The MOD Schedule

In the fall of 2020, Duchesne Academy implemented a six-term modular ("mod") schedule in a continued effort to ensure that our students receive an education that is transformational and engages each learning style and ability. Our intention is to provide electives chosen by the students, coupled with core academic courses, in order to motivate their love of learning.

The MOD schedule provides curriculum and experiential learning opportunities unlike any other school in Texas. Each year, the course offerings are updated to provide more choices and adapt to student interests.
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Frequently Asked Questions

What is a MOD schedule?
A MOD schedule is a school schedule organized into multiple terms that each have fewer, but longer class periods. A module, or mod, is the period of time the academic year is divided into. The Duchesne school year is divided into six MOD’s, each lasting 28 to 30 school days or about six weeks total. Think of a “MOD” as a term or a mini-semester.

- MOD 1: Aug. 8 – Sept. 15
- MOD 2: Sept. 19 – Oct. 26
- MOD 3: Oct. 30 – Dec. 15
- MOD 4: Jan. 3 – Feb. 12
- MOD 5: Feb. 13 – April 5
- MOD 6: April 8 – May 16

What is a bin?
A bin is time spent each day in class or an activity. The Upper School day is divided into five bins. Think of a “bin” as a class period. A, B, C, and D bins are 80 minutes. The 0 bin is 45 minutes and is in the morning before regular classes begin at 8:30 a.m.

What are some factors I should consider when registering?
We believe an important part of the registration process is you taking ownership of your schedule. The questions on page 3 should help you decide what courses to register for. You should reflect on your responses and be true to yourself. These courses will help define your high school experience and your college aspirations.

What is the add/drop policy?
It is not easy to make schedule changes in the MOD system. Therefore it is imperative that you notify your Academic Dean if you wish to drop or change classes within the first two days of each MOD. While some situations may work, your overall schedule may make some changes difficult or impossible.

How does the schedule impact homework?
In the MOD system, students take fewer classes at one time. Therefore, a student typically manages homework for fewer courses at one time. This shift to studying and learning more intensely in fewer areas at a time reduces the homework burden on students.

How do AP courses work?
A year-long course is three MOD’s, so an AP course is covered over three MOD’s. Each department uses its own expertise to design their courses and determine the appropriate length of their bins and AP courses.

Do students have a free period?
A free period could be replaced by elective classes that are being offered due to popular interest from the student body. With potential free periods and breaks built into the schedule, we intentionally slow the pace of the day in order to create a more balanced experience for students while retaining academic rigor. We also believe that this schedule allows students to make better use of the time they spend in class interacting with their peers and teachers.

How does the college application process work in the schedule?
College advisors have allotted times to work with students both in groups and individually. The college advising curriculum is woven into the junior and senior year. Please see General Electives as possible interests specific to the college process.
As you consider your registration for next year, we invite you to participate in a reflection on your ambitions and how your classes will support your goals and personal growth.

**Motivation**
Duchesne’s MOD schedule is all about choices. We offer a vast array of class options to allow you to identify and pursue your passions, even if they change over the course of your high school career. What area of study interests you the most and motivates you to learn?

**Challenges**
Personal growth is all about challenging yourself to do things and take classes that will stretch you in ways that will ultimately serve you well. What is something in Upper School you know will be difficult but that you want to tackle because it will be good for you?

**New Experiences**
Achieving goals is also about trying new things. Perhaps it’s taking an elective in a subject you know nothing about, trying out for a sports team, or participating in a new co-curricular activity. What is a new academic or co-curricular experience that you want to pursue in high school?

**Co-Curricular Commitments**
Perhaps you participate in off-campus activities such as dance or club sports. Maybe you plan on joining a time-intensive club such as speech and debate, or playing on a sports team. As you choose various electives, advanced courses, or AP courses, consider your seasonal commitments. What are your commitments outside of class?
# Graduation Requirements

These progress bars show a distribution of graduation requirements. The check marks represent a typical student’s progress before the start of each school year. However, each student’s schedule may be different and will not necessarily follow these exact paths. Each check mark represents a bin, with most courses requiring 3 bins per year. The numbers in parentheses show the number of bins required for graduation in that subject. Students must take at least 18 bins per academic year and a total of at least 84 bins to graduate. Refer to the course descriptions for required courses at each grade level.

**FRESHMAN:** 21 Bins This Year / 63 Bins Remain

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<td>Math</td>
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**JUNIOR:** 21 Bins This Year / 21 Bins Remain

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**SOPHOMORE:** 21 Bins This Year / 42 Bins Remain

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**SENIOR:** 21 Bins This Year / 0 Bins Remain

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CORE COURSES

Unearthing Ideas Through Writing
Writing takes practice. To build writing stamina, it is important to write every day without restrictions. In this course, we will uncover our ideas by method of stream of consciousness writing. Using a variety of writing prompts, from photographs to poetry to artwork, each day will be devoted to the craft of writing and the process necessary to develop a polished piece. Periodically, students will workshop chosen pieces, experiencing revising and editing methods that will be the foundation for subsequent 9th grade English bins. Prerequisite: none
Grade Level: 9th
Length: 1 Bin

Demystifying the Essay
An essay is not five paragraphs with an introduction, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Its purpose is not to persuade, argue, or inform. Rather, the essay is a journey through one's thoughts in search of truth and meaning in life. Michel de Montaigne, a French writer during the 16th century, coined the term essay which means "little attempts." Although his essays are often autobiographical, they transcend his own personal experiences and explore the human condition. In this course, we will deconstruct the essay, processing our own experiences into "little attempts" at not only understanding ourselves, but on a larger scale, connecting with others and uncovering new layers of truth or life lessons. Prerequisite: Unearthing Ideas Through Writing
Grade Level: 9th
Length: 1 Bin

Now Analyze This
Authentic analysis inspires us. It is passionate and captivating, evoking emotions and making us think. Although literary analysis papers are a hallmark of the English classroom and certainly important, they are not the only form of analytical writing. In fact, if we take a close look at published writing that permeates our world today, it examines music, movies, television, art, politics, sports, psychology, science, philosophy, and much more! In this course, the tools of analysis will be examined: passion, ideas, structure, and authority. Prerequisite: Demystifying the Essay
Grade Level: 9th
Length: 1 Bin

Required for all sophomores:

In Theory...it’s Star Wars!
From A New Hope to The Rise of Skywalker, students will learn to analyze and apply a variety of literary lenses to the iconic Star Wars film saga. This, in turn, will broaden their ability to critique literature and culture in future academic courses. Emphasis will be placed on an examination of these various lenses and the practical applications to the study of media-based literature. Students will compose critical essays based on research, analysis, and application of their preferred perspective on understanding and evaluating an installment of the Star Wars saga.
Grade Level: 10th
Length: 1 Bin

Shakespeare: Time and Timelessness
In this course, students will savor the rich complexity and timeless beauty of Shakespeare’s romantic language. We will start with his sonnets, including “Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?” and “My mistress’ eyes are nothing like the sun.” We will discuss how the sonnets are more than just love poetry—they also deal with mortality and how poetry affords the poet the chance to “cheat” death. From there, we will consider Macbeth, the twisted tale of an ambitious married couple dealing with unexplained supernatural forces, and numerous romantic comedies. Students will engage in storytelling workshops as they seek to demystify Shakespeare for younger audiences.
Grade Level: 10th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Sophomores will choose two of the following courses. Any junior or senior may take these courses in addition to their grade level required courses.
**The Brontë Sisters**

Students will study the life and work of Anne, Charlotte, and Emily Brontë alongside works (fiction and film) influenced by or creating a contrast to their authorial visions. Among other questions, we will discuss the role of Romanticism and Gothic genres, imagination, and early feminism. Students will study historical context to evaluate how the Brontës shaped English Literature for ages to come. We encourage students to consider the aesthetic, emotional, and symbolic language of the Brontës as we explore women in the 18th and 19th centuries.

*Grade Level: 10th - 12th*

*Length: 1 Bin*

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**Monsters, Inc.**

In *The Ocean at the End of Lane* by Neil Gaiman, a character tries to explain monsters to a small child: “Monsters come in all shapes and sizes. Some of them are things people are scared of. Some of them are things that look like things people used to be scared of a long time ago. Sometimes monsters are things people should be scared of, but they aren’t... monsters are scared... That’s why they’re monsters.” This bin will explore how literature grapples with these monsters among us and, perhaps more frightening, the monsters within us. If literature helps us deal with problems, then the literature in this course (including *Beowulf*, *Grendel*, *Paradise Lost*, and the poetry of Robert Browning) deals with the problems of evil and what makes someone or something monstrous. As Disney’s *Beauty and the Beast* so elegantly puts it, “We don’t like what we don’t understand; in fact, it scares us.”

*Grade Level: 10th - 12th*

*Length: 1 Bin*

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**Walk Two Moons in Her Moccasins**

From Sharon Creech’s acclaimed children’s novel *Walk Two Moons*, we too are asked not to “judge a man until you have walked two moons in his moccasins.” Often marginalized or completely left out of “American” literature studies, this course will seek to orient you with the rich history, literature, and folklore of Indigenous peoples of America. We will read poetry and stories from a small sampling of Indigenous authors, while also looking at Native American representation in film and pop culture. Students will consider the long-term effects of ongoing colonization, Native sovereignty, and the ramifications of cultural appropriation.

*Grade Level: 10th - 12th*

*Length: 1 Bin*

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**Rhetoric: Language & Persuasion**

Language can be powerful. It can express incredible ideas, change the way people think, and persuade masses of people to do things. In this course, we’ll examine literature, speeches, and media and analyze how they influence their audiences. For example, how did Martin Luther King persuade his audience to continue to have hope, despite the discrimination they faced? And why do we feel patriotic when we listen to the national anthem? It’s due in part to the way the writers used language effectively. We’ll also look at everyday situations to consider how messages influence us. For instance, how does a pop-up ad convince us to prefer one brand of shoes over another one? Once you learn the strategies, you can use them to persuade your own audiences.

*Grade Level: 11th*

*Length: 1 Bin*
Juniors not taking AP must choose two of the following courses:

**Short Stories - Purpose and Craft**
In this bin, we’ll read some of the best short stories out there, and we’ll try to discover what makes them tick. How do writers convey a complex story in such a small space? Is it really possible to create three-dimensional characters in a few phrases? Or to fully explore a conflict and then resolve it, all in just a few pages? Why do writers even write short stories in the first place? These are some of the questions we’ll consider as we analyze short stories and write some of our own.

*Grade Level:* 11th  
*Length:* 1 Bin

**The American Dream**
The American Dream is a powerful part of our country’s mythology. The promise of a better life inspires people to work hard and to achieve greater things. But what exactly is The American Dream? Is it a guaranteed feature of our “land of opportunity,” which is founded upon “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”? Or is it simply an illusion with no connection to reality? This course examines how The American Dream has shaped our country and considers how—or whether—we should believe in the dream today. In addition to visual imagery and poetry, we’ll read F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby.*

*Grade Level:* 11th  
*Length:* 1 Bin

**Virginia Woolf and Modernism**
During the 1920s, people started to see life differently. Change was in the air: World War I had ended, women gained the right to vote, and jazz rocked the music scene. Artists and writers began to represent life in new ways, emphasizing how one’s perspective determined how they experienced life. This class focuses on one important writer from this period: Virginia Woolf. It examines the stream-of-consciousness technique she developed to represent modern life in her landmark novel *Mrs. Dalloway.*

*Grade Level:* 11th  
*Length:* 1 Bin

**All Austen**
Any Jane Austen lovers out there? This is the bin for you! Austen wrote six novels that are still widely read today. In this bin, we’ll read one of them and think about what Austen was saying about the world she lived in. A lot of interesting things were happening: new ideas were emerging about romantic love, social class, and women’s roles in both. Young Jane Austen had plenty of things to say about them.

*Grade Level:* 11th  
*Length:* 1 Bin

**Best Sellers and Prize Winners**
Want to read a good book? This course will help you find one and explore what makes it such a satisfying read. You’ll choose a novel from *The New York Times* Best Seller List or a major literary prize like the Booker Prize or the Pulitzer. Then, through class discussion and short writing assignments, we’ll try to discover what makes these books so compelling.

*Grade Level:* 11th  
*Length:* 1 Bin

Required for all seniors not in AP:

**Writing for Change**
English class is more than just literary analysis. In this course, students will identify a problem in their local, regional, national, or global community and find a means to educate people about that problem and propose possible solutions. Besides writing traditional papers, students will educate and inspire change in a variety of media including videos or podcasts. With college around the corner, students will ultimately have to confront where they fit within the world and how they want to impact that world. They will choose how they want to live Goal III: “A social awareness which impels to action.”

*Grade Level:* 12th  
*Length:* 1 Bin

Seniors not taking AP must choose two of the following courses:

**Indiana Jones and the Epic Bin**
An exceptional hero, encounters with monsters, and a trip to the underworld are all features of traditional epics (including *The Odyssey, The Aeneid, Paradise Lost*), but they are also the features of the iconic 1980s Indiana Jones film series. Using *Raiders of the Lost Ark, Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom,* and *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* as core texts and supplementing with readings from traditional epics, students will explore the style of an epic narrative and make critical arguments about the longevity of the genre. Students will ultimately explore why the epic genre continues today and why a form once so popular in oral and later written tradition has now become more synonymous with film. And then, of course, there’s another question to answer: “Snakes. Why did it have to be snakes?”

*Grade Level:* 12th  
*Length:* 1 Bin
Home Free
What does it mean that you can’t go home again? We look at versions of “home” in literature and the ways that authors have or have not reconciled themselves to what a home means. Are we defined by the cities in which we live, like James Joyce and Dublin? Or the physical buildings in which we grow up, like the houses in *The House of Spirits*, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, or *One Hundred Years of Solitude*? What about when we move to a new country and lose connections to our previous home, as in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s *Americanah*? Or when our home country becomes a brand-new country, as in Salman Rushdie’s *Midnight’s Children*? What exactly is a home, and how does home define us?

Grade Level: 12th
Length: 1 Bin

“Still I Rise”: Black American Women Writers
In her poem, “Still I Rise,” Maya Angelou powerfully captures her worth in a country that tries to devalue and oppress her: “You may shoot me with your words, / You may cut me with your eyes, / You may kill me with your hatefulness, / But still, like air, I’ll rise.” Starting with this poem and the poetry of Amanda Gorman, we will explore some of the rich literature (poetry and novels) from prominent Black American women writers. Together as a class we’ll analyze and discuss a novel from Toni Morrison or Zora Neale Hurston, and then students will have the opportunity to work in small groups on books by Jesmyn Ward, Austin Channing Brown, Alice Walker, or Brit Bennett.

Grade Level: 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Shakespeare and Power
Shakespeare’s King Henry IV laments, “Uneasy lies the head who wears a crown.” King Henry IV is not the only monarch in Shakespeare’s plays who feels the weight of power; Shakespeare’s kings often struggle with the burden of being human and being God’s representative on Earth. In this bin, we’ll explore two very different kings—the nefarious Richard III who schemes his way to the throne and fears he will lose it, and the saintly Henry V who leads England to victory and gains everyone’s admiration. While they initially seem quite different, Shakespeare gives them a few common characteristics. After studying these two plays, and some additional speeches by kings and queens, we’ll look at King Charles III, a 2014 blank verse play that depicts King Charles III as a tragic Shakespearean figure overthrown by a scheming Prince William and Kate Middleton. What does power and leadership mean for Shakespeare and how do we view them today?

Grade Level: 12th
Length: 1 Bin

AP COURSES

AP English Language and Composition
AP English Language combines a survey of American Literature and a systematic preparation for the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Exam. In this course, students learn to read complex texts analytically and to construct effective arguments efficiently. Readings range from classic American texts to contemporary pieces, with a focus on persuasive prose. Students will also study two short American classics: *The Scarlet Letter* and *The Great Gatsby*. Part 1 focuses on the AP rhetorical analysis and argument essays and multiple-choice questions. Part 2 introduces the AP synthesis essay. Part 3 reviews all AP essay types, along with the multiple-choice questions. Prerequisite: none

Grade Level: 11th
Length: 3 Bins

AP Literature: Studies in Africa
Exploring the wealth of literature coming from and about Africa, students will be introduced to the fundamental ideas of AP English Literature: character, setting, structure, narration, and figurative language. We will explore how American and European authors have written about Africa (Barbara Kingsolver’s *Poisonwood Bible* and Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*) and how African authors like Chinua Achebe (*Things Fall Apart*) have responded. We will consider the portrayal of African women in the works of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (*Purple Hibiscus*) and Yaa Gyasi (*Homegoing*). We will conclude with the recent film portrayal of Africa in *Black Panther*. This course will satisfy one bin of AP English Literature and Composition. Prerequisite: none

Grade Level: 12th
Length: 1 Bin
**AP Literature: Shakespeare and the Meaning of Life**

“To be or not to be. That is the question.” Shakespeare’s most famous line captures Hamlet at a particularly low point; should he revenge his father’s death if it means he must kill his own uncle and his king? In asking “To be or not to be,” Hamlet asks, “What’s the point?” – not just the point of his revenge, but also, even more significantly, of his life. This course will tackle *Hamlet*, one of Shakespeare’s greatest dramas and one of the greatest pieces of literature. As we explore Hamlet’s complicated and emotional journey, we will ask essential questions about “the meaning of life.” After studying *Hamlet*, students will work on some contemporary metaphysical poetry and Shakespeare’s sonnets. This course will satisfy one bin of AP English Literature and Composition. **Prerequisite: AP Literature: Studies in Africa**

**Grade Level:** 12th  
**Length:** 1 Bin

**AP Literature: Blockbusters**

What makes a novel, a play, or a movie popular? Students will read and watch a variety of “blockbusters” to analyze how characters, narrators, settings, or language have spoken to their contemporary audiences but have also resonated with later audiences. This course not only asks students to consider what defines viewers or readers, but also what defines the texts themselves. Why was *The Spanish Tragedy* by Thomas Kyd the third most performed play during the English Renaissance, far surpassing the performances of his fellow playwright William Shakespeare? Why did Tim Burton’s 1989 *Batman* smash box office records and usher in a new era of superhero movies (a genre still thriving more than 30 years later)? Why have *Lord of the Rings* and *Harry Potter* each sold more than 100 million copies? This course will satisfy one bin of AP English Literature and Composition. **Prerequisite: AP Literature: Shakespeare and the Meaning of Life**

**Grade Level:** 12th  
**Length:** 1 Bin

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**ELECTIVE COURSES**

**Mythology: From Athena to Zeus**

Mythology appears throughout our popular culture from Percy Jackson to Marvel movies. But what are the original stories? Who was Athena? Or Zeus? What’s the difference between the Greek Aphrodite and the Roman Venus? What’s in Pandora’s box? We will answer these questions and more by exploring Greco-Roman Mythology. Then we’ll turn our attention to Norse Mythology (Who is Odin? Thor? Loki?) and explore some West African myths. It will be an epic journey! **Prerequisite: 9th Grade English**

**Grade Level:** 10th - 12th  
**Length:** 1 Bin

**Humans of Duchesne: Community Connection Through Photo Stories**

Inspired by photographer Brandon Stanton’s Humans of New York (HONY) photoblog and book, this bin will explore human interest stories in the Duchesne Academy community through photojournalism. Learn how to effectively interview a subject, ask the right questions, craft an insightful story caption, photograph the person in his or her element, and tie it all together to create a powerful personal story. **Prerequisite: none**

**Grade Level:** 9th - 12th  
**Length:** 1 Bin
CORE COURSES

Algebra I
Algebra I, often defined as the language of physics where physics is the explanation of life, gives students a foundation for all future mathematics courses by emphasizing the study of multiple representations of linear and non-linear functions. Students will explore the fundamentals of algebraic problem-solving: solving equations, solving inequalities, exponents, polynomials and factoring, quadratic equations, and radical expressions and equations. Throughout the course, students will learn how to apply these concepts to real-life situations. Prerequisite: none
Grade Level: 9th
Length: 3 Bins

Geometry
Geometry is a place for students to showcase their algebra skills through logic and spatial reasoning. Students encounter real-world scenarios and use deductive reasoning to guide them through the problem-solving process. The course includes a thorough treatment of the foundations of geometry: points, lines, and planes; properties of polygons and circles; as well as areas of figures and volumes of solids. Prerequisite: Algebra I
Grade Level: 9th, 10th
Length: 3 Bins

Advanced Algebra II
The second year of Advanced Algebra focuses intensely on the study of types of numbers and functions. The goal of the course is to develop a strong numerical, algebraic, and graphical sense while building a verbal fluency of the mathematics. We will go beyond the linear and quadratic to explore radical, rational, exponential, logarithmic functions, and the topics of probability and statistics. Our analysis will include a wide range of applications from carbon-dating to space exploration. Prerequisite: Geometry
Grade Level: 10th, 11th
Length: 3 Bins

Algebra II
Algebra II provides a conceptual bridge for topics from Algebra I and Geometry. Some of the concepts covered will include functions, equations and inequalities, logarithmic and exponential relationships, conics, quadratic and polynomial equations, and matrices. Topics that were introduced in Algebra I will be expanded and applied to questions that require higher-order thinking skills where students will need to justify and explain their thought processes. Additional topics will be introduced through independent activities, group projects and presentations, and teacher-led discussions. Computers and graphing calculators will be used to introduce and expand upon these concepts. Prerequisite: Geometry
Grade Level: 10th, 11th
Length: 3 Bins

Data Science
The ability to work with, understand, and use data has become an essential life skill and requirement for an ever-expanding range of jobs and careers. Data is everywhere around us. Nearly all of the world’s data has been created in the last few years. This new data intensive world can be difficult to navigate; decisions that used to be straightforward are now more complex, requiring individuals to be constantly separating fact from fiction. Students will learn to be data explorers in project-based units, through which they will develop their understanding of data analysis, sampling, correlation/causation, bias and uncertainty, probability, modeling with data, making and evaluating data-based arguments, the power of data in society, and more! Prerequisite: Algebra II or concurrent enrollment in Algebra II
Grade Level: 10th - 12th
Length: 3 Bins

Precalculus
Precalculus is designed to intertwine and deepen understanding of topics from Algebra and Geometry in preparation for further mathematical studies in Calculus. With a focus on numerical, graphical, algebraic, and verbal analysis, we will explore three main themes:
Bin 1: The Function Machine: Linear, Polynomial, Radical, and Rational Functions
Bin 2: Thinking in Circles: Analytical Geometry and Trigonometric Functions
Bin 3: Explaining Nature with Mathematics: Exponential and Logarithmic Functions, Conic Sections, and Probability
Students will work collaboratively and learn via a combination of direct instruction, discovery, and project-based inquiry. Prerequisite: Algebra I
Grade Level: 11th, 12th
Length: 3 Bins

Advanced Geometry
Students will showcase their algebra skills using logic, spatial reasoning, and problem-solving in collaborative real-world scenarios. When working through challenging problems, students will formulate a simpler problem, work backwards, and recall strategies from previous scenarios. This course includes foundations of geometry: inductive and deductive reasoning, properties of polygons and circles, and volume calculations. Prerequisite: Algebra I
Grade Level: 9th, 10th
Length: 3 Bins

Mathematics
Advanced Precalculus
In Advanced Precalculus, students will study the theoretical aspects of polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions, and get a sense of how these functions are lurking in the world around us. Attention is given to precise communication of mathematical ideas in proofs and written and oral explanations. Students will move easily between graphical and algebraic representations of solutions and they will be able to articulate why an answer makes sense in more than one way. Upon the completion of all three bins, students will have acquired a strong foundation for the study of AP Calculus. **Prerequisite:** Algebra II

**Grade Level:** 11th, 12th

**Length:** 3 Bins

Calculus
To study calculus is to study how quantities change. You have already studied the linear relationship that occurs when a quantity changes at a constant rate. In this course, you will learn how to determine instantaneous rates of change of quantities that do not vary at a constant rate. You will use technology as a primary tool for discovery of rules, properties, and theorems about the derivative and the integral. **Prerequisite:** Precalculus

**Grade Level:** 12th

**Length:** 3 Bins

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AP COURSES

AP Precalculus
In AP Precalculus, students explore everyday situations and phenomena using mathematical tools and lenses. Through regular practice, students build deep mastery of modeling and functions, and they examine scenarios through multiple representations. They will learn how to observe, explore, and build mathematical meaning from dynamic systems, an important practice for thriving in an ever-changing world. AP Precalculus prepares students for other college-level mathematics and science courses. The framework delineates content and skills common to college precalculus courses that are foundational for careers in mathematics, physics, biology, health science, social science, and data science. Through the course, students strengthen their procedural and symbolic fluency skills needed for higher level mathematics. While studying each function type, students solve equations and construct equivalent analytic representations in both contextual and purely mathematical settings. **Prerequisite:** Advanced Algebra II

**Grade Level:** 11th - 12th

**Length:** 3 Bins

AP Calculus: AB
The AP Calculus AB course answers the questions “How fast...?” and “How much ...?” by an in-depth study of the derivative and the integral. In the process, we will study curve properties, optimization, rate of change, motion, and what it means to accumulate change. Students will work with functions represented in numerical, graphical, tabular, and algebraic forms and they will learn to connect these representations. Students will be taught to present their findings in clear verbal and written format. We will use many types of software and technology to visualize the calculus concepts. Upon completion of all three bins, students are prepared to take the AP Calculus AB exam. **Prerequisite:** Precalculus

**Grade Level:** 12th

**Length:** 3 Bins

AP Calculus: BC
AP Calculus BC covers all the topics of AB Calculus along with the addition of several topics that include sequences and series, vectors and parametrics, polar area and arc length, as well as extension of integration techniques. The major topics of derivative (rate of change) and integral (accumulation of changes) are emphasized throughout the course. As with the AB course, AP Calculus BC emphasizes not only procedures but also the reasons and understandings behind the procedures. This course pushes for connections between topics and fosters the learning of a variety of mathematical techniques with which to analyze problems with diverse contexts. **Prerequisite:** Advanced Precalculus

**Grade Level:** 12th

**Length:** 3 Bins
AP Statistics
The news and media are filled with numerical information. Have you ever wondered where the information comes from, and if it is even valid? AP Statistics is a course designed to give you a thorough understanding of random events, probability, data collection and its analysis. Each day we look at a real-world scenario and come closer to finding the truth. Does Beyoncé write her own lyrics? Can some people really smell Parkinson's Disease? Does the store brand have as many chocolate chips as the name brand? Let’s find out! By the end of the class, you’ll be 99% confident and prepared for the AP exam.

Bin 1: Collecting and Describing Data and its Distributions
Bin 2: Probability, Sampling Distributions, and Statistical Inference for One Group
Bin 3: Statistical Inference for Two or More Groups, and Review for the AP Exam
Prerequisite: Algebra II
Grade Level: 11th, 12th
Length: 3 Bins

ELECTIVE COURSES

Trigonometry
Mount Everest’s peak is 29,029 feet above sea level, but how does anyone actually measure this? In Trigonometry, students will encounter the type of functions that make this measurement possible. In addition to reinforcing concepts encountered on the ACT, the skills practiced in this bin have applications in naval and aviation industries, cartography, and satellite systems. Prerequisite: Algebra II
Grade Level: 12th
Length: 2 Bins

History of Mathematics
The course will explore major mathematical developments beginning with ancient Babylonians and Greeks and tracing the development through Hindu-Indian mathematics, Arabic mathematics, and European mathematics up to the 20th century. Very little is known about mathematics of the Mayan culture as well as Far East. The course will also allow research into those lesser known works. Prerequisite: Algebra II
Grade Level: 10th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

More About The Matrix Than Keanu Reeves Could Teach You: An Introduction to Linear Algebra
Linear algebra is heavily used in modern mathematics, particularly in statistics and data science, with applications in many fields, including economics, physics, and engineering. In this course, we will learn to solve systems of linear equations with matrix operations, and provide an understanding of the processes used in computer software designed to solve systems. We will explore applications of matrices and linear algebra with a combination of traditional direct instruction and project-based learning. Prerequisite: Algebra II or concurrent enrollment in Algebra II
Grade Level: 10th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Selected Topics in Advanced Mathematics
Advanced Topics in Mathematics course is designed to provide students who have completed the traditional calculus sequence with the opportunity to continue their mathematical studies, deepening and broadening their understanding and preparing them for the possible further study of mathematics. Topics covered may include multivariable calculus, linear algebra, differential equations, topics in discrete mathematics, and calculus-based probability theory. Prerequisite: AP Calculus
Grade Level: 12th
Length: 3 Bins
**CORE COURSES**

**Biology**
Biology is a field of inquiry and investigation. The underlying themes of continuity and diversity, as well as the common threads of evolution and genetics, unify the fields of study. Students explore the cell, the way cells interact to produce the many forms of successful organisms, and how these organisms interact with the environment. Biochemical and physiological studies highlight the fundamental relationship of form and function. Both individual and group research and laboratory work are integral to the course. In part one, students will explore biochemistry and cell biology, while part two will focus on genetics, both Mendelian and molecular. The course will conclude with a third unit of study with topics including evolution, ecology, and human body systems. 

*Prerequisite: none*

*Grade Level: 9th*

*Length: 3 Bins*

**Chemistry**
This course is a study of the concepts and models upon which modern chemistry is based. In the footsteps of the scientists before them, students will explore the concepts integral to chemistry, such as properties of matter, chemical reactions, behavior of gases, stoichiometry, and the energy involved in chemical systems. Models are then developed to help explain and understand those concepts. Our work is guided by three main questions: 1. How do we view matter (from a particle standpoint); 2. How does matter behave; and 3. What is the role of energy in the changes we observe? As we work toward answering these questions students will improve their ability to measure, organize, and communicate scientific information as well as increase development of critical thinking skills. 

*Prerequisite: Biology, Geometry, and concurrent enrollment in Advanced Algebra II*

*Grade Level: 10th*

*Length: 3 Bins*

**Advanced Chemistry**
Advanced Chemistry I is an accelerated version of Chemistry I. Scientific problem solving, the properties of matter, energy changes in chemical systems, gas laws, chemical reactions, and stoichiometry are the main topics, with additional focus on acids and bases, periodicity, and solution stoichiometry. Our guideposts are three main questions: 1. What does matter look like (from a particle standpoint); 2. How does matter behave; and 3. What is the role of energy in the changes we observe? As we work toward answering these questions students will improve their ability to measure, organize, and communicate scientific information as well as increase development of critical thinking skills. 

*Prerequisite: Biology, Geometry, and concurrent enrollment in Advanced Algebra II*

*Grade Level: 10th*

*Length: 3 Bins*

**Physics**
The Physics course investigates the essentials of mechanics (including kinematics and dynamics), energy, momentum, circular motion, and gravitation. Additional topics of heat and thermodynamics, harmonic motion, optics, electricity, magnetism, and modern physics will be examined. Mathematical and conceptual relationships will be used as guides for thinking and in all aspects of scientific inquiry. Students will use a variety of techniques, including real and virtual laboratory investigations, inquiry, and scientific problem-solving, to make informed decisions and think critically and logically about physics concepts. Emphasis will be on designing and conducting experiments to interpret and analyze data as well as on application of mathematics to everyday problems. Content will be covered at a faster pace and in greater depth than in the on-level Physics course, requiring strong computational and applied mathematics skills to thoroughly analyze the topics. 

*Prerequisite: Chemistry or Advanced Chemistry and Algebra II or higher*

*Grade Level: 11th, 12th*

*Length: 3 Bins*

**Advanced Physics**
The Advanced Physics course explores mechanics, energy, momentum, circular motion, gravitation, and advanced topics of fluids, heat and thermodynamics, and optics. A variety of methods, tools, and technology will aid students in developing models of understanding and applying those constructs to real-world problems. Mathematical and conceptual interconnectivity will be used to build depth of understanding and to guide thinking in unique situations. A variety of techniques, including lab investigations, inquiry, and problem-solving will be used to foster logical and critical thinking of concepts. Emphasis will be on designing and conducting experiments to interpret and analyze data as well as on application of mathematics to everyday problems. Content will be covered at a faster pace and in greater depth than in the on-level Physics course, requiring strong computational and applied mathematics skills to thoroughly analyze the topics. 

*Prerequisite: Chemistry or Advanced Chemistry and Algebra II or higher*

*Grade Level: 11th, 12th*

*Length: 3 Bins*
AP COURSES

AP Biology
AP Biology is an accelerated course designed to integrate and enhance the skills and knowledge acquired in Biology I. Emphasis is placed on evolution, genetics, and the physiological and biochemical interactions of organisms within the environment. Students will develop an understanding of key science practices as well as advanced reasoning and inquiry skills through course work and laboratory investigations. Prerequisite: Biology, Chemistry, Algebra II

Grade Level: 11th, 12th
Length: 3 Bins

AP Chemistry
AP Chemistry is designed to be equivalent to a first-year chemistry course at the college level where students build a foundation of chemical knowledge through both traditional and inquiry-based investigations that allow them to collect and analyze data and connect concepts across the Big Ideas. Students will: use models to describe scientific phenomena and solve problems; use appropriate mathematics; engage in scientific questioning to extend thinking and guide chemical investigations; plan and implement data collection strategies based on scientific questions; hone their abilities to create a scientific claim, based on evidence and scientific reasoning; and connect knowledge across the various content areas both within, and outside, the course. In this Algebra-based course, students will use theoretical and physical models, simulations, and mathematical relationships to process information and expand their understanding of chemistry. Prerequisite: Biology, Chemistry, Algebra II, and concurrent enrollment in Advanced Pre-Calculus or higher

Grade Level: 11th, 12th
Length: 3 Bins

AP Physics I
The AP Physics I course is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course. Students will cultivate their understanding of physics through classroom study, in-class activity, and hands-on, inquiry-based investigations as they explore concepts of systems, fields, force interactions, change, conservation, and waves. The mathematical basis of this course is Algebra and Trigonometry (functions and equations). Mathematical relationships will be used as guides for thinking and in all aspects of scientific inquiry. Students will use a variety of techniques, including real and virtual laboratory investigations, inquiry, and scientific problem-solving, to make informed decisions and think critically and logically about physics concepts. Emphasis will be on designing and conducting scientific investigations to gather, interpret, and analyze data, and to form relationships between evidence and explanations. Prerequisite: Advanced Chemistry and concurrent enrollment in Advanced Pre-Calculus or higher

Grade Level: 11th, 12th
Length: 3 Bins

ELECTIVE COURSES

Environmental Science
This course introduces students to the study of the environment. The goals of the course are to develop an understanding of the earth as a system, its components and how those components interact; to be able to identify, analyze, and assess various human and non-human impacts on the environment; and to review and examine the environmental regulations and environmental policy that impact the current state of the environment. Students will utilize scientific problem-solving to think critically and logically about environmental challenges. Emphasis will be on understanding and relating environmental concepts to real-life situations. Prerequisite: Chemistry

Grade Level: 11th, 12th
Length: 3 Bins

Introduction to Human Anatomy
Introduction to Human Anatomy is a course that will enable students to develop an understanding of the relationships between the structures and functions of the body. Students were introduced to body systems in Biology as freshmen and this course will build on their existing knowledge. Students will learn to identify and describe anatomical structures through inquiry, observation, and dissection. This course will allow students to learn more about the human body and will also provide a foundation for those interested in health-related careers. Prerequisite: Chemistry

Grade Level: 11th, 12th
Length: 1 Bin
Marine Biology
Marine Biology is the study of marine organisms, their behavior, and their interaction with the environment. In this course students will explore the many varieties of saltwater ecosystems and life they support. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the ecology of the ecosystem, the physiology and identification of the organisms that use the ecosystem as a habitat, and the current threats to the ecosystem. Students will spend a portion of time discussing current events, watching documentaries, and deciding the ways in which they can improve awareness about the importance of healthy oceans. **Prerequisite:** Chemistry
**Grade Level:** 11th, 12th
**Length:** 3 Bins

Food and Chemistry
Do you know how popcorn pops? That caraway seeds and spearmint are essentially the same molecule? That vanilla extract has over 300 flavor components? How mayo and whipped cream are similar? In this 1-bin elective, students will explore some of the major molecule groups and how they are connected to the foods we eat. The chemistry of some food flavors, food textures, and reactions during cooking and/or digestion are all on the table! **Prerequisite:** Chemistry
**Grade Level:** 11th, 12th
**Length:** 1 Bin

Ecology: In Your Own Backyard
Using the plants, animals, weather conditions, and the Briar Branch Bayou (the stream behind Duchesne) throughout the MOD, we will learn how fascinating your backyard can be. We’ll go on walk-abouts, adventure through our bayou, and identify different aspects of Southeast Texas ecology. We’ll learn how plants and animals defend themselves, why we don’t have polar bears in the wild down here, and how hurricanes can impact our neighborhoods. We’ll also bring examples from our backyards and try to figure out what they are and why they are there. It will truly be an adventure! **Prerequisite:** Chemistry
**Grade Level:** 11th, 12th
**Length:** 1 Bin

The Physics of Harry Potter
The Physics of Harry Potter course evaluates the scientific validity of various aspects of the world of Harry Potter, including the Sorcerer’s Stone (as related to alchemy), Hermione’s Time Turner (time travel), prophecy (entropy and chaos), Winguardium Leviosa (levitation and flying), herbology and potions (plant chemistry and pharmacology), the Pensieve (memory transfer and teleportation), Lumos (behavior of light), and the invisibility cloak (camouflage and refraction), among other proposed magical ideas. A variety of methods, tools, and technology will be used to develop students’ understanding of scientific ideas to arm them to answer the question, “Is this scientifically possible?” Students will utilize a variety of techniques, including whole class discussion, research-based arguments, written reflections, small group problem solving, and experimental design to make informed decisions and think critically and logically about science in the real world. Emphasis will be on examining scientific evidence to form fact-based explanations for seemingly “magical” occurrences. **Prerequisite:** Chemistry
**Grade Level:** 11th, 12th
**Length:** 1 Bin

Genetic Disorders
There are endless possibilities for the pattern of one’s genetic material, but how do genetic disorders appear when the chances of them are quite rare? In this course, students will unravel the genome and discover how mutations in DNA sequence can greatly affect an individual. Students will use knowledge of DNA, protein synthesis, cellular processes, and inheritance patterns to study the cause of various genetic disorders and the physical effects they have on an individual. **Prerequisite:** Chemistry
**Grade Level:** 11th, 12th
**Length:** 1 Bin

Forensic Science
Forensic Science is the application of science (chemistry, physics, and biology) to the criminal and civil laws that are enforced by police agencies in a criminal justice system. It includes the investigation of fingerprinting, fiber analysis, ballistics, arson, trace evidence analysis, poisons, drugs, blood spatters, and blood samples. Students are taught the proper collection, preservation, and laboratory analysis of various samples. **Prerequisite:** Chemistry
**Grade Level:** 11th, 12th
**Length:** 1 Bin

Epidemiology
Have you ever wondered how diseases can suddenly appear and quickly affect populations? Epidemiology is the study of diseases in populations of humans or other animals, specifically how, when, and where they occur. Students enrolled in this course will study and research infectious diseases to determine what factors are associated with diseases and what factors may protect people or animals against diseases. **Prerequisite:** Chemistry
**Grade Level:** 11th, 12th
**Length:** 1 Bin
CORE COURSES

Introduction to Global Studies
This course is an introduction to the vast discipline of Social Studies. By approaching global studies through the lens of history, geography, economics, political science, anthropology, etc., students will develop the tools to identify relevant connections between the historical foundations of the modern world and current global issues. Foremost, the class will cultivate the skill sets needed to bolster their academic readiness beyond their freshman year, meaning students will have extensive practice with evaluating evidence in support of argumentation and inquiry, writing complex and creative thoughts, interpreting historical events and their outcomes, synthesizing information and analysis, and hopefully, developing a joy and deep understanding of the discipline. Prerequisite: none

Grade Level: 9th
Length: 3 Bins

Modern World History
The past five centuries have been an incredibly dynamic era in our history, which has been marked by periods of immense political, social, cultural, and economic change in nations across the world. The class will analyze key historical themes, concepts and patterns to understand the history of our world and recognize the significance of the daily application of this knowledge. Understanding of the material covered in this course serves as a building block for interacting current and future international affairs and will help the Duchesne Academy student to take an active role in the world around her. Prerequisite: Introduction to Global Studies

Grade Level: 10th
Length: 3 Bins

20th Century US History I
This course is the first part of a college-preparatory survey of 20th Century United States history that examines America’s rise to prominence from the turn of the century through World War II. The class aims to provide students with the knowledge and analytical skills necessary to deal critically with issues in American history. A broader, yet equally important goal, is to develop better informed citizens who will participate responsibly in our society’s public forum. Prerequisite: none

Grade Level: 11th
Length: 1 Bin

20th Century US History II
This course is the second part of a college-preparatory survey of 20th Century United States history that examines the time period from the Cold War and beyond. As a continuation of Part I of US History, students will continue to broaden their knowledge and analytical skills necessary to critically deal with issues in American history and foster an understanding of how actions in the past have resulted in the America they are familiar with today. This second segment of US History continues the development of perceptive individuals who can participate as better informed members of society. Prerequisite: 20th Century US History I

Grade Level: 11th
Length: 1 Bin

20th Century US History III
This course is the final segment of United States history that ties together the content of the two previous classes by examining films portraying 20th Century events. While watching movies will be part of the course, we will focus on what they convey from an academic perspective. Films for this course are chosen to provide students with exposure to key events in our nation’s history so that they are instilled with a working narrative of America’s past. The class will go over the history of the events depicted, and be assessed on both the film and factual history. Through an examination of the events covered in cinema and documentaries, students will be better equipped to understand the issues that have shaped our nation. Prerequisite: 20th Century US History II

Grade Level: 11th
Length: 1 Bin
American Government
A group of citizens once approached Benjamin Franklin as he was leaving the Constitutional Convention in 1787 and asked him what form of government the new American country would adopt. He famously replied “A Republic, if you can keep it.” This course will examine the foundation, structure, and modern-day workings of that Republic. You will develop a robust understanding of our government system including the three branches and their institutions, the role of political parties and interest groups, your fundamental civil rights and liberties, and the many layers and institutions that help make our government function. We will explore considerable connections to modern current events in the United States so that after this class, you will be a more informed and civic-minded American. **Prerequisite: none**

**Grade Level:** 12th  
**Length:** 1 Bin

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**Economics**
Fundamentally, economics is the study of choice and constraints. This course will serve as a broad introduction to the field of economics (macro and micro), but the course is ultimately designed to expose students to the thinking, tools, and wonder of economics. Students will complete this course with a fuller understanding of economics as it applies to their lives, their government, and their future. Students will develop a framework of core macroeconomic principles and their application to current problems and issues faced by policymakers. The course will emphasize the macroeconomic policy challenges faced by governments and central banks and describe the various tools available to meet these challenges. Students will also develop the tools of personal financial literacy in order to become competent and capable economic actors. **Prerequisite: American Government**

**Grade Level:** 12th  
**Length:** 1 Bin

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**America’s Interplay Between Government and the Economy**
This course is a culmination of both government and economics to round out the credit requirement students need in addition to their American Government and Economics courses. It is impossible to divorce politics from economics, and America is no exception. This class examines some of the fundamental pillars of American society that mesh the dual institutions of democracy and the market system. Some of the issues explored by the class include: What is fiscal policy? What does the Federal Reserve do? What does it mean to be a citizen in the world’s largest economy? How does money impact our government elections and policy decisions? In order to address these questions, we will identify and evaluate key features of the American experience including: the market system, macroeconomic indicators, role of lobbyists, national and personal budgets, etc. **Prerequisite: Economics**

**Grade Level:** 12th  
**Length:** 1 Bin

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**AP COURSES**

**AP World History: Modern Era**
In AP World History: Modern, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from 1200 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change over time. The course provides six themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation. **Prerequisite: Introduction to Global Studies**

**Grade Level:** 10th  
**Length:** 3 Bins

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**AP United States History**
This is a college-level survey course designed by the College Board that covers the foundations of our nation, continuing through the rise of the United States as a world power, and into the contemporary world. AP US History places extra emphases on persuasive writing, critical thinking, and document analysis skills which will be tested on the AP US History exam in May. In addition to preparing the student for the AP exam, the course is designed to prepare thoughtful citizens that have a cultivated appreciation for how our nation sets the trends that shape current and future political, economic, intellectual, and social issues. **Prerequisite: 10th Grade History**

**Grade Level:** 11th  
**Length:** 3 Bins

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**AP US Government and Politics and AP Macroeconomics**
This course provides an opportunity to study the foundation of the U.S. political system; to analyze the political institutions, processes, and values of the system; to trace the development of the United States governmental system; and to analyze the structure and functions of government on local, state, and federal levels. This course will also give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to an economic system as a whole as well as to individuals and firms. It is designed to encourage critical analysis and economic literacy and enable us to become more informed participants in our governmental system. **Prerequisite: 11th Grade History**

**Grade Level:** 12th  
**Length:** 3 Bins
AP Comparative Government and Politics
A comparative study of six countries form the core of the course: China, Great Britain, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, and Russia. Examining these countries allows students to move beyond concepts of abstract definition to concrete example. The Comparative Government and Politics course introduces students to fundamental concepts used by political scientists to study the processes and outcomes of politics in various countries. The course aims to illustrate the diversity in international political life, to show available institutional alternatives, to explain differences in processes and policy outcomes, and to communicate to students the importance of global political and economic changes. Comparison assists in identifying problems, analyzing types and effectiveness of policymaking, and in explaining differences between countries, which allows students of U.S. Government to look at the politics of their own country differently, inspiring them to reflect and interpret with greater depth and understanding. Prerequisite: 11th Grade History
Grade Level: 12th
Length: 2 Bins

AP European History
This is a college-level survey course that covers modern European history, beginning with the later Middle Ages and continuing through the Cold War and into the contemporary world. The course is designed to promote critical thinking and writing skills and is organized around seven historical themes, ranging from political, social and economic developments to national and international relationships and intellectual and technological innovations, and four time periods, spanning 1450 to the present. In addition to preparing the student for the AP European History exam, the course will provide her with a foundation for understanding current and future political, economic, intellectual and social issues. Prerequisite: 11th Grade History
Grade Level: 12th
Length: 3 Bins

ELECTIVE COURSES

Genocide Studies: Overview of the 20th Century in Conflict
The term genocide wasn’t formally defined until 1948 by the United Nations Genocide Convention, but genocide has unfortunately defined geopolitics in the 20th and 21st centuries. In this course, we will examine some of the most tragic and dark chapters in modern history, so that by learning from this horrific past and its present impacts we may be best prepared for our future. We will begin by exploring the Holocaust during World War II, but also consider instances of genocide in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Soviet Union, and China. We will utilize film, literature, philosophy, psychology, religion and history as we grapple with a world that is still imprinted by genocide. Prerequisite: Introduction to Global Studies
Grade Level: 10th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Duchesses of Duchesne
This elective course will examine all things royal, beginning with the House of Hanover and continuing through the current House of Windsor. We will delve into all aspects, including the daily life of the current Buckingham Palace chef, the relationships Queen Elizabeth upheld through modern history, and the origins of dog breed names based on Royal preference. If you are interested in discussing those along with royal fashion choices, blueprints of castles and summer palaces, conspiracy theories, mandatory tea party etiquette, royal family drama, and the traditions behind Royal weddings, then this course is for you! Prerequisite: Introduction to Global Studies
Grade Level: 10th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Business Wars: Women's Edition
How are women leading today in business, politics, and social history for the next wave of feminism? We come after enormous work done by women in the past. Join them by taking action on issues affecting women in the U.S. and around the globe today. Students will learn how this work is being addressed by Catholic leaders and others and how to work with multiple points of view around women’s issues in modern culture today.
Grade Level: 10th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

The Holocaust through Literature and Film
This course examines the Holocaust through the lens of powerful, creative works in an attempt to address essential questions of humanity and history: How could such an event happen? How could such evil exist? What was the role of perpetrators and bystanders? What is the story of victims and survivors? How do we honor and remember the people and lessons of the Holocaust? We will examine various texts (Night, Man’s Search for Meaning, Maus), journals (Salvaged Pages), films (Schindler’s List, Life is Beautiful, God on Trial) and other artistic works as we dive into one of the most heinous events in human history and consider how these works attempt to wrestle with the overwhelming enormity of the Holocaust. Prerequisite: 10th Grade History
Grade Level: 11th, 12th
Length: 1 Bin
Intro to Psychology
Have you ever wondered how eyewitness testimonies can be so flawed? Or whether nature or nurture has more sway over how you turned out? This course is designed to introduce you to the fascinating world of psychology and inspire you to take more psychology courses in college. By the end of this mod, you will have a broad overview of many interesting psychological topics and have completed a deep dive project on a specific area of research that especially interests you. **Prerequisite: 10th Grade History**

**Grade Level:** 11th, 12th
**Length:** 1 Bin

World Area Studies
What is going on in the world today? What major political, social, intellectual, and economic upheavals are occurring that are shaping our world and our future? Why is it important to understand what is happening not only in the United States, but around the world? In this course, we will examine current events in the news around the world so that we may better understand our place in the world. We will trace the development of key issues in modern geopolitics (e.g. Israel/Palestine, Brexit, China’s Belt and Road Initiative, global elections, climate change) and what current issues engage the world in 2023. **Prerequisite: Introduction to Global Studies**

**Grade Level:** 10th - 12th
**Length:** 1 Bin

Through the Eyes of the World: A Close Look at International Film
In this course, we’ll travel to different destinations around the world that can offer other perspectives on culture, style, and reality that differ from Hollywood depictions. Next, we’ll explore different elements of storytelling and various narrative styles, as well as cinematographic aspects and how those elements are reflected in acclaimed international films. By the end, students will have had their eyes and feelings opened to the world through the artistic interpretation of the camera lens. **Prerequisite: Introduction to Global Studies**

**Grade Level:** 10th - 12th
**Length:** 1 Bin
COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES

Computer Science for the Curious
Long before the 2020s, computer technology has been an essential component of daily life on Earth. This course is a broad survey course that will dive into the evolution and history of computing, applications of computer science in various disciplines and careers, and an introduction to the principles of coding, so you can finally answer the question, “What’s the big deal with Computer Science?” Prerequisite: none
Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Introduction to Java
A piping hot cup of Java might just be the most important step in your morning routine, but Java also happens to refer to one of many industry-standard programming languages utilized in Computer Science applications such as the Internet of things, game development, big data analysis, and sensors for self-driving cars! This intro course intends to provide students with a reliable foundation of computer science and the basics of programming in Java with a focus on problem solving and algorithm development. Prerequisite: none
Grade Level: 10th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Maker’s Arduino Applications
Have you ever wanted your own pet robot? In this project-based course, we will get hands-on with various types of circuits designed to play music, detect intruders, play games, etc. Circuits will include components such as potentiometers, capacitors, resistors, diodes, LEDs, transistors, and relays. Students will write their own code and create circuit diagrams to facilitate their understanding of programming, circuits, current, and power flow. The final project will be your very own autonomous robotic pet! Prerequisite: Computer Science for the Curious
Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Game Design
Have you ever wanted to make your very own video game? In Game Design, students will develop skills in 3-D modeling, file management, software management, and game design skills to create their own video game level complete with custom objects and activities. Throughout the Mod, students will work on various aspects of level design planning, character interactions, and artistic direction. The final project for the course is to make a fully functional level in a video game in a genre such as exploration (Breath of the Wild), racing (Forza), social simulations (Animal Crossing), RPG (Pokémon), or sandbox (Minecraft) style. All efforts in class will culminate in a playable video game where students will challenge themselves and classmates to play each other’s games. To the victor go the spoils! Prerequisite: none
Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Digital Product Design
In this course, students will learn how to design in three dimensions using Autodesk Fusion 360. Fusion is an intuitive program designed for first time CAD (Computer-aided design) users to create 3-D designs. In this class students will use a data-driven approach to create products they would like to make or own themselves. Students will employ the engineering design process to create, iterate, and improve upon their product designs through a review and feedback loop with the course instructor and develop their technical communication skills. Students will use a Prusa 3-D printer to print completed designs of their choosing. Prerequisite: none
Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Introduction to Robotics
Intro to robotics uses robots to teach valuable STEM principles that make engineering approachable and exciting for everyone – no prior robotics or computer science experience required! Hone your critical computational thinking skills while you learn and work as a team to combine science, engineering, and programming to complete robotic challenges simulating actions such as delivering medication to patients in a hospital, bowling, loading packages for delivery, dancing, and more. Prerequisite: none
Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Engineer Your World I, Design, and Analysis
In this course designed by the University of Texas in Austin, students will explore mechanical, chemical, civil, electrical, and aerospace engineering through a series of design challenges that illustrate how engineering can improve people’s lives and health, meet the specific needs of different groups, and enable creativity in the arts. In EYW, students discover the engineering design process, make data-driven decisions, and collaborate in teams to solve complex challenges. EYW design challenges include an investigation on how to brew the perfect cup of coffee, an analysis and redesign of a building to support earthquake resistance, engineering a system designed to capture aerial images of a disaster zone, and more! Prerequisite: none
Grade Level: 10th - 12th
Length: 3Bins
AP Computer Science A
AP Computer Science A is an introductory, college-level course that looks into the world of Computer Science. This course is intended for both students who are curious about computer science and those who are seriously considering a career in the field. Students will learn the concepts of object-oriented programming and be able to implement them in Java, the industry standard language. In addition, students will also learn how to design, implement, debug, and document computer programs. Students learn how to use and create their own programming algorithms as well as methodologies on how to approach programming-related problems. Also covered are the ethical and social implications of computer science. This course will be a mixture of lecture and hands-on lab experiences. Prerequisite: Instructor recommendation and Intro to Java

Grade Level: 11th - 12th
Length: 3 Bins

DIGITAL DESIGN AND MEDIA COURSES

Yearbook
Have a flair for writing, love photography, or interested in journalism? Be on the L’Esprit yearbook staff and help capture your high school years in print. You will learn the basics of desktop publishing using page layout software and photo composition using Adobe Photoshop. You will plan page production for specific deadlines, coordinate the distribution of books, and help to organize staff coverage of all-school events. Participation on the yearbook staff requires a commitment of time after school for photography and interviews, as well as organizational skills, a strong sense of personal responsibility, and the ability to work both independently and on a team. The course may be taken once for Computer Studies credit and multiple times for Elective credit.

Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 1, 2, or 3 Bins

Yearbook Editor
Adept at the Adobe programs used for yearbook production, but want to take your skills to the next level? Want to guide the yearbook staff to a cohesive visual and verbal motif? Join the editing staff. Editors will proofread the book, marking corrections for the staff; conceive of an overall look for the book; and use Photoshop and Illustrator to create photo illustrations and graphics to support the theme. Editors need to be detail-oriented, have a good work ethic, and help plan the production of the book with the adviser. This class meets, one or two days a week, all year based on teacher and student availability. Prerequisite: Yearbook instructor approval

Grade Level: 10th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Digital Media I
Gain foundational knowledge and skills in several digital mediums, including photo editing, digital drawing, video production, and desktop publishing. Explore the basics of design, color, and typography in creating original digital art, or for enhancing projects and presentations now and in the future. Students will explore these Adobe Creative Cloud applications: Photoshop, Illustrator, Premiere Pro, Audition, After Effects, and InDesign. Prerequisite: none

Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Digital Media II
Harness the knowledge gained in Digital Media I and expand it in a variety of captivating ways. With lessons in more advanced techniques and the guidance of the instructor, students will conceive, organize, and execute projects of their own design, created in one or more of the applications from the Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, Illustrator, Premiere Pro, Audition, After Effects, and InDesign). Students choose their area of interest—drawing, photo editing, desktop publishing, film, animation, or a combination, in creating a small body of works showing their theme or concept. This class may be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Digital Media I

Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INTERNSHIP (CAVE)
Running a helpdesk takes patience, focus, teamwork, independence and strong customer support skills, all which will be learned and practiced by our student IT interns when running the CAVE (Computer Audio Visual Education) helpdesk. IT Interns are responsible on a daily basis for staffing the CAVE help desk and for performing regular maintenance and service of campus computers and audio/visual equipment. Participation in this course requires strong organizational skills, a strong sense of personal responsibility, the ability to work both independently and with a group, and a strong desire to learn the technical aspects of the computer. IT Interns must demonstrate respect and patience, as they will be working with both faculty and students. Interns will be required to attend a mandatory 3-day training workshop prior to the start of the school year.

Information Technology Internship
IT Interns will be immersed in the fundamental knowledge of information technology and perform real-world tasks by working in the helpdesk. They will learn PC hardware and software, basic networking, and maintain CAVE resources and outreach. This class may be repeated as needed. Prerequisite: 1+ years in Duchesne’s 1:1 program or approval from technology department

Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 2 Bins

Information Technology Intern Apprenticeship
IT Apprentices will deepen their knowledge of Information Technology by pursuing a Microsoft or Test Out certification in combination with working the helpdesk. Prerequisite: Information Technology Internship

Grade Level: 10th - 12th
Length: 3 Bins
EmPOWERment
Women are intelligent. Women are intuitive. Women are creative. And women are POWERFUL! In this course you will learn safe and proper techniques for lifting weights and performing such lifts like the squat, leg press, bicep curl, tricep extension, shoulder press, push-ups, and more. You will gain confidence in utilizing all the weightroom has to offer including machines and free weights. Most importantly, you will get stronger and feel empowered in what your body (and mind) can accomplish.
Prerequisite: none
Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Yoga
In this course, students will learn about yoga and the different types practiced in Houston. Led by a certified yoga teacher, every day you will do a physical practice to increase your strength and flexibility. Once a week students will practice yin yoga, a slower more contemplative type of practice. Prerequisite: none
Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Rhythm Based Activities
1-2-3-4, workouts rule and that’s for sure! 5-6-7-8, lift on beat and you’ll do great! Exercise to the beat of the music in this dynamic, fun, and rhythm-based course. After learning proper techniques of basic lifts like shoulder press, squats, scarecrow, planks, and bicycle crunches, you will complete daily, full-body workouts to trendy, upbeat music. Prerequisite: none
Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Zumba
Exercise in disguise with Zumba! This Latin-inspired dance-fitness class welcomes all backgrounds with no previous dance experience necessary. Zumba combines fast and slow rhythms that tone and sculpt the body using an aerobic/fitness approach. The cardio-based dance movements are easy to follow and target areas such as the glutes, legs, arms, core, abdominals and most importantly the heart! This course will break down the four basic rhythms (Merengue, Cumbia, Reggaeton, Salsa) in easy-to-follow steps before progressing into a complete Zumba workout. Prerequisite: none
Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Sports and PE Credit: If you participate for an entire season of an after school sport at Duchesne, you will receive one graduation credit towards PE. One season counts for one bin of PE. After your third bin is accomplished through after school sports, a Physical Education class can only count as an “elective” towards your graduation requirement.
FOUNDATIONAL VISUAL ARTS COURSES

Foundations of Art
Foundations of Art is a course that provides a basic introduction to Visual art. This course teaches the key elements of drawing and painting. In drawing, students will explore graphite and colored pencils. Students will learn the various steps to developing a detailed drawing. Painting will be primarily focused on watercolor and serve as the foundation of color studies. The elements of art and principles of design will be introduced and reinforced throughout this course. Students will create artist statements and document ideas in their sketchbooks. We will explore several art movements that will be inspirations for some of the art images that the students will create throughout the course. Prerequisite: none
Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Concepts of Art and Design
This course builds on the knowledge gained in the foundations of art class and reinforces the use of elements and principles of design to create strong compositions. This course teaches the basics of 2-D and 3-D design through drawing, printmaking, and sculpture. Knowledge of color theory will be developed through the use of colored pencil and clay. Sculpture will include hand building techniques and modeling. Students will engage in critiques of their art images and learn the vocabulary needed to discuss, create, and appreciate different types of visual art in a formal setting. Prerequisite: Foundations of Art
Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

2-D STUDIO COURSES

Drawing I
Students will increase their perceptual skills while using a variety of drawing tools and techniques. The primary focus of this course is drawing from life and learning how to look at spatial relationships to transfer knowledge onto a two-dimensional plane. Types of drawings will include contour, gesture, still life, linear perspective, and portraiture. Media will include graphite, charcoal, conte crayon and ink. Outside of class sketchbook assignments are part of this course. Prerequisite: Concepts of Art and Design
Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Drawing II
Building upon skills learned in Drawing I, students will further study compositional elements while working both realistically and abstractly. Increased figurative work will provide opportunities for content considerations and greater technical skills. Historic, modern, and non-traditional approaches to drawing will be explored. Students' media choices will expand to mixed media, pastels, and colored pencils. Assignments will be aimed at producing larger scale and more detailed work. Research and sketchbook documentation are a key part of this course. Prerequisite: Drawing I
Grade Level: 10th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Painting I
Students will gain experience using acrylics to paint from observation. This course will focus on color theory and composition, reinforce the understanding of the elements and principles of design, and develop the student's perceptual skills. The painting experience will be enhanced through exposure to historic precedents and modern approaches to painting. Students will create 2-3 finished paintings. Prerequisite: Concepts of Art and Design
Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Painting II
Students will continue to develop perceptual and technical skills using acrylic or watercolor. Further exploration of painting styles and art movements will be included. Students will have more choice in the subject matter they choose to paint. Sketchbook research beyond the classroom is required. Students will create 2-3 finished paintings. Prerequisite: Painting I
Grade Level: 10th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Digital Photography
In this beginning digital photography class, students will learn the basics such as the exposure triangle, the purpose of the camera settings, optimal natural light situations, and composition techniques. Students will need to use their own DSLR cameras that include AV, TV, ISO, and manual settings. Assessments will be various photo assignments that focus on skills learned in class. Prerequisite: Concepts of Art and Design
Grade Level: 10th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Stained Glass
Explore the history and creation of stained glass works from early churches to the famous lamps of Louis Comfort Tiffany and the innovative works of modern artists. Then use your knowledge of design to create two-dimensional stained-glass projects. Students will create their original design, pattern, cut and piece glass into stunning and unique creations. This course can be repeated for credit. Repeat students can explore advanced 2-D projects or 3-D projects such as lamps. Prerequisite: Concepts of Art and Design
Grade Level: 10th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin
**Mixed Media**
This course will offer in-depth exploration of techniques and new ways to see, use, and interpret found objects. Students will create multi-directional compositions with a variety of materials, images, found objects, and drawing & painting media. Techniques will include collage, printing, drawing, painting, assemblage, stamping, modeling, etc. The elements of art and design will be reinforced with a particular emphasis on color, mood, texture and composition. Projects include art journals, up-cycling, found objects, and mixed media on canvas. This course may be repeated for credit. **Prerequisite:** Concepts of Art and Design

**Grade Level:** 10th - 12th
**Length:** 1 Bin

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**3-D STUDIO COURSES**

**Hand-Built Ceramics**
This studio course is an introduction to the clay medium. Students explore the nature of clay and glazes, in a variety of hand-building projects, decorative processes and glaze applications. Students will learn the four basic methods of hand-building construction—pinch, coil, slab, and drape—and use them in functional and sculptural works. Students will take the clay from plastic to bisque, learning terminology, tools, stages of clay, how to slip and score, texture, and the firing processes. Students apply their knowledge of art and design and good craftsmanship to realize their artistic vision. This course may be repeated for credit. **Prerequisite:** Concepts of Art and Design

**Grade Level:** 10th - 12th
**Length:** 1 Bin

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**Wheel-Thrown Ceramics**
In this course, ceramics students will explore techniques for creating functional and sculptural forms using the potter’s wheel. Students will learn to make a variety of forms—cups, bowls, teapots, containers—shaping the clay with the potter’s wheel. Students use advanced techniques (texture, glaze, under glaze, graffito), good craftsmanship and the elements and principles of art to realize their artistic vision or concept. This course may be repeated for credit. **Prerequisite:** Hand-Built Ceramics

**Grade Level:** 10th - 12th
**Length:** 1 Bin

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**Sculpture I**
Students will learn how to envision and create art in the 3rd dimension. Students will design and construct realistic and abstract sculptural forms using a variety of materials, tools, and techniques. Their understanding of the elements and principles of design is reinforced as they examine, analyze, and interpret traditional and contemporary works of art and artifacts. Students will document ideas, process, problems, and solutions in a visual journal. **Prerequisite:** Concepts of Art and Design

**Grade Level:** 9th - 12th
**Length:** 1 Bin

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**Sculpture II**
Students will sculpt with clay, plaster, wood, wire, and found objects using additive, subtractive, casting, carving, and construction techniques. Coursework will focus on the human form and natural environment, as well as cultural and historical contexts. Students will document ideas, process, problems, and solutions in a visual journal. Students will be responsible for developing a digital portfolio to showcase their work and providing written artist statements. **Prerequisite:** Sculpture I

**Grade Level:** 10th - 12th
**Length:** 1 Bin

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**PORTFOLIO VISUAL ART COURSES**

**Idea Development**
Students will continue to explore and develop techniques and processes learned in their studio classes. Students will independently design and implement a body of work that synthesizes their knowledge of media, tools and techniques. Artist voice and demonstration of skill are the main focus. Students will document ideas, process, problems, and solutions in a visual journal. The ‘Final’ for this class is a mini Portfolio submission consisting of 3-4 finished works of art from a selected theme or concept. All work done will be original in conception. **Prerequisite:** Five bins of studio art courses (excluding Foundations and Concepts) and instructor permission

**Grade Level:** 11th, 12th
**Length:** 1 Bin

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**AP Studio Art**
Through studio practice, application of design concepts, and informed decision making, students will assemble a body of artwork demonstrating a high level of knowledge of technique and process, quality, and evidence of growth. Students should have previously been exposed to basic skills including drawing, design, and creative thinking. Students will address two components in their portfolios: quality and concentration. Students will submit this body of work to the College Board for grading and possible college credit in May. Students are expected to display artistic integrity throughout the course. Students will have the opportunity to showcase some of their work in the Jones Gallery at Duchesne in a culminating show. **Prerequisite:** Idea Development and instructor permission

**Grade Level:** 11th, 12th
**Length:** 3 Bins
ART HISTORY COURSES

Art History: In the Beginning
Art History is the study of people and the art they create. Find out why there are so many statues in Ancient Rome and how to talk about them. Learn about the history of art from the beginning of known human expression through the fall of the Roman Empire. This MOD focuses on Prehistoric art from around the world, art of the Ancient Near East, and Ancient Mediterranean cultures. In a discussion-based format, examine the development of art and analyze it in the context of the culture that created it. Prerequisite: concurrent enrollment or completed European History or Modern World History

Grade Level: 10th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Art History: Ages of Innovation
Art History is the study of people and the art they create. Find out why the 'Dark Ages' weren't dark at all and how trade with the Middle East helped Europe to ultimately colonize the world. This chapter focuses on the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Baroque, and the Enlightenment in Western Europe in addition to the art of Islamic cultures. In a discussion-based format, examine the development of art and analyze it in the context of the culture that created it. This MOD is a continuation of Art History: In the Beginning, but you can take it independently. Prerequisite: concurrent enrollment or completed European History or Modern World History

Grade Level: 10th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Art History: Rise of the Individual
Art History is the study of people and the art they create. Find out why modern art is so different than traditional art and why contemporary art is so abstract. This chapter focuses on Neoclassical & Romantic movements, Impressionism, and contemporary art in Western Europe in addition to the indigenous art of the Americas, Asia, Africa, and India. In a discussion-based format, examine the development of art and analyze it in the context of the culture that created it. This MOD is a continuation of Art History: Ages of Innovation, but you can take it independently. Prerequisite: concurrent enrollment or completed European History or Modern World History

Grade Level: 10th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

MUSIC COURSES

Treble Choir
Christmas Concert, ISAS Fine Arts Festival, Combined Pop Concert with St. Thomas HS Choir, Region and State Choir, Solo and Ensemble contest, singing the anthem at the Houston Astros game—these are just a few of the performance opportunities for the Treble Choir! Experience the benefits of singing with a large group. Students are taught proper vocal technique and sight-reading skills while learning to sing as an ensemble. Open to all Upper School students. Prerequisite: none

Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Advanced Choir
This ensemble is an auditioned performing group of 16-24 singers. It is open to students who have one or more years of experience in the Duchesne Treble Choir. This ensemble will perform highly challenging 4-part (SSAA) music, most of which is sung a cappella. Students are required to submit an audition for the TPSMEA All-State competition as well as prepare a vocal solo and ensemble for the TPSMEA Solo & Ensemble competition. Concurrent enrollment in Treble Choir required. Prerequisite: Treble Choir

Grade Level: 10th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Guitar I
Have you ever wanted to be able to play along to your favorite song on the radio? This course introduces the student to basic acoustic guitar skills. Students will be taught basic strumming patterns, chords, and chord progressions. We will explore music of The Beatles, folk, classic rock, country, and modern pop. No prior knowledge needed. Prerequisite: none

Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Guitar II
Students will continue honing their skills on the acoustic guitar that they began in Guitar I. Students will add chords and add fingerpicking to their strumming patterns. Performance opportunities will be presented to play in school liturgies and assemblies. Instructor approval/audition will be required to enter this course. Prerequisite: Guitar I and Instructor Approval

Grade Level: 10th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin
**Fine Arts**

**Vocal Development**
Students receive instruction in advanced vocal technique, posture, breathing, diction, foreign language, and music theory. Performance and audition techniques and opportunities are explored. A variety of genres will be studied concluding with a solo recital at the conclusion of the class. Instructor permission required. This course is repeatable for credit. **Prerequisite**: Instructor permission

**Grade Level**: 11th, 12th  
**Length**: 1 Bin

**Handbells**
Have you ever wanted to be in a musical ensemble and perform in an instrumental group? No prior music skill is needed, just a desire to learn a new skill. This course is designed for students who wish to develop basic ringing skills or to expand their existing skills. Emphasis will be placed on learning proper ringing methods as well as key musical elements. The handbell choir will perform at various liturgies and concerts throughout the year. **Prerequisite**: none

**Grade Level**: 9th - 12th  
**Length**: 1 Bin

**Music Theory**
Curious about all the symbols and markings in a piece of music? Learn to speak the language of written music. This course covers the foundations of beginning music theory. Topics center around melody, harmony, rhythm, and dynamics. Included will be analysis from music literature to show how music theory functions in all styles of music. **Prerequisite**: none

**Grade Level**: 10th - 12th  
**Length**: 1 Bin

**AP Music Theory**
AP Music Theory is an introductory college-level music theory course. Students cultivate their understanding of music theory through analyzing performed and notated music as they explore concepts like pitch, rhythm, form, and musical design. **Prerequisite**: Must have taken 2 years of Choir/Advanced Choir OR be actively studying with an outside private instrumental teacher

**Grade Level**: 11th, 12th  
**Length**: 3 Bins

**THEATRE COURSES**

**Introduction to Theatre**
Theatre is the art of collaborative storytelling and has a history going back thousands of years. Students in this course will learn about theatre traditions, explore a variety of acting techniques, experience various movement and vocal techniques, and try their hand at design and production work. The skills and knowledge acquired will enable the student to go on to more advanced theatre courses and excel onstage and backstage. **Prerequisite**: none

**Grade Level**: 9th - 12th  
**Length**: 1 Bin

**Musical Theatre**
Explore your creative self through the art of musical theatre. Training in acting and singing, specific to the musical theatre genre, as well as the opportunity to build individual repertory/audition pieces, is included. Topics focus on vocal and body awareness for stage and public settings; acting (intention, obstacles, use of movement, focus, pace, timing); singing (including placement, pitch, and sight reading), as well as adding to cultural knowledge and appreciation for musical theatre and shows. Field trips to live shows may be included. **Prerequisite**: Introduction to Theatre, Treble Choir, or Dance I

**Grade Level**: 9th - 12th  
**Length**: 1 Bin

**Improv Theatre**
This course introduces students to the magical and wonderful world of improvisational comedy and the power of “Yes, And” in theatre. Through a variety of group exercises and games, students will explore the structure of short-form improv (3-5 minute scenes inspired by Whose Line Is it Anyway, Second City, ComedySportz) and develop their comedic talents through practice and play. By focusing on effective communication and commitment to characters and relationships in scenes, students will build foundational improv skills that will allow them to find humor and joy in an environment that encourages collaboration and risk-taking. **Prerequisite**: Introduction to Theatre

**Grade Level**: 9th - 12th  
**Length**: 1 Bin

**Scene Study**
This course is for the theatre student who wants to build their acting skills. We’ll spend our six weeks together selecting, analyzing, memorizing, rehearsing, and presenting a series of scenes drawn from the theatrical genres and periods that most interest the class. Students will learn how to create characters and tell stories effectively in collaboration with a partner or ensemble. The class will include a performance for friends and family. **Prerequisite**: Introduction to Theatre

**Grade Level**: 9th - 12th  
**Length**: 1 Bin

**Advanced Theatre Production**
Let’s put on a show! This class is centered on the production of a full-length play as part of the Duchesne Fine Arts Season. As a curricular production, this show and production process will be designed to put the creative process in the hands of the student ensemble, so that they can learn and grow as artists. **Prerequisite**: Introduction to Theatre

**Grade Level**: 9th - 12th  
**Length**: 1 Bin
Theatre Technology and Design I
In this course, students learn basics of theatrical lighting and sound, with an emphasis on supporting events in the Cameron Theatre. Students operate and repair a range of lighting equipment, program and run our Ion XE light board, and create sound designs in QLab, the same software used on Broadway. Assessment is primarily through a series of equipment qualification tests, at the end of which the students are fully qualified Cameron Technicians (CamTechs) eligible to design and run events like the pop concert, all-school musical, and the dance show. This course involves working independently in the booth and catwalk and using a range of electrical and rigging tools. Accordingly, students must demonstrate a high level of personal responsibility to be successful. Instructor permission required. Prerequisite: Introduction to Theatre

Theatre Technology and Design II
In this course, students apply the skills learned in Theatre Tech and Design to events like the all-school musical, US theatre productions, the dance show, US and MS pop shows, and LS Christmas. Students work as lighting and sound designers and technicians and learn advanced techniques and additional skills in both areas. Students may also engage in class-specific design projects. Students take an active role in maintaining and improving the equipment in the Cameron Theatre. Note - this course involves working independently in the booth and catwalk and using a range of electrical and rigging tools. Accordingly, students must demonstrate a high level of personal responsibility to be successful. Instructor permission required. Prerequisite: Theatre Technology and Design I

Puppet Making
This class will dive headfirst into the materials and styles of modern puppet making. We will design and build puppets with cardboard, fabric, foam, wood, and all manner of found objects. The goal of the class is to get you working with your hands and get you thinking about problem solving in a physical space. Students will work individually and as a group to make puppets from scratch in any number of styles. Let’s make some stuff. Prerequisite: none
Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

DANCE COURSES

Dance I: Dance Styles
Dance I is an introductory dance class that gives dancers a foundation in dance, and a sampling of different styles and dance disciplines. Dancers will focus on technique; leaps and turns; fun jazz, hip-hop, and contemporary choreography; and will complete a 2-week Music Video Project where they create their own Music Video! Prerequisite: none
Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Dance II
Dance II is for dancers who are ready to build upon their existing foundation of dance at an advanced beginner/intermediate level. In this course dancers will develop a strong foundation of technique through ballet warm-ups, strengthening, and conditioning. Dancers will also build their technical repertoire of turns, jumps, and leaps, such as double pirouettes, chaines, pique turns, jetes, and more. Dancers will learn a variety of dance styles, such as jazz, jazz funk, contemporary, and musical theater at an advanced beginner/intermediate level. Dancers will improve their ability to pick up choreography quickly as well as their ability to understand nuances of style. Participation in the Fall Dance Show is required. Prerequisite: Instructor permission
Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Advanced Dance Projects
Advanced Dance Projects takes a deeper dive into the concepts learned in Dance III, allowing dancers to specialize in choreography, teaching, and/ or technique. This course is project based and asynchronous, giving each student the opportunity to focus on where their dance passions lie. Dancers may create an in-depth choreographic piece throughout their MOD, work on creating class plans while assisting other dance courses for actual hands on experience, etc. Each individual dancer will discuss with the instructor ahead of time what they would like to focus on so we can create an individualized plan that will best serve each dancer. By the end of Advanced Dance Projects, dancers will have professional level experience to take with them moving forward. Prerequisite: Dance III or Instructor approval
Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Aerial Dance
Aerial Dance is a course based in aerial silks. In this course, dancers will learn beginner to intermediate level silks moves, learn choreographed dance combinations that incorporate aerial silks, and will work on strength and flexibility to improve aerial capabilities. Prerequisite: Dance II/III or Instructor approval
Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin
History and the Bible
What is the history of the Bible, and what is history in the Bible? After learning about who wrote the Bible and studying its foundation, we will take off on an amazing journey through Salvation History, so pack your bags and let’s head out! First, we will visit the Patriarchs, hearing all about the promise made to Abraham and the foundation of the 12 Tribes. Next, we’ll sit along the sidelines and watch how Moses freed the slaves of Egypt, walking through the parting of the Red Sea along with the Israelites as they enter their new homeland. Once settled, we’ll meet the kings and prophets of Israel, as they struggle to remain faithful to God, while awaiting the coming of the Messiah. It’s the greatest story of all time! Prerequisite: none
Grade Level: 9th
Length: 1 Bin

Jesus’ Message
Central to freshmen Theology is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We begin with the Nativity stories in Matthew and Luke, before studying Mark, the framework for the Synoptic Gospels. By comparing the Parables in the various Gospels as well as the Crucifixion stories, students will deepen their understanding of Jesus’ message, and what that timeless message means to them today. Prerequisite: History and the Bible
Grade Level: 9th
Length: 1 Bin

Acts, Paul, and The Early Christian Community
How did the Apostles go from weak and often clueless fishermen to powerful, brilliant preachers willing to die for their faith in Christ? Follow their path as they move from a tiny sect within Judaism to the worldwide Church we know today. Prerequisite: Jesus’ Message
Grade Level: 9th
Length: 1 Bin

Restorative Justice and Redemption
This course focuses on God’s creation, the covenants with Abraham and Israel and the messages of the prophets. We explore life’s core values such as love, freedom, and redemption as they have been revealed to us in the Bible. God is Love and we are created in God’s image so that we may love others and all creation. Sadly, we can also observe that these relationships are wounded, which leads to further suffering and sin. The Bible shows us that God’s Divine Mercy is greater than our pain and sin and God’s restorative justice will heal us. Finally, we will look at the writings of the prophets which call us to right relationships and give us hope which prepares us for the Messiah who will bring the Kingdom of God. Prerequisite: none
Grade Level: 10th
Length: 1 Bin

We are the Sacrament of Christ, the People of God
Jesus Christ continues his presence and messianic ministry in the world today through the Church which is the People of God and a Sacrament of Christ. We experience the presence of Christ in community, making it possible for us to share in his redemptive ministry for the world. Students will read and analyze texts from the Bible and the Church’s tradition in order to grow in their understanding of the nature of the Church. Students will further reflect on the role of community and prayer in their own lives. Students will also learn about the Church’s relationship with other religions. Prerequisite: The Gospel and What it Means for Us
Grade Level: 10th
Length: 1 Bin

Justice and Morality
This course focuses on the Scriptural basis and Church teachings involving morality. What does it mean to honor your parents as you finish high school and go off to college? How does one continue to develop her conscience in a world dominated by celebrity and social media? What are our responsibilities to those less fortunate? In a world where everyone strives to belong, how do we recognize and reach out to those who feel like outcasts? Students begin by studying Church teachings on morality and justice and later apply those teachings to issues in poverty, immigration, and human trafficking. Prerequisite: none
Grade Level: 11th
Length: 1 Bin
Global and Social Awareness
From service learning in the Greater Houston community to domestic travel opportunities, students will take part in fulfilling Goal III of Duchesne’s Sacred Heart Goals and Criteria, which invites them to develop a “social awareness that impels to action.” This course aims to fulfill two main objectives: 1) to create a reciprocal link between students and “people who are poor, marginalized, and suffering from injustice”; and 2) to “prepare and inspire students to be active, informed, and responsible citizens locally, nationally, and globally.” With this in mind, students will engage in a variety of service-oriented opportunities that span from local volunteerism at a wide array of organizations to service-learning tours within the United States and abroad. Each service opportunity will include a reflection and expository component so that students have the chance to both show and tell the ways in which their experiences have allowed them to live out Goal III. Required for all 11th and 12th graders.

Grade Level: 11th, 12th
Length: 1 Bin

World Religions: Asian Traditions
This course seeks to introduce the students to basic ideas, worldviews, and practices of the main Asian religious traditions. First, the students explore central concepts and methodologies in religious studies, as well as the basic philosophical differences between Western and Eastern religious traditions. Traditions examined in this course are selected from Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism. We will discuss some primary texts, as well as participate in creative projects intended to engage the students’ imagination. Prerequisite: none

Grade Level: 12th
Length: 1 Bin

World Religions: Indigenous Traditions, Judaism, and Islam
We will study the stories of some indigenous traditions and discuss how these worldviews differ from our own Abrahamic traditions. Then, we inquire into Judaism, its history, practice, and diversity. Finally, we will survey central holy texts and teachings of Islam, how it has developed historically, and how it is lived today. Prerequisite: none

Grade Level: 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Sacraments
This course is designed to strengthen the students’ understanding of God’s gifts of the Sacraments. Through their written work and presentations, students will learn about the Liturgical Year and how we participate in the community of the Church, sharing in the Sacraments especially the Eucharist. They will become familiar with the matter and meaning of the symbols, rooted in the Bible, and the effects of each of the Seven Sacraments. Prerequisite: none

Grade Level: 11th
Length: 1 Bin

Peacemaking
We will start with an analysis of the meaning of peace, and then learn how to analyze conflicts and the roots of conflict. From there, we will consider various strategies that are necessary for peacebuilding. Next, we develop our understanding of these principles as we identify and analyze a current conflict/crisis and suggest appropriate, concrete, meaningful strategies for moving forward to build a sustainable peace. Finally, we will consider how to become peacemakers ourselves, because it is one thing to engage in intellectual analysis, and it is another thing to actually practice peace. Prerequisite: none

Grade Level: 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Prayer and Worship
How are you called to pray? Are there different ways of worship? Do you have a plan for continuing your prayer life as you go off to college? What are different styles of prayer? Can technology be incorporated in your prayer life? Prayer and Worship centers around the theology of prayer and prayer traditions that have evolved over the centuries. Students will explore the writings of many people seeking God throughout the ages to learn what these seekers can teach us about our own search for God. Prerequisite: none

Grade Level: 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Bioethics
The course examines the ethical dimensions of critical beginning of life issues raised by contemporary advances in the fields of medicine, bio-technology, and genetics. Some of the issues we tackle are genetic engineering, prenatal development, stem cell research, cloning, and artificial reproductive technologies, including IVF, pre-implantation genetic diagnosis, surrogacy, and gamete donation. We will explore moral development and offer the students the moral guidelines and teachings of the Church as a framework within which they can examine the facts, conflicts, and implications of these issues. Prerequisite: none

Grade Level: 12th
Length: 1 Bin
**FRENCH**

**French I - Tout de Moi**
Did you know Houston has a huge francophone (French speaking) community? French is also the only language other than English spoken on every continent. Most excitingly, French I is all about you! Learn how to introduce yourself, talk about the things you like, your family, your home, your classes, your favorite foods, and your hobbies while you learn about the same in francophone communities. **Prerequisite: none**

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**French II - Ma Communauté et Moi**
Expand your understanding of our lifestyle in Houston and in francophone communities. Design your dream house, plan a party, and lay out your ideal city. This class takes what you learn in French I and broadens it: learn about your neighborhood, your body, traveling, and how to make plans. **Prerequisite: French I**

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**French III - L’amour est dans l’air**
How better to express feelings than in the language of love? Students of French III will explore the world of personal relationships and its presence in film, music and photography. Students will practice their creative writing skills by composing their own France-themed love story. They will also develop their analytical design skills via creation of tv and radio advertisements marketing products in French. Finally, we will take a virtual trip abroad to Africa and other not-so-distant francophone destinations such as Québec, Haiti, and Louisiana. **Prerequisite: French II**

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**French III Advanced - Silence, moteur, action**
Let’s explore the world of personal relationships and its presence in film, music and photography. Students will practice their creative writing skills by composing their own France-themed love story. They will also develop their analytical design skills via creation of tv and radio advertisements marketing products in French. We will take a virtual trip abroad to Africa and other not-so-distant francophone destinations such as Québec, Haiti, and Louisiana. We’ll conclude our travels by exploring the marvelous universe of *Le Petit Prince*, a must-read of modern French literature. This is a more in-depth French III course that starts your preparation for the international French test DELF B1. Students are also required to participate in the Texas French Symposium. **Prerequisite: French II**

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**French IV/V - French for Travelers - Destination Quebec**
Let’s pack our backpack for an incredible budget friendly weekend in Montreal. You will all be journalists and you will prepare everything: places to visit, where and what to eat, transportation, timings, and a video to show the city. We will practice common, practical and useful conversations so when you are there you will easily communicate! Students of any other French IV class are welcome to join this short trip. Please be aware that an additional travel charge will be assessed should you choose to travel to Montreal. **Prerequisite: French III**

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**French V**

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French IV/V - French Movies and Art
From the origins of film making with the Lumière brothers to more contemporary and charming movies like *Amélie*, we’ll explore the evolution of French and other French-speaking cinema. Watching and analyzing cinema and art movements like avant-garde, new wave, impressionism, and realism will help us to better understand francophone societies. Plus, the variety of perspectives should stimulate everyone’s curiosity! **Prerequisite:** French III

**Grade Level:** 11th, 12th  
**Length:** 1 Bin

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French IV/V - la Dégustation Francophone
Finally! The food-based course you’ve wanted your whole life! Grocery shopping and meals look different around the world. Compare your American eating habits to those of a variety of francophone cultures and try your hand at making some of their best-known meals. Find out where to get the best French pastries, Moroccan tajine, and Belgian-style fries in Houston before hosting a French speaking party for your peers to broaden their palate. **Prerequisite:** French III or Advanced French III

**Grade Level:** 11th, 12th  
**Length:** 1 Bin

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**French IV Advanced - DELF B1**
From French impressionists to different types of architecture and symmetrical French gardening, we’ll start our year exploring different manifestations of art. Our second MOD will bring many cultural questions to the table such as how education and family roles can change according to the community or how traditions can reflect years of heritage in a society. The simple question of what makes you feel part of a community will make a link with our last mod, where we’ll tackle the relations between language, culture and geography. This class will prepare students to take the international French test DELF B1. **Prerequisite:** Advanced French III

**Grade Level:** 11th, 12th  
**Length:** 3 Bins
SPANISH

Spanish I
Embark on a beautiful new journey in Spanish and be part of the second most spoken language in the world. Share with us everything about you, tell us what you like, and learn about your friends’ hobbies. Let’s go visit a restaurant and learn how to order from a menu. Let’s follow that up by spending birthday money to find the perfect gift for you and your friends. Prerequisite: none

Grade Level: 9th
Length: 3 Bins

Spanish II
This course will guide you through the process of learning Spanish to increase comprehension and fluency. Find your way around Madrid using the internet and maps, and discover the city underground by taking a tour in the subway. After this long journey in Madrid, treat yourself with a nice afternoon at the spa and learn how to give yourself a break and talk about your well-being. Prerequisite: Spanish I

Grade Level: 9th, 10th
Length: 3 Bins

Spanish III
This is a culturally enriched Spanish program that allows students to improve skills and communicate through conversation, language, and grammar. Enter the worlds of artists and learn how to talk about painting, music, and cinema. After talking about their work, learn how to talk about your future dream job and immerse yourself in the professional world. Prerequisite: Spanish II

Grade Level: 10th, 11th
Length: 3 Bins

Advanced Spanish II
Engage in conversations to increase your comprehension and fluency in Spanish and develop skills to understand and be understood. Write reports, tell stories, and watch a TV series completely in Spanish. In this Spanish class, you will become a real estate agent and will sell us our dream house, and on another day you will become the best advisor for your friends. Tell us the story of your life and learn about your friends’ lives and experiences... maybe even learn some secrets. Prerequisite: Spanish I

Grade Level: 9th, 10th
Length: 3 Bins

Advanced Spanish III
Embark on Spanish and Latin American short stories and be involved in class discussions; get into real life situations; watch short movies and “El tiempo entre costuras” series to expand language and culture knowledge of the Hispanic world, while reviewing essential grammatical structures. Have you ever wanted to be part of a fairy tale? Well, here’s your chance! Be part of a wonderful class where you write a fairy tale in which you can be the main character. We’ll talk about love, friendship, and adventures, and you could also meet with Sira, a Scarlett O’Hara type lady during the Civil War in Spain. Prerequisite: Advanced Spanish II

Grade Level: 10th, 11th
Length: 3 Bins

Spanish IV
We will spend time discovering culture through short stories, listening to authors, and seeing the beauty of Spanish speaking countries. Here’s your chance to experience community life, and how to make connections through comparison and communication. This course is designed to help you learn how Spanish is your key to knowledge. Prepare yourself to go on different trips where you will see beautiful places and enjoy new cultures, food habits, and scenery. Embrace nature and the outdoors and explore its nurturing aspects. Identify world problems to start making a difference and recommend solutions. Prerequisite: Spanish III

Grade Level: 11th, 12th
Length: 3 Bins
Pre-AP Advanced Spanish IV
Expand your vocabulary and learn to communicate efficiently in both writing and speaking. Use the Spanish language in meaningful, creative, and engaging contexts. Read magazine and newspaper articles, and analyze literary works as well as short lectures. Watch the Spanish Series “Gran Hotel” and get ready to enter a world of love, mystery, and suspense set in the early 1900s Spain. In this class you will also create oral presentations and share with the class your own analysis of current world topics. Pre-requisite: Advanced Spanish III or heritage speaker
Grade Level: 11th, 12th
Length: 3 Bins

Spanish Literature for Spanish Speakers
Do you speak Spanish but never had a formal Spanish language education? This class is for you! Discover different periods of Spanish literature. Read, analyze, and discuss in a comfortable class setting, and learn how to express your thoughts in writing. Prerequisite: native speaker
Grade Level: 11th, 12th
Length: 3 Bins

AP Spanish Language and Culture
In this course, students develop skills in the three modes of communication (Interpersonal, Interpretative, and Presentational) defined in the Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century. This is a second-third semester college level course and students will study, discuss, and analyze texts based on the six core themes determined by the College Board. Students write essays as well as perform oral presentations on a weekly basis. Prerequisite: Pre-AP Advanced Spanish IV or heritage speaker
Grade Level: 11th, 12th
Length: 3 Bins
World Languages

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

American Sign Language I
American Sign Language (ASL) introduces students to the language and culture of Deaf people in the United States. The course will focus on specific language and cultural behaviors, as well as introduce students to the grammar of ASL. **Prerequisite: none**

**Grade Level:** 9th - 12th  
**Length:** 3 Bins

American Sign Language II
This course utilizes classroom instruction, real-life scenarios, and an increase in fluidity within a signed-only conversation. ASL II is designed to gain a deeper knowledge of Deaf culture, grammar, and an increase in vocabulary. This course will also emphasize differences in dialogue, language learning, oral v. non-oral, occupations, and family life. **Prerequisite: ASL I**

**Grade Level:** 9th - 12th  
**Length:** 3 Bins

American Sign Language III
This is a 3-Bin course that will provide students with the opportunity to further their advanced studies of American Sign Language. ASL I students learned first to participate in exchanges, comprehend exchanges, and present on a variety of topics using the vocabulary and grammatical structures learned. This course will improve speed and fluency, and reinforce appropriate grammar usage and conversation skills. Students will also continue to gain knowledge of Deaf culture. Students will be encouraged to interact with Deaf people in social contexts and a variety of other situations. ASL III will be taught with no voice. Students will be evaluated through various techniques including class participation, classwork, homework, expressive assignments, and receptive assignments. **Prerequisite: ASL II**

**Grade Level:** 11th, 12th  
**Length:** 3 Bins
Cake Art
Students will apply their foundational knowledge of art and design to the tasty medium of cake. Students will learn the fundamentals of cake art from baking to filling, icing, and decorating. Using the elements of art, they will elevate their sugary creations into impressive works showcasing their skill. Take a dive into a new medium, learn an impressive new skill, have your cake, and eat it, too! This course fulfills a general elective, not a fine arts requirement. **Prerequisite: none**

**Grade Level:** 10th - 12th
**Length:** 1 Bin

How to Adult
What is a credit score and how can I get one? How do I file taxes? The hem is coming out of my favorite dress – how do I fix it? Is it possible to cook a healthy meal for one in my tiny dorm room with no real kitchen? How do I write a resume? I dropped my Duchesne ring down the drain – is it lost forever? This course will take the mystery out of the world of “adulting” and equip students with life skills in personal finance, career, health, and household maintenance so they can build confidence and independence as they transition from high school into the adult world. **Prerequisite: none**

**Grade Level:** 11th, 12th
**Length:** 1 Bin

Quilts for a Cause
Do you love Goal 3? Do you like using your creativity to help other people? Me too! In this bin, you’ll learn the basics of quiltmaking. After you make a small project for yourself, we’ll all collaborate, and you’ll use your new skills to help make a quilt or two for Angela House. Join us, and use your crafty side for a good cause. **Prerequisite: none**

**Grade Level:** 9th - 12th
**Length:** 1 Bin

Disability Studies
Disability Studies is an interactive and educational disability awareness course designed to teach students the differences that people with disabilities may have. We will learn how a Deaf person wakes up in the morning, or how an individual who is in a wheelchair gets into the car. To understand the life of an individual who has different challenges than able-bodied individuals, we will simulate some of these specific disabilities. In addition to in-class lessons, it is important we hear from those who truly live it, so guest speakers will be visiting throughout the course. **Prerequisite: none**

**Grade Level:** 11th, 12th
**Length:** 1 Bin

College Essays and Convos
Common app essays, supplemental essays, personal statements... College admissions can be stressful for anyone, and this course will help you navigate through the process. Taken during junior year, this course will provide practical tips to writing your essays and providing colleges with a complete picture of you beyond your transcript. By the end of the course, students should have several skills to tackle their essays efficiently and effectively. **Prerequisite: none**

**Grade Level:** 11th
**Length:** 1 Bin
SAT/ACT Prep
SAT, ACT, IDK!! College admissions testing is confusing, but it doesn’t have to be. Once you know which test to take and how to approach it, you’ll be able to enter the testing room with confidence. In this course, you’ll get an overview of the SAT and ACT so you can decide which one suits you best. You’ll also learn helpful hints for taking each exam, as well as practice with questions from the different sections of the tests. You’ll also learn about the essay sections: are they really optional? This course will arm you with all the skills you need to conquer the test. You’ll be able to relax and smile, LOL. Prerequisite: none
Grade Level: 10th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Communications Internship
Work as an intern for Duchesne and get real-world experience! You’ll work with staff from the offices of Marketing & Communications and Admissions. Projects will include writing articles for the Duchesne website, creating content for Duchesne’s social media platforms, taking photos, managing assets in Duchesne’s media database, and assisting with admissions events. Participation in this internship course is selective and requires teacher recommendation and approval. Prerequisite: none
Grade Level: 11th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Open Your Own Business
Launch your business! In this course students will be provided with practical insights into basic aspects of leadership, business, and marketing. A market research template will be used to spark an idea, in hopes of creating a reality. With the use of a well thought out business model, students will be able to execute a possible business launch. Dream BIG! Prerequisite: none
Grade Level: 10th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Introduction to Culinary Arts
The course will be an introduction to classical and modern cuisine. Through a combination of hands-on and theory/lecture, students will learn the basics of food safety and preparation. The course will allow students to explore cultural and social aspects of food, including social issues, mass food production vs. organic sustainable farming, food waste, accessibility, and more. Prerequisite: none
Grade Level: 10th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

Introduction to Debate
Introduction to Debate provides students an overview of the fundamentals of speech and debate, preparing students to be adept practitioners in argumentation, rhetoric, logical reasoning, and effective communication. Students build a foundation of speech and debate skills in class through research, practice, and reflection. Then, students further develop those skills through a variety of speech and debate events that introduce numerous topics ranging from social issues to domestic and international events. Students in the course will be invited to participate in the nationally ranked Duchesne speech and debate program, involving competition at local, regional, and national travel tournaments. Ultimately, it is the goal that students leave the course more prepared, more competent, and more comfortable in any academic or professional setting where effective communication is necessary. Prerequisite: none
Grade Level: 9th - 12th
Length: 1 Bin

RESEARCH PAPER
Mastering the Art of Research
Beginning with an essential question of their choice, students will research a topic, develop a thesis, and complete a college level argumentative research paper. This carefully guided process will teach students essential skills in research, writing, and documentation. This course is required to be completed by the end of Junior year. Prerequisite: none
Grade Level: 11th
Length: 1 Bin