

Curriculum Guide 2010-2011



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 four (4) years of high school study.

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 Guidance Counselor is 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 p. 28).

Graduation Requirements:

The following table reflects the requirements for the General Diploma (GD) and Advanced Diploma (AD) *for students graduating BEFORE 2014.*

	GS	AS
English	4	4
Mathematics	3	4*
Natural (Lab) Science	3	4
Social Science (History)	4	4
Physical Education/Health	2	2
Theology	4	4
Fine/Practical Art	1	1
Foreign Language	0	3*
Elective	7	2
TOTAL	28	28

- For students working towards the **Advanced Diploma**, courses in **Mathematics** completed to satisfy this requirement shall be at or above the level of Algebra and shall include at least three different course selections from among: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or other mathematics courses above the level of Algebra II.
- Courses in **Natural Science** completed to satisfy this requirement shall include course selections from at least three different science disciplines: earth sciences, biology, chemistry, or physics.
- Courses in **Foreign Language** completed to satisfy this requirement shall include three years of one language or two years of two languages.

The following table reflects the requirements for the General Diploma (GD) for Students Graduating in 2014 AND BEYOND:

	GD
English	4
Mathematics	3
Natural (Lab) Science	3
Social Science (History)	4
Physical Education/Health	2
Theology	4
Fine/Practical Art	1
Foreign Language, Economics or Personal Finance	1
Elective	5
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>27</i>

- For students working towards the **General 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 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 to satisfy this requirement shall include at least two sequential electives as required by Standards of Quality.
- Students who complete a career and technical education program sequence and pass an examination or occupational competency assessment in a career and technical education field that confers certification or an occupational competency credential from a recognized industry, or trade or professional association, or acquires a professional license in a career and technical field from the Commonwealth of Virginia may substitute the certification or other credential for a science credit.

The following table reflects the requirements for the Advanced Diploma (AD) for Students Graduating in 2014 AND BEYOND:

	AD
English	4
Mathematics	4*
Natural (Lab) Science	4
Social Science (History)	4
Physical Education/Health	2
Theology	4
Fine/Practical Art	1
Foreign Language	3*
Economics/Personal Finance	1
Elective	3
TOTAL	30

- For students working towards the **Advanced Diploma**, courses in **Mathematics** completed to satisfy this requirement shall include at least three different courses from among: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or other mathematics courses above the level of Algebra II.
- Courses in **Natural Science** completed to satisfy this requirement shall include 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.

Courses in Mathematics

Courses at or above the level of Algebra I	Courses at or above the level of Algebra II
Algebra I	Algebra II
Geometry	Trigonometry
Algebra, Functions and Data Analysis	Statistics
Computer Mathematics*	AP Statistics
	Pre-Calculus
	AP Calculus AB/BC

All courses are one (1) credit with the exception of physical education (1/2 credit); Driver's Education (1/2 credit); and Health (1/2 credit).

Governor's Early College Scholar Designation:

Students will be identified by the Commonwealth of Virginia as Early College Scholars when they graduate with the following:

- 1) Advanced Studies Diploma with Distinction:
 - Completed Requirements for the Advanced Studies Diploma;
 - Earn a 3.0 or higher final cumulative grade point average
 - Successfully complete college level coursework which will earn at least nine college credits (through Advanced Placement or Dual Enrollment course work)

- 2) Earn at least 15 transferable college credits while in high school. College credits will be considered earned by:
 - Scoring a 3 or higher on an AP examination
 - Completing Dual Enrollment coursework and earning a C or better in the course
 - Earning college credits by passing College Level Examination Program examinations
 - Completing college-level courses and documenting credit awarded

- 3) Apply and be accepted to a college or university.

Advanced Placement Courses:

Peninsula Catholic High School offers Advanced Placement (AP) Courses in the following subjects: Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Statistics, Chemistry, Literature and Composition, Spanish, Studio Art, European History, American Government, and United States History. The prerequisite for all AP courses is a B/89 in all grading categories (i.e. homework, quizzes, tests) of the preceding course in the subject and approval of the Department Chairperson. 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: Chemistry, Pre-calculus, and 4th Level Foreign Languages (French, German, and Spanish). The prerequisite for all *stand alone* honors courses is a B/89 in all grading categories of the preceding course in the subject and/or approval of the Department Chairperson.

Peninsula Catholic High School offers *integrated* honors courses in the following subjects: English 9, 10, and 12; Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry, and Statistics; 2nd and 3rd Level Foreign Languages (French, German, and Spanish); World Geography, World History, United States History, Government, Earth Science and Biology. 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/89 average in any integrated honors course at the first progress report will be enrolled as honors students for that term.

Dual Enrollment (i.e. “Advanced” courses):

Peninsula Catholic High School has established a dual enrollment partnership with Thomas Nelson Community College. Courses and instructors have completed a rigorous review process and are designated for dual enrollment only when they meet standards established by TNCC. Junior and senior students may register for the program if they have met the following requirements:

- have a 3.00 cumulative GPA

- have minimum score of 500 on math and/or verbal SAT (depending on which course is being pursued) or a minimum ACT score of 21 OR achieve a qualifying score on the TNCC placement exam
- are on course to exceed curriculum requirements.

Students will be responsible for completing the registration process and for all tuition and fees connected with dual enrollment courses (\$15 per credit hour at this printing; most courses are three credits). All related tuition and fees will be paid directly to Thomas Nelson Community College. Upon successful completion of designated courses, students will receive both high school and college credit.

Courses to be offered as Dual Enrollment are: Advanced English 11, Advanced Creative Writing, Advanced Biology, and Advanced Anatomy. Two courses pending acceptance by TNCC is Computer Art and Design and Probability and Statistics. Any course that does not get accepted as Dual Enrollment will become an honors level course.

Evaluations:

Evaluations will use the following alphabetical equivalencies:

Grading Scale	Regular	Honors	AP/Advanced
A+ = 98 – 100	4.33	4.83	5.33
A = 95 – 97	4	4.5	5
A- = 93 – 94	3.67	4.17	4.67
B+ = 90 – 92	3.33	3.83	4.33
B = 87 – 89	3	3.5	4
B- = 85 – 86	2.67	3.17	3.67
C+ = 82 – 84	2.33	2.83	3.33
C = 79 – 81	2	2.5	3
C- = 77 – 78	1.67	2.17	2.67
D+ = 75 – 76	1.33	1.83	2.33
D = 72 – 74	1	1.5	2
D- = 70 – 71	0.67	1.17	1.67
F = 69 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 course work through teaching study strategies and providing accommodations recommended in educational evaluations. A supervised Study Hall is available for appropriately identified students during homeroom.

Elective Courses:

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

HUMANITIES

PC 101 (Required grade 8): To increase a student's potential for success at the high school level, this course will introduce students to study and test-taking skills, to grammar and writing skills, to computer application skills, and to foreign language exploration. Students will be exposed to basic keyboarding skills, with emphasis on outline preparation and MLA format. Students will be exposed to various note-taking systems and will be introduced to strategies for developing concentration, organizational skills, and time management skills. In addition, the language exploratory section of this class will introduce students to language study and language learning strategies and will focus on building an appreciation of language heritage and culture. The exploratory is presented through topical contexts that students can relate to their personal experiences.

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/89 average at first progress report): 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/89 average at first progress report): 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) 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.

Advanced English 11: Dual Enrollment (Prerequisite: B/89 in all grading categories in English 10 and/or approval of the Department Chairperson): 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.

English 12 (Required) or Integrated Honors English 12 (Prerequisite: B/89 average at the first progress report): 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 (Two terms and two Credits; Prerequisite: B/89 in all grading categories in Advanced English 11 and approval of Department Chairperson): 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 selected from the classical period, national epics, and American authors as well as a specialized historical study of British authors. 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 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.

Advanced Creative Writing: Dual Enrollment (Elective grades 11-12; Prerequisite: B/89 in all grading categories in previous English course and approval of Department Chairperson): 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.

Composition (Elective grades 10-12): Students will learn techniques to develop and strengthen academic writing skills. Students will write in a workshop atmosphere and evaluate the work of professionals as well as their peers. The class will offer the opportunity to work closely with the teacher and peers in writing and revision strategies.

Speech and Debate(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 through Lincoln-Douglas, Parliamentary, and Legal debates. Ultimately speakers will gain experience and develop more confidence in communicating with others in both large groups and interpersonally.

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS:

Music and Choir

Mixed Chorus: (*Elective Grades 9-12*) The Mixed 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.

Beginning Guitar (*Elective Grades 9-12*): Beginning guitar is designed to develop musicianship within each student through the medium of guitar. Students will learn how to read music and chord symbols through written and playing exercises. They will explore their musical creativity through individual and group compositions and performances. Students will also investigate how technological innovations over the course of history have changed the use and role of the guitar within popular music. Through listening examples, written text, and group discussion, students will gain an appreciation for music from non-western cultures.

Advanced Guitar (*Elective Grades 9-12; prerequisite: Beginning Guitar or by audition*) Advanced guitar is designed to develop musicianship within each student through the medium of guitar. Students will spend time developing classical guitar technique and learning the theory behind popular songs and solos. They will explore their musical creativity through individual and group compositions and performances. Students will also investigate how technological innovations over the course of history have changed the use and role of the guitar within popular music. Through listening examples, written text, and group discussion, students will gain an appreciation for music from non-western cultures.

Development of Rock and Roll (*Elective grades 9-12*): This course is designed as a survey of rock and roll music, from its very roots to the music of today. Students will develop knowledge and understanding of the musical elements of rock and roll and the major artists within each period. Students will identify the different styles that make up each period and study the social and cultural connections in the creation of rock and roll.

Students will get frequent opportunities to experiment, learn and demonstrate music from each period through both voice and instrument.

Band (*Elective grades 8-12*): Students are offered instrumental experiences in the many genres. They develop both musicianship and proficiency in ensemble literature. Instrumental techniques and sight-reading are all learned and combined. Performances and rehearsals both in and out of school are required. (*For the 2010-11 school year, this course will be offered as a "0" block all year from 7:00-7:45 A.M. each school day.*)

Visual Arts

Art I Foundations (*Elective grades 9-12*): Art Foundations emphasizes the development of abilities to recognize visual arts content, concepts, and skills to create, discuss, and understand original works of art. Students will be introduced to a thematic approach to visual communication and production, cultural context and art history, judgment and criticism, and aesthetics through which they will develop understanding and appreciation for the visual arts. Students will maintain a portfolio documenting their accomplishments. A supply fee of \$50 will be billed at the beginning of the term for all students enrolled in this course.

Art II Intermediate (*Elective grades 9-12; Prerequisite: Instructor's Permission*) Students will extend and refine abilities to investigate and respond to the visual arts. Emphasis will be on the importance of content, concepts, and skills involved in the creation of original art works. Students will be introduced to the chronological approach to visual communication and production, cultural context and art history, judgment and criticism, and aesthetics that enhance student understanding of the way in which 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.

Art III Advanced Intermediate (*Elective grades 10-12; Prerequisite: Instructor's Permission*): Emphasis will be on the development of abilities to organize and analyze visual arts content, concepts, and skills in creating works of art. The focus on art history, critical evaluation, and aesthetics is increased and includes cultural and stylistic issues and creative problem solving. Study at this level affords students the opportunity to develop a personal direction in the production of their works of art or to further their academic study in the visual arts. Selected works of art and other products

will be 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.

Art IV Advanced (*Elective grades 10-12; Prerequisite: Instructor's Permission*): Student will reinforce competence and confidence in skills of analysis, evaluation, and creation of works of art. Content and concepts associated with art criticism and aesthetics are central to the refinement of art production skills, and the student-directed approach at this level richly enhances personal expressive abilities. Visual communication and production, cultural context and art history, judgment and criticism, and aesthetics remain the foundation areas, and an advanced level of performance in each is expected. The students will continue to maintain a portfolio, and culminating portfolio must give evidence of quality, concentration, and breadth of work produced throughout the high school art program. 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 10-12; Prerequisite: 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 Spanish 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.

Art History (*Elective grades 9-12*); This course is designed for students who enjoy art and desire a fine arts credit, but do not feel that a conventional fine arts course is what they are looking for. The art and architecture of various geographical areas around the world from long ago through the present will be studied. Emphasis will be placed on the way that works of art function, both as aesthetic and material objects, and as cultural artifacts and forces that shaped the world in the past and continue to reflect our world today.

Drama

Drama I: Theatre Overview (Elective grades 9-12): 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.

Drama II: Production and Performance (Elective grades 9-12; Prerequisite: Drama I): Continuing the skills learned in Drama 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.

Honors Drama (Elective grades 11-12; Prerequisite: Drama 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.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Spanish I, German I, or French 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 I: Students may select between **Spanish I** as a single term course or as a two-term course with Spanish I Part 1 offered in the fall and Spanish I Part 2 offered in the spring. Two graduation credits will be awarded for the Part 1/Part 2 course, but only one language credit is given towards the Advanced Studies diploma. The same material will be covered

in both courses with the Part 1/Part 2 course allowing students to progress at a slower pace in order to master the foundational course of Spanish I.

Spanish II, German II, or French II or Integrated Honors Spanish, German or French II (Prerequisite: B/89 average at the first progress report): 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. Honors Language II students will complete additional activities that demonstrate higher level thinking as well as more in-depth and independent work and will speak using the target language during the class block.

Spanish III, German III, or French III (Suggested C-/78 in Level II; students not meeting this requirement should consider taking Levels I and II of another language in order to meet their Advanced Studies Diploma requirements) or ***Integrated Honors Spanish III, German III, or French III*** (Prerequisite: B/89 average at the first progress report): 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. Honors Language III students will complete additional activities that demonstrate higher level thinking as well as more in-depth and independent work on a weekly basis and will speak exclusively in the target language during the class block.

Honors Spanish IV, German IV, or French IV (Prerequisite: B/89 in all grading categories in Level III and/or approval of Department Chairperson): Students in Honors Language Level IV will exchange and support opinions on a variety of topics related to contemporary and historical events and issues. They 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.

Honors Spanish V (Prerequisite: B/89 in all grading categories in Honors Level IV and/or approval of Department Chairperson): In this course, students will develop a strong command of the Spanish language by integrating language skills in formal and informal contexts through interpersonal and presentational speaking and writing as well as aural and reading comprehension. Students will be exposed to literature, historical and current events of Spanish-speaking countries through authentic newspapers and magazines, music, movie, radio and television productions, literary texts, and virtual visits online. Communicative competence with grammatical accuracy in speaking and writing will be emphasized. The Honors Spanish V course will be conducted entirely in Spanish, and students will be urged to use Spanish exclusively. Students will also use Spanish to access information and to compare and contrast cultural elements of Spanish-speaking countries with their own. This course will include continuous integration of language skills (reading, writing, listening, speaking) with a rigorous review of grammatical structures.

AP Spanish Language (Prerequisite: B/89 in all grading categories in Spanish V and approval of the Department Chairperson): AP Spanish is designed to prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Spanish Language exam in early May. This course is equivalent to a third year college level course. The students practice reading, writing, listening, and speaking on a daily basis with a focus on fluency and accuracy. There will be intense practice with the types of activities present on the AP Spanish test which requires the student to integrate their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. The course is designed to meet the curricular requirements in the AP Spanish 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.

MATHEMATICS and BUSINESS

MATHEMATICS

PreAlgebra (*Required of all 8th graders not qualifying for Algebra I*): Students will master arithmetic skills for fractions, decimals, percents, and integers. Students will study early concepts of perimeter, area, and volume. Students will solve one and two step equations. Students will be introduced to a methodical set up for word problems.

Algebra I: Part I and 2 (*Prerequisite: enrollment based on placement tests and recommendation of the Department Chairperson*): This course is designed for those students who show a need for a slower pace to master the foundational course of Algebra I. Students will study the arithmetic of integers, rational numbers, irrational numbers and variables. Students will further their study of perimeter, area, and volume. Students will solve linear and quadratic equations algebraically and graphically. Students will factor and solve algebraic expressions and complete the square. Students will set up and solve advanced algebraic word problems. These skills will be presented over the course of two terms counting as $\frac{1}{2}$ credit each term.

Algebra I or Integrated Honors Algebra I (*Prerequisite: B/89 average at the first progress report*): Students will study the arithmetic of integers, rational numbers, irrational numbers, and variables. Students will further their study of perimeter, area, and volume, 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. Honors students will have additional honors problems on homework and on tests and will complete additional honors projects.

Geometry (*Prerequisite: Algebra*) or **Integrated Honors Geometry** (*Prerequisite: B/89 average at the first progress report*): 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. Honor students will have limited use of their calculators, additional honors problems on their homework and tests, and may complete additional honors projects.

Algebra II (Prerequisite: Geometry) or Integrated Honors Algebra II (Prerequisite: B/89 average at first progress report): 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. Honor students will have additional honors problems on homework and on tests and may complete additional honors projects.

Trigonometry (Prerequisite: 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.

Advanced Probability and Statistics (Elective 11-12; Dual Enrollment Pending; Prerequisite: C-/78 average in Algebra II or Integrated Honors Algebra II): 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. Honor students will complete additional honors problems on homework and tests and additional honors projects.

Honors PreCalculus (Elective 11-12; Prerequisite: B/89 average in Algebra II or Integrated Honors Algebra II): This is an advanced math course which should provide a solid background for Calculus AB. The class presents an extended study of linear and quadratic relations and functions. It addresses the topics of mathematical induction, graphing, equation solving and functional notations, groups, probability and statistics, matrices and determinants, exponential and logarithmic functions, limits and simple derivatives. A Scientific calculator is required. This is an advanced math course dealing in an extended study of linear and quadratic relations and functions as well. Honor students will have limited use of their calculators, will have additional honors problems on their homework and on tests, and may complete additional honors projects.

AP Calculus AB (*Elective 11-12; Prerequisite: B/89 average in PreCalculus and/or approval of Department Chairperson*): This course covers the typical material in a first semester college calculus course. Topics include limits, derivatives, and integrals of algebraic, trigonometric, and exponential relations. A Scientific calculator is required. The course is designed to meet the curricular requirements of the AP Calculus AB 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.

AP Calculus BC (*Elective 11-12; Prerequisite: B/89 in all grading categories in AP Calculus AB and/or approval of Department Chair*): This course covers the typical material addressed in a two semester college calculus class. The course deals with all of the topics of the AB course and the additional topics of differential equations, analytic geometry, parametric and polar equations, and infinite series. The course is designed to meet the curricular requirements in the AP Calculus BC 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 two semesters of college credit.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND BUSINESS

Personal Finance and Economics (*New Advanced Diploma graduation requirement for students graduating in 2014 and beyond; Elective 10-12*) 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.

Advanced Graphic Art and Design (*Elective 10-12; Dual Enrollment Pending*) 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 Creative Suite 3: 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.

Computer Applications (*Elective 9-12*): Computer Applications provides an introductory overview of the Microsoft Business Suite. Students will develop touch typing skills and then learn how to format documents in MS Word and MS Publisher. Students will explore the features of MS PowerPoint and use MS Excel and MS Access in solving practical problems.

Introduction to Business (*Elective 9-12*): This course is an introductory look at the business world and includes topics related to the business environment, organization, management, finance, accounting, ethical and social responsibility of business, international business, and career opportunities in business. (*This course will be offered in alternating years with Principles of Accounting; this course will be offered during the 2010-11 school year.*)

Principles of Accounting (*Elective 9-12*): This course will address accounting principles and procedures. Students will begin their exploration with the concept of debits and credits and maintaining a ledger. This will then translate into solving accounting problems using a computerized accounting system like QuickBooks. Emphasis is on the preparation and understanding of financial statements and the role of financial information in business decision-making. (*This course will be offered in alternating years with Introduction to Business; this course will be offered during the 2011-12 school year.*)

NATURAL SCIENCE

Physical Science (*Required of all 8th graders not enrolled in Earth Science*): Physical Science is the study of basic physics and chemistry and includes the relationship between matter and energy. Students will be involved in lab and problem solving activities and projects.

Earth Science (Required grade 9 and select grade 8 based on evaluation by and approval of Department Chairperson) or **Integrated Honors Earth Science** (B/89 average at the first progress report): 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/89 average at first progress report): 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.

Advanced Biology: Dual Enrollment (Elective grades 11-12; Prerequisite: B/89 in all grading categories in Integrated Honors Biology, and/or approval of Department Chairperson): 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 (12) laboratory exercises that set a standard for experimental and quantitative work fundamental to success in Advanced Biology.

Chemistry (Elective grades 11-12; Prerequisite: Algebra II): This subject is taught at an introductory level. 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.

Honors Chemistry (Elective grades 10-12; Prerequisite: Algebra II with a grade of B/89 in all grading categories and/or approval of Department Chairperson): Students will examine, in depth, the topics discussed in the basic chemistry course with emphasis on solution chemistry, thermodynamics, and more complex weak acid/base problems. Laboratory

work is an integral part of this course. Some laboratory experiments may be derived from AP Chemistry labs.

AP Chemistry (*Two terms and two (2) credits; Elective grades 11-12; Prerequisite: B/89 in all grading categories in Honors Chemistry*): 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 Chemistry test. This course differs from the Honors Chemistry course with respect to the type of textbook used, the topics covered, the emphasis on chemical calculations, and the mathematical formulation of principals, the type of laboratory work done by the students. Quantitative differences appear in the number of topics treated, the time spent on the course by students, and the nature and the variety of experiments done in the laboratory. Students will be required to maintain a laboratory notebook which may be reviewed by the university/college that the student eventually attends. The course is designed to meet the curricular requirements in the AP Chemistry 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.

Honors Physics: (*Elective grades 11-12; Prerequisite: B/89 in all grading categories in Integrated Honors Algebra II*): Students will undertake an in-depth study of the concepts and principles governing Newtonian Mechanics including statics, kinematics, energy, momentum, and power. Additionally, thermodynamics and wave mechanics will be introduced. Application of physical laws and theories is finding the solution to problems emphasized. Practical application in the form of activities, labs, and projects is also emphasized in this course.

Advanced Anatomy: Dual Enrollment (*Elective grades 11-12; Prerequisites: Chemistry or taking Chemistry concurrently, B/89 in all grading categories in Integrated Honors Biology, and/or approval of Department Chairperson*). 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.

Marine Biology (*Elective grades 11-12; Prerequisite: Biology*): The Marine Biology Course will encompass physical and chemical dynamics of the marine environment, forces affecting the marine environment,

taxonomy of marine life forms, and future uses and development of the marine and freshwater ecosystems. Subjects that will be addressed in Marine Biology will include: appreciation for the sea and its contributions to all living organisms, an understanding of the importance of the sea to humankind and interrelationships among organisms, awareness of dangers to the sea, and the feasibility of increasing food supplies from the sea. Students will be given the opportunity to study and research those marine biological issues that pertain to the Tidewater area.

Astronomy (Elective grades 11 - 12; Prerequisite: Algebra 1): The Astronomy course will encompass current topics in astronomy, tools of astronomers, the evolution of the solar system, the evolution of stars and star systems, current astrophysical theories on the origin and evolution of the universe and the search for life outside our solar system. Students will be given the opportunity to explore this subject through labs, projects, and field trips.

Physical Education (Required grade 8): Students will develop physical skills and knowledge of rules in team sports, individual sports, and leisure activities. Classes are co-educational.

Physical Education/Health (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.

Physical Education/Driver's Education (Required grade 10): Students will develop physical skills and knowledge of rules in team sports, individual sports and leisure activities. Classes are co-educational. The Driver's Education is the state required driver's education course in classroom instruction. The course does not include behind the wheel instruction.

Team Sports (Elective grades 11-12): Students will increase their knowledge of and further develop skills needed to participate as a member of various team sports. The knowledge aspect includes a brief history of the sport and the development of rules. The basic individual skills required to compete at the interscholastic level include offensive and defensive and other selected skills as appropriate that contribute to the team concept. Students will also learn team aspects through various plays, tactics and

strategies to successfully compete offensively and defensively at the scholastic level.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Civics (*Required grade 8*): Students will study the basic elements of our government at the local, state, and national level. They will master key concepts and terminology which will introduce them to the skills necessary for becoming an active and responsible citizen.

World Geography (*Required grade 9*) or **Integrated Honors World Geography** (*Prerequisite: B/89 average at first progress report*): Students will study the geography of the world with an emphasis on tracing the five themes of geography: place, human/environment interaction, movement, and region. Students learn a structured way of thinking about the world that is used when studying geographic issues from local to global levels. Special attention is given to world cultures and the influence of geography in their development.

AP European History (*Elective Grades 10-12; May be used to satisfy the World History requirement; Prerequisite: B/89 in all grading categories in most recent history and English courses and approval of Department Chairperson*): Advanced Placement 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 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.

World History (*Required grade 10*) or **Integrated Honors World History** (*Prerequisite: 89/B average at first progress report*): Students study the development of mankind from 4000 BC to the present with an emphasis on the recognition of recurring themes and patterns. Students focus on developing higher level thinking skills and problem solving in their study of

the past. The survey approach gives students a strong foundation for pursuing future history courses.

US History (*Required grade 11*) or **Integrated Honors US History** (*Prerequisite: B/89 average at first progress report*): 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.

AP US History (*Two terms, two credits; Prerequisite: B/89 in all grading categories in World History and approval of Department Chairperson*): 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. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement exam. The course is designed to meet the curricular requirements in the AP US History 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.

American Government (*Required grade 12*) or **Integrated Honors American Government** (*Prerequisite: B/89 average at first progress report*): 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.

AP American Government (*Prerequisite: B/89 in all grading categories in US History and approval of Department Chairperson*): Students study the branches of the American political system in great depth with an emphasis on the three branches of government and the intricate processes involved in each. Students focus on problem solving, analysis and independent research. Students are required to take the Advanced Placement examination. The course is designed to meet the curricular requirements in the AP American Government 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.

Sociology (*Elective grades 10-12*): Students will be introduced to the fundamentals of sociology. Topics to be covered include culture, social structure, socialization, deviance, and social institutions.

American Military Conflicts (*Elective grades 10-12*): Students will study the major military conflicts engaged in by the United States to include the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War and the Gulf War. The causes, outcome, historical context, significant battles and major leaders will be examined.

Life Skills (*Elective grades 10-12*): Students will learn skills which will help facilitate the transition into an independent and successful lifestyle. Topics to be considered: financial management, insurance, employment (interview skills, etc.), automotive repair, health issues, social propriety, practical law, college preparation, interpersonal communication, etc.

THEOLOGY

Theology 8: God and His Church/ Our Bodies, God's Gift (part 1) (*Required grade 8*): Students will explore the Mystery of God as revealed through Sacred Scripture (Old and New Testaments) and the Tradition of the Church. Students will learn how the Church, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has continues to grow and renew itself. Students will also gain an understanding of their emerging sexual identity as a unique gift deserving respect and protection (virtus) as well as concrete ways to resist the social pressures that are contrary to Divine Revelation.

Theology 9: Sacred Scripture: Reading and Understanding God's Revelation / Our Bodies, God's Gift (part 2) (*Required grade 9*): The course will begin with a general overview of Catholicism. Students will gain a general knowledge of Sacred Scriptures. Students will understand inspiration, how to read the Bible, and the major sections of Biblical literature. Students will study the major sections of the Bible with a particular emphasis in the Gospels and encountering the living Word of God, Second Person of the Blessed Trinity and Revelation to us from God. Students will discover who they are called to be as we encounter the Christ Divine. The students will also have a unit on chaste living as a teenager by

understanding authentic love, sexuality as a gift, and respect for the dignity of the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Theology 10: New Testament/Church History and Our Bodies, God's Gift (part 3) (*Required grade 10*): Students will explore the understanding of the Good News of Jesus as it has been interpreted by the Church throughout history beginning in the New Testament period to the present through major events, people, and teachings of the Church. A unit on chaste living will be included with a focus on developing the cardinal and theological virtues through prayer and practices of decency, dress, speech and self-control.

Theology 11: Sacraments/Social Justice (*Required grade 11*): Students will explore the sacraments as encounters with the Divine that transform and conform our lives to God's Will. Students will explore social issues important in our world today in light of the Gospel and the encounters with God through the Sacraments and various teachings of the Church. Through this discussion they will explore chaste living in the social context of Christian life and growing maturity.

Theology 12: Catholic Witness/Response to Morality and Ethics in Contemporary Society (*Required grade 12*): Students will learn the Catholic-Christian methods for making moral decisions, key principles, and apply specific teachings to a variety of life issues. Students will learn and apply Catholic ethical principles to contemporary life issues present in our world. Further the students will learn how to plan prayer for various "audiences" around specific themes throughout the liturgical year. This course is designed as a project-based course with personal reflection.

World Religions: Ecumenical and Interreligious Issues (Elective grades 10-12): This course is designed to introduce students to the other major religions of the world. Building on their understanding of Christianity as being entrusted with the full revelation of God, they will explore the spiritual truths and differences found in the major world religions.

INDEPENDENT STUDY: SENIORS ONLY

Independent Study is a pass/fail course where a senior may work with a cooperating teacher for one term. 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 whether it is Option A or Option B.

Option A: Teaching Assistant

Only seniors who are on track to exceed their curriculum requirements for graduation and who have a 3.25 GPA may submit a proposal. Option A will not receive a high school credit, but the Independent Study will be recorded on the transcript with a pass/fail.

1. The student must find a teacher within the proper discipline who will agree to be his/her cooperating teacher.
2. The student, with the help of the cooperating teacher, must submit a proposal which should include:
 - Mission Statement/Purpose of study
 - Expectations of student
 - Expectations of cooperating teacher
 - Assessment(s) (rubric, etc.)
3. The student must submit a proposal to the cooperating teacher, guidance counselor and the proper department chairperson.
4. If the student's proposal is approved, he/she will be scheduled to work with the teacher during a class the student will be assisting the teacher; if the student's schedule cannot be coordinated with the cooperating teacher's, then the independent study will not proceed.
5. Teaching Assistants should be aware that they will need to allot time outside of the class period to meet with their cooperating teacher for planning and assessment.

Option B: Additional Coursework

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). Only seniors who have a 3.25 GPA and are on track to exceed their curriculum requirements for graduation may submit a proposal. 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.

1. A student must submit the course description and the name of the institution to the guidance counselor and appropriate department chairperson.

2. 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.
3. The student will be supervised by a willing teacher.

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.