation's past and present.</p> <p>Grade: 11</p>	
<b>ADVANCED PLACEMENT U.S. HISTORY</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This accelerated curriculum is a narrative of U.S. history from the original colonial settlements to the present. The focus is on historical interpretation of primary and secondary source documents and an emphasis on analytical and interpretive essay writing. Students will analyze U.S. history from a thematic perspective to determine trends and recurring issues and challenges. This course satisfies the U.S. History 2 requirement and may qualify students for college credit. The Advanced Placement test of the College Board is <u>required</u>.</p> <p><b>Prerequisite: 85+ in Honors History; 92+ in previous U.S. History course, Teacher Recommendation, and a writing sample</b></p> <p>Grade: 12</p>	
<b>GLOBAL ISSUES</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This senior elective covers topics such as Middle Eastern issues, the politics of energy, and international trade and our economy. The course will delve into global issues of the day and how they impact all of us here in the USA. Strategies to deal with some of the issues will be discussed.</p> <p>Grade: 12</p>	
<b>LAW</b>	<b>2.5 credits</b>
<p>Law is a one-semester course designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the major areas of the American legal system. Students study the history, philosophy and organization of our legal system. Students will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of the law in a variety of ways. This course gives students information to meet the usual legal questions that may arise in everyday life. Students in the course will be encouraged to participate on TCA's Mock Trial Team, which competes in the State-sponsored Mock Trial events.</p> <p>Grades: 11, 12</p>	
<b>TWENTIETH CENTURY WORLD</b>	<b>2.5 credits</b>
<p>This "hands on" elective blends world geography and current events in a meaningful way. Students will explore the contemporary issues that continue to shape our world. The emergence of a global economy and community will be explored using map skills, charts, graphs and computer technology.</p> <p>Grades: 11, 12</p>	
<b>SOCIOLOGY</b>	<b>2.5 credits</b>
<p>This course studies relevant contemporary issues related to family, education and health,</p>	

and poses challenging questions regarding our continued quest to take our place in the world community. This one-semester course uses independent research, discussion, graph and chart interpretation, and computer technology to add diversity to the class. Grades: 11, 12	
<b>PSYCHOLOGY</b>	<b>2.5 credits</b>
This course studies various aspects of the behavioral sciences. Students look into different aspects of human nature and unlock the mystery that surrounds human behavior. A combination of lecture, research, and discussion exposes the students to challenging data about themselves and others. Grades: 11, 12	
<b>ECONOMICS</b>	<b>2.5 credits</b>
Students examine the economic systems of other nations while taking an in-depth look at that of the United States. Topics covered include demand, supply, financing a business, government and the U.S. economy, money and financial institutions and the U.S. work force. Special emphasis will be placed on interviewing skills and career research. Grade: 12	
<b>SENIOR INTERNSHIP</b>	<b>10 credits</b>
This internship enables qualified students to spend a full semester interning part-time, five days per week, with a sponsor correlated to the intern's talents, goals and career interest. <b>Prerequisite: Economics or another Administration-approved first semester elective. Course is offered second semester only and Department Approval is required. <u>Student must provide own transportation.</u></b> Grade: 12	

## WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

<b>SPANISH I</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
This course is an introduction to various beginning Spanish skills. Students acquire the foundation for speaking and understanding the language through choral and individual practice and vocabulary development. Students will also be introduced to the Hispanic culture and begin learning the skills of reading and writing. Grades: 9, 10, 11	
<b>SPANISH II</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
This course reviews the skills learned in Spanish I, followed by a continuation of further development of the four communicative skills for mastering Spanish: understanding, speaking, reading, and writing. Vocabulary building is an essential element of the course. In the process, students also learn about various aspects of Hispanic culture. Emphasis in	

<p>this course is on understanding and speaking the language along with the acquisition of vocabulary.  <b>Prerequisite: Spanish I</b>  Grades: 10, 11, 12</p>	
<b>SPANISH FOR NATIVE SPEAKERS I</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course is designed for students who are already Spanish-speaking. It places greater emphasis on mastering the skills of reading and writing and learning more complex grammatical structures. Students are also introduced to Hispanic literature.  Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12</p>	
<b>SPANISH FOR NATIVE SPEAKERS II</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<p>This course continues to focus on more advanced grammatical constructions, reading of authentic materials, writing guided compositions, and presentation of oral reports. Integrated into the course are lessons on culture, geography and history.  <b>Prerequisite: Spanish for Native Speakers I</b>  Grades: 10, 11, 12</p>	

## CYCLE COURSES

<b>FRESHMAN CYCLE</b>	<b>4 quarter courses, 1.25 credits each (5 credits total)</b>
<p>All freshmen are required to enroll in Freshman Cycle. Students will spend one quarter on each of the following areas: art, music, computers, and study skills. Each topic will introduce the fundamentals of the subject to encourage and enhance interest in the area and provide the students with a basic understanding that will enable them to pursue more in-depth courses in the future.  Grade: 9</p>	
<b>SAT CYCLE</b>	<b>4 quarter courses, 1.25 credits each (5 credits total)</b>
<p>All juniors are required to enroll in the SAT Cycle. This cycle gives additional preparation for the SAT. There is a marking period each of math, verbal, and writing to help improve student skills. (The final marking period will consist of a First Aid course. Additional information may be found in the Physical Education Department section.)  Grade: 11</p>	

## MISCELLANEOUS COURSES

### ONLINE COURSES

**5 Credits**

Students who choose to pursue the study of advanced Spanish, levels III and IV, will do so with an online course. In addition, students who would like to study a foreign language other than Spanish may do so online. The student will consult with his/her counselor and the Director. The course will appear in the student's schedule, and most of the work will be done during the school day in the Library under the supervision of our Online Coordinator/Librarian.

### VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL PROGRAM

In partnership with community schools and businesses, the Mercer County Technical Schools offer the knowledge and skills necessary for career success in the *technological world*. Shared-time, half-day programs in career preparation, are available in over thirty high-tech areas. Students also receive instruction in interviewing, job search techniques and attitude necessary for obtaining and keeping a job. Help is available in career counseling, technical education and job placement. Following is important information about this program:

- Secondary students enroll in a technical program of their choice in the junior year and attend the school from 8:30-11:15am. Students return to their home school for lunch and the remaining afternoon academic classes;
- Seniors complete their program by attending the technical school after lunch from 12:45-3:30pm;
- Post-secondary students may enroll in half-day or full-day programs;
- The Vo-Tech charges students a **tuition fee** which is *in addition to* their TCA tuition;
- Students can earn up to 20 high school elective credits through their vo-tech work;
- Students must provide their own transportation;
- A "*Certificate of Proficiency*" in job entry skills is provided;
- Mercer County College credit may be possible.

Various certifications and/or professional licensing programs are available at the Mercer County Technical Schools. Complete courses and program guides are available from the Guidance Department at Trenton Catholic Academy. A complete list of offerings can also be found at [www.mcts.edu](http://www.mcts.edu).

### MEDICAL ARTS PREP

**No Credit**

Sophomores, juniors and seniors who have an interest in any aspect of healthcare are encouraged to become involved in the Medical Arts Prep. This is a special program that gives students the opportunity to job-shadow healthcare professionals at St. Francis Hospital several times a year. In addition, a field experience in lab work occurs at St. Joseph University, our college partner. To be accepted into the program, students must apply and provide two references from their current teachers. In addition, a **busing fee of \$50** for the year is required as the school incurs a significant expense for the busing needed to transport the students.