Mission
Saint Mary’s School, a community dedicated to academic excellence and personal achievement, prepares young women for college and life. To accomplish our mission, Saint Mary’s School:

• Challenges each young woman to embrace the habits of an intellectual life, engages her with the past and the emerging future, and empowers her to serve and shape her world
• Fosters in each young woman a spirit of connection to others, guides her in developing her spiritual and ethical integrity, and prepares her to take responsibility for herself and her future

Philosophy
Saint Mary’s School strives through its academic curriculum to challenge each student to embrace the habits of an intellectual life. The faculty work to prepare each student to take responsibility for herself and for her future. We intend that graduates of Saint Mary’s School develop the habits of lifelong learners, building their skills on a foundation marked by core knowledge of a liberal arts curriculum, with intentional development of clear communication, effective collaboration, intellectual creativity, critical thinking, global awareness and character. Central to these habits are the “three C’s,” the foundational tenants upon which each course and other educational program is focused.
Habits of a Lifelong Learner

**Character:** A Saint Mary's School graduate will demonstrate moral, spiritual, and intellectual character. She will have a clear sense of who she is and will show care and respect for the lives and beliefs of others. She will act with courage and emotional maturity in making ethical decisions and will take ownership of her actions. She will approach life with curiosity, perseverance, resilience, and joy.

**Critical Thinking:** A Saint Mary's School graduate will explore and analyze ideas and issues with perception and creativity, discern the merits of the information available to her, and consider multiple perspectives cognizant of her own assumptions. She will embrace versatility, flexibility, new information and skills, and will create and execute ideas that positively impact society.

**Communication:** A Saint Mary's School graduate will communicate and collaborate effectively and authentically. She will balance speaking with engaged listening and writing with insightful reading. She will be adept in the non-verbal aspects of communication and expression. Her approach in all forms of communication will reflect confidence in her own perspective and consideration of the values of others.

**Science Department**

Science plays such a major role in human lives, it is vital that students have an understanding of its importance. Science courses make students aware of the vast amount of information being discovered daily about our world. The science program offers courses in both the biological and the physical sciences and aims to stimulate critical thinking and to teach students how to understand and interpret data and to apply the scientific method. Laboratory experiences form a major part of science study. Through them, students explore the world via the microscope, experimentation and observation, and field work, which help them relate the more abstract concepts considered in lecture periods to their immediate experience. Opportunities for individual research programs are available for students who wish to go beyond the basic required courses.

- Biology
- Honors Biology I
- Honors Biology II
- Advanced Placement Biology Chemistry
- Honors Chemistry
- Advanced Placement Chemistry Physics
- Honors Physics
- Advanced Placement Physics I
- Ecology
- Advanced Placement Environmental Science
- Marine Science
- Astronomy

**Mathematics Department**

The main objective of the mathematics program is to support students as they become mathematically literate citizens who know the appropriate mathematical and technological tools to use and when to use them in various problem-solving settings. Students master concepts and work through the mathematics courses through a sequential approach beginning with Algebra I. They develop critical thinking and application skills needed to build a solid foundation for further high school and college work in both mathematics and science. The types of problems and the learning environment in the mathematics classrooms foster persistence, critical thinking, and reflection. All courses require students to communicate conceptual understanding (both verbally and in written form), justify and explain results, and apply mathematics to real-world situations.

- Algebra I
- Geometry
- Honors Geometry
- Algebra II
- Honors Algebra II
- Pre-Calculus
- Honors Pre-Calculus
- Honors Combinatorics
- Introduction to Calculus
- Introduction to Operations Research
- Advanced Placement Calculus AB
- Advanced Placement Calculus BC
- Introduction to Statistics
- Advanced Placement Statistics

**English Department**

The goal of the English Department is to help students learn to communicate effectively by developing skills in reading, writing, comprehension, and speaking. Courses acquaint students with literary works from a range of periods and cultures beginning in the 9th grade with a broad global focus using interdisciplinary approaches. Students then move to the literature of Western culture in the 10th grade and to the specific study of American and English literature in the 11th and 12th grades. The English Department also sponsors the literary club and its magazine, The Muse, the annual Essay Contest, and the Shakespeare Competition.

- English I: World Voices
- English II: Western Literature
- Honors English II: Honors Western Literature
- English III: American Literature
- Honors English III: Honors American Literature
- Advanced Placement Language and Composition: American Literature
- Honors English IV: Honors British Literature
- Advanced Placement Language and Composition: British Literature
- Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics
- Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics
- Advanced Placement English: Creative Writing Fiction
- Advanced Placement English: Non-Fiction
- Honors English: Creative Writing: Fiction
- Honors English: Creative Writing: Non-Fiction

**World Languages Department**

Learning a world language opens doors to other worlds and creates links between students and the cultures explored and studied through the coursework. Students learn more and develop a deeper commitment to and interest in a language through active instruction that provides a current, global, interdisciplinary perspective and to that end, the World Languages curriculum makes no distinction between classical and modern languages. In all three of World language offerings, Latin, French, and Spanish, students strive for mastery in each and every aspect of language acquisition, including integrating reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills.

- French I
- French II
- Honors Intermediate French: Francophone Cultures and Composition
- Honors Intermediate French: French Grammar and Conversation
- Honors Advanced French: French Conversation and Composition
- Honors Advanced French: Francophone Cultures
- Advanced Placement French Language and Culture
- Latin I
- Latin II
- Honors Intermediate Latin: Composition and Conversation
- Honors Advanced Latin: Literature: Cicero and Virgil
- Honors Advanced Latin: Literature: Caesar and Ovid
- Advanced Placement Latin
- Spanish I
- Spanish II
- Honors Intermediate Spanish: Spanish Grammar and Conversation
- Honors Intermediate Spanish: Hispanic Cultures and Composition
- Honors Advanced Spanish: Hispanic Literature
- Honors Advanced Spanish: Spanish Conversation and Composition
- Advanced Placement Spanish Language and Culture

**Humanities and Social Sciences Department**

The Humanities and Social Sciences Department encompasses a range of courses that include the study of history, cultures, government, religion, philosophy, and psychology, and guide students to developing a deeper understanding of themselves and their world. The courses take students from the general view of the world, presented in the Foundations of Contemporary History curriculum, to the more familiar and specific, as they move to World History and then to American History. By the time a student is a senior, she is able to select a religion or philosophy course that allows her to concentrate on a subject that interests her.

- World History I
- World History II
- Honors World History II
- United States History
- Honors United States History
- Advanced Placement United States History
- United States Government
- Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics
- Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics
- History and Theology of Christianity
- Origins of Western Thought
- World Religions
- Introduction to Ethics
- Biblical Studies
- Advanced Placement Psychology
Visual and Performing Arts Department

The Visual and Performing Arts Department offers an extensive range of coursework that offers opportunities for students to explore and build skills in visual art, dance, theatre, and music. The visual art program offers students the opportunity to exercise self-expression through a range of courses. In these studio classes, students are encouraged to increase their skill levels and maximize their artistic potential by exposure to a variety of techniques and mediums in an atmosphere that embraces a high expectation of creative decision making and a high quality of production. The dance program offers courses that provide solid technical training in ballet and modern, while offering opportunities for students to take jazz, hip hop, stretch/yoga, and conditioning classes. It also offers a resident student dance company, Orchesis, that performs two concert programs each year. The drama program offers opportunities to study acting, explore dramatic literature, read and analyze scripts, and become familiar with the history of theatre. Students also work as production company members in stage management, acting, set, costume, lighting and sound design, and various technical and stage crews for the annual play and musical performed each year. In the music program, every level of interest and ability is supported with a rich variety of vocal and instrumental training both in performance ensembles and through individual lessons. Expert instruction in applied music is provided in voice and a wide range of instruments, which students can pursue at elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels.

Advisory Program
The Saint Mary’s School advisory program is a personalized, academic advising program designed to guide students as they navigate their high school experience. A student’s advisor is the central connecting point for that student and provides an integrated understanding of the student’s academic and personal growth and development. Each student is part of an advisory consisting of approximately six students from across grade levels. Advisory meets at least four times a week, including one weekly advisory lunch. Student’s also meet regularly on a one-to-one basis with their advisor.

Exploration Days
Exploration Days are part of Saint Mary’s commitment to provide innovative learning opportunities for girls. Students enjoy expanded learning experiences centered around a specific theme on dedicated campus-weekend Saturdays during the school year. These days aim to provide innovative, integrated, and hands-on learning experiences. Past Exploration Day activities have included learning to write code, the science of architecture, freewriting and poetry, astronomy, self-expression through art, conflict resolution, financial literacy, and others.

Independent Studies
Independent study is available through every academic department at Saint Mary’s School and provides students with opportunities to more deeply explore a subject or topic of interest and to expand a student’s depth of knowledge and skill. Participation in an independent study is generally reserved for upper class students and is subject to the availability of faculty and the student’s academic program. All independent study is developed in alignment with the department’s subjects and goals and with the individual student’s objectives and academic program. Independent study goals must be clearly stated and approved by the department chair and the Dean of Teaching and Learning.

Pathways
Pathways affords students in their junior and/or senior year an opportunity to work on an intensive project of their choosing focusing on one or a combination of four areas: academic, creative, service, and career. The student may choose to do an off-campus internship, an on-campus project, or a more individual project. Pathways calls upon and develops a variety of skills and knowledge and requires that the student work independently and responsibly.

*This information is based on the 2016-17 course offerings.
**This document is for reference only. For a complete list of courses please see the Saint Mary's School Curriculum Guide.
Sample Four-Year Plan

Minimum graduation requirements are in bold type.

Students must also add electives for a total of 20 credits, with at least four units in the 12th grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>9th Grade</th>
<th>10th Grade</th>
<th>11th Grade</th>
<th>12th Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>English I</td>
<td>English II (college prep or honors)</td>
<td>English III (college prep or honors)</td>
<td>English IV (college prep or honors) or Senior English Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities and Social Sciences</td>
<td>World History I</td>
<td>World History II (college prep or honors)</td>
<td>U.S. History (college prep or honors or AP) and possibly Philosophy (1/2) and/or U.S. Government and electives including AP electives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics (see math sequence)</td>
<td>Determined by Placement Test Algebra I or Geometry (college prep or honors) or Algebra II (honors)</td>
<td>Geometry (college prep or honors) Algebra II (college prep or honors) Pre-Calculus (college prep or honors)</td>
<td>Algebra II (college prep or honors) Pre-Calculus (college prep or honors) or AP Calculus or Intro to Calculus/Statistics and/or electives</td>
<td>Pre-Calculus (college prep or honors) or AP Calculus or AP Statistics or Introduction to Calculus/Statistics or Introduction to Operations Research and/or electives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Physics (honors if co-requisites are met)</td>
<td>Chemistry (college prep or honors) and/or electives</td>
<td>Biology (college prep or honors or AP) and/or electives</td>
<td>AP Science and/or electives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language</td>
<td>First Year or higher level pending placement exam</td>
<td>Second Year or higher level</td>
<td>Honors Intermediate or higher level</td>
<td>Honors Intermediate, Honors Advanced, or AP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual and Performing Arts</td>
<td>Dance, Drama, Music, or Visual Art</td>
<td>Dance, Drama, Music, or Visual Art</td>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>Electives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Understanding the Academic Day Schedule

**Morning sign-in / 7:55 attendance**

Morning sign-in in the dining hall is required of all **boarding students** before their first period class. Day students are accounted for as teachers take attendance at 7:55 a.m., prior to the beginning of first period classes and/or study hall.

**Classes**

Academic day class periods are given letters A, B, C, D, E with and G, EX and GX as extended times used for AP Science courses meeting during E and G. For students not in AP Science this time is allotted to lunch and all-school tutorial. I period is described below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:55 Attendance</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>8:45</td>
<td>8:45</td>
<td>8:45</td>
<td>8:45</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>9:00</td>
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<td>E</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advisory</td>
<td>10:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assembly</td>
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<td>10:35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Assembly</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Flex and School Meeting Times**

Each Wednesday students have "Flex Time" that will engage them in club meetings, student life activities, community service or some unstructured time.

Each Thursday, students will participate in School Meetings which may be a special assembly, extended advisory times, or other all-school events.

**Advisory**

Advisory groups include approximately six students assigned to a faculty or staff member. Advisories meet on Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 11:20-11:30 a.m. and Wednesday from 9:30-9:45 a.m. Groups may meet, advisors may ask specific students to come for individual meetings, or students may drop in to speak with their advisor. On Thursdays, students sit with their advisory group for a weekly Advisory Lunch.

**I Period**

I period is used for arts classes such as dance and Honors Chorale. Students not in these classes may be engaged in athletics practice or PLUS.

PLUS (Playing, Learning, Understanding, Succeeding) is a physical fitness program for 9th and 10th grade students. Classes meet in the afternoon two days a week for 1 ½ hours throughout the school year – 10th graders meet on Monday and Wednesday; 9th graders meet on Tuesday and Thursday. Students who participate in athletics, Chorale, Orchestra or other after-school classes or programs are excused from this program during the season or days that the other activities meet.

**Lunch**

Lunch in Chan-Poyer Dining Hall is offered daily from 12:05-1:00 p.m. Students in AP Science or classes meeting during E or G have an adjusted lunch schedule. Juniors and seniors may go to lunch promptly at 12:05 p.m., while 9th and 10th graders begin lunch at 12:15 p.m. During lunch students have plenty of time to eat, as well as check email, review notes, relax with friends, or check in with a teacher.

**Extended Period Days**

On Wednesday and Thursday classes enjoy an extended period which allows for special labs, projects or other classwork requiring additional

**Test Days**

Each subject is assigned a test day. For example, on Monday, Humanities and Social Science and Arts classes may give tests, but no other subject may. On Wednesday and Thursday, any subject may give tests.

**Assembly and Chapel**

All-school assembly takes place in Pettman Auditorium on Monday from 11:35-noon. Chapel takes place on Tuesday and Friday from 11:35-noon.

**All-school Tutorial**

During All-school Tutorial, all teachers are available to students who would like to meet or get extra help, catch up from an absence, review a rough draft or prepare for a test. Tutorial is an essential part of the academic day and students are not to leave school prior to its end at 3:05.