

# **St. Mary Catholic Schools**

**812 N. State Ave.  
Dell Rapids, SD 57022  
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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION BOOK**

# REGISTRATION

## **Registration Guidelines**

This registration guide is written to assist students and their parents in making appropriate choices for academic course work while at St. Mary High School. A four-year plan, including preparation for post high school education or employment, should be developed using this guide. Specific course selections also allow students to pursue special interests.

Counselors and teachers are available to discuss educational choices with students and parents. With the exception of state and local requirements, final decisions regarding curriculum choices are left with students and their parents.

*One of the most important factors in student success is appropriate course placement. Taking a challenging curriculum is important; however, it is important to understand that it should be balanced with school/community activities.*

## **Reminders for Registration**

1. Freshman and Sophomores must register for a minimum of 7.5 credits per year and are only allowed 1 semester of study hall (full year study hall is ONLY an option if enrolled in band OR choir). Juniors must register for a minimum of 7 credits per year. Seniors must register for a minimum of 3.5 credits in the fall and 3 credits in the spring. (1 credit= 2 skinnies/1 block). The school day is divided into eight 44-minute skinnies.

2. When registering for Dual Credit courses or Advanced classes at DRHS, students must meet requirements or have administrative permission. Dual Credit courses require an application to the school or university.

4. Students wanting to change course selections after registration will need to be aware of the following stipulations:

Students will have two school days at the start of each semester in which to add or drop classes provided by SMCS, Dell Rapids Public School, and/or any non-dual credit enrollment college courses. Changes must be made and verified by the school counselor. Dropping a class outside the allotted time shall result in a grade of "F" on the permanent record unless specific permission is obtained by administration. For Dual Credit Enrollment College Courses, the student will follow the higher learning institution's drop/add procedure. Changes must be made and verified by the school counselor.

## **Credit before Grade 9**

The St. Mary Catholic School has received a waiver from the State Department of Education to teach Health, Band, and Choir in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Grading Scale** Grading emphasis and procedures may differ with individual teachers in computing final percentages. Teachers shall explain their grading practices to their students the first week of school. Class grades and grade points are issued based on percentage ranges. Grading scale for classes of 2005 and beyond are as follows:

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
100+	A+	4.00
96-99	A	4.00
94-95	A-	3.66
91-93	B+	3.33
88-90	B	3.00
86-87	B-	2.66
83-85	C+	2.33
80-82	C	2.00
77-79	C-	1.66
74-76	D+	1.33
71-73	D	1.00
68-70	D-	0.66
67-below	F	0.00

**Weighted Averages:** Under the weighted average system, grade categories are assigned a weight as a percentage of the final grade. Different types of work performed by the student will be assigned a value that will help determine the final grade earned for the course. This concept of proportional relevance means that the tests carry more importance in making a good grade for the course, although the successful completion of other components will ensure earning the highest grade.

Semester Tests for high school students will carry a weighted average of 14.28%. Tests and quizzes will carry a combined weighted average of no more than 50%. Remaining grade categories and weights are left to the discretion of the individual teachers.

**Weighted Classes:** In an effort to encourage students to challenge themselves academically, the following classes will be weighted by adding one grade point above the normal grade point: Physics, Anatomy, Pre-Calculus, approved dual credit classes (credit for college), or other advanced courses approved by Administration.

### **Online Courses**

Students can take a course required for graduation online, providing the course cannot fit into their schedule. Such courses must be approved by the counselor or principal prior to enrolling.

### **DRHS Courses**

Students can take courses offered at Dell Rapids Public High School if it is not offered at St. Mary High School. Enrollment in these courses is not guaranteed and is dependent upon the spots available. Such courses must be approved by the St. Mary school counselor and the DRHS counselor prior to enrolling.

*\*\*Note: Students wishing to be a member of the Dell Rapids Public School Future Farmers of America organization must enroll in a minimum of one agricultural education class during the school year.*

# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

## Graduation requirements and state endorsements

All high school students who complete the prescribed curriculum satisfactorily will participate in graduation exercises and be issued a diploma, provided all financial obligations to the school are satisfied. Required classes need to be taken here at SMCS. No unsigned diplomas will be given. Within the coursework outlined under South Dakota High School Diploma Requirements, a student may earn one (or more) of three advanced endorsements:

- **Advanced Endorsement:** Indicates a student has pursued coursework consistent with entrance requirements for postsecondary education at a university (same as O’Gorman graduation requirements).
- **Advanced Career Endorsement:** Indicates a student has career experience in a concentrated area, based on academic and/or workplace experience and a related credential.
- **Advanced Honors Endorsement:** Indicates a student has pursued advanced rigorous, academic coursework consistent with opportunity scholarship eligibility. All high school coursework completed with a “C” or higher.

High school **classes of 2014 and beyond** must satisfactorily complete 26 credits as prescribed by the South Dakota Department of Education and the SMCS Educational Advisory Committee per the following guide:

SUBJECT	SMCS REQUIREMENTS	ADVANCED ENDORSEMENT	ADV CAREER ENDORSEMENT	ADV HONORS ENDORSEMENT
Religion	One credit for each year in attendance	Is not required for endorsement for is required for graduation from SMCS.	Is not required for endorsement for is required for graduation from SMCS.	Is not required for endorsement for is required for graduation from SMCS.
English	.5 Composition I .5 English/Literature I .5 World Literature .5 Speech .5 American Literature .5 Composition III .5 British Literature .5 Creative Writing	SMCS English Requirements	SMCS English Requirements	SMCS English Requirements
Social Studies	.5 Geography .5 World History 1.0 US History 1.0 US Government	SMCS Social Studies Requirements	SMCS Social Studies Requirements	SMCS Social Studies Requirements
Science	1.0 Physical Science 1.0 Biology 1.0 Chemistry	SMCS Science Requirements	SMCS Science Requirements	SMCS Science Requirements PLUS 1 additional unit of Science
Mathematics	1.0 Algebra I 1.0 Geometry 1.0 Algebra II or higher class	SMCS Mathematics Requirements	SMCS Mathematics Requirements	SMCS Mathematics Requirements PLUS 1 additional unit of Advanced Math
PE	.5 credit	.5 credit	.5 credit	.5 credit
Health	.5 credit (taken during 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> grade years)	.5 credit	.5 credit	.5 credit

Finance	.5 Personal Finance OR Economics	.5 Personal Finance OR Economics	.5 Personal Finance OR Economics	.5 Personal Finance OR Economics
CTE or World Language	2 units of either of the following or a combination of the two: Approved CTE courses (SMCS students are required to take 1 unit of a Computer course) OR Modern Language (including U.S. Sign Language); units must be in the same language	SMCS Requirements	2 units of either of the following or a combination of the two: Approved CTE units from the same career cluster OR Capstone Experience units <b>AND</b> Attainment of an industry recognized credential OR National Career Readiness Certificate of Silver or higher	SMCS Requirements
Fine Arts	1.0 Band and vocal are worth .5 credit per semester Art is worth .5 credit per semester Play participation is worth .25 credit per performance	SMCS Requirements	SMCS Requirements	SMCS Requirements
Electives	As many as desired	As many as desired	As many as desired	As many as desired
Total Credits needed to graduate	26	26	26	26

If any parents wish to waive this course of study and pursue an alternative plan of study (as defined by the DOE), a parental agreement must be signed and submitted by the parent. This alternative plan of study is up to the approval of the high school administration. This course of study contains all courses considered necessary for acceptance into a State accredited university

# DUAL CREDIT CLASSES

South Dakota Department of Education and the Board of Regents have partnered for a High School Dual Credit Program. Courses are offered to qualifying high school juniors and seniors attending high school within South Dakota at a reduced rate of \$48.33 per credit. The six South Dakota public institutions of higher education, as well as technical institutes, offer courses through the reduced tuition Dual Credit Program.

- Admission requirements are set by the post-secondary institutions
- Families will be responsible for the cost of classes and materials, books, etc.
- Dual Credit final grades will be documented on the high school transcript
- Dual Credit courses will only be used as elective high school credits; will not replace specific SMCS required classes (only exception is Rising Scholar: English 101 and English 201 offered at DRHS)

**Online Dual Credit:** These courses are offered online and are not taught in a classroom with a teacher. Students enrolled in online dual credit courses will be assigned to a study hall during the class period that is designated for their dual credit class. Students who have senior privileges may leave school to work on these courses at home.

**Rising Scholar:** These are in-person courses taught by a high school teacher that count for high school and college credit. DRHS offers a few of these courses each year, dependent upon teacher qualifications and student interest.

Visit the website to see admission requirements and for courses available  
<https://sdmylife.com/prepping-for-college/dual-credit> .

# POST-SECONDARY PLANNING

## College Bound Students

1. Admission requirements to colleges vary. In addition, schools or departments within a university may have their own entrance requirements. Because of the variation, students and parents need to begin early to investigate the admission policies of colleges they are interested in attending.
2. The school counselor will provide aid to students when interest in a particular college is indicated.
3. Students planning to attend a four-year college or university need to check with the admissions office for admission requirements for that particular school.

## College/Career Information

The online program, [www.SDMyLife.com](http://www.SDMyLife.com), is a great resource for students to explore careers and colleges. Each student has a user name and password. If they have misplaced this information, they can get the user name and password from the counseling office.

## College Entrance Guidelines

The following are the requirements that will be necessary for admission to a four-year program at a state supported school in South Dakota:

(1)	AND	(2) a “C” average or higher in the following:	
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Graduate in the top 60% of your class (Top 50% at USD)	<u>REQUIRED COURSES</u>	<u>NUMBER OF CREDITS</u>	
OR			
ACT composite score of 18 or above (21—USD & SDSMT)	English		4
OR	Math	3 (Algebra I or above)	
High School GPA of 2.6 on a 4.0 scale (2.75 at SDSMT)	Science	3 (laboratory science)	
	Social Science	3	
	World Language	0*	
	Fine Arts	1	

\*Although South Dakota does not require a world language, many other colleges do. Please refer to college handbooks for your college entrance requirements. At least two credits of a world language is recommended.

## ACT and the SAT

These assessments are most often used for college admissions and required for scholarship applications. Both are tests of general achievement and scholastic aptitude. The results are also used to aid in placing the student in various courses or in varying levels of a course. Students are generally advised to begin taking these in the spring of the junior year or early in the senior year. It is normally not necessary to take both the ACT and SAT. The ACT registration website is [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). The SAT registration website is [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org), then click on SAT.

### **ACT Prep Course**

St. Mary currently does not offer an ACT prep courses to prepare students for the ACT, but many high schools and colleges around the area do offer it. Students can choose to enroll in a prep course if they wish, however it is not required in order to take ACT.

### **South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship**

The South Dakota Legislature established five requirements that all South Dakota high school graduates must meet in order to establish their initial eligibility in the Opportunity Scholarship program. These requirements specify that a recipient must:

1. Be a resident of South Dakota at time of high school graduation.
2. Have an ACT composite score or ACT reported superscore of 24 or higher before the beginning of post-secondary education. If using a SAT score, the sum of the verbal and mathematics scores on the SAT must be at least 1090.
3. Complete high school course requirements with no final grade below a "C" (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) and a cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (grade of "B") prior to graduation
4. The curriculum requirements do not apply for any student who has received a composite score or ACT reported superscore on the ACT of at least 28 and meets the ACT college readiness benchmarks scores equaling or exceeding 18 for English, 22 for Reading, 22 for Math, and 23 for Science.
5. Attend a university, college, or technical school accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and that provides instruction from a campus located in South Dakota.
6. Enter into the program within 5 years of high school graduation, or within 1 year of the student's release from active duty military service (if that release is within 5 years of the date of the student's high school graduation). Students seeking to transfer from a regionally accredited university, college, or technical school located outside of South Dakota may do so within two years following high school graduation and be eligible to receive partial award.

Qualifying students are awarded \$1,300/year for the first 3 years, and \$2,600 the senior year, for a total of \$6,500.

**Dakota Corps Scholarship Program** This scholarship is for students pursuing a degree at a participating South Dakota college or university that will prepare the student to work in a critical need occupation as noted on their website. Recipients also agree to remain and work in South Dakota for as many years as the scholarship was received, plus one year. Applicants must have a composite ACT score of 27 or greater (or the SAT equivalent) as well as a GPS of 2.8 or greater. Full-ride scholarships awarded. Applications and additional information available at <https://www.sdbor.edu/dakotacorps>

### **Build Dakota Scholarship**

This scholarship is for students who intend to enroll full-time in a technical institute program determined as a high need workforce area in South Dakota as noted on their website. Recipients agree to work full-time in the field of study in South Dakota for a minimum of three years. 50 full-ride scholarships awarded. Applications and additional information available at <https://www.builddakotascholarships.com/>



### **South Dakota Regents' Scholar Guidelines**

South Dakota recognizes seniors who have completed a rigorous curriculum with a minimum GPA. Criteria for obtaining that distinction is:

Must have receive a "C" (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) or higher on all required coursework; and maintained an unweighted cumulative grade point average of a "B" (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) throughout high school.

- 4 units of English
- 4 units of algebra or higher mathematics
- 4 units of science including 3 units of approved laboratory science
- 3 units of social studies
- 2 units of a modern or classical language (includes American Sign Language) OR Two (2) Units of Career and Technical Education (CTE) OR a combination of One (1) Unit of Modern or Classical Language and One (1) Unit of Career and Technical Education: If taking two language courses, the two units must be in the same language.
- 1 unit of Fine Arts (art, music, theater)

### **NCAA Eligibility**

College athletic programs have additional academic requirements for students who plan to enroll in college and participate in Division I or Division II athletic programs. These students must be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center. To register, students must go to the website ([www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)) and complete the required information. In addition, ACT or SAT scores must be sent directly from the testing agency to the NCAA by coding 9999 when registering for the test.

### **NAIA Eligibility**

Students must meet two of the three requirements: ACT Composite of 18 or higher (740 min SAT), upper half of graduating class, cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0. NAIA eligibility requirements can be found at [www.playnaia.org](http://www.playnaia.org).

### **Early Graduation**

Students who wish to graduate in less than four years must meet the same requirements as all other students and must make application through the counseling office in the academic year prior to the planned graduation date. This is essential since special academic planning is required in order to accommodate early graduation. Final decisions on early graduation requests lie with the school administration.

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## Religion

SCRIPTURES	Required	9	.5 credit
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Scriptures courses emphasize understanding and interpreting the sacred writings of a faith (such as the Bible, Torah, Koran, Book of Mormon, and so on) from the standpoint of a religious faith. Course objectives are designed so that students may comprehend the theological, doctrinal, and ethical messages contained within religious scriptures.

BIBLE HISTORY	Required	9	.5 credit
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Bible History courses treat the Bible as a historical document and provide an overview of significant biblical events. The content usually includes geography; the relationship among cultures, belief systems, and the events chronicled in the Bible; and early Jewish or Christian Church history.

CHRISTOLOGY	Required	10	.5 credit
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Christology courses concern the work and life of Jesus Christ and the literature related to him. Course content is typically based on Christian scriptures, leading to an examination of the message of Jesus Christ and applying His message to daily life.

RELIGIOUS FOUNDATIONS	Required	10	.5 credit
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Religious Foundations courses' primary objectives include instruction in the history, tenets, and organization of a religion; development of personal faith and conviction; and exposure to the ways in which daily life may reflect personal religious beliefs. These courses typically include various components particular to a specific religion, such as religious sacraments and symbols, food laws, the authority and structure of the church, the church calendar, and so on.

LITURGY AND PRAYER	Required	11	.5 credit
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Liturgy and Prayer courses vary widely, usually depending upon the underlying religion, but generally seek to inform students about the meaning and message of public and private worship. Course content typically includes an examination or exploration of common rituals, spoken or sung prayers, and observed sacraments.

RELIGIOUS FIGURES	Required	11	.5 credit
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Religious Figures courses offer students the opportunity to examine the lives and messages of one or several people who are central to a religious faith, such as a prophet, apostle, philosopher, or leader. In addition to a historical study of the person (or people), these courses typically emphasize how the teachings of these individuals influence the faith and culture of a religious group.

RELIGIOUS ETHICS	Required	12	.5 credit
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Usually including an introduction to or examination of the tenets of a particular faith, Religious Ethics and Morality courses seek to enable students to apply the moral teachings of a faith to their own lives, to the larger community, and to their decision-making processes. Course content may focus on such issues as peace and justice, death and dying, human sexuality, professional ethics, and human rights.

MINISTRY	Elective	12	.5 credit
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Ministry courses introduce students to the vocation of service. Students may learn counseling skills, plan and participate in religious services, and minister to younger students or to members of the local community (assisting in hospitals and convalescent homes, crisis centers, soup kitchens, and so on).

## English

ENGLISH LITERATURE	Required	9	.5 credit
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English/Literature courses are designed for freshmen and/or sophomores and typically introduce them to two or more genres of literature (novel, short story, poetry, and so on). Exploration of each genre's literary elements; determination of theme and intent; and examination of vocabulary and semantics are often included in the course content. Writing assignments are required as an additional method to improve understanding and comprehension.

ENGLISH COMPOSITION I	Required	9	.5 credit
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Composition courses focus on students' writing skills and develop their ability to compose different types of papers for a range of purposes and audiences. These courses enable students to explore and practice descriptive, narrative, persuasive, or expository styles as they write paragraphs, essays, letters, applications, formal documented papers, or technical reports. Although composition courses may present some opportunities for creative writing, their focus usually remains on nonfiction, scholarly, or formal writing.

SPEECH	Required	10	.5 credit
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Public Speaking courses enable students, through practice, to develop communication skills that can be used in a variety of speaking situations (such as small and large group discussions, delivery of lectures or speeches in front of audiences, and so on). Course topics may include (but are not limited to) research and organization, writing for verbal delivery, stylistic choices, visual and presentation skills, analysis and critique, and development of self-confidence.

WORLD LITERATURE	Required	10	.5 credit
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World Literature courses use representative literature selections from ancient and/or modern times from countries around the world. Students improve their critical-thinking skills as they comprehend the diversity of literary traditions and the influences of those traditions. Oral discussion is an integral part of literature courses, and written compositions are often required.

AMERICAN LITERATURE	Required	11	.5 credit
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American Literature courses focus upon commonly known American authors and their work. Students improve their critical-thinking skills as they determine the underlying assumptions and values within the selected works and as they understand how the literature reflects the society of the time. Oral discussion is an integral part of literature courses, and written compositions are often required.

ENGLISH COMPOSITION III	Required	11	.5 credit
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Composition courses focus on students' writing skills and develop their ability to compose different types of papers for a range of purposes and audiences. These courses enable students to explore and practice descriptive, narrative, persuasive, or expository styles as they write paragraphs, essays, letters, applications, formal documented papers, or technical reports. Although composition courses may present some opportunities for creative writing, their focus usually remains on nonfiction, scholarly, or formal writing.

BRITISH LITERATURE	Required (unless taking Rising Scholars English at DRHS)	12	.5
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British Literature courses may provide a survey of British literature or may focus on a selected timeframe of England's history. Students improve their critical-thinking skills as they determine the underlying assumptions and values within the selected works and as they understand how the literature reflects the society of the time. Oral discussion is an integral part of literature courses, and written compositions are often required.

CREATIVE WRITING	Required (unless taking Rising Scholars English at DRHS)	12	.5 credit
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Creative Writing courses offer students the opportunity to develop and improve their technique and individual style in poetry, short story, drama, essays, and other forms of prose.

The emphasis of the courses is on writing; however, students may study exemplary representations and authors to obtain a fuller appreciation of the form and craft. Although most creative writing classes cover several expressive forms, others concentrate exclusively on one particular form (such as poetry or playwriting).

## Mathematics

ALGEBRA I	Required	9	1.0 credit
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Algebra I courses include the study of properties and operations of the real number system; evaluating rational algebraic expressions; solving and graphing first degree equations and inequalities; translating word problems into equations; operations with and factoring of polynomials; and solving simple quadratic equations.

GEOMETRY	Required	10	1.0 credit
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Geometry courses, emphasizing an abstract, formal approach to the study of geometry, typically include topics such as properties of plane and solid figures; deductive methods of reasoning and use of logic; geometry as an axiomatic system including the study of postulates, theorems, and formal proofs; concepts of congruence, similarity, parallelism, perpendicularity, and proportion; and rules of angle measurement in triangles.

ALGEBRA II	Required	11	1.0 credit
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Algebra II course topics typically include field properties and theorems; set theory; operations with rational and irrational expressions; factoring of rational expressions; in-depth study of linear equations and inequalities; quadratic equations; solving systems of linear and quadratic equations; graphing of constant, linear, and quadratic equations; properties of higher degree equations; and operations with rational and irrational exponents.

TRIGONOMETRY	Elective	11	1.0 credit
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Pre-requisites: Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry

Trigonometry courses prepare students for eventual work in calculus and typically include the following topics: trigonometric and circular functions; their inverses and graphs; relations among the parts of a triangle; trigonometric identities and equations; solutions of right and oblique triangles; and complex numbers.

GENERAL MATH	Elective	11-12	1.0 credit
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*Offered as an alternative math credit class or as credit recovery*

General Math courses reinforce and expand students' foundational math skills, such as arithmetic operations using rational numbers; area, perimeter, and volume of geometric figures, congruence and similarity, angle relationships, the Pythagorean theorem, the rectangular coordinate system, sets and logic, ratio and proportion, estimation, formulas, solving and graphing simple equations and inequalities.

## Science

PHYSICAL SCIENCE	Required	9	1.0 credit
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Physical Science courses involve study of the structures and states of matter. Typically (but not always) offered as introductory survey courses, they may include such topics as forms of energy, wave phenomenon, electromagnetism, and physical and chemical interactions.

BIOLOGY	Required	10	1.0 credit
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Biology courses are designed to provide information regarding the fundamental concepts of life and life processes. These courses include (but are not restricted to) such topics as cell structure and function, general plant and animal physiology, genetics, and taxonomy.

CHEMISTRY	Required	11	1.0 credit
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Chemistry courses involve studying the composition, properties, and reactions of substances. These courses typically explore such concepts as the behaviors of solids, liquids, and gases; acid/base and oxidation/reduction reactions; and atomic structure. Chemical formulas and equations and nuclear reactions are also studied.

ANATOMY	Elective	12	1.0 credit
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Anatomy courses present an in-depth study of human body and biological system. Students study such topics as anatomical terminology, cells, and tissues and typically explore functional systems such as skeletal, muscular, circulatory, respiratory, digestive, reproductive, nervous systems. Anatomy is offered on alternating years

## Social Studies

WORLD GEOGRAPHY	Required	10	.5 credit
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World Geography courses provide students with an overview of world geography, but may vary widely in the topics they cover. Topics typically include the physical environment; the political landscape; the relationship between people and the land; economic production and development; and the movement of people, goods, and ideas.

MODERN WORLD HISTORY	Required	10	.5 credit
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Modern World History courses provide an overview of the history of human society in the past few centuries—from the Renaissance period, or later, to the contemporary period—exploring political, economic, social, religious, military, scientific, and cultural developments.

MODERN US HISTORY	Required	11	1.0 credit
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Modern U.S. History courses examine the history of the United States from the Civil War or Reconstruction era (some courses begin at a later period) through the present time. These courses typically include a historical review of political, military, scientific, and social developments.

GOVERNMENT	Required	12	1.0 credit
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U.S. Government—Comprehensive courses provide an overview of the structure and functions of the U.S. government and political institutions and examine constitutional principles, the concepts of rights and responsibilities, the role of political parties and interest groups, and the importance of civic participation in the democratic process.

These courses may examine the structure and function of state and local governments and may cover certain economic and legal topics.

CONTEMPORARY US ISSUES	Elective	12	.5 credit
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Contemporary U.S. Issues courses study the political, economic, and social issues facing the United States, with or without an emphasis on state and local issues. These courses may focus on current issues or may examine selected issues that span throughout the 20th century to the present.

SOCIOLOGY	Elective	9-12	.5 credit
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Sociology courses introduce students to the study of human behavior in society. These courses provide an overview of sociology, generally including (but not limited to) topics such as social institutions and norms, socialization and social change, and the relationships among individuals and groups in society.

PSYCHOLOGY	Elective	9-12	.5 credit
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Psychology courses introduce students to the study of individual human behavior. Course content typically includes (but is not limited to) an overview of the field of psychology, topics in human growth and development, personality and behavior, and abnormal psychology.

ECONOMICS (CTE Course)	Elective	10-12	.5 credit
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Economics courses provide students with an overview of economics with primary emphasis on the principles of microeconomics and the U.S. economic system. These courses may also cover topics such as principles of macroeconomics, international economics, and comparative economics. Economic principles may be presented in formal theoretical contexts, applied contexts, or both.

## Computers/Technology

FOUNDATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY (CTE Course)	Required	9	1.0 credit
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Topics covered are: word processing software; spreadsheet software; presentation software; database software.

WEB DEVELOPMENT (CTE Course)	Elective	9-12	.5 credit
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Web Development courses teach students how to design websites by introducing them to and refining their knowledge of site planning, page layout, graphic design, and the use of markup languages—such as Extensible Hypertext Markup, JavaScript, Dynamic HTML, Document Object Model, and Cascading Style Sheets—to develop and maintain a web page. These courses may also cover security and privacy issues, copyright infringement, trademarks, and other legal issues relating to the use of the Internet. Advanced topics may include the use of forms and scripts for database access, transfer methods, and networking fundamentals.

ROBOTICS (CTE Course)	Elective	9-12	.5 credit
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Creative Art—Drawing/Painting courses cover the same topics as Creative Art - Comprehensive course, but focuses on drawing and painting. In keeping with this attention on two-dimensional work, students typically work with several media (such as pen-and-ink, pencil, chalk, watercolor, tempera, oils, acrylics, and so on), but some courses may focus on only one medium.

GRAPHIC DESIGN (YEARBOOK)                      Elective                      9-12                      .5 credit

Graphic Design courses emphasize design elements and principles in the purposeful arrangement of images and text to communicate a message. They focus on creating art products such as advertisements, product designs, and identity symbols. Graphic Design courses may investigate the computer's influence on and role in creating contemporary designs and provide a cultural and historical study of master design works of different periods and styles.

JOURNALISM (NEWSPAPER)                      Elective                      9-12                      .5 credit

Journalism courses (typically associated with the production of a school newspaper, yearbook, or literary magazine) emphasize writing style and technique as well as production values and organization. Journalism courses introduce students to the concepts of newsworthiness and press responsibility; develop students' skills in writing and editing stories, headlines, and captions; and teach students the principles of production design, layout, and printing. Photography and photojournalism skills may be included.

## Physical Education

RECREATION EDUCATION                      Required                      9                      .5 credit

Recreation Education courses provide students with knowledge, experience, and opportunity to develop skills by participating in recreational activities in appropriate environments. Examples, but not limited to: croquet, Frisbee, wall climbing, bocce ball, fishing, hiking, biking, etc.

LIFETIME FITNESS                      Elective                      10-12                      .5 credit

These courses emphasize acquiring knowledge and skills of lifetime physical fitness and participating in habit-forming lifetime fitness activities. Content may include nutrition, stress management, consumer issues, etc. Students are encouraged to develop and implement a personal fitness plan.

## World Language

SPANISH I                      Elective                      9-12                      1.0 credit

Designed to introduce students to Spanish language and culture, Spanish I courses emphasize basic grammar and syntax, simple vocabulary, and the spoken accent so that students can read, write, speak, and understand the language at a basic level within predictable areas of need, using customary courtesies and conventions. Spanish culture is introduced through the art, literature, customs, and history of Spanish-speaking people.

SPANISH II	Elective	10-12	1.0 credit
Pre-requisite: Spanish I			

Spanish II courses build upon skills developed in Spanish I, extending students' ability to understand and express themselves in Spanish and increasing their vocabulary. Typically, students learn how to engage in discourse for informative or social purposes, write expressions or passages that show understanding of sentence construction and the rules of grammar, and comprehend the language when spoken slowly.

## Business

PERSONAL FINANCE	Required (or Economics)	9-12	.5 credit
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Topics covered are: factors affecting income; management of personal finances; decision making in regards to spending and credit; savings and investing

ECONOMICS (CTE Course)	Required (or Personal Finance)	9-12	.5 credit
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Economics courses provide students with an overview of economics with primary emphasis on the principles of microeconomics and the U.S. economic system. These courses may also cover topics such as principles of macroeconomics, international economics, and comparative economics. Economic principles may be presented in formal theoretical contexts, applied contexts, or both.

ACCOUNTING I (CTE Course)	Elective	10-12	.5 credit
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Accounting courses introduce students to and expand their knowledge of the fundamental accounting principles and procedures used in businesses through integrating and using accounting-related software and information systems. Course content includes the recording and completion of the accounting cycle, payroll, taxes, debts, depreciation, and periodic adjustments through a computerized accounting program. Students may learn how to apply standard auditing principles and to prepare budgets and final reports. Calculators, electronic spreadsheets, or computer accounting software are usually used. Advanced topics may include principles of partnership and corporate accounting and the managerial uses of control systems and the accounting process.

EMPLOYABILITY/CAREERS	Elective	12	.5 credit
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Employability Skills courses help students match their interests and aptitudes to career options with a focus on using employment information effectively, acquiring and improving job-seeking and interview skills, composing job applications and resumes, and learning the skills needed to remain in and advance within the workplace. Course content may also include consumer education and personal money management topics.

WORK EXPERIENCE (CTE Course)	Elective	11-12	.5 or 1.0 credit
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A work-experience class (WEC) at SMHS is an elective course offered to juniors and seniors upon approval from the administration. It is intended to introduce the student to the experiences of employment while still enrolled in high school. It is not meant as an early release from the school day. The WEC is intended to expand the school into the vocational arena without causing undue financial burden through staffing and curriculum modifications. WEC class can only be taken for 2 credits in high school career. Final grade will be a Pass/Fail. Credit is earned, but grade will not count toward GPA. The student is responsible for finding his/her own job prior to the semester beginning. Work Experience should be unpaid.

## Other Electives

TEACHER'S AIDE	Elective	11-12	.5 credit
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TA classes at SMHS are an elective course offered to junior and senior students upon approval from the administration. It is intended to be an avenue for upper class students to assist in education of other St. Mary Students. TA classes can only be taken for a maximum of 2 credits during the student's high school career. Final grade will be a Pass/Fail. Credit is earned, but grade will not count toward GPA.

DUAL CREDIT	Elective	11-12	1.0 credit
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Dual credit is an opportunity for high school students who meet admissions standards to enroll in public postsecondary institutions in South Dakota and simultaneously earn credits for both their high school diploma and postsecondary degree or certificate. Dual credit courses are offered by the postsecondary institution's faculty members, are governed by the postsecondary institution's policies, and follow the postsecondary institution's established processes for admissions, registration, billing and grade reporting. More information can also be found by visiting [www.SDMYLIFE.com](http://www.SDMYLIFE.com). Students interested in Dual Credit courses must visit the high school principal or counselor.

## DRHS Courses

The availability of DRHS courses varies from year to year. Their schedule for the upcoming year is typically established in May. Students wanting to take courses from DRHS will submit their request to the school counselor. A list of student requests will be sent to DRHS for approval from the DRHS counselor.

ADVANCED CHEMISTRY Pre-requisite: Chemistry	Elective	12	1.0 credit
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Advanced Chemistry covers chemical properties and interactions in more detail. Advanced Chemistry topics include organic chemistry, thermodynamics, electrochemistry, macromolecules, kinetic theory, and nuclear chemistry. Some skills that will be used are critical thinking, clear and logical expression of ideas orally and in writing, and problem solving. If not, teacher permission is required. \*May be taken as dual credit through South Dakota School of Mines (Chem 112 and Chem 114)

PHYSICS Pre-requisites: Physical Science, Algebra II	Elective	11-12	1.0 credit
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Physics involves the study of the forces and laws of nature affecting matter, such as equilibrium, motion, momentum, and the relationships between matter and energy. The study of physics includes examination of sound, light, and magnetic and electric phenomena. Physics includes the study of physical mechanics, light, sound, electricity, and some nuclear physics.

ZOOLOGY Elective 10-12 1.0 credit

Pre-requisites: Physical Science, Biology

Zoology provides students with an understanding of animals, the niche they occupy in their environment or habitat, their life cycles, and their evolutionary relationships to other organisms. This course should also help students develop an awareness and understanding of biotic communities.

FORENSICS Elective 10-12 1.0 credit

Pre-requisites: Physical Science, Biology

Forensic Laboratory Science courses involve the application of biological, chemical, and physical science principles to data and physical evidence related to evidence collection and analysis. The course focus on the application of scientific knowledge and scientific principles to collect, preserve, and analyze evidence in a laboratory setting. Topics may include but are not limited to entomology, forensic anthropology, serology, and fingerprinting.

INTRO TO DRAFTING AND DESIGN Elective 9-12 .5 credit  
(CTE Course)

People with careers in design and pre-construction create our future. They turn a concept into a set of plans whether it's a component, a system, or a building. Their plans guide other construction or manufacturing professionals as they continue the building process. This course will expose students to the American Design Drafting Association Apprentice standards in both mechanical and architectural drafting.

COMPUTER ASSISTED DRAFTING Elective 9-12 .5 credit  
(CTE Course)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Drafting and Design (Unless instructor permission is granted)

Topics covered: cad basic operations; illustrate layers; create blocks and attributes; 3D drawings; orthographic projections; drawing and plotting drawings to scale

CABINETRY Elective 9-12 .5 credit  
(CTE Course)

Cabinetry provides instruction and information concerning hand-power tool and shop safety. Each student will become proficient in wood identification, project design, project cost estimation, and project assembly. The course gives students the basic concepts of woodworking techniques and know-how to safely run woodworking equipment.

ADVANCED CABINETRY Elective 10-12 .5 credit  
(CTE Course)

Prerequisite: Cabinetry

Students further their woodworking skills and build more advance woodworking projects. Topics covered are safety, equipment, fasteners, design assembly, blueprints, wood joints and applications. Students must be serious about building their projects and spending quality time in the shop.

INTRODUCTION TO BUILDING TRADES      Elective      9-12      .5 credit  
(CTE Course)  
Prerequisites: Intro to Drafting and Design & Cabinetry

Topics covered: industry safety procedures, hand-power-pneumatic tools, blueprint reading and survey techniques, construction project, plumbing applications, electrical wiring applications, concrete construction applications, and drafting design concepts. This course makes students aware of different types of construction and focusing on framing construction. Students will be involved in designing, estimating, and building a utility shed.

INTRODUCTION TO TECHNOLOGY      Elective      9-12      .5 credit  
EDUCATION  
(CTE Course)

This course is a hands-on class which reflects current technologies. Students design and improve technology through problem-solving activities. Technologies to be explored: the nature of technology, technology and society, the design process, energy and power, transportation, manufacturing and construction, and communications. Some of the activities include CO2 racecars, basswood bridge building, laser engraving, and silk-screening t-shirts.

INTRODUCTION TO AG, FOOD, AND      Elective      9-10      1.0 credit  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
(CTE Course)

Students will develop an understanding of the role of FFA in Agriculture Education Programs; define and discuss the concepts of Natural Resources; demonstrate an understanding of Animal Science Systems; demonstrate an understanding of plant structure and function; relate basic economic principles to production agriculture and agribusiness management; summarize basic food science technology principles; summarize basic principles involved in agricultural systems technology. A small wood project will be designed and constructed by each student. Each student will be responsible to provide their own material to construct their project.

FUNDAMENTALS OF ANIMAL SCIENCE      Elective      9-12      .5 credit  
(CTE Course)  
Prerequisite: Intro to Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources

Students will apply knowledge of anatomy and physiology to produce and/or manage animals in a domesticated or natural environment, recognize animal behavior to facilitate working with animals safely, provide proper nutrition to maintain animal performance, know the factors that influence an animal's reproductive cycle, and identify environmental factors that affect an animal's performance.

AG PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY      Elective      9-12      .5 credit  
(CTE Course)



