

2008-2009 COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE

Aquinas High School offers many course selections, both full year and semester. We also offer three Internship courses in Art, Physical Education and Social Studies. **All Elective Courses Will Require Teacher Approval.**

ART DEPARTMENT

The Art Department of Aquinas High School provides students the opportunity to increase their awareness of the elements of art and design principles. Aesthetic values will be communicated in a Christian context that will guide students to become sensitive to the world around them. Expression of self through the visual media is the primary objective.

ART FOUNDATIONS **1 Credit** **Elective**
This course incorporates art production, art criticism, art history, art appreciation and art aesthetics. Students will gain experience and insight into their own interests by hands on immersion into different art mediums, art principles, elements of design and topics.

2-D DESIGN **1/2 Credit** **Elective**
Prerequisite: Art Foundations
In this course students will develop a strong understanding of design principles and basic two-dimensional techniques. The study of artists, techniques, and art criticism are important elements of this course.

3-D DESIGN **1/2 Credit** **Elective**
Prerequisite: Art Foundations
In this course students will apply principles to three-dimensional art techniques. Students will also learn basic construction techniques and gain experience with different materials and the unique qualities of these materials.

ART STUDIO **1 Credit** **Elective**
Prerequisites: Students entering Art Studio must submit a portfolio, which includes 12-15 pieces of artwork and evidence of critical thinking through written research. Instructor approval is needed, based on observation of motivation, responsibility and behavior.
More complex problem projects will be included in this course. Problem projects may include; sculptured portraits, pottery, silk-screen, weaving and painting. Students will be more confident in trying new approaches to materials already introduced. Skills and creativity of expression will be apparent through the portfolio presented at the end of the year with a growth report from the student.

PHOTOGRAPHY **1 Credit** **Elective**
Prerequisites: Students must have completed Art Foundations and 2-D Art
The first semester of this course will consist of an introduction to the camera and techniques to provide students with practical skills and technical knowledge. Through assignments, students will learn to keep a log, critique their photos and develop a critical eye for taking shots that make strong compositions. Their second semester of this course will consist of learning to develop film, enlarge photographs, to create prints and various darkroom techniques.

ART INTERNSHIP **1 Credit** **Elective**
This course is designed to provide an opportunity for students who may wish to become art teachers, as well as for students interested in service oriented experiences in art education. Students will be expected to develop an individual enrichment in a specific field of art, as approved by the instructor. Activities will also include preparation of art Materials, maintenance of equipment, and assistance with special projects and/or tutoring other art students. The course may include computer assisted graphic design programs such as Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, In-Design and/or a CAD program. The students will also be involved in "Shadow Activities" in areas of their choice. This internship is limited to two students per year. This course must be taken above the minimum course load and taken with concurrent enrollment in art.

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

The Business Department of Aquinas High School guides students to develop financial skills needed for personal and business activities.

ACCOUNTING **1 Credit** **Elective**
This course will introduce students to accounting basics and guide them in their understanding of the accounting cycle and its relation to the business world. Topics and skills to be explored will be accounting for a service business organized as a proprietorship and accounting for a merchandising business organized as a partnership.

PERSONAL FINANCE/INVESTMENTS **1/2 Credit** **Elective**
This course will explore topics of interest that will enhance students' future financial decision making. Topic to be included: career planning, money market, and financial security and credit management. Students will participate in stock market simulations and other computer related activities.

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

The Computer Science Department of Aquinas High School will guide student to understand the fundamentals of computers and offer practical experiences of utilizing specific applications softness.

BASIC COMPUTER APPLICATIONS **1/2 Credit** **Elective**
This course is designed to teach word processing, spreadsheet, data processing, drawing and multimedia productions. Computer vocabulary and current developments in technology are emphasized.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND MAINTENANCE **1/2 Credit** **Elective**
Prerequisites: Teacher approval and limited to ten students per semester
This course is designed to provide students with knowledge on how computer hardware and operating systems function. Students will work in teams to rebuild computers and troubleshoot various systems from the ground up. The student will gain knowledge on how to properly install, configure, upgrade, troubleshoot and repair microcomputer hardware and peripherals. This includes basic knowledge of desktop and portable systems, basic networking concepts and printers. The student will also gain knowledge of safety and common preventative maintenance procedures

ADVANCED COMPUTER APPLICATIONS I **1/2 Credit** **Elective**
Prerequisites: Completion of Basic Computer Applications with a grade of "C" or better
This course is designed to teach desktop publishing utilizing Microsoft and Adobe software programs. Students will be integrating spreadsheets, databases and word processing as well as advanced PowerPoint techniques. Other topics covered will include HTML programming, an introduction to FrontPage, web design and video creation.

ADVANCED COMPUTER APPLICATIONS II **1/2 Credit** **Elective**
Prerequisites: Completion of Advanced Computer Applications I with a grade of "C" or better
This course will guide students to develop their own websites. The course includes advanced HTML programming, Java Scripting, Active Server Pages, CSS, Adobe Photoshop and Final Cut Pro/Express for advanced video editing.

VISUAL BASIC **1/2 Credit** **Elective**
Prerequisites: Successful Completion of Algebra
This course will be an introduction to writing programs using VisualStudio.Net. Topics covered will include variables, decision operators, looping structures, event procedures and functions, arrays, sequential and random access filing, sorting and searching, static and logical error detection and graphics.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The English Department guides students to develop effective communication. Through the study of literature, students strengthen critical thinking skills, develop a variety of writing styles, and improve their proficiency as oral presenters.

FRESHMAN ENGLISH **1 Credit** **Grade 9** **Required**

Freshman English is a full-year literature course focused on a variety of authors. Emphasis is placed on the study of fiction and non-fiction including the short story, poetry, a Shakespearean play, essays, speeches, biographies, autobiographies and novels. Fundamentals of grammar and study skills are reviewed, and students write in a variety of forms including autobiographical, description, comparison and contrast, and a research paper using the MLA format. The essential communication skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening will be developed throughout the year.

SOPHOMORE ENGLISH **1 Credit** **Grade 10** **Required**

This full year course will consist of a literature/writing component and a speech component. Concentration is placed on the study of literature and its different genres. Emphasis is once again placed on the study of fiction and non-fiction including the short story, poetry, a Shakespearean play, and a novel. Fundamentals of grammar are reviewed. Students will concentrate on strengthening their writing skills through numerous writing experiences including personal writing, character analysis, and persuasion. During the speech component, students will be given practical experience in speaking and performing before an audience, as well as improving their research and organizational skills. Experiences will be provided in public speaking, listening, interpersonal communication and discussion.

JUNIOR ENGLISH: American Literature **1 Credit** **Grade 11** **Required**

This course is a survey of American Literature from 1620 to the present, which focuses on the interrelationship between the literature and its philosophical and historical background. Emphasis is on analysis of selected short fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama and novels. This course challenges students to demonstrate growth and independence in the art of interpretation, mainly focusing on their ability to express themselves through concise writing and a variety of speaking opportunities. Consistent participation in classroom discussion and completion of a major research paper are mandatory.

JUNIOR HONORS: American Literature **1 Credit** **Elective**

Prerequisites: Grade of "AB" or better in Sophomore English and approval of present English teacher. Assigned summer reading with an emphasis on critical reading and analysis is an important component of the Junior Honors course. Students are required to meet with the instructor prior to summer break to receive summer assignments and deadlines.

This course is a survey of American writers from 1620 to the present, which puts the literature into its historical context. Intended for students who excel in analytical and writing skills, this course emphasizes critical thinking about the reading and interpretation of literary texts. Critical thinking with attention to the nuances of tone, form, stylistic distinction, theme, and symbolism will be the backbone of the course. Consistent participation in classroom discussion and completion of a major research paper are mandatory.

SENIOR ENGLISH: British Literature **1 Credit** **Grade 12** **Required**

This course examines British Literature beginning in the Anglo-Saxon and Medieval periods and continues throughout the present. Epic Poetry, fiction, non-fiction, drama, and several novels will be used to develop self-awareness, while comparing and contrasting literature and writing detailed literary analyses. In investigating these themes within multiple texts, students will learn to appreciate the connections among the literature, history, and their lives.

SENIOR HONORS ENGLISH: World Literature **1 Credit** **Elective**

Prerequisites: Grade of "AB" or better in Junior English and approval of present English teacher. Eligible students may apply for St. Mary's University college credit, which is transferable to other colleges and universities (See Guidance Counselors for information.) Assigned summer reading with an emphasis on critical reading and analysis is an important component of the Senior Honors course. Students must contact their instructor prior to summer break for assignments and deadlines.

This course is a discussion and essay-based class that examines World Literature. Intended for students who excel in analytical and writing skills, this course emphasizes diverse literature styles. Critical thinking with attention to the nuances of tone, form, stylistic distinction, theme, and symbolism will be the backbone of the course. Consistent participation in classroom discussion and completion several reaction papers are mandatory.

DEBATE I **1/2 Credit** **Grades 10-12** **Elective**

This course will teach students the fundamentals of debate including argumentation, organization and research skills. Students are actively engaged in the discussion of current and conversational topics and in the hands on experience of debate. Weekly research on select debate topics is an essential part of this course.

DEBATE II **1/2 Credit** **Grades 10-12** **Elective**

Prerequisites: A grade of "C" or better in Debate I

This course will reinforce and expand the skills learned in Debate I. Students will be introduced to and involved in four person team policy, team value, and Lincoln/Douglas value debate styles. Students will be required to debate both sides of any given issue, thus enhancing their listening and critical thinking skills. Weekly research on selected topics is an essential part of this course.

HOLOCAUST: History & Literature **1/2 Credit** **Grades 11-12** **Elective**

Students will participate in a safe, Catholic learning environment, structured to provide the student with an interesting and informative overview of the political, cultural, ethnic and historic aspects of the Holocaust. The course provides an in-depth analysis of the events of the Holocaust through the use of documentary films, speeches, essays and a wealth of fictional and non-fictional literature by such authors Elie Weisel, Gerta Weissmann Klein, Tadeusz Borowski, and others. *Students can decide if the 1/2 Credit is to be applied as an English or Social Studies Credit.*

NEWSPAPER **1 Credit** **Grades 9-12** **Elective**

Students involved in the Newspaper course function as a newspaper staff, planning the school newspaper, interviewing sources, writing and editing varied stories, and selling ads for The Aquinas News. This course may be taken each year as continued learning results in excellent publications.

NOVELS AND NON-FICTION **1/2 Credit** **Grades 11 & 12** **Elective**

Prerequisites: Grade "B" or better in English and approval of English teacher

This course examines individual novels and non-fiction as a critical sampling of larger movements and styles in literary culture. Each piece of literature will be read from a variety of different and sometimes competing literary and cultural perspectives. Students will engage in close textual analysis of the novel at hand, addressing, among other things, historical and human themes, issues of authorship, literary and cultural symbolism, and novelistic styles. Class discussion and essays will be the major method of evaluation.

YEARBOOK **1 Credit** **Grades 11 & 12** **Elective**

Students involved in this course function as the production staff of The Aquin, the Aquinas High School yearbook. Students design a ladder thematically, plan, write and edit copy, sell yearbooks and ads, take photos, and publish the yearbook. This course may be taken each year as continued learning results in an excellent yearbook. *Production deadlines require mandatory attendance until the third week of June.*

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

The International Language Department of Aquinas High School provides students opportunities to speak, read, write and listen to other languages and to experience and appreciate other cultures. It is our hope that by studying other cultures, the students will develop a respect for people whose way of life may be different than our own.

FRENCH I **1 Credit** **Elective**

French I is an introductory course in which the primary goal for the student is to develop proficiency in the four basic skills of language learning: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The course also aims to increase the students' knowledge and appreciation of the diverse cultures of the Francophone countries.

FRENCH II **1 Credit** **Elective**

French II is open to students who have successfully completed French I.

This course will guide students to enrich their vocabulary as they focus on cultural activities and survival situations such as shopping, school and family situations, entertainment, fitness, travel and future plans.

FRENCH III **1 Credit** **Elective**

French III is an advanced intermediate course, which encourages spontaneous and creative speaking and composition. The use of tapes and videos will familiarize the students with native speakers, dialects and a variety of situations where relationships are developed and emotions are expressed.

FRENCH IV **1 Credit** **Elective**

French I is an advanced course, which includes an introduction to literature including reading of a short novel such as Le Petit Prince or L'Evasion. A variety of short stories are used to stimulate thought, conversation and composition. Themes are selected to challenge a maturing Christian response to the world, to others and to God.

FRENCH V HONORS **1 Credit** **Elective**

Honors French V is an advanced course designed to prepare students for advanced placement and/or entry into 300 level college French courses. Weekly readings lead up to the reading of a novel. Conversation, composition and internet communication with the French-speaking world are required. Students are also expected to take the National French Exam, Level V and/or the AP French Exam.

LATIN I (Offered in 2009-2010) **1 Credit** **Grades 9-12** **Elective**

In Latin I students will learn basic vocabulary and Latin grammar. Students will learn the role that Latin played in the evolution of western European languages. Students will attain a basic confidence and proficiency in translating Latin texts, both secular and ecclesiastical.

LATIN II (Offered in 2008-2009) **1 Credit** **Grades 10-12** **Elective**

Latin II is open to students who have successfully completed Latin I. The goal is for students to attain a greater confidence and proficiency in translating Latin Text, both secular and ecclesiastical. After a review of Latin I grammar, the course continues with a study of more complex sentence structures, the use of subjunctive mood and verbs, and an ever-increasing vocabulary gained through the study and translation of the text provided.

SPANISH I **1 Credit** **Elective**

Spanish I is an introductory course in which the primary goal for the student is to develop proficiency in the four basic skills of language learning: listening, speaking, reading and writing in a way that makes language a meaningful activity. This course presents the language within the context of the contemporary Spanish-speaking world and culture.

SPANISH II **1 Credit** **Elective**

Spanish II is open to students who have successfully completed Spanish I. Students will expand their linguistic knowledge and strengthen their oral proficiency by actively participating in interviews, skits, dialogues and role-playing activities.

SPANISH III **1 Credit** **Elective**

Prerequisites: Grade "C" or better in Spanish II

This course is designed to build confidence in the use of the Spanish language and to advance proficiency in reading, writing, listening and speaking Spanish. Students will have the opportunity to participate in cultural enrichment activities while they enjoy the study of Hispanic cultures.

SPANISH IV **1 Credit** **Elective**

Prerequisites: Grade "C" or better in Spanish III

This course reinforces and expands the skills of previous Spanish courses to reflect more mature language skills. Spanish IV relies on creative debates, panel discussions, interviews, skits, commercials, authentic Hispanic literature and media, travel and daily situations and current events. Various immersion experiences will expand the students' skills. Students will study a cross section of Hispanic cultures.

SPANISH V **1 Credit** **Elective**

Prerequisites: Grade "C" or better in Spanish IV and approval of Spanish IV teacher.

This yearlong course will build upon the skills learned in Spanish III and IV. It will provide the students with additional opportunities to use the language in many oral and written situations. The students will study vocabulary used extensively in various cultural settings. The students will gain a deeper appreciation of the Hispanic cultures of Central and South America. Students will practice the requirements of the National Spanish Exam, and they will have the option to take the National Spanish Exam and / or the AP exam.

SPANISH V - Honors **1 Credit** **Elective**

Prerequisites: Grade "B" or better in Spanish IV and approval of Spanish IV teacher.

This course will provide realistic experiences and situations that further strengthen the students' proficiency in the four skill areas—listening, speaking, reading, and writing. There will be individual, as well as, class projects to further develop and strengthen language skills and cultural competency. There will be an emphasis on authentic language and practical vocabulary to use in communicating real-life situations. The course will integrate literary and cultural readings to further develop cultural concepts and insights into the daily lives of native Spanish speakers. The course uses a college-level intermediate Spanish textbook. A literary reading as well as a composition will be assigned over the summer break. The students will be required to take the National Spanish Exam, and they may choose to take the AP exam.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

The Mathematics Department of Aquinas High School provides students with the necessary math preparation which includes opportunities for applied problem-solving, inductive discovery, real life application and an integration of modern technology.

ALGEBRA **1 Credit** **Grade 9** **Required**

This course is a full year required course. Topics studied include; computation and evaluation of numerical and algebraic expressions; simplifying and factoring polynomials; solving formulas and literal equations; inequalities and compound sentences; rational expressions and equations; word problems; and introduction to real numbers.

ALGEBRA with Pre-Algebra Review **1 Credit** **Elective**

This course will cover traditional algebraic topics, plus integrate Pre-Algebra review as needed by the students. The course will be paced according to the needs of the students.

ALGEBRA with Intro. To Geometry **1 Credit** **Elective**

This course is for those students who had "Algebra I with Pre-Algebra Review". The class will again be paced according to the needs of the students. Students will be prepared for Geometry at the completion of this course.

ADVANCED ALGEBRA **1 Credit** **Grades 10-11** **Required**
Prerequisites: *Successful completion of Algebra I with Intro to Geometry and the approval of the Math Department*

This course reviews and extends the topics studied in Algebra I. The main emphasis is on linear equations, how they are graphed and how they are used to solve word problems. Other topics will include: simplifying and factoring polynomial, laws of exponents, radicals, complex numbers, absolute value, inequalities and quadratic equations. Introduced topics will include: trigonometry, probability and the use of the computer and graphing calculator. This course is designed for the average Math student and will fulfill the third year of the Math requirement. Students successfully completing this course and receive teacher recommendation are eligible for Math Topics.

GEOMETRY **1 Credit** **Grades 9-10** **Required**

This course is a full year, which stresses problem solving while working with plane figures. Knowledge of Algebra is essential as many geometric problems are solved using algebraic equations or formulas. Problem solving topics will include: graphing, congruent and similar figures, area, volume, perimeter, parallel and perpendicular lines, angles, transformations, circles, basic trigonometry, constructions and proofs. This course is designed to satisfy the second year of the mathematics requirement.

ADVANCED GEOMETRY **1 Credit** **Grades 9-10** **Optional**

Prerequisites: *Successful completion of Algebra I and the approval of the Math Department*
This full year course includes all topics in the course description for Geometry. Topics to be extended include: proofs, graphing, trigonometry and three-dimensional space.

ALGEBRA & TRIGONOMETRY HONORS **1 Credit** **Grades 10-11**

Prerequisites: *Successful completion of Geometry/Adv. Geometry & approval of Math Department*
This course extends the topics from Algebra I and Geometry. Topics studied include: simplifying algebraic expressions, solving equations, algebraic transformations, inequalities and systems, linear programming, operations on polynomial equations, real and complex numbers, exponential and logarithmic functions, an introduction to analytic geometry, trigonometry and trigonometric identities. Advanced algebra topics are covered in depth, applied Math skills are emphasized and graphic calculators are used. *This course is required of students intending to study Calculus and AP Physics. Students successfully completing this course are eligible for Pre-Calculus or Calculus they may also apply for Viterbo #110 College Algebra, 4 Credits.*

MATH TOPICS **1 Credit** **Grades 11-12** **Elective**

Prerequisites: *Successful completion of Advanced Algebra and the approval of the Math Department*
This course is designed for students who desire a third year of Mathematics to prepare for fourth year Pre-Calculus or college Algebra and Trigonometry. Past Math topics are reviewed and reinforced and the new topics to be introduced will include: conic sections, logarithmic functions, sequences and series, probability and statistics and trigonometry functions. The students will utilize graphing calculators, CBL units and graphing programs on the computer. A major emphasis of this course will be the application of algebraic concepts to real world applications and to the sciences.

AP STATISTICS **1 credit** **Grades 11-12** **Elective**

Prerequisites: *Successful completion of Advanced Algebra and sufficient mathematical maturity and quantitative reasoning ability. Subject to approval by the Math Department.*
Students are required to have a graphing calculator (preferably TI-83Plus or TI-84 models).
The purpose of this one-year AP course in statistics is to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes:

1. Exploring Data: Describing patterns and departures from patterns.
2. Sampling and Experimentation: Planning and conducting study.
3. Anticipating Patterns: Exploring random phenomena using probability and simulation.
4. Statistical Inference: Estimating population parameters and testing hypotheses.

Students who successfully complete the course and exam may receive credit, advanced placement, or both for a one-semester introductory college statistics course.

STATISTICS **1/2 Credit** **Elective**
Prerequisites: *Successful completion of Advanced Algebra and the approval of the Math Department*

This course is intended to familiarize students with statistical terms and concepts but also prepare them to take college level statistics courses. Studies will include collection of methods to: plan experiments, obtain, organize, summarize, present and analyze data, interpret and draw conclusion from the results. Regression and correlation will be used as an analysis of paired data. Topics will also include normal distribution, t-distribution, χ^2 -distribution and their applications for hypotheses testing. By completing projects students will learn real applications of statistics as a science. Strong emphasis will be put on utilizing technology (graphing calculators, computer software.)

PRE-CALCULUS **1 Credit** **Elective**

Prerequisites: *Successful completion of Adv. Algebra & Trigonometry and approval of Math Department*
This course provides a synthesis of concepts and skills studied in previous Math courses and is intended to prepare students to take Calculus or other college level Math courses. Topics studied include: circular, trigonometric, logarithmic and polynomial functions, graphing techniques, analytical geometry and linear programming problems.

AP CALCULUS **1 Credit** **Elective**

Prerequisites: *Successful completion of Pre-Calculus and approval of the Math Department*
This course will require students to review their Pre-Calculus skills in the summer. Topics to be covers will include: I. Functions, Graphs and Limits - Analysis of graphs, Limits of functions (including one-sided limits), Asymptotic and unbounded behavior, Continuity as a property of functions II. Derivatives- Concept of the derivative, Derivative at a point, Derivative as a function, Second derivatives, Applications of derivatives, Computation of derivatives III. Integrals– Interpretations and properties of definite integrals, Applications of integrals, Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, Techniques of anti-differentiation, Applications of anti-differentiation, Numerical approximations to definite integrals. Students are required to have a graphing calculator. Eligible students may apply for St. Mary’s Calculus I, credit.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The Music Department of Aquinas High School exists to prepare students in a meaningful way to understand value and enjoy music throughout their lives. In doing so, students will learn to appreciate the God-given talents each person possesses and the value of sharing those talents with others.

CHAMBER ENSEMBLE **1 Credit** **Elective**

Chamber ensemble offers students who play orchestral or non-traditional band instruments an opportunity to perform music. Performance virtuosity in solo and ensemble work is the primary goal of the class. *Students are required to be involved in private lessons and perform in seasonal, solo and ensemble, and community performances.* Optional performances include solos for school masses, the school musical and Pep Band.

CONCERT BAND **1 Credit** **Elective**

Concert Band is open to any student who plays or expresses an interest in playing a traditional band instrument. The Concert Band studies and performs a variety of musical forms and styles. The student receives instruction in a daily, full group rehearsal and in weekly individual lessons. Students are encouraged to study privately outside of school in addition to weekly lessons. Out of school activities include; concerts, large group and solo/ensemble contests, parades, community events, halftime shows, pep band, school masses and the school musical.

CONCERT CHOIR **1 Credit** **Elective**

Concert Choir is an introductory course, which emphasizes the learning of music fundamentals, vocal techniques and performance skills. Students learn 3 to 4 part choral music in a variety of musical styles. Individual lessons are a requirement of Concert Choir and students are also required to participate in seasonal concerts and large group music contests.

ROBED CHOIR **1 Credit** **Elective**
Robed Choir will offer the more serious and talented student an opportunity to learn new and diverse types of choral literature. Emphasis is placed on excellence in choral sound, style and musical interpretation. Individual lessons are required as are performances in seasonal concerts, festivals, large group competitions and school masses.

THEATRE DEPARTMENT

The Fine Arts Department of Aquinas High School provides students the opportunity to express and interpret ideas, attitude and feelings creatively in verbal, non-verbal and artistic methods.

THEATRE METHODS I **1/2 Credit** **Elective**
The fundamentals of the acting process are the focus of this course. Students will learn the basics of developing a character, stage movements, the importance of using costumes and props correctly, how to use the voice effectively, and how to audition for parts. Technical theatre also introduced.

THEATRE METHODS II **1/2 Credit** **Elective**
This course will provide additional learning opportunities, which will include acting exercises, analysis, costuming, improvisational, musical theatre, film and television.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Physical Education Department of Aquinas High School promotes physical and health well being, development of social and athletic skills and a sense of responsibility of one's personal health.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION I **1 Credit** **Grade 9** **Required**
This course will introduce students to a variety of lifelong individual and team activities and cardiovascular fitness. Sportsmanship, fair play, positive social interaction and respect for one another are stressed throughout the course.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION II **1/2 Credit** **Grade 10** **Required**
This is an advanced course of physical fitness with an emphasis placed on further development in physical activities and a better understanding of teamwork and self-discipline needed in physical fitness activities.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION III **1/2 Credit** **Grade 11** **Elective**
This is an advanced course of physical fitness with an emphasis placed on further development in physical activities and a better understanding of teamwork and self-discipline needed in physical fitness activities.

HEALTH **1/2 Credit** **Grade 10** **Required**
This course is designed to show that our attitude in life will influence the choices we make and what happens as a result of those choices. In order for this to occur, the student needs to be responsible for everything they do. The student will learn what makes up a healthy person. Most importantly, the student will learn ways to make themselves and others around them healthier. We will be studying the following: Mental/Emotional Health (Stress Management), Physical Health (Nutrition, Fitness, Alcohol, Tobacco and other drugs, Safety and Injury Prevention/First Aid), Intellectual Health (Healthy Brains and Brain Function) and Social Health (Peer Pressure, Relationships).

ATHLETIC TRAINING (with approval) **1 Credit** **Elective**
This will be considered an internship with students receiving both in-house and "on the job" training and instruction. Students must be at least a sophomore so that they are receiving their CPR and training in health. The student will learn how to care for basic injuries and the methods of prevention injuries. The student will be required to intern with two sports and successfully meet the instructor's criteria for passing. The instructor will select the student on a first come basis and an established desire to possibly continue in this line of work.

OFFICIATING TEAM SPORTS **1/2 Credit** **Elective**
This course is designed for students who have a desire to officiate athletic games and activities. Students will be instructed in the rules and mechanics of volleyball and basketball then may choose to become licensed WIAA Officials. The students will be given the opportunity to serve as game officials during regular P.E. classes, intramurals and middle school interscholastic activities.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

The Science Department of Aquinas High guides students to develop an enthusiasm to learn about the scientific world. The Science curriculum fosters student involvement and promotes critical thinking and logical inquiry. It provides opportunities for both experimentation and the mastery of the content of Science, as well as an appreciation of the implications of Science in our everyday life.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE **1 Credit** **Grade 9** **Required**
This course serves as a foundation for the upper level Science courses. Scientific method, critical thinking, math skills and lab techniques are used to guide students to understand the world around them.

BIOLOGY **1 Credit** **Grade 10** **Required**
This introduces the student to all forms of life from the simplest one-celled organism to the most complex animals and plants. Human evolution, heredity, ecology and social issues are explored. The development of lab skills, appropriate microscope techniques and dissection are important tools the student will use to learn about our natural world.

AP BIOLOGY **1 Credit** **Elective**
Prerequisites: Grade of "B" or higher in Chemistry and approval of Chemistry Teacher
AP Biology is a challenging, introductory college level course. AP Biology is a laboratory component class, which covers all aspects of biology in great detail with a strong emphasis on problem solving, laboratory investigation and writing. Concepts to be explored include: Chemistry of Life; Cells; Heredity; Molecular Genetics; Diversity of Organisms; Structure and Function of Plants and Animals; and Ecology. This course offers an opportunity to take the National AP Biology Exam in which the student may earn college credit.

CHEMISTRY **1 Credit** **Elective**
This is a laboratory component class designed to provide students with a basic knowledge of Chemistry. Concepts covered include the periodic table as a model of element structure, compounds and reactions, measurements of chemistry, the chemistry of gases, acid-base reactions and equilibrium and catalysis. Problem solving integral to the performance of chemistry is strongly covered.

AP CHEMISTRY **1 Credit** **Elective**
Prerequisites: Grade of "B" or higher in Science and approval from Biology or Chemistry teacher.
AP Chemistry is a challenging college level presentation of Chemistry flowing at a college pace with college rigor. This course overviews all aspects of beginning Chemistry with a strong emphasis on organic and biochemistry examples and applications within the confines of Chemistry. Concepts include: periodic table modeling, nomenclature, reaction, prediction, organic chemistry, organic reaction, acid/base chemistry, equilibrium and catalyst, and nuclear chemistry. AP Chemistry focuses on strong problem-solving skills and offers an opportunity to take the National AP Chemistry Exam in which the student may earn college credit.

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY **1 Credit** **Elective**
Prerequisites: Grade "B" or higher in Chemistry or AP Chemistry or concurrent enrollment of Chemistry
This year long course is designed to explore the principles of human anatomy and physiology. The course will include a system-by-system study of the function of the normal human body with various pathologies being investigated. Laboratory experiments and dissections, media and technology, and field trips will reinforce the concepts discussed.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE **1 Credit** **Elective**

Prerequisites: Biology

In this course students will learn the principles of ecology as a basis for their study of environmental issues. Students will increase their awareness of environmental problems and learn strategies to respond to local and global concerns. Classical ecology combined with conservation principles will be studied. A strong emphasis will be placed on environmental ethics and stewardship. Local resource management will also be investigated. Strong emphasis is placed on energy consumption and related issues. The course will include several projects pertaining to local environmental awareness issues.

PHYSICS **1 Credit** **Elective**

Prerequisites: Algebra & Geometry and approval of Science Department

This course is a study of the physical world around us, and the fundamental laws that govern the behavior of all matter and energy. Major topics covered include: motion, velocity, acceleration, forces, gravitation, work, power, energy, heat, light, sound, electricity, and nuclear energy. A weekly lab activity is provided to reinforce concepts discussed.

AP PHYSICS **1 Credit** **Elective**

Prerequisites: Grade of "B" or higher in Algebra II & Trigonometry & approval of Science Department

This course is a challenging college level presentation of Physics which flows at a college pace, with college rigor. All aspects of Physics, from motion to energy, from waves to electricity will be studied. A strong emphasis is placed on problem solving and math skills. This course offers the opportunity for student to take the National AP Physics Exam in which the student may earn college credit.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

The goal of the Social Studies Department of Aquinas High is to prepare students to be able to understand and appreciate the history and heritage of the United States and other cultures. Students will learn to identify and understand the problems that face our increasingly diverse nation and ever-changing, interdependent world of the future. Since it is important that students connect knowledge with beliefs and actions, we hope to challenge the students to develop a social consciousness, assume civic responsibilities in our democracy and act in positive ways as citizens so that a more just and peaceful world can be created.

WORLD HISTORY **1 Credit** **Grade 9** **Required**

This course is a chronological and topical study of humankind's social and political development from the beginning of written records through the 20th century. The student will study world regions, their religions, ethnic groups, art, culture, traditions and social and political systems. Students will gain insights that will broaden their appreciation of the experience of mankind in many different world regions.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY **1/2 Credit** **Grade 11** **Required**

This course is a study of people, places, and environment from a physical and cultural perspective. Through a variety of classroom activities, students will gain a appreciation and understanding of the interdependent world in which they live. Students will analyze and evaluate the connection between their local and global communities. The course will emphasize the practical and responsible application of geography to life situations.

U.S. HISTORY **1 Credit** **Grade 10** **Required**

This course is a comprehensive study of the history of the United States from the age of exploration by European explorers to contemporary events of the late 20th century. In addition to the solid factual foundation, the emphasis is on the analysis of major personalities, formative events, controversial issues and significant movements that have shaped our nation.

U.S. GOVERNMENT **1 Credit** **Grade 12** **Required**

This course deals with the structure and function of the national state governments of the United States. Included is a study of the development of our political system, elections, Congress, the Presidency and the Federal Court system. Constitutional law with an emphasis on the First Amendment, civil, criminal, family and consumer law will also be examined. Students will be given the opportunity to understand the great impact of the law on their lives.

AP U.S. HISTORY **1 Credit** **Grades 11 & 12** **Elective**

Prerequisites: Consent of the instructor

This course will be offered in the 2008-2009 school year, with the description and requirements to be determined.

SOCIOLOGY **1/2 Credit** **Elective**

Sociology is the study of human development and human interactions in groups. Students will investigate current social problems that deal with the family, crime and human life issues. Students will have the opportunity to learn and apply various sociological research designs.

ECONOMICS **1/2 Credit** **Elective**

This course offers a study of the American free enterprise system. Included are topics as supply and demand, income spending and distribution, competition in the market place, the role of government in the economy, challenges to the U.S. market economy and problems of less developed countries.

HOLOCAUST: History & Literature **1/2 Credit** **Grades 11 & 12** **Elective**

Students will participate in a safe, Catholic learning environment, structured to provide the student with an interesting and informative overview of the political, cultural, ethnic and historic aspects of the Holocaust. The course provides an in-depth analysis of the events of the Holocaust through the use of documentary films, speeches, essays and a wealth of fictional and non-fictional literature by such authors Elie Weisel, Gerta Weissmann, Klein, and Tadeusz Borowski, and others. *Student can decide if the 1/2 Credit is to be applied as an English or Social Studies Credit.*

PSYCHOLOGY I **1/2 Credit** **Elective**

This course studies human behavior by investigating basic theories related to behavior and human development. Freudian, Behavioral and Abnormal Psychology are the major units studied in this course.

PSYCHOLOGY II - Honors **1/2 Credit** **Elective**

Prerequisites: Grade of "B" or better in Psychology I

Students will study Developmental Psychology including personality development. They will also gain experience of psychological research, testing and experimentation. Students will discuss adolescent emotional health issues and problem solving techniques based on techniques of Reality Therapy.

THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Theology Department of Aquinas High through informational and formational experience strives to teach the message of Jesus and His Church by nurturing the faith of our students and promoting a ministry of service based on charity and justice. Our Religion curriculum begins with the foundation of faith, centering on Scripture, Catholic Tradition, history, and the basic Catholic devotions. It includes Christian morality and vocational discernment as applied to the important personal and social issues of our time.

OLD TESTAMENT **1/2 Credit** **Grade 9** **Required**

This course will introduce the students to the Word of God through reading and study of the Old Testament. Students will better understand the stories, literary style, cultural context, historical setting and theological meaning of the Old Testament. Through active explorations, students develop an understanding of our faith tradition.

NEW TESTAMENT **1/2 Credit** **Grade 9** **Required**
This course is a survey of the New Testament. Students will become familiar with the content, structure and message of the New Testament. The style and themes of the four evangelists will be reviewed, the message of St. Paul will be studied through his epistles and the story of the apostles found in the “Acts of the Apostles” will be examined. This course provides an opportunity to read New Testament Scriptures and gain a better understanding of the Catholic Church and her founder, Jesus Christ.

CHURCH HISTORY **1/2 Credit** **Grade 10** **Required**
This course helps students to understand and appreciate Catholic heritage. It examines the developments, people and events that have shaped the Church. Students will gain an appreciation of the continuing work of the Holy Spirit through the Church.

SACRAMENTS **1/2 Credit** **Grade 10** **Required**
This course will consider the sacramental life of the Church as a means by which Catholic Christians seek their ultimate goal, union with God. The course begins with a general consideration of the sacraments as signs given by Christ to impart grace. Each sacrament will be discussed, focusing on its history, its symbols and rituals, and the realities of human life it sanctifies.

CHRISTIAN MORALITY **1/2 Credit** **Grade 11** **Required**
This course invites students to learn about, reflect on and positively embrace a life rooted in authentic Gospel virtues. Focusing on Scripture and primary Church documents, the students are introduced to basic principles of Catholic morality and moral decision-making, which are then applied to contemporary moral issues.

THEOLOGY OF JUSTICE AND PEACE **1/2 Credit** **Grade 11** **Required**
Throughout its history, the Catholic Church has attempted to transform the world, “to live Jesus’ message.” This course will provide students with an opportunity to explore topics in social justice as they occur within society. Using Scripture and the documents of the Roman Catholic Church, students will discuss the Christian response to such issues.

CHRISTIAN VOCATIONS **1/2 Credit** **Grade 12** **Required**
Through marriage, priesthood, consecrated life and the single life, one can respond to God’s call to service and community. This course explores the various vocations and discusses how one might respond to the command of Jesus to love all people.

CATHOLICISM REVISITED **1/2 Credit** **Grade 12** **Required**
An adult Catholic needs a solid foundation in order to live through the challenges of today and tomorrow with faith, hope and love. This course studies our beliefs as Catholics and how we apply these beliefs to our daily life’s decisions.

CHRISTIAN VOCATIONS HONORS **1/2 Credit** **Grade 12** **Elective**
Prerequisites: Grade of “AB” or higher in Junior Religion & approval of present Religion Teacher
This course will involve the basic outline of the regular Christian Vocations course with a greater level of informed classroom discussion, additional readings and writing assignments.

ROAD TO HOLINESS HONORS **1/2 Credit** **Grade 12** **Elective**
Prerequisites: Grade of “AB” or higher in Junior Religion & approval of present Religion Teacher
The call to holiness is one of the most compelling teachings handed down to us from the Second Vatican Council. This course will explore the essence of sanctity, how it is attained and provides students sufficient direction to enable a successful journey towards eternal life in Heaven with God.

CATHOLICISM **1/2 Credit** **Elective**
This course will include an in depth study of our Catholic faith, its doctrines, history and practices. A discussion of important saints will also be part of this course.