

# Curriculum Guide

## 2018-2019



## **ACADEMIC POLICIES**

Peninsula Catholic High School provides its students with a comprehensive college preparatory curriculum through which students may earn a General Studies or Advanced Studies diploma at the end of eight (8) terms of high school study between grades 9-12.

All students are encouraged to follow a college preparatory program of study, as this is the main academic focus of the school. In determining a program and selecting courses, a self-appraisal of interests, attitudes, and career goals should be undertaken. Also, because college entrance requirements vary, students should investigate early on the specific entrance standards of prospective colleges. The School Counselors are available to assist in this process.

Students are accepted at Peninsula Catholic High School based on their academic potential to successfully complete graduation requirements. These include the basic credit requirements for graduation from a secondary school as required by the Commonwealth of Virginia and the specific credit requirements of Peninsula Catholic High School.

Each student must follow a full schedule (i.e. four courses) each term. Seniors who qualify may pursue one independent study option (see page 25).

### **Graduation Requirements:**

The following table reflects the requirements for the Standard Diploma (SD) and Advanced Diploma (AD) through the 2018-19 school year:

|                               | <b>SD</b> | <b>AD</b> |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| English                       | 4         | 4         |
| Mathematics                   | 3         | 4         |
| Natural (Lab) Science         | 3         | 4         |
| Social Science (History)      | 4         | 4         |
| Physical Education/Health     | 2         | 2         |
| Theology                      | 4         | 4         |
| Economics or Personal Finance | 1         | 1         |
| Foreign Language              | 1         | 2/2 or 3  |
| Fine Art                      | 1         | 1         |
| Elective                      | 4         | 3         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                  | <b>27</b> | <b>30</b> |

For students working towards the **Standard Diploma**,

- Courses in **Mathematics** completed to satisfy this requirement shall include at least three different courses from among: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra Functions and Data Analysis, Algebra II, or other mathematics courses above the level of Algebra II.

- Courses in **Natural Science** completed to satisfy this requirement shall include three different course selections from at least two different science disciplines: earth sciences, biology, chemistry, or physics.
- Courses completed to satisfy the **History/Social Sciences** requirement shall include US/Virginia History, US/Virginia Government, and two courses in World History and Geography.
- Students must take one credit in fine and performing arts and one foreign language credit.

For students working towards the **Advanced Diploma**,

- Courses in **Mathematics** completed to satisfy this requirement shall include at least four different courses from among: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and one other mathematics course above the level of Algebra II.
- Courses in **Natural Science** completed to satisfy this requirement shall include four different course selections from at least three different science disciplines: earth sciences, biology, chemistry, or physics.
- Courses completed to satisfy the **History/Social Sciences** requirement shall include US/Virginia History, US/Virginia Government, and two courses in World History and Geography.
- Courses in **Foreign Language** completed to satisfy this requirement shall include three years of one language or two years of two languages.

Additional graduation requirement for all students:

- **Virtual Course:** Students must complete one virtual course, which may be a non-credit bearing course that is offered online. This class will be provided by Peninsula Catholic. The course will be graded as a pass/fail class. Students will be enrolled in the course, titled PC Tech Boot Camp, upon receiving their Chromebooks. This course is designed to help students become familiar with the learning management system (Canvas) and other digital tools used at Peninsula Catholic High School including Google Docs, Google Slides, other Google options; videos and digital citizenship. The class is approximately nine hours in length and must be completed prior to the first day of school.

Additional graduation requirement for students in the Class of 2020 and beyond:

- **Training in Emergency First Aid, CPR, and Use of an AED:** Students pursuing the standard or advanced diplomas are required to

be trained in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of automated external defibrillators, including hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. This requirement will be fulfilled as part of the Health Education course offered by Peninsula Catholic.

| <b>Courses Offered in Mathematics</b>             |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Courses at or above the level of Algebra I</b> | <b>Courses at or above the level of Algebra II</b> |
| Algebra I   | Algebra II   |
| Geometry  | Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry                     |
|   | Algebra III/Trigonometry                           |
|   | Probability & Statistics                           |
|   | AP Statistics                                      |
|   | Honors Pre-Calculus                                |
|   | Honors Calculus                                    |
|   | AP Calculus AB                                     |
|   | AP Calculus BC                                     |

### **Math Placement for Incoming Students:**

Peninsula Catholic asks all newly enrolled students to take a math placement test prior to the scheduling of their initial semester to aid in their course placement. This test will be administered by Peninsula Catholic prior to the beginning of school.

### **Physical Education/Health/Driver's Education:**

All courses are one credit with the exception of Physical Education (0.5 credit); Health I/First Aid (0.5 credit); and Health II/Drivers Ed (0.5 credit).

Freshmen who turn 15 prior to December 31 of the academic year, may opt to reverse Health II/Driver's Ed (normally taken sophomore year) and Health I/First Aid (normally taken freshman year) with parental approval. Preference, however, will be given to sophomores as classes meet capacity.

### **Advanced Placement Courses:**

Peninsula Catholic High School offers Advanced Placement (AP) Courses in the following subjects: Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Chemistry, English Literature and Composition, European History, Microeconomics, Statistics, and Studio Art. The prerequisite for all AP courses is a B+/89 final average of the preceding Integrated Honors course in the subject OR a B/86 final average of the preceding AP or DE course, and approval of the Department Chair following a readiness evaluation (see full criteria on page 5). Additional prerequisites or co-requisites for individual AP courses are indicated under the course descriptions.

### **Honors Courses:**

Peninsula Catholic High School offers *stand alone* honors courses in the following subjects: Algebra II/Trigonometry, Calculus, Pre-Calculus, Physics, and fourth level Foreign Languages. The prerequisite for all *stand alone* honors courses is a B/86 final average in the preceding course in the subject unless otherwise noted and approval of the Department Chair (see full criteria on page 5).

Peninsula Catholic High School offers *integrated* honors courses in the following subjects: English 9, 10, 11 and 12; Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry, and Statistics; second and third Foreign Language; World Geography, World History, United States History, Government; Earth Science, Biology, and Chemistry. Honors students may be required to complete a project, alternate homework or test questions, or do other in-depth work. All students interested in being classified as honors in an *integrated* honors course will notify each teacher during the first week of class. Those students who have a B/86 average for all grading categories in any integrated honors course at the five week point will be enrolled as honors students for that term.

### **Dual Enrollment Courses:**

Peninsula Catholic High School has established a dual enrollment partnership with Thomas Nelson Community College (TNCC) and also participates in a diocesan partnership with Richard Bland College (RBC). For both institutions, courses and instructors have completed a rigorous review process and are designated for dual enrollment only when they meet established standards.

Junior and senior students will be considered for the Thomas Nelson program if they have met the following requirements:

- have a 3.00 cumulative GPA
- meet one of the minimum testing requirements for both English AND math as established by TNCC
- Students who do not qualify for DE based on SAT, ACT or PSAT are required to take the VPT Math Placement and VPT English Placement (as needed) tests at the testing center on TNCC's campus. The VPT tests provide a list of courses a student is approved for rather than a raw score. A placement of ENG 111 and MTE 5 are required for all TNCC courses.

Dual Enrollment through Thomas Nelson Community College is available at no cost to students and parents. Students will be responsible for completing the registration process and providing testing results for approval. Upon successful completion of designated courses, students will receive both high

school and college credit.

Students must meet the requirements for admission to and be accepted for enrollment at Thomas Nelson Community College by the first day of the class or they will be disenrolled from the course.

Courses to be offered as Dual Enrollment through TNCC are: DE American Literature and Advanced Creative Writing.

Students will be considered for the Richard Bland College program provided they have met Peninsula Catholic's prerequisites for each course.

Dual Enrollment through Richard Bland College requires a registration fee of around \$50 and an additional course fee. The registration fee is paid at the time of DE registration via the RBC website. The course fee will be dependent on the number of students enrolled in the course throughout the diocese. Students will be billed by Peninsula Catholic during the semester.

Courses to be offered as Dual Enrollment through RBC are: United States Government and Politics, United States History, and Spanish.

Advanced Biology and Advanced Anatomy MAY be offered for Dual Enrollment credit through either TNCC or RBC depending on staffing and instructor approval.

**Additional Criteria for AP/Stand-Alone Honors/Dual Enrollment:**

A final average from the prerequisite class or most recent course in the relevant subject area is the minimum requirement necessary to be considered for upper level courses. From there, recommending teachers will also review the following:

- PSAT scores in math and English (whichever is applicable)
- AP Potential (report generated by the College Board based on PSAT scores)
- Results of AP/DE readiness evaluation as applicable
- Completion of additional DE requirements as established by partner colleges
- Department Chairs will have final approval of any recommended students.

**Readiness Evaluations:**

Additional readiness evaluations have been developed for select Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment courses. These assessments are designed to help ensure that students have the prerequisite understanding required to move to a college level course and are best prepared for the advanced rigor, increased expectations, and accelerated pace of Advanced Placement or Dual Enrollment classes, the result of which could be the awarding of

college credits.

Courses requiring a document based writing sample will include Advanced American Literature OR AP English Literature & Composition and AP European History. Courses requiring an evaluation of relevant skills will include AP Chemistry and AP Calculus AB.

**Evaluations:**

Evaluations will use the following alphabetical equivalencies:

| Grading Scale |             | Regular | Honors | AP  |
|---------------|-------------|---------|--------|-----|
| A+            | 97-100      | 4.3     | 4.8    | 5.3 |
| A             | 93-96       | 4.0     | 4.5    | 5.0 |
| A-            | 90-92       | 3.7     | 4.2    | 4.7 |
| B+            | 87-89       | 3.3     | 3.8    | 4.3 |
| B             | 83-86       | 3.0     | 3.5    | 4.0 |
| B-            | 80-82       | 2.7     | 3.2    | 3.7 |
| C+            | 77-79       | 2.3     | 2.8    | 3.3 |
| C             | 73-76       | 2.0     | 2.5    | 3.0 |
| C-            | 70-72       | 1.7     | 2.2    | 2.7 |
| D+            | 67-69       | 1.3     | 1.8    | 2.3 |
| D             | 63-66       | 1.0     | 1.5    | 2.0 |
| D-            | 60-62       | 0.7     | 1.2    | 1.7 |
| F             | 59 or below | 0       | 0      | 0   |

**Resource Center:**

A Resource/Learning Center is available for students with documented learning differences. The Resource Teacher assists students with their coursework through teaching study strategies and providing accommodations recommended in educational evaluations. A supervised Study Hall is available for appropriately identified students during daily activity block.

**Elective Courses:**

Elective course offerings are contingent upon sufficient student enrollment and teacher availability.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **ENGLISH**

***English 8/Language Arts (Required):*** Students will be exposed to the genres in the literary world. Emphasis is placed on the short story, poetry, non-fiction, folklore, drama and the novel. In addition, particular emphasis is placed on a review of grammar-usage, mechanics, writing different types of paragraphs and compositions. Students write a research paper using MLA format.

***English 9 (Required) or Integrated Honors English 9 (Prerequisite: B/86 average in all grading categories at the five week point):*** Students will be exposed to: literature, grammar, composition, and vocabulary. The literary genres of poetry, non-fiction, the epic drama, and the novel are stressed. Basic grammar skills are reviewed with the focus on paragraph development, especially effective topic sentence and paragraph unity. Students are exposed to various types of essay writing. Vocabulary development is also stressed. Students write a research paper using MLA format.

***English 10 (Required) or Integrated Honors English 10 (Prerequisite: B/86 average in all grading categories at five week point):*** Students will be exposed to an in-depth study of the short story, poetry, drama and the novel as a means of acquiring and developing literature analysis for journal and various types of essay writing. Vocabulary development is stressed. Students write a research paper using MLA format.

***English 11 (Required) or Integrated Honors English 11 (Prerequisite: B/86 average in all grading categories at the five week point):*** Students will be exposed to a chronological organization of American Literature which shows the progression of themes throughout the various eras of American history and literature. Within the unit for each period, attention is given to all genres-nonfiction, short story, drama, novel, and poetry. Students study classics from the Colonial Period which have established a place in our culture up to and through the contemporary works which have the promise of becoming tomorrow's classics. Vocabulary development is stressed. Students write a research paper using MLA format.

***Dual Enrollment American Literature (Prerequisite: B/89 final average in Integrated Honors English 10 and approval of the Department Chair following readiness evaluation. See page 4 for additional DE requirements):***



Students will be exposed to a chronological organization of American Literature which shows the progression of themes throughout the various eras of American history and literature. Within the unit for each period, attention is given to all genres—nonfiction, short story, drama, novel, and poetry. Students study classics from the Colonial Period which have established a place in our culture up to and through the contemporary works which have the promise of becoming tomorrow's classics. Vocabulary development is stressed. Students write a research paper using MLA format. This semester long course combines two college level classes and successful completion of this course with a minimum grade would result in students receiving six college credits from Thomas Nelson Community College for English 111 and 112.

***English 12 (Required) or Integrated Honors English 12 (Prerequisite: B/86 average in all grading categories at the five week point):*** Students will concentrate on mastery of literary analysis and precise writing skills. These skills are learned through the critical reading of diverse works from English literary history from the Anglo-Saxon period to the present, national epics, and some selected pieces of world literature. Vocabulary development is stressed. Students complete a research paper using APA format.

***AP Literature and Composition (Prerequisite: B/86 final average in Advanced American Literature or B+/89 final average in Integrated Honors English 11 AND B+/89 final average in Integrated Honors English 12; approval of Department Chair following readiness evaluation if applicable):*** Students are provided an opportunity to work on a college level. It is primarily a course in both effective writing and critical reading. The emphasis is on mastery of literary analysis and acquisition of precise, lucid writing skills. These skills are learned through analysis of works written by authors from around the world. The AP students will learn techniques and skills to prepare for the required AP Exam given in the spring. The course is designed to meet the curricular requirements in the AP Literature and Composition Course description published by the College Board. An exam fee of \$93 will be billed in the spring for each student enrolled in this course. Successful completion of the AP Test in May could result in one semester of college credit.

***Dual Enrollment Creative Writing (Elective grades 11-12; Prerequisite: B/86 final average in Advanced American Literature and approval of Department Chair; see page 4 for additional DE requirements):*** This course will introduce students to the basic techniques and structures of writing fiction—poetry, short story, and drama. The goal of the course is to help students become comfortable with and proficient with all stages of the fiction

writing process--invention, drafting, revision, editing, and publication--with a focus on stimulating creativity. Methodology will include direct instruction, literary analysis, workshops, and conferencing. The students will be encouraged to submit work for publication. The class will also produce and publish a school literary journal. Successful completion of this course with a minimum grade would result in students receiving three college credits from Thomas Nelson Community College for English 211.

**Media Production (Elective grades 8-12):** Students will learn about filming and editing videos, sound design, lighting techniques, and green screen technology, with the ultimate goal of publishing content in a responsible way on the web. The course incorporates elements of drama, public speaking, technical theater, technical writing, journalism, and copyright law.

**Public Speaking (Elective grades 10-12):** Students will deliver several different types of speeches using the delivery methods of impromptu, note cards, manuscript, and memorized. In addition, students will practice and improve the skills of persuasive speaking. Ultimately speakers will gain experience and develop more confidence in communicating with others in both large groups and interpersonally.

## **FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS**

### **VISUAL ARTS:**

**Art Foundations (Elective grades 8-12):** In Art Foundations students will learn to understand and appreciate the visual arts, while experimenting with the application of the elements of art and principles of design. Students will develop skills to create, discuss, and understand original works of art while working with a variety of media including drawing, painting, and sculpting. Students will participate in classroom critiques and maintain a portfolio and sketchbook documenting their accomplishments throughout the course. A supply fee of \$50 will be billed at the beginning of the term for all students enrolled in this course.

**Intermediate Art (Elective grades 9-12)** In Intermediate Art the student expands upon his/her prior knowledge of art, incorporating the use of the elements of art and principles of design. Students will extend and refine their abilities using a variety of media including drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpting. Emphasis is on the importance of content, concepts, and skills involved in the creation of original works of art as well as art history and how art functions within a multicultural society. Students will continue to maintain a portfolio and select representative work to take to the next level of study. A supply fee of \$50 will be billed at the beginning of the term for all students enrolled in this course.

**Advanced Art (Elective grades 10-12):** In Advanced Art students will continue to develop abilities to create original works of art. The focus on art history, critical evaluation, and aesthetics is increased and includes creative problem solving. Students will develop a personal direction in the production of their works of art and further their academic study in the visual arts. Selected works of art will be added to the portfolio and carried forward to the next level of study. A supply fee of \$50 will be billed at the beginning of the term for all students enrolled in this course.

**AP Studio Art (Elective grades 11-12; Prerequisite: Art 1, 2, 3 & Instructor's Permission):** Students will experience art as an ongoing process that involves the student in informed and critical decision making. Students will develop technical skills and familiarize themselves with the functions of the visual elements. They will be encouraged to become independent thinkers who will contribute inventively and critically to their culture through the making of art and through the use of creative and systematic investigation of formal and conceptual issues. A supply fee of \$50 will be billed at the beginning of the term for all students enrolled in this course. The course is designed to meet the curricular requirements in the AP Studio Art Course description published by the College Board. An exam fee of approximately \$90 will be billed in the spring for each student enrolled in this course. Successful completion of the AP Test in May could result in one semester of college credit.

**Digital Photography (Elective grades 9-12; prerequisite: Art Foundations):** This course is designed to teach digital photography in relation to fine art. Students will explore the basic principles of photography, the history of photography, and be introduced to the basic technology needed to produce their works of art. Students will become familiar with photographic vocabulary as well as how to use tools such as framing, composition, "rule of thirds", light, and the elements and principles of art. Students will be introduced to many works by well-known photographers and will learn how to view and critique photography. Projects include still-life, portraits, photojournalism, architecture, landscapes, and action photography. Students will maintain an electronic portfolio. A supply fee of \$25 will be billed at the beginning of the term for all students enrolled in this course. A digital camera with a minimum of ten megapixels and with manual or semi-manual controls is required for the class.

**Graphic Art and Design (Elective 10-12):** This course provides an art elective which utilizes the latest technology in the production of fine art and commercial design. Students will become familiar with the major graphics programs utilized by professionals today. These programs will include the Adobe Creative Cloud Suite: Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe

InDesign. Students will be able to produce quality fine artwork and graphic art of the type typically used in commercial applications. The course will be composed of a number of projects designed to teach the elements and principles of design, the software used and proper approach to design problems. Access to a digital camera required. There will be a lab fee of \$50.00 to be billed the first week of class.

## **MUSIC:**

**Band** (*Elective grades 8-12*): Students with both wind instruments and string instruments are offered the opportunity to perform music of many genres. Performance situations will include full orchestra (including percussion instruction), string ensemble and wind ensemble experiences as appropriate to the players available. Literature will be chosen from classical, world music, and popular genres. Emphasis on technical and musical development accompanies the emphasis on performance. Performances and rehearsals in and out of school are required. (This course will be offered as a "0" block all year from 7:00am - 7:45am each school day).

**Chorus:** (*Elective Grades 9-12*) Chorus will provide vocal instruction which will center on a performance based curriculum. The ensemble will perform traditional and contemporary SSA, SSAT, and SATB literature (all dependent on the number and ranges of female to male voices). The Chorus will also provide the foundation for the Mass Music Ministry and for the Spring musical. The chorus class would also be open to a student pianist (if available/interested) to accompany during class and for outside performances. This student would be chosen through an audition. The group will look to perform in the community and for District and Regional events throughout the year.

**Music Production/Technology:** Music Technology will introduce students to the uses, concepts, techniques, and terminology of computing through music applications. The students will gain experience with current hardware and software for music sequencing, synthesis, and music performance practice. This course is also designed as an introduction to music fundamentals, notation, and theory through music technology such as MIDI and digital recording, mixing, and production. Students will also be learning basic business practices used in the music industry.

## **THEATRE:**

**Theatre I: Theatre Overview** (*Elective grades 8-12*): Students will learn and execute the elements of acting, through improvisation, mime, voice production, monologues, scenes, and short plays. The focus is on creative development of characters and the development of stage presence. Additionally, the students will execute the technical skills that support the

actors, such as stage management, stage design, costume design, lighting and sound design, and makeup. Included in this class is a study of theater, history, theatre types, and a comparison and contrast of how these affect performance. This is an active class, conducted in a participative workshop atmosphere.

***Theatre II: Production and Performance*** (Elective grades 9-12; Prerequisite: Theatre I): Continuing the skills learned in *Theatre I*, the students will create, write and produce effective theatrical productions, integrating all of the music, for public performance. This is an active class, conducted in a participative workshop structure.

***Theatre III*** (Elective grades 11-12; Prerequisite: Theatre I or II or Instructor's Permission): At the beginning of the term, students will select their areas of concentration of study. Choices include: acting, script study, directing, improvisation, make-up, set design, costuming, playwriting, lighting, sound, set model making, production of a play. While all students will work on individual projects, they will also be auditors for other student's projects.

***Technical Theatre*** (Elective grades 9-12): This class will teach students the history of technical properties found within theatre, as well as introduce students to the world of technical theatre by teaching students set design, set construction, light design, light hanging and focusing, costume design, costume construction, and makeup design.

## **WORLD LANGUAGES**

***German III or Integrated Honors German III*** (Prerequisite: B/86 average at the five week point): Students will be able to converse in German, write short essays, blog, make presentations, and continue their command of the essential structure of German. Students will be able to listen to podcasts about themes of everyday life, listen to audio and brief newscasts and watch short films on Youtube. Students will study authentic literary excerpts and read and write short poems. Students will give reports in German on major cities and rivers, history, and culture of the respective German speaking countries using authentic material from the internet. Course is only open to students who need German III to complete requirement for graduation. Course may be taught in an online format dependant upon staffing.

***Latin I:*** Students are introduced to the culture and institutions of the Romans as they begin to read, understand, and interpret Latin. In addition, they use oral skills, listening and writing to assist them in the development of their reading skills. Students gain an appreciation of the Roman contributions to Western civilization and the Latin influence on the development of the English language. Latin is an excellent elective choice

for all students, freshmen through seniors, as it helps with English grammar as well as maximizing SAT scores.

***Latin II or Integrated Honors Latin II*** (Prerequisite: B/86 average in all grading categories at the five week point): Students increase their ability to read, understand, and interpret Latin. They continue to use oral skills, listening, and writing to assist them in the development of their reading skills. English word derivation, Roman mythology, history, and culture are integral parts of the learning process. Honors Latin II students will complete additional activities that demonstrate higher level thinking as well as more in-depth and independent work.

***Latin III or Integrated Honors III*** (Prerequisite: B/86 average in all grading categories at the five week point): Students increase their ability to read, understand, and interpret Latin. They continue to use oral skills, listening, and writing to assist them in the development of their reading skills. English word derivation, Roman mythology, history, and culture are integral parts of the learning process. Honors Latin III students will complete additional activities that demonstrate higher level thinking as well as more in-depth and independent work.

***Honors Latin IV*** (Prerequisite: B/86 final average in Latin III and/or approval of Department Chair): Students encounter more advanced Latin forms and grammar, word derivations and uses of prefixes and suffixes in the formation of both Latin and English words, learning to translate selected passages from Roman writers such as Vergil, Catullus, Ovid, Pliny, Martial and Cicero. Throughout this course, students continue to study classical Latin literature and to hone their skills in reading, translating, interpreting and analyzing passages.

***Spanish I:*** Students will develop proficiency in three modes of communication: interacting with other speakers of the target language, understanding oral and written messages in the target language, and making oral and written presentations in the target language. Emphasis is placed on the use of the target language in the classroom as well as on the use of authentic materials to learn about the culture.

***Spanish II or Integrated Honors Spanish II*** (Prerequisite: B/86 average in all grading categories at the five week point): Students will show a greater level of accuracy when using basic language structures and will be exposed to more complex features of the target language. They will continue to focus on communicating about their immediate world and daily life activities, and they will read material on familiar topics and write short, directed compositions. Emphasis will be placed on the use of the target language in the classroom as well as on the use of authentic materials to learn about the

culture.

***Spanish III or Integrated Honors Spanish III (Prerequisite: B/86 average in all grading categories at the five week point):*** Students will communicate using more complex structures in the target language on a variety of topics, moving from concrete to more abstract concepts. They will comprehend the main ideas of the authentic materials that they read and hear, and are able to identify significant details when the topics are familiar. The target language will be used almost exclusively in the class as students develop the ability to discuss topics related to historical and contemporary events and issues.

***Dual Enrollment Spanish (Prerequisite: B/86 final average in Spanish III; approval of Department Chair):*** This college level course reviews and expands on grammar and syntax studied to this point. Students in Dual Enrollment Spanish will comprehend spoken and written target language texts from a variety of authentic sources as well as produce compositions containing well-developed ideas on various topics. Students will use the target language to access information in other subject areas and to compare and contrast cultural elements of countries where the target language is spoken with their own. These students will attempt to speak exclusively in the target language during the class block. Successful completion of this course with a minimum grade would result in students receiving three college credits from Richard Bland College for Spanish 201. Students who complete DE Spanish and earn the Spanish 201 credit would have the option to take another semester of DE Spanish to earn credit for Spanish 202 through RBC.

## **MATHEMATICS**

***Algebra I: Part 1 and 2 or Integrated Honors Algebra I: Part 1 and 2 (Prerequisite: B/86 average in all grading categories for Part 1 and at the five week point of Part 2):*** In this course, students will study the arithmetic of integers, rational numbers, irrational numbers, and variables. Students will further their study of algebra including, solve linear and quadratic equations algebraically and graphically, factor and solve algebraic expressions and complete the square, and set up and solve advanced algebraic word problems. These skills will be presented over the course of two terms, however, no credit is awarded until the completion of part 2. A one term Algebra I course may be recommended to students who have already completed Algebra I for high school credit but need to strengthen skills as identified by initial math placement testing.

***Geometry (Prerequisite: Algebra I) or Integrated Honors Geometry (Prerequisite: B/86 average in all grading categories at the five week point):***

This college preparatory course is based on the study of plane and solid figures and their applications. Geometric constructions and formal geometric proof are also included. Throughout the course students are required to engage in hands-on experiences and cooperative group work. A Scientific calculator is required.

***Algebra II (Prerequisite: Geometry) or Integrated Honors Algebra II (Prerequisite: B/86 average in all grading categories at the five week point):*** This is an advanced math course dealing in an extended study of linear and quadratic relations and functions as well as applications of these concepts. The topics of three variable systems, three dimensional graphing, the imaginary number system, and the complex number system are also included. A Scientific calculator is required.

***Honors Algebra II/Trigonometry (Prerequisites: B/86 average in Algebra I and Geometry).*** This is an advanced math course dealing in an extended study of linear and quadratic relations and functions as well as applications on these concepts. The topics of three variable systems, three dimensional graphic, the imaginary number system, and the complex number system are also included. Trigonometric principles and their applications are also covered. A scientific calculator is required.

***Algebra III/Trigonometry (Prerequisite: Algebra II) or Integrated Honors Algebra III/Trigonometry (Prerequisite: B/86 average in all grading categories at the five week point):*** This class builds on concepts learned in Algebra II. Students will be introduced to the fundamentals of trigonometry and transcendental functions and will review their algebra skills. Students may have limited use of their graphic calculators as they develop a mastery of advanced trigonometry. A Scientific calculator is required.

***Statistics (Elective 11-12; Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra II) or Integrated Honors Statistics (Prerequisite: B/86 average in all grading categories at the five week point):*** Students will learn basic statistical skills to collect, analyze, and present data. Students will calculate probabilities and confidence intervals and perform hypothesis testing for various types of data information. Emphasis will be placed on real-life applications of statistics in project assessments as well as test assessments. Students will create an original statistical study, perform data analysis, and present their findings.

***Honors Pre-Calculus (Elective 10-12; Prerequisite: B/86 final average in Honors Algebra II/Trig or Integrated Honors Algebra II; approval of Department Chair):*** The course includes the study of number patterns and extended equation solving and graphing of most algebraic and transcendental functions, including polynomial, rational, exponential,



logarithmic, and trigonometric. A significant portion of this course focuses on trigonometric functions, identities, equations, and applications. A scientific-graphing calculator is required, however, its use is limited to only those situations where appropriate or necessary.

***Honors Calculus*** (Elective grades 11-12; Prerequisite B/86 in Precalculus and approval of Department Chair): This is an advanced math course that studies the basics of limits, derivatives, and integrals for both algebraic and transcendental functions. The course will introduce topics typically covered in a first year college course. A scientific-graphing calculator is required, however, its use is limited to only those situations where appropriate or necessary. This course is recommended prior to taking AP Calculus, however students taking this course are not required to take AP Calculus as a follow on course.

***AP Calculus AB*** (Elective grades 11-12; Prerequisite: B/86 final average in most recent prerequisite math course and approval of Department Chair): The course is designed to meet the curricular requirements of the AP Calculus AB Course description published by the College Board. Students must take either the AB or BC exam. A scientific-graphing calculator permitted for use on the AB or BC exam is required. An exam fee of \$93 will be billed in the spring for each student enrolled in this course. Successful completion of the AP Exam in May may result in one semester of college credit.

***AP Calculus BC*** (Elective grades 11-12; Prerequisite: B/86 final average in AP Calculus AB; approval of Department Chair): The course is designed to meet the curricular requirements of the AP Calculus AB Course description published by the College Board. A scientific-graphing calculator permitted for use on the AB or BC exam is required. An exam fee of \$93 will be billed in the spring for each student enrolled in this course. Successful completion of the AP Exam in May may result in one semester of college credit.

***AP Statistics*** (Elective grade 11-12; Prerequisite: B/86 average in Algebra II or Integrated Honors Algebra II): The course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes: Exploring data, sampling and experimentation, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference. A scientific-graphing calculator permitted for use on the AP exam is required. An exam fee of \$93 will be billed in the spring for each student enrolled in this course. Successful completion of the AP Exam in May may result in one semester of college credit.

***Introduction to Programming*** (Elective grades 9-12): This course focuses on learning a combination of both how to write computer programs

to control VEX EDR robots, and how to use the robotics as an organizer to learn STEM (Science, Engineering, Technology, and Mathematics) concepts. Students will work in teams and will design, build, and program VEX EDR robots for various class competitions. The programming platform, ROBOTC, is a powerful C-based programming language with a Windows environment for writing and debugging programs. ROBOTC is a cross-platform solution that allows students to learn the type of c-based programming used in advanced education and professional applications. Students will also code using the C-based program, Robot Virtual World, which is an high-end simulation environment that enables each student to learn programming without having built the robot. In lieu of a text book, there will be a class fee of \$65 to help cover the cost of robots, parts, and student access to Robot Virtual World.

### **NATURAL SCIENCE**

***Earth Science*** (Required grade 8 or 9) or ***Integrated Honors Earth Science*** (B/86 average in all grading categories at the five week point): Students will be introduced to the four major branches of Earth Science: Geology, Meteorology, Astronomy, and Oceanography. The Earth's history and environmental issues are also discussed. Students will be involved in lab and problem solving activities and projects.

***Biology*** (Required grade 10) or ***Integrated Honors Biology*** (Prerequisite: B/86 average in all grading categories at the five week point): Students will learn the fundamental concepts and interrelating principles of biology. Beginning with basic chemical and biological information, the student continues with the study of the cell, fundamentals and applications of genetics, the study of the five kingdom classification system, and concludes with a survey of the five kingdoms.

***Chemistry or Integrated Honors Chemistry*** (Elective grades 10-12; Prerequisite: Algebra 1; Honors Prerequisite: B/86 average in all grading categories at the five week point) Students will study the composition of matter, fundamental atomic theory, the naming of chemical compounds, balancing of chemical equations, solving basic stoichiometry problems, describing the properties of gases, solids, and liquids including basic gas law problems, describing acid-base reactions and working pH problems, and balancing simple redox reaction problems. Laboratory work will complement these topics.

***Advanced Biology*** (Elective grades 11-12; Prerequisite: B+/89 final average in Integrated Honors Biology; approval of Department Chair): Students will concentrate their studies on the eight major themes of Advanced Biology: science as a process; evolution; energy transfer;

continuity and change; relationship of structure to function; regulation; interdependence in nature; and science, technology and society. Advanced Biology includes a significant laboratory component of twelve laboratory exercises that set a standard for experimental and quantitative work fundamental to success in Advanced Biology. This course may be offered as Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement, or Honors level dependant upon staffing and instructor approval.

**Advanced Anatomy** (*Elective grades 11-12; Prerequisites: B/86 final average in Advanced Biology; approval of Department Chair*). Students will study the structure and function of the human organism. Gross and microscopic structures of the human body are taught with the aid of slides, charts, and dissection. Students will be involved in lab and projects. This course may be offered as Dual Enrollment or Honors level dependant upon staffing and instructor approval.

**AP Chemistry** (*Two terms and two credits; Elective grades 11-12; Prerequisite: B+/89 in Integrated Honors Chemistry and the approval of the Department Chair following readiness evaluation*): The AP Chemistry course is designed to be the equivalent of the general chemistry course usually taken during the first college year and will be aimed at preparing the student for the AP exam. This course differs from the Integrated Honors Chemistry course with respect to the type of textbook used, the topics covered, the emphasis on chemical calculations, and the mathematical formulation of principles, the type of laboratory work done by the students. Students will be required to maintain a laboratory notebook which may be reviewed by the university/college that the student eventually attends. An exam fee of \$93 will be billed in the spring for each student enrolled in this course. Successful completion of the AP Test in May could result in one semester of college credit.

**Honors Organic Chemistry** (*Elective grade 12; Prerequisite: completion of AP Chemistry or concurrent enrollment in the second semester of AP Chemistry along with teacher recommendation*): This course will provide a survey of the basic facts and principles surrounding organic chemistry, including theories, principles, and laboratory techniques. Topics will include nomenclature, structure, properties, reactions, mechanisms, and functional groups. By completing this course, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the basic and fundamental concepts of organic chemistry. Laboratory experiments, including spectroscopy and chromatography, as well as computer simulations, will enhance and reinforce the basic principles discussed in lecture as well as provide practical examples.

**Honors Physics** (*Elective grades 11-12; Prerequisite: B/86 final average in*

*Honors Pre-Calculus*): Students will understand physics concepts and be able to solve practical problems in the following areas: Kinematics and Dynamics; Newton's Laws of Motion; Circular Motion; Work and Energy; Linear Momentum; Rotational Motion; Static Equilibrium; Fluids; Vibrations and Waves; and Sound. Students will be able to explain the "why" behind many day-to-day interactions and phenomena and predict outcomes. A scientific-graphing calculator is required.

***Oceanography***. (*Elective grades 11-12; Prerequisite: Earth Science and Algebra I*): This course will encompass all aspects of the dynamic system we call the ocean from a physical, geological, biological and chemical perspective. Students will be involved in hands on activities and labs to be understand the subsystems that make up our oceans.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION, HEALTH AND DRIVER'S EDUCATION**

***Physical Education 9/Health I/First Aid*** (*Required grade 9*): Students will develop physical skills and knowledge of rules in team sports, individual sports and leisure activities. Classes are co-educational. Students will be introduced to topics relating to General Health with an emphasis on maintaining wellness. Topics include nutrition, physical and emotional fitness, family and social health, body systems, medicine and drugs, disease, consumer health, injury prevention and safety, as well as first aid. Students will also be trained in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of automated external defibrillators, including hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

***Physical Education 10/Health II/Driver's Education*** (*Required grade 10*): Students will develop physical skills and knowledge of rules in team sports, individual sports and leisure activities. Students will continue in topics relating to General Health with an emphasis on maintaining wellness. Topics include nutrition, physical and emotional fitness, family and social health, body systems, medicine and drugs, disease, and consumer health. The Driver's Education is the state required driver's education course in classroom instruction. The course does not include behind the wheel instruction.

### **SOCIAL SCIENCES**

***World History I*** (*Required grade 8 or 9*) or ***Integrated Honors World History I*** (*Prerequisite: B/86 average in all grading categories at the five week point*): This course is the first part of a two-year sequence in World History and Geography. Students will explore the impact of geography and historical developments of people, places, and patterns of life from ancient times until 1500 A.D. in terms of impact on Western civilization.

**World History II** (Required grade 9 or 10; Prerequisite: World History I) or **Integrated Honors World History II** (Prerequisite: B/86 average in all grading categories at the five week point): This course is the second part of a two-year sequence in World History and Geography. Students will examine the geography, social interactions, and cross-cultural comparisons necessary for an understanding of World History during the time period of 1500 A.D. to the present.

**AP European History** (Elective Grades 10-12; May be used to satisfy the World History requirement; Prerequisite: B+/89 final average in Integrated Honors World History I/Geography; B+/89 final average in Integrated Honors English 9; approval of Department Chair following readiness evaluation): AP European History is a survey of modern European history from approximately 1450 to the present. In addition to providing the students with a foundational narrative of the cultural and political events in modern Europe, there will also be an emphasis on the skills necessary to analyze historical evidence and documents. The primary approach to the course will be chronological, but a thematic approach will likewise be used to explore themes found in the intellectual, cultural, political, social, economic and diplomatic arenas. The course is designed to meet the curricular requirements in the AP European History Course description published by the College Board. An exam fee of \$93 will be billed in the spring for each student enrolled in this course. Successful completion of the required AP Test in May could result in one semester of college credit.

**US History** (Required grade 11) or **Integrated Honors US History** (Prerequisite: B/86 average in all grading categories at the five week point): Students study the political, social and economic life of the United States from its origins to the present. This survey course enables students to understand the ways in which our American culture has evolved in response to continuously changing historical demands and conditions. An emphasis is placed on the analysis of each historical period and the transition from one time period to the next.

**Dual Enrollment United States History** (Two terms and two credits; Prerequisite: B+/89 final average in Integrated Honors World History or B/86 final average in AP European History; approval of Department Chair following readiness evaluation if applicable): This survey course of US History addresses the major themes of American history from the colonial period to the present in terms of social, economic, political and cultural development. It also analyzes the fundamental political institutions and their impact on the nation's expansion. Emphasis is placed on analytical thinking and problem solving. This year long course combines two college classes and successful completion of both semesters with a minimum grade would

result in students receiving six college credits from Richard Bland College for History 201 and 202.

***American Government*** (Required grade 12) or ***Integrated Honors American Government*** (Prerequisite: B/86 average in all grading categories at the five week point): Students study the American government in depth with an emphasis on the background and structure of the political system and the nature of governmental decision making. The three branches of government are studied with a focus on the relationship between the institutions and the process.

***Dual Enrollment American Government and Politics*** (Prerequisite: B+/89 final average in Integrated Honors US History or B/86 final average in AP US History; approval of Department Chair): This course provides students an introduction to American government and politics, emphasizing both the practical aspects of governmental operations and the understanding of politics as an ongoing active process. Arranged topically, the course explores the nature and functions of government, politics, and governmental organization. Civil liberties, civil rights, the role of media and industry, and public opinion are also covered. Successful completion of this course with a minimum grade would result in students receiving three college credits from Richard Bland College for Government 201.

***The American Presidency*** (Elective grades 10-12): This course analyzes traditional and changing roles of the office of the President of the United States from 1789 to present. The course will focus on leadership styles, decision making, campaigns and conventions, media relations, and general accomplishments of the forty three chief executives. This course will also analyze the development of and history of major political parties that have existing in this country, as well as the workings of the electoral college.

***Introduction to Psychology*** (Elective grades 11-12): This survey course explores and applies basic psychological concepts. The diverse range of topics includes the biology of psychology, sensation and perception, consciousness, learning intelligence, social psychology, abnormal psychology, psychotherapy and human growth and development.

## **TECHNOLOGY AND BUSINESS:**

***Economics and Personal Finance*** or ***Integrated Honors Economics and Personal Finance*** (graduation requirement for Class of 2019; Integrated Honors prerequisite: B/86 in all grading categories at the five week point). This course emphasizes basic economic concepts related to the students' roles as consumers, producers, and citizens. Students will learn how to shape their own financial lives, influence government and business economic policies and participate fully in the economic system of the United

States. Students will learn the benefits of compound interest over time and that poor money management can lead to difficulty in obtaining credit. Students practice weighing costs and benefits of options when making choices about such things as careers, insurance, housing, investments, savings, automobiles, and health care.

***AP Microeconomics*** (Elective grades 11-12; Prerequisites: B+/89 final average in both Integrated Honors Algebra II and Integrated Honors Personal Finance; approval of Department Chair): This course is an introduction to microeconomics and prepares students to take the AP Microeconomics Exam that is administered in May. The purpose of the course is to provide a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision makers, both consumers and producers, within the larger economic system. It places primary emphasis on the nature and functions of product markets, and includes the study of factor markets and of the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. An exam fee of \$93 will be billed in the spring for each student enrolled in this course. Successful completion of the required AP Test in May could result in one semester of college credit.

***Principles of Marketing*** (Elective 10-12): Principles of Marketing is an introductory course designed for students who are interested in exploring how products are developed, produced, promoted, and distributed. In this course, students will learn the aspects of marketing as they complete the various projects. Students will analyze industry trends and gain hands-on experience in the marketing of goods, services, and ideas. Topics will include professionalism in the workplace, product planning and positioning, promotion, pricing, selling, economic issues, and the impact of technology on the marketplace.

***AP Computer Science Principles*** (Elective 10-12; Prerequisite B+/89 or higher in Algebra II; approval of department chair): This course is designed to introduce students to the central ideas of computing and computer science (CS), to instill ideas and practices of computational thinking, and to have students engage in activities that show how computing and computer science change the world. The course is rigorous and rich in computational content, includes computation and critical thinking skills, and engages students in the creative aspects of CS. The course will be conducted in accordance with the College Board's framework for AP CSP. The key concepts are organized around Seven Big Ideas: Creativity, Abstractions, Data & Information, Algorithms, Programming, the Internet, Global Impact. As an essential part of the course and the course assessment, students will complete two performance tasks that require them to explore impacts of

computing and create computational artifacts through programming. Writing is an integral part of the curriculum and students will have opportunities to build their writing skills through portfolio, journals, technical writing and the written component of the performance tasks. An exam fee of \$93 will be billed in the spring for each student enrolled in this course. Successful completion of the required AP Test in May could result in one semester of college credit.

**Mass Communication** (elective 10-12): Media Studies is designed for students who have grown up in a rapidly changing global multimedia environment and want to become more literate and critical consumers and producers of media. The course looks at the nature of communication, the functions of media, the history of transformations in media and the institutions that help define media's place in society. In this class, students will become more discerning consumers of news. Students will use critical-thinking skills to develop the tools needed to determine what news sources are reliable in the digital world. Through readings, class discussion and written assignments, students will deconstruct stories, breaking down broadcast, print, web, and social concepts such as objectivity, opinion, bias and fairness and how all contribute to the mix of news reports in today's digital landscape. Students will gain technical skills for storytelling in online platforms, such as basic web production, using digital images, and creating audio podcasts, as well as produce reports for social media, the yearbook and other outlets. Students write in-depth stories on topics of serious public concern. Students learn how to find and use government and advocacy group sources, and how to navigate the wealth of online data and documents. Students gain experience and confidence in reporting, writing and revising longer news stories.

## **THEOLOGY**

*Protecting God's Children* is a component of all Theology courses as mandated by the Diocese of Richmond.

**Theology 8: The Church: Christ in the World Today** (Required grade 8): Students will be guided in exploring and understanding the Catholic Church, as well as its origin, structure, and mission. Additionally, the course addresses the roles of the hierarchy, those in religious life, and the laity in supporting the mission of the Church. Particular attention is paid to the global presence of the Church as a light to all people.

**Theology 9: Salvation History (Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture) / Christology (The nature, person and deeds of Jesus Christ)** (Required Grade 9): Students are invited to encounter God through the narrative of Sacred Scripture and the salvation history as fulfilled in Jesus Christ. This



will include exploring divine inspiration, and interpreting Sacred Scripture as guided by Dei Verbum and the magisterium. Christ is our source of understanding therefore we will focus on the nature (Divine-Trinitarian and human), person and deeds of Jesus the Christ.

***Theology 10: Soteriology (Saving Works of Jesus Christ) / Morality & Theology of the Body (Life in Christ) (Required grade 10):*** The emphasis of this course will be on the Salvation that Christ won for us through the Paschal Mystery and how all of Sacred Scripture points to this salvific moment. Students will explore the meaning of God's sacred and mysterious plan for their lives and for all people. In light of the Paschal Mystery students will explore the moral concepts and precepts that guide their lives as disciples of Christ. Further students will discover the true dignity and purpose of their bodies through the Theology of the Body developed by Saint Pope John Paul II.

***Theology 11: Ecclesiology (Study of Christ's continued life and mission in the Church) / Sacraments (Privileged encounters with Jesus Christ) (Required grade 11) or Integrated Honors Theology 11 (Prerequisite: B/86 average in all grading categories at the five week point):*** This course will focus on living Christ in community. We will explore the structure, nature and history of the Church and its relationship with other Christian Churches and non-christian religions. A central part of the identity of the Church is its sacramental life. We will explore each of the sacraments and how they shape the identity and mission (both evangelical and service) of the Church. The course will work to move students a deeper understanding of who they are and how their sacramental life leads to a life of service and work for the Kingdom of God.

***Theology 12: Capstone: Apologetics / Catholic Social Teaching (Required grade 12) or Integrated Honors Theology 12 (Prerequisite: B/86 average in all grading categories at the five week point):*** Students will strengthen the foundation of Catholic theology and belief through Catholic apologetics. Students will be able to defend the teaching and belief of the Catholic faith in the areas of Theology of God, the Authority of the Catholic Church, the Sacraments of the Church, and the selected Moral teachings of the Church. Particular emphasis on the dangers of relativism will be faced, while building a strong and competent understanding of a full life within the Catholic Church. Catholic Social Teaching will be explored in relationship to each of these units.

### **EIGHTH GRADE COURSE**

***PC 101 (Required for all eighth grade students):*** To increase a student's potential for success at the high school level, this course will introduce

students to study and test-taking skills, grammar, and writing. Research skills will be introduced, with emphasis on outline preparation and MLA format. Students will be exposed to basic keyboarding skills as well as technology skills that relate to the Internet and other applications. Students will practice various note-taking systems and will be introduced to strategies for developing concentration, organization, time management skills, and a growth mindset. Students will also take physical education two times a week. Students will also explore languages, art , and future careers in preparation for course selection in their high school years.

### **VIRTUAL COURSE**

***PC Tech Boot Camp*** (Required for incoming students): This course is designed to help students become familiar with the learning management system (Canvas) and other digital tools used at Peninsula Catholic High School including Google Docs, Google Slides, other Google options; videos and digital citizenship. The class is approximately nine hours in length and must be completed prior to the first day of school.

### **COURSES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

***English as a Second Language*** (for International students during their initial semester dependent upon academic language experience and proficiency and placement test results; takes the place of appropriate grade level English course): This course is designed to help students who come from other language backgrounds quickly develop the language ability that will help them succeed in an English language instruction environment. By focusing on practical, academically relevant language, this course will prepare students to understand assignments, lectures, and readings in their other classes.

***Introduction to Catholicism*** (Required for New International students with no background in Christianity; takes the place of appropriate grade level Theology course): This course is designed for our International students and is intended to lay the foundation for success in all other Theology courses. Students will work to develop a basic vocabulary and understanding of the essential areas of faith: God, Humanity, Revelation (Bible), Church, Morality, Sacraments and Prayer.

### **INDEPENDENT STUDY: SENIORS ONLY**

Only seniors who are on track to exceed their curriculum requirements for graduation may pursue an Independent Study.

In an Independent Study a senior may work with a cooperating teacher for one term or take an online course. For Option I, II, and III the student will

work with the teacher during one block in his/her schedule. This block may be during a teacher's planning or teaching period, depending on which option and the teacher's preference. For option IV, the student will work independently but be assigned to a teacher for attendance purposes and if he/she needs assistance in the course.

After the Add/Drop date has passed for each term, students pursuing an Independent Study may not withdraw from his/her obligations and expectations.

### **Option I: Student Assistant (3.25 minimum GPA required)**

This Independent Study option will be recorded on the transcript with a pass/fail; the student will not receive a high school credit.

- Only eight students will be approved to serve as a Student Assistant.
- Students will be selected based on their GPA at the end of their Junior year.
- A request form to be signed by the student and parent will be turned into the School Counselor prior to the last day of school for the current year.
- Once all paperwork is submitted and the student is selected, the student will be scheduled to serve as a Student Assistant for one block.

### **Option II: Senior Project (3.0 minimum GPA required)**

This Independent Study option is for seniors who have an interest in creating an individual course or research/study with a culminating project. (I.e. research on writing children's literature, subject matter of children's literature, publishing, illustration etc. with the culminating project a children's book authored by the senior with an attempt to have it published.)

The student's grade will be included as a high school credit on their Peninsula Catholic transcript. The grade will be averaged into their cumulative GPA.

- The student must ask a teacher if he/she will agree to be a cooperating teacher for the student. This agreement must be reached prior to the last day of school for the current year.
- The student, with the help of the cooperating teacher, must develop a proposal which should include:
  - Mission Statement/Purpose of study
  - Timeline/Due Dates
  - Expectations of student

- Expectations of cooperating teacher
- Assessment(s) (rubric, etc.)
- Students should be aware that they will need to allot a minimum of 135 hours to receive credit for the project.
- The student must submit their proposal to the cooperating teacher, school counselor and the appropriate department chair for approval by August 1.
- Attached to this proposal will be an agreement to be signed by the student, cooperating teacher, appropriate department chair, and parent which will be turned into the School Counselor. This paperwork must be submitted prior to the last day of school for the current year.
- Student Projects will be presented to a panel of teachers for final evaluation.

### **Option III: Additional Online Coursework (3.25 minimum GPA required)**

This Independent Study option is only for seniors who would like to pursue a course not offered whose academic rigor exceeds those available at Peninsula Catholic (i.e. AP Physics). Students may not take a course at another institution if that course is offered at Peninsula Catholic unless it meets the specifications detailed above. Any other course taken outside of Peninsula Catholic that has not been approved in advance will not be awarded credit.

The student's grade will be transferred as a high school credit on their Peninsula Catholic transcript. The grade will be averaged into their cumulative GPA. The cost of a student's coursework will be absorbed by the student.

- A student must submit the course description and the name of the institution to the school counselor, a supervising teacher, and the appropriate department chair.
- Attached to this proposal will be an agreement to be signed by the student, appropriate department chair, and parent which will be turned into the School Counselor. This paperwork must be submitted prior to the last day of school for the current year.
- If a student's institution and course is approved, the student will be allowed to have one block for one term devoted to the class.
- The principal will have final course approval prior to scheduling.