2024-2025

Saint Stephen's Episcopal School

Upper School

Saint Stephen's Episcopal School
Upper School Course of Study
For Ninth Through Twelfth Grades

Saint Stephen's Episcopal School
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The Upper School Course of Study

The Upper School Course of Study is designed to give you important information about classes offered at Saint Stephen's, along with general information to help you plan your academic path for the four years of high school. The Course of Study should be used in conjunction with the Upper School Handbook and the Family Guide. These can be found on SSESonline and provide additional information regarding Saint Stephen's requirements, programs, policy, and procedures. If you have questions about anything, please first consult the Handbook, and then ask your advisor or another faculty member at Saint Stephen's for assistance.

The following pages provide academic planning information and short course descriptions. If courses have prerequisites, corequisites, or require an application and departmental approval, there is a note under the course description. For each department, a visual flowchart of courses is provided to help with planning your progress. The Course of Study is updated annually during the second semester. This Course of Study is for the 2024-2025 school year.

Graduation Requirements

This is a list of the classes needed to qualify for graduation at Saint Stephen's:

English – four credits (4)
Students will take an English class every year in the Upper School. Year-long classes, co-taught by the English Department, are required in the ninth and tenth grades with choices for year-long AP courses and semester-long seminars available in the eleventh and twelfth grades.

Mathematics – four credits (4)
Students will take a math course each year at Saint Stephen's, beginning with the appropriate placement in the ninth grade. Courses cover material at different paces and levels of depth; the mathematics flowchart shows all options.

Modern and Classical Languages – three credits (3) in high school, including work through Level 3 at a minimum
Students are required to complete a minimum of three consecutive years of a language. Most students at Saint Stephen's complete four years of language study in order to be more competitive during the college application process. Students who wish to enroll in more than one language may do so as their schedules allow.

Science – three credits (3), including Biology, Chemistry, and Physics
Every student is required to take Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. These classes may be fulfilled by taking courses either at the college preparatory level or at the honors level. There are multiple AP electives offered as well as the Marine Science courses that lead towards the Ocean Academy graduation distinction.

Social Studies – three credits (3), including US History
Freshmen take Ancient World History. Sophomores take Modern World History or AP World History: Modern. For students who have transferred to Saint Stephen's after the ninth or tenth grade, the remaining social studies credits may be fulfilled by taking other electives in the department. Juniors take US History or AP US History, which is a graduation requirement for all students.

Visual and Performing Arts – one credit (1)
This requirement is fulfilled by taking one year of a performing or visual art, usually one of the following: Art 1, Theatre, or an Instrumental Music course. There are multiple visual and performing arts electives, and extensive study in the visual arts can lead to the Arts Conservatory graduation distinction.

Physical Education – one credit (1)
This credit may be earned by representing Saint Stephen's as a participant in a team sport over two seasons (0.5 credit per season) or by managing teams at Saint Stephen's (0.5 credit per season). The credit may also be earned by participating in an approved outside sports training program that occurs after 2:55 p.m. (0.5 credit per year) ***and*** demonstrating proficiency by participating on a Saint Stephen's team of the same sport (0.5 credit per season). Rarely, this credit is granted to those students who pursue a rigorous sports program in their own time. Physical Education credits can count for a maximum of 2 of the 22 graduation credits.

Electives – three credits (3)
Electives are offered across the academic departments at both the introductory and advanced level. They further a student's interests beyond the required courses. Outside of coursework, there are options for internships in PE, Technology and the Lower School.

Co-curricular Requirements – Students must:

- Complete 100 hours of Community Service, with at least 80 off-campus hours (at least 25 hours recommended per year).
- Complete the Summer Reading requirements each year
- Attend and fully participate in the Interim Quest program each year.
- Give a Senior Speech to a committee with the goal of presenting the speech in Chapel

The previous **TWENTY TWO** credits and co-curricular items are required for graduation.

The standard course load for an Upper School student at Saint Stephen's is a seven period day – six classes plus one study hall. Administration can approve a student for a modified schedule of five classes if they are enrolled in an approved independent sports training or performing arts program and for Senior Capstone Scholars.

To ensure all students pursue a course of study which is well-rounded, balanced, and challenging, we recommend students take, at most, one Advanced Placement class in the sophomore year, two Advanced Placement classes in the junior year, and three Advanced Placement classes in the senior year. Enrollment limits in Advanced Placement and honors courses are in line with college and university entrance requirements. Permission to extend beyond these recommendations may be granted by the Upper School administration for students who have consistently shown exemplary work. Please note that applying for these classes does not guarantee entry; decisions will be communicated by the Department Chair.

Quick Departmental Links	
English	Modern and Classical Languages
Math	Visual and Performing Arts
Science	Engineering and Applied Technology
Social Studies	Internships and Directed Study

Planning for Upper School

Students and their families can use the four-year planning page to chart ideas about a student's course of study at Saint Stephen's. During the spring semester, each student's advisor will go over modifications to four-year plans, as a student's interests and preparation may change over time. Along with fulfilling their graduation requirements, we encourage our students to follow their intellectual passions during the course selection process. We begin the planning process Freshman year so students who are considering the Ocean Academy, Arts Conservatory, Global Scholars or Capstone Scholars graduation distinction can plan with that goal in mind.

Rising Ninth Graders

Rising ninth grade students should plan on the following course of study:

English: English 9
Mathematics: Algebra 1, Geometry, or (by appropriate placement) Geometry Honors. The Middle School math teachers will help with placing current Saint Stephen's eighth grade students; the mathematics recommendation and additional testing will be used to place incoming students.
Modern and Classical Languages: Latin 1 or 2 (if Latin 1 was successfully completed in Middle School), Mandarin 2 (if Mandarin 1 was successfully completed in Middle School), or Spanish 1 or Spanish 2 (if Spanish 1 was successfully completed in Middle School) or a higher level if the Spanish Placement test indicates greater proficiency.
Science: Biology or (by appropriate placement) Biology Honors
Social Studies: Ancient World History
Visual and Performing Arts: Courses available to ninth grade students include: Art 1, Theatre, or an option of three Instrumental Music courses.
Study Hall: Ninth grade students will be registered for a study hall. Students who attend an approved sports or performing arts training do not sign up for an elective class or a study hall.

Rising Tenth Graders

Rising tenth grade students should plan on the following course of study:

English: English 10, or (by appropriate placement) English 10 Honors
Mathematics: Geometry, or (by appropriate placement) Geometry Honors, Algebra 2, or (by appropriate placement) Advanced Algebra 2 or Algebra 2 and Trigonometry Honors.
Modern and Classical Languages: Current Saint Stephen's students should continue in their course of study. Students new to Saint Stephen's will be placed into a language class in consultation with the Language teachers.
Science: Chemistry or (by appropriate placement) Chemistry Honors, Marine Science elective
Social Studies: Modern World History or (by application) Advanced Placement World History.
Elective: Tenth grade students have a wider variety of electives available to them than ninth grade students, including higher-level art classes, the option of starting or continuing a second language as a sophomore, Introduction to Computer Science, Newspaper Journalism, and Marine Science. Please see individual course descriptions and departmental flowcharts to determine courses open to tenth grade students. Students who attend an approved sports or an approved performing arts training program do not register for an elective class in tenth grade.
Study Hall: Tenth grade students are expected to take a study hall. Students who are on a short-day schedule for an approved sports or an approved performing arts training program do not sign up for a study hall.

Rising Eleventh Graders

Rising juniors should plan carefully. It is strongly recommended that you fulfill your full credit requirements for PE prior to the start of your senior year. Refer to the graduation requirements as you fill out your four-year plan and think ahead through your senior year. You may also wish to meet with the Dean of Student Life and Wellness and/or College Counselors, particularly if you may be interested in attending a highly selective college or university.

English: English seminars or Advanced Placement Language and Composition or Literature and Composition.
Mathematics: Students who have taken Algebra 1 and Geometry should sign up for Algebra 2 or Advanced Algebra 2. Students who have completed Advanced Algebra 2 as sophomores may consider College Algebra, Pre-Calculus, or Pre-Calculus Honors. Selected students who participated in the Algebra 2 and Trigonometry Honors class may be invited to continue with Pre-Calculus and Differential Calculus Honors. See the mathematics department flowchart in the course description section of this guide. Students new to Saint Stephen's will be placed using their mathematics recommendation and placement testing; consultation with their prior school may be necessary.
Modern and Classical Languages: Current Saint Stephen's students should continue their course of study to complete the three-year requirement in language. Students new to Saint Stephen's will be placed into a language class in consultation with the Language teachers.
Science: Physics or Physics Honors (in concurrence with Pre-Calculus Honors) is required for graduation and is usually taken during the junior year. Juniors may choose to take more than one science class, including Marine Science and AP electives.
Social Studies: A United States History course is required for graduation and is taken during the junior year, either as United States History or AP United States History.
Arts: Students who have not yet satisfied their fine art graduation requirement should plan carefully how to do so. A student who attends a sports program should consider fulfilling the art requirement as a junior.
Elective: Eleventh grade students may take an array of electives, including those mentioned for the tenth grade year. Please see individual course descriptions and departmental flowcharts to determine courses open to eleventh grade students. Students who attend an approved sports or an approved performing arts training program may or may not register for an elective class in eleventh grade, depending on the graduation requirements completed. If there are questions, please consult with the Dean of Student Life and Wellness and College Counseling.
Study Hall: Juniors are strongly urged to take a study hall, particularly if taking advanced courses. The College Counseling office uses study hall time during the junior year for college admissions planning sessions. Students who do not have a study hall are at a distinct disadvantage. If you are interested in obtaining permission to take seven courses, you must have exemplary performance in all Upper School courses and gain administrative approval. Students with a short-day schedule for an approved training program need to plan carefully to attend College Counseling's program.

Rising Twelfth Graders

Rising seniors should carefully consult the graduation requirements when planning their twelfth grade year. Fill out the four-year plan with past and current classes; any requirements left unfulfilled must be completed senior year. At individual college planning meetings with parents in the spring of junior year, College Counselors get to know students and families and help organize personalized college plans, including suggestions about the senior course of study. This is especially important for students applying to highly selective colleges and colleges that have application requirements. Students new to Saint Stephen's senior year will meet with College Counselors over the summer.
We encourage students to pursue their intellectual passions, and seniors who have met graduation requirements may do so by specializing in an area of interest. Seniors may apply to be a Capstone Scholar completing interdisciplinary research or may continue work towards these other graduation distinctions: Ocean Academy, Arts Conservatory, or Global Scholars.

Saint Stephen's Upper School – Four Year Plan

Students will complete a four-year plan like the one below in consultation with their advisor each spring. This document allows students to plan ahead to ensure they are meeting all graduation requirements and builds in a schedule for their preferred electives. Completed sheets will be collected by the Dean of Student Life and Wellness in advance of course registration. Most Honors and AP courses have a spring application for enrollment, and the course descriptions below indicate if there are prerequisites or corequisites for preferred courses.

Subject: (credits required for graduation)	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English (4)				
Mathematics (4)				
Science (3, including biology, chemistry, physics)				
Social Studies (3, including U.S. History)				
Modern & Classical Language (3)				
Fine Arts (1)				
Other Classes (including 1 elective)				
PE (1 credit = 2 full seasons)				

Physical Education Requirements: 1 credit needed. Sports Season Playing/Managing = ½ credit

Community Service Requirement: 100 hours (20 on campus/80 off campus)

English (4 credits)

English 9
This introductory course engages students with a variety of literary forms including novels, short stories, poetry, graphic novels, film, and non-fiction. The principal focus of this course is the development of the student's voice through analytical, reflective, and creative writing and participation in class discussion.

English 10
The main focus of this course is continuing the development of the student's command of different forms of writing. While engaging both fiction and nonfiction texts, students practice various essay forms such as descriptive, narrative, argumentative and analytical, focusing upon the process of writing to improve critical thinking and the ability to communicate ideas effectively.

English 10 Honors
This honors-level literature course emphasizes the continued development of a student's critical thinking and the refinement of their analytical writing ability while engaging advanced texts. Students who apply for this course should be strong analytical writers, engaged participants in class discussion, and curious about ethical and philosophical issues.
By application and departmental approval

English Seminars
Seminars are semester courses for juniors and seniors that focus a student's study of a particular form, genre, or period of literature. For example, past courses have included titles such as: Creative Non-Fiction, Nobel Laureates, Directing Literature, and Creative Writing. Each course emphasizes the development of critical thinking and writing skills. Additionally, each semester course includes a final project or paper.

Advanced Placement (AP) Language & Composition
Students are expected to read critically, think analytically, and communicate clearly both in writing and speech. Studying model non-fiction essays, students focus on analyzing rhetoric, synthesizing conflicting sources on contemporary issues, and writing persuasive arguments.
By application and departmental approval

Advanced Placement (AP) Literature & Composition
This course examines the four genres of literature – the short story, poetry, the novel, and drama – from a formalist perspective. Students focus on examining a text's tone and themes in constructing analytical essays.
By application and departmental approval

Newspaper Journalism
Students gain skills in journalistic writing, interviewing, editing, proofreading and page design as they are tasked with producing the school online newspaper. This course emphasizes newsgathering and news writing skills, including ethics in journalism.
This course is an elective that does not satisfy the English graduation requirement. By application and departmental approval.

9	10	11	12
English 9	English 10	English Seminars (semester) AP English Language	English Seminars (semester) AP English Language AP English Literature
	English 10 Honors		
Newspaper Journalism	Newspaper Journalism	Newspaper Journalism	Newspaper Journalism

Mathematics (4 credits)

Algebra 1

Algebra 1 is designed to provide students with a strong foundation for future success in mathematics. Students will explore operations on algebraic expressions, solve and graph linear and quadratic functions, and apply mathematical properties. Other topics include factoring quadratic expressions, data analysis, systems of equations, and simplifying radicals and rational expressions.

Geometry

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a solid foundation in geometric thinking. This course emphasizes logical structure, algebraic applications, as well as problem-solving and concept acquisition.
By appropriate placement and mathematics departmental recommendation only. Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra 1.

Geometry Honors

This honors course provides an in-depth study of geometric concepts and emphasizes analyzing, interpreting, and solving complex geometric application problems.
By application and mathematics departmental approval only. Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra 1.

Algebra 2

This course provides students with an opportunity to strengthen their algebraic knowledge before enrolling in higher level mathematics courses.
By appropriate placement and mathematics departmental recommendation only. Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra 1.

Advanced Algebra 2

This course provides students preparing for advanced mathematics the necessary skills in algebra so that they can effectively interpret and solve problems that arise in mathematics, the sciences or other disciplines.
By appropriate placement and mathematics department recommendation only. Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra 1.

Algebra 2 & Trigonometry Honors

This honors course consolidates Advanced Algebra 2 and the first semester of Pre-Calculus Honors into a single year-long course. It is designed to meet the needs of those students who have demonstrated exceptional skill development and motivation in mathematics.
By application and mathematics departmental approval only. Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra 1 and Geometry or Geometry Honors.

College Algebra

This course provides students an opportunity to further strengthen their algebra skills. Students will use algebra to model and solve real-world application problems, continue to develop their problem-solving skills, and foster critical thinking.
By appropriate placement and mathematics departmental recommendation only. Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra 2 or Advanced Algebra 2.

Pre-Calculus

This senior-level course that explores real-world scenarios using mathematical tools and applications. Students will develop a deep mastery of functions through graphical, numerical, analytical, and verbal representations. Additional topics include matrices, sequences and series, probability, conic sections, and trigonometric identities.
By appropriate placement and mathematics departmental recommendation only. Prerequisite: successful completion of either Advanced Algebra 2 or College Algebra in the junior year.

Pre-Calculus Honors

This honors course is designed to complete the study of algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and elementary functions. It provides students the necessary prerequisites to succeed in Calculus.
By application and mathematics departmental approval only. Prerequisites: successful completion of Advanced Algebra 2 or College Algebra with a final grade of B or better, a semester 2 exam grade of at least a C or better .

Pre-Calculus and Differential Calculus Honors

This honors course is a continuation of Algebra 2 and Trigonometry Honors and will cover more advanced analytical techniques of trigonometry as well as particular topics relevant to Advanced Placement Calculus BC. Second semester begins the study of Calculus.
By application and mathematics departmental approval only. Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra 2 and Trigonometry Honors with a final grade of B or better, a semester 2 exam grade of at least a C or better.

Advanced Placement Pre-Calculus

AP Precalculus is a senior-level course that prepares students for college-level mathematics and science courses.
By application and mathematics departmental approval only. Prerequisite: successful completion of either Advanced Algebra 2 or College Algebra in the junior year with a final grade of at least B or better..

Advanced Placement Statistics

This senior level course focuses on four themes: exploring data, sampling and experimentation, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference. It is equivalent to a one-semester introductory college level statistics course.
By application and mathematics departmental approval only. Prerequisite: successful completion of Pre-Calculus Honors with a final grade of at least B- or better.

Advanced Placement Calculus AB

This course is equivalent to the first semester of college-level calculus.
By application and mathematics departmental approval only. Prerequisites: successful completion of Pre-Calculus Honors with a final grade of B or better, a semester 2 exam grade of at least a C or better.
Recommended: Completion or concurrent enrollment in Physics Honors.

Advanced Placement Calculus BC

This course is the equivalent to a full year of college-level calculus.
By application and departmental approval only. Prerequisites: B average in both semesters of Pre-Calculus and Differential Calculus Honors or an equivalent level course and successful completion of Physics Honors.

9	10	11	12
Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2	College Algebra
		Advanced Algebra 2	College Algebra Pre-Calculus Pre-Calculus Honors AP Pre-Calculus
Geometry	Algebra 2	College Algebra	Pre-Calculus Pre-Calculus Honors AP Pre-Calculus
	Advanced Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus Honors	AP Calculus AB AP Statistics
	Algebra 2 and Trigonometry Honors	Pre-Calculus and Differential Calculus Honors	AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Statistics
Geometry Honors	Advanced Algebra 2	College Algebra	Pre-Calculus Pre-Calculus Honors AP Pre-Calculus
		Pre-Calculus Honors	AP Calculus AB AP Statistics
	Algebra 2 and Trigonometry Honors	Pre-Calculus and Differential Calculus Honors	AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Statistics

Science (3 credits, including Biology, Chemistry, and Physics)

Biology

Characteristics and interactions of living things are investigated in Biology. Students study cellular structures and processes in relation to the complexity of organisms and their relationship to their environment. Lab and data analysis skills are developed and practiced throughout the course in both collaborative and independent investigations.

Biology Honors

Biology Honors examines organizational levels of life from the biochemical to the cellular. Organisms are studied from an evolutionary perspective as individuals and as collections of organisms through biomes. Lab work and discussions provide opportunities for inquiry-based exploration. Students are expected to be focused, independent learners with strong critical thinking and analytical skills.

By application and departmental approval

Advanced Placement (AP) Biology

Equivalent to two semesters of introductory college biology, AP Biology emphasizes the theory of evolution as the unifying source of diversity of life based on scientific evidence. Students study essential life processes and complex interactions, utilizing data interpretation, modeling, and mathematical analysis. Significant reading, independent work, and advanced inquiry are required.

Prerequisite: successful completion of both Biology and Chemistry; By application and departmental approval.

Chemistry

Chemistry provides an introduction to the behaviors and interactions of matter and the mental models that explain them. This course lays the foundations necessary to become a more well-informed citizen in today's increasingly scientific world.

Chemistry Honors

Chemistry Honors is a mathematics-intensive course that provides an introduction to the behaviors and interactions of matter. Time, effort and personal initiative are required to successfully master the material taught in this fast-paced course.

Prerequisite: successful completion of Geometry; By application and departmental approval.

Advanced Placement (AP) Chemistry

AP Chemistry is designed to be the equivalent of a first-year college course. This course places a special emphasis on independent work, novel problem-solving and guided inquiry. Topics include analytical techniques, thermodynamics, equilibria, kinetics, acid-base chemistry and electrochemistry.

Prerequisite: successful completion of Chemistry or/Chemistry Honors; By application and departmental approval.
Recommended: concurrent enrollment in Physics Honors

Physics

Physics provides an introduction to the way physics explains the world around us and includes concepts in mechanics, electricity, magnetism, waves, and modern physics. It includes mathematical underpinnings for physical phenomena but focuses more on conceptual understanding.

Physics Honors

Physics Honors emphasizes a mathematical understanding and application of Newtonian mechanics. It includes laws of motion and energy, electricity and waves with laboratory work to complement course topics.

Corequisite: Pre-Calculus Honors; By application and departmental approval.

Advanced Placement (AP) Physics C

AP Physics covers a first-year college curriculum including the topics of motion, forces, energy, rotation, electricity, and magnetism using basic calculus, advanced algebra, and trigonometry.

Corequisite: AP Calculus AB or AP Calculus BC; By application and departmental approval.

Advanced Placement (AP) Environmental Science

This college-level course includes exploration of the challenges our planet faces by evaluating interactions between the Earth and its inhabitants. This interdisciplinary course prepares students to identify and analyze environmental problems, evaluate their risk and propose potential solutions. Great emphasis is placed on the interconnectedness of concepts. Collaborative lab work and significant independent reading and written work is required.

By application and departmental approval.

Marine Science

As an introduction to the world's oceans, Marine Science examines the ocean through an exploration of marine ecosystems. Oceanography and biology concepts are studied to better understand the inner workings and connections between the abiotic and biotic components of the sea. Collaborative lab work develops analytical skills throughout the course. Regular boat and kayak trips offer observational and experiential learning opportunities.
Prerequisite: Biology; Pre/Corequisite: Chemistry

Marine Science 2

Marine Science 2 is a focused survey of marine organisms from the simple sponge, jellyfish and coral up to more complex organisms like sharks, fish and dolphins. Students participate in dissections to learn how the structure and function of an organism can influence its success as a species. Students continue their experiential learning opportunities aboard regular boat and kayak trips that fully immerse them in the marine world.
Prerequisite: Marine Science

Marine Science 3 Honors

Marine Science 3 is an inquiry-based class investigating the current ideology and methodology involved in the management, conservation and protection of the ocean and its resources, including local conservation and restoration efforts. Kayaking, boating and student-driven field studies provide an experiential exploration of the marine world.. Students delve into the world of marine research by completing a focused research project of their own choosing.
Prerequisite: successful completion of Marine Science 2; Departmental approval required.

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<tr><th>9</th><th>10</th><th>11</th><th>12</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Biology</td><td rowspan="2">Chemistry
Chemistry Honors</td><td rowspan="2">Physics
Physics Honors</td><td>AP Physics</td></tr>
<tr><td>AP Environmental Science
AP Biology
AP Chemistry</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>AP Environmental Science
AP Chemistry
AP Biology</td><td>Physics
Physics Honors
AP Environmental Science
AP Biology
AP Chemistry</td></tr>
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Physics Honors
AP Environmental Science
AP Biology
AP Chemistry</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Marine Science 1</td><td>Marine Science 1
Marine Science 2</td><td>Marine Science 1
Marine Science 2
Marine Science 3 Honors</td></tr>
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Social Studies (3 credits, including United States History)

Ancient World History
This course for ninth graders examines the broad story of the past from pre-human history through circa 1200 B.C.E. This course uses historical inquiry to address a wide range of scholarly disciplines.

Modern World History
This course for tenth graders continues with the themes presented in Ancient World History and extends them to history after 1200 B.C.E. up to the present.

Advanced Placement (AP) World History: Modern
This AP course for tenth graders is global in its focus and examines the connections between regions of the world. College-level thinking skills provide the foundation for class lessons.
By application and departmental approval.

United States History
This survey of United States history examines the development of American society from the early colonial period through the modern day.

Advanced Placement (AP) United States History
This Advanced Placement course provides a survey of the social, cultural, economic and political development of the United States from pre-Columbian societies to the present.
By application and departmental approval.

Global Economics Honors
This course provides a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of economics. Using the disciplines of philosophy, psychology, political theory, and the humanities, this course examines what it means to follow the Socratic ideal of living the "good life." Economics concepts are explored using large global perspectives as well as the smaller decisions involved with entrepreneurship including the role of artificial intelligence.

Advanced Placement (AP) European History
This Advanced Placement course corresponds to a year of college-level study in modern European history from 1450 to the present.
By application and departmental approval.

Advanced Placement (AP) Art History (*NOT offered for the 2024-2025 School Year*)
AP Art History serves as a college-level introduction to art history. Students cultivate their understanding of art history through analyzing works of art by placing them in historical context.
By application and departmental approval.

9	10	11	12
Ancient World History	Modern World History AP World History	United States History AP United States History	Global Economics Honors AP European History AP Art History

Modern and Classical Languages (3 consecutive credits of the same language)

Latin 1
Latin 1 is an introduction to the Latin language and culture. Students learn basic translation skills and study vocabulary, derivatives, mythology, history, and culture.

Latin 2
Latin 2 is designed to finish the study of basic Latin grammar. Students will also continue their study of Latin vocabulary, derivatives, mythology, history, culture, and improve their translation skills.

Latin 3
Latin 3 is designed to introduce primary Latin sources to students. Students will review all Latin grammar learned in the first two years of study, improve their translation skills, and learn about the use of rhetoric in literature.

Latin 4 or 5 Honors – Literature
This course emphasizes the study of Latin as literature. Translation (both from Latin to English and English to Latin) will be emphasized in this course. Students also give special attention to how the authors convey their ideas.

Advanced Placement (AP) Latin – Vergil and Caesar
This AP course covers the syllabus set by the College Board for the study of Vergil and Caesar. Students read Latin selections from Vergil's *Aeneid* and Caesar's *De Bello Gallico*.
By application and departmental approval.

Classical Greek Honors
This course is designed to teach the basic elements of Ancient Greek grammar. Students study Greek vocabulary, derivatives, mythology, history, culture, and translation skills. Students read from selected texts in translation (Sophocles, Euripides, Aeschylus and Homer).
Prerequisite: Completion through level 3 of another language; By application and departmental approval.

Mandarin1 (*NOT offered for the 2024-2025 School Year*)
Students learn basic grammar points and basic conversational skills in Mandarin that are within ACTFL Novice Low to Mid standards. Cultural topics further student understanding of Chinese language and culture, both modern and historical. Students learn to read, write, and type simplified characters with moderate usage of pinyin.

Mandarin 2
Students learn intermediate grammar points and conversational skills in Mandarin that are within ACTFL Novice Mid-Intermediate Low standards. Cultural topics and current events further their understanding of Chinese language and culture. Students further develop their ability to read, write, and type simplified characters with little use of pinyin.

Mandarin 3
Students learn upper intermediate grammar points and conversational skills in Mandarin that are within ACTFL Intermediate Low-High standards.. Students also add to what they have learned about Chinese culture and current events. Spoken skills are used in debate-style activities to encourage naturalness in speech. Students further develop their ability to read, write, and type simplified characters.

Mandarin 4H

Students learn advanced grammar points and conversational skills in Mandarin that are within ACTFL Intermediate High-Advanced Low standards. Students use complex conversational skills in Mandarin to develop personal opinions and critical thinking. Spoken skills are used in debates and speech activities to encourage naturalness in speech. Students become more fluent as they read, write, and type simplified characters and are introduced to traditional characters.

Mandarin 5H/ Conversational Mandarin (*NOT offered for the 2024-2025 School Year*)

Students continue to learn advanced grammar and conversational skills in a fast-paced Chinese-only environment. Spoken Mandarin is within ACTFL Intermediate High - Advanced Mid standards.(s). Students use Mandarin to further develop personal opinions, ideas, and critical thinking. Spoken skills are used in debates and speech activities to encourage naturalness in speech. The class focuses on increasing spoken Mandarin fluency and using Mandarin reading material to maintain fluency in reading simplified characters.

Spanish 1

Spanish 1 introduces the Spanish language and brings students to a Novice-High level of proficiency. The course emphasizes all skills - listening, speaking, reading, and writing - in an integrated way within a range of carefully selected topics and introduces an understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures.

Spanish 2

Spanish 2 enhances Novice-High to Intermediate-Low level of proficiency skills in Spanish and provides opportunities to develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in an integrated way. The course provides continued practice in previous topics and introduces new topics, offering more ways to increase understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures.

Spanish 3

Spanish 3 enhances Intermediate-Low and Intermediate-Mid level of proficiency skills in Spanish and provides further opportunities to increase listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in an integrated way. The course provides continued practice in previous topics and introduces new topics, offering more ways to increase understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures.

Spanish 4

Spanish 4 enhances Intermediate-Mid level of proficiency skills in Spanish and provides further opportunities to increase listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in an integrated way. The course provides continued practice in previous topics and introduces new topics, offering more ways to increase understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures.

Spanish (SP3H and SP4H)

This course sequence accelerates and enhances skills in Spanish at an Intermediate-Mid and Intermediate-High level of proficiency while providing further opportunities to increase listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in an integrated way. The course provides continued language development through the exploration of familiar and unfamiliar topics and provides opportunities for a broader and more extensive understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures.
By application and departmental approval

Spanish Conversation and Culture (SP5H Level 1 and SP6H Level 2)

This course sequence provides Intermediate-High and Advanced-Low proficiency students with ongoing and varied opportunities to further develop their Spanish proficiency across the full range of language skills and encourages them to reflect on the many voices and cultures included in the Spanish–speaking world.
By application and departmental approval

Advanced Placement (AP) Spanish Language and Culture

The AP Spanish Language and Culture course emphasizes the College Board topics and tasks required for the Advanced Placement Spanish Language and Culture Examination. It is offered to students at an Intermediate-High to Advanced-Mid level of proficiency. Students successful on the AP Exam become eligible for the Global Seal of Biliteracy.
By application and departmental approval

Advanced Placement (AP) Spanish Literature (*NOT offered for the 2024-2025 School Year*)

The AP Spanish Literature and Culture course is designed to provide students with a learning experience equivalent to that of an introductory college course in literature written in Spanish.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of AP Spanish Language and Culture; By application and departmental approval.

9	10	11	12
Latin 1	Latin 2	Latin 3	Latin 4 Honors
Latin 2	Latin 3	Latin 4 Honors	Latin 5 Honors AP Latin
Mandarin 2	Mandarin 3	Mandarin 4 Honors	Mandarin 5 Honors
Spanish 1	Spanish 2	Spanish 3	Spanish 4 Spanish 4 Honors
		Spanish 3 Honors	
Spanish 2	Spanish 3 Spanish 3 Honors	Spanish 4	Spanish 5 Honors
		Spanish 4 Honors	Spanish 5 Honors AP Spanish Language
Spanish 3 Spanish 3 Honors	Spanish 4	Spanish 5 Honors	Spanish 6 Honors AP Spanish Language
	Spanish 4 Honors		
		AP Spanish Language	Spanish 6 Honors AP Spanish Literature

Completion of Language Requirement	Greek Honors

Visual and Performing Arts (1 credit)

Musical Arts

Musical Arts explores music theory and performance through a sampling of chorus, keyboarding/piano, ukulele/guitar, and percussion/drumset. This class is an opportunity to learn to play multiple instruments for novices or build on existing skills for students who already have experience with at least one instrument.

Band: Instrumental Music

Students in Band develop musicianship, proficiency of a wind or percussion instrument, and self-expression through the performance of instrumental music. Musical styles range from classical and jazz to pop music. Students develop skills through ensemble work, improvisation, and basic music theory.
Prerequisite: Familiarity with a musical instrument is necessary to register for this class.

Orchestra: Instrumental Music

Students in Orchestra develop musicianship, proficiency of a string instrument, and self-expression through the performance of instrumental music. Musical styles range from classical and jazz to pop music. Students develop skills through ensemble work, improvisation, and basic music theory.
Prerequisite: Familiarity with a musical instrument is necessary to register for this class.

Theatre

This course is designed to develop the skills of acting. Students explore physical and vocal choices to create a performance that is believable, authentic, and relevant to a drama. Acting experience includes pantomime, improvisation, scene work, and performance in two showcases. Students learn the fundamentals of drama by writing a ten-minute play. Students must attend the fall play and the Upper School spring musical. Students of all experience will learn to become better communicators and performers.

Musical Theatre 2/3

Musical Theatre 2: This course is an exploration of American Musical Theatre. It introduces students to the techniques used by actors, singers, and dancers to produce believable, honest, and dynamic performances. Students learn acting skills, vocal technique, and basic dance styles. Students explore historical, creative, artistic, and aesthetic aspects of musical theatre in relationship to American History. The class performs in two showcases.
Prerequisite: Theatre 1

Musical Theatre 3: This course is a continuation of the study of Musical Theatre 2. The class furthers the student's technique in building character, developing vocal style and projection, and learning dances from various periods and styles of American Musical Theatre. Students gain knowledge and understanding of the social and cultural impact of the musical theatre art form on society and culture. The class performs in two showcases.
Prerequisite: Musical Theatre 2 or Theatre Production 2

Theatre Production 2/3

Theatre Production 2: This course teaches students how to analyze ten-minute and one-act plays and apply the analysis as an actor. Students are introduced to the elements of producing a play and the elements of technical theatre through their participation in a performance of at least one, one-act play.
Prerequisite: Theatre 1

Theatre Production 3: This course is a continuation of Theatre Production 2. Students analyze longer plays and apply the analysis to a production they direct. Students participate in stage readings of award-winning playwrights to learn directing techniques and demonstrate their technical skills in the production of at least one, one-act play.
Prerequisite: Theatre Production 2 or Musical Theatre 2

Art 1

Art 1 is the introductory course for visual arts. Concepts such as composition, shape, form, line, color, and perspective are investigated through a variety of media including graphite, color pencil, watercolor, acrylic, cut paper, and three-dimensional materials.

Art 2

Art 2 explores the two-dimensional media of drawing and painting. Fundamental visual arts concepts and techniques are practiced for greater mastery. Extensive observation drawing is expected in this course.
Prerequisite: Art 1

Art 3 Honors

The goals of this course include combining advanced technique with personal development of visual expression. Drawing and painting are used to explore individual ideas. Specific assignments require mastery of visual concepts.
Prerequisite: Art 2

Art 4 Portfolio Honors

Students in this course continue to work with two-dimensional media. Emphasis is placed on development of a personal viewpoint or statement while working through a variety of specified and self-designed assignments. Students create a college-ready portfolio for placement purposes. Because this is not an AP portfolio, students have more options in determining the works they create.
Prerequisite: Art 3 Honors

Ceramics

Basic techniques of handbuilding, throwing on a potter's wheel, and glazing are covered in this course. The curriculum includes three-dimensional design concepts, the structure of clay and glazes, and individual expression in design.
Prerequisite: Art 1

Ceramics 2 Honors

This course introduces techniques that add size and complexity to the hand building and thrown work introduced in the first-year course. Altered forms, fluting, and piercing are covered. Surface texture and glaze work are explored.
Prerequisite: Ceramics

Photography

This course is an introduction to digital photography and photo manipulation in Photoshop. Students learn how to correctly operate a camera, compose photographs, and digitally manipulate images using Adobe Photoshop.
Prerequisite: Art 1

Photography 2 Honors

This course is a continuation of Photography. Students learn advanced photography and editing techniques using Adobe Photoshop. The goal in this course is to develop students' skill in communicating messages via image.
Prerequisite: Photography

Advanced Placement (AP) 2-D Art and Design

This is a studio-based art course. Students work in photography or other 2-D media to complete the AP portfolio requirements that enable motivated students to perform at the college level.
Prerequisite: Photography 2 Honors or Art 3 Honors. By application and departmental approval.

Advanced Placement (AP) 3-D Art and Design (Ceramics)

Students show their mastery of technique and personal expression in ceramics. Students work with ceramics to complete the AP portfolio requirements that enable motivated students to perform at the college level.
Prerequisite: Ceramics 2 Honors. By application and departmental approval.

Yearbook Publications

Students gain skills in photography, graphic design, layout, editing and advertising as they create and produce the school yearbook.

Prerequisite: Art 1. By application and departmental approval.

9	10	11	12
Art 1	Art 2	Art 3 Honors	Art 4 Portfolio Honors AP Studio Art 2-D
	Photography	Photography 2 Honors	AP Studio Art 2-D
	Ceramics	Ceramics 2 Honors	AP Studio Art 3-D
Yearbook	Yearbook	Yearbook	Yearbook
Theatre	Musical Theatre 2 Theatre Production 2	Musical Theatre 2/3 Theatre Production 2/3	Musical Theatre 2/3 Theatre Production 2/3
Band	Band	Band	Band
Orchestra	Orchestra	Orchestra	Orchestra
Musical Arts	Musical Arts	Musical Arts	Musical Arts

Engineering and Applied Technology

Engineering

Introduction to Engineering introduces students to the basics of engineering. The course integrates science and mathematical concepts through practical applications and design projects. The course exposes students to open-ended questions, hands-on projects, teamwork, and the engineering process. The course also develops the students' technical writing and presentation skills. Students learn how to use engineering tools such as 3-D drawing software, technical drawings, and laboratory equipment.

Prerequisite: Completion of or co-enrollment in a Physics course

Introduction to Computer Science

Computing is involved in nearly every field of study. This introductory computer science course empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving and fun. Programming skills are developed primarily using the Python programming language and include graphics, animation, app design and web design.

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science A

AP Computer Science A is equivalent to a first-semester, college-level CS1 course in computer science. The course emphasizes both object-oriented and imperative problem solving and design using the Java programming language. These techniques represent proven approaches for developing solutions that can scale up from small, simple problems to large, complex ones.

By application and departmental approval.

Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Principles

AP Computer Science Principles is designed to be equivalent to an introductory college computing course. In this course, students develop computational thinking vital for success in all disciplines. Students apply creative processes when developing computational artifacts and think creatively when using computer software and other technology to explore questions that interest them. Also, students develop effective communication and collaboration skills.
By application and departmental approval.

9	10	11	12
	Introduction to Computer Science	AP Computer Science A Engineering	AP Computer Science Principles Engineering
		AP Computer Science Principles Engineering Technology Internship	AP Computer Science A Engineering Technology Internship

Internships and Directed Study

Lower School Internship

The Lower School Internship is meant to give high school students interested in elementary education an opportunity to assist a lower school teacher with their class. Students work alongside the teacher to develop their skills while providing assistance in the classrooms, forming connections with the younger students and helping with lessons.
By application and departmental approval

Physical Education Internship

The Physical Education Internship is meant to give high school students an opportunity to assist with a Lower or Intermediate School Physical Education class. Students develop leadership skills working alongside the teachers in the department, get to know the younger students, and assist with planning and carrying out lessons.
By application and departmental approval

Technology Internship

The Technology Internship Course is meant for students who have an interest and commensurate aptitude in computer hardware, network systems, and technology in general. The course stresses hands-on activities and challenges that teach students about current computer hardware and applications, as well as network connectivity and wireless devices. The internship also involves the daily interface with the members of the Technology Department, learning how the department operates and benefits the school.
By application and departmental approval

Independent Study

Seniors who are on track to meet their graduation requirements can apply for an independent study under the guidance of a faculty member. Students create a course proposal, including materials, major units and assessment types on a subject of interest which must receive administrative approval. Independent Study students present at the spring RISE poster session.
By application and departmental approval

Graduation Distinctions

Saint Stephen's offers several graduation distinctions for students who have shown sustained interest in a particular subject by completing additional coursework and/or extracurricular activities on that topic.

Arts Conservatory

To earn the Arts Conservatory distinction, students demonstrate exceptional interest and proficiency in the visual arts. They complete at least four visual arts classes with at least one of those courses at the Honors or Advanced Placement level. They also participate in workshops conducted as part of their arts classes.

Capstone Scholars

To earn the Capstone Scholar distinction, students must first complete a rigorous application process demonstrating their readiness to engage with college level work on an interdisciplinary piece of original research. Accepted students write a literature review, design a year-long research project, coordinate their work with a professional mentor, complete their projects and present their results at RISE.

Global Scholars

To earn the Global Scholars distinction, students create a portfolio that showcases their crosscultural work over their years in Upper School. Students must take globally-focused electives, complete 30 hours of program-related community service, participate in a school exchange as host or visitor, and show global leadership at the school through extracurriculars. They share their experiences at the end of senior year at RISE.

Ocean Academy

To earn the Ocean Academy distinction, students must complete three years of marine science study and demonstrate academic and research excellence through an original year-long student designed and executed marine science project. They create a poster and write a paper, presenting the culmination of their findings at RISE.