

The Mount

A C A D E M Y

Course Descriptions

2024—2025

Program of Studies

Mount Academy's program of studies gives students a solid backing in the most important areas of knowledge, and meets the New York State Department of Education diploma requirements. Students are encouraged to explore and develop other valuable skills through a wide selection of electives and extracurricular activities. Course availability may change year to year.

Graduation Requirements

All students interested in earning a high school diploma are required to complete a minimum of 23 credits or their equivalent. Such units of credit shall include:

- English Language Arts – 4 credits
- Social Studies – 4 credits including:
 - 1 credit of US History
 - ½ credit of Participation in Government
 - ½ credit of Economics
- Mathematics – 3 credits; minimum completion Algebra 2
- Science – 3 credits; including at least:
 - 1 credit in life science
 - 1 credit in physical science
 - 1 other credit in either life or physical science
- Health – ½ credit
- Art – 1 credit including Dance, Music, or Visual Arts
- World Languages – 2 credits
- Physical Education – 2 credits over 4 years (full year = ½ credit)
- Electives – 3 ½ credits
- Instruction in CPR and AED as required by New York State Education Law 100.2 (c)(11)

Course Descriptions

English

ENGLISH 9

GRADE: 9

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year, required

This course is the foundation year of a three-year literature-based writing course. Frequent writing assignments help students to develop planning and composing skills. Students are exposed to a variety of literature with the goal of improving their writing as well as deepening their understanding of humanity. Grammar, vocabulary, and spelling are addressed early and refined throughout the year.

ENGLISH 10

GRADE: 10

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year, required

This course relies on the application of writing and grammar skills learned in English 9 but focuses more on reading, writing about, and discussing literature. Students will read short stories, poetry, and novels, writing frequently on that literature in order to encourage and develop clear and critical thinking and communication.

ENGLISH 11

GRADE: 11

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year, required

This course continues to develop the skills taught in English 9 and 10 through increased quantity and depth of work. It features a survey of American Literature that stresses literary and cultural themes with the goal of improving students' writing as well as deepening their understanding of humanity. Students may earn 6 college credits with approval from the teacher.

ENGLISH 12

GRADE: 12

CREDIT: ½ or 1

COURSE: 1 semester or full year

This course builds on previously learned skills while presenting a survey of European literature. Through a representative reading from each of the major historical periods, the course offers an introduction to the cultural developments that shaped Western Civilization from antiquity to the twentieth century. Throughout the course, students will hone their communication skills through daily practice in the art of discussion, debate, public speaking, and writing.

JOURNALISM I

GRADE: 11, 12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester, elective

In this course students will learn the principles of news gathering, reporting, feature writing, opinion writing, photojournalism, and broadcast journalism through a series of engaging activities and practical assignments. Topics covered will include interviewing techniques, identifying credible sources, investigating stories, editing, and presenting news articles. Students will have the opportunity to track local news, research and write stories, report on current events, and conduct interviews. Building on the skills learned in this course, students can choose to apply their knowledge by writing and producing the school magazine, “Paramount,” in Journalism II.

JOURNALISM II

GRADE: 11, 12

CREDIT: ½

PREREQUISITE: Journalism I, elective

COURSE: 1 semester

This is an advanced course that builds on the skills and knowledge gained in Journalism I. Students will focus on writing and producing the school newspaper, which will serve as a platform for students to showcase their journalistic skills and engage with the wider school community. The class will cover the production process of a newspaper, from researching and developing stories to editing and designing the final product, including photography and layout skills. Students will work collaboratively to generate ideas, assign stories, and produce content for the paper. The class will also focus on ethical considerations in journalism, including fact-checking, source verification, and the importance of accurate reporting.

ADVANCED WRITING WORKSHOP

GRADE: 12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester, elective

This course is for those students already secure in writing capabilities. Students will be exposed to previously unexplored genres. This is an intensive course, consisting of daily writing, sharing, and editing. Workshops and writing clinics are held, led by people from the greater community and from local colleges who write or teach writing for a living. At the conclusion of the class a summary of work is published as the Riptide Magazine.

GREAT BOOKS

GRADE: 9, 10, 11, 12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester, elective

In these courses students read and discuss the works of Homer, Plato, Dante, Augustine, Shakespeare, Dostoyevsky, and other writers whose works open an inquiry into the nature of reality and human experience. Students must be prepared to read extensively at home and to participate actively in class discussion. The course is divided into eight single-semester, half-credit units to be taken over four years. Students may take all eight units or fewer according to their interest.

Social Studies

GLOBAL HISTORY I

GRADE: 9

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year, required

This course is a lecture-based survey of world history from the first civilizations to the sixteenth century. Emphasis is placed on understanding the development and decline of civilizations and empires, and identifying the key ideas, dates, figures, and events of these centuries. The study of relevant physical world geography accompanies each unit.

GLOBAL HISTORY II

GRADE: 10

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year, required

This course continues the survey of world history begun in Global I. This lecture-based class begins with the age of exploration, continues through the Enlightenment, the Industrial Revolution, the two World Wars, and ends with the age of global interdependence. Emphasis is placed on identifying the key ideas, dates, figures, and events of these periods, as well as developments in the fine arts.

US HISTORY

GRADE: 11

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year, required

This course covers the history of the United States from 1492 to the present. It includes special units on early government, social and religious reforms, faith and social justice issues, labor reforms, economic development, US foreign involvement, and current topics. This course will focus heavily on reading and note-taking as well as perfecting the research process. Emphasis will be placed on identifying and forming specific viewpoints about both historical and current topics. Current events will also be covered throughout the year. Students may earn 6 college credits with approval from the teacher.

PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT

GRADE: 12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester, required

This course is an introduction to civic life, politics, and government in the United States. Students will learn about the ideals behind our government, as well as the electoral processes and the legislative, judicial, and executive branches that exist in our national, state, and local governments.

FIRST AMENDMENT

GRADE: 12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester, elective

This course is an overview of the major issues around the First Amendment, focusing on free speech and associated rights, but also covering the religion clauses. The course features guided classroom discussion of primary case texts and explores contemporary First Amendment controversies as well as the historical contexts of key cases. Potential discussion topics include: How much can a school control students' speech? Is political spending speech? How do we balance individual free exercise rights with competing state interests in a pluralistic society? Students will be given reading and writing assignments, and will be expected to be prepared to discuss each assignment in the following class. The course is intentionally flexible so that serious, committed students can handle the workload without being overburdened in their last semester. In preparation for life after the Mount Academy and using the same interactive dialogue-based method of inquiry applied throughout the course, students will also read and discuss the book *Life Worth Living* by Miroslav Volf. If you enjoy, or want to get better at, active dialogue and debate of interesting topics on which reasonable people of good will can disagree, this course is for you. This course can fulfill the Participation in Government requirement.

ECONOMICS

GRADE: 12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester, required

This course will give students a greater understanding of economics ranging from the viewpoint of the individual consumer or small business owner to the global economy. The course will study the law of supply and demand, forms of business, labor unions, government finances and influence on the economy, money and prices, inflation, and deflation cycles. The course relates history and politics to the study of economics.

PRINCIPLES OF BUSINESS

GRADE: 12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester, elective

This course covers all the functional areas of running a business, including product design, manufacturing, logistics, sales, marketing, accounting, quality assurance, regulatory affairs, purchasing, pricing, and customer service. Rifton Equipment and Community Playthings will serve as primary models, but other businesses will be discussed, using the case study methodology. The learning experience will include field trips and guest speakers. This course can fulfill the Economics requirement.

MILITARY HISTORY, THE REALITIES OF WAR, AND THE WAY OF PEACE

GRADE: 12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester, elective

This course aims to explore the nature and art of armed conflict through various lenses. Students will analyze the growth of western civilization, military theory, ancient, medieval, and early modern warfare, the military revolution, technological evolution, and industrialized modern warfare. By

examining the various military engagements throughout history, students can acquire a new and unique viewpoint of the root causes of war discerning the ways in which it has affected our modern world. Indeed, understanding the causes and consequences of war is crucial to how integral it is that we strive for conscientiousness and peace in our world today. Fundamentally, the elective aims to "study the past, engage in the present and impact the future" thereby developing the next generation of young leaders and academics who are proficient communicators and problem solvers for their respective families, communities, states, and nation.

Mathematics

ALGEBRA 1

GRADE: 9

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year, required

This course is taught following the philosophy and methodology of John H. Saxon. Math topics are integrated and incrementally developed. The class relies on extensive problem-solving practice with built-in review; and testing occurs at regular intervals. This course does not require the use of calculators. Algebra 1 may be taken over two years as Algebra 1A and 1B.

ALGEBRA 2

GRADE: 10, 11

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year, required

This course follows Algebra 1, and includes embedded geometry instruction, trigonometry concepts, and practice with statistics. Real-world problems and applications for other subjects like physics and chemistry are also included. This course features extensive problem-solving practice, with built-in review, and cumulative testing at regular intervals. Calculator use is required. This course will be followed in 11th grade by either Geometry and Pre-Calculus (entire Advanced Math book) or Geometry and Advanced Algebra (half Advanced Math book, slower pace).

ALGEBRA 2A

GRADE: 10, 11

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year

This course covers the first half of Algebra 2, giving students extra time and practice in order to master concepts of algebra. The class relies on extensive problem-solving practice, with built-in review; testing occurs at regular intervals. Emphasis will be on thorough comprehension of algebraic concepts. This course will be followed by Algebra 2B in 11th grade.

ALGEBRA 2B

GRADE: 11, 12

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year

This course covers the second half of Algebra 2, giving students extra time to master concepts of algebra.

GEOMETRY & PRE-CALCULUS

GRADE: 11

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year

This course follows Algebra 2 in the Saxon sequence for 11th grade students secure in their algebra capabilities, and covers the entire Saxon Advanced Mathematics book. It involves in-depth coverage of trigonometry, logarithms, and Euclidean geometry to prepare for students to take Calculus in their senior year. Students may earn four college credits with approval from the teacher.

GEOMETRY & ADVANCED ALGEBRA

GRADE: 11,12

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year

This course follows Algebra 2 in the Saxon sequence for students not intending to take Calculus in their senior year. Students will cover the first half of the Saxon Advanced mathematics book, involving in-depth coverage of trigonometry, logarithms, Euclidean geometry, and upper-level algebra. 11th grade students may elect to complete the book in Trigonometry & Pre-calculus in their senior year.

TRIGONOMETRY & PRE-CALCULUS

GRADE: 12

CREDIT: 1

PREREQUISITE: Geometry & Advanced Algebra

COURSE: Full year

This course continues in the Saxon methodology of integrated math topics, incrementally developed. Students will complete the Advanced Mathematics book they began in 11th grade Geometry & Advanced Algebra. Students may earn four college credits with approval from the teacher.

CALCULUS

GRADE: 12

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year

This course is available for students who achieved 85% or better in the Geometry and Pre-calculus course in 11th grade. A review of Pre-calculus, and an exploration of limits, derivatives, and differentiation will progress to the use of basic Calculus in real life applications. Students may earn four college credits with approval from the teacher.

STATISTICS

GRADE: 12

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year

This course covers the organization of data, central tendency and dispersion probability, binomial and normal distribution, hypothesis testing, correlation, regression, and the Chi-square distribution. Students may earn three college credits with approval from the teacher.

Math Scope and Sequence

Students will choose one math course per year. The most challenging courses are at the top of the chart and the easiest are at the bottom. All students will complete Algebra 2 as a minimum graduation requirement. Taking a math in 12th grade is not required but is strongly recommended. Staff will approve math placements to ensure that all students are in the appropriate course.

Grade 9 Required	Grade 10 Required	Grade 11 Required	Grade 12 Optional
Algebra 1	Algebra 2	Geometry and Precalculus (lessons 1-100 in Saxon Adv Math)	Calculus Or Statistics
		Geometry and Advanced Algebra (lessons 1-70 in Saxon Adv Math)	Trigonometry and Pre-Calculus (lessons 60-125 in Saxon Adv Math) Or Statistics
Algebra 1	Algebra 2A	Algebra 2B	Geometry and Advanced Algebra
Algebra 1A	Algebra 1B	Algebra 2A	Algebra 2B

COMPUTER SCIENCE

GRADE: 11,12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester

This course explores the foundations of computer science and basic programming in JavaScript, with an emphasis on helping students develop logical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Science

EARTH SCIENCE

GRADE: 9

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year, required

This course covers the four major units of Earth Science: geology, astronomy, meteorology, and oceanography. The teaching approach is hands-on and class activities such as stargazing, rock and mineral collecting, and weather observations are an essential part of the course. Thirty hours of lab work supplement the academic component of the course.

BIOLOGY

GRADE: 10

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year, required

This course covers the standard biology topics such as cells, life processes, biochemistry, and genetics. Taxonomic and ecological concepts are emphasized through classroom and field study of microbiology, botany and zoology. The final term is devoted to the study of human anatomy and physiology. Thirty hours of lab work supplement the academic component of the course.

CHEMISTRY / ADVANCED CHEMISTRY

GRADE: 11, REQUIRED

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year, required

This course is the standard introduction to chemistry covering inorganic and organic chemistry with an emphasis on real life application and relevance. Classroom lectures are aided by frequent demonstrations and thirty hours of labs. The Advanced Chemistry option will require a higher level of mastery for each content area and will place greater emphasis on math-based problem-solving. Placement will be approved by staff.

PHYSICS / ADVANCED PHYSICS

GRADE: 12

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year

This course on conceptual physics includes instruction in mechanics, Newton's laws, thermodynamics, motion, energy, relativity, waves, electricity, and magnetism. Thirty hours of lab activities will enhance and illustrate classroom instruction. The Advanced Physics option will move at the same pace but requires higher math skills, and will test to a higher level of mastery. Placement will be approved by staff.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

GRADE: 11,12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester, elective

This course covers a broad scope of topics including ecology, ecosystems and the biosphere, soil biology and the soil food web, soil physical and chemical properties, hydrology, basic microbiology, mycology, entomology, and botany. Students will learn how systems and cycles of the natural world are interconnected, how human interaction affects them, and how we can protect the environment from changing trends in human population.

AGRISCIENCE

GRADE: 11, 12

CREDIT: ½

PREREQUISITE: Environmental Science

COURSE: 1 semester, elective

This course builds upon the Environmental Science course and includes topics such as turf grass management, mixed vegetable production, forage and hay crops, ornamentals, animal husbandry, dairy production, pastured poultry, grass-fed beef, and composting. Students will apply their knowledge by analyzing soil reports and providing recommendations in areas such as plant nutrition management and nutrient balancing, integrated pest management, and making biological compost extract from vermicompost. The teaching approach is hands-on; class activities such as soils analysis, plant identification, and field observations are an essential part of the course.

METEOROLOGY

GRADE: 11, 12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester, elective

This course provides an introduction to weather and how it relates to human activities and influences our daily lives. This course provides a first look at various aspects of meteorology including solar radiation, global circulation, environmental issues, winds, cloud formation, stability, precipitation processes, weather systems, and severe weather.

HEALTH AND HUMAN BIOLOGY

GRADE: 12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester, required

This class covers a wide variety of subjects will be covered, from anatomy, physiology, and disease processes to mental illness and substance abuse. In addition, ethical dilemmas such as biotechnology, euthanasia, and abortion will be presented in order to allow students to become familiar with controversial issues of our time.

Essential Life Skills

FRESHMAN SEMINAR

GRADE: 9

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester, required

In this course students discuss important topics of both personal and public concern. Through reading, interacting with guest speakers, and class discussions, students will obtain a broader awareness of current issues. This course seeks to develop students' respect and understanding for perspectives contrary to their own.

KEYBOARDING AND COMPUTER LITERACY

GRADE: 9

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester, required

In this course students learn touch-typing, proceeding at their own pace through a set of lessons and exercises. Progress is monitored periodically with timed exercises. Students are also introduced to Microsoft Word and Excel.

INFORMATION LITERACY

GRADE: 10

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester, required

In this course students learn the skills and concepts required to locate, evaluate, and use digital information effectively and ethically for their academic studies, and for other areas of their personal lives such as health management, financial decision-making, politics, and relationships. Hands-on applications will develop competency, critical thinking skills, and awareness of the issues of the digital age.

World Languages

GERMAN I

GRADE: 9

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year

German I is an introductory course in which students learn to communicate on a basic level in German. Equal emphasis is put on reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Progression of

grammar is gradual; particular emphasis is put on good pronunciation. Students learn through a variety of activities, including partner work, group activities, and extensive reinforcement through written exercises.

GERMAN II

GRADE: 10

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year

This course builds on the skills and vocabulary acquired in German I. Grammar and correct pronunciation are emphasized as students continue to develop skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking the German language.

GERMAN III

GRADE: 11

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year

In this course students continue to expand and build upon the skills acquired in German II, with particular focus on vocabulary development and deepening of the grammatical structures.

GERMAN IV

GRADE: 12

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year

This rigorous full year course will continue the study of the German language and will focus on conversation, communication, and culture. Some grammar, reading, and writing will be included. At the end of the 4th year of language, the class may plan a field trip which involves the use of their German-speaking abilities.

SPANISH I

GRADE: 9

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year

Spanish I is an introductory course in which students learn to communicate on a basic level in Spanish. Equal emphasis is put on reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Progression of grammar is gradual; particular emphasis is put on good pronunciation. Students learn through a variety of activities, including partner work, group activities, and extensive reinforcement through written exercises.

SPANISH II

GRADE: 10

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year

This course builds on the skills and vocabulary acquired in Spanish I. Grammar and correct pronunciation are emphasized as students continue to develop skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking the Spanish language.

SPANISH III

GRADE: 11

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year

In this course students continue to expand and build upon the skills acquired in Spanish II, with particular focus on vocabulary development and deepening of the grammatical structures. Study of the history, geography and culture of Spanish-speaking countries is continued.

SPANISH IV

GRADE: 12

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year

This full year course will continue the study of the Spanish language and will focus on conversation, communication, and culture. Some grammar, reading, and writing will be included. At the end of the 4th year of language, the class may plan a field trip which involves the use of their Spanish-speaking abilities as an incentive to further exploration of Spanish studies.

Physical Education

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

GRADE: 9, 10, 11, 12

CREDIT: ½ per year over 4 years

COURSE: Full year, required

Physical Education is mandated by New York state and is a requirement for a Mount Academy diploma. Physical Education classes provide students with an opportunity to exercise, push their physical limits, and maintain fitness through a varying program of structured games and activities. Physical Education is also important in developing many aspects of a strong character: self-control, teamwork, initiative, and sportsmanship.

Media Arts

LAYOUT AND DESIGN

GRADE: 11,12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester, elective

This course introduces students to the principles of page layout, as well as the principles and elements of design. Students will practice brainstorming, self-evaluation, and time management. This course explores the application of design in a wide variety of fields, including product design, architecture, sign design, advertising, marketing, and graphic design.

GRAPHICS LAB

GRADE: 11,12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester, elective

In this course learn to use the Adobe CC suite of programs: InDesign, Photoshop, and Illustrator. Sample projects and lessons are designed to familiarize students with the programs and help them gain technical proficiency, and the skills acquired will be used to fulfill the graphic design requests of Mount Academy. Real life projects will include book covers, invitations, programs, and the yearbook.

VIDEOGRAPHY

GRADE: 11,12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester, elective

This course is open to a small number of students who are serious about learning to record Academy events and stream school assemblies and sports events. They will learn how to create raw footage and how to edit and develop the final product.

Vocational

CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY

GRADE: 11,12

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: 1 semester, double period

This course covers construction principles, materials, and methods. The course involves lectures, guest speakers, field trips and lab time. Interaction with other students and teams, a focused approach to understanding concepts, hard work, and a mature attitude are essential. One goal of the class is to build a Habitat for Humanity house from scratch, providing students with opportunities to learn about residential electric, plumbing, and heating/ventilation skills.

WELDING 1

GRADE: 10, 11,12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester, double period, or 1 semester afterschool

In this course students will learn to weld starting with SMAW (Shielded Metal Arc Welding), and progressing on to GTAW (Gas Metal Tungsten Arc Welding) and GMAW (Gas Metal Arch Welding). Students are trained in safe metal working practices and learn to use cutting, grinding, and drilling equipment, as well as hand-held plasma torch cutting. Course hours are split between the classroom and welding shop. Upon successful completion of all requirements, students will receive a Mount Academy Welding Certificate. This class is also offered in the afterschool club time.

WELDING 2

GRADE: 11,12

CREDIT: ½

PREREQUISITE: Welding 1

COURSE: 1 semester, double period, or 1 semester afterschool

In this course students will expand their knowledge of welding and metallurgy. Students will learn to read work orders, blueprints, and weld symbols; basic layout, drafting, design, and budgeting of welded projects; instruction in safe operation of sheet metal fabrication machinery and welding assembly methods. Safe use and practice of oxy-fuel welding and cutting will be taught. Students need to pass the AWS 3G SMAW Welded plate test to receive course credit and certification. This class is also offered in the afterschool club time.

SKILLS USA WELDING

GRADE:11,12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester, double period

This is a spring semester course for students selected to participate in the Skills USA Welding competitions. Focus will be on advanced welding theory and welding training specific to the Skills USA Regional, State and National competitions. The following categories are available: Welding Fabrication (team of 3), Individual Welding (1 student), Welding Sculpture (1 student). Student selection for Skills USA is at the discretion of the Mount Academy Principal and the Welding Instructor.

METAL FABRICATION

GRADE:11,12

CREDIT: ½

PREREQUISITES: Welding 1 and Technical Drawing

COURSE: 1 semester, double period

In this course students will learn all aspects of Metal Fabrication using stainless steel, aluminum and mild steel to fabricate projects such as railings, barbeque grills, fire pits, kitchen shelves, tables as well as structural steel plates and posts. The focus will be on project design, drawing, material selection and implementation. Students will learn safe operation of sheet metal machinery such as a hydraulic shear and press brake.

MACHINING

GRADE: 11,12

CREDIT: ½

PREREQUISITES: Technical Drawing

COURSE: 1 semester, double period, or 1 semester afterschool

In this course students will receive training in precision machine operation and setup, measuring, safety, and blueprint reading. Shop resources allow students to gain proficiency in milling, turning, metrology, blueprints, metal characteristics, and calculating feeds and speeds. This class is also offered in the afterschool club time.

TECHNICAL DRAWING 1

GRADE: 11,12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester

In the first half of this course students will learn the fundamentals of technical drafting. They will be introduced to the drafting tools, supplies, and techniques utilized by engineers and architects. Students will learn how to scale a drawing, and practice drafting using different types of paraline and axonometric drawings. In the second half of the course students will progress from hand drawing to Onshape computer software. They will learn the functions and tools of the program, gain practice with each tool, and draw three dimensional models of parts. This training will give the students knowledge that is widely used in the machining industry. This class can be used cross-curriculum with other classes and after-school activities such as Welding, Machining, and Robotics.

CULINARY ARTS

GRADE: 10,11,12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester, double period, or 1 semester afterschool

In this course students will be introduced to a wide range of skills in baking, cooking, and food service. Students learn to read recipes, prepare and use specific ingredients, manage their time well, minimize waste and mess, and serve a variety of foods and dishes. Safety, hygiene, correct technique and presentation are emphasized. May include the opportunity to participate in SkillsUSA. This class is also offered in the afterschool club time.

Arts & Music

CHOIR

GRADE: 9, 10, 11, 12

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year

Choir fosters vocal development, both as an individual and as an ensemble. Students will learn about music, its development, construction, and expression. Choir also provides a place of belonging, a sense of unity, and a source of fellowship for students. Students may participate in NYSSMA – see the end of this booklet.

ORCHESTRA

GRADE: 9, 10, 11, 12

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year

This large ensemble consists of string instruments including violin, viola, cello, and stringed bass. Harp, brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments will be introduced depending on repertoire chosen and through teacher recommendation. Orchestra students will rehearse and perform repertoire from Baroque to contemporary and popular works. The goal of Orchestra is to keep students engaged in learning and continuing on in music, while developing a strong understanding of their instrument. Students may participate in NYSSMA – see the end of this booklet.

CONCERT BAND

GRADE: 9, 10, 11, 12

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year

This large ensemble consists of brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments. This ensemble will rehearse and perform a diverse repertoire consisting of traditional band literature such as pep band music to contemporary and popular works. The goal of Concert Band is to keep students engaged in learning and continuing on in music, while developing a strong understanding of their instrument. Students may participate in NYSSMA – see the end of this booklet.

GENERAL MUSIC

GRADE: 9, 10, 11, 12

CREDIT: 1

COURSE: Full year

This performance-based techniques class offers introductory experience in, and opportunity for development and improvement of fundamental skills in music through guitar. Topics include basic guitar playing technique, tuning, instrument care, and basic maintenance, learning note names on the guitar fretboard and how to find them, reading music notes, rests, music symbols, and guitar tablature from the printed page, reading melodies, chords, and scales, identifying different music forms, structures, and styles, basic strumming and picking patterns/techniques, performing a mixture of different song styles (including traditional, pop, rock, folk, and blues) as a soloist, with a partner, and as a group.

WIND ENSEMBLE

GRADE: 9, 10, 11, 12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: Full year

This advanced ensemble is audition-based and includes brass and woodwind instruments. Wind Ensemble studies and performs a wide variety of music ranging from traditional repertoire to more recent and commissioned compositions. Students are exposed to various compositional techniques and rehearsal processes in order to challenge students to further develop their musicianship. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in NYSSMA – see the end of this booklet.

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

GRADE: 9, 10, 11, 12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: Full year

This advanced ensemble is audition-based, and includes violin, viola, cello, and stringed bass. Chamber Orchestra focuses on Baroque to contemporary string works with thorough study and performance. Students are exposed to various compositional techniques and rehearsal processes in order to challenge students to further develop their musicianship. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in NYSSMA – see the end of this booklet.

CHAMBER CHOIR

GRADE: 9, 10, 11, 12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: Full year

This advanced ensemble is audition-based and will focus on varied styles of vocal literature utilizing traditional SATB, acapella, and more. Through rehearsal and performance, Chamber Choir focuses on developing choral music performance and ear training skills. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in NYSSMA – see the end of this booklet.

MUSIC THEORY

GRADE: 9, 10, 11, 12

CREDIT: ½

PREREQUISITE: Participation in an ensemble, or some musical knowledge

COURSE: Full year

This course is designed to enhance music skills and basic music fundamentals. The essential aspects of melody, harmony, rhythm, and form are studied. Students will study basic notation, scales, key signatures, intervals, triads, cadences, non-chord tones, form, part-writing, and analysis of a score. Aural dictation and ear training are also an integral part of the course. Individual creativity is nurtured through both rhythmic and melodic composition. This course is highly recommended for students in a musical ensemble.

INTRODUCTION TO DANCE

GRADE: 9, 10,

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester

In this course students will be introduced to variety of traditional folkdances. As well as practicing and perfecting the dance steps and formations, they will learn about the cultural background, meaning, and significance of each dance.

THEATER ARTS I

GRADE: 9, 10, 11, 12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester

Theatre Arts I is both a study in the art of theatre and an opportunity to make it. Students will study Theatre History, spanning from the amphitheaters of Ancient Greece to the Broadway stages of today. Performance projects will involve acting, playwriting, set and costume design, and lighting and sound technologies.

THEATER ARTS II

GRADE: 9, 10, 11, 12

CREDIT: ½

PREREQUISITE: Theater Arts I

COURSE: 1 semester

Theatre Arts II is the practical application of the material learned in Theatre Arts I. Class time will be used to design, rehearse, and build a production. Students may take this section of Theatre Arts as many times as they would like, as it will be different every year. This production will serve as the school drama production for the year.

INTRODUCTION TO STUDIO ART

GRADE: 9, 10, 11, 12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester

Students will explore the elements and principles of art through a variety of skills and media including drawing, painting, color theory, and three-dimensional design. Students will keep a sketchbook journal and student artwork will be displayed.

DRAWING AND PAINTING 1

GRADE: 10, 11, 12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester

Students will continue to master the techniques and methods of creating art using a variety of media. Through focusing on a variety of genres of art such as landscape art, still life, and portraiture, students will continue to develop their skills as creators and critics of art.

DRAWING AND PAINTING 2

GRADE: 10, 11, 12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester

Students will develop their personal style and voice while continuing to achieve mastery of techniques. A focus on art as a tool of expression and communication will guide this course.

DRAWING AND PAINTING 3

GRADE: 11, 12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester

Students will have the opportunity to further develop their personal style and artistic voice through an inquiry-based approach. Through questioning, research, critique, and revision students will conduct an in-depth self-guided study. Topics for study will be suggested by the student and approved by the teacher. Students will practice the skills of communication and presentation as they prepare a portfolio of their work.

SENIOR ART PORTFOLIO

GRADE: 12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester

Senior Art Portfolio continues in the inquiry-based approach practiced in Drawing and Painting 3. Students will work closely with the instructor to create a portfolio that showcases a wide range of styles and genres. Topics for study will be suggested by the student and approved by the teacher. Students will practice the skills of communication and presentation as they prepare a portfolio of their work.

ART HISTORY

GRADE: 11, 12

CREDIT: ½

COURSE: 1 semester

Students will examine major works of art, from the ancient world to present day, and learn the history and styles of key movements in art, in order to better appreciate them.

Co-Curricular Activities (after school)

GRAPHICS CLUB

Graphics Club is offered in the afternoons. Students use programs such as InDesign, Photoshop, and Illustrator to fulfill the graphic design requests of Mount Academy. Real life projects may include book covers, invitations, programs, magazines, and the yearbook.

SEWING CLUB

In this creative and productive afternoon club students will be introduced to a wide range of skills, including sewing machine proficiency, standard tailoring skills and techniques, and hand needlecraft on student request.

CULINARY CLUB

In this afterschool club students will refine a wide range of skills in baking, cooking, and food service. Students will learn to read recipes, prepare and use specific ingredients, manage their time well, minimize waste and mess, and serve a variety of foods and dishes. Safety, hygiene, correct technique, and presentation are emphasized.

WOODWORKING CLUB

Meeting all four quarters of the year, the Woodworking Club enables students with an interest in manual crafts to learn basic skills of carpentry and other creative projects done with wood. Instruction is given in the use of hand tools, the study of wood types and their applications, as well as planning, drafting, and techniques of wood finishing.

STUDIO ART CLUB

The Studio Art Club meets after school. Students will learn techniques of drawing and painting, completing several finished pieces using a variety of media and styles.

OUTDOOR CONSTRUCTION

This after school club is available both semesters and gives students the opportunity to build outdoor structures such as lean-tos, gazebos, and pavilions using traditional construction methods instead of relying on modern fasteners and power tools. Students may find themselves making and using hand tools such as slicks and froes, as well as more familiar hand drills and crosscut saws. Post-and-beam construction is one of the specialties of this club. Building projects vary from year to year.

AG CLUB

This club teaches life skills like responsibility, problem solving and discipline through the care of animals, campus grounds, crops, and equipment operation. Students also have the opportunity to pursue topics of interest through the FFA's (Future Farmer's of America) Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE). This can take the form of a research project, personal project, employment, or business. These SAEs cover a wide spectrum of agricultural topics from food production to consumer satisfaction or livestock raising to therapeutic riding or floriculture to turfgrass care. As an FFA chapter the students have opportunities to test their skills and knowledge by competing at regional, state, and national levels.

ENVIROTHON

Envirothon participants study soils and land use, wildlife, forestry, aquatic ecology, and current environmental issues. Hands-on outdoor activities such as forest inventories, soil evaluations,

stream quality ratings, and identification of wildlife are a critical part of the competition, as is teamwork and public speaking, in preparation for the oral presentation component. Regional, State and National tournaments are held in the spring and summer.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

The Science Olympiad team members practice for several events, with choices such as traditional sciences, building events, forensics, ornithology, electronics, the study of diseases, water quality, and more. Teams compete at regional and state levels, with individual and team medals and trophies presented at all levels of competition. Science Olympiad tournaments always occur on Saturdays.

MOCK TRIAL

The Mock Trial team runs from January through May. Competitions are enactments of a simulated civil or criminal trial. Team members work to prepare both sides of the legal case, hone their presentation as witnesses and attorneys, and develop skills to counter the opposing teams' strategies. Students work to improve their mental and verbal dexterity and learn the essentials of appropriate body language, tone, and inter-personal skills necessary for effective advocacy and communication. Participation is a privilege not a right: students who make the team in one year are not guaranteed to continue year to year.

ROBOTICS

Robotics Club runs during the second and third quarters. Club members build, program, and operate homemade robots which they use in local and statewide competitions. Students work in teams and are judged based on the accuracy and consistency of robot function and the quality of teamwork. Places in this club are limited.

BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY

Boys' Cross Country competes during the fall season in the Mid-Hudson Athletic League and Section IX Class C, as well as in local league meets and invitationals. Individual fitness and technical training requirements continue during the off-season, requiring time management and prioritization skills. The primary purpose of the team is to develop young men of character and develop a strong sense of self and community. Team participants must maintain standards of honesty, discipline, respect and effort in school, at home and in the community. Student athletes that make the team after freshman tryouts are not guaranteed to continue year to year.

GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY

Girls' Cross Country competes during the fall season in the Mid-Hudson Athletic League and Section IX Class D as well as in local league meets and invitationals. Individual fitness and technical training requirements continue during the off-season, requiring time management and prioritization skills. The primary purpose of the team is to develop young women of character and develop a strong sense of self and community. Team participants must maintain standards of honesty, discipline, respect and effort in school, at home and in the community. Student athletes that make the team after freshman tryouts are not guaranteed to continue year to year.

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Girls' Volleyball competes during the fall season in the Mid-Hudson Athletic League and Section IX Class C. In the off-season, individual fitness and technical training requirements extend from mid-January until the fall season, requiring time management and prioritization skills. The primary purpose of the team is to develop young men and women of character and develop a strong sense

of self and community. Team participants must maintain standards of honesty, discipline, respect and effort in school, at home, and in the community. Student athletes that make the team after freshman tryouts are not guaranteed to continue year to year.

BOYS' SOCCER

Boys' Soccer competes during the fall season in the Mid-Hudson Athletic League and Section IX Class B. In the off-season, individual fitness and technical training requirements extend from mid-January until the fall season, requiring time management and prioritization skills. The primary purpose of the team is to develop young men and women of character and develop a strong sense of self and community. Team participants must maintain standards of honesty, discipline, respect and effort in school, at home and in the community. Athletes that make the team after freshman tryouts are not guaranteed to continue year to year.

GIRLS' SOCCER

Girls' Soccer team competes during the fall season in the Mid-Hudson Athletic League and Section IX Class B. In the off-season, individual fitness and technical training requirements extend from mid-January until the fall season, requiring time management and prioritization skills. The primary purpose of the team is to develop young men and women of character and develop a strong sense of self and community. Team participants must maintain standards of honesty, discipline, respect and effort in school, at home and in the community. Athletes that make the team after freshman tryouts are not guaranteed to continue year to year.

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Boys' Basketball competes during the winter season in the Mid-Hudson Athletic League and Section IX Class C. Individual fitness and technical training requirements continue during the off-season, requiring time management and prioritization skills. The primary purpose of the team is to develop young men of character and develop a strong sense of self and community. Team participants must maintain standards of honesty, discipline, respect, and effort in school, at home and in the community. Athletes that make the team after freshman tryouts are not guaranteed to continue year to year.

GIRLS INDOOR TRACK

Girls' Indoor Track competes during the winter season in the Mid-Hudson Athletic League and Section IX Division II. Individual fitness and technical training requirements continue during the off-season, requiring time management and prioritization skills. The primary purpose of the team is to develop young women of character and develop a strong sense of self and community. Team participants must maintain standards of honesty, discipline, respect and effort in school, at home and in the community. Athletes that make the team after freshman tryouts are not guaranteed to continue year to year.

Additional Opportunities

Mount Academy students may participate in some of the following programs, depending on whether they are being offered and how much space is available.

SKILLS USA

SkillsUSA is a career and technical student organization serving more than 395,000 high school, college and middle school students enrolled in training programs in the trades and technical service occupations. Every spring students compete at regional, state, and national levels, showcasing their vocational skills and knowledge.

NYSSMA

Each spring, The New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) sponsors festivals across the state in which students perform a graded selection of solos and small ensembles from the NYSSMA manual. Although lessons are not required for participation in NYSSMA, students need motivation to practice regularly and thus improve steadily on an instrument or voice. The NYSSMA experience is a great tool for motivating young music students, and NYSSMA grades provide an objective standard that is used for acceptance to honors performing ensembles such as All-County, Area All-State, and All-State bands and ensembles as well as NYSBDA Honors Band.