

Saint Thomas More School

COURSE OFFERINGS

SUMMER SESSION

Saint Thomas More School offers a summer session which lasts five weeks, combining academic study with an afternoon camp atmosphere. Classes meet six days a week with three seventy minute class periods each day. The afternoons are reserved for organized team sports and physical education activities, as well as supervised independent activities.

Students enroll in the summer session courses for one of three reasons: make-up credit if the student has already completed a year-long course and failed to earn the credit (academic credit is offered only for make-up credit); remediation work in the case of a class already passed, but there is a need of greater understanding of the subject by the student; students may also preview a course in preparation for the coming academic year. An official transcript will be provided at the end of the summer academic session, which you will then forward to your son=s school to have them issue credits.

All courses emphasize study skills, note-taking, writing skills, and organizational skills in addition to the subject matter. The school feels it is as important to emphasize how the student can acquire new knowledge through use of study skills as it is to concentrate on subject matter. The summer session seeks to establish an atmosphere where success is possible. Evening study halls, which are supervised by faculty members, occur six nights a week. Optional and mandatory extra help sessions are in place each class day. Small classes and extensive individualization aid in establishing a pattern of success in the students.

The attached document details our course offerings, but is subject to change as new books are adopted into the curriculum.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

ENGLISH LEVEL 1

This course is designed for remediation, make-up credit, or enrichment for students entering the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. English Level 1 is a literature and composition class that draws from a variety of world authors to facilitate the development of critical reading skills and more structured writing. Students use a host of anthologized short stories, poems, essays, and plays in combination with novels to develop self-disciplined and analytical reading skills, stronger vocabulary, and a writing process that focuses on the revision of both creative and analytical compositions.

Prentice Hall Literature - Silver

The Contender, Lipsyte

Tears of a Tiger, Draper

A Hero Ain't Nothin' But a Sandwich, Childress

When the Legends Die, Borland

ENGLISH LEVEL 2

This course is designed for remediation, make-up credit, or enrichment for students entering the 9th, 10th, and 11th grades. English Level 2 focuses on literature, composition, study skills, and public speaking. A variety of reading from all periods and genres will give students a survey of the literature of our civilization. The course will survey all genres of literature in an attempt to show the common bonds between literary works separated by many centuries. The reading will consist of novels, a variety of short stories, poems, essays and drama. The writing process will be taught. In addition to quizzes and tests, term papers and projects, class participation, and the maintenance of good class notes and a writing portfolio will be considered in grading.

Prentice Hall Literature - Gold

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman, Gaines

The Chocolate War, Cormier

Everything's Eventual, Stephen King

Twelve Angry Men, Rose

The Bluest Eye, Morrison

Welcome to the Monkey House, Vonnegut

ENGLISH LEVEL 3

This course is designed for remediation, make-up credit, or enrichment for students entering the 11th and 12th grades. Students in English Level 3 encounter a broad variety of literature. The course concentrates on continuing development of self-disciplined reading skills, vocabulary, speaking, listening, and viewing skills. Students read short stories, plays, poetry, essays, and novels. Vocabulary is improved with daily assignments in the workbook. Writing skills are improved using a variety of creative, analytical, and response assignments. Students will be taught and expected to use the writing process.

Prentice Hall Literature - The American Experience

Deliverance, Dickey

Dawn, Wiesel

The Color of Water, McBride

Bringing Down the House, Mezrich

READING LEVEL 1

Reading 1 is a reading course designed for students entering grades 7-9. Readings will be drawn from a variety of novels. Techniques and strategies will be offered to students to promote individual reading, strengthening comprehension, fluency and speed at which they read, and the way they organize their thoughts as they read. These will include reading for detail, inference, main idea, and evaluation. Some reading methods will include silent sustained reading, partner reading, whisper reading, and reading with audio. Assessment will be based on class participation, individual improvement, homework, quizzes and tests.

Reading Strategies for Literature, Developed by Learning Unlimited

The Bread Winner, Ellis

Freak the Mighty, Philbrick

And Then There Were None, Christie

Mississippi Trial 1954

READING LEVEL 2

This course is designed for students entering grades 10-12, who want to improve their reading skills. Active reading techniques, including reading for detail, inference, main idea, and evaluation will be taught. Emphasis will be placed on college preparatory reading skills, improving fluency and comprehension. A set amount of class time will be devoted to reading a novel in a variety of ways including silent sustained reading, partner reading, whisper reading, and reading with audio. Assessment will be based on a variety of measures, including class participation, homework, Reader=s Journals, quizzes and tests.

Reading Strategies for Literature, Developed by Learning Unlimited

A Lesson Before Dying, Gaines

Airframe, Crichton

Friday Night Lights, Bissinger

A Long Way Gone, Beah

Lovely Bones, Sebold

SAT PREPARATION

This course is designed for students who intend to improve their readiness for college entrance examinations, particularly the SAT 1 and the PSAT. The course aims to help students understand the test so that they can score as high as they deserve to score, and identify areas in which study and review will lead to higher scores. Assessment will be based on class participation, maintenance of a vocabulary notebook, and personal progress in projected SAT scores.

The Official SAT Study Guide

Model SAT tests; *Video Aided Instruction*

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

The ESL Course is designed to enable students with limited English speaking ability to develop better language skills. Through vocabulary, sentence skills, and pronunciation drills, students will develop those skills necessary to better reading, writing and speaking of the English language.

Northstar Listening and Speaking

TOEFL iBT PREPARATION

This course is designed to meet the challenges of the new internet-based TOEFL test. Emphasis will be placed on four core language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will have the opportunity to build on their skills in vocabulary, grammar, writing, and comprehension. As a prerequisite to this course, students should have completed ESL-2 or mastered the same skill level.

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

INTRODUCTION TO UNITED STATES HISTORY

Introduction to United States History is a course designed for a junior high level history class. Students are expected to demonstrate comprehension of events throughout the history of the United States. The course fosters interest in American History through the study of cultural groups, their accomplishments, and their relationships to our lives in the present.

America - History of Our Nation, Prentice Hall

GLOBAL STUDIES

Global Studies is a survey of world cultures, mostly in the present, or recent world. Additionally, relations between nations and major events are covered in the course. The course encompasses a wide variety of topics, with a cultural and geographical emphasis. These major topics include the development of value systems, how cultures meet human needs, family development and cultural expression.

World Explorer – People, Places, and Cultures, Prentice Hall

WORLD HISTORY

World History is a comprehensive study of major civilizations from ancient times to the present. It largely focuses on western heritage, but other cultures are introduced and incorporated into the curriculum, such as African, Asian and Middle Eastern cultures. World History will, in addition, focus on geography, religion, economics and art and literature. Generally, this class is taken by freshmen and sophomores during the summer session, but is open to other students for a variety of reasons. Major topics include early Mediterranean History, the Middle Ages, the Napoleonic Era and recent European and American History.

World History, Prentice Hall

UNITED STATES HISTORY

The United States History course is designed for the older high school student. Generally, it is taken in the junior year. Students are expected to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of events throughout the history of the United States. This course will cover a multitude of social, economic, military and political issues with the aim of expanding the student's knowledge of the world. Topics will include geography, colonization, the Revolutionary War, the Constitution, the Civil War, and modern U.S. History.

America – Pathways to the Present, Prentice Hall

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

ARITHMETIC

Arithmetic is the lowest level offered during the summer session. The focus is to provide those concepts which are necessary for further study in mathematics. Significant major topics include numeration and measurement, addition, subtraction, multiplication of decimals, number theory and the development of fractions, and addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of fractions.

Arithmetic Skills, Amsco

PRE-ALGEBRA

This mathematics course aims to further refine rudimentary concepts in preparation for Algebra. Topics include: work with mathematical operations, whole numbers, decimals, fractions, integers, geometry, ratio and proportion, percent, probability, data analysis, and graphing as well as basic algebraic equations and simplifying expressions. Also included are discussions on real life applications.

Pre-Algebra, Prentice Hall

ALGEBRA I

This course covers topics beginning with a review of concepts covered in Pre-Algebra and progressing to a comprehensive study of Algebra I. Polynomials, factoring, algebraic fractions, functions, systems of linear equations, inequalities, rational and irrational numbers, and the quadratic formula are studied. Word problems and problem-solving strategies are emphasized throughout the course. Upon completion of this course, students will be prepared to progress to Geometry or Algebra II.

Algebra: Structure and Method - Book I, Houghton-Mifflin

GEOMETRY

This course is designed to give the student a solid background in Geometry. Algebra topics are integrated into this course to provide a solid and broad foundation for future mathematics courses. The major topics covered are right triangles, circles, trapezoids, parallelograms, parallel lines, prisms, cones, pyramids and cylinders. Through the use of theorems, definitions and postulates the students will learn to use logical reasoning to complete a proof. A major goal of the course is to encourage the student to analyze and utilize diagrams appropriately. Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to demonstrate the use of inductive and deductive reasoning to draw conclusions from diagrams. Another major objective of this course is to strengthen the students' study skills.

Geometry, Holt

ALGEBRA II

This course examines the structure of algebra as a reflection of the real and complex number systems. Particular areas of emphasis are advanced work with equations, solving linear and quadratic equations, inequalities, systems of equations and how to master irrational and complex numbers, polynomial equations, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions are also explored in detail. Graphing calculators (TI-82 or newer) will be used to explore functions.

Algebra II with Trigonometry, Structure and Method Book 2, Brown, Houghton Mifflin

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

EARTH SCIENCE

This course is designed to serve as a multifaceted introduction to the world of science. Students will explore the earth and its environment by looking at locations and mapping, nature of science, geology, meteorology, astronomy, oceanology, natural resources and the environment. The course also emphasizes the scientific process and the importance of communication and study skills.

Earth Science, Holt

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

The Physical Science program stimulates appreciation of major themes of science with particular emphasis upon the role that chemistry and physics play in the student's environment. Physical science includes a study of matter and energy. Some laboratory exercises and demonstrations are geared to generate hands-on experiences in chemistry and physics relevant to the daily life of the contemporary student.

Physical Science, Holt

BIOLOGY

This course includes the study of the structure and life processes of living things with emphasis on the plant and animal kingdoms, respectively. It also follows the changes of life on Earth from its earliest forms to the vast diversity of living organisms found on Earth today. Classroom and laboratory work is designed to show the relationship of plants and lower animals to human everyday experience. The laboratory work is designed to provide a better understanding of the concepts discussed during class time. Students will handle and dissect laboratory specimens.

Biology, Glencoe

CHEMISTRY

This is a course covering all-important areas of basic chemistry, including equation writing and chemical calculations. Its intent is to prepare the student to understand chemicals at home and in the workplace, and to give the student a solid foundation for college level chemistry courses. This course is very practical in its content with strong reference to chemistry in every day life.

Chemistry, Prentice Hall

FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

SPANISH I

Spanish I is a class designed for the beginner student. Students will be exposed to fundamental grammar concepts and vocabulary in both oral and written forms. They will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the mechanics of the language. An emphasis will be placed on cultures in which the Spanish language is spoken.

Realidades 1, Prentice Hall

SPANISH II

Spanish II is designed for the intermediate student of Spanish. Students are expected to demonstrate an enhanced understanding of the mechanics of the language. The course will focus on both oral and written work in the expression of ideas. The grammar is more advanced than in Spanish I, focusing on technical aspects of grammar, more complex tenses, and an emphasis on proper spelling and pronunciation. In addition, students will be exposed to different cultural and historical aspects of the language.

Realidades 2, Prentice Hall

SPANISH III

Spanish III is designed for the advanced student of Spanish. Students are expected to demonstrate a high degree of understanding of the mechanics of the language. The course, conducted almost entirely in Spanish, will focus on both oral and written work in the expression of ideas. The grammar is more advanced than in intermediate Spanish, focusing on technical aspects of grammar, more complex sentences, the emphasis on proper spelling and pronunciation. In addition, the students will be exposed to different cultural and historical aspects of the language.

Realidades 3, Prentice Hall